

# HOOP SETTING GUIDE



BY  
ELIZABETH FLEMING

# **HOOP SETTING GUIDE**

## **PREFACE**

This hoop setting guide is designed to demonstrate a tried, tested and successful method of setting hoops for tournament play to the standards laid down by both the ACA for Australian National events and the World Croquet Federation (WCF) for International Association and Golf events which are also periodically hosted by the ACA on Australian soil. This said croquet clubs across the country may all benefit both themselves and their players by providing a consistently high standard of hoop setting on all play days at their venue. Long-term, groundsmen will also thank you for treating the play area in and around hoops with due respect.

The Guide assumes the venue management and groundsmen have ensured the court layout has been measured to either the Standard or Smaller Courts Setting, as laid down in the current WCF Association Laws and WCF Golf Croquet Rules.



## **CONTENTS**

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Selection of Tools</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Creating the holes</b>	
<b>Hard ground</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Soft ground</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Ensuring firmness</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Use of hoop setting clamps and brackets</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Atkins Bracket (original)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Setting the Hoop – Championship Hoops</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Making Adjustments</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Rabbit Runs and Divots</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Setting the Hoop – Quadway</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Place the Sabot</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Atkins/Quadway Bracket and Bolts</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Standard Australian method of testing the hoop width</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Using an ACA Go-no-go gauge</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>SETTING HOOPS TO WCF STANDARDS</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Sizing and matching ball sets</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Setting the hoop using largest ball plus a feeler gauge</b>	<b>19</b>

<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>Dimensions, Tolerances &amp; Metric Equivalents</b>
<b>Appendix 2</b>	<b>Croquet Ball Measurements</b>
<b>Appendix 3</b>	<b>The Court – Extract from Laws &amp; Rules</b>
<b>Appendix 4</b>	<b>WCF Sports Regulations (Extract)</b>
<b>Appendix 5</b>	<b>Hoop Setter Job Description</b>

## **HOOP SETTING GUIDE.**

### **EQUIPMENT**

Hole Template & securing pegs

Tape Measure

Yardstick size measure

String lines

Drill Bits:

1 x small marker bit, 1 x 5/8"

Dibber - Hoop Hole starter

Sabo (Atkins Hoops)

Long thin bladed knife

Rubber or wooden mallet

Hoop Bracket or clamp

Hoop Bolt (Atkins)

Small Spirit Level

Measuring Gauges:

Wedge & Feeler

Half Ball height block

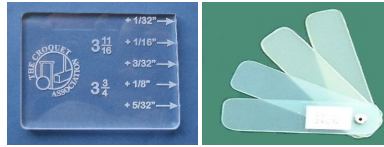
Supply of packing material – sphagnum moss or clippings

Hoop Lifter

Divot-lifter '*golf*' type purchased from Pro shops at most Golf Clubs can be useful or a simple old-fashioned long-tine fork is excellent for the purpose.

## SELECTION OF TOOLS:

Wedge Gauge and set of Feeler gauges



SABO (Atkins Hoops)



HOOP SETTER TOOL KIT



HOOP CLAMP



Spreader & clamp



Atkins Bolt & clamp



Atkins Bolt



Hole starter/maker



Hoop Lifter

## CREATING THE HOLES

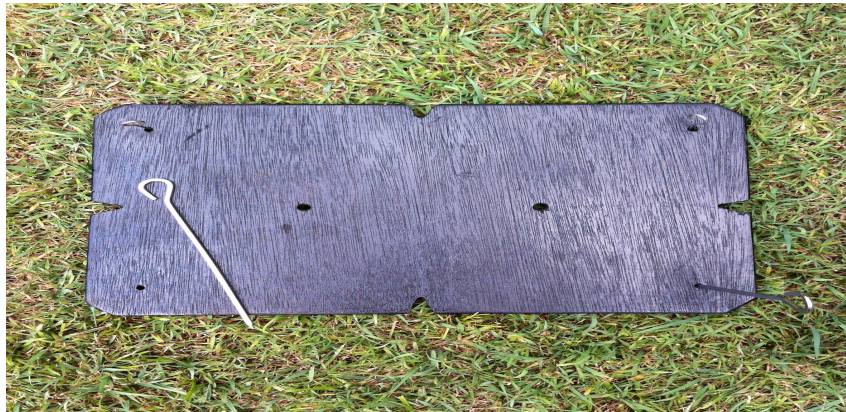
### Hard ground

If the ground is very hard it may be necessary to drill two pilot holes before attempting to hammer the hoop into the ground or the use of a purpose made 'dibber' may be used such as the one supplied for use with Atkins/Quadway type hoops.

The position for holes should be accurately marked with the hoop squarely oriented to the court and the holes the correct distance apart. The distance the holes are apart will be the correct setting of the hoop ie three and eleven sixteenths inches  $3\frac{11}{16}$ " plus the diameter of the hoop leg i.e. five eighths of an inch  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (which will in the case of standard championship hoops equates to four and five sixteenth inches  $4\frac{5}{16}$ ").

*The WCF Equipment Regulations lists the Championship Hoop Specifications, which had a minor amendment in 2009 to allow hoops of a greater upright and crown diameters than  $\frac{5}{8}$ ". A maximum of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " is now permissible; the Hoop Setter needs to make note of the particular hoops in use. All hoops in use during tournament within Australia need to comply with these regulations.*

A simple template as pictured below can be used as a reliable guide to both orientation to the court setting and ensure alignment and distance for the hoop's pilot holes. A small securing hole in each corner of the template will enable it to be secured to the working area if desired.



