

APPENDIX E - Document 080206 – Agenda Item 7

To consider resolutions for which due notice has been given.

The following resolutions have been proposed by WCF Member Associations or the WCF Management Committee for consideration.

PROCEDURE

The “end date” for the purposes of these resolutions is 6th February 2008.

Any documents outlining arguments for or against the resolution shall reach the Secretary-General at least 40 days before the “end date”, the 28th December 2008.

The Secretary-General shall give notice of these documents, together with a voting paper, to each Association at least 30 days before the “end date”, the 7th January 2008.

1. To consider the adoption or otherwise of the World Anti-Doping Agency Code on anti-doping.

Proposed by the WCF Management Committee:

This matter was remitted from the WCF Council Meeting held on 9th August 2005 for further investigation by the WCF Management Committee for them to make firm proposals.

The report and recommendation of the Committee can be found at Appendix F.

2. Golf Croquet Rules Committee

Proposed by the Australian Croquet Association

Current Rule:-

“(106.3) The WCF Golf Croquet Rules Committee (GCRC) shall comprise six members who will elect their own chairman. The (English) Croquet Association, Croquet Australia, Egyptian Croquet Federation, the New Zealand Croquet Council and the United States Croquet Association will each appoint one member. The remaining Full Member Associations will elect a sixth member. Procedures for the election of this committee will be determined by the Management Committee”.

Proposed amendment:-

It is moved that Rule 106.3 of the WCF Constitution is amended to read:
“(106.3) The WCF Golf Croquet Rules Committee (GCRC) shall comprise five members who will elect their own chairman. Members will be elected for

terms to be determined by the Management Committee using procedures to be determined by the Management Committee."

Rationale.

The current arrangement provides for one representative from each of the five larger Member Associations and one to represent the remaining five full Member Associations. This has several drawbacks:

1. The five representatives of the larger associations are constrained by perceptions of what their association may prefer rather than what is best for the game. It would be preferable for committee members to primarily consider the need to make rules which are clear, which provide for the best possible game and are easy to understand and referee.
2. The member required to represent the five smaller Member Associations has an impossible task as it is extremely difficult to discover their desires, which, in any case, may not coincide.
3. There could be two very suitable potential members of the committee from the same Member Association. Currently only one of them could be appointed.
4. It is preferable to have an odd number of committee members so that the committee can not be evenly divided.

It is preferable for the most competent persons to be appointed to the committee and that they are answerable to the general croquet community. An election is likely to provide that result.

Transitional Arrangement

It is proposed that the existing Committee continue to act until an election can be held.

3. Association Croquet Laws Committee

Proposed by the Australian Croquet Association

It is moved that the following is inserted in Rule 106 of the WCF Constitution:-
"(106.5) The WCF Association Croquet Laws Committee (ACLC) shall comprise five members who will elect their own chairman. Members will be elected for terms to be determined by the Management Committee using procedures to be determined by the Management Committee."

Rationale

Currently the four larger Member Associations of the WCF control the International Laws Committee (ILC) which has no relationship to the WCF and which makes determinations on the Laws by unanimous agreement. It is time for the WCF to take over the function of controlling the rules of the most international version of the game of croquet. The current arrangement has several drawbacks:

1. The representatives of the four larger associations are constrained by perceptions of what their association may prefer rather than what is best for the game. It would be preferable for committee members to primarily

consider the need to make rules which are clear, which provide for the best possible game and are easy to understand and referee.

2. There could be two very suitable potential members of the committee from the same Member Association. Currently only one of them could be appointed.

3. The requirement for unanimous approval of changes gives a veto to any one of the four larger associations.

4. It is preferable to have an odd number of committee members so that the committee can not be evenly divided on any point.

5. By having four organisations to which it is responsible the ILC has no organisation which has effective control. Supervision by the WCF will ensure there is continuity of progress and no long pauses in the work of the committee.

It is preferable for the most competent persons to be appointed to the committee and that they are answerable to the general croquet community. An election is likely to provide that result.

Transitional Arrangement

It is proposed that the current members of the ILC be appointed to the ACLC until an election can be held.

Consequential Amendment

It is moved that Rule 301.2.1 is amended by deleting "The International Laws Committee" and inserting "The Association Croquet Laws Committee".

