



Australian Croquet Association Incorporated Trading as Gateball Australia

International Engagement for Gateball Policy

V1.0

Authorisation:

Adopted by the Board in accordance with the Constitution, s29.1,

9 November 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John F. ...', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Secretary

**Review history of Australian Croquet Association trading as Gateball Australia
International Engagement for Gateball Policy**

Version	Date Reviewed	Date Endorsed	Content reviewed/purpose
1.0	9 Nov 2022	9 Nov 2022	Adoption

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1. Definitions

Policy means this International Engagement for Gateball Policy including any schedules and annexures.

Australian Gateball organisations and individuals which means any of the following organisations or individuals:

- (a) The Australian Croquet Association Incorporated (ACA), trading as Gateball Australia, and all member organisations, affiliated clubs and individual affiliated members;
- (b) Croquet and/or Gateball Organisations operating in Australia, which includes all their member organisations, affiliated clubs and individual affiliated members;
- (c) Authorised Providers which means any non-Member organisations or individuals authorised to conduct Activities sanctioned by ACA or Croquet and/or Gateball Organisations operating in Australia, their Member Organisations or affiliated clubs or individual affiliated members;
- (d) Team, which means any collection or squad of athletes from Australia who play, compete and/or train in Gateball;
- (e) Any other organisation who has agreed to be bound by this Policy;
- (f) Participants who play compete and/or train in Gateball;
- (g) Employees, Contractors or Volunteers of the ACA or Croquet and/or Gateball Organisations operating in Australia who promote, arrange or participate in Gateball activities.
- (k) Any other Australian individual who promotes or arranges Gateball activities; and
- (l) Any other Australian organisation that promotes or arranges Gateball activities.

International Gateball organisations and individuals mean any of the following organisations or individuals:

- (a) The World Gateball Union (WGU) and Asian Gateball Union (AGU), their member organisations and affiliated members;
- (b) The Asia Pacific Gateball Union (APGU), their member organisations and affiliated members;
- (c) International Croquet and/or Gateball Organisations, their member organisations and affiliated members;
- (d) International Authorised Providers which means any non-Member organisations or individuals authorised to conduct activities sanctioned by the WGU, the APGU or an International Croquet and/or Gateball organisation, their member organisations and affiliated members;

(e) An International Team, which means any collection or squad of international athletes who play, compete and/or train in Gateball;

(h) Employees; contractors and volunteers of the WGU, AGU, APGU or other International Croquet and/or Gateball Organisations, their member organisations and affiliated members who promote, arrange or participate in Gateball activities.

(k) Any other International individual who promotes arranges or participates in Gateball activities.

(l) Any other International organisation that promotes arranges or participates in Gateball activities;

2. Purpose

2.1 Purpose of this Policy

This Policy has been adopted to establish a formal process for communicating with international Gateball organisations and individuals who wish to engage in the sport of Gateball in Australia and for those Australian Gateball organisations and individuals who wish to engage in the sport of Gateball internationally.

3. Jurisdiction

3.1 Who the Policy applies to:

This Policy applies to Australian Gateball organisations and individuals.

3.2 When the Policy applies

This Policy applies to interactions between Australian Gateball organisations and individuals and International Gateball organisations and individuals when their interactions relate to their involvement in the sport of Gateball.

4. Engaging with Gateball international organisations and individuals

4.1 Responsibility for engaging with Gateball International organisations and individuals

(a) The World Gateball Union (WGU) statute requires that the organisation responsible for Gateball in Australia includes the word Gateball in its name¹. As such the Australian Croquet Association (ACA) has registered a business name of Gateball Australia for Gateball operations in Australia.

¹ Article 6, Membership 6-1, World Gateball Union Statutes 1st April 2018

(b) The WGU statute allows only one representative organisation per country to be a regular member of the WGU².

(c) Gateball Australia is the sole Australian regular member organisation of the WGU and, as such, is able to recommend one candidate to the Board of Directors of the WGU for the post of WGU Officer³.

(d) The ACA appoints the Gateball Australia National Coordinator of Gateball (NCGb) as the candidate to the Board of Directors of the WGU.

(e) Similarly, the Gateball Australia National Coordinator of Gateball (NCGb) is the appointed candidate to the Board of the Asia Pacific Gateball Union APGU.