The WCF AC/GC Laws and Rules now agree on a permitted tolerance of up to 12 inches (305 mm) which allows the Hoop Setter to have three locations available for hoop placement. This relieves the pressure on hoop holes due to old past practice of *swinging* only on one hoop leg.

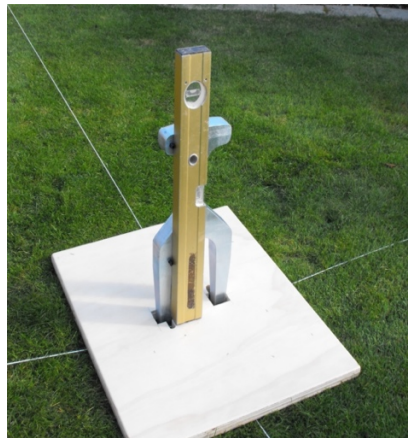


- Drill the pilot hole with a small diameter bit to a depth of about three inches using the template as a guide. Remove the template and increase the drill bit size to five eighths of an inch 5/8". Make sure the holes are vertical; it may be advisable to have another person sight this as the hole is drilled.

Using a drill with a 20 mm wood auger lifting the drill while rotating will remove the soil and may aid with reducing the mounding around the hoop.



## **DIBBER (hole maker)**



Newer type dibbers have two holes/pins located to assist with the use of a spirit level whilst driving the dibber into an upright position. It is handy to make up a board to lay on the ground whilst mauling in the dibber and to protect the court whilst jimmying it out again. A template for this board may have been included with the purchase of the original hoops.

## **SOFT GROUND**

If the ground is soft (particularly sandy) prepare the holes using the template, drilling only the initial small pilot-hole markings. Do not go on to enlarge the hole further with a larger drill bit or hole starter (dibber). This will ensure the hoop is as firm as possible in the soft ground. Again, it is preferable to use a hoop setting bracket to hold the hoop to the correct specified dimensions and use a small spirit level to ensure the hoop remains vertical.

## Australia Accepts the WCF AC/GC Laws and Rules

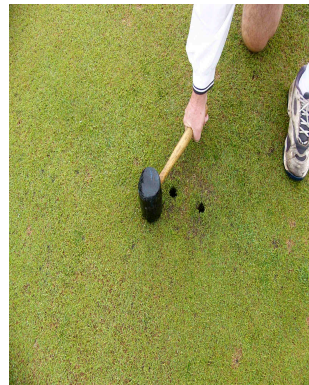
Both codes Rule and Law books contain the specifications for hoops.

- 1. The inner surfaces of the uprights must be approximately parallel and not less than 3 11/16 inches (94 mm) or, more than 4 inches (102 mm) apart. In tournament and match play, the organizing body may specify a narrower internal width as either the distance between the uprights or the gap between a ball and the inner surface of one upright when the **ball is half way through the hoop on the ground** and is touching the other upright. Each hoop on a court must have the same width within a tolerance of 1/32 inch (0.8 mm); a smaller tolerance may be specified for tournament and match play.*
- 2. In all ACA events other than Handicaps the nominal distance is to be 3 11/16 inches. It is to be 3 3/4 inches in Handicap events.*

## ENSURING FIRMNESS

The hoop setting must be firm and remain firm during play; this can also be achieved even in soft ground!

The area immediately around the hoop holes should be tapped down with a rubber hammer to close the holes slightly and to minimize the gradual build-up of mounds around the hoops by minimizing the need for packing material.



The hole should be packed with sphagnum moss or grass clippings if preferred before the hoop is hammered into the ground. Sphagnum is the ideal packing material, drying moisture from deep in the hoop hole and gripping the hoop firmly in place. **After making any corrections to the setting always repack the hole to maintain firmness.**

## USE OF HOOP SETTING CLAMPS OR BRACKETS.

The use of hoop setting clamps or brackets will quickly result in firm and accurate hoops and also aid rapid correction to hoops, which are deemed to be outside of tolerances during play.

These brackets can be of varying types. The Australian Croquet Company manufactured a bracket, which held hoops to  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches, however, this is now only used for the hoop setting tolerances during some handicapped event tournaments.

Other clamps have been constructed using a pair of vice grips as a base. These clamps may be adjustable but suffer from the disadvantage of being cumbersome to use and expensive to procure. However, they have become a very popular choice and use a similar bolt adjuster to set the tolerance between the hoop legs.



Experiments to hoop setting brackets (see below) manufactured from industrial plastic have shown them to be very effective hoop setting implements. They are inexpensive, light and very easy to use. **They are not adjustable** and it is necessary to have two of them; one to hold to the bottom tolerance of  $3\frac{11}{16}$ " minus  $\frac{1}{32}$ " and the other smaller one to hold or spread to the top tolerance of  $3\frac{11}{16}$ " plus  $\frac{1}{32}$ " as required for correction. These are extensively used for club hoops around the country





## ATKINS BRACKET (original)



These purpose-built Atkins clamps were based on the old-style clamp with a fixed solid separator (see below) and whilst widely used across clubs for many years they do not allow for varying hoop widths as is popular and common place today.

