CA Selection Policy and Procedure

Revision 11, 17th October, 2009

1 Introduction and Scope

This policy applies to all forms of Croquet, all CA selection events, and all CA selection panels; CA selection events are events where the CA chooses who will take part and include invitation and representative events. It was approved by Council on 21st May, 2008.

2 Overall policy

CA selection events are open to all eligible players, and a free, fair and rational selection process is carried out in all cases.

A *selection closing date* will be stated for each selection event by which time players must notify their availability. The selection process for the relevant event will take place soon after the selection closing date. The selection decision will be announced on the CA website as soon as is reasonably practicable after the Selectors have contacted anyone they wish to inform individually. Other means of communication, such as e-mail, telephone or letter may be used in addition at the Selectors' discretion.

If a selection event is judged by the Selectors to be below strength in terms of number of competitors or playing standard, the Selectors are entitled to take whatever steps they think necessary to obtain an appropriate field.

The Selectors will respect any special selection criteria properly associated with a fixture as specified by the fixture's Director.

Selection discussions are confidential and will not be disclosed to any third party. However, players are entitled to know why they were or were not selected for an event but are not entitled to such information about any other player.

This document will be published on the CA website and copies may be obtained from the CA Office. The Selectors will conduct their proceedings in accordance with its contents. However, selection policy and procedure may be varied at any time by agreement of the Selectors and the approval of the Management Committee or Council as appropriate. Any such changes will be formally announced on the CA website and, if necessary, by other methods. The revised policy and procedures will be documented by a revision to this document and publicised accordingly.

The Selectors may delegate some selection decisions to other bodies or individuals, possibly specifying selection criteria. This will normally only occur in relation to CA representative matches against other croquet associations where the object is not to field a full strength team.

The Selectors do not simply look at the ranking list and pick those nearest to the top. The primary information is the records from the ranking databases, namely who played whom and the result. A feature of the current ranking systems is that players can obtain a reasonably high ranking without playing top players, and players can suffer a low ranking by always playing and generally losing to much better players. The way in which results are obtained is therefore taken into account in selection decisions, including self-imposed geographical constraints. Typically, all results since the last selection for an event are taken into account. Where player development is concerned, personal observations are the guide.

Any Selectors who are the subject of a selection decision will not take part in relevant discussions until the decision is taken and they are either selected or not.

3 Events Covered

The following table identifies those events known about at the time of writing.

Event	Responsibility / Organising Body	Selection Committee
MacRobertson Shield Team of 6	International Committee	Appointed by Council
Home Internationals Team of 5	International Committee	AC Selectors
European Team Championship 2 AC + 1 GC	WCF (International Committee)	AC & GC Selectors
Solomon Trophy Team of 6	International Committee	AC Selectors
European Championships	FEC (International Committee)	AC Selectors (AC) GC Selectors (GC)
Open Championship (knockout seeding)	Tournament Committee (AC/GC)	AC Selectors (AC) GC Selectors (GC)
Open Championship (doubles seeding)	Tournament Committee (AC/GC)	AC Selectors
GB v Ireland Team of 6	International Committee	AC Selectors
Eights & Selectors' Weekends	Tournament Committee (AC/GC)	AC Selectors (AC) GC Selectors (GC)
WCF World Championships	WCF (International Committee)	AC Selectors (AC) GC Selectors (GC)
CA Representation (e.g. CA vs. CAI)	Tournament Committee (AC/GC)	Team Organiser
Men's & Women's Championship Seeding	AC Tournament Committee	AC Selectors

4 Timing

For the MacRobertson Shield, Council will appoint a specific panel as early as it believes necessary: The panel will select and announce the team as Council directs.

All other known selection events must appear in the Fixtures Book showing the selection closing and selection dates (if known) and how players should notify their availability. Events not known about at the time the Fixtures Book is published will be notified to members via the CA website, and by any other practical and appropriate means. The Director of each fixture is appointed by either the Tournament or International Committee and is responsible for ensuring the Fixtures Book details are correct.

The selection closing date is normally two weeks before selection is scheduled to be announced.

Selections will be announced a prescribed minimum number of weeks before an event's start date as follows:

a) Eights and Selectors' Weekend: 5 weeks (since most players will know they are playing on those dates, just not which specific event).

b) Other events in GB or Ireland: 8 weeks

c) Events elsewhere in the world: as early as possible taking into account as many results as the Selectors agree is necessary.

The selection and closing dates may be planned as later than indicated above if the Selectors consider it essential to take into account results from a major tournament.

