

THE MACROBERTSON INTERNATIONAL CROQUET SHIELD

Regulations for the 2010 Competition

Version approved by the MacRobertson Shield Meeting in May, 2009

PREAMBLE

This document comprises the General Regulations ("the 2010 Regulations") which reflect the agreement between the Australian Croquet Association, the Great Britain Croquet Association, the New Zealand Croquet Council and the United States Croquet Association ("the Governing Bodies"), with the involvement of the World Croquet Federation as an observer, for the format of the Competition for the Series to be held in Great Britain in 2010 and the Arrangements ("the 2010 Arrangements"), which are the specific arrangements for 2010 related to venues, dates of matches, order of matches etc..

The 2010 Regulations deal with a Series involving four teams only.

Apart from this restructuring, changes made from the 2006 Regulations relate to eligibility of additional teams, adoption of WCF criteria for player qualification, dates, venues, times, personnel, announcement of teams, contingency measures and use of the CA Tournament Regulations.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. The Competition

(a) The Croquet World Series for the MacRobertson Shield ("the Trophy") will be competed for in 2010 by Association Croquet teams representing:

- Australia;
- Great Britain;
- New Zealand; and
- United States of America.

(b) For the purposes of the competition, Great Britain is deemed to be one country and the Croquet Association is deemed to be the croquet governing body for that country.

(c) Teams representing other countries may apply to compete in future Series under the conditions given in Appendix 1.

2. Amendments to these Regulations

These Regulations may only be amended by the unanimous agreement of the Governing Bodies.

3. Applicable Laws and Regulations for Tournaments

- (a) The applicable Regulations for Tournaments shall be those of the host country.
- (b) The version of the Laws of Association Croquet in force within the host country at the start of the first Test Match will be used throughout the series.
- (c) Disputes relating to the Laws and their interpretation shall be the subject of an appeal to the Tournament Referee (or his appointed Deputy) only.

4. Venues and dates of forthcoming Series

The host country and dates of the next Series and the host country and approximate dates of the following Series shall be agreed during the current Series after liaison with the World Croquet Federation. The interval between successive Series shall be at least three years and not more than four years.

5. Hosting of the Competition

The Host shall:

- (a) determine the venues and dates for the Test Matches and allocate courts of a satisfactory standard;
- (b) provide hoops which meet the WCF Equipment Regulations in force at the start of the first Test Match, which shall be set to an internal width which is 1/16 inch wider than the largest diameter of any ball to be used on the relevant court with a downwards tolerance of 1/32 inch;
- (c) provide balls of satisfactory manufacture which have been agreed in advance with the other Governing Bodies;
- (d) appoint a Tournament Manager for the competition and a Test Match Manager for each Test Match;
- (e) appoint a Tournament Referee, Deputy Tournament Referee for venues at which he will not be present and Referees for each Test Match;
- (f) appoint an Appeals Committee consisting of the Tournament Manager and one representative of each competing country which may be convened at the request of a team captain to adjudicate in disputes between two or more teams on all matters other than the Laws and their interpretation. Where two matches are being held at different venues and it is not possible for representatives of all teams to assemble at the same venue the meeting will be held at split locations with appropriate communications (eg telephone) between the two.

6. The Trophy

- (a) The holders of the Trophy shall be responsible for its safe custody, engraving, transport to the venue of the next Series and delivery to the Host at the commencement of the Series.
- (b) The Host shall accept delivery of the Trophy from the holders at the start of the Series, display it at Test Match venues if practicable and deliver it to the winning team.

7. Player qualifications

Each team shall consist of players duly qualified to represent their respective countries. The qualification criteria to be used are the WCF criteria in force at the start of the first Test Match

8. Format of the series

The Series shall consist of one Test Match between each pair of teams, possibly followed by one or more play-offs, as specified in the Arrangements for the Series. The Test Matches shall be played in accordance with Regulation 15. Subject to Regulation 12, each team shall consist of six players. Teams may be changed between Test Matches.

9. Announcement of Teams

(a) The names of the players, the singles orders of merit and the doubles pairings of the competing teams in a Test Match shall be submitted to the Test Match Manager not later than 4.30 pm on the day before the match starts. Each team will submit in writing or electronically the 6 singles players in order of merit (1-6) and 3 doubles pairs, designated 1, 2 and 3 (not necessarily in order of merit).

