

Association Croquet ACA Handicapping Regulations

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To be implemented from January 1st 2005 after a trial from August 1, 2004

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ACA Handicapping Regulations

These handicapping regulations apply to all tournaments/competitions conducted in accordance with the ACA Association Croquet Regulations for Tournaments within Australia.

1. Definitions:

- 1.1. **AHS Card** means the Automatic Handicapping System Card issued by the ACA. The cards will be available on the ACA website for printing as needed.
- 1.2. **A State, Club or Tournament Handicapper** is an Official Handicapper who has been elected or appointed to that position by the agreed procedures of the relevant State or Club, or by the ACA.
- 1.3. **Association Croquet Players** in these Regulations are those who are affiliated (through their Club and State) to the ACA and are herein referred to as **Players**.
- 1.4. **Competitive singles matches** are those that comply with the general laws, advanced laws, laws covering handicap play and shortened games as set out in the Laws of Association Croquet including:
 - 1.4.1. Tournament games
 - 1.4.2. Interclub and interstate games; and
 - 1.4.3. Club competitions, that

- 1.4.4. are played on standard lawns, or lawns which are at least 25 yards long, and that
 - 1.4.5. if games are time-limited, allow a time for completion of at least 2 hours.
- 1.5. **Long-running competition** means a competition where individual games are played over a number of weeks or months (i.e. a competition not held over two or more consecutive days)
- 1.6. **Match Players** are those Players who enter singles competitions, at club, interclub, interstate or tournament level.
- 1.7. **Non-competition Players** are those who play social and club games but do not enter any singles competitions.
- 1.8. A **Rapid Improver** is a competitive player who, in the opinion of an official handicapper has the ability to play at a handicap of at least three steps below the currently assigned official handicap, and who enters a tournament to which these regulations apply.
- 1.9. A **Tournament** is any **Event** or series of Events played in accordance with the Tournament Regulations of the ACA.

2. Handicaps:

- 2.1. These regulations govern the administration of Player handicaps under the Laws of Association Croquet.
- 2.2. Handicaps for Players shall be on a scale with a range from -3 to 24 with steps as set out in the AHS Card.
- 2.3. All Players shall have an official handicap determined as below.
- 2.4. Any Player wishing to enter singles competitions or play competitive singles matches shall be entitled to do so only if they comply with these regulations.

3. Match Players shall:

- 3.1. complete an entry on an AHS Card for each competitive singles game.
- 3.2. at the commencement of the trial (August 1, 2004) be advised through their State Associations of every player's handicap and index. Players shall use this handicap and index and have the Tournament Handicapper sign the card before playing in their first competitive singles game.
- 3.3. at the introduction of the National Handicap System (January 1, 2005) be advised through their State Association of every player's handicap and index. Players shall use this handicap and index and have the Tournament handicapper sign the card before playing in their first competitive singles game.
- 3.4. (if they have used a card during the trial period from August 1, 2004) continue to do so.
- 3.5. (if they have NOT used a card during the trial period from August 1) start on their New Handicap and on their New Index Point. Each State Association Secretary will have a list of Players' New Handicaps.

- 3.6. maintain an accurate record on their AHS cards of all the competitive singles games they play and report their current Handicap and Index to Tournament or competition Managers at the start of an Event.
- 3.7. if at the end of an event their index has reached or passed a "trigger point" causing a handicap change, have the Tournament Handicapper confirm the change and sign their cards before leaving the Event. The handicap change occurs at the end of the event.
- 3.8. if at the end of a game played in a long-running club or interclub competition their index has reached or passed a "trigger point" causing a handicap change, have the Tournament Handicapper confirm the change and sign their cards before playing any other singles game. The handicap change occurs immediately.
- 3.9. immediately advise their Club Handicapper whenever their handicap changes.
- 3.10. show their official cards to Tournament Managers and all Handicappers on request.

Note:

Should Match Players wish to keep a card of non-competitive games, they may do so, but this must be kept separate from the official card.

4. Non-competition Players shall:

- 4.1. not need to keep an official handicapping card.
- 4.2. refer any requests for a change in their handicap to the Club Handicapper.
- 4.3. have their Handicap changed by, and according to the judgement of, their Club Handicapper.

