



Southern Highlands Croquet Club Inc.

Playing Policies 2025

Version: 7 Date: 23 January 2025

All members of the Southern Highlands Croquet Club Inc. (SHCC) shall comply with the following:

1. PREAMBLE

1. As an affiliated club of Croquet NSW Inc., SHCC is covered by its rules and policies and those of the Australian Croquet Association Inc
2. In the playing of any form of croquet at SHCC, the current World Croquet Federation Rules of Croquet shall apply
3. The SHCC Constitution, its By-Laws and any policies approved by the Committee
4. All activities – playing, social or otherwise - held at the Club lawns at Exeter will be under the name and control of the Southern Highlands Croquet Club Inc., except where the event is under the name and control of Croquet NSW
5. Therefore, all members should familiarise themselves with the rules and policies of these organisations and documents, particularly regarding behaviour at Exeter and when representing the Club at tournaments at other clubs
6. Members are expected to use the online booking system to register for a Club session and to book a court or courts. The booking system can be accessed from the Club's website at www.shcroquetclub.org.au

2. CLUB UNIFORM

The official uniform is gold and/or white, short or long-sleeved polo shirt worn with white or cream trousers/slacks etc. during Summer or with navy trousers/slacks etc. during Winter.

- 2.1. Club uniform should be worn when participating in Croquet NSW events, tournaments at other clubs, inter-club visits (e.g. Pennants), Club competitions and when hosting tournaments.
 - 2.1.1. For women - polo shirt with culottes, slacks, $\frac{3}{4}$ length slacks, knee-length shorts.
 - 2.1.2. For men - polo shirt with long trousers, knee-length shorts.
 - 2.1.3. For all - footwear is flat, soft-soled closed in shoes.
 - 2.1.4. When required - jumpers, cardigans, vests and jackets should be gold, white or navy (with optional club badge)
- 2.2. Club badges must be sewn, ironed or embroidered onto the polo shirt (badges can be purchased from the Secretary).

3. VISITORS / GUESTS OF MEMBER

- 3.1. Members must ensure that court space is available for their guests by using the online booking system.
- 3.2. May play up to 12 times in a calendar year after which they will be required to become a member
- 3.3. Must sign the attendance book.
- 3.4. Shall pay the daily playing fee and the mallet hire fee as set out in By-Law 3

4. INTRODUCTORY PLAYERS

- 4.1. May attend up to four (4) introductory croquet lessons and during or at the end of the lessons may apply to become a member. The introductory lesson fee may be deducted from the membership fee
- 4.2. Shall pay the introductory lesson fee as set out in By-Law 7
- 4.3. Must sign the attendance book.
- 4.4. May use Club mallets free of charge during the introductory lesson period (see Clause 14)

5. GROUP BOOKINGS

- 5.1. The fee for group bookings shall be determined by the Committee.
- 5.2. All visitors must sign the attendance book

6. COACHING

- 6.1. Members may request assistance from one of the Club's coaches. There is no fee payable. Visitors, guests and participants in group bookings may request assistance from one of the Club's coaches. The fee for these sessions will be in accordance with By-Law 7 or as determined by the Committee
- 6.2. Members who play in external tournaments should maintain their handicap cards and keep their handicap and index up to date on the Croquet NSW website. Any Club coach can assist with this.

7. PLAYING PROCEDURES

- 7.1. The official Club playing days and times are shown below. Members can play at any other time provided the court(s) is not already booked.

| DAY | MORNING | AFTERNOON |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|
| Monday | Association | |
| Tuesday | Golf-Social | Open Play |
| Wednesday | Squad Training | |
| Thursday | | |
| Friday | Golf-Social | Open Play |
| Saturday | | |
| Sunday | Golf Social | Summer Twilight |

- 7.1.1. Golf-Social sessions start with a draw at 9:30 am during Daylight Saving or at 10:00 am at other times, Squad training from 9:00am, Association from 9:00am and Summer Twilight from 3:30pm
- 7.2. For all sessions, whether intending to play in a normal Club session or making an individual booking, all members should use the Club's online booking registration system. For individual bookings, members should record the booking in the Club Diary as well.
- 7.3. No play when maintenance work is being carried out
- 7.4. The courts may be unavailable for play at other times. Notice of court closures shall be displayed on the Club's website, on the noticeboard in The Jim Skillen Shed (the Shed) or advised by email.
- 7.5. All members must sign the attendance book
- 7.6. Play shall be conducted as follows:
- 7.6.1. Prior to the commencement of play, if there are more than four (4) players, a random draw shall take place which shall be managed by the Club Captain, or a member of the Committee, or, in their absence, any member of the club.
- 7.6.2. Subsequent draws will take place by the manager on the day to accommodate all players as best as possible
- 7.6.3. All games are untimed but if there are more than eight (8) players the manager on the day may impose a time limit of not more than one (1) hour per game
- 7.6.4. If there are more than 16 players, the players that miss out on the draw for a game will take priority for the next game.

