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AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S HANDICAPPING SYSTEM (Copyright)

With the revisions of 1 October 2007 (to reflect temporary changes to Women's Calculated Course Rating – see also Australian Women's Calculated Course Rating System) and 1 September 2008 (changes made by Golf Australia Handicapping & Course Rating Committee), deleted text is shown but is struck-out; new text is denoted by bold, underline & italics).

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Definitions

The Australian Women's Course Rating (AWCR) is the evaluation of the length and playing difficulty of a course.

A Differential is the difference between a player's gross score and the Women's Calculated Course Rating (WCCR). As is noted in the Australian Women's Calculated Course Rating System, a Forum attended by Australia's leading state and national handicapping and course rating officials has initiated a decision to use the Australian Women's Course Rating (AWCR) as the WCCR for ALL women's handicapping for a trial period of one year (NB this trial period has been extended through until at least 1 April 2009). (However, please note that the following Australian Women's Calculated Course Rating System stipulation still applies: "When Preferred Lies "through the green" or Tee Up "through the green" apply, the AWCR must be reduced by 2 strokes."). This trial period started on 1 October 2007 and is to allow for an intensive review of the WCCR statistical process with a view to addressing the flaws in the existing formula.

During this trial period, research and analysis of women's handicapping data will be carried out on an unprecedented scale with a view to arriving at a formula which best fits the distribution of handicaps and scores peculiar to women's golf in Australia.

When a WCCR is not calculated, the AWCR is to be used.

A Bona-fide Body is a formally constituted club, association, or group formed primarily for the purpose of conducting golf events, played in accordance with the Rules of Golf and appropriate local rules, or otherwise to administer golf or a specific area or group of golfers.
The **Home Club** or **Affiliated Body** is where a player's handicap is recorded.

An Affiliated Member is a registered member of any Bona-fide body, including any female, coach or official who is registered, for such time as she remains a financial member or otherwise remains registered with the Bona-fide body The Marker is any affiliated female or male golfer.

Stipulated Round - The number of holes in a stipulated round is 18 unless a smaller number is authorised by the Committee. (Rules of Golf - refer to definitions)

1. Introduction

This Golf Australia system, based on Course Rating, has been designed to achieve uniformity of handicapping throughout Australia for amateur women golfers

The national system of handicapping must meet two main requirements:

- Simple enough for operation by small and large Clubs alike.
- Thorough enough to produce fair and uniform handicapping throughout Australia.

The System is based on the assumption that every player will endeayour to make the best score she can at each hole in every round played and will report every eligible round for handicapping purposes, regardless of where the round was

Golf Australia delegates to each of its women's Member States the power to administer on its behalf the handicapping of all players who are members of bodies affiliated with such States. Any dispute shall be referred to the National Body whose decision shall be

Any handicap administered by an affiliated Australian golf club, by itself or Golf Link, and calculated in accordance with a Note: Golf Australia system, is owned by Golf Australia.

Essential points of the System are:

- All handicaps shall be calculated in accordance with the System as outlined below.
- The Australian Women's Handicapping System is to be properly applied.
- There is uniform determination of the course rating of golf courses in Australia.
- All handicaps referred to in this System shall be either:
 - Australian Women's Handicaps, valid at all affiliated clubs, or
 - Club Handicaps (see also Section 9).

2. The State Handicap Manager, the Club Handicap Manager, or Handicap Committee

Each club must have a Handicap Manager or Handicap Committee, responsible to the State Handicap Manager. In some States, Handicap Managers shall be responsible to the Association Handicap Managers, who in turn are responsible to the State Handicap Manager

The Handicap Committee of the Home Club shall:

- Maintain a satisfactory method of recording players' scores and handicaps.

 Apply the correct application of the Australian Women's Handicapping System, Australian Women's Course Rating System, Australian Women's Calculated Course Rating System.

- Ensure that players' scores are regularly and accurately recorded and adjustments made as soon as possible to handicaps as required by this system
- Maintain a record of variations to AWCR and WCCR.
- As far as possible, insist that all competition cards are returned by competitors.
- When a score returned from a Visited Club does not contain the WCCR, assume that neither Preferred Lies "through (vi) the green" or Tee Up "through the green" applied use the AWCR for calculations, if reasonable investigations fail.

 Whilst it is the responsibility of the individual player to ensure that all scores that are to be used for handicapping purposes and which

have been returned at other clubs are returned to the player's Home Club, in addition, visited clubs shall also return these scores to the visitors' Home Clubs with WCCRs provided (unless they are both on Golf Link).

If a Club Handicap Manager has evidence that a player's handicap is inappropriate, that handicap may be adjusted (see 'GENERALLY - Re-Assessment of Handicaps' in Section 6). after consultation with the State Handicapper

A player ceases to hold an Australian Women's Handicap when no longer holding playing membership of an affiliated club.

3. The Player

- A player shall have one Australian Women's Handicap only and her Home Club shall allot this. A player belonging to more than one affiliated club must decide at which club she wishes to record her scores. This club would then be referred to as her Home Club and she must report to her other clubs the name of her Home Club, her handicap there, and any alterations that may be made to her handicap.
- A player shall report and confirm in writing or by returning the card to her Home Club all scores returned by her at any other club. An official of the club concerned must certify the Australian Women's Course Rating, the Par and the WCCR of the day. Cards arriving from other clubs should be accepted and processed immediately.
- A player should carry her current exact Australian Women's Handicap Record/Certificate and/or Swipe Card at all times.
- A player is responsible for using her correct handicap at all times (see also NOTE to Section 6).

4. Gaining an Australian Women's Handicap

Any female annual playing member of a bona-fide body affiliated with Golf Australia, being an amateur golfer may obtain an Australian Women's Handicap by returning stroke scores over three rounds of 9 or 18 holes played on a course with an AWCR under Extra Day Scores, on the course or courses of any affiliated Club or Clubs.

Any female who does not hold annual membership of an affiliated club is permitted to be issued with an Australian Women's Handicap so long as the affiliated club still forwards an annual affiliation fee payable to the state governing body.

To obtain an Australian Women's Handicap a player must submit three (3) cards which shall be adjusted by the Handicap Manager converting any score of more than 4 over par to exactly 4 over par. (A player may pick up when 4 over par on any hole.) For example:

Par	Card Returned	Adjusted Score
3	5	5
4	7	7
4	9	8
3	5	5
5	10	9
4	7	7
3	8	7
4	9	8
<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
34	68	64

After these adjustments are made, the three cards shall be averaged and the player allotted a handicap equivalent to the number of strokes by which the average exceeds the AWCR (or WCCR of the day). For example: The average of the three cards

Course Rating	Score	Differential
75	105	30
74	102	28
72	100	28
		96 · 2 – 29 6 – avant Handinar

The Handicap Manager/Committee in consultation with the State Handicap Manager may allot a player a handicap less than the average of her differentials or less than her current handicap if there is good reason to consider that a lower handicap is more appropriate to the player's ability.

appropriate to the player's ability. The minimum Australian Women's Handicap is 45. If a player has an exact handicap higher than 45.4 she is given an Australian Women's Handicap of 45 and a club playing handicap (Club Handicap) may be allotted; if she has an exact handicap better than +0.5, she is given an Australian Women's Handicap of Scratch and a club playing handicap (Club Handicap) may be allotted. There is no minimum exact Australian Women's Handicap. If a player has an exact Australian Women's Handicap of +0.6 or better, their playing Australian Women's Handicap is the rounded figure (NB +0.5 rounds to Scratch, +1.5 rounds to +1, +2.5 rounds to +2, etc).

5. Life of Cards – Retaining and Regaining an Australian Women's Handicap

- All handicap records shall be examined at the beginning of a year with effect from the 1st of January, at which time all scores more than a year old shall be disregarded, being no longer valid. For a player to retain an Australian Women's Handicap she must have at least three live cards at the 1st of January each year. (Refer Scores for Handicapping Purposes.)
- A player's Australian Women's Handicap shall lapse and revert to a Club Handicap until the number of live scores since the 1st of January of the previous year reaches three with normal recording procedures operating from the player's last recorded exact handicap. All forms of stroke rounds, including Stableford and Par competitions, are acceptable. If a player returns to playing, having not submitted a score for two years or more, the player is required to submit three
- cards to regain an Australian Women's Handicap (in accordance with Section 4). The last known handicap must be used as a Club Handicap to return scores in Stableford and Par competitions. The Handicap Manager must submit the three differentials together with the player's last known handicap to the State Handicap Manager for assessment.
- See 'GENERALLY Re-Assessment of Handicaps' in Section 6 for guidance on how to adjust a player's handicap after serious illness or disablement. To regain her handicap or have it reassessed after serious illness or disablement, a player may apply through her Committee to the State Body with all relevant details including a minimum of three scores reflecting her current ability. Consideration would then be given to a realistic handicap which would change in accordance with the Regulations.
- When a player changes from one Home Club to another, a copy of her handicap record shall be given to the new Home Club so that her current exact Australian Women's Handicap remains in force and the live scores are recorded

6. Adjustments of Handicap

When each score is returned:

Handicaps Three (3) and Less

A player playing to her handicap retains her exact handicap.

If a player plays above her playing handicap her exact handicap increases by 0.1. If a player plays below her playing handicap her exact handicap is reduced by 0.1 for each stroke under her handicap.

Handicaps Four (4) and Over

Buffer Zone - A buffer zone of two strokes above the WCCR for handicaps of 4 and over.

If a player plays to her handicap or no more than two strokes above it her exact handicap is not changed.

If a player plays above her playing handicap by more than two strokes her exact handicap is increased by 0.1.

If a player plays below her playing handicap, her exact handicap is reduced by an amount per stroke being determined by her Handicap Division:

Handicap	Add 0.1 if differential is above handicap by at least	If differential is below handicap, subtract for each stroke under
3 and Less	1	0.1
4 to 9	3	0.2
10 to 18	3	0.3
19 to 27	3	0.4
28 to 36	3	0.5
37 and Over	3	1.0

The recording of scores shall be kept by differentials. The date, differential (modified by the WCCR), exact handicap and Australian Women's Handicap, are the figures that need recording.

With cards from other clubs the Par and AWCR and WCCR of the day are also required.

For example:

A player on an exact handicap of 9.2 (Australian Women's Handicap 9) returns a score with a differential of 12 her exact handicap becomes 9.3. She then returns a score with a differential of 6. Her exact handicap is reduced as follows:

9.3 – (3 x .2) (ie – .6) = exact handicap of 8.7 and her Australian Women's Handicap remains unaltered at 9.

When a player's handicap is to be reduced so that it goes from a Higher Division to a Lower Division, it is reduced at the rate appropriate to the higher division only so far as it brings her handicap into the lower division, and the balance of the reduction must be at the rate appropriate to the lower division.

A player's exact handicap is 28.4 and her Australian Women's Handicap is 28. She returns a score with a differential of 24, ie 4 below her Australian Women's Handicap. Her reduction is calculated as follows:

28.4 – (2 x .5) (ie – 1.0) = 27.4

 $27.4 - (2 \times .4)$ (ie - .8) = 26.6 and her Australian Women's Handicap is 27.

Players whose exact handicaps contain .5 or over shall be given the next higher handicap, eg 29.5 = 30. This applies if handicaps are to be increased or reduced.

Increases and decreases of handicap become effective immediately.

NOTE: PLAYER COMPETES IN A COMPETITION ROUND BEFORE A PREVIOUS HANDICAP-ALTERING SCORE IS **PROCESSED**

In a situation where a player competes in a competition round before a previous handicap-altering score is processed, their correct Australian Women's Handicap will be that displayed by either GOLF Link or (for clubs not operating within the GOLF Link system) such other display item as designated by their Home Club (even if they are aware of what their new handicap

(NB The handicapping system provisions which enable a Visited Club to temporarily amend a player's handicap (ie Section

10) will govern in the event of a conflict between those provisions and this Note.)

Additionally, the Committee in charge of a competition may require a player to play off the figure their new handicap will be, even if their handicap is yet to be officially adjusted. A Committee may also adjust a player's handicap and net score after the player has submitted their score card in a stroke play competition - in such an instance, the listing of the incorrect handicap is considered to be a Committee error and consequently the player is not penalised. (In a match play competition, a player's handicap may not be altered after their round has commenced - any queries regarding a player's handicap must be raised with the club handicap manager/committee prior to the commencement of the player's round.)