4. Notice of Resolutions

Proposed by the WCF Management Committee

Current Rule:-

109. NOTICE OF RESOLUTIONS

(109.1) Resolutions may be proposed only by an Association or by the Committee.

(109.2) Written notice of a resolution to be proposed by an Association, and any supporting documentation, may be sent to the Secretary-General at any time. The Secretary-General shall arrange for such resolutions to be considered at the next General Meeting to be held that will allow him to give each Association notice of the proposed motion at least 60 days before the "end date", defined in Rule 108.2.

(109.3) If no General Meeting is scheduled at an appropriate time, the Committee may instruct the Secretary-General to give notice to each Association at least 60 days before the "end date" that the resolution will be put to a postal vote.

(109.4) If notice of a resolution has been given by an Association under Rule 109 or Rule 207, or the Committee intends to propose a resolution, the Secretary-General shall give notice of the details of the resolution and any supporting documentation provided by the proposer to each Association at least 60 days before the "end date" defined under Rule 108.2.

(109.5) Any documents outlining arguments for or against the resolution shall reach the Secretary-General at least 40 days before the "end date". The Secretary-General shall give notice of these documents, together with a voting paper, to each Association at least 30 days before the "end date". In the case of a General Meeting, the Secretary-General shall include in this notice details of all the business to be transacted at the Meeting.

(109.6) A resolution of which due notice has not been given may be discussed at an Ordinary General Meeting as a matter of urgency if a motion to that effect is carried by a two-thirds majority of the votes recorded in respect thereof. If it is so decided, it shall be deemed that due notice of the resolution has been given.

(109.7) No resolution may be proposed by an Association which would have the effect of reversing a resolution adopted at the immediately preceding General Meeting unless a motion to that effect is carried by a two-thirds majority of the votes recorded in respect thereof.

-end-

Proposed amendments

109.5) Any documents outlining arguments for or against the resolution, *or any proposed amendment to the proposed resolution*, shall reach the Secretary-General at least 40 days before the "end date". The Secretary-General shall give notice of these documents, together with a voting paper, to each Association at least 30 days before the "end date". In the case of a General Meeting, the Secretary-General shall include in this notice details of all the business to be transacted at the Meeting.

(109.6) A resolution, *and any proposed amendment*, of which due notice has not been given may be discussed at an Ordinary General Meeting as a matter of urgency if a motion to that effect is carried by a two-thirds majority of the votes recorded in respect thereof. If it is so decided, it shall be deemed that due notice of the resolution, *and any proposed amendment*, has been given.

(109.7) No resolution, *or any proposed amendment*, may be proposed by an Association which would have the effect of reversing a resolution adopted at the immediately preceding General Meeting unless a motion to that effect is carried by a two-thirds majority of the votes recorded in respect thereof.

Rationale

At the last WCF Council meeting and later, in a postal vote, a decision was made by the voting membership to significantly shorten the time taken in the proposal and voting processes for resolutions and elections.

Despite WCF best efforts, one thing not considered was to possibly allow amendments to resolutions to be made prior to a vote, particularly in a postal vote.

You will see in the current text below that only substantive proposals for resolutions can be voted upon, without any possibility of any amendment being made. In other words, if a member wished to propose an amendment, that would require a completely new proposal to be made and the clock to start ticking over again.

5. Nationality and Eligibility

Rationale

The WCF Nationality eligibility statute needs some changes. They describe limitations only for International 26 point games, which by inference applies only to AC events. No mention is made of GC events at all. Note:- WCF policy is to interpret the statute as also applying to GC events even though there is no mention of them in the text.

In addition, the 36 month limitation for changing a nationality was long thought by some to be onerous and did not easily reflect today's more transient society. As a consequence, a WCF working party was set up to examine the Statute and this reported back in late 2006.

-Current WCF Statute-

303. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYER TO REPRESENT A COUNTRY

(303.1) A player is qualified to represent a country in a croquet event if:

(303.1.1) he was born in the country; or

(303.1.2) either of his natural or adoptive parents was born in the country; or

(303.1.3) he is a citizen of the country, is entitled to hold a passport issued by the country and has lived there for thirty-six consecutive months at some time; or

(303.1.4) he has been a permanent resident of the country for a period of twenty-four Months immediately prior to the event.

