

Memo

To: Member Associations & Clubs
From: Simon Magdulski
Date: 29 April 2011
Subject: Handicapping Update & Upcoming Announcements

Dear All,

I am writing to you to provide an update on developments with the Australian Handicap System. There are two key items I would like you to be aware of.

1. Golf Australia will be making an announcement prior to the end of May that will outline the Implementation Plan for the new Australian Handicap System. It will list the components of the new system and when they will be implemented. As per the point below re the survey, we are still to make final decisions on daily course rating and the regulations surrounding the use of non-competition cards and information received from the survey will be used in this process. The Implementation Plan will include advice on when decisions regarding these two items will be finalised and, if applicable, when they will be implemented.

Although I don't wish to pre-empt the announcement in May, I do want to give an assurance on three key points on which we have received consistent feedback:

- Firstly, an adjustment to the 10 of 20 calculation method will be addressed as a matter of priority and will be implemented within the next few months.
- Secondly, the Slope Indexing System will be included in the Australian Handicap System.
- Thirdly, the regulation which requires the conversion of Stroke rounds into Stableford scores for the purposes of entry into a player's handicap record will be included.

2. SURVEY . [Note: A number of officials within each club will have access details for the survey. We ask that your club's response be provided by the designated person.] GA's consultation program with clubs and Member Associations is continuing. As promised GA is giving all clubs and Member Associations the opportunity to provide input into some key areas of the handicapping system via a survey. Please note the survey will focus primarily on two key areas requiring resolution, namely daily course rating and handicapping of non-competition rounds. The survey will be conducted on-line, closing at midnight on 11 June 2011. You can access the survey by typing www.surveymonkey.com/s/GAhandicapsurvey into your browser.

For your information, I have also included below at Appendix 1 an outline of the statistical analysis we have conducted over the past few months in relation to competition patterns and handicap trends. At Appendix 2 is information on the USGA visit that occurred in March and the focus groups and forums that were conducted in conjunction with this.

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

Kind regards,



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Appendix #1

Statistical Analysis

GA recently commissioned a statistical analysis of handicap and competition trends under both the ~~Old~~ Handicap System and the ~~New~~ Handicap System.

The key findings of the statistical analysis are:

- The scores required to win competitions, or to win prizes (eg balls) in competitions, vary depending on the field size.
- Under the New System, the low marker finds it harder to compete as the field size increases. Under the New System, the field size value at which a low marker is disadvantaged is about 50 for men, and 100 for women. Low markers do still compete and are winning competitions in very high field sizes, but as the field size increases the bias becomes more and more unfavourable for the low markers and favourable for the high markers.
- Under the New System the most frequent winning score for field sizes of between 6 and 10 is 37 points. As the field size increases this steadily rises to 43 points.
- Under the Old System, there was a significant advantage to the low markers, which actually grew with field size.
- Under the Old System, the high markers were disadvantaged so they won far fewer competitions than their representation in the field. Many of them were chronically playing at handicap levels far in excess of their playing handicaps. Essentially this was due to the uneven way that differentials were applied. Handicaps for high markers only ~~was~~ eased out by 0.1 stroke for a poor round, no matter how poor, but they were tightened far more quickly if the player had the occasional good round.
- Has there been any ~~settling down~~ in the period since the New System was introduced on 9 April 2010? No, there is no significant variation between the month-on-month distribution of handicaps in the months following the introduction of the New System.

The Report (and an Executive Summary of the Report) are available from the GA website (go to “*Rules & Handicapping*”, then “*Handicapping & Course Rating*”, then “*News & Communications*”).

Appendix #2

USGA Visit and Handicapping Focus Groups & Forums – March 2011

In March 2011, GA convened a series of handicapping focus groups and forums for clubs, and representative associations. These sessions were attended by senior officials from GA, the USGA, clubs, Member Associations, and District Associations.

In the vast majority of individual cases, attendees were very positive about the various focus group sessions.

After hearing the various commentary from Australian club officials, the USGA has committed to assisting GA wherever desired with a view to developing the best handicap system for the Australian culture.

A summary of the sessions is currently available on the GA website (go to “*Rules & Handicapping*”, then “*Handicapping & Course Rating*”, then “*News & Communications*”).