GENERALLY - Re-Assessment of Handicaps

At any time the State Handicap Manager in consultation with the Club Handicap Manager/Committee, may re-assess a player's handicap if there is reason to consider that a higher or lower handicap is more appropriate to the player's ability.

To regain her handicap or have it re-assessed after serious illness or disablement, a player may apply through her Committee to the State Body with all relevant details including a minimum of three scores reflecting her current ability. Consideration would then be given to a realistic handicap which would change in accordance with the Regulations.

- Handicaps are intended to enable players to compete in handicap events on even terms. When a player is showing better form than their handicap or is showing an increased interest in playing better golf but is not returning cards which lead to an automatic reduction in handicap and the improvement, current ability, or some other justifiable circumstances make it apparent to the Handicap Manager/Committee that the player is over-handicapped, their handicap may be reduced. This should not be a penalty for lack of scores but solely to provide uniformity in handicapping among all who play handicap golf.
- A player's handicap may also be increased for players who may be recovering from injuries, illness or other justifiable reason. Such alterations may be effected at any time because the circumstances which give rise to this unusual step may be such as to require fairly prompt action in fairness to all concerned.
- When a player's returns give rise to suspicion they may be attempting to "manipulate a handicap", or are in serious breach of this System or the Rules of Golf or Etiquette (as contained in the Rules of Golf booklet), the Home Club is empowered to investigate the player's performances and, if considered warranted, temporarily suspend their Australian and/or Club Handicap.
- A decision to increase, decrease or suspend a player's handicap under this Section must be ratified by the General Committee (Board of Directors) of the player's Home Club.
- Notification of a decision to increase, decrease or suspend a player's handicap under this Section must be forwarded by the player's Home Club to the relevant State Association. Such notification must include copies of the accumulated information on which the decision was based. The Home Club is responsible for making the adjustment to Golf Link (or other handicap record system maintained by the Home Club).
- Should the State Association or Golf Australia, on inquiry, be satisfied that a player's Australian Women's Handicap has not been determined in accordance with the Golf Australia Handicapping System or the player has acted in serious breach of this System or the Rules of Golf or otherwise detrimentally to the best interests of the game, it may withdraw that player's Australian Women's Handicap.

- (G) The State Association or Golf Australia, on inquiry, may amend or re-instate a player's Australian Women's Handicap. A decision of the Golf Australia Handicapping & Course Rating Committee will be final.
- Implementation Conditions: The following conditions are to assist clubs in implementing this Section and to provide uniformity in handicapping among all who play handicap golf:
 - The General Committee (Board of Directors) must accumulate data, cards, scores, competition results, that would indicate handicap adjustments are necessary.
 - The General Committee (Board of Directors) must as a body, make a decision to increase or decrease a member's handicap as indicated by this Section of the Golf Australia Handicapping System.
 - H.iii No one person or group of persons, other than the General Committee (Board of Directors) has the power to increase or decrease a member's handicap when exercising a Club's authority under this Section.
 - At no time can the General Committee (Board of Directors) ever "freeze" (or "cap") a member's handicap that is being calculated in accordance with the Golf Australia Handicapping System, at a particular figure.
 - Appropriate letters for use by clubs are available from State Associations wishing to implement this Section. The first letter advises the member that their handicap is to be reviewed due to better than reflected, or otherwise, performances. The second letter advises of the newly approved handicap.

7. Scores for Handicapping Purposes (to be read in conjunction with WCCR)

Competition scores

All scores in singles competitions (as defined by the Club, and according to membership category), Golf Australia and State authorised competitions played at an affiliated Club on a course with an AWCR under the Rules of Golf must be used for

A competition round is defined as one conducted by a recognised golf club, its professional or agent, or other bona-fide body, for which trophies or prizes are awarded for golfing performance. However, scores returned from corporate/trade days or the like, not otherwise eligible as above but played in accordance with the Rules of Golf, must be used for handicap reductions only. Any stipulated round of nine holes or more may be used for handicapping purposes.

