



GolfAustralia



Elite Competition Administration Manual

Referee, Play &
Course Management Procedures

www.golfaustralia.org.au

June 2011

Introduction

This manual has been developed by Golf Australia in consultation with The R&A and the PGA Tour of Australasia.

It contains information which should prove invaluable to Committees with respect to elite competitions.

It is intended as a practical guide and includes recommendations on all aspects of running a competition.

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Section 1: Conditions of Play, Hard Card and Local Rules

Conditions of Play

NOTE: Once a competition has started, the conditions should be altered only in very exceptional circumstances. (Refer to Decision 33-1/1.)

- a) The Conditions of Play should be published at the time of entry. These should include:
 - i. Eligibility (age, handicap limit, gender, etc)
 - ii. Format
 - iii. Exemption Categories (if applicable)
 - iv. Rules Governing Play (Driving Clubs, Time of Starting, Conforming Golf Balls, One-Ball Condition)
 - v. Caddies (if there are restrictions)
 - vi. Motorised Transport
 - vii. Decision of Ties
 - viii. Pace of Play
 - ix. Practice
 - x. Prizes
 - xi. Registration
 - xii. Anti-Doping
- b) It is the responsibility of the Committee to interpret the conditions it has established, and therefore the conditions should be clear and carry precise guidance as to what action should be taken when certain circumstances arise (eg Disqualification).

See Appendix A for the Conditions of Play for the 2010 Australian Amateur Championship and the 2010 Men's Australian Open.

Hard Card

- a) A Hard Card is designed to provide consistency for players from one event to the next. All major professional worldwide tours employ consistent local rules and conditions of play on their respective hard cards.
- b) If possible, players should be given the Hard Card well enough in advance of the commencement of their round (eg at registration) to allow sufficient time to clarify any specific conditions or rules.

Local Rules

NOTE: Local Rules may not be introduced or altered after a stroke play round has started. In match play rounds, Local Rules should only be altered in exceptional circumstances. All competitors in a given round must play under uniform Rules. However, it is permissible to alter the Local Rules for different rounds in an event consisting of more than one round, although this should be avoided if at all possible.



- a) The Local Rules and/or Supplementary Local Rules are distributed on the starting tee and it is the last time the Championship Committee has the opportunity to communicate anything to the players. They are crucial and must be carefully written.
- b) Take care when writing the Local Rules to avoid any misinterpretation (eg if an additional option for relief from a water hazard is in effect via a dropping zone, advise where the dropping zone is located: *“During play of the 7th hole, if a ball is in the lateral water hazard to the rear-left of the 7th green, or if it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in this hazard, the player may as an additional option to those provided in Rule 26, drop a ball within the dropping zone located at the back-left of the green under penalty of one stroke.”*)
- c) Ensure there are no markings, eg GUR, dropping zones, etc that have been used previously by the club that are not in play for the competition (green paint may be required to paint over any redundant white lines for example).
- d) Out of Bounds must be clearly defined. Other points to note regarding Out of Bounds are:
 - i. The distance between boundary stakes may vary, but it is crucial that it is possible to sight one stake from the next and that stakes are not that far apart such that easily establishing the exact boundary becomes difficult. Stakes should not be obscured by bushes, trees or the like if at all possible.
 - ii. As a precaution, in major events it is recommended that a white circle is painted around the base of each movable stake so that if the stake is removed without authority, its exact location is known. The stake defines the out of bounds, not the paint.
 - iii. Out of bounds may be defined by a line on the ground which should be white. (The line itself is out of bounds.)
 - iv. If out of bounds is defined by a wall, clarify in the Local Rules whether the inside face of the wall defines the boundary or, alternatively, whether a ball is only out of bounds if it is beyond the wall. The latter is recommended.
 - v. It is possible for the boundary line to be defined by a trench, with a ball being out of bounds if it is in or beyond the trench. If stakes are used to draw players' attention to a boundary trench, rather than define the boundary itself, they should be painted white with black tops. As such stakes do not define the boundary they will be movable obstructions. This point should be clarified in the Local Rules.
 - vi. At times there may be a public road defined as out of bounds which divides a course. Decision 27/20 advises that if a ball crosses the road and comes to rest on the part of the course on the other side of the road, that the ball is in bounds unless a Local



Rule provides otherwise. However, because it is unfair that a ball on the road is out of bounds and a ball beyond it is in bounds, it is recommended that a Local Rule be adopted declaring a ball that is on or over the other side of the road is out of bounds.

- e) Points to note re Water Hazards are:
- i. It is strongly recommended that each water hazard be defined as either a normal water hazard or a lateral water hazard. The distinguishing factor is that if a player's ball last crosses the margin of a normal water hazard it will be possible for the player to take relief by dropping a ball behind the hazard keeping the point at which the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped. If the water hazard is so situated such that this is not possible, or if this is deemed by the Committee to be impracticable, the water hazard should be defined as a lateral water hazard.
 - ii. Stakes and lines used to define the margins of a normal water hazard must be yellow, and in the case of lateral water hazards, they must be red. In elite events, a line should be used in addition to stakes. When stakes and lines are used, the line defines the margin.
 - iii. Lines or stakes defining margins of a water hazard should be placed as nearly as possible along the natural limits of the hazard. Therefore, sloping banks will be included within the margins of the hazard. However, care should be taken in placing lines or stakes so that a player will have a reasonable stance after dropping from a water hazard. If the ground around a water hazard slopes towards the hazard, the hazard line should be placed in such a position that the player does not have to stand in water to play a ball which has been dropped and rolled back towards the hazard line.
 - iv. When only stakes are used for definition, the straight line from stake to stake determines the limit of the hazard (but see Decision 26/2). Therefore, it should be ensured that no area within the natural boundaries of the hazard is marked to lie outside this straight line.
 - v. If a body of water is part water hazard and part lateral water hazard, a yellow and a red stake should be placed side by side where the change in status takes place.
 - vi. It is recommended that stakes marking hazards be movable (and be considered by the Committee to be movable obstructions). Stakes should be placed outside any painted line. By placing stakes outside the hazard line the player will be permitted relief from a hole through the green if the stake is removed.
- f) Regarding Ground Under Repair, consideration should be given as to whether the condition would interfere with the proper playing of the game



(although note that even on the fairway the player is not entitled to a perfect lie). Normal wear and tear from general play is not normally considered. The following recommendations are listed to assist with this process:

- i. A tour of the entire course should be conducted initially to identify areas that may need to be marked to ensure uniformity. Only then should areas be marked, otherwise many areas of GUR may be marked at the first few holes when subsequently it is found that the course has many other similar areas.
 - ii. It is very strongly recommended that GUR be defined by white lines (however if the terrain is such that putting down a line is impossible or impracticable, small stakes painted a distinctive colour, such as blue or black, may be used (stakes which are white, yellow, or red, are not recommended)).
 - iii. When marking areas of GUR it is customary for it to be limited to those areas which are considered in play. As a general rule, GUR should be confined to bad areas in or adjacent to fairways and near putting greens. When moving into the semi-rough and rough, the area must provide a considerably worse lie than the player may otherwise get in that area in order for it to be marked as GUR, and it will need to get worse the further from the fairway it is (ruts and depressions which are near the fairway and could result in an unplayable lie should be marked GUR). In general, bare areas in the rough should not be marked as GUR – they are merely an irregularity of surface.
 - iv. On occasions it may be better to mark nothing, but have an explanation ready as to why something may or may not have been marked (eg Colin Montgomerie at the 2001 Volvo Masters – an area of wash out where the turf had been covered by soil washed from an adjacent slope was marked GUR, and an area near it that was a bit thin but was firm was not marked – there was a clear difference). Note: It is always permissible for a Referee to provide relief from an area of GUR if it is not marked, at the discretion of the Tournament Director – however this should be for abnormal damage, not normal wear. If relief has been given, the area should then be marked as GUR.
 - v. Avoid defining several small areas in close proximity to each other. It is usually better to encompass them into one larger area of GUR. However, consider such issues as a player taking relief from large areas and losing distance, contours of the relief area, dropping in rough, etc.
- g) Obstructions should be made clear. If a movable obstruction is deemed immovable, make this clear in the Local Rules (note: such a practice is not generally recommended).



- i. In elite events, if there are various grandstands around a particular hole spend time and thought on these areas as they may require dropping zones and painted lines to establish the exact limits of obstructions.
 - ii. If two or more obstructions are close together, it is recommended they be deemed one obstruction, and be tied together with a white line. This will avoid the player taking relief from one obstruction, only to then take relief from the second, and drop back into the first obstruction, etc.
 - ii. A common issue is when an artificially-surfaced path becomes a natural path (ie integral part of the course), but it is difficult to establish exactly where the transition takes place. In these instances the margins of the obstruction should be defined by stakes or lines. If margins are defined in this manner, the following Local Rule will need to be introduced: *“Immovable Obstructions – White lined areas adjoining an immovable obstruction are to be considered a part of the obstruction.”*
Additionally, if it is difficult to establish where the transition takes place, and there are too many areas on the course similar to this to mark, in fairness to the field, and in an attempt to avoid any player being penalised for an incorrect drop, consideration should be given to deeming all paths integral – particularly if paths are constructed of relatively fine gravel.
- h) Dropping Zones are common in major events.
- i. Dropping Zones should be outlined with paint and an appropriate sign should be placed, or the words “Dropping Zone” (or “DZ”) painted, in the area. Note: Signs can be very helpful for both players and officials who are unfamiliar with the precise location of all dropping zones.
 - ii. The area created should be large enough to allow for a reasonable lie after divots are taken.
 - iii. If dropping zones are in place around grandstands, etc, GA recommends they be provided as an additional relief option and not the required only relief option.
 - iv. Painted arrows can be very useful in determining which DZ a player should use if more than one has been provided. Their use and function should be listed in the Local Rules.
 - v. The Local Rules should include the provisions regarding the dropping and re-dropping of a ball in a DZ (as contained in Appendix I of the Rule book).
- i) The Local Rules should indicate where the Recording Area is located as sometimes this is some distance from the final green (especially when two-tee starting is in operation), or may be in an obscure area in the clubhouse. An example of why this is important is a situation which arose



with Ray Stewart in a Tournament in Cannes – he had not returned his card until 30 minutes after his fellow competitors had returned theirs. He had gone to change his shoes, which led to a discussion in the locker room and then he simply forgot that he hadn't returned his card. He realised that he had made a mistake but tried to say the Committee had erred by not stating where the recording area was. If the Recorders are located in a room or in a portable shed, it is recommended that the Recording Area be defined to include an additional adjacent area – particularly if the intention is for the caddie to wait with the bag for the player in a specific area (note: it is not preferable to have caddies waiting amongst spectators). This area may be lined with paint or delineated for example by some sort of fencing.

- j) Always ensure the penalty for a breach of a Local Rule is included on the Local Rules.

See Appendix B for the Local Rules for the 2010 Women's Australian Open.

Temporary Immovable Obstructions

See Section 12 dedicated to Temporary Immovable Obstructions.



Section 2: Entries (including Exemption Categories and Handicap Restrictions)

Entries

- a) Clear procedural guidelines describing how players are to enter must be established, and it should be stated what should happen if the correct procedure is not followed. It is normal for players to be required to complete an entry form (either hard copy or on-line) that must be submitted by a certain date. It is recommended that an entry fee be payable at the time of entry.
- b) A procedure should be established to confirm to a player that their entry has been received (eg a list on a website, confirmation e-mail, etc). It should be made clear that although an entry has been received, it may not guarantee inclusion into a starting field unless the player is exempt (ie there may be a handicap ballot).
- c) A clear and precise close of entries deadline must be stated (eg 5.00 pm on Friday 18 June 2011).
- d) It must be established if late entries are to be accepted, and whether a player should be 'penalised' for entering late (eg a late entry fee).
- e) If a competition has a capacity field size and more entries are received than can be accommodated, a procedure must be established for determination of the final field. Although it is permissible to use a "first-come first-served" policy, a ballot, eg by handicap or by Tour Category for Tour events, is the strongly recommended method. If handicaps are used, it must be determined whether exact handicaps (to one decimal place – which is the recommended method), or playing handicaps (whole numbers) will be used. It must also be decided whether to use the handicap at the time the entry is received, or the handicap at the time entries close. The former is recommended. (Note: Where a handicap system so provides, handicap indexes should be used when executing a handicap ballot.)

Exemption Categories

- a) Any exemption categories must be clearly stated and it is recommended they be listed on the entry form in sequential order.
- b) For example, clearly state whether the exemption category is for the 'leading 50 Players not otherwise exempt', or the 'leading 50 Players'. The Leading 50 players not otherwise exempt will 'slide' until 50 players are entered through that category, whereas the leading 50 players will cease at the 50th player irrespective of how many players have entered through that category (hence may result in there being only 18 players in that category entered).



- c) It must be determined how to manage the categories when a player falls within more than one category. For example, the first two exemption categories are as follows:
1. Leading 15, and anyone tying for 15th position, in the 2008 Women's Australian Open.
 2. The leading 55 players eligible under the 2008/2009 ALPG Tournament Exemption Categories who are not otherwise exempt.

If a player finished 5th in the 2008 Open, and is also the number 1 player under the ALPG Tournament Exemption Categories, she would not be included in the list of 55 who are not otherwise exempt players in 2 above. Additionally, the position she would have obtained under this category will slide to the next player on the general ALPG list who is not otherwise exempt.

Another circumstance in which particular care is needed when framing exemption categories occurs where there are multiple exemption clauses which include only those players who are 'not otherwise exempt' and that have achieved the standard specified by the relevant clause. An example of exemption clauses formulated to solve this concern are as follows (the Note is the key point):

E20. Leading 5 players, not otherwise exempt from the Final 2006 Australasian PGA Tour Order of Merit. (Note: E20 executed prior to E21.)

E21. Leading 5 players within the top 10 of the final 2007 Von Nida Tour Order of Merit who have entered but who are not otherwise exempt.

- d) Some categories will require a date at which the player must fall within that exemption (eg Leading 50 players from The R&A World Amateur Golf Rankings as at close of entries (or as at a specific date)).
- e) It should be determined whether it is appropriate to include a 'ceiling' for a particular category (eg Leading 50 players from The R&A World Amateur Golf Rankings as at close of entries (within the top 250)).
- f) The conditions must indicate whether an exempt player must meet the handicap criteria (eg may a past winner of the Australian Amateur Championship, whose current handicap does not meet the handicap limit, be permitted to play). It is usual that these players be exempted from any handicap requirements.