Notes:

1. Should any Non-competition Players enter any singles competition, they will then become Match Players and need to start an AHS card and comply with Regulation 3. above.
2. Non-competition Players should be encouraged by handicappers and clubs to keep cards of singles games for interest, and to assist their Club Handicapper assess their play

5. State Handicappers shall:

- 5.1. provide advice and other assistance in the Handicapping of Non-competition Players, when this is requested by Club Handicappers.
- 5.2. assist Club Handicappers in understanding the handicapping system and these Regulations.
- 5.3. co-operate with Club Handicappers to identify any Rapid Improvers.
- 5.4. where operating as a Tournament Handicapper, check and initial cards of any Player who has a handicap change.

6. Club Handicappers shall:

- 6.1. determine the handicaps of Non-competition Players within the club and notify the State Handicapper of the handicaps of these Players at least once a year.
- 6.2. sign cards of Match Players who change their handicaps as a result of games played in club or interclub competitions. These changes will be notified on the Handicap Changes Report Form (available on the ACA website) by the Club Handicapper to the State Handicapper immediately they take place.
- 6.3. watch play of Rapid Improvers during club or interclub competitions.
- 6.4. in club or interclub competitions have discretion to make handicap reductions at the beginning of or during any Event for any Player who has been identified as a Rapid Improver. Any such reduction(s) shall be effective immediately.
- 6.5. record, and initial, on a Rapid Improver's AHS card, all changes as they occur.
- 6.6. notify the State Handicapper of these on the Handicap Changes Report Form at the end of the Event.
- 6.7. keep a record of current handicaps of all Players within their club and provide assistance for those Match Players requiring help in maintaining an accurate official AHS card.
- 6.8. assign Handicaps to New Players in accordance with paragraph 9. below.

Guidelines

- *In determining the Handicaps for Non-competition Players, it is expected that the Club Handicapper will use (as a benchmark) the Handicaps of Match Players with similar skills.*
- *It will not be necessary to seek approval from elsewhere for any decisions made about the Handicaps of Non-competition Players. However, advice may be sought from State Handicappers.*
- *Clubs may require that Handicaps of Non-competition Players be determined by committee and in this case the Club Handicapper shall comply with the committee's decisions.*
- *States may require Club Handicappers within their State to provide details of handicap changes of their Players to assist with selections and/or seeding of Players within State tournaments. How this is to be carried out is a matter for each State to determine.*

7. Tournament Managers shall:

- 7.1. co-operate with the Tournament Handicapper to check that Players' handicaps are accurately recorded on tournament records at the time they commence play in the tournament.
- 7.2. at the end of the tournament, record on the Handicap Changes Report Form, the details of any Player whose handicap has changed at the end of the tournament, and those of any Rapid Improver (as recorded by the Tournament Handicapper.)
- 7.3. immediately forward that Form, together with the Tournament score sheets, to the State Handicapper.
- 7.4. delegate the duties of a Tournament Handicapper, to Assistant Tournament Managers at the venues for which they are responsible.

8. Tournament Handicappers shall:

- 8.1. at the start of the Tournament assist the Tournament Manager in the checking and accurate recording of Player's Handicaps.
- 8.2. be responsible for all Handicapping issues during a Tournament.
- 8.3. sign off AHS cards of all Players whose Handicaps have changed at the end of an Event.

Guideline:

- *When signing off a card for a handicap change, a Tournament or Club Handicapper should check the calculations leading to the change in handicap, and ensure that recent games have been properly entered on the card.*

8.4. watch play of Rapid Improvers during the Tournament.

8.5. in Tournaments or Events have discretion to make handicap reductions at the beginning of or during the Event for any Player who has been identified as a Rapid Improver. Any such reduction(s) shall be effective immediately, but only if the Tournament Handicapper determines that the Player's handicap is too high by at least three steps.

8.6. record, and initial, on a Rapid Improver's card, all handicap changes as they occur.

Guidelines:

- *Players who are Rapid Improvers may have their handicap reduced before a game at any time (and from time to time) during the Tournament by the Tournament Handicapper, but only if the Tournament Handicapper determines that the Player's handicap is too high by at least three steps.*
- *Players assessed as only two steps (or less) ahead of their current handicap, will be adjusted by the normal operation of the AHS.*

9. New Players:

- 9.1. Club Handicappers shall assess new Players when they have joined the Club as affiliated Players and are admitted to general club play, and assign them handicaps based on the level at which they are best likely to compete.

