



**CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
MEETING – MONDAY 24 AUGUST 2009
VIA PHONE**

SUMMARY

Present: David Cherry, (Chair and GA), Ian Read (GA), Alison Holden (GA), Don Cameron (Golf TAS), Sue Fabian (WGNWS), Brian Lasky (VGA), Jan Plaisted (WGWA), and Tony Rollins (Golf Qld)

Apology: Gordon Scott (Golf SA) & Trevor Herden (GA)

In attendance: Peter Knight (GA) & Therese Ritter (GA)

The meeting summary of 20 February 2009 was approved.

1. BUSINESS ARISING:

1.1 Australian School Teams Championship – 2009 Championship & 2010 Championship:

Therese Ritter summarised the 2009 Championship and advised the National Final itself was very successful however the number of competing teams had decreased substantially to 130. GA did not pay for Team Managers to attend, and as a result only SA, WA and Vic sent a Manager to the National Final.

After further discussion with the GA Game Development Committee at its recent meeting, the importance of the continuation of the event was reinforced, and a Net Event was seen as the most viable option to ensure the maximum number of teams compete. The GA Commercial area also indicated it was a worthwhile event to retain given its appeal to sponsors.

The Committee was asked to consider having the GA Development area manage the event, and for Alison Holden, Frances Crampton, and Therese Ritter to compile and distribute a revised format to the Game Development Committee. The Championships Committee agreed to this proposal and were asked that if they had any suggestions regarding the direction/promotion of the event to forward these to GA.

1.2 Altering Dates of the Australian Amateur Championship and Ranking Events to be Played Adjacently:

The dates of the 2010 Australian Ranking Events were tabled. It was noted that the calendar was considerably full, and it would be difficult to move any events.

The main inquiry was the possibility to move the Australian Amateur Championship to be played directly after the Men's Riversdale Cup. It was noted that the Men's NZ Open can on occasions be played at that time which may not be ideal, however Brian Lasky advised the 2010 NZ Open would be held in January. Hence, if this is the date moving forward, there remains the possibility of playing the Australian Amateur directly after the Men's Riversdale Cup.

It was determined in the meantime however, that when the Australian Amateur is held in Victoria, it would be sensible to schedule the Amateur directly after the Men's Riversdale Cup for that year at least.

1.3 Australian Men's and Women's Mid Amateur Championships:

It was confirmed that The National Golf Club will host the 2010 Australian Men's and Women's Mid Amateur Championships from 9-11 November. There will then be the option to hold the event there for a further two years.

1.4 2010 and 2011 National Calendars:

The 2010 National Calendar was tabled, as well as an update on confirmed courses for 2011. The Committee's views were sought regarding playing the 2011 Australian Interstate Teams Matches, and the Junior Championships in Regional areas in WA and NSW respectively. The Committee agreed this would be very well received.

1.4 Australian Amateur Ranking Systems – Review of Conditions:

The Committee accepted the following amendments to the conditions of the Australian Amateur Ranking Systems:

Amendment 1:

The following condition is to be included in all Ranking Systems:

- a) *With the exception of Australian/State/Territory Amateur Championships, for an event to retain Ranking Status and/or its current weighting for the following year, it should meet the following criteria (unless exceptional circumstances apply):*
- *The field for events weighted four (4) or more must include at least 10 players in the top 20*
 - *The field for events weighted under four (4) must have at least 15 players in the top 100*
- b) *Additionally, the event must:*
- *Be scheduled to be played over at least 54 holes for Open Age Events; and be played over at least 36 holes for Junior and Senior Events (with the exception of the Women's Senior Secondary Events)*
 - *Must not discriminate against categories of players who are eligible for the relevant Australian Ranking System (ie a senior event must be open to players aged 55 years and over)*
 - *Where it is a Nominated Event in the Open Rankings, meet the guidelines in respect to the payment of expenses for the Nominated Players. Should these guidelines not be met, the event may lose its Nominated Event status.*
- c) *An event will be granted Australian Amateur Ranking Status at the discretion of the GA Championships Committee, but must meet the criteria listed in b).*
- d) *It is GA's intent that a competition with Ranking Event status be open to a significant number of players who are eligible to accrue ranking points. Nonetheless, GA recognises that this desire is sometimes compromised by the benefits of recognising performance in Open events. GA will continue to monitor the Ranking Event status of various competitions with this in mind.*

Amendment 2:

Increase the minimum divisor as follows:

- Women's Open Age – increase from 7 events to 9 events
- Men's Open Age – increase from 9 events to 10 events
- Boys' – increase from 5 events to 6 events
- Men's Senior – increase from 8 events to 9 events

Amendment 3:

Change the weightings of the following events:

- Boys':
 - SA Masters: increase from 2 to 3
 - Tamar Valley Cup: increase from 2 to 3
 - Graham Marsh Junior: increase from 2 to 3
 - Victorian Junior: increase from 2 to 3
 - Aaron Baddeley Australian Final: decrease from 5 to 4
- Women's Open Age: - South Pacific Open Amateur: decrease from 3 to 2

Amendment 4

The following condition is to be included in the Junior (and Senior) Ranking Systems:

Where a Ranking Event is open to players 18 years and over (under 55 years), the event must recognise the leading under 18 player (over 55 years player). This may be by way of the awarding of a trophy or announcing the under 18 (over 55) winner. Any players who contest the event who are 18 years or over (under 55 years) will NOT accrue points from that event. In determining positions for Ranking purposes, only players who are under 18 years (over 55 years) of age will be considered.

1.6 Gender Policy:

The following draft policy was tabled consistent with the IOC Guidelines:

"This Policy is the Gender Policy with respect to all GA National Championships. It sets out the circumstances in which transgender players may participate in events conducted by GA.