(b) For the purpose of agreeing the team orders submitted a meeting will be arranged by the Tournament Manager on the day before the test match starts, at least one representative from each team with authority to challenge and respond to challenges to the team orders must attend. (If teams are playing at two different venues appropriate communication (eg telephone) between the two venues will be provided). Challenges to team orders may only be made at this meeting, if the team orders cannot be agreed by those present the matter will be referred to the Appeals Committee.

10. Casualties

(a) A temporary casualty is defined as a player who is unable to begin a match when called upon to do so or who becomes unable to complete a match but is expected to recover quickly.

(b) A permanent casualty is defined as a player who is unable to take any further part in a Test Match.

11. Temporary casualties

(a) If a team suffers a temporary casualty, the Tournament Manager shall have discretion to alter the order of play in order to complete the matches involving the casualty within the scheduled period of the Test Match.

(b) If, at the end of the Test Match, a match involving the casualty remains outstanding and could affect the result of the Test Match, the Tournament Manager shall have discretion to direct that the match shall be played at the same venue on the following day or at a venue to be arranged by the Host no later than the day following the final Test Match.

(c) If a temporary casualty is unable to resume play soon enough to ensure in the opinion of the Tournament Manager (in consultation with the relevant captains) that at least all but one of his matches can be completed in the scheduled period of the Test Match, he shall be deemed to be a permanent casualty and the provisions of Regulation 13 shall apply.

12. Permanent casualties before a Test Match

(a) If a team suffers one or more permanent casualties before the start of a Test Match, the Captain may elect to introduce one or more substitutes or to field a smaller team or to introduce one or more substitutes and field a smaller team. However, if a team is unable to field at least four players at the start of a Test Match, it shall concede the Test Match to the opposing team.

(b) Any substitutes introduced after the teams have been announced in accordance with Regulation 9 shall be placed at the bottom of the singles order of merit but the doubles pairings may be changed.

(c) If a team is reduced in accordance with (a) above, the opposing team shall re-declare itself with the same number of players.

13. Permanent casualties during a Test Match

If a team suffers a permanent casualty after a Test Match has begun, any match started and not yet finished involving the casualty shall be conceded to the opposing team, the remaining matches involving the casualty shall be cancelled and the Test Match shall be deemed not to include the cancelled matches. If such cancellation causes the number of matches in the Test Match to become an even number and the Test Match ends in a tie, the result of the Test Match shall be decided by a tie-break consisting of one doubles match, the result of which shall be taken into account for the purposes of Regulation 14 if necessary. Each captain shall nominate any two members of his team to contest the tie-break. The Tournament Manager shall have discretion to alter the order of play to accommodate a play-off or to direct that it shall be held at the same venue on the day following the scheduled period of the Test Match or at a venue to be arranged by the Host no later than the day following the final Test Match.

14. Unfinished Matches

(a) This section deals with the failure to complete any scheduled match on its allotted day for any reason other than player casualty.

- Unfinished matches will be continued at any opportunity on subsequent days (however, unfinished matches will not take precedence over scheduled matches).
- Players with an unfinished match must be prepared to resume the match when directed by the Tournament Manager, including (if necessary for determining the outcome of the Series) the day following the scheduled end of the final Test Match(es).
- Matches may be resumed on different lawns (even if pegged down) and at different venues.
- In extremis double banking may be necessary.

- Travel / practice days shall be regarded as “Reserve Days” and teams must be prepared to play on them if necessary to complete matches.

(b) If any match(es) still remain uncompleted (including any play-offs required under Regulation 13), such matches shall be cancelled and ignored for the purpose of Regulation 15.

(c) If, in the opinion of the Tournament Manager, it is possible that matches will be have to be cancelled under (b) above and there are insufficient playable lawns, priority shall be given to matches required to determine the outcome of the Series.

15. Determining the Outcome of the Series

(a) If fewer than 8 matches have been completed in a Test Match, or if an equal number of completed matches have been won by each team in it, the Test Match shall be declared a draw. Otherwise, the team winning the greater number of completed matches shall be declared to have won it.

(b) The series shall be declared void if no team won more than one Test Match.

(c) Otherwise, to determine the final placings, a team will be awarded two points for each Test Match that it won, and one for each Test Match it that drew.

(d) At the end of the competition, the teams shall be placed in descending order of the number of points awarded.

(e) Where two or more teams are tied on an equal number of points awarded, the teams in the tie shall be placed relative to each other in descending order of the percentage of the completed matches they won throughout the whole competition.

(f) The Trophy shall be won by the team placed first, or shared between those placed first equal if there is a tie after applying (e) above.

