

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S HANDICAPPING SYSTEM (Copyright)

With the revisions and announcements of 22 July 2009, deleted text is shown but is struck-out; new text reflecting material changes 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 Australian Women's Course Rating (AWCR) Women's Calculated Course Rating (WCCR). ***As is noted in the Australian Women's Course Rating System, a Forum attended by Australia's leading state and national handicapping and course rating officials 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. This decision took effect on 1 October 2007. (NB After an intensive review of the WCCR statistical process, GA announced on 22 July 2009 its decision to formally withdraw WCCR from the Australian Handicapping and Course Rating Systems). (However, please note that the following Australian Women's Course Rating System stipulation still applies: "When Preferred Lies "through the green" or Tee Up "through the green" applies apply, the AWCR must be reduced by 2 strokes.")***

~~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 a female or male member of any golf club or golf association recognised by Golf Australia, or a person otherwise approved by the club committee.

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 endeavour 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 played.

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 final.

Note: Any handicap administered by an affiliated Australian golf club, by itself or Golf Link, and calculated in accordance with a 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
 - Lapsed Handicaps (see Section 9)
 - Club Handicaps (see 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 District Association Handicap Managers, who in turn are responsible to the State Handicap Manager.

The Handicap Committee of the Home Club shall:

- (i) Maintain a satisfactory method of recording players' scores and handicaps.
- (ii) Apply the correct application of the Australian Women's Handicapping System and Australian Women's Course Rating System ~~Australian Women's Calculated Course Rating System.~~
- (iii) Ensure that players' scores are regularly and accurately recorded and adjustments made as soon as possible to handicaps as required by this system.
- (iv) Maintain a record of variations to AWCR ~~and WCCR.~~
- (v) As far as possible, insist that all competition cards are returned by competitors.
- (vi) When a score returned from a Visited Club does not state otherwise ~~contain the WCCR,~~ ***assume that neither Preferred Lies "through the green" or Tee Up "through the green" did not apply*** 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).

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

3. The Player

- (i) A player shall have one Australian Women's Handicap only and her Home Club shall allot this.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) Unless both the Home Club and the Away Club are on Golf Link, 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 and the Par and the WCCR of the day. Cards arriving from other clubs should be accepted and processed immediately.
- (iv) A player should carry her current exact Australian Women's Handicap Record/Certificate and/or Swipe Card at all times.
- (v) 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 (or in stipulated rounds of 10-17 holes) played on a course with an AWCR under Extra Day Scores, on the course or courses of any affiliated Club or Clubs. **(Note: Whilst a professional golfer, or a player awaiting reinstatement to Amateur Status, may hold an Australian Women's Handicap if they meet the various eligibility criteria, a Committee is permitted to have a condition restricting entry to any (or all) event(s) it controls to Amateurs only (or to Professionals only).)**

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 |
| 4 | 8 | 8 |
| 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 |
| $86 \div 3 = 28.6 = \text{exact Handicap.}$ | | |

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.

The maximum Australian Women's Handicap is 45. If the average of the three adjusted scores is higher than 45.4, the player is allotted an exact Australian Women's Handicap of 45.4. (NB In accordance with Section 9, calculation of handicaps beyond 45.4 is not permitted.) 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

- (i) All handicap records will be examined at 1 January each year, at which time all scores more than a year old will be disregarded, being no longer valid. The remaining scores will be considered "live scores". For a player to retain an Australian Women's Handicap she must have at least three "live scores" in her handicap record. (Refer Scores for Handicapping Purposes.) Note: An eligible score returned from a stipulated round of 9-17 holes inclusive will have the same status as an eligible score returned from a stipulated round of 18 holes.
- (ii) If on 1 January of a year, a player goes from having at least three "live scores" in her handicap record to having less than three "live scores", her handicap will be considered to be a "Lapsed Handicap" until the number of "live scores" again reaches three. All forms of stroke rounds, including Stableford and Par competitions, are acceptable.
- (iii) If a player returns to playing, having not submitted a score for two years or more, the Handicapping Manager/Committee may allot a new Australian Women's Handicap under the procedure as described in Section 4 (in doing so, the State handicap manager must be consulted when allocating a handicap more than two strokes higher than the previous handicap for players whose last recorded handicap was 4.4 or less; a handicap more than 3 strokes higher than the previous handicap for players whose last recorded handicap was 4.5-10.4; and a handicap more than 4 strokes higher than any previous handicap for players whose last recorded handicap was greater than 10.4), or reinstate their previous handicap once the player has returned the requisite number of "live scores".
- (iv) See 'GENERALLY – Re-Assessment of Handicaps' in Section 6 for guidance on how to adjust a player's handicap after serious illness or disablement.
- (v) When a player changes from one Home Club to another, a copy of her handicap record will 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 AWCR 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 to 45 | 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:

$9.3 - (3 \times .2)$ (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.