Selection may be delayed by the Selectors and in such a case those who made themselves available by the selection closing date will be notified of the planned selection date.

Selection decisions will not normally be announced soon before a relevant major tournament.

5 Notification of Availability for Selection

5.1 The MacRobertson Shield

The Chairman of the MacRobertson Shield Selection Committee will ask players they wish to consider to indicate if they are available for selection. Players may also directly inform the Chairman of the MacRobertson Shield Selection Committee of their availability.

5.2 Other Team Events

Players should notify the CA of their availability for team events by the advertised closing date. They may do this by:

a) completion of the availability page in the Members' Area of the CA website (preferred)

b) email to the CA Office (caoffice@croquet.org.uk)

c) post to the CA Office.

d) direct contact with the Chairman of Selectors

In addition to this, a player may be asked by a Selector at any time to be available for selection in order to strengthen a team, or to widen the experience of that player or for any other reason the Selector believes will be of benefit.

5.3 Singles Selection Events

5.3.1 General Procedure

Players should notify the CA of their availability for selection events by the advertised closing date. They may do this by:

a) completion of the availability page in the Members' Area of the CA website (preferred)

b) email to the CA Office (caoffice@croquet.org.uk)

c) post to the CA Office.

The website availability page is accessible by all members of the CA but not by the general public. The CA Office will keep it up to date in response to e-mail and postal notifications and thus it will provide:

a) formal acknowledgement of availability notifications

b) up to date status of availability for all current selection events.

Availability notifications will not be acknowledged by any other means to CA members.

5.3.2 Exceptions

The only exceptions will be made in the event of a failure of the CA website, or of CA Office procedures, and will be at the discretion of the Selectors.

5.4 General

Players are encouraged to make themselves available for selection events even if they believe their playing strength may not be sufficient at the time of indication or notification. They should

not be criticised for making known their availability for events for which they would not normally be considered.

6 Eligibility

In all cases, players who wish to be considered for selection events must be Tournament Members of the CA (i.e. Full Member, Junior Member or Overseas Member). For all international events players must additionally satisfy any rules imposed on the event by its organising body.

6.1 GB (MacRobertson Shield)

The MacRobertson Shield Nations set the eligibility rules.

6.2 GB (Solomon Trophy, GB vs. Ireland)

Use the MacRobertson Shield eligibility rules.

6.3 England (Home Internationals)

WCF Rules.

6.4 CA Representation (e.g. CA vs. CAI)

Any Tournament Member of the CA.

6.5 All other events

Unless legitimately prescribed otherwise by the tournament director, any tournament member of the CA.

7 Selection policy for specified events

7.1 MacRobertson Shield

The sole aim is to select from the best available players a team that is most likely to win the event.

7.2 Other International Team Tests (e.g. Solomon Trophy and GB vs. Ireland) and The Home Internationals

The aim is to win the event with the best possible team formed from the best available players, however the benefit of any doubt may be given to players likely to be considered for one of the next two MacRobertson Shield teams since these test matches are useful events for getting potential MacRobertson Shield players used to being part of a GB team, and to playing with, as opposed to against, their likely team mates. Unselected players should not assume that they are not likely to be considered for a future test team.

For all Test Team events, the likely next MacRobertson Shield team Captain would usually be co-opted as a Selector for these events.

7.3 International Representative Team (e.g. CA vs. CAI)

Teams are typically selected to match the opposing team's handicaps.

Team selection is normally delegated to the match organiser who should take care to observe the closing date and to make a fair selection.

Previous representation is often a strong factor in re-selection.

7.4 Other Team Events (e.g. European Team Championship)

The strongest available players will be chosen.

7.5 Individual Entry for places allocated to the CA (e.g. World and European Championships)

The aim is to select the available player or players who will do best in the event.

Priority is given to the best overall results. The best current form is used as a tie-break.

7.6 AC Eights (President's Cup, Chairman's Salver, Spencer Ell Cup and Treasurer's Tankard)

The Eight for which players are selected and their position within it are regarded as a measure of their standing. Accordingly, the Selectors look at all results since the date of the last Eights selection as if they had occurred on the same day and no account is taken of current or previous form. However, if a tie break is required, current form is used. The Selectors also take the following factors into account:

a) Match wins (best-of-n) against current President's Cup or Test players are given significant credit.

b) Particular credit is given for being the overall winner of an event, varying with the strength of the event.

c) Particular credit is given to mid-ranking players for wins against top players (generally the top 20), especially in matches.

d) A negative view is taken of losses against significantly poorer players, particularly in matches.

e) Players are penalised if they play only in their local area, or in weak events, or in very few events.

f) Where players cannot be separated by their results, improving players are given precedence over players with broadly similar current ability, as a final tie break those with a better long-term record are given precedence.