Handicap Restrictions

- a) Handicap restrictions must be established where applicable. When including a maximum handicap limit, this should be stated to one decimal point.
- b) In handicap stroke play competitions which extend over a period of time, it must be determined whether the handicap current at the beginning of the



- competition or at the beginning of each round shall apply. The latter is more usual. In 36-hole, 54-hole and 72-hole stroke play competitions, it is recommended that handicaps are not altered during the event. In a play-off, the handicap applicable to the last round (rather than the handicap at the time of the play-off) should apply and the conditions should state this.
- c) In handicap match play competitions which extend over a period of time, it must be determined whether the handicap current at the beginning of the competition or at the beginning of each match will apply – the latter is more usual.



Section 3: Field Size, Formulation of Draws, and Determining Ties

Field Size

- a) The maximum field size for an elite event should be 156 (or 312 if two courses are used). Note: If not played in summer, be mindful of daylight hours.
- b) The *ideal* number of players in one block (ie morning block or afternoon block) should not exceed 78.
- c) For a single-round qualifying competition, the Committee may be faced with a field size which falls well below 156 but is too large to comfortably accommodate in a single two-tee block. As the competition comprises only one round, it can be desirable to have all players play at as similar a time as possible. This minimises the possibility of some players being significantly disadvantaged by being forced to play in materially harder conditions than other players (eg due to the wind becoming much stronger in the afternoon).

In such circumstances, as a single two-tee block is the ideal solution, the number of players in the block may be extended to 84.

If this option is adopted, players should be advised that they may encounter a short wait after 9 holes, and that this is due to the Committee endeavouring to ensure all competitors play in as similar conditions as possible.

NOTE: The Australian PGA uses the same principle when structuring the draw for multi-round Tour Schools. The consideration in such events to have all players encountering similar conditions is significant for obvious reasons.

Formulating a Draw

1. GENERAL – STROKE PLAY

Note: When formulating a draw it is important to be aware of precise times for sunrise and sunset. These can easily be accessed from the following webpage – <http://www.ga.gov.au/geodesy/astro/sunrise.jsp>.

- a) For rounds one and two, it is recommended that play be in groups of three (3) players.
- b) In stroke play, intervals should be set at 10 minutes (or at a minimum 9-minute intervals). However, if time permits, 11 minute intervals would be more ideal. Note: The starting hole should be considered when determining intervals – a par 3 starting hole may require larger intervals.
- c) When the handicap range for a competition is not large, the initial draw does not necessarily need to be seeded (however the “marquee” players



could be drawn together for spectator and media convenience, or with other logistical considerations in mind). If there is a larger handicap range, draws could be seeded, semi-seeded, or compiled with a low-marker, mid-range marker, and higher-marker paired together.

- d) The nature of the event may determine when a draw should be released. In Tour Events, it is usual not to release the draw until 24-36 hours prior to the commencement of the first round. In elite events, once a draw is released, it should not be changed. Holding the release of a draw until the 'last minute' will ensure that if a marquee player withdraws, an Alternate (Reserve Player) will not be placed in a marquee group.
- In elite amateur competitions where it is likely a draw will not alter substantially (eg an invitational amateur competition), a draw could be released 1-2 weeks prior.
- In an event where it is likely there may be considerable draw changes, a draw could be released 1-2 weeks prior, with six players placed on a 'reserve' list, so that if a player withdraws, one of these players would replace the withdrawn player. If these reserve players do not replace a withdrawn player, they are grouped at the end of the field.
- e) Where the starting tees are not the 1st tee and 10th tee (eg the starting tees may be the 1st tee and the 12th tee), the same number of players should be drawn off both tees – this will likely result in one tee commencing earlier than another. This ensures all players commence their first and second rounds from both tees.
- f) If a player withdraws or does not make their starting time, groups should remain unaltered - players are not moved up or down (unless there is a group with one player). This may result in a group of two in the middle of the field.
- g) Prior to the release of a draw, it is usual (even in Tour events) to endeavour to accommodate requests from players relating to the block in which they are drawn (eg they may wish to play early on the first day due to an afternoon business commitment; they will then play late on the second day). A player may also request to be drawn at a similar time to another player for travel reasons (in such a case the players would not actually be drawn in the same group; they may though be drawn at the same time but on different tees). Requests for late or early times should only be accommodated if they are supported by a legitimate reason. Once the draw has been released, legitimate requests should only be accommodated if they will also serve to assist the Committee (eg in managing amendments to the draw caused by withdrawals).
- h) It is permissible to structure a draw for the initial rounds of an event such that quick players are drawn early in a block and slow players are drawn late in a block. Such a practice is commonly used by Tours.
- i) For the first two rounds of a stroke play event, or the stroke play qualifying rounds for a competition to determine match play qualifiers, GA and the Australasian PGA Tour will generally adopt the following:



- For fields of 39 players or less – one-tee start
- For fields of 40 players or more – two-tee start

This is not to say that a two-tee start is necessarily the appropriate method for handling a field of 40 or more players. A one-tee-start can provide the following benefits or may be suitable for the following reasons:

- All players play the course in accordance with the proper configuration.
- If because of the field size there is not a significant time benefit in operating a two-tee start, significant differences in the difficulties of the two nines may make a one-tee start the better option. (Note: Getting off to a 'fast start' can set-up a player's round.)
- If the alternate starting hole is a par 3 or a shortish par 5, such a hole may prove problematic for the purposes of starting an elite field. This can be a particularly pertinent consideration if the field size will see there being little or no time benefit in operating a two-tee start.
- There may not be a suitably-positioned alternate starting hole and the operation of a shuttle may not be practicable.
- Accords with tradition. Organisers of events should be particularly mindful of event traditions when considering condition amendments.
- May be necessary due to limited course staff and the consequent inability to prepare both nines in time for a two-tee start.
- May be necessary in order to manage noise pollution concerns emanating from early-morning preparation of holes bordering housing.

Benefits of a two-tee start are as follows:

- Allows greater flexibility in the event of weather delays.
- If there is a large enough time gap built in between the morning and afternoon blocks, a two-tee start provides a strong capacity for clearing any bank-ups on holes between the morning and afternoon blocks. This can make pace of play more manageable.
- A full field (156 players) will spend less cumulative hours on-course under a two-tee start than a one-tee start. This is a significant consideration when the amount of daylight is a consideration.
- When a field can be fitted into a single AM or PM block, a two-tee start allows for the weather conditions experienced by each player to be as similar as possible.



NOTES WHEN OPERATING A ONE-TEE START FOR FIELDS OF 39 OR LESS

- i. The order of the groups should not be altered (ie the first group for round one remains the first group for round two).

NOTES WHEN OPERATING A ONE-TEE START FOR FIELDS OF 40 OR MORE

- i. Players should be drawn in the same group for both rounds one and two.
- ii. For the second round, the field is divided in half, with the bottom half of the field moving to the top, and the top half of the field from round one moving to the bottom (eg for a field comprising 40 groups – for round one groups play in numerical order; and for round two, group 21 tees off first through to group 40, followed by group 1 through to group 20).
- iii. Consider starter's gaps – add five minutes (for example) to the interval between every 5-10 groups. The number of starter's gaps may vary depending on the potential for hold-ups (eg caused by lost balls, etc).

NOTES WHEN OPERATING A TWO-TEE START

- i. Players should be drawn in the same group for both rounds one and two.
- ii. For the second round, the starting tees are alternated, and (if the field is large enough such that there is an AM and PM block) the blocks swapped (ie players who played their first round in the morning from the 1st tee play their second round in the afternoon from the 10th tee).
- iii. The order of the groups should not be altered (ie the first group in the morning for round one remains the first group in the afternoon for round two). If the field is not large enough to have an AM and PM block, the first group off the 1st tee in round one will be the first group off the 10th tee in round two.
- iv. If daylight and other logistical concerns allow, the time gap between the AM and PM blocks may be set to allow for approximately 30 minutes of empty space. This provides a 'pressure valve' in the event of a bank up occurring in the AM block.

2. AFTER A CUT

- a) In elite amateur competitions, groups of three are perfectly acceptable. In Tour Events that are being televised live, play after a cut will usually be in groups of two (if television times permit – the time of sunrise may dictate that groups of three will be required if a large number of players make the cut). (Note: The organisers of some major Tour events will schedule the final two rounds to be played in groups of three.)



- b) If there is an odd number of players, the competitor with the highest score may play as a single (it is recommended they be accompanied by a playing marker). However it is permissible for the Committee to leave the decision as to whether to play with a playing marker or a walking marker up to the player.
- c) Typically, the desired finishing time for the last group is the time around which the whole draw revolves.
- d) Once a cut is made, it is acceptable for the draw for rounds three and four to be either a one-tee start or two-tee start. In Tour Events, the draw will usually be with a one-tee start.
- e) Draws should be seeded, with the leading three (or two) players paired together, followed by players ranked 4, 5 and 6 in the next group, and so on – the best placed player in the group should be drawn to start last. The starting position of players on the same score should be determined by the “first-in-last-out” procedure described below.
- f) One-tee Start: The leading groups play last, with the worst scores in a group playing first.
- g) Two-tee Start: An inverted U draw is the most ideal. An inverted U draw sees the worst scores commencing from the 10th tee last, moving up to players with scores in the middle of the field playing from the 10th tee first; then moving to the 1st tee first, down to the leading scores commencing from the 1st tee last. This results in players on similar scores starting at a similar time.

Where there are ties for determining positions in a stroke play draw for subsequent rounds, it is recommended the player who returns their card first be deemed to have returned the better score (this procedure is commonly referred to as “first-in-last-out”). This is the practice of all elite golf organisations.

Note: As it can sometimes be difficult to track the time at which cards are returned, a card can be considered returned based on the time the player commenced their round. (For clarification, a player who commenced their round from the 1st tee is deemed to have returned their card before a player who commenced their round from the 10th tee, and the first player listed in the group is deemed to have returned their card before the player listed second in the group.) GA uses this procedure for amateur events.

- h) When there is a ‘cut’, players should be made aware of when starting times and groupings will be made available, where the relevant information will be posted and, if appropriate, the telephone number they should contact for information (and at what time the telephone will cease to be manned). It is recommended that those persons taking telephone calls check player enquiries received against the draw sheet as this will give an indication of which players may be unaware of their starting times. If players are travelling to play in the event it may be helpful to email or fax a draw sheet to the hotels where the players are staying and have this displayed in a prominent place. When reading out a player’s starting time



over the phone, the official should always say the player's name so as to ensure they have not misheard who it is that the time is required for.

3. PRE-QUALIFYING ROUND DRAWS

- a) For events that involve pre-qualifying (eg Australian Open, NSW Open, etc), and where more than one course is used, competitors should be divided as evenly as possible between the courses.
- b) The number of places available to make up the field of the Championship Proper should be distributed pro rata in accordance with competitor numbers between the courses. This number should not be calculated until all players at all courses have commenced their round (ie it should not be calculated based off the draw, as it is likely there will be players who do not turn up). For example, if there are 10 places available in a Championship field, and the following number of players commenced their round at the respective courses:
 - Course A: 50 players
 - Course B: 48 players
 - Course C: 53 players

For the Championship Proper, Course C (as it has the most players) is allocated positions 1, 4, 7, 10, and alternates (or reserves) 3 and 6; Course A is allocated positions 2, 5, 8 and alternates 1 and 4; while Course B (with the least number of players) is allocated positions 3, 6, 9 and alternates 2 and 5.

4. GENERAL – MATCH PLAY

- a) In singles match play, groups should be at 8-minute intervals (or at a minimum 7-minute intervals). Note: The starting hole should be considered when determining intervals – a par 3 starting hole may require larger intervals.
- b) If an event incorporates a main match play championship, as well as flight matches, players who qualify for the main championship should not be permitted to forfeit their position in the main championship, and choose to play in the flight match.
- c) Once the match play draw has been established, the number-one qualifier's match should commence last.
- d) In accordance with Rule 10-1a, the honour is determined by the order of the draw. In other words the first listed player (or side) in a match has the honour on the opening tee.
- e) In elite events, if a player withdraws having completed the qualifying rounds, but prior to the match play draw being compiled, they should be withdrawn from the entire Championship in order to keep the draw clean. If a player withdraws following the completion of the match play draw, the opponent should be given a bye.



- f) In less elite events, if a player withdraws after completion of the draw but before the first round has been played, it would be acceptable to re-compile the draw and allow the next player to compete. It is advisable to ask players to confirm their availability for the match play stages, and include a condition to “reserve the right to substitute players up to the moment the first round commences”. Once the first match has commenced, it is strongly recommended that the draw is considered to be set (in the event of any withdrawals after the first match has commenced, the opponent should automatically progress to the next round).
- g) In match play competitions, players may be required to play two matches in one day. If an early match requires extra holes to determine a result this may mean the winning player has little time before their next match. Such a situation is not uncommon and it should be decided in advance if players are permitted a minimum period of time between matches in such cases. For example, it may be provided that a player is entitled to 30 minutes from reporting their match score until they are required to tee off again. Obviously, this may require the alteration of starting times and the order of the draw, but it would seem unreasonable for a player to be disadvantaged due to having played extra holes in their first match of the day.

Ties and Play-offs

- a) The manner in which halved matches or ties are to be decided must be announced before the competition begins.
- b) In the event of a tie in a scratch stroke play competition, a play-off is recommended. Such a play-off may be over 18-holes or a smaller number of holes as specified. GA and the Australasian PGA Tour use sudden-death, hole-by-hole play-offs. The honour should be determined by lot.
- c) In the event of a tie or ties for a position for a last qualifying place in a match play draw it is recommended that a sudden-death, hole-by-hole play-off be conducted. If there is not sufficient time available for a play-off, such a tie should be resolved by count-back.

In a hole-by-hole play-off, it is recommended there be no more than five players in a group. Consequently, if there are seven competitors in the play-off, the players should be divided into a group of three and a group of four and have the starting order determined by lot with players themselves drawing their starting order. A hole-by-hole play-off with seven competitors playing off, for example, for four places would operate as follows: Group 1, comprising A, B and C play the first hole and then wait for Group 2, comprising D, E, F and G to play the first hole. A, C and F score 4 at the first hole, B, D and G score 5 and E scores 6. Based on this result, A, C and F have won places, E is eliminated and B, D and G must play on for one place.

- d) When ties occur in qualifying rounds for purposes of determining places in a match play draw other than those for the last positions, it is



recommended that ties be decided by the order in which scores are returned, with the first score to be returned receiving the lowest available number, etc. It would also be acceptable to determine ties by count-back, or by lot.

