

2021

2021 ASSOCIATION CROQUET LAWS WORKSHOPS

AC LAWS WORKSHOPS REPORT
CROQUET NEW ZEALAND

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Overview

In January 2021, the World Croquet Federation Council approved the adoption of the 7th Edition of Association Croquet Laws. Following this adoption, Croquet New Zealand (CNZ) announced that the new Laws would come into effect from 1st July 2021 in preparation for the 2021-22 season.

As was done when the GC Rules were updated in 2018, the CNZ Laws Committee decided it would be prudent to hold several workshops around the country to ensure the changes in the new Laws were understood clearly and to assist with the smooth implementation of the new Laws at the beginning of the 2021-22 season.

This report outlines further details around the workshops that were held and a summary of the responses received from workshop attendees.

Workshops

As mentioned in the overview, with the adoption of the 7th Edition of Association Croquet Laws, the CNZ Laws Committee embarked on providing workshops to explain the changes in the AC Laws and assist with the smooth implementation.

Having learnt from the 2018 GC Rules workshops, the Laws Committee committed to delivering seven (7) workshops around New Zealand. With seven workshops, it was hoped that most CNZ members would not need to travel any more than two (2) hours to attend a workshop.

The workshop details, including location, date and number of attendees are included below.

Venue (Club)	Date	# Of Attendees
Plimmerton Croquet Club	13 June 2021	29
Feilding Croquet Club	20 June 2021	25
Nelson-Hinemoa Croquet Club	28 July 2021	20
Barrington Croquet Club	30 July 2021	20
Forbury Croquet Club	1 August 2021	17
Morrinsville Croquet Club	8 August 2021	16
Orewa Croquet Club	10 August 2021	10
		137

This wide spread nationally resulted in at least one (1) member of each of the 19 Associations attending a workshop.

Survey Responses

General Information

Associations	
Association	# Of Responses
Auckland	6
Bay of Plenty	3
Canterbury	9
Counties-Manukau	0
Hawkes Bay	3
Manawatu-Wanganui	7
Marlborough	1
Nelson	5
Northland	0
Otago	3
South Canterbury	1
Southland	2
South Taranaki	3
Taranaki	2
Thames Valley	4
Waikato-King Country	3
Wairarapa	2
Wellington	13
West Coast	0
Skipped	1

To assist with understanding the benefit of the AC Laws Workshops and to identify any areas CNZ could improve for future workshops, a short survey was sent to participants which provided a legible email address. The 68 responses received to the survey represents 50% of the total number of attendees.

Gender	
Gender	# Of Responses
Male	37
Female	30
Other	0
Skipped	1

The above table illustrates the gender diversity within the responses received. As it is almost a 50-50 split, the responses within this report give a relatively even perspective between males and females.

Age Demographic	
Age Band	# Of Responses
Under 18	0
18-24	0
25-34	0
35-44	1
45-54	1
55-64	2
65+	64

94% of the survey respondents were in the 65+ age band. While high, it could be expected given that 94% of our overall membership is 60 years old or older.

Current Qualification	
AC Umpire	15
AC Referee	6
AC Senior Referee	9
None	37
Skipped	1

It is exciting to see a large proportion of attendees did not already have a current Association Croquet officials' qualification. It is hoped that many of these individuals will decided to take the AC Umpire or AC Referee exam during 2021-22.

Course Delivery

The material covered was informative to the changes:	
Strongly Agree	48
Agree	18
Neither Agree or Disagree	1
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	1
Skipped	0

It is pleasing that 70% of survey respondents strongly agreed that the material covered was informative of the changes and 97% agreed. This shows there was real value in holding the seven (7) workshops.

The material covered was presented in a way that was easy to understand:	
Strongly Agree	45
Agree	19
Neither Agree or Disagree	3
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	1
Skipped	0

Similar to the previous question, a large proportion of attendees (94%) agreed that the material was presented in a way which was easy to understand, while 66% strongly agreed. This is attributed to the strong presentation skills of Graeme Roberts and highlights how lucky we are that he is willing to run these sessions in New Zealand.

I was able to ask questions:	
Strongly Agree	49
Agree	16
Neither Agree or Disagree	1
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	1
Skipped	1

To assist with individuals learning, it is important to be able to ask questions. Either to address matters not previously covered or to clarify points to ensure they are properly applied. 96% of attendees believed that they could ask questions, ensuring they were able to maximise the benefit of Graeme's knowledge and the workshops.

I feel that I have a better understanding of the new Laws after attending this course:	
Strongly Agree	40
Agree	25
Neither Agree or Disagree	1
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	1
Skipped	0

The goal for any informative workshop is to ensure people leave feeling like they have gained knowledge. In this situation feeling better prepared to apply the new AC Laws. Again, it is extremely pleasing that 96% of attendees left with a better understanding of the new Laws.

What was done well

Below is a summary of the answers received during the survey. Where there were duplicates or it simply said everything, they were removed. Many of the comments below reflect the high scores received in the previous questions.

