



GOLF AUSTRALIA
Level 3, 95 Coventry Street
South Melbourne Victoria 3205
Australia
Reg No: A0048256Z
ARBN: 118 151 894
ABN: 54 118 151 894
Telephone: 61 3 9626 5050
Facsimile: 61 3 9626 5095

**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 Copley, 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

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

Wednesday 12 November 2008 in Sydney.