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Memo

To: Member States, Clubs
c.c.: GA Board, GA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee, Golf Link, Tier 3 Providers
From: Simon Magdulski
Date: 29 January 2010
Subject: Launch Date & Details re First Package of Handicapping Changes

Dear All,

As has been widely advised in various communications from GA and State Associations, Australia's men's and women's handicapping systems are set for substantial changes over the next couple of years. These changes will not occur all in one hit, instead they will be bundled into several Packages and introduced incrementally.

Further to my December 2009 correspondence to clubs (which can be accessed from the following webpage – www.golfaustralia.org.au/newsandcommunication), **we can now confirm the First Package of Changes will come into effect at 9.00am (AEST) on FRIDAY 9 APRIL 2010.**

The Second Package of Changes (which is listed to include the regulation requiring all scores to be converted to Stableford scores for handicapping purposes) has been tentatively scheduled for implementation in the latter part of 2010.

The Slope component of the USGA Handicap System can not be implemented until all Australian courses have been rated under the USGA Course Rating System (this is because Slope requires the assessment of a Bogey Rating). Slope will be implemented as a part of the Final Package of Changes.

Further details relating to the Second and further Packages will be announced in due course.

The First Package of Changes to Men's AND Women's handicapping regulations incorporates the following only:

- A. Calculation of Handicap – Commence Operation of the USGA's 'Rolling Sample' Method.
- B. Remove CCR for Men's Handicapping (CCR was Removed from Women's Handicapping in 2007).

Note i: Golf Link clubs do not need to do anything to instigate the process of recalculating all handicaps in accordance with the new regulations. Golf Link will do everything for you. All Australian Handicaps stored on Golf Link will automatically be re-calculated in accordance with the new regulations and will be ready for use at 9.00am on 9 April 2010.

Note ii: Golf Link clubs do not need to do anything to prepare their computer systems for the First Package of Changes. All preparation will be performed by Golf Link.

Note iii: In preparation for the switch-over to the new method of calculating handicaps, Golf Link will be offline from 9.00am (AEST) on 7 April 2010 until 9.00am (AEST) on 9 April 2010.

Note iv: Non-Golf Link clubs will need to manually replicate all of the changed regulations being applied by Golf Link. There are now only 4% of Australian club golfers not on Golf Link. While it will be possible to maintain handicaps manually under the new regulations, GA feels the members of these clubs will clearly be best served by having their handicaps maintained by Golf Link.

Note v: Non-Golf Link clubs wishing to join Golf Link in the upcoming months should be aware they may experience a brief delay if they have not contacted Golf Link requesting to come online by Monday 15 March. This is due to anticipated extraordinary demand coupled with the scheduled heavy workload.

From the outset, GA has been determined to design the implementation strategy in such a way as to minimise cost and logistical challenges for all interested parties. With this in mind, the First Package of Changes to handicapping regulations will NOT require changes to any Tier 3 system. Additionally, the First Package of Changes has been designed to allow all Golf Link clubs (either Tier 1 or Tier 3) to continue to operate all of their computerised handicap operations exactly as they currently do. (Note: This includes for example the processing of competitions and the creation of initial handicaps.)

Once the First Package of Changes becomes effective, you will see that Golf Link will calculate handicaps quite differently. There will also be some miscellaneous Golf Link handicapping functions that your Golf Link club administrator will use in an unchanged way, but that will initiate changed Golf Link computer processing. (This will include the way Golf Link will create a new handicap, and the way Golf Link will treat an NCR.) All of this is because the changed handicapping system has required us to find different ways for Golf Link's operating functions to properly apply the rules. However, we reiterate that club handicap administrators should continue to follow their existing procedures.

Accompanying this memo are appendices which set out the changed regulations that comprise the First Package of Changes. The appendices also explain the miscellaneous Golf Link handicapping functions that your Golf Link club administrator will use in an unchanged way, but that will initiate changed Golf Link computer processing.

The appendices are as follows:

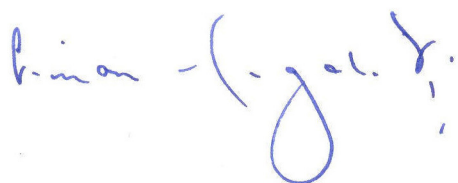
- Appendix 1 – Details of the New Method for Calculating an Australian Handicap
- Appendix 2 – Details of the Removal of CCR
- Appendix 3 – Miscellaneous Actions

In relation to GA's strategy beyond the First Package of Changes, Tier 3 clubs should be aware that the phased implementation in Australia of the USGA Handicap System is being designed with a view to incorporating no more than two separate Packages of software adjustments to Tier 3 computerised club handicap management systems. In short, we have identified the limitation of Packages of Tier 3 adjustments as a critical goal. The value of this will be self-evident to Tier 3 clubs.

We hope this information is of assistance. Additionally, please be aware we will be sending out reminders in the lead-up to 9 April. We will also be distributing further assistance in response to feedback.

Please contact GA or your State Association should you have any queries regarding any of the above.

Kind regards,



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