

Golf Croquet Refereeing Questions

All the questions raised below occurred during the National Handicap Singles & Doubles Tournaments held at Deniliquin in October 2007. How well do you know the Rules?

Q1. In a singles game, Red was in the jaws of hoop 1. Blue played a jump shot which did not run the hoop but ricocheted off the hoop. The vibrations caused the red ball to run the hoop and the blue ball continued up court to finish close in front of hoop 2. Red claimed the point for running the hoop and declared blue an offside ball, asking for it to be placed on Penalty Spot E. As referee, what is your decision?

A1. Red gains the point for the hoop, as it was run, but blue, although it is over the halfway line, is not an offside ball as "it reached its position as a result of the stroke just played" Rule 10 (b) (1).

Q2. In another singles game, a final, Blue's approach shot to hoop 7 is so good that it causes the opposition to play the blue ball rather than the red and to put it through the hoop. The owner of Blue immediately says "You played the wrong ball, but thank you for the point!" As referee, what is your reply?

A2. Your answer should be something like: "No points may be scored in a wrong ball play so the hoop is not run. Your opposition's turn has now ended. Your options are to leave the ball where it is or replace it where it was and you may then choose with which of your balls to restart play." Rules 11 (b) (2) & (3).

Q3. In a doubles game, Blue commences play, followed by Red. The player of red then picks up red and returns it to the start, saying, "That was a mistake, my partner will play red and I will play yellow." As referee, what do you say?

A3. "By picking up the ball without permission, you have committed a non-striking fault. As it was stationary, I will replace red where it was and Yellow loses its next turn." Rules 12 (a), 12 (c) (1) and 12 (c) (4).

(Note that Red and Yellow had two options:

- they could either continue as they had started, with them each playing their non-preferred balls; or
- they could have declared a wrong ball play, given their opponents the choice of leaving red where it was or returning it to the start (the obvious choice) missing that turn, and the opponents choosing with which of their balls to restart play.)

Q4. In another doubles game, after running hoop 8, the players all play to hoop 5 instead of hoop 9. As referee, what do you do?

A4. Nothing (as you are prohibited from giving advice), until a ball passes through hoop 5 and someone attempts to claim the hoop. Then you point out that there is no score as the hoop was not the next in order. Rules 15 (b) (1) and 1 (f).