For example:

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:

$28.4 - (2 \times .5)$ (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 will be).

(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

(A) 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 **of any Club of which the player is a member** 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.

(B) 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.

(C) 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~~ **any Club of which the player is a member** is empowered to investigate the player's performances and, if considered warranted, temporarily suspend their Australian Women's Handicap.

(D) 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 **club which is taking such action** player's ~~Home Club~~.

(E) Notification of a decision to increase, decrease or suspend a player's handicap under this Section must be forwarded by the **Club taking such action to the** relevant State Association **(and, if the Club taking such action is not the player's Home Club, the club taking such action must also immediately notify the player's Home Club)**. Such notification must include copies of the accumulated information on which the decision was based. **In all cases it is** the Home Club that is responsible for making the adjustment to Golf Link (or other handicap record system maintained by the Home Club).

(In the event that it is not the Home Club that has made the decision to take such action, the Home Club will be obligated to immediately adjust the player's handicap record in accordance with the direction of the Club that has made the decision. The Home Club may appeal the decision to the State Association, however any such appeal must not delay the amendment of the player's handicap record to have it reflect the determination of the other Club. Once such advice has been forwarded to the Home Club, any competition committee should consider the figure contained in this advice to be the player's current Australian Women's Handicap.)

(F) 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 that 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.
- (H) 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:
- H.i The General Committee (Board of Directors) must accumulate data, cards, scores, competition results, that would indicate handicap adjustments are necessary.
 - H.ii 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.
 - H.iv 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.
 - H.v 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.

ALLOCATION OF SPECIAL COMPETITION HANDICAP IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

A committee in charge of a competition is authorised to allocate to a competitor (or group of competitors) a Special Competition Handicap if the following requirements are met:

(A) The State Association must first have been consulted to determine whether a general adjustment of the player's Australian Women's Handicap is warranted. (NB That the State Association may have decided a general adjustment of the player's Australian Women's Handicap is unwarranted does not prevent a committee in charge of a competition from allocating a Special Competition Handicap. A committee in charge of a competition will be eligible to allocate a Special Competition Handicap as soon as it has lodged in writing with the State Association a submission or notice regarding re-assessment of the player's Australian Women's Handicap.)

(B) The committee in charge of the competition must accumulate a body of evidence (eg data, cards, scores, competition results) that would indicate the application of a Special Competition Handicap is necessary. The body of evidence need not be extensive but it must be compelling. (NB It will be for the committee in charge of the competition to determine whether or not this requirement has been met.)

(C) The Special Competition Handicap must reflect the accumulated body of evidence. (NB It will be for the committee in charge of the competition to determine whether or not this requirement has been met.)

Note i – Any committee in charge of a competition which allocates a Special Competition Handicap will be solely responsible for all associated outcomes.

Note ii – Neither Golf Australia, nor any State Association, will be obliged to assist with any outcomes associated with the allocation of a specific Special Competition Handicap.

Note iii – When entering a score into a player's handicap record (or when processing a competition for handicap purposes), it is the player's Australian Women's Handicap that must be used to calculate a net score, NOT any Special Competition Handicap that may have been used for the purposes of determining; competition placings, allocation of prizes, or event/match winners or results.

Note iv – It is for the committee allocating a Special Competition Handicap to determine in which competitions the Special Competition Handicap will apply. A committee is not permitted to allocate to a player a Special Competition Handicap for a competition of which it does not have charge.

7. Scores for Handicapping Purposes (to be read in conjunction with the Australian Women's Course Rating System)

(i) 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 handicapping purposes.

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 9-17 holes inclusive may be used for handicapping purposes. (NB A Q&A document describing procedures for competitions of 9-17 holes has been published to provide assistance to committees conducting competitions of this type. It is posted on www.golfaustralia.org.au.)

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:

- a) 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
- b) 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 68

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

Player, without reasonable justification, fails to complete a round or fails to return a score for handicapping – see Section 12.

