



GOLF AUSTRALIA  
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**GOLF AUSTRALIA  
HANDICAPPING & COURSE RATING COMMITTEE  
MEETING – THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 2008  
BY PHONE**

**SUMMARY**

**Present from the Committee:** Ian Read (Chairman), John Buckley, Joan Coles, Murray Cropley, Lynne Ritchie

**Apologies:** Barry Shepherd

**In Attendance:** Simon Magdulski (Manager – Rules & Handicapping), Therese Ritter (Manager – Championships)

**1. Previous Meeting Summary**

This was agreed.

**2. Freezing/Capping of Australian Handicaps – query from NSWGA**

From 1 September 2008, the following statement will be included within the sections which deal with Re-Assessment of Handicaps in both the men's and women's Australian Handicapping Systems:

*“At no time can the General Committee (Board of Directors) ever “freeze” a member's handicap that is being calculated in accordance with the Golf Australia Handicapping System, at a particular figure.”*

With this clause in mind, New South Wales Golf Association has queried whether or not the system allows for a player's handicap to be capped at a certain figure.

The Committee determined that whilst there are certain differences between 'capping' and 'freezing', it is not permissible for a player's Australian Handicap to be capped at a particular figure.

It is the Committee's view that if such an allowance were to be made, it would not provide a net benefit to our handicapping systems.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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**3. Handicapping of Players Who Play both Right-Handed & Left-Handed**

Following the recent receipt of a number queries relating to the handicapping options available to cater for players who wish to play golf both right-handed and left-handed, the Committee decided to review the relevant policy.

Effective immediately, the Golf Australia policy is as follows:

- ◆ A player will not be permitted to both have an Australian Handicap (for example for their stronger hand) and a Club Handicap (for example for their weaker hand). They may only have one handicap and this will be their Australian Handicap (provided they are eligible to hold an Australian Handicap).

- ◆ A player may return scores by playing from their weaker side – such scores must be used for handicapping purposes (provided these scores are otherwise eligible). A score returned as a result of both right-handed shots and left-handed shots must also be used for handicapping purposes (provided this score is otherwise eligible).
- ◆ It is recommended that previous scores returned by a player from their weaker side be added to the handicap record for their stronger side to complete one single handicap record (with this handicap being adjusted accordingly).
- ◆ Where a player decides to play from their weaker side for the purpose of increasing their handicap (ie where the player's intent is to return a poor score), the player will be considered to be manipulating their handicap and the relevant disciplinary sections of the handicapping system will apply.

## **NEXT MEETING**

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Wednesday 12 November 2008 in Sydney.