

Handicap System Survey

This survey is the next step in GA's handicapping consultation program with clubs and Member Associations. It follows on from the March 2011 handicapping focus group and forum exercise.

The experience of the focus group and forum sessions underlined the diverse range of views that exist in a couple of areas. As a result, GA is now giving all clubs and Member Associations the opportunity to provide input into these key areas of the handicap system via the following 10 question survey.

Please be aware that GA is not looking to hold a vote on these items. We are however aware that there exists a great diversity of Australian clubs, club environments, and competition and administrative challenges and we are therefore keen to ensure significant factors are not overlooked in our decision making process.

Information received from this survey will be referenced by GA as we work through the design of the new Australian Handicap System.

We thank you for taking the time to work with us in this process.

(Please note that a number of officials within each club will be aware of access details for this survey. We ask that your club's response be provided by one designated person only.)

Please click the Next button below to start the survey.

1. Where is your club located?

In the capital city of my State/Territory.

In a country/regional area of my State/Territory

2. How big is your playing membership base (men and women combined)?

3. How many competition rounds are played at your club each year?

4. In your club's opinion, how many cards should a new player have to return before they can be allocated an official Australian Handicap?

3 x 9-hole cards. We should be getting people into the game as quickly as we can.

3 x 18-hole cards. Anything less than 18 holes is not enough to determine a reasonably accurate handicap.

5 x 18-hole cards, but with a Club Handicap issued after 3 rounds. (Note: By 'Club Handicap' we mean a handicap that's not an official Australian Handicap, but is still eligible wherever a committee wants to allow its use.)

5 x 18-hole cards, and no Club Handicaps.

It should be at a club's discretion based on its assessment of the person

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5. GA has ruled out handicapping ALL non-competition rounds. However, GA is looking at handicapping SOME non-competition rounds. What is your club's opinion of the following statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree
All clubs should be required to allow players to return non-competition cards if the player wants.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
As all clubs have different cultures and member expectations, it should be up to each club to determine whether or not they want to allow their members to return non-competition cards for handicapping.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
A player should be able to decide whether or not to submit a score for handicapping after having played the round.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

6. Golf is played in many varying conditions. Do you think a handicap system should allow the course rating to vary to account for changes in conditions from day-to-day or from morning-to-afternoon?

jn Yes, we need to have a system that adjusts the course rating to reflect the changes in daily conditions.

jn No, that's golf. It all averages out in the long run. The rating should not change as a result of daily conditions.

7. With regard to changing conditions, the old handicap system had Calculated Course Rating (CCR). CCR allowed the course rating to vary from day-to-day or from morning-to-afternoon, depending on the playing conditions encountered (eg. wind, rain, heat, green firmness and speed, hole placements etc.) The new handicap system does not have CCR. What is your club's view of CCR?

jn CCR was very relevant to us. GA should reintroduce it as it was.

jn My Club liked the principle of the old CCR system and thinks daily rating is important. However GA needs to develop a better methodology than the old CCR.

jn We think we should be able to make our own individual assessment of daily conditions, and alter the course rating accordingly (aided by GA guidelines).

jn CCR didn't really impact us. We are not concerned if the new rating system stays the same from day-to-day or has built in allowances.

jn We don't think any allowances at all for a daily course rating should be made.

8. Are there different views held towards daily course ratings by Men and Women at your club?

jn Yes, only the Male Members want a rating that changes from day-to-day or from morning-to-afternoon.

jn Yes, only the Female Members want a rating that changes from day-to-day or from morning-to-afternoon.

jn No, both Men and Women hold essentially the same view.

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9. Expert statistical analysis indicates that unless the Australian Handicap System is made very complex, it will never be fully 'fair' across all clubs. What is your club's view of what GA should be seeking to achieve?

The Australian Handicap System should be as complex as it needs to be in order to achieve 'fairness'.

We need a balance between 'fairness' and being able to have a system that is easy to administer and understand.

The prime consideration is to have a system that is easy to administer and understand.

10. Should we wish to contact you regarding your responses please provide your contact details below.

Name:

Position at Club:

Name of Club:

Email Address:

State/Territory: