



GOLF AUSTRALIA HANDICAPPING & RULES POLICY COMMITTEE – Charter (version June 2012)

Purpose & Scope

Golf Australia (GA) is the governing body in Australia for Handicapping, Course Rating, the Rules of Golf, and Rules of Amateur Status. The Handicapping & Rules Policy Committee (Committee) shall hold and execute GA's authority in these areas.

The Committee reports to the GA Board (Board). The Board may overturn any decision of the Committee.

Matters the Committee considers to be of any significance should be referred by it to the Board.

GA will work with its Member Associations (MAs) and the broader golf industry in administering and developing the national handicap and course rating systems, and in administering the Rules of Golf and Rules of Amateur Status. MAs shall act at all times within the decisions and policies determined by GA. Decisions and policies ratified by GA shall apply to all golfers in Australia. All golf competitions held throughout Australia shall be conducted within the decisions and policies of GA which shall be sufficiently broad to cater for the great diversity of Australian clubs, club environments, and competition and administrative challenges.

Sub-Committees of the Committee

The Committee will have responsible to it the following advisory sub-committees (Sub-Committees):

- **Rules of Golf & Amateur Status Sub-Committee**
- **Course Rating Sub-Committee**
- **Handicapping Sub-Committee**

Structure of the Committee

- All members of the Committee (including the Chairman) will be appointed by the Board at its discretion, except for the GA staff members as stipulated below.
- The Committee will have a Chairman who will be a member of the Board.
- The GA Chief Executive Officer and Director – Rules & Handicapping will be members of the Committee.
- The Committee will include at least one other member.
- All appointments, except for those of GA staff members, will be for annual terms (approximately). Precise commencement and expiration times will be determined by the Chairman of the Committee.
- There will be no limit on the number of terms a Committee member may serve.

Meetings of the Committee & Sub-Committees

The following arrangements will apply to meetings:

- The Committee and each of the Sub-Committees will each meet a minimum of two times per year (either in person or by teleconference).
- Where a Committee or Sub-Committee member would not otherwise be present in the venue city at the time of a meeting, GA will be responsible for the costs associated with that person's flights (and accommodation if required).
- Meetings will be organised as agreed and when practical.
- An agenda with supporting papers prepared by GA Handicapping & Rules staff is to be distributed at least seven days prior to the scheduled meeting time.

Reporting

- A summary of each meeting will be produced which is to be confirmed by the Committee Chairman or Sub-Committee Chairman as applicable.
- The Committee will report the actions of its meetings to the Board. As appropriate the meeting summaries will be distributed to the MAs.
- The Sub-Committees will report the actions of their meetings to the Committee and the Board. As appropriate the meeting summaries will be distributed to the MAs.
- The Chairman of the Committee will be responsible for formally reporting the Minutes of all meetings to the Board.

Responsibilities of the Committee

National Course Rating & Handicapping Systems:

- Respond to any queries referred to it either by MAs or the Secretariat in a manner consistent with the intent of the systems.
- Review from time to time the national systems, and amend where considered appropriate.
- Ensure constituents are advised in a timely fashion of any changes to these systems.
- Consider alternative systems.
- Ensure the Secretariat responds to queries from MAs, clubs, and individuals in a manner consistent with these systems.

Rules of Golf:

- Respond to any queries referred to it either by MAs or the Secretariat in a manner consistent with the current versions of the Rules of Golf as adopted by R&A Rules Limited and The R&A's Decisions on the Rules of Golf. Any query referred to GA may be referred by it to The R&A.
- Recommend to The R&A any proposed amendments to the Rules of Golf or the Decisions on the Rules of Golf that it considers appropriate.
- Ensure constituents are advised in a timely fashion of any changes to the Rules of Golf or the Decisions on the Rules of Golf.
- Ensure the Rules of Golf are applied in Australia in a manner consistent with any current decision of The R&A.
- Ensure the Secretariat responds to queries from MAs, clubs, and individuals in a manner consistent with any current decision of The R&A.

