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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: Friday 25 June
Subject: Handicapping Update & Upcoming Announcements

Dear All,

This is to provide an update on developments regarding the implementation of the remainder of the USGA Handicap System, as well as advance notice of the following upcoming handicapping announcements:

- **Thursday 15 July 2010** – Release of statistics comparing handicap distribution prior to 9 April 2010 (ie under the previous handicap calculation method) with handicap distribution after 9 April (ie under the new handicap calculation method).
- **Thursday 19 August 2010** – **Announcement of contents of Second Package of Changes to the Australian Men's & Women's Handicap System.**
- **Thursday 26 August 2010** – Announcement of enhanced processes for addressing the issue of players who regularly fail to return score cards. (Note: This will follow full consideration of feedback from State Associations and Clubs further to the invitation contained in the GA handicapping memo distributed on 23 April 2010, including any late submissions or correspondence. The enhanced processes will also take account of further analysis of the problem and consultation with the USGA.)

Second Package of Changes to the Australian Men's & Women's Handicap System

Whilst the contents of the Second Package of Changes to the Australian Men's & Women's Handicap System will be announced on 19 August, we can confirm that it will include a requirement for all affiliated clubs to have a handicap committee. A club's handicap committee will be charged with ensuring compliance with the handicap system in operation in Australia.

It should be remembered that GOLF *Link* is a tool that calculates handicaps purely on the basis of the scores entered into it. If the scores entered are inaccurate or incomplete, GOLF *Link* will calculate inaccurate handicaps. It will be the responsibility of the club handicap committee to ensure each member's handicap is fair and is calculated from accurate and complete information.

Continued Development of the Implementation Strategy for the Remainder of the USGA Handicap System

For some time GA has been determined that the strategy ultimately settled upon to roll-out the remainder of the USGA Handicap System will take account of the following objectives:

- It must produce an outcome that (as much as practicable) will minimise cost and logistical challenges for all interested parties – particularly clubs, but also GA, GOLF *Link*, and Tier 3 providers.
- It must take account of the experience of the roll-out of the First Package of Changes, and the post-implementation review conducted to consider the strategy employed to achieve this roll-out.

- It must look to achieve long-term efficient administration of services related to handicap provision in Australia. Further to this, it must not be unnecessarily constrained by any short-term considerations that are likely to ultimately prove detrimental to interested parties – particularly clubs, but also GA, GOLF *Link*, and Tier 3 providers.

With a view to achieving these objectives, GA and GOLF *Link* have been mindful that a phase of close consultation with Tier 3 providers would likely prove particularly beneficial to all interested parties. We have though been keen for these discussions to take place at a point at which the project would be far enough advanced such that the process would be effective in moving things forward, and not prove to be an exercise that takes the time of many people without yielding any practical benefit. As we are now on the 'other side' of the First Package of Changes, these discussions have been commenced. (Note: The First Package of Changes was structured so as to avoid any amendment to the way in which Tier 3 systems communicate with GOLF *Link*.)

The announcement of the timeline for the implementation of all changes not included in either the First Package or Second Package will follow the consultation period with the Tier 3 providers.

Note Regarding the Implementation of the 'Stableford Scoring Regulation'

The new 'Stableford scoring regulation' will ultimately be a component of the new system, however it is unlikely to be introduced before the end of 2010. Having it be introduced at a time that minimises cost and logistical challenges for all interested parties is likely to result in it being delayed beyond what was initially anticipated. Once a final date has been determined for its introduction, we will provide plenty of advance notice to clubs. (Clubs should be mindful that the introduction of the Stableford regulation will have NO impact on the way Par competitions are conducted, NOR will it have any impact on the way players will be required to complete score cards for Par competitions.)

Version of Australian Men's & Women's Handicap System Which is Currently in Effect

The current version of the Australian Men's & Women's Handicap System is posted on the following page of the GA website -
<http://admin.golfaustralia.org.au/site/content/document/00007884-source.pdf>.

We hope this helps but please contact me if you have any queries.

Kind regards,

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