

## Victorian Croquet Association

### Information for Prospective Referees of Association Croquet

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There is a nation-wide Referee Accreditation system overseen by ACA and adopted by VCA and all other state croquet bodies. In summary, the process to become a referee for association croquet is set out below.

The trainee undertakes a pre-accreditation training course under supervision of an experienced Tutor Referee. The State Coordinator can nominate an appropriate Tutor Referee having regard to availability, location of the trainee and other factors.

A pre-requisite for all candidates entering the ACA's Referees or Umpires Accreditation Program is the successful completion of the Australian Sports Commission "*Community Officiating General Principles*" Course. This pre-requisite course can be taken online via the ASC web site <https://learning.ausport.gov.au/> Then go to the link to the "Online Officiating Course". The online course is free of charge. The course is straight forward to do on-line and it should take between one and two hours. This course is mandatory and must be completed before the examination is attempted. The certificate issued at completion of the course can be emailed to me or brought along to the first examination day.

Other pre-requisites are that the candidate:

- Must be 16 years of age or older.
- Must be an ACA registered player with a valid ACA ID.
- Has a minimum of one year's experience playing Association Croquet.
- Must hold a valid AC handicap.

The actual examination process to obtain accreditation is in two parts:

Part 1 comprises questions to test the candidate's competence in judging shots, adjudicating wiring, ruling on stationary ball positions and dealing with other practical problems. Most of the situations are similar to those that umpires are expected to judge, but they may be more complicated or have unexpected aspects. The candidate will be expected to answer these questions without consulting the Laws

Part 2 comprises questions on the laws and the refereeing regulations that go beyond the range of an umpire's duties. These questions are designed to test the candidate's ability to give correct rulings in situations that a referee is likely to encounter in practice; they are not testing the candidate's knowledge of abstruse points of the Laws. They also test the candidate's understanding of the powers and duties of referees. Candidates may refer to the Laws and Regulations in answering Part 2 as necessary. However, a candidate who is unable to answer a question in a reasonable period of time will be penalised.

Both Part 1 and Part 2 will be undertaken on court, subject to weather conditions.

The Part 1 exam must be passed before the Part 2 exam is taken. Each part of the exam expected to take two to three hours to complete and should be undertaken on separate days by each candidate.

To be granted an overall pass, a candidate will be expected to achieve a standard of approximately 80% in the two parts combined. There are no separate standards on the individual parts of the exam

There is a great range of resource material available about refereeing, both via the VCA and ACA and other croquet related websites and from the tutor referee. In particular, the candidate should obtain the following documents and items of equipment:

- A copy of the *Laws of Association Croquet*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (2021)
- A merged copy of the *Laws of Association Croquet* merged with Commentary by the WCF AC Croquet Laws Committee.
- WCF Refereeing Regulations, obtainable via WCF Event Regulations at [Statutes & Regulations – World Croquet Federation](#)
- Their own hoop gauge. The plastic Wedge Gauge is the appropriate one to purchase and is available from VCA.
- The latest edition of the AC Referees manual (available from me in electronic form).

Note I can supply copies of both laws books at present. They are also available from the VCA merchandise officer. There is also a small stock in the tournament manager's office at VCC.

Brian Foley

VCA Coordinator of Referees (AC)

Email: [foley.be.hc@bigpond.com](mailto:foley.be.hc@bigpond.com)

Mobile: 0407508186