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

(ii) Extra Day Scores

An 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 a female or male member of any golf club or golf association recognised by Golf Australia, or a person otherwise approved by the club committee. **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 – Committees are encouraged 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 three cards for that year). Eligible 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) 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).

(v) Unacceptable card

See Section 12 See Australian Women's Handicap & WCCR Regulations Chart.

(vi) Null and void

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

(vii) Four-ball scores

Four-ball scores (including mixed events) MUST be used for handicapping an individual player but only if the following requirements are met:

- ♦ **The pair has a score of at least 42 Stableford points (6 up in Par or net 6 under in Stroke events).**
- ♦ **The individual player's score appears at least 9 times on the four-ball score card.**
- ♦ **The adjusted score (after the below method has been followed to create an individual score card) will result in a reduction to the individual player's handicap.**

(GOLF Link clubs will enter these scores as ad-hoc scores.)

Note i – WHERE AN INDIVIDUAL PLAYER'S SCORE IS TO BE HANDICAPPED (irrespective of whether the competition is played as Par, Stroke, or Stableford), IT MUST BE PROCESSED AS A STABLEFORD SCORE in accordance with the procedures contained within this regulation.

Note ii – If two identical net scores are recorded by partners on a hole, both scores are eligible to be used on an adjusted individual score card. However, if the first player to hole out can be readily identified, the second player is deemed to have not recorded a score for that hole.

PROCEDURE FOR COMPLETING FOUR-BALL SCORE CARD:

- ♦ **When a player has no handicap stroke on a hole and their score is not recorded on the four-ball card, they are given 1 Stableford point.**
- ♦ **On holes where a player receives 1, 2, or 3 handicap strokes and their score is not recorded on the four-ball card, they are given 1½ Stableford points.**
- ♦ **When a player's score is recorded on the four-ball card for a hole, they are given the appropriate number of Stableford points for that hole.**

When all the gaps in the card have been filled in, the points should be added, and where a half appears in the total, the points total should be rounded to the next lower whole number.

The score obtained is recorded in the player's handicap record sheet and treated in the same way as all singles scores for handicap purposes.

Four-ball scores (including mixed events) MUST be used for handicapping an individual player but only if the following requirements are met:

- ♦ The pair has a score of at least 42 Stableford points (6 up in Par or net 6 under in Stroke events)
- ♦ The individual player's score appears at least 9 times on the four ball score card
- ♦ The adjusted score (after the below method has been followed to create an individual score card) will result in a reduction to the individual player's handicap

(GOLF Link clubs will enter these scores as ad-hoc scores, using the AWCR as the WCCR.)

Procedure for completing four-ball score card – When a player has no handicap stroke on a hole and their score is not recorded on the four-ball card, they should be given 1 stroke over the par of the hole. On holes where a player receives 1 handicap stroke but their score is not recorded on the four-ball card, they should be given 1½ strokes over the par of the hole. When a player receives 2 handicap strokes on a hole and their score is not recorded on the four-ball card, they should be given 2½ strokes over the par for the hole. When a player receives 3 handicap strokes on a hole and their score is not recorded on the four-ball card, they should be given 3½ strokes over the par for the hole.

(NB If two identical net scores are recorded by partners on a hole, both scores are eligible to be used on an adjusted individual score card. However, if the first player to hole out can be readily established, the second player is deemed to have not recorded a score for that hole.)

When all the gaps in the card have been filled in, the scores should be added, and where a half appears in the total, the scores should be taken to the next higher whole number.

(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:

- a) 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 with Australian Women's Handicaps** 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 (NB see also Section 7(i)).

In 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 AWCR WCCR is established and is the same as the Par of the course, 36 points (for 18 holes) in Stableford and square in Par are equivalent to the handicap allowance for the competitor.

When the AWCR 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 - AWCR WCCR.

9. Exact Handicaps, Lapsed Handicaps, and Club Handicaps

- (i) The maximum Australian Women's Handicap is 45.4. If a female with an exact handicap of 45.4 returns a net score which is worse than the AWCR course rating, the handicap on their official handicap record will remain at 45.4. Calculation of official

- exact handicaps beyond 45.4 will not be permitted. Official "Club Handicaps" are not permitted and will not be recognised by Golf Australia.
- (ii) Should a committee consider it appropriate, it may allocate selected members with internal "Club Handicaps". "Club Handicaps" must be recorded separately to Australian Women's Handicaps (ie there must be separate record sheets). It will be solely for the respective committee to determine how it calculates the "Club Handicaps" of its members.
 - (iii) A "Lapsed Handicap" is not a "Club Handicap". A Committee may allow the use of "Lapsed Handicaps" in any competition.