Old style fixed - width clamp



As can be seen in the photos above the Atkins clamp has provision for an interchangeable bolt affixed to the bar magnetically which is fully adjustable allowing precision setting to accommodate slight changes in the size of the ball. The vice type shown above also has the adjustment capability built into it. In order to use extreme low tolerances, it is necessary to measure all the balls intended for use on any particular court and set the hoop width using a ball and feeler gauge. By measuring the ball and varying the size of the bold to suit every court can quickly and easily be brought to an exacting tolerance.



## SETTING THE HOOP: CHAMPIONSHIP HOOPS

Once the hole has been prepared place your chosen bracket or clamp onto the hoop before inserting it lightly into the hole. Check at regular intervals with a spirit level as the hoop is hammered down into position remembering not to hit onto the centre of the crown.



A spirit level should be used while hammering the hoop into the ground ensuring it goes in vertically in both planes of sighting.



At the start of a tournament where the ground is known to be quite soft it is acceptable to leave the carrots slightly proud from the ground in order to allow for extra days of re-setting.

### ***EXTRACT FROM WCF LAWS AND RULES***

*Note: A hoop must be 12 inches (305 mm) in height above the ground measured to the top of the crown. **The tolerance of the height is: +1/2" / -1" (+12.5 mm / -25 mm)** to allow hoops to be firmed up by knocking them into the ground as a tournament proceeds. However, the striker is entitled to expect that hoops will be set so that their carrots do not protrude significantly above the ground so that any part of a hoop's base wider than the uprights would not affect the swing of the mallet or the passage of a ball in the next stroke.*

**Any Hoop Setter taking pride in their work would be loathed to see a hoop knocked an inch below ground and would rectify such a hoop at the earliest opportunity.**

## MAKING ADJUSTMENTS

If the hoop width is not correct, either too wide or too narrow, it will need to be adjusted. It should be noted that it is common for the integrity of hoop holes to become degraded during play both through hard hitting and extensive usage.

Hoops are generally set then checked by a Referee immediately before play and are re-checked during the tournament after every game.

**The Hoops Setter may be on hand to assist with this re-setting but it is the responsibility of the Authorized Referee to check all hoops before any play commences or recommences.**

### Upper & Lower Adjustments:

1. If the hoop is too wide and needs to be brought in, the hoop bracket should be re-used which will bring the hoop down to the lowest tolerance. ie three and eleven sixteenths inches  $3 \frac{11}{16}$ " minus one thirty second of an inch -  $\frac{1}{32}$ ". After the hoop is hit into position it will spring back slightly after the bracket is removed resulting in the specified tolerances being achieved.
  - Use the hoop lifter to remove the hoop and add a little more sphagnum.
  - Tap on the setting bracket.
  - Re-insert the hoop into the holes and set as previously instructed for new hole setting, remembering to sight with a spirit level before testing.
2. If the hoop is below tolerance the hoop spreader bracket, which holds the hoop at the upper tolerance, should be used to correct the hoop.
  - Tap in an upward motion under the hoop cross bar which will lift the hoop only slightly out of the ground, say one to two inches.
  - Place the spreader bracket within the jaws – initially this will be on a slight angle.
  - Tap the spreader bracket down until it lies horizontally between the two uprights. This spreads the hoop to the upper tolerance of  $3 \frac{11}{16}$ " +  $\frac{1}{32}$ ".



- Flip out the spreader bracket using the handle of your hoop mallet.
- Check the hoop width using the half ball height block and suitable gauge.

If the ground is particularly hard the hoop may require complete removal and repacking before setting with the spreader bracket. This is a judgment call and relies on the experience of the hoop setter. During a game if a player requests adjustment of a hoop; the referee would first test it and if necessary, may call upon the hoop setter for assistance. During this adjustment total removal of a hoop should be the second choice in order to lessen disruption to play and assist with time management of the event.

### **Extreme Cases**

A variation in hoop setting can be achieved in extreme cases where the hoop is found to be considerably outside of tolerance. Some light trimming of the hole with a slim blade knife may be necessary.

- Remove the hoop using the hoop lifter and remove a small amount of material from the hoop holes. If the hoop needs to be wider, remove the material from the outer sides of the holes and if it needs to be smaller remove it from the inner sides of the holes.
- Use packing material of your choice (sphagnum or grass clippings) then use the hoop setting bracket, which will move the hoop in the required direction.

**Sphagnum moss should be a first choice during tournament play as it keeps the hoop holes drier enabling the setting to grip much more firmly.**

Using only a long screwdriver, or similar implement, to alter the bottom of the hole **is not effective as a 'stand-alone' method of hoop adjustment** and is not advised without the additional use of a bracket or clamp.

Such a stand-alone method would not always be successful and does not guarantee a firm setting in soft ground. The hoop would most likely be back to where it started after a couple of firm hoop-running shots have been played. Continuous use of this method usually resulting in the integrity of the hoop hole becoming compromised, necessitating a complete change of hoop positioning.

## RABBIT RUNS AND DIVOTS

**The final note to adjusting and re-setting is to mention the repair of rabbit runs or divots around the hoop area. These should only be repaired at the end of the day or under instruction from the authorized referee of the tournament.**

It is advised to use either a purpose made ‘golf type’ two-pronged divot lifter or an old long tined fork makes an excellent implement. Do not use a screwdriver!



## SPECIAL DAMAGE

The current laws regarding *special damage* differs in approach from earlier Editions by making repairing special damage the preferred option and only if that is not practicable should a ball affected by the damage be moved. This means that the Hoop Setter should keep on hand a small supply of fresh clippings for use by the authorized referee – this material may then be removed so that play may continue. A more substantial repair should then be carried out after play.