Note: As it can sometimes be difficult to track the time at which cards are returned, a card can be considered returned based on the time the player commenced their round. (For clarification, a player who commenced their round from the 1st tee is deemed to have returned their card before a player who commenced their round from the 10th tee, and the first player listed in the group is deemed to have returned their card before the player listed second in the group.) GA uses this procedure for amateur events.

- e) The time at which a play-off is to commence should be clearly stated in the event conditions and player information (eg immediately after the conclusion of play). If a player is not present for the play-off, they are disqualified from the play-off, not the competition and if necessary, any vacant match play place should be determined by count-back. If for example, there are three players for two positions, and only one player is at the play-off, that player automatically qualifies for the second last position, with the last place determined by count-back. Note: If the Note to Rule 6-3 is in place for the event, it also operates for the play-off (ie two-stroke penalty).
- f) If there are three players for two positions, the play-off determines the two players to make up the draw. If on the first play-off hole A has 3, B has 4, and C has 5; A will take the second-last qualifying position and B will take the last qualifying position. If on the first play-off hole A and B have 3, and C has 5; A and B will make up the draw, with their position determined by the order in which scores from the last qualifying round are returned, (ie the first score to be returned receiving the lowest available number).
- g) In a stroke play play-off, ensure that the competitors are clear as to the purpose of the play-off and know exactly what they are playing for. For example, Qualifying for the Open, a play-off involving five players may be for one place in the Championship and a reserve place only.



Section 4: Administration

- Player Notice Board
- Registration
- Radio Communication
- Yardage Books and Temporary Painted Distance Markings
- Hole Placement Sheets
- Practice Rounds
- Ride-On Carts and Pull Buggies

Player Notice Board

- a) A player notice board is important not only for the players, but will also avoid many interruptions from players, officials, etc for competition organisers.
- b) The notice board should be positioned in a prominent place, close to the Tournament office and may include:
 - Draws
 - Results
 - Suspension of Play and Evacuation Plan
 - Conditions of Play and Local Rules
 - Pace of Play Guidelines
 - Player Services (ie Physiotherapist, Doctor, etc)
 - Prize Money Allocation (if applicable)
 - Current order of merit listing

Registration

- a) It is advisable to set up a registration procedure for players for when they initially arrive at the competition (it is not generally necessary to have players register each day). When players register they can be given all necessary information concerning the competition and can be advised of any amendments to previously published information.
- b) Registration will also give an early indication if a player is not going to appear. If a player has failed to register, there is a distinct possibility they will fail to appear for their starting time and the necessary provisions (eg contacting an alternate player and asking them to be on stand-by) can be made.
- c) Registration also allows a player's contact details whilst at the event to be obtained.



Radio Communication

- a) Communication between officials, media, scorers, etc is one of the most vital components of an event.
- b) Test that there is no interference at certain positions on the course. A portable repeater station may be required if transmission is interfered with.
- c) The following personnel will require radios:
 - Tournament Organiser/Director
 - Promoter
 - Other tournament staff
 - Referees
 - Starters
 - Recording Area
 - Score Boards / Leader Boards
 - “Live” Scorers / Walker Scorers
 - Media Centre (if applicable)
 - Medical Team

Ensure the base for the “Live” Scorers/Walker Scorers has direct communication with the Referees. This can be a critical mechanism for communicating to Referees that a ruling is required.

Yardage Books and Temporary Painted Distance Markers

- a) Ideally yardage books should be produced for major events (it is usual that these are at the player’s own cost for approximately \$20.00).
- b) Depending on the event, it may be that books are produced in metres and in yards.
- c) If yardage books are not available, painted dots/shapes can be painted on the fairways to indicate yardage. These should be positioned in the centre of the fairway. In Tour events, these may be positioned every 25 metres from an appropriate starting point from the front of the green (ie there would be no need to paint a dot 200m from the front of the green on a 380m hole as players would hit past this point for their drive). These marks may require refreshing at some time during the event’s duration.
- d) All distances (whether in the yardage book or painted dots) should be to the front of the green. Also indicate the distance (in metres) from the permanent plates to the front of the green on Par 3 holes.
- e) Yardage books should generally be available at Registration.



Hole Placement Sheets

- a) Ideally hole placement sheets should be produced for major events (it is usual that these are distributed by the Starter, however there should be copies available from the Tournament office or Player Services in the case that a player or caddie wishes to collect one prior to their tee time).
- b) Hole placement sheets should include the green depth, the number of yards/metres/paces the hole is from the front of the green, and the distance it is from the left or right edge of the green.

See Appendix C for an example of a hole placement sheet

Practice Rounds

- a) To avoid confusion, it is recommended that players book tee times for practice rounds.
- b) It is advisable to have a starter monitor the 1st tee during practice.
- c) It is also recommended that a marshal be employed during the practice rounds to ensure pace of play concerns are limited, and players are adhering to any practice restrictions. Standard practice restrictions are as follows:

Stroke Play Competitions:

During a practice round a player may play one ball only throughout the round with the following exceptions:

- If a player misses the fairway with their drive, they may play one additional tee shot from the tee;
- If a player misses the green with their approach shot, they may play one additional shot to the green;
- Not more than three chip shots may be played from beside the green, and only then provided such practice shots do not damage the course;
- Only two bunker shots may be played towards the green from a greenside bunker. All other bunker shots must be played away from the green;
- Only three practice putts are permitted.

Match Play Competitions:

During a practice round prior to a match (or chipping and putting on or around a nearby green), a player may play one ball only throughout the round with the following exceptions:

- Unlimited chipping and putting around greens;
- No “flop” shots around greens (except in the normal play of a hole);
- One shot ONLY into each green;
- Two balls may be played from tees (other than par threes);



- Two balls only may be played from greenside bunkers.

Notwithstanding the above regulations, no additional practice strokes shall be played if the group behind is waiting to play. Additionally, course staff retain absolute right of way.

Ride-On Carts and Pull Buggies

- a) Ensure there are sufficient ride-on carts (as well as spares), and that these are electric (petrol carts are undesirable due to their noise).
- b) In events where roping is used, carts should be roofless to allow officials to easily move under the ropes.
- c) In Tour events, it is usual that players not be permitted to use pull buggies. Where pull buggies are permitted, ensure there is a sufficient quantity.



Section 5: Pro-Am (Tour Events Only)

- a) Ensure the relevant professional golfers are aware they are required to play in the Pro-am (this could be listed on the notice board or advised at time of registration).
- b) Ensure there are reserve professionals listed, and that the reserve professionals are at the course on the Pro-am day.
- c) Provide the amateur players with instructions (these could be stapled to the score card, eg which tees to play from, where to return the card, etc).
- d) When a shot-gun start is in operation, it is recommended a briefing to players be held (ie over a loud speaker near the 1st tee for example). This should reiterate the tees to be used, the format of play, when to commence walking to the tee, etc.
- e) Ensure some professional players remain at the Pro-am Presentation – a typical policy requires that any professional in a winning team needs to attend the Presentation.
- f) If possible, a marshal should be available to monitor pace of play.



Section 6: Course Set-up

During an elite event a course may endure extreme scrutiny, not only by its members and guests, but also by players and the golf media. The primary aim with respect to course preparations is to provide a consistent, equitable test for all players.

Teeing Grounds

- a) Teeing grounds should be level, firm and closely mown, particularly in the areas where the tee markers are to be located during the competition. The line of sight to the fairway should not be obscured by overhanging branches or the like.
- b) During all rounds, only the competition tee markers should be on course – all other markers and hardware should be removed. Tee markers should be placed at the very back of the tee for official practice and generally moved forward from this area during the competition. It is important that all competitors are able to practise on the full-length competition course during official practice rounds.
- c) During the competition, generally tee markers should be placed at least three club-lengths from the back of a tee, however based on green firmness, winds, etc, the course may be set up to accommodate the daily weather conditions (ie the tee markers may be moved forward).
- d) The tee markers should be placed 5-7 metres apart. If the width of the teeing ground is greater, players are more likely to inadvertently tee up in front of the tee markers.
- e) For competitions which extend over several days, tee positions may be varied (i.e. it is not imperative the tees be positioned on the 'back' plates each day). For example if there is a strong head wind, the tee could be moved forward. Additionally, varying tee positions gives the player a variety of options. For example, a par 3 hole may measure 190 metres, however the tees may be moved to a forward teeing ground on one or more of the days - this requires a player to use a different club, and requires a player to think and to have some strategy when playing the hole. Additionally, a tee may be moved forward on a shorter par 4 hole to entice a player to 'go for the green' with their tee shot.

Note: Moving tees significantly should not occur between rounds one and two, as the course should remain relatively similar for a competition where there are two distinct blocks of players.

- f) A sign stating the hole number, length and par should be clearly visible at each tee to avoid a group or match playing from a wrong teeing ground.
- g) Ensure trees, advertising boards, etc do not create any interference.



- h) Tee marker positions should be marked with paint dots so that if one is moved or stolen, it can be replaced. In a competition played over several days, it is recommended that one paint dot is used to indicate the position of the tee-markers during the first round, two dots are used for the second round, and so on.

Fairways

- a) The importance of closely-mown fairway turf cannot be over-emphasised. Fluffiness in fairway turf is most undesirable and the tendency must be toward firm, tight turf.
- b) For major events, mowing heights for competition play should be established weeks in advance as last-minute reductions in mowing heights can cause scalping and uneven cuts. Small areas missed by the gang-mowers should be fly-mowed to ensure an even surface and all loose or laying grass should be removed.
- c) The width of certain landing areas may vary; ideally the general widths will depend on the hole itself, its strengths and design strategies.
- d) In elite events, fairways should be crosscut during the week of a Championship. (Note: Crosscut refers to the direction in which the fairway is mown. Such an outcome may be achieved by mowing in a fashion that creates a “diamond” effect, or one half of the fairway being mown in one direction, and the other half of the fairway mown in the opposite direction. This mowing direction is then altered each time the fairway is cut. This ensures the grain grows straight up rather than in the one direction.) All fairways and green surrounds should be mown daily, preferably in the late afternoon when the grass is dry. Fairways and green surrounds should be swept free of dew each morning to avoid excess water and grass clippings gathering between the ball and the clubface.

Semi and Primary Rough

- a) A semi-rough area should be created immediately adjacent to all fairways. This area is designed to avoid a ball that may lie on the closely mown fairway from coming to rest against a wall of primary or major rough. The desired height of the semi-rough, depending on grass types, is 20-30 mm. The width of this strip should be between 1.8 and 2.5 metres.
- b) The objective of primary rough is to appropriately punish an errant shot that strays from the desired landing area. However, with a view to facilitating the proper playing of the game, it is important to guard against developing rough which is either overly penal or which is unmaintainable. It is undesirable to have primary rough higher than 100 mm. These heights also depend on the types of grasses located in these areas – in certain areas there may be thin, wispy, native type grasses that do grow to approximately 300 mm. There are numerous variations in grass types around a course – striving for a consistent height, depending on grass



type and also a consistent thickness throughout the course, is desirable. A number of factors will determine the strengths and heights of these roughs, including the growing season leading into the competition as well as fairway widths, contours etc.

- c) Where fairway bunkers are immediately adjacent to the fairway, the lead-in to the bunker should be cut to fairway height. If fairway bunkers are positioned slightly away from the intended closely-mown surface, the lead-in may feature an area of semi or primary rough (ie there is no specific need to cater for a widely-positioned bunker by altering the width of a fairway).

Putting Greens

- a) For elite competitions, firm, fast greens, on the dry side provide the best test for both approach shots and putting. A sound program of using as little water as possible will help produce the desired championship greens. A well-struck medium iron should be able to grip and hold. The desired green speed depends on the severity of slope, undulations and weather conditions.
- b) In preparing greens for a competition week it is desirable to strive to have them reasonably firm. As a general guide for 'normal' greens, they should be prepared to be running at a medium speed of approximately 10.5 feet the week before the championship (this includes the practice putting green). For 'normal' greens, a speed of 10.5 feet allows for an increase or decrease in speed depending on the weather conditions, abnormal contouring, quality of the field, etc. Green speeds of 10.5 feet for 'normal' greens will provide a very good pace for official practice. All greens should be firm without excessive bounce. When determining the appropriate green preparation plan for a specific golf course, the following factors should be considered:
 - i. Flat greens obviously present less of a potential problem than undulating greens, always consider the forecast for wind direction and speeds.
 - ii. Greens with major undulations normally provide a very limited selection of hole locations if they are too fast.
 - iii. Firmness of greens is another major factor to consider, greens that are too firm do not test a player's shot making ability, a higher than normal bounce will indicate a green is too firm, however soft and spongy greens will not provide an adequate test either.
 - iv. It is important to set up a course considering the age and player ability. It is unreasonable to set up a demanding golf course for very young inexperienced players, the same as you would set it up for the major elite players in major competition. It is vital they learn how to play challenging courses but in conditions that



- allow them to compete against the golf course also, not just the other players.
- v. When setting up a course for a women's championship, be mindful women do not generate as much club head speed and therefore do not create as much spin on the ball as men. Therefore the greens should be more receptive than for men.
 - vi. It is important to liaise with the superintendent and discuss the need to water before or after play. Again weather will dictate. Naturally hot and windy conditions present most problems for greens, however greens should get a light syringing before play in most conditions, merely to freshen them up if nothing else. Don't be shy to request this, in most cases you will be guided by the course superintendent.
- c) If a green becomes too fast and near the point of unplayable, it is permissible to water the green between groups. Such a situation should be a last resort.
 - d) It is essential that the practice putting green be of similar texture and speed to those on the course. New holes (minimum 8) should be cut every second day (or as needed dependent on the size of the field and wear) on the practice putting green to provide variety for players as well as protecting the green from wear. The cutting of these holes should be done at least 2 hours before the first starting time (to save time in the morning, these can be cut the evening prior).

Hole Positions

- a) The hole should be positioned at least four paces from any edge of the green. If a bunker is close to the edge, or if the ground slopes away from the edge, the distance should be greater.
- b) An area of two or three feet around the hole should be as level as possible. Effort should be made to ensure holes are not positioned within three metres of a recently cut hole.
- c) Consider the condition of nearby turf, especially taking care to avoid old plug marks.
- d) Ensure there is a balanced selection of holes for the entire course with respect to left, right, central, front and back positions.
- e) In elite events, a map of likely competition hole placements should be prepared in advance with these locations protected. However, large areas should not be rested entirely or the green may become spongy. During the competition care must be taken to ensure that holes are cut in the centre of the "stripes" made by mowers. Greens should be checked for old plugs in case they are sunken or raised and repaired accordingly. Any dead plugs can be replaced from a nursery or from extremities of the green, which are out of play. A thorough inspection and subsequent repairs to



any old hole plugs should be carried out six weeks prior to the Championship allowing sufficient time to grow in.

