

Rules Committee Opinion 2-2012
(Resolving Disagreements When A Referee Has Not Been Called)

Question: Whose opinion controls if there is a disagreement between the striker and opponent as to whether a roquet has been made, whether the croqueted ball moved on a croquet shot, or whether a fault was committed during a shot?

Answer: In both singles and doubles matches, if no referee has been called, the striker is the sole referee and the opponent must defer to the opinion of the striker, unless the striker verbally asks the opponent or another person to make the call.

Discussion: Rule 13.5(a) provides that if the opponent fails to monitor the game, the striker is the sole referee. Rule 13.5(b) further provides that if a player fails to ask that the striker call a referee before a questionable shot is taken, the player may appeal an interpretation of the rules, but not the facts of the shot. Although not a rule, the "Customs and Etiquette" section of the rule book provides that when there is a dispute about whether a roquet has been made or whether the croqueted ball has been moved in the croquet shot, the opponent must defer to the striker. A referee should be called to watch any questionable shot. However, when a referee is not called, unless the striker has verbally delegated the responsibility to make the call to another person, the striker is the judge no matter what the opponent might see. If this responsibility is delegated to another person, then that individual has the final say.