**Examples:** a hole on a corner spot; an unrepaired or imperfectly repaired divot, hoop hole or peg hole; a protruding tree root; and a sprinkler head. A depression due to wear in a hoop is not special damage.

## CRITICALLY IMPORTANT

### **HOOPS MUST ONLY BE REMOVED FROM POSITION WITH A HOOP LIFTER**

**The integrity of the hoop hole is of paramount importance and all due care must be taken when removing hoops to ensure the ground is not pushed, pulled or raised unnecessarily.**



## SETTING THE HOOP CONTINUED:

### ATKINS QUADWAY HOOPS

Quadway Hoops are accurately made and need handling with care. The dibber makes accurate holes for the hoop to fit into. As mentioned previously the dibber should be placed with a spirit level against the two pins to ensure it remains upright as it is knocked into the ground down to the top of the tapered section. When the hoop is placed into the preformed holes, the hoop carrots should be almost at ground level for firm ground but should be left a little higher if the ground is softer or damp.

**These hoops are adjustable.  
They can be set at any of 4 different widths.**

a)  $3\frac{3}{4}''$  / =      b)  $3\frac{3}{4}''$  less  $\frac{1}{64}''$       c)  $3\frac{11}{16}''$  / =      d)  $3\frac{11}{16}''$  less  $\frac{1}{64}''$



**One carrot is engraved:  $3\frac{3}{4}$  and  $3\frac{11}{16}$  the other = and – .**

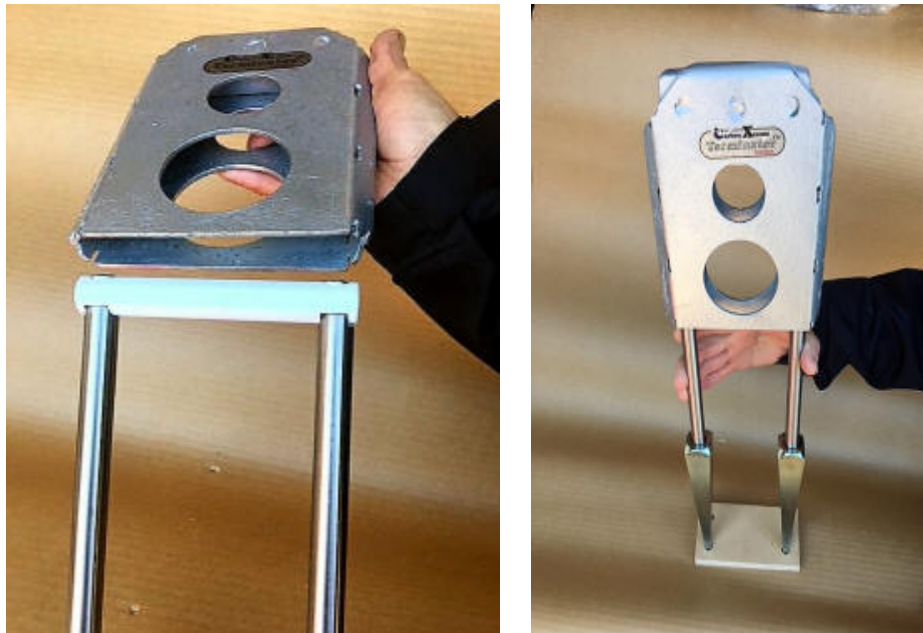
To alter the hoop setting, loosen the cap screw at the top of a hoop leg 4-5 turns so that the leg can be rotated 180 deg to select the size setting required, then tighten the screw, (Allen key supplied or your own purchased Allen key).

**If the = side is facing  $3\frac{3}{4}$  the hoop width is  $3\frac{3}{4}$ .**

**If the – is selected the size is  $\frac{1}{64}$  smaller. (Note the hoops are deliberately made undersize to allow for tournament settings).**

The options are achieved by having moveable wires (using screws). This means that for an average club, they provide an easy option for changing hoop widths. **Irrespective of the width the carrots go into the same holes**, so changing the very narrow hoops of the weekend back to  $3\frac{3}{4}$  for club play only takes minutes without any tinkering with hoop holes.

**PLACE THE SABOT** over the top of the hoop. Hidden in the top is **40 mm of solid steel**. That upper protects the hoop from being ruined or buckling, which in turn protects the inner screw mechanism. The steel sides front & back take all the stress off the adjustable top corners as it is knocked down with the usual rubber mallet. The latest version has an industrial grade padding inside the top. (*Helping to save the powder-coating*)



The carrots are square cross-section (inverted pyramids) also called 'parsnips'. The flat face of the parsnips is parallel to the crown of the hoop. The uprights are welded off-centre from the axes of the parsnips hence, depending on the rotation of the parsnips within a pair of square holes in the ground, different gapes between the uprights are obtained.

Once the hoop holes have been made the hoops are set to size by loosening the upright retaining screws in the crown. The uprights can be rotated 180° and the carrots have dimensions stamped on the faces of the parsnips. When the dimensions face each other, this shows the setting of the gape. The screws are then tightened resulting in parallel uprights at the correct spacing.