- f) If heavy rain is forecast, position holes where puddles of water are least likely to accumulate. Occasionally, such action can save a day's play in stroke play.
- g) For a competition played over several days the course should be kept in balance daily as to the degree of difficulty. The course should not be set up appreciably more difficult for any round.
- h) Anticipate the players' walking routes. Position holes for early rounds so that good hole positions for later rounds will not be spoiled by players leaving the green. For example, in a four day event, on the first day, where possible, the hole positions should be close to the exit line to the next tee. On the second day, holes should be in such a position that the players will be walking on or near the first day's position. This should leave half of the green for the last two days.
- i) For an event where half the field plays at one course on one day and a second course on the next day (with the other half of the field playing on the opposite course), the hole placements should not be altered. This ensures one half of the field does not need to confront a harder hole position. (Note: The committee should inspect all holes at the start of the second day to ensure no deterioration has occurred to the extent a hole needs to be moved before play to a nearby similar position.)
- j) Think very carefully before selecting front third hole locations when playing down wind on firm greens, especially on longer holes, put these in the centre or backs of greens.
- k) Refrain from selecting a hole location any closer than 3 metres from any elevated tier.
- l) Refrain from selecting a hole location near the base of a tier, there must always be room for a player to putt close to the hole if they are pin high. A ball that is 'pin high' should not have to be putted up the slope of a tier if it can only come to rest 2 metres or more below the hole.

Cutting Heights and Widths

As outlined, a number of factors need to be considered prior to confirming the desired heights and widths for a competition. The following is a guide:



	Height	Width
Fairway Area		
Fairways	10-12 mm	Approx 23-25 metres
Semi-Rough	20-30 mm	1.8-2.5 metres
Primary Rough	45-65 mm	n/a
Putting Greens		
Green	2.5-3 mm	n/a
Apron/Collar	6-10 mm	450-600 mm

Bunkers

- a) Any fresh sand needed in bunkers should be added no later than two months in advance of the competition in order for it to become well settled. If there is inadequate rain to pack the sand, it should be watered artificially. Suitable sand includes what is known as plasterer's sand, mason's sand, or brick sand. Sand particles that are round in shape tend to shift under a player's feet, whereas sand with angular particles is more stable. Sand in the face of bunkers must be shallow enough and firm enough to prevent a ball from becoming plugged or lost.
- b) Bunkers should not contain stones.
- c) Rakes should not leave large furrows and must be provided at each bunker. It is preferable that bunkers be maintained by hand raking during a Championship. If machine raking is necessary, each bunker should be gone over by hand to rake any irregularities, making sure that exit points do not become untidy or worn.
- d) When hand-raked, the raking should be in the direction of play. This will minimise the chance of furrows inconsistently impacting upon the capacity of the player to strike the ball. It will also minimise the amount of sand between the club face and the ball. (Note: This is of particular significance in the preparation of fairway bunkers.) Greenside bunkers should be raked in the direction of the centre of the green (which may not necessarily be directly towards the hole location).
- e) Bunkers should be carefully edged so that there is no question as to whether the ball lies within the bunker or not. No loose sand should be left around bunker edges.
- f) Be mindful of the effect wind can have on bunkers. It is not uncommon to ask green staff to dampen those bunkers that are very exposed to winds on a particular day. The wind direction and speed will dictate which bunkers may need attention.
- g) Rakes should be left outside of bunkers (see Decision Misc./2.)



Section 7: Pace of Play (Including Timing a Player)

Guidelines

- a) The type of Pace of Play guidelines will usually be dependent on the number of Referees available.
- b) It is preferable to have in place hole-by-hole guidelines, however if this is impractical, a time limit should be established that is considered more than adequate for players to complete the round and/or a certain number of holes (which will vary depending on numbers in groups and form of play).
- c) If hole-by-hole guidelines cannot be established, general guidelines suitable to most courses for elite level play in groups of three could be as follows:
 - i. After 4 holes = 55 minutes
 - ii. After 6 holes = 1 hour 20 minutes
 - iii. After 9 holes = 2 hours 10 minutes
- d) Hole-by-hole guidelines:
 - i. In groups of three, the standard times for par 3s, par 4s and 5s is 11, 14 and 17 minutes respectively. In two-balls, this is 9, 12 and 14 minutes respectively.
 - ii. Adjustments should be made to take into account severity/simplicity of a particular hole and walking distances between the green of the hole last played and the next tee.
 - iii. A range of between 4 hours 12 minutes, and 4 hours 20 minutes for a three-ball group is standard (or 3 hours 32 minutes, and 3 hours 40 minutes for a two-ball group).
 - iv. The time permitted for each hole, as well as the cumulative time, should be provided to players (this may, for example, be printed on the back of the hole placement sheets).
- e) “Out of Position”
 - i. The first group is considered “out of position” if, at any time, during the round, the group’s cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes played. Any following group is “out of position” if it is more than the starting interval behind the group in front and has exceeded the time allowed for the number of holes played. (Note: This is the GA recommended definition for “out of position”. It is the definition used by most major Tours.)
 - ii. In the absence of mitigating circumstances (eg a lengthy ruling, lost ball, etc), determine whether a group is subject to timing.



Timing

Before Timing a Group

- a) Be aware of everything that is going on and react in a sensible and understanding fashion.
- b) Before timing a group, investigate the position of groups around the group “out of position”. For example, if the next hole is a reachable Par 5 and they will almost certainly have to wait – use sensible judgement and let them go but check them after the Par 5 – they may be “out of position” then. Reachable Par 5s, drivable Par 4s, and shared fairways all have an influence.
- c) Similarly, if a group has a lengthy ruling / lost ball at the 5th hole (for example) but have otherwise been within the prescribed time, record their time when they finish the 5th hole. If they are +6 after 5 holes and then +5 after 6 holes, consider not timing them but watch them. Purely by following them they may *think* they are being timed and play quicker as a result.
- d) When timing, consider all the circumstances – eg if the crowd has to settle, if a mobile phone goes off, if a train goes past, even if a shot is worth timing at all, ie a player taking a drop in trees – is 50 seconds really applicable to this shot? Time it in any case, but if the player takes 80 seconds, is this really a bad time? The alternative is to leave more time for shot assessment before starting the watch.
- e) In elite events, every time a pin goes in for a group, note the time (ie “pin-in” means when the caddie/player, etc has put the flagstick in the hole).

Timing a Group/Player (GA Recommended Conditions)

- f) When it is determined to time a group, individual timings are to be taken of ALL players in the group (note: unless the official has determined to “target time” a specific player/s who is considered to be delaying the group’s progress, and the official is afforded this flexibility by the competition conditions). Note: The Committee can make provision for timing an individual player or two of the three players in exceptional circumstances.
- g) The maximum time allocated per shot is 40 seconds (10 extra seconds are allowed for the first player to play on a Par 3; the approach shot to the green; and a chip or putt.)
- h) Timing commences when the Referee deems it is the player’s turn to play.
- i) To give the benefit of the doubt to the player as to when the watch should start, and to help eliminate the human element of when it is the player’s turn to play, allow 10% at the end and 3 seconds at the start. Therefore, a 50 second allowance is effectively 58 seconds, and a 40 second allowance is effectively 47 seconds.
- j) For tee shots and through the green, the time starts when the player has had sufficient time to reach their ball and a count of 3 seconds thereafter.



For the first player, give them a few seconds to consider what they have and allow them reasonable time to step off the yardage and 'do their maths' (if the player exceeds the time reasonable to complete these tasks, the clock should start at the point at which the official feels reasonable time has elapsed). When that is done, count to 3 and then start the watch. For the second player, allow them to watch their fellow competitor's shot and react to it. If appropriate, give a moment to let the crowd settle then count to 3 and start the stopwatch.

Sufficient time is the time taken to walk at a normal pace to the ball or tee (eg if a player walks quickly to their ball, they may have additional time to prepare, whereas a player who strolls to their ball may have less time as the stopwatch has already started).

- k) If the player arrives before their caddie, wait until the caddie arrives before the process starts unless it is evident that the caddie is taking an unreasonable time to get into position.
- l) Time taken to determine distance and select a club counts as time taken for the stroke.
- m) Should a player be distracted by a fellow-competitor, caddies, or an outside agency during their preparation, the stopwatch is stopped and does not restart until the player has reached the point in their preparation when they were previously distracted. Weather conditions such as wind and rain should not be regarded as an allowed distraction and the stopwatch should continue to run.
- n) Timings on the putting green commence when the player has had a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace their ball, repair pitch marks and move loose impediments on their line of putt. The lining up of the putt is the crucial consideration – time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball counts as part of the time for the stroke. If a player immediately starts walking to the other side of the hole, wait until they get there and when they start lining up, count to 3 and begin. However, on a putt less than three feet, the timing should start as soon as the player stands up having replaced the ball and a count of 3 thereafter.
- o) If a player in a group that is being timed exceeds the time permitted by more than 10% (eg 45 seconds for a 40 second shot), they shall have a "bad time". Except on the putting green, the Referee should advise that player as soon as practicable that they have had a "bad time" (ie this may be immediately after their tee shot) and ask the player if they are familiar with the Pace of Play Guidelines. This will ensure that the player is aware that a further bad time will result in a penalty. If the bad time is on a putt or short chip, the player should be advised on the way to the next tee.
- p) A player is not penalised if they have had a second bad time before being advised of the first bad time.
- q) If a player receives a bad time, note on the time sheet some additional details in relation to the bad time eg 28 seconds before club pulled,



backed off to change club, long time to line up, 4 practice swings, etc. All of this will be useful as there may be a debate later especially if penalties are involved.

Communicating Timings

- r) Players should be advised that they are being timed. There is also nothing to stop a Referee advising players when they are getting close to being timed especially when they are on a dog-leg hole and they cannot see the group ahead.
- s) If a group is being timed, have another Referee advise the group behind that the group ahead is being timed, and ask that the group keep up with the group in front.
- t) GA's recommended warnings/penalties are:

1 st Bad Time:	Player will be warned by the official and told that if they have a further bad time they will be penalised	
	<u>Stroke Play</u>	<u>Match Play</u>
2 nd Bad Time:	One-stroke penalty	Loss of Hole
3 rd Bad Time:	Additional two-stroke penalty	Final Warning
4 th Bad Time:	Disqualification	Disqualification

Additional Guidance for Referees to Assist in Reducing Slow Play

- a) Be in a position where you can be seen by players.
- b) Be ready to assist with any Rules problems.
- c) Assess a player's prospective shot and give additional time if felt it is of a particularly difficult nature.
- d) If a group that is "out of position" is making a big effort to regain its place (eg improving by 2 minutes per hole) consider not timing the players.
- e) Offer the chance for a player to be timed in practice rounds to help them understand time limits.
- f) Give additional time if weather conditions necessitate water proofs being put on and taken off repeatedly.
- g) Be understanding in very gusty wind conditions.



Section 8: Suspension of Play and Evacuation Plan

Evacuation Plan (for Tour Events Only)

- a) In light of the possibility of dangerous, life-threatening weather, the exposed nature of golf courses, and usually the tight schedule of events, an Evacuation Plan is required so that players may be kept safely on the course during minor suspensions; or quickly brought to the clubhouse at other times. An inefficient plan can easily result in a lost day of competition.
- b) An Evacuation Plan should contain at least three evacuation points. Each evacuation point should include four-sided permanent shelters. It is at these points that vehicles will also collect players and return them to the clubhouse.
- c) The Plan must include which evacuation point the players are to move to when they are at a particular position on the course (eg 5th tee, evacuation point C).
- d) Players should be advised that at the resumption of play, it is their responsibility to be in position, and ready to play at the appointed time (ie there will be no roll-call). A notice should be included on the Player Notice Board to this respect.
- e) The Evacuation Plan itself may be copied on the back of the Local Rules.

See Appendix D for the Evacuation Plan for the 2009 Women's Australian Open

When to Suspend Play

- a) A competition need not be suspended simply on account of rain, unless the rain is so heavy that it is interfering with the proper playing of the game. Generally, play should not be suspended unless the course has become unplayable, for example, balls are moving frequently on the putting greens due to wind or holes are surrounded by casual water. In any event, if rain is of sufficient intensity to present an unfair condition, normally it would take little time for casual water to accumulate around the hole on at least one putting green. When that occurs, it would be remiss not to consider the course unplayable and suspend play.
- b) If rain is not of sufficient intensity to present an unplayable situation, but heavy enough to cause casual water around a hole, in match play the hole may be relocated if a suitable area not under water can be found, and then play resumed. However, in stroke play it is not permissible to relocate a hole unless it is severely damaged – see the Exception under Rule 33-2b. Accordingly, play cannot be resumed until the casual water problem is resolved.



- c) If the suspension is for a non-dangerous situation (eg extensive casual water, high winds, etc) the signal is three consecutive short notes of a siren (repeated). Players may continue the play of the hole.
- d) If there is lightning approaching, play should be suspended before the storm is predicted to arrive to give players a chance to seek shelter and/or return to the clubhouse. The signal for suspending play for a dangerous situation is one prolonged note of the siren, and players MUST discontinue play immediately, otherwise they are disqualified (Note to Rule 6-8b). As a guide, when lightning strikes are recorded within 15 km of the venue the Committee should prepare for suspension, and once lightning strikes within 10 km of the venue, play should be suspended.
- e) If there is advance notice that play is to be suspended, Referees should attempt to visit each group and advise them of the upcoming suspension.
- f) The signal to re-commence play is two blasts of the siren.
- g) Whether to suspend play, to commence play or to continue play in a stipulated round when fog is present is a difficult decision. Fog, by its very nature, is not easy to forecast, and it is challenging to predict when it will set in or lift. From a playability standpoint, play should commence when the landing zones for all shots to be played are visible to the players. In this regard, tee shots requiring the use of drivers may present the most difficult challenge since such shots cover the most distance. Factors such as fairway lines, hazards, trees, etc. in the drive zone must be visible to a large extent. However, the fact that visibility is partially obscured by fog such that the entire flight of the ball is not possible does not generally require a decision to delay/suspend play. Nevertheless, player safety should always be a paramount consideration.
- h) In stroke play, there is the option of suspending play and resuming from where play was discontinued or cancelling the round and replaying it entirely. There is no hard-and-fast rule as to when to suspend play and when the round should be cancelled in stroke play. However, generally a round should be cancelled only in a case where it would be grossly unfair not to cancel it. For example, if some competitors begin a round under extremely adverse weather conditions, conditions subsequently worsen and further play that day is impossible, it would be unfair to the competitors who started not to cancel the round (see Decision 33-2d/1).
- i) It is important to note that, while the Committee has the right to cancel a round in a stroke play competition, it may not do so in match play. If the players in a match have completed, for example, six holes, they must resume play at the 7th tee. The match is not replayed in its entirety.
- j) When play is suspended by the Committee, it is customary for a player to mark and lift their ball (although the Rules of Golf do not require them to mark and lift their ball).
- k) In situations where two separate courses are being used, in the majority of cases, if one course delays/suspends play, the other should too. This should apply (i) whether the courses are near each other, and (ii) no



matter the reason for the delay/suspension (ie fog, lightning, etc). Acting in any other manner could present too many scenarios where players are treated differently and perhaps unfairly.