16. Order of play

(a) Subject to Regulation 12, each Test Match shall consist of nine doubles matches and twelve singles matches. A match is best of 3 advanced games with no time limits. These matches shall be played in five rounds over five consecutive days in which the following schedules may be used:

(1) the first, second and fourth rounds shall consist of three doubles matches and the third and fifth rounds shall consist of six singles matches.

(2) The first, third and fifth rounds shall consist of three doubles matches and the second and fourth rounds shall consist of six singles matches.

(b) The order of play shall be as follows:

(1) for 16(a)(1)

Rd.1 AD1 v BD2, AD2 v BD1, AD3 v BD3

Rd.2 AD1 v BD1, AD2 v BD3, AD3 v BD2

Rd.3 A1 v B2, A2 v B1, A3 v B4, A4 v B3, A5 v B6, A6 v B5

Rd.4 AD1 v BD3, AD2 v BD2, AD3 v BD1,

Rd.5 A1 v B1, A2 v B2, A3 v B3, A4 v B4, A5 v B5, A6 v B6

(2) for 16(a)(2)

Rd.1 AD1 v BD2, AD2 v BD1, AD3 v BD3
 Rd.2 A1 v B2, A2 v B1, A3 v B4, A4 v B3, A5 v B6, A6 v B5
 Rd.3 AD1 v BD1, AD2 v BD3, AD3 v BD2
 Rd.4 A1 v B1, A2 v B2, A3 v B3, A4 v B4, A5 v B5, A6 v B6
 Rd.5 AD1 v BD3, AD2 v BD2, AD3 v BD1

(c) In (b) above, A1 to A6 and B1 to B6 represent the singles players of teams A and B in order of merit based on current singles form as announced in accordance with Regulation 9. AD1 to AD3 and BD1 to BD3 represent the doubles pairings of teams A and B without reference to an order of merit.

17. Order of Play for Reduced Matches

(a) If a Test Match is contested by teams of five players, the order of play shall be as follows, unless lawn availability precludes this in which case the manager shall determine the order of play:

Rd1: AD1 v BD1, AD2 v BD2
 Rd2: A3 v B4, A4 v B3
 Rd3: AD1 v BD2, AD2 v BD1
 Rd4: A1 v B2, A2 v B1, A5 v B5
 Rd5: A1 v B1, A2 v B2, A3 v B3, A4 v B4

(b) If a Test Match is contested by teams of four players, the order of play shall be as follows, unless lawn availability precludes this in which case the manager shall determine the order of play:

Rd1: AD1 v BD1, AD2 v BD2
 Rd2: A1 v B2, A2 v B1, A3 v B4, A4 v B3
 Rd3: AD1 v BD2, AD2 v BD1
 Rd4: A1 v B1, A2 v B2, A3 v B3, A4 v B4
 Rd5: tie-break of one doubles and two singles if required.

18. Practice during a Test Match

There will be a 15 minute practice period immediately before the start of play for the day. During this time players may practice on their court using the 2 balls they will use in their first game and any additional balls available. They may attempt to run hoops gently but may not shoot at the hoops or peg. Practice after play will be at the discretion of the Manager.

19. Weather

(a) The Tournament Manager shall have discretion to halt play on any court at any time due to:

(1) Lightning or other severe weather that may threaten the safety of players and/or spectators; or

(2) the court being in his opinion unfit for play.

(b) If play is halted, players must remain on site and available to immediately resume play unless given permission to leave by the Manager. All balls and clips will remain in place on the court unless the Manager directs that the match(es) be pegged down or balls marked in the case of temporary flooding

2010 ARRANGEMENTS

1. The order of Test Matches will be:

• **6-10 August**

GB v USA at Bowdon CC

Aus v NZ at Heaton Park CC

• **12-16 August**

GB v NZ at Nottingham CC

Aus v USA at the Roehampton Club

• **18-22 August**

GB v Aus at Surbiton CC

USA v NZ at Surbiton CC

Unless otherwise decided by the Tournament Manager for good reason, schedule 16(b) (1) will be used for the first four Test Matches and for one of the last pair, and 16(b)(2) for the other.

Court allocations will be announced by the Manager at each venue. It is clear that on some days there will be more matches scheduled than there are courts available. On these days the order of play shall be decided by the Manager and the excess matches shall be started as soon as others finish and courts become available. If sufficient courts do not become available before 1500 it may be necessary to impose double-banking at the Manager's discretion.