8. ORGANISATION OF PLAY

- 8.1. All players should arrive early to help with the setup of the courts
- 8.2. At the conclusion of play:
- 8.2.1. Soiled balls should be cleaned and all balls returned to their box or holder.
- 8.2.2. Soiled mallets should be wiped clean. Club wooden mallets must be stored to ensure they are not in contact with wet surfaces
- 8.2.3. Any other equipment is to be stored appropriately if used
- 8.2.4. Sunshades must be returned to the closed position if they have been used
- 8.2.5. Buffers between courts 1 and 2 should be positioned along the northern or southern fence after play finishes.

9. MEMBER BEHAVIOUR

- 9.1. Players are responsible for maintaining good standards of behaviour towards other players, officials, equipment, courts and spectators.
 - 9.1.1. On arrival and departure, it is expected that members walk around the lawns next to the fence and not across the centre to avoid unnecessary wear and tear.
 - 9.1.2. Do not place bags, etc. on the ground or seats but on the pegs/shelves in the Shed
 - 9.1.3. Do not eat or drink on the courts during play.
 - 9.1.4. Avoid walking in front of players taking a shot
 - 9.1.5. Return all balls to the Start Area at the end of a game for the commencement of the next game. Balls must be carried to the Start Area if another game is in progress on your court
 - 9.1.6. Avoid providing unsolicited advice to opposing players.
 - 9.1.7. Play with due dispatch.
 - 9.1.8. Members are requested to ensure that beginners, new players and visitors are made welcome, encouraged to participate and supported in the playing of croquet

9.2. UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

Unacceptable behaviour includes, but is not limited to, when a player:

- 9.2.1. Leaves the court during a match without permission from the opposing side
- 9.2.2. Disturbs other players during a match by talking, making noises, using their mobile phone, standing or moving or allowing shadows to interfere in front of a player who is about to play a stroke.
- 9.2.3. Argues aggressively or continuously with, or is aggressive towards, another player, referee or official
- 9.2.4. Gives advice to either side as a spectator (except to forestall playing of a wrong ball)
- 9.2.5. Acts in a manner that may bring the game into disrepute on the court or in the presence of our local community.

10. SECURITY

- 10.1. All members are responsible for checking and ensuring security of storage, buildings and courts and all gates are locked when leaving
- 10.2. All members shall be provided with a court/shed key free of charge. Court/shed keys remain the property of the Club and must be returned when a person ceases to be a member of the Club. The cost of a replacement key is borne by the member

11. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 11.1. A defibrillator is located on the right-hand side of the verandah. Members are requested to familiarise themselves with its location and use
- 11.2. All members have a duty to:
 - 11.2.1. Take all reasonably practicable steps for their own health and safety and of others when at the courts.
 - 11.2.2. Ensure they dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Members are encouraged to wear a broad brimmed hat, long sleeved shirt, sunglasses and a broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen on hot days
 - 11.2.3. Ensure they drink adequate fluids to remain hydrated when playing
- 11.3. Remove/repair any potential or actual hazard at the courts. If they are unable to do so themselves, they must report the matter to a member of the Committee
- 11.4. Ensure balls and mallets, when not being used for play, are located where they will not cause a possible hazard for other individuals
- 11.5. Avoid walking backwards on the court to avoid tripping over a ball, mallet or hoop
- 11.6. Be aware of other games, particularly when games are double-banked. Warn other players and spectators before playing a forceful strike that might cause injury or interference
- 11.7. Dogs should be tethered at all times

12. MAINTENANCE

- 12.1. All members should assist in the maintenance and general upkeep of the Club's facilities.

- 12.1.1. Working bees are held throughout the year to mark out the courts, position hoops etc., and other tasks such as cleaning the sunshades, tidying the Shed etc.
- 12.1.2. During the hot months the courts may have to be watered daily. This is shared by all capable members on a roster basis. All watering should be completed by 8:30 am on Club playing days or by 10:00 am other days. If a member cannot do so on a rostered day, they must arrange for another member to replace them.
- 12.1.3. The Shed is used by all members and it is therefore the responsibility of all members to ensure the building is kept clean and tidy and any rubbish removed.

13. PRIVACY

- 13.1. All members acknowledge that their personal details are recorded on the Club's Register of Members and will be provided to Croquet NSW as required. In addition, from time to time the Club may take photographic images of members for social, internal communication or promotional purposes or in support of grant applications if required. Any member who objects to having their image taken should raise this with a Committee member and/or with the person taking the image.

14. MALLETS

- 14.1. New members are encouraged to try different mallets and may use Club mallets for up to three (3) months from joining, after which members are expected to purchase their own.
- 14.2. The Club may extend the three (3) month period if circumstances warrant, otherwise a mallet hire fee per day may apply, as set out in By-Law 3.
- 14.3. The Committee will ensure that the Club maintains sufficient mallets in usable condition, and of varying height and weight, for the use of guests, visitors and new members.