- l) Players should be made aware of the signals for the suspension of play – this may be on the Player Notice Board, the Local Rules Sheet, or the Evacuation Plan.

Rules to Note When Resuming Play

- a) When play has been suspended, and is to be resumed, the following Rules are important to bear in mind:
- A player may practise as provided in Rule 7; anywhere other than on the competition course; or as otherwise permitted by the Committee.
 - The player must place the original ball (or a substituted ball) on the spot from which it was lifted.
 - The player is entitled to substitute a ball for the original ball, assuming they were entitled to lift the ball when play was suspended.
 - The player is entitled to clean the ball.
 - If the position where the ball is to be placed is impossible to determine, it must be estimated, and the ball placed on the estimated spot.
 - If the player has not marked and lifted their ball on the suspension of play, on resumption of play, they may mark, lift and clean their ball. They are also permitted to substitute a ball.
 - If the original lie or the conditions around the ball have altered through natural causes (eg wind, rain and water, etc), the player must accept those conditions, whether they worsen or improve the lie of the ball, the area of intended stance or swing or the line of play (Decision 6-8d/1).
 - If a player's ball was in a bunker at the time of the suspension, and on resumption the bunker has been prepared by the greens staff, the original lie must be recreated as nearly as possible and a ball placed in that lie. The obligation to recreate the original lie is limited to what is practical in the circumstances. For example, a buried lie or footprints around the ball must be re-created whereas a player is not required to replace loose impediments or restore conditions such as washed out areas or casual water that have been eliminated by the greens staff or have changed naturally (See Decision 6-8d/2).



Factors of Which to be Mindful in Deciding to Resume Play

- a) When the course becomes unplayable and play is discontinued, as many options as possible should be kept open to maximise the chances of completing the competition on schedule.
- b) For example, the following should be considered:
 - i. The field for the first two rounds of a 72-hole stroke play competition is 156, with the field being cut to 60 competitors for the last two rounds.
 - ii. Due to the size of the field, the first two rounds are normally not completed until shortly before dark.
 - iii. In the second round, a thunderstorm occurs in the middle of the day, rendering the course unplayable.
 - iv. The delay because of the storm makes it impossible to complete the second round on schedule.
 - v. If the storm were to pass over quickly, it might be possible with the aid of squeegees and pumps to get the course playable and resume play for a couple of hours.
 - vi. If play could be resumed for a couple of hours, it would be possible to finish the second round the next morning, quickly make the draw for the third round and finish the third round on schedule.
- c) In these circumstances, it would be inadvisable to suspend play for the day as soon as the storm rendered the course unplayable. In doing so, an option would be foreclosed, which if retained, might result in the competition being completed on schedule.
- d) Generally, when more than half of the field have completed their rounds, it would be unusual to cancel the round if the opportunity is available to suspend play and continue the following day. However, it is appreciated that an 18-hole competition to be held over one day would not have this luxury of resuming play on a subsequent day. Where it is feasible to reschedule the competition, endeavour to do so. However, the Rules do not permit the reduction of the number of holes of a stipulated round once play has commenced on that round (eg from 18 to 9 holes). Consequently, if it is not feasible to reschedule the competition, the competition must be cancelled.

Preparation of Course After Heavy Rain

- a) **Bunkers:** Bunkers are the primary area of concern following a suspension of play for rain. Course staff should have pumps on hand to remove as much casual water from bunkers as possible. Ideally there must be an area in the bunker free from casual water to allow a player relief under Rule 25-1b(ii). Specifically, the back of the bunker must be free of casual water to enable a player to take relief within the bunker in accordance with



Rule 25-1b(ii)(a). Damaged or materially changed bunkers should be raked – particularly those that have been badly affected with washaways or muddied sand.

- b) Greens: Greens should be blown free of debris.



Section 9: Policies

- Call-up
- Squeegees
- Clearing Debris from Greens During Play
- Announcement of Results

Call-Up

- a) When a call-up procedure may be needed on a hole, the process needs to be properly managed (at a Tour event, this should be managed by a Referee).
- b) When a call-up policy is adopted, the procedure is as follows:
 1. Once all of the balls of the first group are on the green, these should be marked and lifted by players and they should move off the back of the green.
 2. Once the players and others accompanying the group are beyond the back of the green, the second group will be clear to play.
 3. Once the players in the second group have played, the players in the first group are clear to continue. If any balls from the second group are interfering with the first group, the players may mark and lift the ball(s).
 4. Once the first group has completed the hole, any ball should be replaced and the second group, if necessary, continue play of the hole until all balls are on the putting green.
 5. Once all balls for the second group are on the green, they should be marked and lifted and the process (see 2-4 above) starts again.
- c) If at any time the group behind is not in position to play (eg lost ball, lengthy ruling, etc) the group on the putting green should be asked to continue.
- d) Be sure to look ahead before determining whether a call-up is necessary (ie there is no use operating a call-up if players would need to wait on the next hole).
- e) Be mindful that a call-up is not always beneficial in clearing a back-up – assess whether the given circumstances would render call-up being helpful.
- f) Be mindful that the nature of following holes can see a call-up on one hole causing a back-up on a subsequent hole. Monitor this and act as required (eg it may be feasible to have a second call-up).



Squeegees (Casual Water)

- a) An adequate number of squeegees should be available as they are invaluable when puddles start to form on putting greens. (Note: Additional squeegees could be borrowed from neighbouring clubs.)
- b) An organised squeegee crew can usually remove the casual water in a few minutes.
- c) If water is collecting on the greens to the extent that squeegee operators need to be deployed, the following policy should be adopted when the ball is on the putting green:

“If a player’s ball lies on the putting green and there is interference by casual water on the putting green, the player may:

 - (a) take relief under Rule 25-1b(iii); or*
 - (b) have their line to the hole squeegeed.*

Note: Such squeegeeing should be done across the line of putt and must extend a reasonable distance beyond the hole (i.e. at least one roller length).”
- d) If conditions deteriorate to the extent that the smooth running of the event is at risk, a combination of moving the ball under Rule 25-1b(iii) together with squeegeeing across the line may be authorised. In addition, while a player is not entitled to relief under Rule 25-1 for casual water on their line of play when their ball lies off the putting green, in exceptional circumstances, if casual water on the putting green on the player’s line of play materially affects the intended stroke, its clearance may be authorised. It should be noted that the Committee may enlist the help of players and their caddies in any squeegee operation (see Decision 33/1).

Clearing Debris From Greens During Play

- a) If windy conditions exist, and there is a particular green(s) which is collecting significant amounts of debris, to assist with the pace of play, it is advisable to have the course staff use a “blower” to remove this excess debris.
- b) The use of the “blower” should only be used between the play of groups – not between the play of individual players within a group.
- c) If possible, a Referee should manage this process.

Announcement of Results

- a) This should be included on the Hard Card, or in the Conditions of Play.
- b) It is recommended that the following conditions apply:
 - In stroke play, the competition is closed when the trophy has been presented to the winner, or in absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.
 - In match play the result of a match is deemed officially announced when it has been recorded in the Championship Office.



Section 10: Starters and Scoring

Starters

- a) The main responsibilities of the starter are to ensure that the players start at the time established, and in stroke play, to issue each competitor with their score card containing the date and the competitor's name. However, there are a number of other duties that a starter must perform:
 - i. Six to seven minutes before a group is due to start, the starter should call the names of the players and ask them to come forward to the starting tee. If a player does not come immediately after their name is called, there is time to try to locate the player concerned prior to the starting time.
 - ii. When the players arrive on the tee they should be given their own score card by the starter, a copy of the Local Rules, Hard Card, hole placements sheet, timing schedule, etc.
 - iii. If there is not a Referee with each group, the starter should ask the players to check the number of clubs they are carrying in order to ensure they do not have more than 14, and advise players of the mechanism for obtaining a ruling.
- b) When it is time for the group to start, the starter should announce the group as briefly as possible, for example "Ladies and Gentlemen, this is group number 14", and then announce each player on the tee, for example, "from Australia, Geoff Ogilvy".
- c) It is imperative the starter does not allow players to tee off prior to their official starting time as this is likely to have pace of play repercussions. If there are delays on the starting tee, the starter should ensure the Committee is aware of this.
- d) Responsibilities should be issued to the starters by way of a simple instruction sheet.
- e) In case of inclement weather, it is desirable for a covered area to be installed on or near the first tee (or tees if a two-tee start is in operation), and each starter should be furnished with the following:
 - A table
 - Rules of Golf books
 - Draw sheets
 - Score cards with the competitors' names and the date and blank score cards for the players' personal use in stroke play and match play
 - Conditions of Competition
 - Local Rules
 - Any additional notices to players
 - Ready access to a List of Conforming Golf Balls, if it is a condition that a brand on the list must be used



- Ready access to a List of Conforming Driver Heads, if the condition is in place
- Hole location sheets, if available
- A clock which should be set with the clocks in the locker room, dining area, pro shop and practice areas
- PA system (if required)
- Permanent marking pens, to enable players to put identification marks on their ball

Recording Scores and Recording Area

- a) It is important that the task of recording scores is given to a responsible person or group of persons as any errors that occur during the returning of score cards can have serious consequences and can undermine all the good work which has been put into a competition.
- b) The method of receiving score cards may vary depending on the nature of the competition. In major events there is a recorders' area. This area must be cordoned off by some means (ie roping, barriers, etc) so that it is clear when a player has left the recording area.
- c) Make it clear when a competitor is considered to have "returned their card", after which point no alterations may be made (eg 'A player's score card is deemed officially returned to the Committee when the player has left the designated recording area'). This may be included in a Hard Card.
- d) While a competitor is within the designated area, they are considered to be in the process of returning their card and alterations may be made on the score card, even if the competitor has handed the card to the Recorders. The competitors are advised to stay whilst cards are being checked. This gives the recorders the chance to pick up an error by checking the addition, which sometimes gives a clue to the entering of a wrong score for a hole. Such an error can be amended while the competitor is still in the Recording Area, but once the competitor has left the Recording Area, they have "returned their card" and no subsequent alterations are possible.
- e) Since a competitor is subject to severe penalties if signing for an incorrect score or failing to sign their card, competitors should enter the Recording Area immediately after completing their round and certainly before conducting any media interviews, etc.
- f) Access to the Recording Area should be highly restricted, with the public and the media (if applicable) kept at a sensible distance.
- g) The routine for a recorder should be as follows:
 - i. When the competitors enter the area, ask each competitor to check their scores hole by hole, and suggest that they wait until the official has checked the card before departing.
 - ii. Read the name on the score card back to the competitor to ensure that their scores are on the correct score card.



- iii. Check to see that both the competitor and the marker have signed the card and that the competitor's signature corresponds with the name on the card. If it is a handicap competition, also check that the competitor's handicap is recorded on the card. If an event extends over a period of time, and the handicap at the beginning of the event applies to the 36-hole, 54-hole, or 72-hole competition, the competitor is still required to record their current handicap on their score card for all rounds. It is the responsibility of the Committee to apply the condition of competition.
 - iv. Check the addition of the scores recorded and settle the gross total score for the round (if it is a handicap competition, apply the handicap recorded on the card).
 - v. The recorders should also note the time of finish for each group on a draw sheet.
 - vi. Mark off the name of each player from a draw sheet as soon as their card has been returned. This ensures the Recorders are immediately aware should a player in a group not return their card. An effort should be made to find this player.
 - vii. If there is confusion as to what an individual hole entry is, and the player has left the Recording Area, reasonable effort should be made to locate the player and ascertain the correct score. If what is recorded can be reasonably viewed as the correct score, the score card should be accepted accordingly. If the player or their marker cannot be located with reasonable effort and it is not possible to determine the individual score, the player should be disqualified if to proceed otherwise would delay the competition, or a formal prize ceremony, or the formulation of a draw for a subsequent round.
- h) These responsibilities should be issued to the recorders by way of a simple instruction sheet.
 - i) In match play competitions, it is important that players know where they should report the result of a match and with which player this responsibility lies, eg the winner of the match.



Section 11: Refereeing

A Referee requires not only a good knowledge of the Rules, but an awareness of their duties and responsibilities and an appreciation of how best to handle various Rules situations. The following points are useful when delivering rulings:

- Be polite but be respectfully firm, definite, and positive.
- Be helpful.
- Remain calm and measured in awkward situations.
- Do not be abrasive or aggressive. Such a manner is NOT in the interests of the event or the organisation you represent.
- Display a degree of energy and personality, and be relatively relaxed without being overtly laid-back. [Every referee will have their own style and each person needs to develop a style with which they are comfortable.] This does not mean that a referee should make providing a ruling about them. But it does mean the referee should endeavour to display a manner which is respectfully friendly as well as empathetic to the player's circumstances.

Note that this is an important consideration; being a good referee is not simply about knowing the Rules, it is also about projecting a respectful confidence to the player. The player should believe you are sharp and in control (and being "in control" does not preclude you from taking your time to consider the situation or from asking for a second opinion). Furthermore, for competition organisers (who need to consider the image of their events and the impressions of the players) it is of significant value to have referees who instil confidence.

