

The new international regulations provide for supervising referees and referees on request. The regulations for supervising referees will look familiar, although there have been small changes. The new regulations for referees on request look different from the current Australian ones, but in practice they mostly give the same result. However there are important differences, and I will use two cases to explain them.

**Case 1:** You have been watching a game and saw the striker switch from playing the red ball to playing the yellow, but neither player has noticed, and you have said nothing. You are now called to watch a stroke for a possible fault. In fact no fault is committed. Do you say anything about the wrong ball play?

The Australian regulation 7(a)(2) is clear. You must say nothing.

The international regulation R4 is more involved, but usually gives the same answer. However there are exceptions. For example if the position of the clips does not match the play, you must ask the players why not. (This is so regardless of whether you knew about the wrong ball play when you went on to court.)

**Case 2:** You are asked to watch a peg out. The striker plays a croquet stroke using black as the striker's ball, but neither the blue nor the black hits the peg. In the continuation stroke, the striker plays the blue ball which hits the peg.

The Australian regulation again requires you to say nothing. The international rule requires you to intervene because you saw the striker play with both balls while you were an active referee, and this applies even if you left the court after the first stroke but were called back to watch the second stroke. To sum up, the new regulation R4 is more complicated than the old regulation 7(a)(2), but it has been adopted because it is more in line with overseas practice and also seems fairer.

The new regulations say that the organising body responsible for the tournament appoints the tournament referee and decides whether the referees will be supervising or on request. If this seems vague, it was adopted because there are different customs in different parts of the world. In practice, these matters will usually be decided as they have been in the past.

There are two special cases:

(1) If a player in a tournament acts as a referee under Regulation R7, he is always on request.

(2) The tournament referee may put a referee in charge of any game under Regulation R5(d)(3). One reason would be if a player chooses to be difficult, and that is why there is no appeal against such a decision.

R2(a)(1) refers to a referee who "is asked to rule on a matter for which he is not qualified". In Australia, this will usually mean an umpire. The international regulations do not use the word "umpire" because it means quite different things in different countries.

R2(c) differs in two ways from the old Australian regulation:

1. If you are asked to rule on an event that you saw clearly, you must still listen to what a player has to say. He may have seen something you missed.

2. Both the new and old regulations limit the information a referee may use when declaring a fault, but the details are different.

R2(f) is similar to the old regulation about what a referee may or must tell a player, but the details are more precise.

R3(a) looks like the Australian regulation 7(c)(1), but it now applies only if the players seem unable to apply the remedy themselves.

R4(b)(3) applies mainly to cases where there is a mismatch between the position of a clip and the course of play.

There are small changes in regulation R6 on appeals against a referee's decision.

The most important ones involve R6(d). The striker cannot appeal if he has played a stroke. His opponent cannot normally appeal after two strokes have been played, but an opponent who is off the court performing official duties gets a special favour. (This is more likely to happen in some overseas countries than here.)

If you find the cases in R7(b) hard to remember, there is a simple rule. This regulation deals only with cases where no knowledge of laws is required, but some practical experience in play is needed.

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For players, the rules are simpler.

Watch the game. If you think you see an error, forestall. Don't depend on the referee acting. (Apart from anything else, he may not have seen the dubious event because his attention was distracted.)