(303.2) In (303.1.3) and (303.1.4) above:

(303.2.1) residence solely for the purpose of education at a school, technical college or university shall not be included; and

(303.2.2) absences not exceeding 90 consecutive days relating to holidays or travelling on business shall not be relevant.

(303.3) A player who has represented a country in a 26 point International Association croquet event controlled by the WCF or by the participating Governing Bodies may not represent another country for which he is qualified unless a period of 36 consecutive months has elapsed since his last appearance for his former country.

-end-

Proposed WCF amendment:-

303. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYER TO REPRESENT A COUNTRY

(303.1) A player is qualified to represent a country in a croquet event if:

(303.1.1) he was born in the country; or

(303.1.2) either of his natural or adoptive parents was born in the country; or

(303.1.3) he is a citizen of the country, is entitled to hold a passport issued by the country and has lived there for thirty-six consecutive months at some time; or

(303.1.4) he has been a permanent resident of the country for a period of twelve months immediately prior to the event.

(303.2) In (303.1.3) and (303.1.4) above:

(303.2.1) residence solely for the purpose of education at a school, technical college or university shall not be included; and

(303.2.2) if a player lives in two countries he must nominate one country as his home country. A player must live there for a minimum of four months per year.

(303.3) A player who has represented a country in an International croquet event controlled by the WCF or by one or more of the participating National Governing Bodies may not represent another country for which he is qualified unless a period of 12 consecutive months has elapsed since his last appearance for his former country.

(303.4) Where, in the opinion of the World Croquet Federation, unusual circumstances exist regarding a player's nationality and/or residence position, or where a player qualifies only for a non member country or association, the World Croquet Federation Management Committee shall determine that person's eligibility and qualification for one or more member associations, and/or their suitability for participating in any International croquet event controlled by the WCF or by one or more of the participating National Governing Bodies.

-end-

Further proposed amendments

Rationale

In 2007, a discussion arose about Nationality eligibility and the applicability of the statute in relation to the WCF European Team Championship and the UK "Home Internationals". Effectively, a WCF member association requested advice on how a change of nationality within 2 months of last playing for another country would affect their future WCF status.

Continued and protracted discussions called in to question the extent to which the WCF nationality statute affects WCF members, International events or other tournaments.

In brief, a challenge was made to the premise that the WCF Statutes were binding on all members for all croquet activity. When asked for views, even members of the WCFMC were divided on the issue.

What is being proposed

It is proposed that the WCF Council consider a number of proposals and alternatives that would clarify the extent to which the WCF nationality statutes is binding on its members.

The substantive motion above remains, but in addition, we must attempt to deal with different levels of acceptance of the statute and deals with multi-association teams in International croquet events (e.g. Great Britain).

There are then, a number of additional proposals covering different aspects of the statute, from which one needs to be chosen.

WCF can adopt either:-

1. A motion to irrevocably bind all International croquet events played under the authority of member associations to the WCF nationality eligibility statute.

Alternatively

1. A motion to identify and recognise which International croquet events apply to number 1 above. e.g. All WCF events, MacRobertson Shield, Solomon Trophy, Trans-Tasman, Home Internationals, Rheingold-Pokal Cup, Alpine Cup, Nordic Trophy etc.

Such arrangements would only apply if all participating nations in the International event agreed to that, and, once agreed, becomes the status for the time of continued existence of the International croquet event. Any new member, that joins an existing WCF recognised International croquet event in the future, would only be admitted to

membership of that event, if they agreed to the WCF recognition of the event and subsequent nationality status.

Such WCF recognition of an International event would only apply if the WCFMC agreed.

Alternatively

3. If 1 or 2 above was not passed, then a motion to define that it only applies to WCF events.

Proposed Text

Amendment 1

(303.5) 303.1, 303.2, 303.3 and 303.4 above, applies to all International croquet events played under the authority of a member association or the World Croquet Federation.

Or

Amendment 2

(303.5). 303.1, 303.2, 303.3 and 303.4 above, applies to all World Croquet Federation recognised International croquet events played under the authority of a member association. Such recognition will only apply if:-

(303.5.1) All participating member associations in the International croquet event unanimously agree to apply to the World Croquet Federation for International status recognition;

(303.5.2) Any participating member association that in the future requests or is granted to membership of the World Croquet Federation recognised International croquet event, agrees to be so bound;

(303.5.3) The World Croquet Federation Management Committee agrees to the recognition of the relevant International croquet event.