- Remember that a player is there to play golf so avoid going out of your way to engage a player in conversation other than introductions. Do not make observations to players such as: "Gee, that's in three-putt territory."
- Ensure you have properly established the facts of the situation. This involves being clear as to the player's intent.
- Do not treat a ruling as an academic exercise. Do not unnecessarily quote Rule numbers at players. Do not use Rules jargon or terminology that will alienate the player.
- Rule 1-1 states: "The Game of Golf consists of playing a ball with a club from the teeing ground into the hole by a stroke or successive strokes in accordance with the Rules." As a referee, your role is to enable the player to get on with doing this. Giving a good ruling is your objective, but a component of a good ruling is only taking the time necessary.
- Sometimes it takes a while to complete a ruling. This can occur in cases for example where 28b comes into play, or where the player is dropping from one relief situation into another. And sometimes it's best to take a



little extra time in an awkward situation or if doing so will help you to maintain your composure. Don't panic if things are taking longer than you would like, but don't take time unnecessarily.

- Always be willing to give a player a good hearing if they disagree with your determination. Do not be afraid to change your mind if they present an effective follow-up argument. Nevertheless, be ready to politely but firmly let the player know that "we need to keep moving".
- When a player is being argumentative, try to avoid getting drawn into an argument. You do not need to answer their questions; you should focus instead on saying what it is that you want to say, and reiterating your lines if necessary.
- Delivering a ruling can at times be an intimidating experience. Have a pre-conceived strategy for composing yourself.
- Never be afraid to call for a second opinion. It is usually a sign of strength, not weakness.
- You will know when you've handled a situation poorly. Learn from it and think about strategies to employ next time. If the potential for a situation arose once, it will arise again.
- If you want a player to mark but not lift their ball, your first instruction to the player should be to not lift their ball!
- Counsel the player in a situation where they are entitled to relief to not touch their ball until they have established where it is that they are entitled to drop the ball.
- Generally, try to avoid placing yourself in a position where during a ruling you have to handle the player's equipment (or ball). Common sense should dictate when it would look a little silly not to handle the player's equipment (or ball).
- If driving a cart, try to keep it away from the immediate area of the ruling (you do not want it to interfere with the player's ball or the dropping procedure!). Try to park it such that you will be able to vacate the area without delay (you are not there to spectate the stroke).



Section 12: Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIOs)

General

- a) When Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIO) such as tents, scoreboards, signage, etc are erected for the event only, the Local Rule for Temporary Obstructions (Appendix I in the Rules of Golf) is strongly recommended.
- b) When positioning TIOs, if possible they should be situated out of play. If two or more TIOs are positioned close together, they should be 'tied' together by means of a painted line to indicate that they are to be treated as the one obstruction. If possible, TIOs should be positioned so that relief from one TIO will not result in dropping in an area where interference by a second TIO will result.
- c) At times, the area that the TIO Local Rule stipulates for relief may be in a position which is grossly unfair for the player (ie in a bush, bunker, etc). Hence, it is permissible for the Committee to permit the players to choose which side of the TIO they wish to drop the ball. The TIOs for which this arrangement applies must be specifically stated in the Local Rules (eg all camera towers, all leader boards, the Srixon sign at the front right of the 3rd green, etc).

ADVICE FOR REFEREES AT AUSTRALIAN OPENS

For the Australian Men's and Women's Opens, the following is typical of the written guidance GA provides in advance to referees:

Firstly, please note that whilst study of various published diagrams and explanatory literature can prove very useful, it should not be used as a substitute for studying the actual specimen Local Rule on pages 135-140 (includes dropping zone (DZ) local rule) of the Rules of Golf.

In preparing for the Australian Open, please be mindful of the following points:

- (i) *The commentary box, all grandstands, and possibly some TV towers will have DZs applicable to them. These DZs will be painted white. White arrows on the ground, usually at each end, or in the middle of larger TIOs, will point to the nearest or sole DZ.*
- (ii) *If a TIO has an applicable DZ, the local rule option used by GA stipulates that the DZ may be used if the player seeks relief from interference to their stance or swing, irrespective of whether the ball is in the TIO, lost in the TIO or in front of, behind or adjacent to the TIO. (Note: If a player is seeking relief in this specific situation,*



referees should always ensure the player is aware they have the option of going to the designated DZ or “playing the rule”.)

- (iii) *Under the local rule option used by GA, DZs are not used when “line of sight” intervention is all that exists – standard TIO relief must be used in such a case.*
- (iv) *White lines are sometimes painted linking two adjacent TIOs. This indicates they are deemed to be the one TIO.*

If there is a white line linking the fronts of two TIOs and another white line linking the rear points of the two TIOs such that the white lines enclose an area of ground, a ball lying in this area is deemed to be in the TIO and appropriate relief can be given (eg to DZ if one is provided). If the ball lies behind the marked area (and the player’s stance or swing is not interfered with by the marked area) but the intended swing would pass into the area without being physically affected by the TIOs, then stance or swing relief is not granted but “line of sight” interference occurs.

The same applies if an area of ground adjacent to a TIO (usually a TV tower with a DZ) is marked by white paint, thus deeming that area to be part of the TIO. This marking is done to provide equitable relief that may otherwise not occur due to vegetation around the TIO.

Referees should make it a habit to check if white lines exist when dealing with a TIO situation.

- (v) *Some TIOs, particularly TV towers and signage, may be so sited that it would be unfair for the player to be required to drop in the area specified by the TIO Local Rule. In such cases, the Supplementary Local Rules will provide that the player is entitled to drop on either side of that TIO. This option only applies to those TIOs specifically noted on the Supplementary Local Rules.*
- (vi) *Ball Lost in TIO – If a ball is lost in a TIO, the ball is deemed to lie at the spot where it last entered the TIO. This is the spot where the ball last crossed the outer limits of the TIO. (Again, if a DZ is applicable, it may be used.) This same procedure applies to ascertaining the spot where the ball is deemed to lie when the ball is lost in an immovable obstruction (Rule 24-2c) and an abnormal ground condition (Rule 25-1c).*

General Notes for Referees When Dealing with TIO Ruling Situations

The following is provided with a view to assisting any referee who may be inexperienced in dealing with TIOs, or who may deal with TIOs on a very irregular basis.



- A *Temporary Immovable Obstruction* (or TIO) is a non-permanent artificial object that is often erected in conjunction with a competition and is fixed or not readily movable. Examples of TIOs include, but are not limited to; tents, scoreboards, grandstands, television towers, and lavatories.
- TIOs:
 - Are things many referees rarely encounter.
 - Are seen mostly in major events.
 - There tends to be more spectators around than many referees are used to.
 - Professional golfers are involved.
 - All of this can lead to:
 - ~ The referee to have a lack of confidence in themself.
 - ~ The referee administering a local rule with which they do not get much practice.
- Some unusual features to note with the TIO Local Rule:
 - A player is entitled to relief from a TIO that is Out of Bounds (note: difference with Rule 24-2).
 - When a player's ball is in a Water Hazard or Lateral Water Hazard, they are still entitled to relief (although be mindful of the Local Rule's related provisions).
 - If the player's ball lies on a part of the course and is in, on, or under a TIO, the player is entitled to relief even if their ball would be otherwise unplayable (note: difference with Rule 24-2).
- There are an array of different methods people use to help them get their heads around the TIO interference and relief procedures. The method I tend to use and to teach to others is to consider the following:
 - Firstly, does 'line of sight' exist? That is, does the player's ball lie behind any part of the TIO such that it intervenes directly between the player's ball and the hole OR does the ball lie within one club-length of a spot equidistant from the hole where such intervention would exist? (Note: The TIO must also be on the player's Line of Play.)
 - And secondly, does physical interference exist? That is, does the same type of interference as described by the Immovable Obstruction Rule (Rule 24-2) exist? (Remember that this box is still ticked if the TIO is Out of Bounds or if the ball is in a Water Hazard.)
 - Note that in most cases you will only be dealing with 'line of sight', but don't forget about physical interference, particularly when you are close to the TIO. And when you are close to the TIO, don't just think about physical interference, remember 'line of sight' interference!



- *If either or both of the above boxes are ticked, and none of the exceptions apply, interference as defined exists.*
- *If interference exists, we need to find the point on the course nearest to where the ball lies where there is no longer interference as defined. The player is then able to drop the ball within one club-length of this point (being mindful of the status of the ground within this club-length; ie is part of this ground Through the Green, or in a Hazard, or Out of Bounds, or does it contain areas at which there is still interference as defined?).*
- *Make sure the ball when dropped first strikes a part of the course at which there is no interference as defined. Also make sure the ball does not roll to a part of the course where there is interference as defined.*
- *When studying TIOs, the various published diagrams and study resources can be very useful, but make sure you also study the Local Rule itself, and make sure you are familiar with the various Exceptions and Notes.*



Section 13: Final Day-By-Day Check (for Elite Tour Events)

The following provides a check of golf operation aspects to be considered each day, for an event scheduled Thursday-Sunday.

Monday

- Set-up office
- Mark course (this should largely be done on the Sunday)
- Establish Noticeboard
- Registration
- Pro-am (ensure pros are notified)
- Supervise practice rounds
- Liaise with course superintendent re instructions and plan for week

Tuesday

- Completion of registration
- Draft Local Rules
- Finalise and release draw
- Finish marking course
- Supervise practice rounds
- Pro-am (ensure pros are notified)
- Formulation of hole location plan for week (taking into account advance weather forecast)
- Meeting with Promoter and courtesy car drivers re evacuation plan

Wednesday

- Pro-Am day
- Refresh distance dots
- Finalise Local Rules
- Establish Recording area and ensure it is properly defined
- Consider weather forecast and liaise with course superintendent re instructions and course preparation plan for following day (includes provision of hole placement sheet)
- Establish Pace of Play Sheet for players
- Prepare timing schedule for referees
- Prepare Referees Rota
- Hold brief meeting with Referees
- Finalise Evacuation Plan
- Prepare packs for starters
- Hole locations for Thursday (late in day) – dotted in black or yellow and measured; Hole Placement Sheets for Players



- Prepare for dew sweep next day

Thursday - Sunday

- Arrive one hour minimum before first starting time
- Course set-up and check (ie hole positions and tee markers are correct, etc)
- Dew sweep (if required)
- Ensure rakes out of bunkers and that all bunkers are properly prepared
- Refreshing of distance dots if required
- Mark any new, or refresh any previously marked, GUR
- Ensure Starters and Recorders are organised
- Timing of players – Pace of Play Policy
- Consider weather forecast and liaise with course superintendent re instructions and course preparation plan for following day (includes provision of hole placement sheet)
- Check score cards against official score record
- Prepare Draws for following day
- Draw service for players
- Prepare cards for following day
- Confirm Results
- Hole locations for following day (either early in day or late in day) – dotted in black or yellow and measured
- Packs for starters (ready for following day)



Appendix A (i): Conditions of Play (2010 Australian Amateur)

1. Format

1.1 Each of the Men's and Women's Championships will be played in two separate sections.

1.2 (i) For the Women's Championship, the first section will be decided by stroke play over four qualifying rounds of 18 holes at Cottesloe Golf Club - this section will be known as the Australian Women's Stroke Play Championship.

For the Men's Championship, the first section will be decided by stroke play over four qualifying rounds. For the first two rounds, each player will play one round at Lake Karrinyup Country Club and one round at Mt Lawley Golf Club, with the final two rounds being played at Lake Karrinyup Country Club – this section will be known as the Australian Men's Stroke Play Championship.

(ii) There will be no cut in the first section of the Women's Championship. In the Australian Men's Stroke Play Championship, the leading 75 players after 36 holes, and any tying for 75th place, will qualify for the 3rd and 4th rounds; the remainder will be eliminated.

(iii) Australian Women's Stroke Play Championship – Schedule

1st Round – Wednesday 17 March at Cottesloe Golf Club

2nd Round – Thursday 18 March at Cottesloe Golf Club

3rd Round – Friday 19 March at Cottesloe Golf Club

4th Round – Saturday 20 March at Cottesloe Golf Club

Australian Men's Stroke Play Championship – Schedule

1st Round – Thursday 18 March at Lake Karrinyup Country Club & Mt Lawley Golf Club

2nd Round – Friday 19 March at Lake Karrinyup Country Club & Mt Lawley Golf Club

3rd Round – Saturday 20 March at Lake Karrinyup Country Club

4th Round – Sunday 21 March at Lake Karrinyup Country Club

1.3 The winner of the first section of the Men's Championship will be the Australian Men's Stroke Play Champion and receive a silver medal and hold the perpetual trophy for one year. The winner of the first section of the Women's Championship will be the Australian Women's Stroke Play Champion and receive a silver medal and hold the perpetual trophy for one year. In the event of a tie for either Championship, players in such a tie will continue over such holes as the Championship Play Committee will decide in a sudden-death, hole-by-hole play-off until the winner is determined.

1.4 After the first section of the Women's Championship and Men's Championship, the thirty-two (32) lowest scores from each will compete in the second section of the Women's Championship and Men's Championship respectively.

1.5 In the event of there being a tie for a position after the first section of either the Men's Championship or Women's Championship such that more than 32 players remain in the respective Championship, those players tying for the last qualifying position or positions will continue over such holes as the Championship Play Committee determines in a sudden-death, hole-by-hole play-off until the 32 qualifiers for the second section of that Championship have been determined. However, if the Championship Play Committee determines that there is not sufficient time available for a play-off, such a tie will be resolved by lot.

1.6 The second section of both the Women's Championship and Men's Championship will be played at Lake Karrinyup Country Club and consist of successive rounds of match play, with losers being eliminated and winners progressing to the next round. The automatic draw will be applied to establish the match pairings (ties for positions, other than for the last qualifying position or positions (or for the first position in the Men's or Women's Championship), will be decided by the order in which players start their final round in the first section with the first player to start receiving the lowest available number, in accordance with the published Golf Australia procedure). The schedule of the second section of both the Women's Championship and Men's Championship will be as follows:

Round One:	Monday 22 March (am) – 18 holes
Round Two:	Monday 22 March (pm) – 18 holes
Quarter-finals:	Tuesday 23 March (am) – 18 holes
Semi-finals:	Tuesday 23 March (pm) – 18 holes
Final:	Wednesday 24 March – 36 holes



- 1.7 In the event of a halved match in any round;
- (i) players will continue to play until a winner is determined, and;
 - (ii) the last stipulated round is deemed to extend to as many holes as are required for a match to be won.
- 1.8 The winner of the Women's Championship will be the *Australian Women's Amateur Champion* and receive the Amateur Championship Gold Medal and hold the Championship Cup for one year. The winner of the Men's Championship will be the *Australian Men's Amateur Champion* and receive the Amateur Championship Gold Medal and hold the Challenge Cup for one year.

