

CROQUET NSW NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021



IN THIS EDITION

COVID vaccinations
Board update
Margaret Sawers steps down
Vale Chris Christopher
AC Law changes
Northern Correspondent
Infrastructure Grants
News Briefs
CNSW sign in
Mullinar retires
NSW Sports Awards
Australian Masters games
pstponed

COVID VACCINATIONS

Mandated vaccinations?

A number of Clubs have asked if Covid vaccinations are mandated for croquet players in NSW. There has been a shift in the emphasis on vaccinations with this latest outbreak, and it seems an increase in supply.

The State government has been strongly encouraging its citizens to vaccinate, if they are able to do so in order to reach target numbers of vaccinations.

Croquet NSW has said that there is currently no legal basis to mandate vaccinations, but we strongly encourage players to be vaccinated.

The NSW Sport and Rec Department has been asked for its advice, and had the following comments in relation to mandatory vaccinations:

In relation to vaccinations, the Premier announced that from 13 September there will be a slight easing of restrictions for people that are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The Premier also announced a roadmap of easing of restrictions when the following targets are hit:

- *70 per cent full vaccination: a range of family, industry, community and economic restrictions to be lifted for those who are vaccinated.*
- *80 per cent full vaccination: further easing of restrictions on industry, community and the economy.*

You can find more information at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/roadmap-to-freedom-unveiled-for-fully-vaccinated>

While we don't as yet have any more information or detail about the potential roll out or impact of vaccination levels in regards to restrictions on sport and recreation, **it is the NSW Government's current position to get as many people vaccinated as possible.** At this stage, the NSW Government has only mandated that certain workers are required to have a COVID-19 vaccination.

Covid Safety Plans

Croquet NSW has also been asked about Covid Safety Plans for Croquet Clubs. Sport and Rec advice on this is as follows: *In regards to COVID-19 Safety Plans, while the general one is okay, a more specific one for outdoor community sport is the Outdoor Events COVID-19 Safety Plan: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe/outdoor-events>. It is recommended that outdoor community sport clubs and organizations use the Outdoor Events COVID-19 Safety Plan.*

Croquet NSW acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands of NSW on which we meet and enjoy croquet. We pay our respects to elders past and present and emerging.

BOARD UPDATE

Board members

Chair: [vacant](#)

Treasurer: [Steve Miles](#)

Secretary/Newsletter: [Kate McLoughlin](#)

Projects: [Rosie Landrebe](#)

AC Focus: [Rik Mills](#)

Website: croquet-nsw.org

The Board has been preparing for the Annual General Meeting on October 23, 10.00 am via zoom. Nominations for CNSW Directors closes 17 September. The Board has been pleased to receive nominations from Liz Friend, Lisa Kelshaw, David Scott, Rik Mills, Rosie Landrebe, Kate McLoughlin and Steve Miles.

The NSW Director Refereeing (AC) has so far re-accredited 25 AC referees and 10 AC umpires. Those remaining he is looking to catch up in zoom sessions. An article on the law AC changes in a nutshell appears further in the newsletter, courtesy Mike Hughes.

The Australian Croquet Academy's online coaching course will be launched September 14 by Greg Bury, which will make available a slew of coaching resources online, for

accredited coaches. More information shortly.

An ACA Discussion forum is being held on 29 September to which Croquet NSW will send a delegate from the board. Topics for discussion include: some changes to the Croquet Australia constitution regarding the name of the organization and membership status; child abuse insurance proposal, membership categories proposal, affiliation fee payment schedule, and criteria for postponement or cancellation of ACA events.

Discussions are continuing between Cooks River Croquet Club and Croquet NSW with a view to coming to an agreement about the joint use of the Mackey Park facility at Tempe. In the interim Croquet NSW has resumed management of the lawns and clubhouse.

Tournaments are still not able to be held at Tempe, and many Clubs have cancelled their tournaments. There is hope to be able to play out the GC Pennants events, and we will Meanwhile in Tasmania the Virtual ISS is being played:

Kate McLoughlin, Secretary
secretary@croquet-nsw.org.au



DON'T FORGET CNSW AGM SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER VIA ZOOM

**Nominations for Directors closes 17 September
Agenda and invitations will be sent 24 September**

MARGARET SAWERS ENJOYS 15 YEARS AS NOWRA CLUB CAPTAIN



Nowra Croquet club life member Margaret Sawers commenced Croquet in 2001, elected to president in 2002 and treasurer from 2003 to 2005. The year 2006, saw Margaret become captain of the club and has held that position continually for the last 15 years moving from West street to the present location at Bomaderry.

During her time as club captain Margaret has become well known for the way tournaments for GC AC and Ricochet were conducted. Margaret prepared tournaments for State and local level. At the same time ensuring lawns were constantly tendered and in the best of condition.

Margaret also represented in various competitions throughout the state and interstate and was club delegate to CNSW

Another role undertaken by Margaret was the recruitment and teaching of new members with her caring and friendly manner and arranging visiting coaches for the club. As a result the Nowra Club is a very competitive croquet club. A further role was that of refereeing, where Margaret would travel to other clubs holding events as a sort after referee.