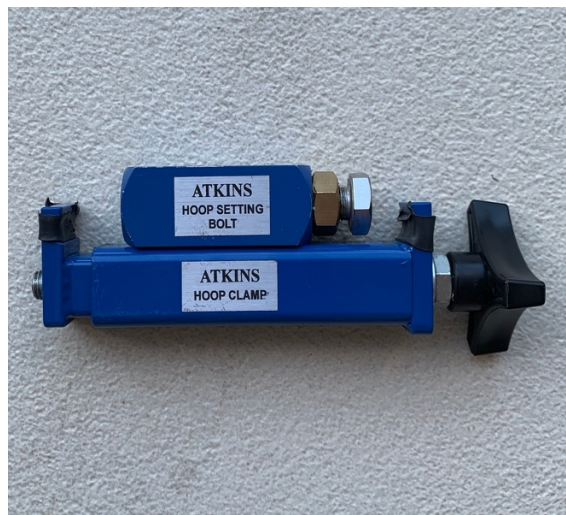
The setting of the Atkins/Quadway hoop may then follow the same process as previously explained except that those owning these hoops are most likely to have purchased a hoop-specific bracket or bracket and bolt set.

## ATKINS/QUADWAY BRACKET AND BOLTS

The setting with these types of brackets requires the final specification, or required internal measurement, be determined prior to clamping them onto the hoop and before placing into the ground.

This internal width will be determined by the organizing body and most likely will be expressed as either the distance between the uprights (**the most common Australian method using only a gauge**). In which case one of the ACA approved gauges should be used to check the hoop tolerance.

**Or:** the gap between a ball and the inner surface of one upright when the ball is half-way through the hoop on the ground and is touching the other upright.  
With this option the chapter on **Setting to WCF Standard** must be followed.



**THE CHOSEN METHOD TO BE USED TO GAUGE THE  
INTERNAL WIDTH BETWEEN THE UPRIGHTS MUST BE  
STATED IN THE TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS OF PLAY**

**Gap between uprights or largest ball of the set plus a specified gap.**

## STANDARD AUSTRALIAN METHOD OF TESTING THE HOOP WIDTH

After removing the bracket, the setting of the hoop should be checked with an approved hoop gauge at half ball height. A small block of wood or plastic with a thickness of one and thirteen sixteenths inches 1-13/16” placed in the jaws of the hoop with gauge sitting on top of it will ensure that the gauge is at the right height and level.



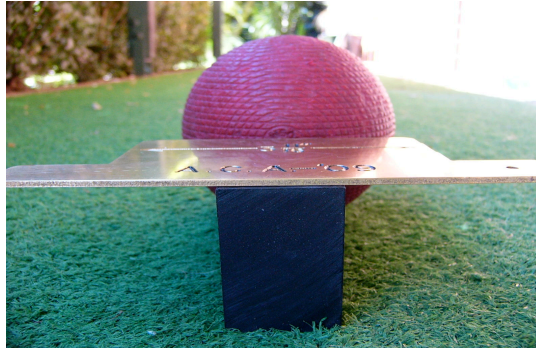
### Using an ACA Go-no-go gauge

- If the **narrowest section** of the gauge **does not** go into the jaw:-  
the hoop is below the lowest tolerance and needs correction because it is too tight.
- If the **narrowest section** of the gauge **does** go into the jaw:-  
the hoop is above the lowest tolerance and does not need correction for being too tight.
- If the **middle section** of the gauge goes into the jaw:-  
the hoop is above the lowest tolerance and if is a snug fit, the hoop is perfectly set between the allowable tolerance. .This is the dimension the hoop setter should be trying to achieve.
- If the **widest section** of the gauge does not go into the jaw:-  
the hoop is below the widest tolerance and does not need correction for being too wide.
- If the **widest section** of the gauge does go into the jaw:-  
the hoop is above the widest tolerance and needs correction because it is too wide.



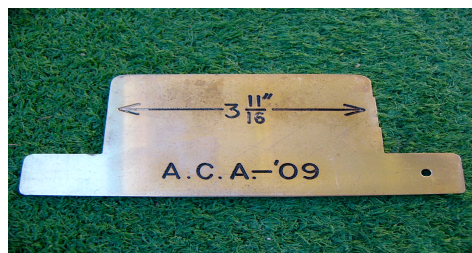
## Use of Australian Hoop Gauges

The hoop gauge should be used in conjunction with a block of wood or plastic to ensure the gauge is level and at half ball height.



### Go-no-go gauge

Go-no-go gauges are manufactured in Australia to the allowable hoop tolerances.



### Wedge gauge

This is a particularly clear and user-friendly gauge with all the practical tolerances clearly indicated for identification and is placed as per the Go-no-go Australian gauge. It is used in the same fashion by placing on top of a half-ball height block within the jaws of the hoop being tested.



# SETTING HOOPS TO WCF STANDARDS

When setting hoops to the standard regulations laid down by the World Croquet Federation (WCF) whether for a Golf Croquet Event or an Association Croquet event the essential difference from the current Australian Tournament Regulation is how the distance between the hoop uprights is determined.

The WCF Sports Regulations is the definitive place to find the current specifications and inspection requirements for hoop setting during most major international events and may be amended from time to time.

## Hoop Setter & Referee working together

Whilst it is the responsibility of the Tournament Referee to ensure equipment and court settings attain the required standard, in reality, it is often desirable that the recognized Hoop Setter for the event assist the Tournament Referee with this preparation. Working as a team the most desirable outcome can then be achieved ensuring consistency between referees and hoop setters with minimum disruption and consummate ease.

