

TASMANIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

ASSOCIATION CROQUET PENNANT RULES SPRING PENNANT SEASON 2026

The object of this Spring Pennant is to provide all those wanting to participate in competitive play the best opportunity to do so. There will be three divisions.

All divisions will consist of 3 players per team.

Clubs playing in the Pennant are:

Division 1: Sandy Bay, Kingston, New Town and Eastern Shore

Division 2: Sandy Bay, Kingston and Eastern Shore

Division 3: Sandy Bay and Eastern Shore/New Town (known as NEST)

Play will be level and handicap cards are to be used for "SINGLES" games.

The following rules have been designed to accommodate the above and like the last pennant rely heavily on a spirit of cooperation between clubs, with clubs having surplus players being prepared to allow their members to make up teams with other clubs, if necessary.

1. Date

The season will start on Wednesday 12th August and will run for 8 weeks finishing on Thursday 1st October. NOTE: there will be a break for 2 weeks for the ISS (2 to 10 September)

Division 1 play Wednesdays

Division 2 play Thursdays

Division 3 play Wednesdays

2. Clubs

Only affiliated clubs may enter teams for the Pennant

3. Laws

Matches shall be played under the Laws of Croquet as adopted by the Tasmanian Croquet Association (TCA); additionally

(a) Players may have a 5-minute warm-up at the beginning of **each** game.

(b) Double banking rules as in the Laws Book will apply.

4. Entries

(a) The closing date for entries will be Friday 24th July. As appropriate, late entries may be accepted at the Manager's discretion.

(b) The Pennant Manager/Committee through negotiation with clubs, will determine the time frame for the Competition and days of play. If times are not suitable to teams, they are encouraged to reschedule matches in a spirit of co-operation. The Pennant Manager/Committee will have the final decision on this matter.

5. Equipment and Referee

- (a) The Home club will provide Clocks, Regulation Pegs, Hoops, Flags and Corner Pegs, Approved Balls and arrange for a Referee, if possible.
- (b) The hoops will be set at $31\frac{1}{16}$ inches $\pm 1/32$ nd for all divisions.

6. Players

- (c) Every player must be a full financial member of an affiliated Club of the TCA.
- (d) Players who are a member of two or more affiliated Clubs must nominate the club they will represent.
- (e) A team which is short of players, by any amount, can be made complete by accepting players from another club, and should be from clubs which have an excess of players. They should not, where possible, be players who normally occupy a position in a team's starting line-up.
- (f) While movement of players between clubs, to fill in gaps, is tolerated, the person borrowed should, where possible, be of similar standard to others who fill that team position in other teams. (Example: If a "Position 4" person is needed to fill a team, a person who normally plays in another team as a "Position 1" should not be borrowed.
- (g) Players whose handicap is changed during the Pennant Season may continue to play in the same team, but on their revised handicap for the purpose of determining the order of singles play and for use of handicap cards.
- (h) There is no limit to the number of times a player whose handicap falls within the range of the Division may play in that Division.
- (i) If a player's handicap increases, they will be eligible to play in a lower Division.
- (j) Players who have a bye may play in another team in place of a similarly handicapped player if that team is unable to field a side.
- (k) Where a club has two teams the names of players for each team are to be forwarded with the Pennant entry. Reserve/substitute players may play in any team within their divisional handicap range.
- (l) Players filling in as substitutes can fill in for more than one team.
- (m) Players must wear appropriate sportswear or club uniform and flat soled shoes.
- (n) Mentors are allowed for players with high handicaps. (18 and over)
- (o) Mentors may go onto the lawn to provide advice but should advise expeditiously and start to move off the lawn before the stroke is taken.

7. Teams

Division 1: Teams will consist of 3 (or more) players.

The roster will include 4 teams – Eastern Shore, Sandy Bay, New Town & Kingston

Division 2: Teams will consist of 3 (or more) players

The roster will include 3 teams – Eastern Shore, Sandy Bay & Kingston

Division 3: Teams will consist of 3 (or more) players

The roster will include 2 teams – Eastern Shore/New Town & Sandy Bay.

8. Matches

- (a) Full sized lawns shall be used.
- (b) Each match shall consist of
 - 1 doubles and 4 singles
- (c) Rules of Advanced level play apply to all games.
- (d) Handicap cards will be used.
- (e) The Handicap Ranges are:
 - Division 1 -3 - 20
 - Division 2 6 - 20
 - Division 3 14 - 20
- (f) The order of play:
 - i. The lowest handicapped player is to play the doubles in the morning. The second player is at the discretion of the captain.
 - ii. A player should **NOT** play the same opposition player in more than one singles game in any one match.
 - iii. The lowest handicap players of opposing teams are to play each other in the singles in the afternoon.
 - iv. Where there is an equality of handicap between players, the captain may choose to list those players in his/her preferred order of play.
- (g) Double banking will be used.
- (h) If a team forfeits a match, full points are awarded to the opposing team.
- (i) If a team forfeits a game within a match *prior* to the commencement of that game, the score shall be 26-0 to the opposing team.