Not only being the club captain, Margaret was always first to put her hand up to help in catering for the various events and visits that the Nowra club.

Although Margaret have moved away from the role of club captain, she remains an active committee member, where her skills will be not lost. A floral tribute was made to Margaret, on behalf of the club

Bob Williamson

VALE CHRIS CHRISTOPHER

It is with great sadness that I notify you of the passing of Derek (Chris) Christopher on the morning of Sunday 12th September 2021 at the age of 86 years.

Chris was the backbone of the Wollongong Croquet Club and will be greatly missed by all of the members, as well as by the wider NSW croquet community. Chris was a very active member of the Wollongong Croquet Club for over twenty years and along with his wife Joan was awarded Life Membership of the Club in December 2019.

Chris leaves behind his wife Joan, a son and daughter, and their children. Our thoughts are with the family.

***Hagen Kreusser, Secretary
Wollongong Croquet Club Inc.***



ASSOCIATION CROQUET LAW CHANGES IN A NUTSHELL

The new laws of Association Croquet came into force on 1 July 2021, so all games you are playing since then are subject to the new laws. As seems the norm when laws are tidied up, the law book is longer than ever. However there are definite readability improvements, a glossary of terms, better cross-referencing and a useful table of the limit of claims.

While there are several (very) minor changes along the lines of determining who to favour in circumstances where a position is too close to call (is a ball in or out, is a ball wired for example), there is one substantial change.

The striking period is now when the striker takes his stance to play a shot (previously, the downswing of the mallet in playing a ball). And most importantly if the strikers ball is in a critical position, then if the striker's mallet touches the ball, that is the stroke. So for example if casting you touch the ball, that is your stroke. Or if placing your mallet behind the ball you touch it, that is your stroke. This is the same law as in Golf Croquet.

It is important to note that this only applies if the ball is in a critical position. If not the old rule applies : if you touch a ball it can be replaced without penalty. And a new rule has been introduced so if you touch the ball and continue with the swing and complete the shot, that is Ok, not a double tap (as it would be in GC). It never was under the old rules as the striking period did not start until the downswing.

So it becomes important : is the ball in a critical position. The new laws define a critical position is where "a minor change in the position could materially affect future play". If a ball is in a critical position it can be marked, and then becomes not critical. Examples of a critical position are any hampered position, or where a player is attempting to hit a very small sliver of a ball, or is nearly wired, or (perhaps) attempting a hoop run.

Unfortunately there is no attempt to define "materially affect". Hampered positions, thin targets, wired positions are likely to be clear-cut, but hoop running positions may become contentious. Probably an attempt at a hoop run from a long way out, or a hoop run from very close but straight in front is not critical. But as soon as there is any angle involved a small movement can make it easier to run the hoop. I expect umpires and players will have their own idea as to what is critical. In a match it is probably best to ask your opponent or an umpire when attempting a hoop run "is this critical" and if either of you think it is, then mark it before playing a shot.

This will mostly affect players like me who cast, but even if you don't, take care not to touch the ball having taken your stance.

Copies of the new laws are available at most clubs with Association Referees if you want to read them in detail. Or they are online at <https://worldcroquet.org/croquet-information/association-croquet/the-laws-of-association-croquet/>

FROM OUR NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT

Hit the wrong ball penalty

A keen GC player had played all morning with primary balls in double banked games, but for his final game he was playing secondaries. His ball ended up rather distant and near the other game. You can be forgiven for playing the wrong ball, but he played Black! It was over twenty yards but he ran the hoop he was aiming for. His penalty; ridicule and leg pulling, but he escaped the mallets wielded by the other game.

A moratorium on rule changes

Every year there is a new batch of rules we have to contend with, some minor, some major. Our lawns are now marked with penalty areas. There are contentious discussions about whether some rules encourage bad etiquette. A ball is out exactly where? On the line or touching the line? Once, in the early days of GC any shot which attempted to deliberately make a ball jump was declared a foul. Some of us who don't jump well, would like that rule restored.

We must expect the rules of our noble sport to evolve, but could we not have a big change every five years instead of dribbling bits out every year.

Now we have all settled down to GC handicaps, extra hits and when to use them, the World body is proposing we try a new handicapping method. Instead of receiving extra hits, the weaker player would be awarded a hoop or two, or more, before the game starts, but no extra hits. No clever use of free hits, no saving them until the last decisive hoops. Rarely a contested thirteenth hoop. Could that be included in the changes due in 2032 or 2042, please?!