(f) The NCGb has responsibilities as an officer of the WGU and the APGU to manage relationships with International Gateball organisations and individuals to promote the objects of the WGU and APGU including the organisation and support of international Gateball tournaments⁴.

(g) The NCGb is solely authorised by the ACA Board to carry out, amongst other things, the undermentioned responsibilities and functions on behalf of the ACA Board in relation to International Gateball organisations and individuals. The NCGb is to:

(i) Maintain liaison with the World Gateball Union and the Asia Pacific Gateball Union acting as a Director of both organisations⁵;

(ii) Liaise with the Gateball governing bodies of other nations as appropriate⁶;

(iii) Liaise with the International Event Coordinator Network IECN regarding visa applications for visiting foreign Gateball teams and players⁷;

(iv) Advertise events and tournaments to be played in Australia to International Gateball organisations and individuals;

(v) Liaise with international organisations and individuals who wish to enter Australian Gateball events and tournaments;

(vi) Issue invitations to play Gateball in Australia on behalf of the Australian Croquet Association trading as Gateball Australia; and

(vii) Advertise events and tournaments advertised by international organisations and individuals to Australian organisations and individuals through the Gateball Australia website or other communication channels.

² Article 6, Membership 6-1, World Gateball Union Statutes 1st April 2018

³ Article 8, Regular Members 8-2, World Gateball Union Statutes 1st April 2018

⁴ Article 5, Business 5(2), World Gateball Union Statutes 1st April 2018

⁵ National Gateball Coordinator Terms of Reference 10th February 2021

⁶ National Gateball Coordinator Terms of Reference 10th February 2021

⁷ National Gateball Coordinator Terms of Reference 10th February 2021

(h) The NCGb may, in limited circumstances, delegate tasks in relation to these duties, at their discretion. The NCGb must provide written authority to the delegate, prior to any tasks being undertaken on their behalf.

(i) The NCGb remains responsible to the ACA Board and accountable for all decisions made and action taken in the performance of these duties.

5. Processes for Australian Organisations and Individuals

5.1 Advertising events and tournaments to International organisations and individuals

- (a) Clubs indicate that they want to open their tournament to international players by writing to the NCGb and providing an overseas modified tournament flyer that has contact details of info@gateball.com.au as the only contact. This must occur no less than four (4) months before the event. The closing date for International Gateball organisations or individuals must be a minimum of two (2) to three (3) months before the event to allow for visa application processing.
- (b) The NCGb will contact the WGU and/or APGU to request that the flyer be placed on the international tournament website.
- (c) The NCGb will contact the IECN to provide details of the event and to determine the current Australian visa entry requirements.
- (d) Overseas teams will contact the NCGb to indicate that they want to play in the tournament.
- (e) The NCGb will check eligibility of the nominating team with the WGU and their members and/or the APGU and their members.
- (f) The NCGb will make a decision as to whether a formal invitation letter to play will be issued. If the international Gateball organisation or individual meets the eligibility requirements, the NCGb will advise the host club of the intended entry.
- (g) The NCGb will request an entry form from the host club as well as any information pack in regards to local accommodation, transport and food arrangements.
- (h) The NCGb will provide the official Gateball Australia letter of invitation to play and will provide the entry form and information pack to the international Gateball organisation or individual.
- (i) The NCGb will work with the international Gateball organisation or individuals to complete the entry form and once completed, will advise the host club of the entry.
- (j) The NCGb will liaise with the International Event Coordinator Network (IECN) of the Department of Home Affairs and assist the International Gateball organisation or individuals to complete the IECN biometric requirement documentation. The NCGb

will maintain contact with the international Gateball organisation or individuals to assist with issues that arise in the visa entry process.

- (k) In some circumstances, not all Gateball individual team members are granted visas, requiring new individuals who actually meet the entry requirements to start visa applications very late in the process.
- (l) Once visas are granted, the NCGb will provide contact details for the International Gateball organisation or individuals to the host club.
- (m) The host club will have responsibility for finalising the payment arrangements for the event, sourcing interpreters, meeting and greeting the international visitors, orientation and familiarisation with the club, transportation to and from accommodation if requested, food and cultural requests.