2. Ross Herbert National and International Stroke Teams Event

- 2.1 Each Australian State and Overseas Governing Body may nominate a team comprising two men and two women who meet eligibility conditions laid down by Golf Australia.
- 2.2 The winning National and International Teams will be determined by the lowest aggregate of the two scores from the first two rounds of the Australian Men's & Women's Stroke Play Championships.
- 2.3 In the event of a tie, joint winners will be declared.
- 2.4 Members of the winning National Team will receive the Ross Herbert National Teams Trophy; members of the winning International Team will receive the Ross Herbert International Teams Trophy.

2. Championship Play Committee

- 3.1 The Championship Play Committee will comprise the Chair of the Golf Australia Championships Committee, Golf Australia's Director - Championships, and Manager - Championships.
- 3.2 In the absence of the full Championship Play Committee, such members as may be present at the time, may give a decision, and any decision so given will be deemed to be a decision of the full Championship Play Committee.
- 3.3 The Championship Play Committee will have the sole management and control of the Championship, with full power at any time to alter or vary any one of the Conditions.
- 3.4 The Championship Play Committee's decision on matters affecting the Championship will be final.

4. Rules of Play

The Rules of Golf, as adopted by R&A Rules Limited, will apply, together with Golf Australia's Hard Card (see condition 16), and any additional Local Rules as drawn up by the Championship Play Committee.

5. Entries

- 5.1 Eligible players for the Women's Championship are female amateurs whose Australian Women's Handicap or overseas equivalent does not exceed 6.4 strokes. Eligible players for the Men's Championship are male amateurs whose Australian Men's Handicap or overseas equivalent does not exceed 5.4 strokes. (NB The handicap limits do not apply to those players who are exempt as detailed in Condition 6.) The exact Handicap certified at time of entry is the handicap to be used for all purposes.
- 5.2 Players must comply with the GA Gender Policy. Refer www.golfaustralia.org.au
- 5.3 The Entrance Fee for the Men's Championship is \$240.00 (includes GST); and for the Women's Championship is \$185.00 (includes GST). **A \$20.00 discount applies to those players who enter on-line.**
- 5.4 Entries must be made via the Golf Australia on-line entry process, or on the entry form issued by Golf Australia, or a facsimile copy thereof. Entry by email is acceptable provided it is a scanned image of the official entry form.
- 5.5 The decision of the Championship Play Committee as to acceptance or refusal of any entry will be final.
- 5.6 Entrants must conform in all respects to the Rules of Amateur Status, as adopted by R&A Rules Limited.
- 5.7 Fully completed Entry Forms must be received by Golf Australia prior to 5.00 pm Wednesday 17 February 2010. IT IS THE **SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ENTRANT THEMSELF TO ENSURE THAT THEIR ENTRY IS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE CLOSING TIME FOR ENTRIES.** A player's entry form has not officially been received until their name has been posted at www.golfaustralia.org.au.
- 5.8 The maximum field size for the Men's Championship is 312. The maximum field size for the Women's Championship is 84. In the event of applications exceeding the number of places available in either Championship, entries for higher handicap competitors who are not exempt from handicap requirements



as noted in Condition 6 will be decided by a handicap ballot. Unsuccessful entrants will be informed without delay and given the opportunity to compete if withdrawals subsequently occur. Entrance Fees will be refunded to entrants balloted out, who do not compete.

- 5.9 Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Championship Play Committee. Any such entry will be subject to the application of a \$60.00 late fee (includes GST).
- 5.10 In the event that an entry is received after the closing time for entries and that it is accepted, the entrant will be automatically liable to Golf Australia for the sum of \$60.00 (the "late entry fee" – includes GST). Where the entrant nominates to pay the entry fee by credit card, by providing their credit card details, the card holder additionally authorises Golf Australia to debit the nominated account for the sum of the late entry fee (if applicable). Where payment is made by cheque, money order or cash, the entrant will be invoiced for the amount of the late entry fee and the entry will not be accepted until the full requisite payment has been received.
- 5.11 Acceptable payment methods are only as follows – credit card (Visa or MasterCard only), cheque (personal or bank), money order, cash (please note that Golf Australia will NOT accept responsibility for cash sent that is not received). Cheques or money orders are to be made payable to **Golf Australia**.
- 5.12 Only entry forms accompanied by credit card payment will be accepted by facsimile or email. Entry forms accompanied by other acceptable payment methods must be submitted by post or in person. Entries will not be accepted by telephone. Entry forms will not be accepted unless they are fully completed.
- 5.13 Entrance Fees will only be refunded in the case of a withdrawal being advised before the closing time for entries, except for those entrants who fail to secure a place. All refunds paid to players who have withdrawn will be subject to an \$11.00 administration charge (includes GST).

6. Exemptions and Remaining Places

Exemptions for the 2010 Australian Men's and Women's Amateur Championships will be granted to the below (Note – Where applicable, it is the sole responsibility of the player to ensure that the Championship Play Committee has received notification of their exempt status. Should the Championship Play Committee not be so advised, that player will be deemed to be a non-exempt player.).

Men's Championship

- 6.1m Leading 150 players from the Australian Men's Ranking System as at 17/2/2010.
- 6.2m Competitors at the 2009 Men's Interstate Teams Matches. (NB This does not include participants at the Colts and Boys' Teams Matches.)
- 6.3m Australian Boys' Amateur Championship winners 2005-2009.
- 6.4m All past Australian Men's Amateur Champions.
- 6.5m 2010 Australian Men's Amateur Foursome Championship winners.
- 6.6m 2010 Golf Australia National Squad members.
- 6.7m All past British Amateur Champions.
- 6.8m All past US Amateur Champions.
- 6.9m Amateur Championship Winners 2007-2009 of countries affiliated with The R&A and USGA.
- 6.10m Competitors at 2008 World Amateur Team Championship.
- 6.11m Competitors at 2009 Asia-Pacific Team Championship.
- 6.12m 2009 Australian Men's Amateur Championship – match play qualifiers.
- 6.13m 2009 Australian Open – Championship Proper competitors.
- 6.14m Australia open amateur team members in any event 2007-2010.
- 6.15m Current Australian men's state amateur championship winners as at 17/2/2010.
- 6.16m Current Champion of each Host Club.
- 6.17m Competitors nominated by men's State & Territory Associations (maximum 2 each).
- 6.18m Leading 100 players on R&A World Amateur Golf Ranking as at the closing time for entries.
- 6.19m Players nominated by national golf associations (maximum 4 per country).
- 6.20m Top 10 international players in handicap order (not otherwise exempt).
- 6.21m Players exempted by Golf Australia.



Women's Championship

- 6.1w Leading 40 players from the Australian Women's Ranking System as at 17/2/2010.
- 6.2w Competitors at the 2009 Women's Interstate Teams Matches. (NB This does not include participants at the Girls' Teams Matches.)
- 6.3w Australian Girls' Amateur Championship winners 2005-2009.
- 6.4w All past Australian Women's Amateur Champions.
- 6.5w 2010 Australian Women's Amateur Foursome Championship winners.
- 6.6w 2010 Golf Australia National Squad members.
- 6.7w All past Women's British Amateur Champions.
- 6.8w All past Women's US Amateur Champions.
- 6.9w Amateur Championship Winners 2007-2009 of countries affiliated with The R&A and USGA.
- 6.10w Competitors at 2008 World Amateur Teams Championship.
- 6.11w Competitors at 2009 Asia-Pacific Team Championship (Queen Sirikit Cup).
- 6.12w 2009 Australian Women's Amateur Championship – match play qualifiers.
- 6.13w 2009 Women's Australian Open – Championship Proper competitors.
- 6.14w Australia open amateur team members in any event 2007-2010.
- 6.15w Current Australian women's state amateur championship winners as at 17/2/2010.
- 6.16w Current Women's Champion of each Host Club.
- 6.17w Competitors nominated by women's State & Territory Associations (maximum 2 each).
- 6.18w Players nominated by national golf associations (maximum 3 per country).
- 6.19w Top 5 international players in handicap order (not otherwise exempt).
- 6.20w Players exempted by Golf Australia.

7. Media

All rights for televising live, television recordings, or for any visual or electronic reproduction of the Championships are reserved only to Golf Australia and may only be made under licence.

8. Conforming Golf Balls, Conforming Driver Heads, and Time of Starting

The specimen conditions in the Rules of Golf are in effect as regards Conforming Golf Balls, Conforming Driver Heads, and Time of Starting.

9. Registration

Competitors in the Men's Championship must register between 10.30 am and 3.00 pm at Lake Karrynup Country Club on Wednesday 17 March. Competitors in the Women's Championship must register between 10.30 am and 3.00 pm at Cottesloe Golf Club on Tuesday 16 March. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

10. Drug Testing

All competitors are subject to drug testing by the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency for banned substances as laid down in Golf Australia's Anti-Doping Policy. Any competitor infringing this policy, or refusing to take a test, will be disqualified and subject to any sanction(s) brought down by ASADA. A list of prohibited substances will be available at registration. Clarification of any medication can be obtained via the ASADA hotline – 1800 020 506, or from www.asada.gov.au.

11. Practice

Mt Lawley Golf Club – Tuesday 16 March.

Lake Karrynup Country Club – Wednesday 17 March (competitors in the Australian Women's Amateur Championship may practice on Sunday 21 March following the conclusion of the Men' Stroke Play Championship).

Cottesloe Golf Club – Tuesday 16 March.

12. Pace of Play

Rule 6-7 will be strictly enforced. See the Golf Australia Hard Card for Pace of Play conditions.



13. Motorised Transport

Players must not ride in any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorised by the Championship Play Committee. Penalty: Stroke Play – 2 strokes for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – 4 strokes. Match Play – At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match will be adjusted by deducting 1 hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round – 2 holes. In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole. Use of any unauthorised form of transportation must be discontinued immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. Otherwise the player is disqualified.

Any player or caddie seeking authorisation to use a golf cart due to a disability as defined under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 should contact Golf Australia to obtain information on procedures for submitting such requests. All such requests and required information must be submitted to Golf Australia simultaneously and together with the entry form (or within 2 days of the on-line entry being received). Requests due to temporary injuries or impairments that do not qualify as a permanent disability under the Act will not be granted. In the event of a change in a medical condition after submitting the entry form but before the commencement of the event, written submission of all documentation must be received by Golf Australia no later than 7 days prior to the first day of the event. Golf Australia will consider any such request in accordance with these conditions and its rules, regulations and policies.

14. Database of Competitors' Details

The personal data contained in this entry is permanently retained by Golf Australia. This data may be utilised by Golf Australia or its sponsors for the distribution of correspondence, in both electronic and hard copy means. From time to time players may be sent entry forms, event literature, the Golf Australia e-newsletter, or marketing material by the sponsor(s) of Golf Australia events, or information about events conducted by Golf Australia-approved bodies. Upon receipt by Golf Australia of a written request, a player may either have access to their details, or have their details deleted from the database.

15. Code of Conduct

All entrants are bound by Golf Australia's Code of Conduct ("the Code"). A copy of the Code is available at www.golfaustralia.org.au. Any breach of the Code may be recorded on the Central Register of the Code ("the Register"). The Register may be accessed (and published from time to time) by any State Association or Golf Australia for the purposes of administering Competitions or state championships, events, competitions, practice sessions or major activities conducted or sanctioned by a State Association, or any State Association or Golf Australia codes of conduct and/or other related matters.

16. Golf Australia Hard Card

The Golf Australia Hard Card will be in effect throughout the Australian Women's Amateur Championship and the Australian Men's Amateur Championship.

Note i: Distance Measuring Devices are NOT permitted. Penalty in accordance with Rule 14-3.

Note ii: The new condition relating to Club Face Grooves will not be in effect until 2014.



Appendix A (ii): Conditions of Play (2010 Men's Australian Open)

A. GENERAL

1. The Championship is scheduled to be played over 72 holes stroke play; 18 holes each on Thursday 2, Friday 3, Saturday 4, and Sunday 5 December 2010.
2. 156 players will be eligible to compete comprising those exempt from all qualifying and successful competitors from Final Qualifying. The leading 60 professionals after 36 holes, plus any tying for 60th place, plus any amateur with an equivalent or better 36-hole total to the 60th placed professional, will qualify for the 3rd and 4th rounds; the remainder will be eliminated. In the event that the number of competitors qualifying for the 3rd and 4th rounds is such that the number of players in each group will not total the requisite figure, the Championship Play Committee will appoint a playing marker, or markers.
3. In the event of a tie for the Championship after 72 holes, a play-off to produce a single winner must be conducted. Players in such a tie will continue over such holes as the Championship Play Committee will decide in a sudden-death, hole-by-hole play-off until the winner is determined.
4. In the event of play being either delayed or declared null and void for any round of the Championship or the play-off (if one is required), additional play beyond Sunday 5 December will be at the discretion of the Championship Play Committee.
5. The winner will receive the Championship Gold Medal and will hold the Stonehaven Cup for one year. The leading amateur in the Championship, unless they be the winner and given that they have completed the Championship, will receive the Championship Silver Medal. All amateurs who complete the Championship will receive a bronze medallion.
6.
 - (a) The Championship will be under the sole management and control of the Championship Play Committee which will comprise Golf Australia's Director – Championships, Chairman – Rules Committee, Manager – Rules & Handicapping, Manager – Championships, and the PGA Tour of Australasia's Director of Tournaments. In the absence of any members of the Championship Play Committee, such members of the Championship Play Committee who may be present at any time may give a decision, and any such decision will be deemed to be a decision made by the Championship Play Committee in its entirety.
 - (b) The Rules of Golf, as adopted by R&A Rules Limited, will apply together with such Local Rules as are approved by the Championship Play Committee.
 - (c) Any decision of the Championship Play Committee will be final in all matters relating to the Championship.
 - (d) The Championship Play Committee reserves the right to vary any condition of this event.
7. The specimen conditions in the Rules of Golf are in effect as regards Conforming Golf Balls, Conforming Driver Heads, One Ball Condition, and Time of Starting.
8. Clubs Conforming with Groove and Punch Mark Specifications: The player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from 1 January 2010.
 *PENALTY FOR CARRYING, BUT NOT MAKING STROKE WITH, CLUB OR CLUBS IN BREACH OF CONDITION: Two strokes for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – four strokes. *Any club or clubs carried in breach of this condition must be declared out of play by the player to their marker or fellow competitor immediately upon discovery a breach has occurred. If the player fails to do so, they are disqualified. PENALTY FOR MAKING STROKE WITH CLUB IN BREACH OF CONDITION: Disqualification.
9. It is prohibited for a player or their caddie to ride in or on a motorised vehicle unless permitted to do so by the Championship Rules Committee. Penalty: Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – four strokes. Procedure when breach discovered: Use of any unauthorised form of transportation must be discontinued immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. Otherwise the player is disqualified.
10. All competitors are subject to drug testing by the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency for banned substances as laid down in Golf Australia's Anti-Doping Policy. Any competitor infringing this policy, or refusing to take a test, shall be disqualified and subject to any sanction(s) brought down by ASADA. A list of prohibited substances will be available at registration. Clarification of any medication can be obtained via the ASADA hotline – 1800 020 506, or from www.asada.gov.au.



