

PHYLLIS COURT CROQUET

A guide for players entering a Competition or Tournament for the first time

Competitive play is growing all the time at Phyllis Court and all members are encouraged to give it a go. We have season-long competitions and single-day tournaments that are suitable for all standards of play, where you will play against your peers in closely-matched contests. All tournaments are run by experienced managers and referees whose main task is to provide an enjoyable experience for everyone within the rules and courteous traditions of our lovely sport.

Please do join in!

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Players should make themselves familiar with the PCC competitions & tournaments regulations which are drawn broadly from the Croquet Association's Tournament Regulations.
– please see the button on the Golf Croquet (GC) page of our website.

We are fortunate at Phyllis Court in having a number of Qualified Referees in our membership and all will be very pleased to answer any questions on the Rules that you may have at any time.

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Here we go then with some things to set you on your way to your first competition or tournament.

(a) In all matters the Tournament Manager and Referees' decision is final.

Croquet is a courteous sport and players are reminded that the game's etiquette should be followed at all times. This includes the acceptance of the decisions of the manager and referees without question. The abbreviation AMD – At Manager's Discretion – is used in this guide.

(b) Players should report to the Tournament Manager at least 30 minutes before the advertised time for the start of play. If you are late, it is very unsettling for the Manager who doesn't know if you are on your way or not and if he/she will have to re-arrange the tournament because of your absence. We sometimes have one or two players who are 'serial latecomers' and this is not a reputation that you will want to share.

(c) The format of the tournament (who plays who) will be explained at a players' briefing before play. Seeding and court allocation will have been mathematically calculated within the Tournament Regulations but will have been very dependent upon the numbers of participants and court availability. Occasionally, circumstances will prevail (such as poor weather causing deteriorating court conditions) and a tournament format may be subject to change, AMD.

(d) Play will not stop for rain unless it is very heavy indeed and the ground conditions seriously affect the roll of the balls, or serious court damage would be threatened by walking on it. You should bring waterproofs with you so that play can continue until the Manager calls a halt. Failure to continue to play when requested to do so will likely incur the forfeiture of the game and/or continuation in the tournament.

(e) Practice will be limited to before your first game only, and is not allowed between subsequent games.

(f) Play should be expeditious and without delay.

Players are reminded that fellow competitors' enjoyment will suffer if you play slowly.

Rule 16 requires 'play to be with dispatch' and failure to do so may attract a penalty.

Sanction by the tournament referee or manager may include a warning and, for repeat offenders, ultimately the forfeiture of the game.

(g) Game time limits (as allowed in the national Tournament Regulations) may be imposed AMD, either at the start of a tournament, the start of a game or during a game. In the latter case, a warning of not less than 15 minutes will be announced. There is a procedure that is followed after 'time' is called and this will be explained by the manager or referee when needed.

It is important that every game achieves a winner – a draw is never an acceptable result.

(h) Double-banked games are very likely to be scheduled and players are reminded to have regard to the other game on their court. Again, swiftness of play is very important.

There is no right to demand a 'time extension because you have been held up by the other game'. The time limit used by the manager will have taken that in to account and the timely running of the tournament is paramount.

Slow players are likely to be very unpopular with their fellow competitors and Tournament Manager.

(i) Players may be required to mark balls to aid the progress of a doubled-banked game.

Even in social play, you should always carry some ball markers, which are in a jar in the pavilion.

In no circumstances should coins be placed on a court.

(j) Tournaments will have at least one Qualified Referee in attendance who will operate as a Referee on-call (ROC), except in the Final when the referee will be on the court as a Referee in-charge (RIC).

Referees should be called upon to adjudicate on matters of the Rules and also be called upon to judge difficult strokes that potentially could be faults – BEFORE THE STROKE IS PLAYED.

The striker or their opponent can call the referee to judge a stroke.

If you are about to play such a stroke, it is good etiquette for you to say to your opponent "I would like my stroke refereed".

Alternatively, if no such offer is made by the striker, the opponent may say, "Hold on please, I would like your stroke refereed".

The striker must then forestall their stroke until the referee arrives, and it is a fault, not to say extremely bad manners, not to forestall when requested.

To signal to call for a referee hold your mallet in the air with the head uppermost.

(k) To see if a hoop has been run, where it's not obvious, both players should go to both sides of the hoop and make a visual assessment, and try to reach agreement. There used to be a poor practice of 'running a mallet down the side of a hoop' to see if the hoop has been run. THIS MUST NEVER HAPPEN.

This is very poor etiquette and almost certainly will result in one or more of several faults being committed by the player doing so.

The correct procedure if agreement is not forthcoming from a visual inspection is to call the referee to adjudicate.

(l) In all matters the Tournament Manager's decision is final.

On behalf of the Golf Croquet sub-committee:

Chris Roberts – Championship Referee

Frances Colman – Championship Referee

Raghu Iyer – Referee

Raymond Wood – Referee

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