



Professional Player Policy

Background

Croquet England is a registered charity for (inter alia) the “*advancement of the amateur sport of croquet*”. The Charity Commission’s guidance (RR11) recognises that “*The competitive element in sport is an intrinsic and essential part of its appeal to players, whatever their level of skill... The most skilled and dedicated players may want to devote more time to training and playing than the less committed, and facilities may be allocated so as to reflect this and to allow competitive teams to play, and prepare for, internal and external fixtures. This is all entirely in keeping with charitable status.*”

Purpose and Scope

This policy defines a “Professional Croquet Player”, and the implications for anyone meeting that definition.

This is to enable us to provide, where we can, financial support for amateurs to achieve their potential in order to ensure the openness of the sport of croquet, whilst aiming to avoid barriers to appropriate participation by professional players in Croquet England events. We note that World Croquet Federation events are open to both professional and amateur players.

This policy applies to anyone participating in a Croquet England calendar fixture.

Definitions

A **Professional Croquet Player** is defined as a player who has received and retained total gross income from playing croquet exceeding the **Aggregate Prize Limit** in the twelve months preceding the start of the relevant Calendar Fixture.

An **Amateur Croquet Player** is a player who is not a Professional Croquet Player.

The **Aggregate Prize Limit** is set and published by Croquet England’s Executive.

For the purposes of this definition, income from playing croquet:

- includes sponsorship, appearance money and/or prize money, earned anywhere in the world.
- excludes payments for coaching, manufacture or sale of croquet equipment and/or employment by a croquet organisation¹.
- excludes reimbursement of reasonable expenses for travel, entry fees, sustenance or team kit.

¹ People with such income may well meet government definitions of “professional” but not be considered “professional players” by this definition.

Policy

Professional players shall not be eligible for

- Grants, Bursaries and similar support for participation in events
- Subsidised fees for coaching events

For the avoidance of doubt, professional players are eligible to:

- Participate in all events advertised in the annual calendar, unless the Special Conditions specifically state that the event is not open to professional players.
- Be selected for representative international events.
- Receive team kit for representative international fixtures on the same terms as Amateur Players
- Receive discounts at the Croquet England shop in accordance with normal arrangements for their membership category.

Tax Implications

Croquet England is not qualified to provide tax advice. However, attention is drawn to HMRC manual BIM50600², which states: *“That an athlete is described as an amateur is not decisive in considering whether they should be taxed under Part 2 Income Tax... The distinction between a hobby on the one hand and a trade on the other is very much a question of fact and degree.”*

References

Constitution v1.2

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