Get ready to play

We recently sent several GC players off to their first CNSW event. Having played only socially before, we made sure they knew what to expect. So here is a check list of what we covered, just to be sure they felt comfortable:

- No handicap card, no play. Be sure your handicap and index reflects the CNSW database before you go.
- Have several markers and know the correct way to mark a ball. Never mark a critical ball; call a referee to do it.
- Never let the opposition play a shot which may be a crush or double tap without first calling the referee.
- In Doubles talk to each other every shot. If your game is held up by the game in front, call out "Stop the Clock". If someone on the lawn is chattering, ask them to stop, if they do not, ask the referee to ask them to stop.
- At the start place your ball in the quarter circle by hand. If your ball collects mud, clean it when it goes out or off the lawn, otherwise ask you opponent if you may mark your ball to clean it.
- Most social players never play in the rain, so before you, go practice on a rainy day, especially if it pours, is blowing a gale and very cold; check your grip, keep the mallet handle dry, how do you cope if you wear glasses? Is your rain gear adequate?

- If the tournament marks hoops made with those pesky coloured clothes pegs, work out where to hold them so as not to impede your routine. Never utter the phrase “Oh, I am offside.” Do not speed up your routine because the game behind is waiting.

Playing alone

It has been a miserable month for most croquet players in NSW. No tournaments, lawns restricted to two people at a time, and that time limited to one hour. No visitors, no visiting. Croquet on Facebook has gone very quiet. In my LGA we have not had a single case of covid for over 500 days, but we are still tightly restricted. Our Club set up a booking system and the players come in two by two, day by day. Our balls have been washed so often they look new. The social side is missing but practice is practice, exercise is exercise.

As the booking agent I have the advantage of knowing exactly when the lawns are unoccupied. As I live just two minutes from the club, I can dash down quickly and get in an hour by myself.

What do you do in that hour? GC players usually have a game, but you cannot play a GC game against a phantom opponent by yourself, you need two. But AC players have an advantage. You can play black and blue against red and yellow and lay out the lawn, practice making multiple hoops in a turn, learn strategy. That I have done numerous days, but I find that it helps if you think of a suitable opponent to pit yourself against. Not a friend, but someone really good. My favourite is to think I am playing against Alison Sharp. I often beat her, but she is a tough opponent. On the other hand, I always do well against Alix Verge. I am thinking of challenging Reg Bamford, but my nerves may get the better of me.

If you cannot play a real opponent, why not dream a little?

Peter Martin (Coutts Crossing)

ⁱ Editor’s Note

The last GC Rules (5^{ed}) were released in July 2018, and applied in Australia from Jan 2019. They still apply - there is no “dribbling of (new rules) every year”;

There have been some clarifications, as normally follow a new Edition, but these Official Rulings are not new Rules.

These Rulings & Commentary were issued in Oct 2018 (ie before the 5^{ed} Rules were applied in Australia);

A new 6th edition of the Rules is under discussion, but will not be applied until

There is a trial of an alternative form of handicap GC underway in the UK, but there is no decision on its future. If adopted, it is likely to be offered as an alternative to the current version of handicap play.

INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

The final round of [NSW Government Infrastructure grants](#) opens for the year opens on 1 November and closes 22 November. These grants are to communities across NSW to support the building, renovation and fit-out of community infrastructure. Funding is available for sport and recreation facilities, arts and cultural infrastructure, as well as projects that assist communities with essential infrastructure and disaster readiness.

NEWS BRIEFS

A REMINDER: CNSW Website Sign In

If you haven't signed in to the CNSW website why not give it a go. You just need your email address that you gave to your club secretary when you joined.

Step 1: Go to croquet-nsw.org

Step 2: Press the blue sign in button

Step 3: Enter your email address as your username. Leave the password blank

Step 4: Click on the Send Password option and follow the instructions to change the password. If you have problems just press Help

Supported by the
NSW GOVERNMENT

name

word

Sign In failed

If you have forgotten your password, press Send Password to send an email containing it to stevemiles@hotmail.com.au

[Member Sign In Help](#)

Event Registration for players outside NSW/ACT

STEPHEN MULLINAR RETIRES AS SECRETARY GENERAL, WCF

Stephen Mullinar retired yesterday 31st August 2021 as Secretary-General of the WCF. During his tenure, the WCF has taken responsibility for managing the AC Laws, GC Rules and the Rankings as well as holding many successful championships. Stephen has worked tirelessly to support croquet and will be missed by his colleagues on the Management Committee and all the Members he has supported so efficiently. Stephen is replaced by Debbie Lines, who takes over from 1st September 2021, after shadowing Stephen as his Deputy for the past twelve months. We wish Stephen all the best with his future endeavours and hope to see him at many croquet events over the

coming years.
Source [WCF website](#) News



1Stephen Mullinar with his retirement gift.

NSW SPORT AWARDS

Sport NSW is proud to launch the NSW Sports Awards for 2021.

The NSW Sports Awards have been running since 1994, and serve to celebrate the achievements of NSW athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and organisations on an annual basis.

Nominations are now open for individuals, teams, and organisations within the award categories - after which an independent selection panel will determine the finalists and winners of each award.

Nominations close at 11.59pm on Tuesday, 5 October 2021.

Entries are via the [NSW Sport website](#).

AUSTRALIAN MASTERS GAMES POSTPONED

In light of the evolving COVID-19 situation, the 2021 [Australian Masters Games](#) which were due to be held in Perth from 9-16 October 2021 will be postponed until 23-30 April 2022.