11. Pace of Play: Pace of play guidelines will be laid down and strictly enforced (see Note 2; Rule 6-7). Penalties will be issued to individuals in groups who by their pace contribute to such delay. Warnings may not be issued prior to the application of penalties.
12. During practice or during the Championship, a player or their caddie will not mark the course, or cause to have the course marked, to indicate, or to assist in gauging, course measurements. A player in breach of this condition may be disqualified.
13. Caddies must wear the caddie clothing provided. Competitors will at all times be liable for the actions of their caddies. A player whose caddie is in breach of this condition may be disqualified.
14. Golf Australia and Sponsors arrange publicity before and during the Championship in the Media, by live and recorded radio and television broadcasting, by filming, and in electronic form. The players assent to references to them and pictures of them in practice and play appearing and being used for commercial purposes by Golf Australia and its Sponsors. All rights for televising live, television recordings or for any visual or electronic reproduction of the Championship are reserved only to Golf Australia and may only be made under licence.

B. ENTRIES

1. The Championship is open to all professional golfers (includes trainee professionals) – NB professionals do not need to be members of a PGA or PGA Tour; and amateur golfers who either have an Australian (or other national union) Handicap of 2.0 strokes or less, or who are exempt from Qualifying. Amateurs must conform in all respects with the Rules of Amateur Status as adopted by R&A Rules Limited. NB Amateurs (excluding those exempt under Exemption Category D15 and D16) will be permitted to change the status of their entry from amateur to professional up until the end of the day immediately prior to Qualifying.
2. Entries close 5.00 pm, 18 November 2010. **IT IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ENTRANT TO ENSURE THEIR ENTRY IS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE CLOSING TIME FOR ENTRIES THAT IS APPLICABLE TO THEM. A LIST OF AMATEUR ENTRIES WILL BE POSTED AT www.australianopengolf.com. A PLAYER'S ENTRY FORM HAS NOT OFFICIALLY BEEN RECEIVED UNTIL THEIR NAME HAS BEEN POSTED AT www.australianopengolf.com.**
3. Entry forms submitted by amateurs must be accompanied either by; a copy of the entrant's current handicap record for the past six months – officially endorsed by their home club, or by the player's GOLF Link number.
4.
 - (a) The Championship Play Committee reserves the right to accept late entries from players who are exempt from qualifying for the Championship Proper up to 5.00 pm on Friday 26 November 2010, under special circumstances.
 - (b) Under circumstances not covered by B.4(a), entries physically received after the respective closing time may still be accepted at the discretion of the Championship Play Committee..
5. The entry fee for Qualifying and the Championship Proper is AUD\$100.00 (includes GST). Golf Australia will NOT accept responsibility for cash sent that is not received.
6. Amateur entries must be on the attached entry form. Entries will not be accepted by telephone, facsimile or in electronic form (exception – entries with credit card payments only may be sent by [facsimile, or email](#)), or unless the entry form is fully completed. Fully completed forms from Amateur players must be sent DIRECTLY to Golf Australia. Professional golfers MUST enter via the PGA Australia.
7. Players wishing to withdraw may do so fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the event to ensure a full refund. Withdrawal after this period will result in loss of entry fee (except in exceptional circumstances).
10. All entries will be subject to the approval of the Championship Play Committee, which reserves the right to accept or refuse any entry without giving reason for its decision which will be final. The Championship Play Committee may require independent certified evidence of the playing ability of entrants.
11. Acceptable payment methods are only as follows – credit card (Visa, or MasterCard only), cheque (personal or bank), money order, cash (please note condition B.4). Cheques or money orders are to be made payable to *Golf Australia*.



C. QUALIFYING

For those competitors NOT exempt directly into the Championship Proper, the qualifying procedure will be as follows:

1. Eight (8) places are available in the Championship Proper for non-exempt players.
2. Two separate stroke play competitions of 18 holes each will be played on Monday 29 November 2010 at Liverpool Golf Club and New Brighton Golf Club.
3. Should the number of entries for Qualifying exceed the capacity, priority will be given to (in order): 1. PGA of Australasia Full Tournament Members; 2. Full Members of the Australian PGA (based on most recent Final National Rankings, then order of entry); 3. Members of other recognised Tours (in order of date of entry); 4. Members of other recognised PGAs (in order of date of entry); 5. Non-aligned professionals (in order of date of entry); 6. Amateurs in exact handicap order (handicap as at time of entry).
4. For these Qualifying competitions, competitors will be divided as evenly as possible between the courses. The 8 places available to make up the field of the Championship Proper, will also be so divided as evenly as possible between the courses.
5. Ties for the last available places in each competition will be decided by sudden-death, hole-by-hole play-off as soon as practicable after all players have finished play. Reserve places (alternates) in case of subsequent withdrawals of Qualifiers from the Championship Proper will be decided either by sudden-death, hole-by-hole play-off, or by lot, as the Committee in charge may determine.
Alternates from Qualifying will be used only for the purposes of filling Qualifying positions which become vacant. All other Championship alternates will be taken directly from the relevant eligibility category vacated.

D. EXEMPTIONS FROM QUALIFYING

Exemptions for 2010 will be granted to the following (NB there will be 148 exempt players):

General

1. Leading 16 players from the final 2009 OneAsia Order of Merit).
2. Leading 15 ranked players from the 'Australasia', 'Asia', and Japan categories of the Official World Golf Rankings (to a floor of 250th position) as at 21 days prior to tournament.
3. 2010 Australian Men's Amateur Champion.
4. 2010 Australian Men's Amateur Stroke Play Champion.
5. 2010 Asian Open Amateur Champion.
6. 2009 Aaron Baddeley World Junior Champion.
7. 2010 World Amateur Team (Australian representatives).
8. Players exempted by Golf Australia (maximum 10).

Professionals

9. Leading 35 players from the PGA Tour of Australasia Tournament Exemption Categories.
10. Leading 20 players from the 2010 seed priority ranking on the Korean Tour (Korean Tour Exemption Categories).
11. Leading 20 players from the China Golf Tour.
12. Leading 10 players from the final 2009 Asian Tour OOM (to a floor of 50th position), not otherwise exempt.
13. Leading 5 players from the ASEAN PGA Tour (Mercedes-Benz Tour) (to a floor of 20th position).
14. Leading 10 players from the JGTO

Amateurs

15. 2010 Australian Boys' Amateur Champion.
16. 2010 Australian Mid-Amateur Champion.

NB Residual positions will be redistributed across Category 8, 9 and 10, with positions being allocated in order to each Tour as outlined above.



E. REGISTRATION

All competitors in the Championship Proper must register at The Lakes Golf Club either between 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm on Monday 29 November, or between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm on Tuesday 30 November. Any competitor failing to register within these times may be eliminated from the Championship. The Championship Play Committee reserves the right to waive this condition in special individual circumstances.

F. PRIZE MONEY

Prize money of minimum AUD\$1,500,000.00 will be allocated to professional golfers in accordance with the distribution formula of the PGA Tour of Australasia.

G. PRO-AM & PRACTICE

The Championship Pro-Am will be held on Wednesday 1 December (by entering the Australian Open, players automatically commit themselves to play in the Pro-Am as required by Golf Australia). Practice facilities and specific operating times will be noted on the Australian Open website.



Appendix B: Local Rules (2010 Women's Australian Open)

Supplementary Local Rules – Version I

To be read in conjunction with the Rules of Golf, as adopted by R&A Rules Limited, in conjunction with the ALPG Rules of Competition and Hard Card.

1. Out of Bounds (Rule 27-1)

- i) Beyond any fence bounding the course.
- ii) Beyond the boundary defined by the line of white stakes to the left of the 17th hole *joining into* the club boundary fence at either end.

Note – Angled supports of a boundary fence are obstructions when on the course.

2. Immovable Obstructions (Rule 24-2)

- i) **Staked trees and staked shrubs** (and staked trees or staked shrubs which are surrounded by a tree guard) (NB The obstruction includes any wood-chipped, or other constructed, basin surrounding such a tree or shrub). NB The stakes and/or guards are deemed to be a part of the immovable obstruction.
- ii) **All artificially surfaced roads and paths.**
- iii) **Course Superintendent's Compound** – Where an immovable artificial construction (includes artificial roads or paths) adjoins another immovable artificial construction and they are constructed as a component of the Course Superintendent's Compound, they are considered to be ONE obstruction.

3. Ground Under Repair (Rule 25-1)

- i) All areas bounded by a continuous white line, or by white dots, or by broken white lines.
- ii) Piles of material in dump area rear of 5th green – adjoining piles are deemed to be one single pile.
- iii) **PLAY PROHIBITED** – Turf nursery left of 1st fairway.

4. Lateral Water Hazards

- i) A water hazard stake (or lateral water hazard stake) is a movable obstruction if it may be moved without unreasonable effort, without unduly delaying play, and without causing damage.
- ii) **DROP ZONES** – Two drop zones have been marked at the rear of the 14th green (for play of the 14th hole). The nearest drop zone is determined by arrows.

5. Integral Parts of the Course

- i) Wood-chipped areas and areas covered by mulch are integral parts of the course unless the provisions of another local rule apply (individual wood chips or pieces of mulch are loose impediments). **NB Wood-chipped paths are artificial surfaces** – Supplementary Local Rule 2(ii) applies.
- ii) Pile/s of dirt left of 16th fairway.

6. Practice (Rule 7-1)

All recognised practice areas within the bounds of the course may be used by players for practice on any day of the Championship.

7. Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIOs)

- i) NB If a TEMPORARY OBSTRUCTION may be moved without unreasonable effort, without unduly delaying play, and without causing damage, it is a MOVABLE OBSTRUCTION.
- ii) **TENTED VILLAGE LEFT OF 13TH HOLE** – For the purposes of determining nearest point of relief (and for dropping and re-dropping) ONLY, all TIOs which are a part of the tented village to the left of the 13th hole are to be treated as one single TIO.
- iii) When two or more obstructions are bounded by a white line (or a line of white dots), they are to be treated as the one obstruction.
- iv) When a player's ball lies within a white-lined area adjoining a TIO, or if a white-lined area adjoining a TIO interferes with the player's stance or the area of their intended swing, the adjoining TIO is deemed to be causing interference.



- v) **DROP ZONES** – When a TIO is causing ordinary obstruction interference (as per Rule 24-2a) and relief is required, if drop zones have been marked, the player **MAY** drop the ball in the drop zone, indicated by white arrows, deemed nearest to where her ball originally lay (or is deemed to lie if the ball is lost in the TIO), even though that drop zone may be nearer the hole. NB The only drop zones are at the rear of the 18th green.
- vi) **RELIEF:** Any player wishing to take relief from:
- i) any TV tower
 - ii) the Jumbo Screen – short-left of the 18th green
 - iii) the tennis courts and adjoining white-lined area to the left of the 18th green
 - iv) the following signage – signs front-left 2nd green, sign short-right 4th green, signs front-right 8th green, sign front-left 10th green, signs short-left and short-right 12th green, sign front-right 16th green, sign front-right 18th green.
- may take relief on either side of the obstruction.*

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE – TWO STROKES

RULINGS

A Rules Official can be obtained by contacting your Walking Scorer if a Walking Rules Official is not provided.

Rakes out of Bunkers

Rakes should be left outside bunkers where they are least likely to affect play.

Player Toilets

3rd hole (left of tee), 4th hole (60 metres short-left of green), 5th hole (between 5th green and 6th tee), 6th hole (back-left of green), 7th hole (hut front-left of tee), 8th hole (left of green), 10th hole (2nd hut at rear of tee), 11th hole (between 11th green and 12th tee), 12th hole (hut 60 metres short-left of green), 13th hole (public toilets left of hole), 15th hole (200 metres from tee, right of fairway behind 16th green), 17th hole (front left of tee), 18th hole (2nd hut at rear of 10th tee).

Score Card Return

The Scorers' Hut is located to the right of the 18th green. Note – The Scoring Area includes the area defined by yellow dots.



Appendix C: Hole Placement Sheet

 							
<i>Srixon Australian Men's Stroke Play</i>							
<i>Lake Karrinyup Country Club</i>							
HOLE	FRONT	SIDE	Depth	HOLE	FRONT	SIDE	Depth
1	20	6R	28	10	21	4L	29
2	18	5L	30	11	18	5L	28
3	7	5L	33	12	16	5R	22
4	28	5R	32	13	11	4R	29
5	29	5R	35	14	29	C	36
6	7	7L	34	15	22	4R	28
7	12	5R	24	16	25	8R	30
8	24	C	29	17	16	9L	33
9	13	8R	28	18	23	12R	30
MEASUREMENTS IN METRES TO FRONT OF GREEN							
Tuesday 23 March							



Appendix D: Evacuation Plan (2009 Women's Australian Open)



THE METROPOLITAN GOLF CLUB Evacuation Plan

In the event of play being suspended due to a dangerous situation, players **must cease play immediately**.

Players are to move to the following locations in the case of a suspension of play:

W: Walk in to the Clubhouse

A: Path in front of the 6th tee – shuttle carts will collect you

B: Gate C located behind the 6th green – cars will collect you

C: Parking area on the left hand side of the 17th fairway – cars will collect you

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
TEE	W	W	W	W	W	A	C	C	W	W	W	W	B	B	C	B	C	C
FWY	W	-	W	W	W	A	-	W	W	W	-	B	-	B	B	C	C	W
GRE	W	W	W	W	A	B	C	W	W	W	W	B	B	C	B	C	C	W

RESUMPTION OF PLAY

(Following a Suspension of Play)

In the case of a resumption of play, it is solely the player's responsibility to be in position, and ready to play at the appointed time.

Note: There will be no roll-call.

