

Review of WCA GC Interclub Competition, Feb 2018

Summary of Submissions and suggestions

Aspect/ topic	Suggestion	Pros	Cons	Recommendation
Timing of the tournament	Design the tournament to start early October and be completed by end-November.	This is the current policy. Avoids running over to a busy time for both croquet and non-croquet activities. Scheduling the tournament in, say Jan/Feb period instead could require substantial re-jigging of other tournaments.	Squeezes make-up options for rain delays and the design of play-offs stage. Any earlier start might mean some lawns are unsuitable and some club players have had no prior access to their lawns for practice.	No change
Sunday afternoon play	For Church going GC players, Sunday afternoons would be a more suitable time than Sunday mornings.	A number of players feel excluded from entering the tournament for this reason.	Many Clubs run playing sessions on Sunday afternoons, so may be unwilling to accommodate this change and offer venues for running the tournament.	No change
Scale of the tournament	Limit the number of tournament entries to 24 teams	4 groups of 6 teams can complete a round robin in five rounds of preliminary play, effectively reducing the time needed to complete the tournament.	Limiting entries might rule out genuine interest from some players. More entries would allow for more interclub games to be played, over a longer period.	Implement by rule change
Allocation of entries across clubs	Club captains to be asked to select up to (say 4) teams in a first tranche for automatic acceptance, with any additional entries to be ranked in the club's preference order. Tournament manager to then top-up entries to 24, bearing in mind the	Avoids larger clubs dominating the entries and crowding out or discouraging smaller clubs from entering. Reduces likelihood of some clubs having two or more teams in one group.	Stronger clubs deserve to have more entries and have the facilities to host more games. Limiting their entries may discourage their cooperation.	Implement by rule change

	relative size of clubs' GC memberships.			
Restrictions on combined handicaps	Impose a top limit on the combined handicaps of any team entry (say 16 or 20)	Might encourage a low hcp player to team up with a high hcp player. Avoids two high hcp partners slowing play. Could consider a dispensation for special cases.	Want to encourage higher hcp players to enter; some clubs might not have enough offsetting low hcp players. Not clear why the AHS cannot fully correct for hcp differences.	Implement by rule change
Playoff stage of the tournament	Winners of each group to play a round robin at a neutral venue – 3 rounds played on two successive Sundays, including one afternoon session.	Fairest way to rank the finalists, as seeding based on group results might not be a good indication of ability. Could consider shifting to a semis/ finals format if there have been 2 or more rain days called.	Confining playoffs to 2 rounds on one Sunday would give more flexibility in the schedule to deal with rain delays.	Implement by rule change
Avoiding date conflicts	Ask the major participating clubs to avoid scheduling tournaments on Sundays in late-Nov / early December.	This could help relax the constraint on completing Interclub quickly because of an upcoming clash of dates.	Clubs have their own scheduling issues and complications to consider.	Ensure clubs remember interclub timing
Double banked games	Provide for the singles games at the playoff stage to be single banked only	Double banking can cause significant delays, especially when time limits apply.	Playoff rounds would require 4 lawns instead of 2, which might make it difficult to source a neutral venue.	To be policy
Time limits on games	Extend the time limit for the doubles game from 45 to 60 minutes.	Player conferences, bisque play decisions and possible delaying tactics can create frustrations and incomplete game results. Compromise between extending all time limits and doing nothing.	This change would add somewhat to the overall time for 5 games in a morning.	Implement by rule change
Dealing with rained-off games	If bad conditions affect some, but not all, club lawns, affected teams should be encouraged to arrange their own playoff games at times/locations to suit, rather than using an extra Sunday at the end of	Over-reliance on rain day replacement Sundays can put pressure on playoff dates. Labour Weekend provides possible alternative times.	Would require special access to some club lawns. Need to share contact details among all players (not done at present). Weekly progress group results could become confusing.	To be policy

	scheduled pool play.			
Venue quality	Ask a suitably qualified official to inspect and certify that venues are of a sufficient standard to host interclub games and use only certificated venues.	Some venues are of an indifferent standard that can affect the quality of play, eg lawn surface, uneven levels, hoop settings, court dimensions.	Players from affected club/s already use these surfaces and would be excluded from any home games.	Venues to be checked if in doubt and club supported where possible
Travel to venues	Game venues should be selected to offer a better mix of different venues and travel times for players from different clubs.	Kapiti clubs tend to play at fewer locations and with less travel time required than Wellington/Hutt area clubs. Some players appreciate the chance to play at a range of clubs. Small clubs have limited hosting opportunities.	Clubs with more team entries and lawns will inevitably play more often in their localities, so it may prove difficult to achieve a wider allocation. Might need to confirm whether players will accept more travel.	
Scoring	Adopt a simple count of games won, with an extra point if a match is won 5-0.	A team is rewarded for every game they win, recognizing their effort better than under the match win scoring system of 2 or 3 for the winners and 0 for the losers. Reflects the way that the results of GC tournaments are usually judged.	Current system seems to be working OK. Would need to consider how defaults are scored.	No change
Communication	Need to clarify the expected roles of the Tournament Convenor, Competition Manager, Club Captains and the WCA website manager.	System works well generally when everyone does their job.	Might need to share entrants' contact details more widely so that problems and miscommunications can be sorted directed with affected parties.	Managers to have email addresses for all entrants. Info to go direct to entrant, copied to Club Captain
Referees	(no suggestions received)			
Default rules	(no suggestions received)			