9. Times

- (a) The time for commencement of play will be 10.00am. If all players and referees are ready before this time games could start as early as possible.
- (b) Playing time shall be 2 ½ hours for all games and play should continue until all games have been played, subject to Tournament Regulation 16.3.
- (c) Afternoon play shall commence no later than 1.15pm.
- (d) In all games the time shall be kept by a clock or timer, which shall be available for inspection by all players.
- (e) In the event of a player not being ready to commence play in any game within 30 minutes of the time appointed for commencement, the opposing team has the option of claiming the game but see Law 40(b) re doubles play.
If such a claim is made, the defaulting team shall be deemed to have lost the game, and the score shall be 26-0 to the opposing team. If, due to traffic delays a match is unable to start on time, a phone call to the club will suffice to rearrange the start times to a time negotiated by the team captains.

10. Order of Play

- (a) Doubles and 1 singles game will be played in the morning (double-banked – 1 lawn)
3 Singles will be played in the afternoon (2 lawns)
- (b) Ten minutes before the match is due to commence, the opposing captains shall provide to each other a listing of the games in which their members will play.

11. The Toss

- (a) The choice of lawns shall be decided by a toss by the captains.
- (b) The toss for lead or balls shall be decided separately for each game.

12. Adverse Weather

- (a) A player may appeal against adverse playing conditions. The captains of the two teams may agree to suspend play due to adverse conditions, which may endanger health and well-being of a player and/or make the lawns unplayable. Captains should be aware of the TCA Adverse Weather Policy.
- (b) In the event of the captains being unable to agree, play shall cease.
- (c) If play is unable to continue, the matches shall be pegged down and completed as soon as possible at a convenient date to be fixed. The Home captain shall advise the Pennant Manager within two days, the date the match will be played.
- (d) If play had not commenced in any game, the composition of either or both teams may, if necessary, be varied by the teams concerned.

13. Results

- (a) Games
 - In any game the winner shall be the player or side scoring the greater number of points.
 - If at the expiration of the appointed time the points in an unfinished game are equal, play shall continue until one side scores an additional point. (Reg. 16.3)
 - In the event of an accident or unexpected sickness causing a player to forfeit a game *after* play has started, their score shall be retained, and the opponent score shall advance to 26.
- (b) Matches
 - In any match the winning team shall be the one scoring the greater number of games.
 - If games are equal the winning team shall be the one scoring the greater number of hoop points.
 - If games and hoop points are equal the result shall be declared a draw.
- (c) Pennant Competition
 - All teams are eligible to win a Pennant.
 - In each division the winning team shall be the one scoring the greatest number of matches.
 - In the event of teams having equal scores of matches there shall be a further match played between these teams which shall be scored as above to determine the final result of the series.
 - In the event of a team retiring at any time from the Pennant Competition, all scores gained for and against that team shall not be counted.

14. Notification of Results

- (a) The Captain of the Home Team shall be responsible for reporting the results of each match to the Pennant Manager.
- (b) **Home Team Captains: must get the results to the Pennant Manager at the conclusion of the day's play. It is preferred that this be done by scanning a completed result sheet, (or taking a photo) and sending it to southerntascroquetpennant@gmail.com**

15. Protests

- (a) Any protest must be in writing and received by the Pennant Manager (at southerntascroquetpennant@gmail.com) within three (3) days of the completion of the match to which the protest refers.
- (b) Protests will be considered by the Pennant Manager, the Pennant Referee, and a nominee of the TCA Executive.

16. Pennant Manager

The Pennant Manager shall –

- (a) On receipt of entries, prepare the draw.
- (b) Forward a copy of the draw to each Club at least 1 week prior to the commencement of the Pennant.
- (c) Ensure that home and away games are played evenly, where possible.
- (d) Forward a report on the competition to the TCA Secretary as soon as possible after the completion of the Roster

17. Queries

Any questions arising out of these Rules shall be addressed by the Pennant Manager (Margaret Pinkard 0405181121) and Pennant Referee (Lizzie Bassett 0409799462).

18. Fees

- (a) All visiting players will pay Lawn Fees of \$6 for each Pennant Day.
- (b) Teams will be charged \$25 entry, by TCA.

19. Health and Safety – COVID 19

Players whose health is compromised should not play.