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Memo

To: State Associations & Clubs
c.c.: GA Board, GA Handicap Committee, GOLF *Link*, Tier 3 Providers
From: Anne Lenagan (Chairman – Golf Australia)
Date: 22 September 2010
Subject: Handicapping Update & Announcement re Handicapping Information Sessions

Dear All,

I am writing to you regarding the new Australian Handicap System which is currently being implemented.

We have received a significant amount of feedback from Australian golfers and golf clubs about the new system. In respect to the First Package of Changes that was introduced in April (which was principally the best 10 of 20 concept) the feedback has been, by and large, very positive. Generally, the response we have had is that the new system provides a better correlation to a player's current playing ability.

Last month we released the Second Package of Changes and to this point the feedback from some clubs has been less enthusiastic. With regard to this it is important to note that a lead in period of 4 months has been allowed. This is intended to give clubs the opportunity to engage in the important task of educating their players about the system. The better that players understand their role in matters such as how to mark a four-ball card, the less work will be involved for club administrators.

Golf Australia appreciates receiving feedback from clubs and golfers and we are certainly considering all comments received though in some cases the feedback appears to be based on incorrect assumptions, which we intend to address by providing further information.

There are two courses of action that Golf Australia is undertaking:

First, we will work through the feedback with clubs, address issues around implementation and answer queries. We will keep you updated in relation to implementation.

Second, we will be holding information sessions in each state in Australia commencing in October to provide additional information, address any lingering misconceptions about the new system, and to allow clubs a means to discuss their thoughts directly with officials who serve on our handicap policy making bodies. Golf Australia will be in contact shortly to work through the scheduling of these presentations.

It is important to note that Golf Australia has undertaken the change in the Handicap System for the following key reasons:

- To provide a system that may be administered and applied uniformly and efficiently throughout Australia.
- To encourage participation in social and competitive golf amongst males and females of all ages, and foster golf as a game for life.
- To enable as many golfers as possible (males and females, amateurs and professionals, club members and non club members) throughout Australia to obtain and maintain a fair handicap.
- To make the game of golf more inclusive and enjoyable by enabling golfers of all abilities to compete against each other on as equitable a basis as possible.
- To produce fair handicaps which reflect golfers' ability based on better performances and which may be applied validly and reliably from course to course and from different sets of tees on the same course.

Golf Australia encourages clubs and states to take the time to put their thoughts to us.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Lenagan
Chairman – Golf Australia