## Determining the largest ball

It is a requirement to set the hoops to fit the largest ball in the set, or sets if double banking is to be in use. Therefore, it must first be established which ball that is but before that can be achieved each ball must be tested for compliance to ball specification regulations.

Test all balls using the set of 3 ball gauges sized at  $3 \frac{5}{8}$ ,  $3 \frac{19}{32}$  and  $3 \frac{21}{32}$



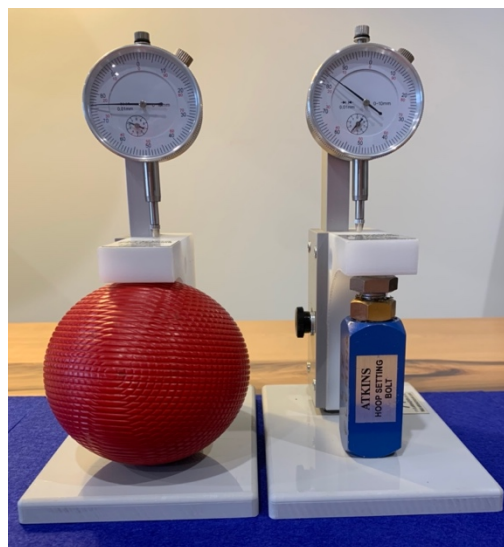
**These gauges establish ONLY the compliance to the tolerances allowed for a tournament ball** ensuring the balls in use are all suitable for tournament play. They also afford an ideal opportunity for inspection and replacement where necessary. In particular looking for wear or damage replacing a suitably matched ball into any given set. They are not intended, and do not give an accurate measurement of each individual ball, they are merely indicative of compliance with allowed tolerances.

## SIZING AND MATCHING BALL SETS

- All balls in each set of four (or eight if double banked) should be as near in size and uniformity of wear and tear as possible.
- Using a measuring device such as a Vernier Caliper, specialized ball measure or similar, each ball of the sets to be used on any particular lawn must now be measured to establish which is the largest.
- If using a “bolted” type bracket the bolt should be sized to suit the individual largest ball plus the specified tolerance (feeler gauge size) for use on each specific court.

### **THE HOOP SETTER MUST USE THE ESTABLISHED LARGEST BALL TO SET THE HOOPS ON THE LAWN ON WHICH THOSE SETS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED.**

The internationally approved balls have proved themselves to have very little variance from the required  $3 \frac{5}{8}$  standard enabling the use of the widely accepted hoop setting brackets already in use across Australia.



Atkins Pressure Gauge – measures balls and bolts



## SETTING THE HOOP USING LARGEST BALL PLUS A FEELER GAUGE

Prepare the hoop holes and set the hoops as per the instructions given previously using the appropriate bracket or clamp. The only difference is in how the hoop is then measured remembering that there may be a need for minor adjustment due to variances in ball measurements.

### Using a Feeler Gauge

- The hoop must be tested using the established largest ball plus a 1/32-feeler gauge.
- The ball is rotated across all varying axis in order to ensure the largest diameter of the ball fits into the hoop with a tight touch on the feeler gauge whilst the ball rests firmly against one upright. (It should be noted that the largest ball would most likely have both the largest and smallest diameter as the cause of its size is most likely due to it being very slightly out of round!)

- 



This set of gauges comprises  
2 x 1/32 and 2 x 1/16

After setting the first hoop and measuring as described above it may be possible to insert a wedge gauge in order to establish a measurable setting figure. If this is the case the remaining hoops may be set using the desired wedge gauge measurement on a half ball height block.

### Adjustment during game play

If adjustment is requested **and authorized by a referee** during a game the hoop must be tested and re-set with the Striker's ball (*no matter which that is*) and the 1/32 feeler gauge. Whilst a tournament hoop setter may re-set the hoop play cannot continue until the authorized referees have first checked the hoop for themselves.

## Appendix 1

### Dimensions, tolerances and metric equivalents

Subject	Imperial Units	Tolerance	Metric Equivalents	Tolerance
The court	35 yards 28 yards 13 yards 7 yards 1 yard	$\pm 6$ inches $\pm 6$ inches $\pm 3$ inches n/a n/a	32.0 metres 25.6 metres 11.9 metres 6.40 metres 0.914 metres	$\pm 152$ mm $\pm 152$ mm $\pm 76$ mm n/a n/a
<b>Hoop positions</b>	<b>7 yards</b>	<b><math>\pm 12</math> inches</b>	6.40 metres	$\pm 305$ mm
The peg	18 inches 6 inches 1.5 inches	$\pm 1$ inch n/a $\pm \frac{1}{4}$ inch	457 mm 152 mm 38 mm	$\pm 25$ mm n/a $\pm 6$ mm
<b>Hoops</b>	<b>12 inches</b>  4 inches $3\frac{11}{16}$ inches $\frac{5}{8}$ inch	<b><math>+ \frac{1}{2}</math> inch - 1 inch</b> $\pm \frac{1}{32}$ inch $\pm \frac{1}{32}$ inch $\pm \frac{1}{32}$ inch	305 mm  102 mm 94 mm 16 mm	$+12.5$ mm - 25 mm $\pm 0.8$ mm $\pm 0.8$ mm $\pm 0.8$ mm
Balls	$3\frac{5}{8}$ inches 16 ounces	$\pm \frac{1}{32}$ inch $\pm \frac{1}{4}$ ounce	92 mm 454 grams	$\pm 0.8$ mm $\pm 7$ grams
Corner flags	12 inches	n/a	305 mm	n/a
Corner pegs	3 inches $\frac{3}{4}$ inch	n/a n/a	76 mm 19 mm	n/a n/a

