



Prize Policy

Purpose

This policy outlines the framework for awarding prizes in Croquet England tournaments. Its aim is to ensure that all activities must adhere to Charity Commission regulations, the Gambling Act 2005, and the Code of Fundraising Practice, including:

- **Charitable Alignment:** All prizes must support the advancement of amateur croquet in England by motivating participation and performance, and remain in accordance with Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and personal/private benefit (PB1).
- **Amateur Integrity:** Prizes must protect the amateur status of players.
- **Transparency & Compliance:** The source of prizes must be transparent, comply with regulations and enable financial oversight by trustees and others.
- **Fair Distribution:** Prize structures must be equitable and encourage wide participation.

This is a new policy and shall be subject to at least annual review until the Trustees agree it has stabilised, after which it shall revert to normal review cycles.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- Tournaments organised directly by Croquet England.
- Events hosted by affiliated clubs listed in the Croquet England calendar.
- Prizes funded through Croquet England or external donations and sponsorships.

The following are not considered to be prizes within the scope of this policy:

- Presentation of a perpetual trophy that the holder is entitled to retain for a defined period of time before the event is next held.
- Non-cash awards, such as certificates, medals, or other small tokens of appreciation. These awards should be modest in value and reflect the spirit of recognition rather than material reward.
- Cash prizes of £100 or less.
- Legitimate reimbursement of reasonable actual out-of-pocket expenses.
- Expenses or contribution to costs offered to all players in an event, or for team events to all players in a representative England or Great Britain team.
- Appearance fees awarded for participation in an event.

Funding

Use of Croquet England Funds

- Croquet England unrestricted funds shall not be used for any prizes which fall within the scope of this policy, or for appearance fees.
- Reasonable expenses for the transport, engraving, and maintenance of perpetual trophies are permitted.
- Any use of Croquet England funds for prizes (whether awarded in cash or not) and in addition cash prizes under £100 must be explicitly identified within the annual budget of the relevant committee. Any prizes not included in the annual budget require approval by the relevant Executive Director and Treasurer in accordance with the Delegations Policy.

Use of Donations & Sponsorships

- Must be assessed to ensure alignment with Croquet England's objectives and be in accordance with the Fundraising Policy.
- The proportion of donations or sponsorship to be used for prizes must be made known to donors and sponsors.
- Any donation of sponsorship from a player in the event, a Close Connection of a player, or an organisation in which a player has a Personal Interest must not exceed more than one-third of the maximum prize. (Refer to the Conflicts of Interest Policy for definitions.)
- Conditional donations for prizes are allowed but must meet regulatory requirements.
- Gift Aid is not claimable on donations which are primarily to create a prize fund.

Publicity and Transparency

The intended nature, source and distribution of prizes must be advertised within the calendar entry for the event, with the final details published within the calendar entry no less than six weeks before the allocation date.

Records must be kept of all funding sources and the distribution of prizes. These records must be available to the Treasurer, Executive, Trustees and authorised third parties for a period of 7 years after the event.

Prize Limits

- Individual Event Cap: Maximum prize of £2,000 or equivalent per player per event.
- Distribution: In addition to the winner, prizes can be awarded to other players, provided that all such prizes are skill-based (as interpreted by the Gambling Act 2005)¹.

¹ For example, a smaller prize may be awarded to second place, and for third and so on. There could be a prize for another category provided that it remains skill-based, for example the highest placing junior player.

Tax Considerations

Croquet England is not qualified to provide tax advice to players. 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.”*.

Players are advised to seek their own advice on tax liability and the need to declare prizes to HMRC.

References

- Professional Player Policy
- Expenses Policy
- Fundraising Policy
- Delegations Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy

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Reason for Change: New

² Text copied 01 Nov 2025, from webpage dated 22 Nov 2023