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GOLF AUSTRALIA
'SLOPE' REVIEW GROUPS – PRELIMINARY MEETING
TUESDAY 13 MAY 2008
BY PHONE

SUMMARY

Present from the Review Groups: Ian Read (Chairman – GA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee), Lynne Ritchie (Chairman – Course Rating Review Group), Murray Cropley (Chairman – Handicapping Review Group), Joan Coles (GA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee), Abby Driver (GQ), Sue Fabian (WGNSW), Herb James (NSWGA), Denis Lenagan (RSGC/AGC/NSWGC/LGC), Di Monk (WGWA), Barry Shepherd (GA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee), Simon Magdulski (Manager – Rules & Handicapping), Therese Ritter (Manager – Championships)

In Attendance: Anne Lenagan (Chairman of the Board), Graeme Phillipson (NSWGA)

Apologies: John Buckley

1. Introduction

The Chairman of the GA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee welcomed everyone and confirmed the main objective of the meeting was to move forward the process of investigating the USGA Handicap and Course Rating Systems and other systems that utilise the 'Slope' concept.

2. Unified Women's and Men's Australian Handicapping & Course Rating System

- It was agreed that a unified handicapping & course rating system should be the primary objective of Golf Australia. A "unified" handicapping & course rating system was considered to be a system which uses uniform principles and methodologies but where women's scores continue to be handicapped solely against other women's scores & standards, and men's scores continue to be handicapped solely against other men's scores & standards.
- It was agreed that it was important to achieve consistent methodologies between men's and women's handicapping and course rating in Australia.
- It was agreed that an outcome involving a CCR for one gender but not the other was not ideal, but that a final determination on this issue will be made at a later time.

3. Pros & Cons of Adopting an Existing International System versus Maintenance & Continued Development of a Unique Australian System

- When assessing the above, consider the benefits of utilising the resources and systems developed by major international associations when factored against time and opportunity invested within Australia on constant modification and development of our unique Australian systems.
- It was agreed it was important to investigate the scope Golf Australia has to modify regulations in an existing international system should it adopt such a system.

4. General Discussion on Scope of the Projects

The attached document was agreed.

5. Membership of Review Groups

Handicapping Review Group: Murray Cropley (Chair), Joan Coles, Sue Fabian, Denis Lenagan

Course Rating Review Group: Lynne Ritchie (Chair), Abby Driver, Herb James, Di Monk, Barry Shepherd

The Chairs of the respective groups are to provide Ian Read and John Buckley with regular progress reports.

6. Involvement of NZ Golf

NZ Golf is keen to assist Golf Australia with this project. A representative from NZ Golf will be involved throughout the Review Group process.

7. Timetable

It is envisaged the timetable will be as originally planned with succinct reports to be presented at the November meeting of the Golf Australia Board.

8. Next Meeting

To be arranged.