

# World Croquet Federation

## Proposed Rule Amendments

Please find below a number of proposals made by the WCF Management Committee for changes to WCF Rules. As no WCF General Meeting is planned in the near future I have been instructed by the WCF Management Committee to hold a "postal vote" in accordance with WCF Rules 109.3 and 215.2. Each is self explanatory and accompanied by an explanation of the reasons behind the proposals.

The following time limits are applicable of the various stages of these proposals for eventual postal vote.

### WCF Timetable

The following timetable is laid down in WCF Rules 108 and 109.

Date of Results of Postal vote: (End Date – WCF Rule 108.2:- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006)

Circulation of Notices and proposals – (this posting)

At least 180 days before meeting (WCF Rules 108.2 and 109.2 and 109.4)

Any documents outlining arguments for or against the resolution shall reach the Secretary-General at least 120 days before the "end date". (WCF Rule 109.5, - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2006)

The Secretary-General shall post these documents, together with a voting paper, to each Association at least 90 days before the "end date". (WCF Rule 109.5:- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2006)

In due course, the Management Committee will appoint two Scrutineers to count the vote and a Returning Officer to whom the completed voting papers should be sent by member Associations [WCF Rules 110.1 and 112.1].

To be valid the voting papers cast by post must reach the Returning Officer by Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 [30 days before the "end date", WCF Rule 110.3]. **Only full members of the WCF which have paid their current subscriptions are entitled to vote.**

The result of the postal vote will be circulated to all member Associations on or shortly after Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006 (the "end date"), and a copy of the Scrutineer's report will be sent to all member Associations by 30<sup>th</sup> August 2006 [WCF Rule 112.9].

### VOTING ENTITLEMENT

Voting entitlement [WCF Rule 104] depends on the number of individual associates affiliated to each individual Association. Currently voting entitlements and weighting factors are as follows:

Australia 3 votes, Canada 1 vote, Egypt 2 votes, England 3 votes, Ireland 1 vote, Italy 1 vote, Japan 1 vote, New Zealand 3 votes, Scotland 1 vote, South Africa 1 vote and USA 3 votes.

## **Number 1. Notices – Time Limits**

At the WCF Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2005, it was decided to adopt WCF Rule changes to allow for quicker communication and decision making between members, mostly via the use of email and other electronic means. Following that decision, it was considered that the current time limits imposed by the current Rules were restrictive and the WCF Management Committee (WCFMC) was asked to make recommendations for change. The following are the WCFMC proposals to reduce time limits across the board relating to the conduct relating notices and calling of WCF meetings.

WCFMC decided that the 180 day, and 90 day rules be amended to 60 days and 30 days.

To allow time to get responses in and then out again further amendments are also required.

### **The full proposals are:-**

Amend Rule 105.11 Change “120” to “40”  
Amend Rule 105.12 Change “90” to “30”  
Amend Rule 107.4 Change “90” to “30”  
Amend Rule 108.2 Change “180” to “60”  
Amend Rule 109.2 Change “180” to “60”  
Amend Rule 109.3 Change “180” to “60”  
Amend Rule 109.4 Change “180” to “60”  
Amend Rule 109.5 Change “120” to “40” and “90” to “30”  
Amend Rule 110.3 Change “30” to “7”

To take immediate effect.

**Number 2. Scope of WCF Regulations and linkage with WCF Rules and Tournament Regulations of hosting associations of WCF licensed events.**

The WCFMC discussed the wearing of clothing at WCF licensed events and the general overall desire to maintain a predominantly white appearance, subject to agreed national uniforms. This led to a wider discussion on the applicability of the host nations Tournament Regulations given they may differ from nation to nation.

WCFMC wishes to maintain a common standard for all WCF licensed events throughout the world.

Currently all WCF events are subservient to the Tournament Regulations of the host nation and there is an apparent conflict between Rule 103.5, 214.1.1, 214.1.3, and 307.2. The hosts may allow greater freedom, thus circumventing the WCF stance. WCFMC felt that this should be addressed as soon as possible for future events.

WCFMC are of the opinion that in future all WCF licensed events should have (where possible) a common set of Tournament Regulations. In light of this feeling the proposed Rule Changes are as follows:-

Amend WCF Rule 307.2

FROM:

“(307.2) The Tournament Regulations to be observed at any event held under the auspices of the Federation shall be those of the Association in whose jurisdiction the event is held insofar as such regulations do not conflict with these Rules.

TO

“(307.2) The Tournament Regulations to be observed at any event held under the auspices of the World Croquet Federation shall be those of the World Croquet Federation insofar as such regulations do not conflict with these Rules. Where a matter arising during such an event is not covered by these Rules or WCF Regulations made under Rule 105.13, then it shall be decided by the relevant Tournament Regulations of the host association, or, failing that, by a WCF Appeals Committee”.

To take immediate effect.

### **Number 3. Recognised Croquet variants**

The WCFMC consider that the current wording of Rule 301.1 too restrictive given the number of variants of the game played throughout the world.

As an example, some nations still play "Ancient Croquet". Whilst the rules can differ from country to country they generally seem similar to US 9 wicket croquet.

The intention of the WCF is to be inclusive of all the variants and not discriminate one against another albeit there will remain a focus on Association and Golf Croquet World Championships for the immediate future.

Accordingly the WCFMC propose the following:-

Amend Rule 301.1

FROM

(301.1) The Federation recognises the following versions of the game of croquet:

(301.1.1) Association Croquet

(301.1.2) Golf Croquet

(301.1.3) Short Croquet

(301.1.4) Two-ball Croquet

(301.1.5) U.S. Six-wicket Croquet

(301.1.6) U.S. Nine-wicket Croquet

TO

(301.1.) "The Federation recognises all versions of croquet"

Delete Rules 301.1.1 to 301.1.6 inclusive.