- The Presenter took his time and made the new rules quite clear particularly the critical position of a ball and gave a number of examples demonstrating when a ball may be classed as critical.
- Easy relaxed presentation. Explanations made and questions answered.
- It was very logically presented
- I feel the whole presentation was CLEAR and the question fielded were answered clearly. I am totally new to AC, although I do play GC, I found it great, especially because I won't be confused by NEW laws, just the game in the initial stages. Thank you to Graeme
- The presentation was simple, but easy to follow and plenty of time given for questions.
- Graeme delivered the course in a friendly and professional manner. I was impressed by his ability to answer questions clearly and come up with examples of situations on the magnetic whiteboard.
- very good presentation with excellent manner. Didn't feel like we were preached at, allowing us to ask questions along the way. good open discussions.
- Knowledgeable presenter able to explain clearly, invited questions
- Mix of verbal and graphical presentation.
- Responses to the various questions clarified items in question, and were handled with care. Graeme has a wealth of knowledge and knew how to explain it better. He covered a great deal of material in a relatively short period of time. The entire session was done well. We were fortunate to have him present.
- Very well organized. Presentation was done well and easy to understand.
- Graeme was a clear and fluent speaker, no ums and aahs. Was clearly very knowledgeable. Controlled the questioning so it didn't divert from the reason we were all there. And was very forthcoming and easy to understand.
- No waffling. Speaker knew the subject in detail but kept to the point very well. VG use of anecdotes to illustrate points and to provide amusing breaks.
- The connection with the audience and very knowledgeable about the subject matter
- Stuck to the script Accurate timing over the day A mix of humour and good examples kept everyone focused
- the new laws were explained in a manner easy to understand. it was much better than simply trying to understand everything by just reading the new laws.
- The depth of knowledge of the presenter. Not just the detail of the law changes but also being able to explain the rationale for the changes or why certain things were not changed.
- Choice of example situations. Explanation of old v new states. Practically everything!
- It was a good professional and friendly presentation. The material was presented and many of the questions had been anticipated and were fully answered.
- Presentation was well thought out and very understandable. Breaks for refreshing the brain were well judged.

What could be done better next time

CNZ is committed to improving our workshop delivery to ensure we maximise the benefit for attendees. Below is a summary of the comments received around areas that could be improved. Similar to what was done well, where there were duplicates, these have been removed.

- I came away quite happy with what I saw and heard. My only regret is that only three AC players from this region attended and I believe all players will need to be brought up to speed on the changes.
- Perhaps some on lawn demonstrations.
- A copy of the present rules, which was not in the year book, would have been useful to compare with the new as they arose.
- Possibly provide reference documents at or prior to the course.
- May be use the opportunity to do a complete refresher extend to two days maybe
- Possible handouts
- Set up the workshop and provide materials earlier. Outline the responsibilities of the host association clearer. Very little information was given to the host association.
- Maybe a video of the presentation so we can refresh our stupid old brains after a game where we weren't sure of something
- It would be helpful to be able to view critical situations on the lawn to give a better perspective
- go to Southland
- Ensure all can see the small board even if it might mean altering the way the seating has been arranged especially in a small club area.
- The presentation was great If there was an area in the future it could well be to add in the presentation an audio-visual as 5 hours or about is a long time for most audiences to concentrate on this type of subject matter Otherwise 11 out of 10
- Time might be allocated to teams practicing refereeing examples but there will be time for that down the line
- Larger diagrammatic board
- Get the rules re casting done properly
- Would have been nice to have the actual text of the new Laws in easy access (not digital!) -- But, hey, that's me.
- Perhaps a bit shorter. It was a long day.
- A handout summarising the changes. A printout of the new laws would have been even better.
- Feel we spent too much time on whether the ball had run the hoop or not. Personally, I could not see the difference between an eye sight or a string line as we used in the past. Perhaps split in to 2 sessions. It was somewhat tiring.
- The odd time was difficult to see examples presented on the board which was situated to the right of speaker by those on the speakers far left side. however, not really an issue.
- Maybe having a free-standing hoop for demonstrating critical positions.
- Including the information from WCF which specifically compared changes from 6th and 7th editions. There was a little bit of info at the beginning with the material that was sent out but it was hard to know specific areas within laws which were affected.

CNZ Responses:

- ➔ There were a number of comments around low number turn out. Word of mouth is a powerful advertising tool and CNZ would appreciate you encourage your club mates to attend future sessions.
- ➔ As there was no registration process, you simply turned up on the day, it was not easy to circulate documents prior to the workshops. Although the new Laws and the changes log were available on the CNZ website, the comments are noted and we will explore how this can be done better in the future.
- ➔ On lawn demonstrations can be difficult at the time of the year when these workshops are held. All clubs must be able to be considered to host to ensure that as many workshops as possible can be held in a manner that makes it achievable for travel and delivery.
- ➔ These workshops were solely focussed on the new AC Laws to ensure they were understood and could be correctly applied from the beginning of the 2021-22 season. It is not feasible for CNZ to do full refresher courses for all Laws qualifications. CNZ is currently reviewing how we can better support Associations to assist with officials support and on-going development of officials.
- ➔ CNZ is currently building its internal capabilities around streaming, primarily for CNZ tournaments. An added benefit to this is once this aspect is up and running, is that we will be able to explore how we utilise this equipment for workshops such as this one.
- ➔ There was a request for a session to be held in Southland. The Laws Committee committed to holding 7 workshops around the country to increase the accessibility and we think that this was achieved as evidenced by all Associations having at least 1 person attend a session.