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.

12. General Decisions on Australian Handicap Regulations

The following table of Decisions is listed to provide enhanced guidance for all Committees:

| SITUATION | COMPETITION ACTION | HANDICAPPING ACTION |
|---|---|---|
| 1. No handicap on card. (i) Stroke (Rule 6-2b). (ii) Par & Stableford (Rule 6-2b & 32-2a) | (i) Disqualified from net event. (ii) As above. NB: If scratch event is held, card accepted for scratch. | (i) & (ii) Apply correct handicap and use for handicapping. |
| 2. Higher handicap on card (i) stroke (Rule 6-2b). (ii) Par & Stableford (Rule 6-2b & 32-2a) | (i) Disqualified from net event. (ii) As above. NB: If scratch event is held, card accepted for scratch. | (i) & (ii) Apply correct handicap and use for handicapping. |
| 3. Lower handicap on card in Stroke, Par or Stableford (Rule 6-2b & 32-2a). | Card accepted for competition as returned. | Apply correct handicap and use for handicapping. |
| 4. (a) Player picks up on hole in Stroke. (b) Score for hole not recorded in Stroke. | (a) & (b) Disqualified from the competition. | (a) Add 0.1 to player's exact handicap. (b) (i) If correct score can be identified, adjust and use for handicapping. (ii) If score cannot be identified, add 0.1 to player's exact handicap. |
| 5. Score for hole omitted in Par & Stableford. | Accepted for the competition. (No obligation under the Rules to record a score for every hole.) | Use for handicapping. |
| 6. Card not signed (Rule 6-6b). 7. Higher score than actually taken recorded in Stroke, Par and Stableford (Rules 6-6d & 32-2a). | Disqualified from the competition. Card accepted as returned. | Use for handicapping as returned. Use correct score for handicapping. |
| 8. Lower score than actually taken recorded in stroke (Rule 6-6d). | Disqualified from the competition. | (i) If correct score can be identified, adjust and use for handicapping. (ii) If score cannot be identified, add 0.1 to player's exact handicap. |
| 9. Lower score than actually taken recorded in Par and Stableford. (Please refer to Rule 32-2a and relevant Rules of Golf Decisions.) | (i) If result of hole affected – Disqualified from the competition. (ii) If result of hole not affected, no penalty applies and card accepted for the competition. | (i) Use correct score for handicapping. (ii) Use for handicapping as returned. |
| 10. Card handed in after competition has closed. | Disqualified from the competition. | (i) If correct score can be identified, adjust and use for handicapping – reasonable effort should be made to ascertain the correct score. (ii) If score cannot be identified, add 0.1 to player's exact handicap. |

| <u>SITUATION</u> | <u>COMPETITION ACTION</u> | <u>HANDICAPPING ACTION</u> |
|---|---|---|
| <p><u>11. Withdrawal after player commences round due to severe illness, emergency, bad weather, or other reason approved by the committee in charge of the competition.</u></p> <p><u>(i) Player has completed less than 9 holes.</u></p> <p><u>(ii) Player has completed 9 holes or more.</u></p> | <p><u>(i) & (ii) The player's result in the competition should be recorded as "Withdrawn".</u></p> | <p><u>(i) Not used for handicapping.</u></p> <p><u>(ii) If the player's incomplete score is identified, the Committee may choose to extend the player's score to an 18-hole score in accordance with the stipulated process contained within this handicapping system. If the Committee creates an 18-hole score, that score is used for handicapping. (If the Committee does not, or can not, create an 18-hole score, the card is not used for handicapping.)</u></p> |
| <p><u>12. When not approved by the committee in charge of the competition:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Withdrawal after player commences round, or;</u> ◆ <u>Card not returned.</u> <p><u>(i) Player has completed less than 9 holes.</u></p> <p><u>(ii) Player has completed 9 holes or more.</u></p> | <p><u>Disqualified from the competition.</u></p> | <p><u>(i) Add 0.1 to player's exact handicap.</u></p> <p><u>(ii) If the player's incomplete score is identified, the Committee may extend the player's score to an 18-hole score in accordance with the stipulated process contained within this handicapping system. If the Committee creates an 18-hole score, that score is used for handicapping. (If the Committee does not, or can not, create an 18-hole score, add 0.1 to player's exact handicap.)</u></p> |