

Croquet Australia

Handicapping Circular #2

(1) Handicap Changes for Beginning Players

Over the past few months we have received a number of queries regarding handicaps 22 and 24. Players new to the game are started on a handicap of 24 and unless they play in tournaments, reasonably unlikely at that stage, their handicaps are not going to change automatically. Although it is not actually mentioned in the Regulations, it is expected that Club Handicappers will keep an eye on such players and adjust handicaps when appropriate.

When a beginner player enters a tournament, the starting handicap must be adjusted to 20 with an index of 900 regardless of what it is at the time.

Some people have asked why bother with 24 and 22 but I suppose the answer is that they need to start somewhere. To assist Club Handicappers the following guidelines may be of some help.

Guidelines for Handicap Changes for Beginning Players

1. As soon as new players take part in an organised doubles game at the club, their handicaps should be reduced to 22. This does not need to be a tournament and can include a game with a more experienced partner.
2. After playing in a club singles game (again, not necessarily a tournament,) the handicap should be changed to 20.
3. If neither of the above two guidelines have been used, the highest handicap a player can use in a tournament is 20.

(2) Players whose index reaches or passes 900

Another issue not addressed in the Regulations is what to do with players whose index reduces to or falls below 900. In such cases, players do not revert to Handicap 22 or 24. Their handicap and index is reset to 20 and 900. In other words, no player ever returns to a handicap of 22 or 24.

National Handicap Committee

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