

Laws of Association Croquet

A referee is a referee is a referee – or are they?

When we see a referee at a tournament we know they are there to do a job, but what really are their duties and powers?

These are defined in the ACA Refereeing Regulations (April 2015) as amended October 2015 and were adopted from the WCF Refereeing Regulations.

First of all a referee must be authorised, and are nominated or permitted under the regulations to assist players making decisions on laws and facts. A qualified umpire is also nominated or permitted under the regulations to assist players by making decisions on facts.

Referee on Request may generally act only at the invitation of a player. A referee on request is said to be inactive when authorised. He becomes active when responding to a request by a player. The referee becomes inactive again when he quits the court believing his duties have been discharged. Referees on Request are rarely if ever employed in Queensland.

Supervising Referee who may act on their own initiative and thus is always active for games they are supervising. The supervising referee would have two or more games under their control.

Referee in Charge who also act on their own initiative and thus is always active for games they are in charge of. The referee in charge only looks after one game.

Qualified Referee A person on the official list of referees, but not necessarily authorised for the tournament.

Tournament Referee The official with the responsibility for nominating and allocating authorised referees and hearing appeals. The tournament referee is also an authorised referee.

Qualified Umpire A person on the official list of umpires, but not necessarily authorised for the tournament. Umpires are limited to adjudicating on questions of fact not law.

General Power and Duties

An active referee has power to decide all questions of fact and law, and must try to ensure that the match is played in accordance with the Laws of the game and conditions for the event.

An active referee has the power to ask the players for information on the state of the game, and the players are obliged to answer to the best of their knowledge. If an active referee has reason to think that there is any disagreement about the state of the game, he must investigate and settle the matter before play continues.

A referee must ask about any apparent discrepancy between the position of a clip and the course of play that he notices.

A more detailed explanation is available from the ACA Refereeing Regulations.