2. For the 2010 Series, the Tournament Regulations for Regulation 3(a) above will be the relevant Croquet Association Regulations for Tournaments, except where specifically modified by these Regulations or Arrangements.

In particular reference is made to:

- M1 Duties of the Manager
- M2 Powers of the Manager
- R1 The Tournament Referee
- R2 Referee in Charge
- R3 Referee on Call
- R4 Referee on Appeal
- R5 Spectator Referee
- P2 Conduct
- P4 Conditions of Play

Appendix 7 – Impasse

3. Law 35(b) will be replaced by Law 53(b)(3).

4. Dawson balls shall be used throughout the competition.

5. Play will normally start at 10.00am except:

- the start may be delayed by a ceremony on the first day of each Test Match.

- The start may be brought forward if the manager deems it necessary in order to complete a match or matches.
- 6.** Play will continue if necessary until impractical due to bad light as determined by the Manager, subject to the in-player being allowed to complete their turn if they so wish.
- 7.** For each match, a one hour lunch break may be taken starting as follows:
- No sooner than 12.30 pm.
 - No later than the end of the turn in progress at 1.30 pm.
 - If a game finishes after 12.45 pm, then either player (or pair) may specify that the lunch break be taken then.
 - Before the start of a turn after 1.00 pm the player (or pair) about to play may specify that the lunch break be taken then.
 - Otherwise by mutual agreement.

For matches not commencing at 10am the manager will modify the times above as appropriate and inform the players concerned before they commence play.

APPENDIX 1

MACROBERTSON SHIELD

NEW ENTRANT REQUIREMENTS

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Revision: As agreed at MacRobertson
Shield Meeting

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1. Purpose

The MacRobertson Shield Governing bodies (currently Australia, Great Britain, New Zealand and United States) have agreed to publish guidelines to assist in the preparation of submissions by national associations to join the event. For the purposes of this event, Great Britain is deemed to be one country governed by The Croquet Association.

2. Scope

The requirements relate to applications to join the event on a one-off basis. Re-application for further appearances would be required, irrespective of actual performance or finishing position. Associations may apply to join on a permanent basis, but would have to meet a more stringent set of requirements, which would for example include a commitment to host the event periodically.

Applications to compete in the next event shall be lodged with the Governing body of the host country and will be evaluated by the MacRobertson Shield Governing bodies.

These guidelines are broad and each application will be considered individually on its merits. Further information may be required to assist in consideration of any application.

3. Eligibility

Governing bodies of national croquet associations may lodge applications to join the event.

4. Obligations

4.1 Guidelines for Playing Standards

Countries wishing to apply shall be expected to field a team where the average grade of the best 5 players is comparable to the average grade of the lowest ranked team in the previous competition at the time of the previous competition. The applicant is expected to be able to select from a minimum of 7 players of adequate standard. Applications may be considered where standards are outside the ranges indicated.

4.2 Finance

To cover running and administration costs, accepted nations will pay to the host country:

Item	Amount	Description
Team Fee	150 to 200GBP	Per person, for up to nine players and officials, to cover meals a

		hospitality. Team fees to be charged at cost
Event Fee	750 GBP	Per entry, to cover the administration, lawn hire, officials and management costs.

Depending on the level of sponsorship acquired for the event, these fees may be reduced.

4.3 Currency

If at any time it becomes evident that the characteristics of the proposed team is likely to differ materially and significantly from those indicated in the application to date, the Applicant shall inform the Governing body of the host country promptly.

4.4 Exclusions

There is neither obligation on nor expectation of a team applying for entry on this basis to host the event at any time in the future. Neither is there any obligation on nor expectation of such a team to enter future events.

5. Timetable

Stage	Time (months)	Decision (months)	Information to be provided
Initial application	39	36	Squad list (minimum seven players)
Entry fee due	12		Squad list (minimum seven players) Event Fee (non-refundable)
Entry	0	n/a	Team Fee

Notes:

1. All times are relative to the event being applied for
2. For the 2010 event to be hosted by Great Britain, the Initial Application & Decision Times are reduced to 24 & 21 months respectively
3. The initial squad list should include only players whose availability the applicant might reasonably expect to obtain
4. The confirmation squad list should include only players whose availability has been confirmed

6. Right to Reject Entry

The MacRobertson Shield Governing bodies reserve the right to reject an application **at any stage** should the characteristics of the actual team differ materially and significantly from those specified during the application process.