



Setting up a croquet club

Constitution and finance

For a club to be part of Croquet Victoria (CV) it has to be affiliated with a Regional Association, which is a member of Croquet Victoria. The Regional Associations are the members of Croquet Victoria just as each State Association is a member of Croquet Australia. Regional Associations and their affiliated clubs are listed on the Croquet Victoria website www.croquetvic.asn.au/clubs

1. CONSTITUTION

Clubs are normally incorporated either separately or as part of an incorporated entity such as a Bowls, Tennis or Golf Club. Fourteen or so of the 90+ croquet clubs in Victoria are a section of another sports club. If they decide to become incorporated, clubs may use the Consumer Affairs Model Rules or a Constitution of their own devising, provided it complies with the appropriate legislative requirements. See <https://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/clubs-and-not-for-profits> for guidance on incorporating in Victoria, or for NSW go to http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/Cooperatives_and_associations/About_associations.page.

2. AFFILIATION

Croquet Victoria issues clubs with tax invoices at intervals during the year, ensuring that clubs pay:

- an annual affiliation fee from each Individual member, who must also belong to a club.
- an annual affiliation fee for the club
- an annual affiliation fee per member to Croquet Australia (currently about \$23)
- insurance cover for each member including Public Liability cover for the club, cover for the club's Directors and Officers, and Personal Accident Policy (in 2016 this cost less than \$5 per head).

Croquet Victoria's affiliation fees are set each year and contribute to Croquet Victoria's services to individual and club members.

Regional Associations also usually levy a modest amount from affiliated clubs to finance their activities.

3. INSURANCE

Croquet Victoria recommends that all club members be insured. Most members are insured through the Croquet Australia Insurance Scheme, which is negotiated by Croquet Australia for all states, as described above.

The Public Liability Insurance included in the ACA scheme covers non-member volunteers, people trying and deciding whether or not to join, and one-off come and try people.

Clubs that are part of Golf, Tennis or Bowls Club usually come under the parent club's insurance; Croquet Victoria asks for a copy of the parent club's Public Liability Certificate and an assurance that they are covered by Personal Accident Insurance. A few clubs find their parent club insurance is costlier than Croquet Australia coverage and so join the ACA scheme.

4. MEMBERSHIP and INITIAL RESOURCES [see also the *Croquet Facility Guide*]

New clubs should aim at being able to expand to at least two courts. In the beginning, with a single court, membership of 25 should be viable. Unlike Bowls where 28 people can bowl on one green, a full size croquet court 35 yds x 28 yds can accommodate 4 people in one game. Most clubs double bank (two separate games at the same time with different colored sets of balls) for 8 to play. Half courts are an option where 16 players can play at the same time.

Equipment can be expensive – hoops and balls – but there could be second hand balls and hoops for a start. There are some equipment grants about. Croquet Australia has a \$1,000 new club grant but they need to see a club in action for one year before parting with funds.

Some equipment is available to start-up groups on short term loan.

Croquet Victoria is willing to help in any way both with information and in person. Initial contact should be with the Administrator, at administration@croquetvic.asn.au .