

**GOLF AUSTRALIA
RULES, AMATEUR STATUS, HANDICAPPING
& COURSE RATING COMMITTEE – MEETING
MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2006
AT NEW SOUTH WALES GOLF ASSOCIATION OFFICE**

SUMMARY

Present from the Committee: John Buckley (Chairman), Joan Coles, Frank Gal, Jenny Hoff, John Hopkins, Val Oswald, Barry Shepherd.

Apologies: Andrew Langford-Jones

In Attendance: Simon Magdulski

1. Previous Meeting Summary

This was adopted with 5.6 amended to read: "The Golf Australia secretariat will take a more active role in proposing positive updates and changes to The R&A." (As attached)

2. Delivery of Refereeing at Golf Australia Events

2.1 MFS Men's Australian Open

The streamlined refereeing process worked well and was positively received by the players. The Committee also put together some suggestions as to how various general operational issues could be further improved.

2.2 MFS Women's Australian Open

Following the success of the new process used at the Men's Open, the same process will apply for the Women's Open.

3. Committee Procedural Recommendations for Golf Clubs

3.1 Competition and Course Management Procedures

The approved procedures will appear at www.golfaustralia.org.au (go to *Playing the Game* – then to *Rules, Handicapping, and Regulations* – then click on the link to *COMPETITION & COURSE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES – Golf Australia Recommendations*).

3.2 Former WGA Rules and Regulations

These are to be reviewed with a view to achieving consistency between men's and women's regulations.

3.3 Proposal Regarding Colour of Flagstick Flags when used to Indicate Position of Hole (NSWGA)

This will be left to each club committee to determine after considering local conditions.

3.4 Count-back proposal submitted by Jim Morrison

Whilst the standard R&A/USGA process of matching cards will apply as a default, Golf Australia will publish an option which uses exact handicaps to split scores.

4. Rules of Amateur Status

4.1 Update of R&A Meeting

Golf Australia's representative to the R&A, John Hopkins, provided an update with a view to the 2008-2111 version of the Rules.

4.2 Golf Australia Proposal to R&A re Subsistence Expenses

Golf Australia will provide further information to The R&A in accordance with a request from St Andrews.

5. Rules of Golf

5.1 Update of R&A Meeting

Golf Australia's representative to the R&A, John Hopkins, provided an update with a view to the 2008-2111 version of the Rules.

5.2 Golf Australia's View on Proposed Rule Change

Golf Australia will convey to The R&A its support for Rule 25-2 to extend relief for an embedded ball to *"through the green"*.

6. Handicapping & Course Rating

6.1 Golf Australia Handicapping System Proposal

The Committee signed-off on a draft version of a single handicapping system which was at a stage where it was ready to be put forward to the industry for consideration – this is posted at www.golfaustralia.org.au (go to *Playing the Game* – then to *Rules, Handicapping, and Regulations* – then click on the link to *Handicapping & Course Rating*). Any feedback is to be provided to Golf Australia by 4 April 2007. The Committee will then consider and work through the supplied comments and make amendments to the draft where appropriate.

6.2 Golf Australia Course Rating Option for Consideration

The Committee determined to put forward the following questions to all interested stakeholders:

- Do you favour retention of the existing MCCR/WCCR systems (possibly with minor modifications – please provide suggestions if you wish)?
- Do you favour retention of the existing AWCR/AMCR systems (possibly with minor modifications – please provide suggestions if you wish)?
- Do you favour using the AWCR/AMCR as the daily rating in all instances – ie would you like to do away with the CCR system and have a permanent rating which applies in all situations?
- Do you favour adoption of the attached proposed Course Rating System?

The proposal and supporting details are posted at www.golfaustralia.org.au (go to *Playing the Game* – then to *Rules, Handicapping, and Regulations* – then click on the link to *Handicapping & Course Rating*). The proposal acknowledges feedback provided via formal consultation with each state association (women's and men's) together with views expressed (both written and verbal) by many clubs and individuals over an extended period of time. It is not put forward as a preferred option of Golf Australia, but rather as an option for consideration and discussion. The Committee will work through all feedback and then look at a way forward.

6.3 Period of Membership – Access to Australian Handicap

Affiliated clubs will now be permitted to issue both Australian Women's Handicaps and Australian Men's Handicaps to players who do not hold annual membership (NB previously this only applied to Australian Men's Handicaps). Australian Handicaps will still though only be available to "golfers in respect of whom an annual fee is payable to the state governing body".

Golf Australia recognises the trend for more and more clubs to want to offer non-traditional membership options – including for periods that are less than annual.

7. Next Meeting

3.00 pm Tuesday 27 March during Australian Amateur Championships in Sydney.