Individuals undergoing sex reassignment of male to female before puberty are regarded as girls and women (female). This applies as well for female to male reassignment, who are regarded as boys and men (male). Any individuals undergoing sex reassignment from male to female after puberty (and the converse) are eligible for participation in female or male competitions, respectively, under the following conditions:

- *surgical anatomical changes have been completed, including external genitalia changes and gonadectomy*
- *legal recognition of their assigned sex has been conferred by the appropriate official authorities*
- *hormonal therapy appropriate for the assigned sex has been administered in a verifiable manner and for a sufficient length of time to minimise gender-related advantages in sport competitions.*

Eligibility begins no sooner than two years after gonadectomy.

It is understood that a confidential case-by-case evaluation will occur. If the gender of a competing athlete is questioned, the medical delegate of GA shall have the authority to take all appropriate measures for the determination of the gender of a competitor as set out in the Clauses below.”

It was reiterated that this Policy relates to GA National Championships only, and will fall within the GA Member Protection Policy (currently being reviewed). The Committee was concerned that there are potentially different laws in each State with respect to gender, and queried which laws apply to GA (eg when hosting an event in WA, does WA Law or Victorian Law apply).

The Committee accepted the Policy in principle, however prior to approval, these matters and the Policy in general will be verified by GA lawyers.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

2.1 Australian Sand Greens Championship:

Elmore Golf Club in Victoria requested Golf Australia consider reinstating the Australian Sand Greens Championship. The Committee agreed this event is not one which attracted elite golfers, and it should remain for the States to conduct their own State Sand Greens Championships.

2.2 Use of Motorised Transport in GA National Championships:

A revised condition (below) regarding the use of Motorised Transport was tabled:

Players must not ride in any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorised by the Golf Australia Championship Play Committee. Penalty: Stroke Play – 2 strokes for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – 4 strokes. Match Play – At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match will be adjusted by deducting 1 hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round – 2 holes.

Any player or caddie seeking authorisation to use a golf cart due to a disability as defined under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 should contact Golf Australia to obtain information on procedures for submitting such requests. All such requests and required information must be submitted to Golf Australia simultaneously and together with the entry form (or within 2 days of the on-line entry being receipted). Requests due to temporary injuries or impairments that do not qualify as a permanent disability under the Act will not be granted. In the event of a change in a medical condition after submitting the entry form but before the commencement of the event, written submission of all documentation must be received by Golf Australia no later than 7 days prior to the first day of the event. GA will consider any such request in accordance with these conditions and its rules, regulations and policies.

The Committee agreed to adopt the proposal in the following events only:

- Australian Opens
- Australian Amateur Championships
- Boys' and Girls' Amateur Championships
- Interstate Teams Matches (open age, colts and juniors)
- Australian Foursomes Championships

2.3 Player Behaviour and Code of Conduct:

The Chairman expressed his concern about the increasing deterioration of player behaviour at National Championships. Various principles and GA's current Code of Conduct were discussed and it was determined:

- GA and State Associations stringently apply their respective Codes of Conduct

- States Associations may adopt the use of the GA Code of Conduct
- A national register of player breaches in all Ranking Events be implemented
- GA to make some minor amendments to its Code to ensure it is not onerous to apply

It was also agreed that the GA and State Association's Code of Conducts should apply to parents and caddies, and any breaches by parents or caddies are a breach by the player.

2.4 Australian Amateur Championship – Three Year Permanent Venue:

The Committee was asked by the Board to consider staging the Australian Amateur Championship in the same venue for a three year period (commencing in Melbourne for 2011-2013) for the following reasons:

- A State or Club (should the event be played at the same club for the three year period) may take/feel "ownership" of the Championship and hence embrace it further – this appears to work well for events such as the Riversdale Cups and the Lake Macquarie Amateurs where the same personnel are available year after year as officials, volunteers, etc.
- Government funding is more often successfully granted for events which are not played as one-off events.

The Committee was strongly in favour of retaining the yearly rota system, and advised their clubs look forward to hosting the event. It was agreed to retain the status quo.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Distance Measuring Devices:

Tony Rollins inquired the possibility of permitting the use of distance measuring devices in National Championships. The Committee Members confirmed that many states already permit their use at State Events. The general feeling was that their use is inevitable and this would be continually reviewed.

Australian Girls' Interstate Teams Matches:

Don Cameron inquired about the possibility of having a combined Tas/NT Team for the 2010 Australian Girls' Interstate Teams Matches due to a current lack of players in Tasmania. Golf Tasmania was asked to submit a request for the Board of GA to consider.

4. 2010 CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE:

The Chairman thanked the Committee members for their contributions in 2009, and advised that States would be asked to nominate their representatives for the 2010 Committee prior to the end of the year.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held in February or March 2010.

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ACTION SHEET

| Item | Action | Responsibility |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Australian School Teams Championship Meet with Game Development to consider a revised format | Alison Holden & Therese Ritter |
| 2. | 2011 Calendars Invite clubs to host Interstate Teams Matches & Junior Championships | Therese Ritter |
| 3. | Australian Amateur Ranking Systems Make appropriate amendments to the conditions and distribute to States | Therese Ritter |
| 4. | Gender Policy Seek clarification from GA Lawyers prior to approving Policy | Therese Ritter |
| 5. | Australian Sand Greens Championship Advise Elmore Golf Club of the Committee's decision | Therese Ritter |
| 6. | Motorised Transport Condition Make appropriate changes to entry forms | Therese Ritter |
| 7. | Player Behaviour and Code of Conduct Advise States of the determinations and re-work the GA Code of Conduct | Therese Ritter |