Or

Amendment 3

(303.5). 303.1, 303.2, 303.3 and 303.4 above applies only to all World Croquet Federation events.

Assuming one of the options is successfully adopted we can then move to how we deal with multi-team events.

Addition to 303 for multi-association teams.

(303.6) Where a team or teams in an International croquet event is comprised of players from more than one World Croquet Federation member association, the players must declare which constituent member association they are representing prior to participation within it, be bound by any previous relevant eligibility status and acknowledge that any lawful change of eligibility will affect their status pursuant to 303.1, 303.2, 303.3, 303.4 and 303.5 above.

Discipline

We must now move on to how to deal with transgressions of eligibility or qualification.

Rationale

Whilst the scope of this part will largely depend upon the extent of the success or failure of the proposals above, it follows that there must be a sanction of players, teams or member associations should it be discovered that a player is ineligible to play in an International or WCF event.

This will be discovered:-

1. Before an event starts;
2. During an event;
3. After an event has finished.

It is presupposed that any transgression will be due to confusion or misunderstanding and not wilful disregard of the WCF Statutes yet the punishments must be meaningful.

The following are proposed to member associations:-

303.7 Discipline

Where a player is found to transgress 303.1 to 303.6 above:-

303.7.1 Before an event.

Upon discovery the relevant member association may substitute another eligible player. In addition, the relevant player is not disqualified from participation in any other International croquet event for a member association for whom they are eligible.

303.7.2 During an event

All matches played by the relevant player in a singles event, or by the team in a team event, which included the active participation of the relevant player, shall be declared, at the discretion of the organising body, lost to the relevant opponent(s), by the maximum score allowed under the Laws or Rules of the Game or nullified completely.

The relevant player is disqualified from further participation in any International croquet event for two years.

In a team event, the member association may continue to play in the event provided they do not use the relevant player.

303.7.3 After an event has finished

All matches played by the relevant player in a singles event, or by the team in a team event, which included the active participation of the relevant player, shall be declared, at the discretion of the organising body, lost to the relevant opponent(s), by the maximum score allowed under the Laws or Rules of the Game or nullified completely.

The relevant player is disqualified from further participation in any International croquet event for two years.

Results

Finally there must be some means of adjusting International croquet event results to reflect the punishments.

Rationale

Following the proposed 303.7 above, if discovery is made during or immediately after the completion of a group or similar round-robin stage, an ineligible player will become disqualified and their results become nullified, thereby allowing another player to potentially take the place of the offending player in a knock out stage.

If it is discovered after a knock out stage has commenced, the offending player would be disqualified and their place in any subsequent round taken by their current or next opponent.

Due to time constraints, it may not be possible to re-adjust a group after the knock out stage commences or replay some rounds and hence adjustment can only be accomplished after discovery of the ineligibility.

This will normally be dealt with by a Tournament Manager or if the rules of the event allow, an Appeals Committee.

The following are proposed to member associations:-

303.8 Adjustment of results of competitions

Where a relevant player has been adjudged to have been ineligible during an International croquet event or after it has finished, the relevant governing body of the event shall decide whether to:-

- 303.8.1 allow the overall results of the event to stand; or
- 303.8.2 adjust the results of the event or part of it, having regard to the stage of the event when discovery of the ineligibility was made and overall fairness to other players in the event.

In a Separate Proposal by the Australian Croquet Association

Qualification of a Player to Represent a Country

It is moved that the following amendments are made to Rule 303:

1. In 303.1.3 delete "thirty-six" and insert "twelve".
2. In 303.1.4 delete "twenty-four" and insert "twelve".
2. In 303.3 delete "36 consecutive months" and insert "12 consecutive months".

Rationale

1. With greater mobility of players between countries we should be making it possible for players to continue to play, despite changing their residence or citizenship. It is not in the best interests of the game to prevent talented players from continuing their involvement with the game at the highest levels.
2. Players are more often travelling for business, education or pleasure and their absences from home are becoming longer.

Note:

This motion substantially mirrors the one proposed by the WCFMC with the exception of 303.1.3.