Please note it is a committee decision as to whether a 9-hole event (or an event of between 10-17 holes) is to be a competition round and handicapped

The score shall be converted to an 18-hole score by the following method:

- When the score is worse than net par for a stipulated round of less than 18 holes, the score is extended to 18 holes on a pro-rata basis, eg
 - Stableford round over 12 holes score of 20 points is extended to 30 points Par competition over 9 holes score of -3 is extended to -6

 - Stroke competition over 9 holes score of 4 over par is extended to 8 over par
- When the score is equal to or better than net par for a round of less than 18 holes, the score is extended to 18 holes by completing the card with net par figures, eg Stableford round over 12 holes – score of 26 points is extended to 38 points (26 plus 12)

 - Par competition over 9 holes score of +3 is extended to +3 (+3 plus Square)
 - Stroke competition over 9 holes score of net 33 (par 36) is extended by adding the net par of the other 9 (say 35) net

The extended scores are then used as in a normal 18-hole competition.

When a player, without reasonable justification, fails to complete a round or fails to return a score for handicapping, the Home Club shall adjust the handicap records in accordance with this system, such adjustment being based on the actual, estimated or potential score. Golf Link must indicate whether a non-return is "approved" (eg round not completed due to illness, bad weather or emergency – no adjustment to handicap) or "unapproved" (eg round not completed or card not returned due to a poor score – handicap is extended

If only one female competes in a singles competition as above, the card must still be used for handicapping purposes the AWCR shall be used for handicapping purposes

Extra day scores

Àn Extra Day Score is any completed stroke round not in competition and may be returned on any day of the week. All Extra Day Scores must be returned on the course of an affiliated club and marked by any affiliated female or male golfer of any recognised golf club. A Club official must confirm the WCCR or AWCR. If no WCCR is available, the standard course AWCR must be assumed to be the WCCR. (Note - A Committee is permitted to introduce a condition requiring players to nominate prior to playing that their round is to count as an Extra Day Score.)

Extra Day Scores will be accepted only for the purpose of obtaining an initial Australian Women's Handicap or to enable sufficient cards to maintain an Australian Women's Handicap (Extra Day Scores may be used at any time of the year to enable a player to accrue a sufficient number of cards to maintain their Australian Women's Handicap). Extra Day scores WILL be used to adjust a player's handicap.

The marker must be responsible for ensuring that the player conforms to the Golf Australia regulations, the Rules of Golf, and the Club's Local Rules and By-Laws and that they play from the correct tees.

Competition limiting clubs

When a competition limits the number of clubs which may be used to fewer than 14, a score that reduces a handicap must be used, but not one that increases it.

Novelty events

Scores returned in novelty events such as Bisque Par, Three-Ball, and Aggregate Teams Events may be used for handicapping at the discretion of the Committee but only after conversion to a regular stroke, par, or Stableford format, and only if the Rules of singles stroke play have been adhered to (NB the Committee must make and announce its determination prior to the commencement of the round).

Unacceptable card

See Australian Women's Handicap & WCCR Regulations Chart.

Null and void (vi)

In competitions declared null and void, cards will not be used for handicapping purposes.

Four-ball scores

A score of at least 42 Stableford Points, 6 up in Par or net 6 under in Stroke events must be used for handicapping, but only for the reduction of a player's handicap. The player's score must appear at least twelve times on the card. If two identical net scores are recorded for any hole the card will not be used for handicapping.

Stroke - When a player has no handicap stroke on a hole and her score is not recorded she should be given one stroke over the par for the hole. On holes where a player receives a handicap stroke but her score is not recorded, she should be given two strokes over the par for the hole.

Should she receive two strokes a hole and her score is not recorded she should be given three strokes over the par for the hole. Similarly should she receive three strokes a hole and her score is not recorded she should be given four strokes over the par for the

When all gaps on the card are filled in, the score should be added and a differential obtained. The score so obtained will probably be higher than the score actually recorded by the player and in this way does not unduly affect her handicap.

Stableford & Par - Score is arrived at by allotting one Stableford Point or a Loss in Par to holes where player's score is not recorded. The total score is then converted to a gross score and a differential obtained.

The differential thus obtained should be recorded on the player's handicap sheet and treated in the same way as all other scores for handicap purposes.

If a side is represented by one partner only, that player will be handicapped according to the above method.

(viii) Aggregate scores - Team events

Singles cards returned by players are acceptable for handicapping purposes provided that the Rules for singles competition have been followed. A WCCR shall be calculated.