7.7 AC Selectors' Weekend

This is not regarded as the "bottom Eight"; it is for players who have not established a record sufficient for an Eights place, to play amongst themselves and with stronger established players. Accordingly, players will normally be selected if they show some promise or have few results.

Established players (who failed to get into an Eight) are selected to ensure the event achieves the desired competitive level.

The Selectors may decide to include players who are eligible for an Eight but who have insufficient time available to play in one.

If there is an insufficient entry, then established players are selected in merit order to make the entry up to 16 (or whatever number the Tournament Committee specifies).

7.8 GC Eights

The Eight for which players are selected and their position within it are regarded as a measure of their standing. The Selectors take the following factors into account considering all results in ranking events since the last Eights selection:

a) Match wins (best of n) against current international-level (World Championship) players are given significant credit;

b) Particular credit is given for being the overall winner of an event, varying with the strength of the event;

c) Particular credit is given to mid-ranking players for wins against top players (generally the top 20), especially in multi-game matches;

d) A negative view is taken of losses against significantly poorer players, especially in multi-game matches;

e) Players are discredited if they play only in their local area or in weak events or in very few events;

f) Where players can not be separated by their results, improving players are given precedence over players with broadly similar current ability. For the next tie break, those with a better long-term record are given precedence. Current form is then the final tie break.

7.9 Seeding for Major Events

The Selectors will determine seeding places based on their opinion of the likely finishing order in the event.

The Selectors may prescribe where some or all seeds are placed in the draw or may not distinguish some seeds from others (e.g. 2 & 3 may be equal second). The Selectors are entitled to decide that some or all of the candidates are sufficiently similar that their position should be decided by lot.

If the event involves an initial block play stage (e.g. the Open Championship), seeding will normally occur after completion of the blocks and the Selectors will focus on current form, including recent personal observations. In such cases, sufficient Selectors may not be available for a full selection panel and the event manager (or other suitably competent individuals) may be co-opted at the Chairman's discretion.

If the event does not involve a block play stage (e.g. the Men's Championship and Doubles Championship), seeding will occur soon before the draw is conducted and the Selectors will consider form since the event was last contested. Best current form is used as a tie-break.

Seeding may be delegated to the manager with the Selectors specifying a review.

8 Transparency

All discussions between Selectors and comments made by them about selection during and surrounding a selection process are confidential to the Selectors and will not be disclosed by them to third parties. Only the names of those selected and their Eights or seeding position if relevant is published by the Selectors following a selection process. No minutes are kept or published.

Players are entitled to know why they were or were not selected for an event. While the selection criteria set out in this document may answer the question, the Chairman of Selectors will disclose additional information privately to an enquiring player and may offer advice about improving selection chances that is consistent with this policy. Such additional information will not include comparisons with other players or why another player was or was not selected.

Such additional information will not be given unless requested by the player concerned. If requested, it will be given freely and fully.

The player is not bound by confidentiality and may use such additional information however they wish.

9 Appeals

Selection decisions are only subject to appeal if it is alleged that there was a wilful disregard of this policy or procedure. There is no appeal against decisions about individuals taken in good faith, even if made on the basis of incorrect information. Selections will stand while any appeal takes place and will only be overturned if held by the appeal panel to be unsustainable.

Appeals will be dealt with as appeals alleging maladministration under clause 8(b) of the CA Constitution, except that the panel shall have the additional power to set aside any selection made and direct that selection should proceed according to this policy.

10 Document History

Date	Author	Version	Change Reason/Description
14 Mar 08	Dave Kibble	R5	Consolidation of AC and GC policy documents
11 Apr 08	Dave Kibble	R6	Amended by Council meeting 29 March 2008
17 Apr 08	Tim King	R8	Addition of GC Eights selection criteria
10 May 08	Dave Kibble	R9	Council approval comments: a) Section 2, para 2: “closing date” becomes “selection closing date” b) Section 3: WCF (not FEC) is responsible for the European Team Championship c) Section 9: reference to referees removed
21 May 08	Ian Vincent	R10	Council approval noted in introduction. Section 3 updated to reflect 2nd comment above.
17 Oct 09	Ian Vincent	R11	Section 5 replaced and Section 9 amended by Council.