Guidelines:

- *To assist Club Handicappers in their assessment, they should encourage the use of AHS cards by new Players for friendly games before they begin competition.*
- *Full Bisque Play and Coaching:*
State Associations and Clubs should encourage the use of Full Bisque handicap play (see Appendix 3 on p. 47 of the Laws in the current Australian Laws Book) particularly for Players of handicap 10-24, in order to enable them to learn, and enjoy, the use of bisques in competitive games.

10. Handicap Limit:

No Player shall be extended beyond a handicap of 24 or an index of 850.

11. Overseas Players:

- 11.1. Overseas players belonging to an Association affiliated with the World Croquet Federation may be assigned an initial handicap based on the handicaps of Australian Players of similar World Ranking.
- 11.2. This shall be calculated and assigned by the Club Handicapper, or Tournament Handicapper of the first tournament they enter.
- 11.3. Following that assignment, they shall be treated as any Australian Player to whom the AHS applies.

12. Handicap Change:

On January 1, 2005 (August 1, 2004 for those involved in the Trial) the handicap (bisques) for all Players shall change to a national handicap and the range is listed in the table below. The ACA Handicapper has translated all State handicaps to National handicaps and has advised the State Associations of the new handicaps and index points of all their Players.

Handicap	Index	Handicap	Index
-3	3050	4.5	1550
-2.5	2800	5	1500
-2	2600	6	1450
-1.5	2400	7	1400
-1	2250	8	1350
-0.5	2100	9	1300
0	2000	10	1250
0.5	1950	11	1200
1	1900	12	1150
1.5	1850	14	1100
2	1800	16	1050
2.5	1750	18	1000
3	1700	20	950
3.5	1650	22	900
4	1600	24	850

13. Match Players:

- 13.1. shall (if they have used a card during the trial period from August 1, 2004) continue to do so.
- 13.2. shall (if they have NOT used a card during the trial period from August 1) start on their New Handicaps and on their New Index Points available from their State Association Secretary.

14. Non-competition Players:

shall, at January 1, 2005, be assigned an initial handicap based on the new handicaps of club members of a similar State handicap at the commencement of the National Handicap System.

15. Club Handicappers

shall at January 1, 2005 record the changed Handicaps of ALL Non-competition Players, and send a list of such changes to the State Handicapper by January 15, 2005.

FURTHER GUIDELINES.

The official AHS card.

- *Instructions for use of this card are printed on it.*
- *Handicap cards are available from State Associations or can be printed from the A.C.A. website*

Aim of the system

- *The aim of the Automatic Handicapping System is to ensure that two Players in a handicap game (or two Players on the same handicap in a championship game) have an equal chance of winning when they play each other.*
- *The Automatic Handicapping System does this by awarding points for games won, and removing points for games lost. These are called "index points."*

Index Points

- *Each Match Player is required to maintain an AHS card, which records the result of every game played and the index points won or lost.*
- *Index points increase after each win and decrease after each loss. The winner adds the same number of points to his/her index that the loser subtracts from his/hers. The number of points depends on whether the game is played Handicap or Level (Championship).*
- *For Level (Championship) games the value of the points is higher or lower depending on the relative handicaps of the two Players.*

Handicap Changes

- *Winning games and thus accumulating index points can result in a Player reaching or passing a "trigger point", at which time their handicap will reduce.*
- *Losing games and thus losing index points can result in a Player reaching or passing a "trigger point," at which time their handicap will increase.*
- *In competitions taking place over a long period of time (such as interclub and club competitions), handicaps will change and be notified to, and signed by, the club handicapper as soon as they change on the card. In this instance the handicap change takes place immediately, not at the end of the Event.*
- *Clubs and State Associations organising such competitions are responsible for clearly stating the rules for Players who wish to continue in the Event but whose handicaps have changed mid-competition.*
- *In Tournaments/competitions taking place on CONSECUTIVE days, handicaps will change*
 1. *only if the card shows this at the end of the Event or*
 2. *if, during the Event, the Tournament Handicapper makes such a decision in respect of a Rapid Improver.*

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