To take immediate effect

## **Number 4. WCFMC – Tenure.**

The WCFMC have considered the matter of tenure of the Management Committee itself.

With the move to quicker communication and decision making the number of face to face meetings will be reduced

The current time limits imposed for elections do not reflect those latest changes.

For example it is perfectly possible at the moment for a WCFMC member or the President to be elected for a maximum period of 30 months and never actually have the opportunity of attending a WCF event in that time, and, hence actually attend a face to face meeting.

This is particularly relevant to the President who will undoubtedly be the main policy driver in his/her tenure.

It is proposed that:

amend WCF Rule 105.5 to allow for fixed 4 year terms of the WCFMC and President. The former to be on a rolling basis of half retiring at a time so we would effectively have elections every 2 years for 3 WCFMC members, but they do serve for 4 years.

### **FROM**

“(105.5) Elections shall take place at the first General Meeting to be held after a period of at least two years has elapsed since the previous election. At such Meetings, the President shall retire, together with 3 members of the Committee who shall retire in rotation. If such a meeting is not scheduled to take place until more than 30 months since the previous election, then the election shall be determined by a postal vote held before 30 months has passed since the previous election, subject to the following conditions”.

### **TO**

“(105.5) Elections for the President shall take place every four years in December. The successful candidate taking office on the first of January the following year, for a term of four years.

Elections for the Management Committee shall take place every two years in December when, by rotation, 3 members of the committee shall retire. The successful candidates taking office on the first of January the following year, for a term of four years.

The election shall be determined by a postal vote subject to the following conditions:-”

[There then follows Rules 105.5.1, 105.5.2 and 105.5.3] No change proposed.

For consistency it is proposed Rule 108.3 be amended also.

FROM

(108.3) At the same time as giving notice of an election, the Secretary-General shall seek nominations for the office of President and membership of the Committee.

TO

(108.3) At the same time as giving notice of an election, the Secretary-General shall, **subject to Rule 105.5**, seek nominations for the office of President and membership of the Committee.

To take immediate effect

### **Interim arrangements**

An interim arrangement will be required by approval of the members, should they approve the amendment above:

This is to cover what will happen to the current President and those that are current members of the WCFMC

It is proposed:

“The President and three WCFMC members elected in November 2005, serve until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009.

All other WCFMC members serve until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 when the first elections will take place for 3 vacancies by rotation”.

### **Practical Note:**

The President is currently due to retire on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Four WCFMC Members will currently retire on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008

2 WCF Members will currently retire in January 2007.

This is a legacy of previous WCF Council Meetings and the recent election process. Assuming the proposal is approved, the WCFMC will decide which one of the four Management Committee members, due to retire on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008, shall retire on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007. Of course they will be eligible for re-election.

## **Number 5. WCF Management Committee – Maximum numbers from each member association.**

The WCF recently went through the first phase of an election process for President and Management Committee members. Due to the lack of nominees it was not necessary to have an election and Max Murray and Carole Jackson were deemed elected to fill the vacancy vacated by Gary Fox and Graeme Roberts.

In the time leading up to the first decision date, various comments and queries were received by WCF regarding the interpretation and meaning of WCF Rule 105.9 .

*(105.9) The Committee may not contain more than two members from one Association.*

Suffice to say there was a variance on the interpretation from one person to another.

On the eve of the closing date for nominations, The CA (of England) in particular were concerned about the meaning requesting clarification about whether they could nominate anyone as David Openshaw and Brian Storey (CA (of England) members) were “ex officio” members of the MC and Andrew Hope (ex officio WCF Treasurer) who is Scottish, but a member of the Scottish CA and the CA (of England), helped to confuse the issue. As Andrew Hope and Brian Storey are appointed as ex officio [not elected], could they be classed as members of the MC for the purposes of WCF Rule 105.9 above?

Similarly, the President, David Openshaw, who is also “ex officio”.

Could Andrew Hope, even though he is Scottish be classed as a CA “person” as he has that dual membership? If so, WCF appears to break its own rules of not more than 2 members from an Association.

Given the short time scale given by the CA request for clarification, The President made a declaration of the meaning of 105.9 for the purposes of the election, although it was clear the CA were not actually going to nominate anyone.

The President considered and gave a declaration that all elected, ex officio and any retiring president members of WCFMC should be deemed members of it for the purposes of Rule 105.9

Also the use of the words “one Association” should be interpreted as “an Association for whom the person is eligible to compete as per Rules 303 and 304”.

Therefore David Openshaw and Brian Storey would be the CA (of England) quota, whilst Andrew was a Scotland CA person as he had previously

represented them without taking up any nationality since, for the purposes of the rule. The fact he had dual membership of a WCF member association was of no consequence as this could apply to many people around the world.

Notwithstanding that, it is clear that the current written WCF Rule is ambiguous and requires clarification.

On the basis of the President's Interpretation decision, WCFMC therefore present an amendment to the WCF Rule 105.9 to reflect that.

Amend to read

FROM

(105.9) The Committee may not contain more than two members from one Association.

TO

(105.9) The Committee **of elected, ex officio and any retiring President members** may not contain more than two members from one Association **for whom they are eligible to compete as per Rules 303 and 304.**

To take immediate effect

## **END OF PROPOSALS TO CHANGE WCF RULES**

The WCFMC commend these amendments to you.

Brian Storey

WCF Secretary-General