## APPENDIX 2

### CROQUET BALL MEASUREMENTS

**BALLS SHOULD MEASURE**  
**3.625 = 3 5/8"**

**BALL SIZE TOLERANCE ALLOWED**  
**(+/-) Plus or Minus**  
**Decimal .03125 = 1/32" = 0.7938 mm**

#### USING THE SET OF 3 BALL TEST GAUGES:

- **3 5/8 = 3.625**  
**(Best ball size – touch fit)**
- **3 19/32 = 3.59375**  
**(Balls must be too big to fit)**
- **3 21/32 = 3.65625**  
**(Balls must not be too big to fit)**

### 3 IMPORTANT FEELER GAUGES

**Decimal .03125 = 1/32" = 0.7938 mm**  
**(fg. 31 or .8)**

**Decimal .01562 = 1/64" = 0.3969mm**  
**(fg. 15 or .4)**

**Decimal .6250 = 1/16" = 1.5874mm**  
**(fg. 62 or 1.6)**

## APPENDIX 3

Extract from WCF GC Rules & AC Laws

### THE COURT

#### THE STANDARD COURT

**COURT LAYOUT** The standard court is a rectangle measuring 28 by 35 yards (25.6 by 32.0 meters). Its corners are known as I, II, III and IV.  
The length and width of the court are each subject to a tolerance of  $\pm 6$  inches (152 mm).

#### BOUNDARIES

The *boundaries* must be clearly marked. Where more than one boundary marking is visible and it is not obvious which one should be used, the most recent defines the actual boundary or, if that cannot be determined, the innermost defines the actual boundary. Exceptional cases may be dealt with under the overriding law. If the boundary marking is not straight, the actual boundary at any point is the straight line which best fits the inner edge of the boundary marking in the vicinity of that point.

The *boundary* may be marked with a movable cord fastened to the ground in a manner that minimises the risk of it becoming displaced. If the cord is displaced, this must be rectified under the appropriate GC Rule or AC Law.

#### THE STANDARD SETTING

##### PEG AND HOOPS

Subject to the variation in position permitted under Rules/Law, the peg is set in the centre of the court.

There are six hoops which are set parallel to the north and south *boundaries*. Subject to the permitted variation (see Appendix 1), the centres of the two inner hoops are 7 yards (6.40 metres) to the north and south of the peg; the centres of the four outer hoops are 7 yards (6.40 metres) from the adjacent boundaries.

The positions of each hoop and the peg are subject to a tolerance of up to 12 inches (305 mm) provided that the lines joining the centres of hoops 1 and 2, 3 and 4, and 5 and 6 remain visually parallel to the east and west *boundaries*, and that the peg lies on the lines joining the centres of hoops 1 and 3, 2 and 4, and 5 and 6.

#### VARIATIONS TO THE STANDARD COURT

**SMALLER COURTS** If the available area is too small for a standard court, a smaller court may be laid out with the same proportions as the standard court but using a length unit smaller than the standard 7 yards (6.40 metres). The appropriate organising body may approve other proportions and dimensions.

## Appendix 3 continued...

### EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES (extract)

#### HOOPS

##### SPECIFICATION

Each hoop is made of solid metal and consists of two uprights connected by a crown. The crown must be straight and at right-angles to the uprights. A hoop must be 12 inches (305 mm) in height above the ground measured to the top of the crown. **The tolerance for the height is + ½ inch / - 1 inch (+ 13 mm / - 25 mm). The hoop must be vertical and firmly fixed.**

The uprights and the crown must have a uniform diameter above the ground of between  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch (16 mm) and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (19 mm), with a tolerance of  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch (1.6 mm), although minor deviations at the top and bottom of the uprights are permitted. Alternatively, the crown of the hoop may be of square cross-section with sides of between  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch (16 mm) and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (19 mm), with a tolerance of  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch (1.6 mm) and with rounded edges.

The inner surfaces of the uprights must be approximately parallel and not less than  $3\frac{11}{16}$  inches (94 mm) or more than 4 inches (102 mm) apart. In tournament and match play, the organising body may specify a narrower internal width as either the distance between the uprights or the gap between a ball and the inner surface of one upright when the ball is half way through the hoop on the ground and is touching the other upright. **Each hoop on a court must have the same width within a tolerance of  $\frac{1}{32}$  inch (0.8 mm);** a smaller tolerance may be specified for tournament and match play.

##### COLOURING

The hoops may be left unpainted or coloured white and, in addition, the crown of the first hoop may be coloured blue and that of the final hoop may be coloured red. It is permissible for the hoops to be coloured as required for Golf Croquet.

##### ADJUSTMENT

Subject to any relevant provisions in the tournament regulations (the *striker* is entitled at any time during a turn to require that an incorrectly aligned or loose hoop be adjusted and that the width and height of a hoop be checked and corrected if necessary).

The *striker* is entitled to have the height of a hoop adjusted, even if it is within the range specified, if any part of the hoop's base that is wider than the uprights would affect the swing of the mallet or the passage of a ball in the next *stroke*. No consequential adjustment of the position of any ball is to be made. Furthermore, a part of the hoop's base that is wider than the uprights is to be ignored when testing whether one ball is wired from another.

