



2007 NATIONAL HANDICAPPING AND COUSE RATING FORUM – Summary (10 August 2007)

The “Average” reference is in accordance to Member States’ views against the following key:

-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Very Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No view	Agree	Strongly Agree	Very Strongly Agree

Permanent Rating

- 1.1 More emphasis on roll, elevation, etc – Average = 2**
- Consensus that these factors are important and should be considered
 - Length rating formulas need to be reviewed
- 1.2 More weight on difficulty factors – Average = 1.8**
- Current system effectively makes difficulty points irrelevant due to their small weighting
 - Only a very small number of courses now have courses with a Plus Difficulty Rating
 - Consider awarding more points to factors from tee to green
 - Concern that the current system by-passes many of the difficulty factors
 - Consider the application of “Sympathy Shots”
- 1.3 Too much subjectivity – Average = 0.15**
- Course Rating relatively fixed – some ad-hoc adjustments can be made but consider allowing more adjustments
 - Course rating exercises at various times have shown there is very little difference in the way difficulty points are applied by different raters and the overall result is usually the same – due to the minimal weighting of difficulty points
 - Golf Australia to conduct National Course Rating Workshops
 - Consider handicapping players according to the exact rating rather than the rounded rating
- 1.4 If retain current system, average golfer considered – Average = -0.9**
- Consensus that not hugely important to consider average golfer, however possibly review scores from GolfLink – these results may be skewed due to different course lengths which may not be allocated different courses in GolfLink. Ideally would need to obtain course length and Competition Type (eg. Medal Round) to for accurate results. (NB. GolfLink data considers all handicap ranges not just Scratch Handicap players which is what the AMCR/WCR is based around)
 - This information from GolfLink could be given to Course Raters as a final check once the rating is completed
 - Consider allocating a rating for the Scratch Golfer and the Bogey Golfer on the score card
- 1.5 Importance of international consistency – Average = 1**
- International consistency important for when players compete overseas
 - Only a very small number of players compete in handicapped events internationally, therefore not highly important
 - Useful but not paramount

Daily Course Rating Component

- 2.1 Importance of Daily Rating Component – Average = 1.8 (2.28 for men; 1.4 for women)**
- Women States are happy to apply a daily rating component, however not the CCR as it currently is. There was general interest displayed in viewing full data on Women’s Handicapping to see if such analysis can address existing concerns.
 - Interest expressed in investigating whether or not an effective table-type system could be constructed.
 - There must be restrictions to CCR parameters to ensure handicaps adjustments for all handicap ranges are consistent
 - Concern about implementing a CCR for the sake of having a CCR

- 2.2 Simply to apply – Average = 1.6**
 - See Tables comment above
- 2.3 Simplicity more important than exactitude – Average = 0.7**
 - Some concerned about clubs without a computer – need to move forward and assume that in the future someone at the club will have computer access – Member States and Golf Australia should investigate ways in which these clubs can be assisted
 - A System can be exact AND simple if everybody is computerised
 - Consensus neither one way or the other
- 2.4 Purely objective = Average = 1.2**
 - Limited comments
- 2.5 Some subjectivity acceptable – Average = -0.04**
 - See tables comment above
 - Consider instigating test cases for Murray Cropley's small field formula while data being obtained

Types of Scores

- 3.1 Match Play Scores – Average = -2.5**
- 3.2 Match Play for reduction only – Average = -2.9**
 - Clear consensus that match play scores not be used.
- 3.3 Scores from Non-competition Rounds – Average = -1.2**
 - Consider limiting non-competition rounds to 5 per year
 - Need to consider the future golfer where it is likely to be that they will not be members of clubs – Golf Australia should cater for these golfers with a method by which to allow them to gain a handicap
 - Consider using extra day scores to adjust handicaps

Sample of Scores

- 4.1 Perpetual Incremental Increase from Fixed Starting Point – Average = 1.38**
 - Consensus that this method is satisfactory
 - Agreement that it takes a long time for a player to gain shots back – consider increasing handicap by 0.2 if outside the buffer
 - Consider instigating annual review process which for example would cater for a player who has had one exceptional round
 - Consider a Junior Handicapping System
- 4.2 Floating Sample – Average = -1**
 - Forum not convinced floating sample would be more effective than current system
- 4.3 Equitable Stroke Control**
 - Approximately 80% of competition rounds are currently Par or Stableford in which case ESC already applies
 - Would only be relevant to an extremely small number of cases
 - Consensus that it would be demanding for Committees/players to adjust scores

Portability

- 5.1 Importance of Portability – Average = 2.3**
 - Portability for intra-club competitions is just as important as portability from one course to another
 - Data was presented indicating that in some cases the Slope System disadvantages some groups of players
- 5.2 Australian System provides for portability – Average = 0.6**
 - Not unanimous that the Australian System provides portability if the Course is initially rated accurately although a positive vote was recorded
- 5.3 Slope-type system would be more effective in equitable portability than current system – Average 0.5**
 - The Forum agreed that a Slope-type system does provide portability (average 1.5)
 - However, no clear consensus that a Slope-Type System would be more effective than the current system

Post-Agenda Discussion

There was strong consensus amongst the Forum that the Golf Australia Handicapping & Course Rating Committee should consider the following:

- The introduction of a sliding percentile for determining the CCR of differing handicap ranges.
- Amending the rate at which handicaps are increased for rounds where a player has not played to their handicap. Or alternatively addressing the rate at which a handicap can increase after being decreased by an exceptional round (when returned by a player who is not generally on the improve).
- That the maximum Australian Men's Handicap increase to 36.