Rules of Amateur Status:

- Respond to any queries referred to it either by MAs or the Secretariat in a manner consistent with the current versions of the Rules of Amateur Status as adopted by R&A Rules Limited and The R&A's Decisions on the Rules of Amateur Status. Any query referred to GA may be referred by it to The R&A.
- Recommend to The R&A any proposed amendments to the Rules of Amateur Status or the Decisions on the Rules of Amateur Status that it considers appropriate.
- Ensure constituents are advised in a timely fashion of any changes to the Rules of Amateur Status or the Decisions on the Rules of Amateur Status.
- Ensure the Rules of Amateur Status are applied in Australia in a manner consistent with any current decision of The R&A.
- Ensure the Secretariat responds to queries from MAs, clubs, and individuals in a manner consistent with any current decision of The R&A.

General:

- From time to time determine appropriate policies (for example encompassing education and training programs).

Structure & Function of the Sub-Committees

RULES OF GOLF & AMATEUR STATUS SUB-COMMITTEE

- The Rules of Golf & Amateur Status Sub-Committee will have the following structure:
 - Chairman – appointed by the GA Board (usually a member of the Board).
 - PGA of Australia appointee.
 - Seven Board appointees with one coming from each State of Australia plus the Northern Territory (each appointed by the Board for one-year terms (approximately) after consultation with the MAs, precise commencement and expiration times will be determined by the Chairman of the Committee).
- The Rules of Golf & Amateur Status Sub-Committee is an expert group in its areas. Its purpose is to recommend policy or provide feedback to the Committee.
- At least two formal meetings will be held per year (either in person or via teleconference).

COURSE RATING SUB-COMMITTEE

- The Course Rating Sub-Committee structure is as follows:
 - Chairman – appointed by the GA Board (usually a member of the Board).
 - Seven Board appointees with one coming from each State of Australia plus the Northern Territory (each appointed by the Board for one-year terms (approximately) after consultation with the MAs, precise commencement and expiration times will be determined by the Chairman of the Committee).
- The Course Rating Sub-Committee is an expert group in its area. Its purpose is to recommend policy or provide feedback to the Committee. It is also a mechanism for:
 - State reporting.
 - State course rating accountability.
 - Inter-state information sharing and training.
 - Providing greater development of key State personnel.
 - Developing and maintaining best practice procedures (with international governing body oversight where appropriate).
- At least two formal meetings per year (either in person or via teleconference).

HANDICAPPING SUB-COMMITTEE

- The Handicapping Sub-Committee structure is as follows:
 - Chairman – appointed by the GA Board (usually a member of the Board)
 - At least four other members – appointed by GA and predominantly sourced directly from clubs, but also including at least one MA official. One-year terms (approximately), precise commencement and expiration times will be determined by the Chairman of the Committee.
- The composition of the Handicapping Sub-Committee reflects that a national handicap system operates primarily for the use of clubs and their members. If it does not operate effectively and efficiently there may be a direct impact on clubs (with scope to affect membership and budget). It is important for clubs to have a direct buy-in to the policy-making and service delivery process.
- The Handicapping Sub-Committee members will have good knowledge of handicapping regulations and of the practical experience of handicapping at club level.
- The Handicapping Sub-Committee will provide feedback to GA on matters to be taken into consideration regarding policy and resource formulation and service delivery.
- The Handicapping Sub-Committee will provide analysis of specific proposals to GA. (This will include the highlighting of inherent pitfalls associated with potential regulatory or process options.)
- The Handicapping Sub-Committee will provide from time to time solution options re existing handicapping deficiencies for the consideration of the Committee.
- Members of the Handicapping Sub-Committee will be obliged to be proactive in providing feedback for the use of GA on handicapping matters.
- At least two formal meetings per year (either in person or via teleconference).