Any test to determine the position of a ball in relation to a hoop must be carried out before the hoop is checked or adjusted.

After any adjustment to the alignment of a hoop, the positions of the balls must be adjusted if necessary to ensure that the striker gains no advantage thereby. The adjustment of a hoop may not cause a ball at rest to score or lose a hoop point.



## Appendix 4

### WCF Sports Regulations (Extract)

#### 8. Equipment

##### 8.1 Hoops

8.1.1 Hoops used in an Event shall conform to the specification in the WCF Equipment Regulations but do not have to be an “approved” make or type.

8.1.2 The clearance between ball and hoop is defined as the difference between the distance between the inside edges of the uprights at half-ball height and the maximum diameter of the largest ball to be used on the court. Hoops must be set such that the clearance is as near as possible equal to, but not less than, 1/32" (0.8 mm). When conditions are considered “easy”, this clearance may be reduced to a minimum of 1/64" (0.4 mm) **if the TR and TM jointly agree** that doing so is both practical and will not require the imposition of time limits that would otherwise have been unnecessary. When conditions are considered “difficult” in a GC event, this clearance may be increased to a maximum of 1.6 mm for the block stage and any consolation event if the TR and TM jointly agree that doing so will reduce the likelihood of the imposition of time limits that might otherwise be necessary.

**8.1.3 Hoops shall be set as firmly and securely as possible such that no significant movement occurs when the crown is pushed or pulled.**

**8.1.4 As far as possible:**

- **hoops shall be set in ground that is level and flat;**
- **the jaws of hoops shall be free of wear holes ("rabbit runs");**
- **hoop approach areas shall not contain defects that will deflect a ball from its intended course.**

##### 8.1.5 Hoop holes

(a) To satisfy the acceptance standards on hoop width and rigidity

and maintain them throughout the Event, **hoops should be set into new holes immediately prior to the Event.** Hoops shall be moved to new holes in the later stages of the Event as resources allow and conditions dictate. **As a minimum, hoops should be moved to new holes for the semi-final and final stages of the main Knock Out Stage.**

(b) **Initially, hoop carrots may be left standing slightly proud of the ground (up to a maximum of 1/2" (12mm) to allow a margin for further penetration, and hence, improved ground grip. However, if a protruding carrot interferes with the state of the game or an intended stroke, the AC Laws or GC Rules will apply.**

## **8.2 Balls**

8.2.1 Balls used shall conform to the requirements of the WCF Equipment Regulations and shall be of a Make and Type that is on the WCF Approved list. The Make and Type shall be advertised in advance of the event.

8.2.2 Prior to the start of the Event, the TR shall inspect all the balls to be used and match them, as closely as possible, for size and bounce characteristics into sets suitable for play. The diameter of all balls used on a court shall differ by no more than 1/32" (0.8 mm).

## Appendix 5

### JOB DESCRIPTION

#### Tournament Hoop Setter (THS)

##### The THS:

- Reports to, and is under the direction of, the TR.
- Assists the TR in ensuring the **Tournament Regulations** are met with regard to **Hoops and Setting, Ball Specification and Inspection Requirements**.
- Shall appoint a team of hoop setters (HST), sufficient in number to ensure daily coverage of all courts in use at the venue throughout the full duration of each play and practice day of the event.
- Shall provide the TR with a daily roster of the HST members.
- Is directly responsible for the appointed Hoop Setting Team members.
- Shall train and instruct the HST regarding their duties and responsibilities.
- Ensure the HST is equipped with the necessary equipment to fulfil their duties. ie spirit level, feeler gauge, hoop lifter, measuring stick, hoop setting tools, packing and repair materials.

##### The THS shall ensure the HST fulfil the following duties:

1. HST members at international events are to be aware of which ball is the largest ball in use on each court.
2. Ensure to the best of their ability that assigned sets of balls remain on the allocated court in their designated sets.
3. **One hour before play** each day ensure;
  - The correct sets of balls allocated to each court are in place on the assigned court.
  - International Events & Events setting to the largest ball on court - the designated "largest ball" of the sets allocated to the court being set is used for setting and indicated to the court referee for testing purposes.
  - Court setting and equipment to be correctly prepared daily in readiness for player practice in accordance with the Laws of Association Croquet and/or Rules of Golf Croquet. Inclusive of:
    - Ball stops
    - Corner flags
    - Corner pegs (AC)
    - Half-way markers (GC)
    - Peg
    - Hoops
    - Ball (first & second colour)

**4. 15 minutes before play** commences for the day;

- Assist the assigned court referee to check, and re-set where necessary, any hoops which have moved from the desired tolerance setting during the player practice session.

**5. During Play;**

- Re-set hoops on the authority of the assigned court referee.
- Check the setting of hoops for compliance with tolerance after every game and between matches.

**HST members are not to enter courts where a game is in progress without the specific authorization of the assigned court referee.**

- HST members may start to check and re-set hoops between games where both games on a court have been completed; they should then notify the assigned court referee when the court is ready to be checked and authorized for the next game to commence.
- Keep a supply of both hoop packing material and a small amount of grass clipping available for setting and repair purposes.

**Divot and special damage may only be repaired on the specific instruction of an authorized referee of the tournament.**

**6. Close of play each day;**

- Clear courts ensuring all ball sets remain in the allocated, paired sets and stored in the assigned package or box for the evening.
- Daylight permitting check courts and in particular hoop runs, for repairable damage spots and report to the THS/TR for authorization to repair.