5.2 Managing International Gateball Organisations and Individuals that contact Australian Gateball Organisations or Individuals directly

- (a) Most often, International Gateball organisations and individuals contact the NCGb, through their local international Gateball representative when planning to visit Australia. Sometimes, Australian Gateball organisations or individuals may be approached directly by International Gateball organisations or individuals wanting to play Gateball socially while visiting Australia.
- (b) The NCGb should be made aware of any International Gateball organisations and individuals who are visiting Australia and are intending to play Gateball socially. An email with the contact details for the visiting International Gateball organisation or individual, who they will be visiting, and the duration of the visit is sufficient. The NCGb can assist visiting International Gateball organisations or individuals to find Australian Gateball organisations and individuals to play with on their travels.
- (c) Where an international player is visiting Australia and intends to play in a tournament, the NCGb must be advised. A copy of the player's entry form and contact details must be provided to the NCGb prior to the event so that eligibility requirements can be confirmed. The NCGb is the only person authorised to contact the WGU or APGU or other International Gateball organisations for eligibility confirmation.
- (d) The NCGb must be notified if an invitation to play letter is required for a visa application. The NCGb is the only person authorised to issue this letter on behalf of the ACA in the name of Gateball Australia. An email with the contact details for the visiting International Gateball organisation or individual should be sent to the NCGb as soon as a request for this is made by an International Gateball organisation or individual. The NCGb may be able to assist with IECN requirements but only if sufficient notice (usually two to three months prior to the event) is provided.
- (e) The host club will have responsibility for arranging payment, sourcing interpreters, meeting and greeting the international visitors, orientation and familiarisation with the

club, transportation to and from accommodation if requested, food and cultural requests.

- (f) Any incidents (injury or otherwise) involving the International organisation or individual during their visit must be reported immediately to the NCGb.

5.3 Australian Gateball Organisations or Individuals intending to play in events or tournaments held by International Gateball Organisations or Individuals

- (a) The World Gateball Union maintain a list of events open to international visitors on their website. Other International organisations and individuals also advise the NCGb of events that are open to international visitors.
- (b) The NCGb is authorised to contact International Gateball organisations or individuals to enquire about events on behalf of Australian Gateball organisations or individuals.
- (c) Australian Gateball organisations or individuals should contact the NCGb at info@gateball.com.au if they intend to play in tournaments held by International Gateball Organisations or Individuals.
- (d) If Australian Gateball organisations or individuals intend to travel overseas and want to know where they can play Gateball on their travels, Gateball Australia can provide personal contacts that may be able to assist and provide advice.
- (e) Australian Gateball organisations and individuals need to be aware that, in the past, there have been instances where overseas competitions and activities that are not suitable for Australian players have been promoted. The following problems have arisen:
 - (i) Event information has been circulated when travel advisories from Smart Traveller at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website have specifically advised Australians not to visit because of the security situation;
 - (ii) Contacts have been promoted and, a few days later, hastily corrected, when it has become apparent that the contact is a scam;
 - (iii) Emails purportedly from the WGU have been circulated but are not written in the style normally used when addressing Gateball Australia;
 - (iv) Competitions have been promoted but it is unclear whether overseas players are welcome at the events.
- (f) Unsolicited emails or advice about overseas events from sources other than the NCGb should be referred to the NCGb who is authorised to engage with International Gateball organisations and individuals to ascertain the validity of the event.
- (g) Emails from any unsolicited source need to be treated with scepticism, blocked or designated as spam.

6. Compliance and consequences of failure to comply with the policy

(a) Compliance with this policy is required to ensure that Gateball Australia continues to be a member of the WGU and APGU and that Australian Gateball organisations and individuals are able to continue to enjoy playing Gateball, both in Australia and internationally, with International Gateball organisations and individuals.

(b) Multiple Australian Gateball organisations and individuals, purporting to represent Gateball in Australia and approaching International Gateball organisations and individuals, is disrespectful to the WGU and APGU and to other International Gateball organisations and individuals. It is damaging to Gateball Australia's reputation as a responsible and cooperative member of the international Gateball community.

(c) For this reason, a breach of this policy is likely to result in Australian Gateball organisations or individuals being ineligible for selection as Australian representatives.

(d) The mandatory requirements of the current Australian Croquet Association Selection Policy⁸ state that, to be selected to be Australian representatives, players must be in good standing with the Australian Croquet Association, not currently under suspension for a breach of policy or any other disciplinary provision, and are considered unlikely, in the eyes of the ACA Board, to breach ACA policies.

⁸ Australian Croquet Association – Selection Policy and Player Agreement v7 January 2020, under 4.3 Other Mandatory Requirements at section 4.3.4