

## Disagreeing with a Referee Decision

State Coordinators are always encouraging players to train as referees. For this to happen, the Gateball community needs to see that referees are respected and supported. Any occasional lapses need to be managed to both maintain standards and the self-confidence of players who are also prepared to be referees.

On the other hand, it is acknowledged that players and team captains may occasionally disagree with actions taken by referees.

Article 4, Manager and Players – indicates that a Manager / Captain has the following recourse during a game:  
Clause 1. Duties of the Manager 3. *“The manager may question the referee. The questioning, however, must be done at the time the action in question arises. The time used for such questioning will not be counted as referee time (Article 20, Clause 1)”*.

Clause 1. Duties of the Manager 3. (1) *“Once the question has been addressed by the referee, the manager may not repeat the question”*.

If the captain still believes the referee's action is not appropriate, they must accept the decision and the game continues.

At the end of the game, the aggrieved captain may decide to raise the issue with the tournament referee. At this point the Captain will either accept the explanation, or they can insist that the matter is referred to the State Coordinator of Refereeing and the Gateball Australia Referee Committee for resolution

If the referee has already recognised that they made an error, in the spirit of the game, they will probably have apologised and no further action may be warranted. On the other hand, if the captain now accepts that the referee was correct, it is their duty to acknowledge that and to, similarly, have apologised.

Recommendations from the Gateball Australia Referee Committee could include:

- monitoring a referee's performance;
- addressing gaps in a referee's knowledge of rules and their implementation;
- issuing a clarification of the particular rule for all Australian Gateball players where legitimate confusion about the interpretation of the rules could have existed;
- making amendments to the role of tournament referees about managing situations where differences of opinion may arise; or
- in extreme cases, cancelling a referee's accreditation.

The aggrieved individuals can always use the ACA's complaints process if Gateball Australia's processes do not produce an acceptable outcome for either party.