

# CANBERRA CROQUET CLUB

## CROQUET ETIQUETTE

This list of etiquette applies at the Canberra Croquet Club, however, it can be regarded as reflecting a general standard throughout the croquet world.

**Play as quickly as possible** To avoid wasting time, the out-player should try to decide what play to take, before the opponent's turn is finished. In a doubles match, the partners should not carry out long discussions when it is their turn to play.

**When to start your turn** Do not go onto the court until the opponent turn is finished; however it is permissible to go onto the court while an opponent is still 'yarding in' a ball at the end of the turn as long as no strokes are played until the opponent has left the court.

**Calling a referee** A referee should be called when a player is about to play a stroke where there is a possibility that a fault may be committed, or is aiming at a ball that is in or near a hoop. If there is no referee, the opponent should be called to watch, but remember that in such circumstances the players are joint referees;

The correct way to call a referee is to raise the mallet.

Players should accept with good grace any decisions of the referee; if a player is dissatisfied there are proper avenues of appeal. There is no place for intimidation of referees in croquet.

**A player cannot accept advice from anyone during a singles match.** It follows that no one should offer advice to a player. If a player is uncertain about a point of law then this may be queried. In a doubles match, advice may be given by the partner.

**Be courteous.** Players should not distract their opponent by walking about, talking loudly or commently on their play to others. Do not stand directly in the line of aim, either in front of or behind the player. These points applies equally to spectators as well as the out-player.

**Be aware of the other games.** Both on the court and as the out-player it is important to avoid walking in front of a player in another game (on a doubled banked court or an adjacent court) about to take a stroke. When on the court, keep an eye on the balls of the other game.

**Be sensitive to others.** Remember that some players do not welcome people talking to them during a game; as the opponent or as a spectator do not talk to the out player unless they clearly welcome a chat.

**Conclusion of the game** Clear the court (balls and clips) and give the results to the Tournament Manager as soon as possible.

Acknowledge the adversary. Remember, it is easy to be a good winner and at times difficult to be a good loser. It is only a game after all and, win or lose, the sun will still rise the next day.

**When travelling,** players should be aware that in some other clubs and countries there are often conventions which we might consider quaint or unnecessary but may be important to the locals. These include such things as the lower handicapper tossing to decide play, the winner clearing the court and in England, the winner buying the drinks after the game!

10 May 1997 (Bisqueing & Playing Committee)