(ix) Pro-Am events

Scores returned in Pro-Am events may be used for handicapping at the discretion of the committee, provided the committee makes and announces its determination prior to the commencement of the round, and provided one of the following requirements is met:

- The Rules of singles stroke play are adhered to and each player's hole-by-hole scores are recorded on the submitted score card.
- b) The Rules of four-ball stroke play are adhered to.

(x) Amateur events played in conjunction with Professional events and Open Events

When an amateur event is played in conjunction with a professional event, or in an Open event, the scores of the amateur golfers will be used for handicapping. They will be the only scores used to determine the WCCR.

8. Competitions

Competitions referred to are all forms of 18-hole competitions including Stroke, Par and Stableford, but not match play. In 18-hole Par and Stableford competitions, the Par and Stableford score must be used, not the completed stroke score. It is not recommended that a Stableford or Par event be played concurrently with a stroke competition, but if this is done, the stroke score shall be used for handicapping purposes.

When the WCCR is established and is the same as the Par of the course, 36 points in Stableford and square in Par are equivalent to the handicap allowance for the competitor.

When the WCCR and the Par of the course are not the same, the scores in Stableford and Par will vary accordingly, to be equivalent to the handicap allowance for the competitor.

CONVERSION FORMULAE

Stableford: Par of Course + 36 - Stableford points scored + handicap used = Gross Score.

Par: Par of Course - Holes up + handicap used = Gross Score OR Par of Course + Holes down + handicap used = Gross Score.

Differential = Gross Score - WCCR.

9. Club Handicaps

A player, who is not qualified to hold an Australian Women's Handicap, may be allotted a Club Handicap.

Clubs may decide what the upper limit of the Club Handicap shall be and the method of assessing must strictly adhere to the Australian Women's Handicapping System.

If a player has an exact handicap higher than 45.4 she is given an Australian Women's Handicap of 45 and a Club playing handicap (Club Handicap) may be allotted. If a player has an exact handicap better than +0.5 she is given an Australian Women's Handicap of Scratch and a Club playing handicap (Club Handicap) may be allotted.

When playing in competitions, players must play off their Australian Women's Handicaps, unless it is a specific condition of the competition that Club Handicaps are to be used.

Note i – A Committee may require the use of Club Handicaps in any competition.

Note ii — A Committee is permitted to require limited use of Club Handicaps as follows — players with Plus handicaps play off their Club Handicaps and players with exact handicaps above 45.4 play off their Australian Women's Handicaps.

10. The Visited Club

Whilst it is the responsibility of the individual player to ensure that all scores returned in competitions at other clubs are returned to the player's Home Club, in addition, visited clubs must return all competition scores to the visitors' Home Clubs with the WCCRs provided (unless they are both on Golf Link).

When a player plays a substantial amount of golf (36 holes or more) over a relatively short period of time at a club (for this purpose called the Visited Club) which is not her home club and in circumstances such that her Home Club does not have time to keep her record and handicap up to date with her scores; the Visited Club may use her scores to alter her handicap temporarily, in accordance with this System, using the player's playing handicap as the base for calculations if her exact handicap is not readily available.

11. Overseas - From or To

(i) Visitors

When a player comes to Australia with a current handicap certified by the ruling body of another country this handicap should be accepted for competition at any Golf Club in Australia. Overseas visitors returning scores affecting handicaps shall have the cards signed by an official of the Club where the scores were returned, and the player shall return the card herself to her own Handicap Manager

(ii) Temporary Members

Any scores returned which would reduce a player's handicap under the system applying in the Country, which issued it, should be used to adjust the handicap. If details are not available it is recommended that the Australian system be applied.

(iii) Joining a Golf Australia Club

The handicap of an overseas player who joins an affiliated club in Australia is managed by the Handicap Manager of that club and current scores supplied shall be reassessed under the Australian Women's Handicapping System. Initially when obtaining an Australian Women's Handicap and where sufficient information regarding score and course rating is supplied, a combination of scores from overseas and local courses may be used. If details of scores are not available, the handicap figure given may be used as one differential and combined with new scores to obtain an Australian Women's Handicap. If the handicap, which the player would gain in accordance with the Australian Women's Handicapping System, would be far in excess of the overseas handicap the player should be required to return a specified number of live scores to be reassessed.

(iv) Visitors to overseas.

Women golfers intending to play golf overseas should take a record/certificate supplied by their Home Club.