

# GolfAustralia

## **GOLF AUSTRALIA BOARD MEETING**

**18 October 2013**

---

**8.30am  
Rendezvous Hotel  
Perth**

Level 3, 95 Coventry Street South Melbourne Victoria 3205 Australia  
Telephone 03 9626 5050 Facsimile 03 9626 5095 Website [www.golfaustralia.org.au](http://www.golfaustralia.org.au)  
Reg No. A0048256Z ARBN 118 151 894 ABN 54 118 151 894

## GOLF AUSTRALIA BOARD MEETING

**Date:** Friday 18 October 2013      **Time:** 8.30am      **Location:** Rendezvous Hotel, Perth

**Attendees:** John Hopkins (Chair), Stuart Cox, Bob Crosby, John Karren, Kerri-Anne Kennerley, Michael Sammells, Carmel Smith, Jill Spargo, Malcolm Speed

**Apology:** Nil

**Executive:** Stephen Pitt, Gerard Kennedy

### AGENDA

AGENDA					
1.	Welcome from the Chairman	<i>Verbal</i>			
2.	Minutes of meeting held 26 August 2013 and action points			Pg 1 - 6	For Information
3.	CFO Report				
	3.1 2013/14 YTD Financial Report	<i>Report 3.1</i>	Att # 1	Pg 7 - 12	For Information
	3.2 Election Timeframe Information	<i>Report 3.2</i>	Att # 2	Pg 13 - 14	For Information
4.	CEO Report				
	4.1 Golf Link	<i>Report 4.1</i>	Att # 3	Pg 15 - 16	For Discussion
	4.2 QANTAS Social Golf	<i>Report 4.2</i>	Att # 4	Pg 17 - 18	For Discussion
	4.3 AGIC	<i>Report 4.3</i>	Att # 5, 6 & 7	Pg 19 - 33	For Information
	4.4 AGM -Director Terms/Nominations Committee	<i>Report 4.4</i>	Att # 8	Pg 34 - 41	For Information
	4.5 Governance Case Study	<i>Report 4.5</i>		Pg 42	For Information
	4.6 Commercial Director	<i>Verbal/Tabled</i>			
5.	Australian Opens				
	5.1 Emirates Australian Opens Update	<i>Report 5.1</i>		Pg 43	For Information
	5.2 ISPS Handa Women's Australian Open	<i>Report 5.2</i>		Pg 44	For Information
6.	Championships				
	6.1 Championships Update	<i>Report 6.1</i>	Att # 9	Pg 45 - 47	For Information
7.	Commercial				
	7.1 Commercial Report	<i>Report 7.1</i>	Att # 10	Pg 48 - 50	For Information
	7.2 Adam Scott TVC	<i>Report 7.2</i>		Pg 51	For information
	7.3 Play Golf Week	<i>Report 7.3</i>		Pg 52	For Information
8.	Digital				
	8.1 Handicapping Changes Report	<i>Report 8.1</i>	Att # 11	Pg 53 - 55	For Information
9.	Golf Development				
	9.1 Golf Development Report	<i>Report 9.1</i>		Pg 56	For Information
10.	Handicapping, Rules and Course Rating				
	10.1 New GA Handicap System	<i>Report 10.1</i>	Att # 12 & 13	Pg 57 - 123	For Ratification
	10.2 Handicapping & Rules Committee Meeting	<i>Report 10.2</i>	Att # 14	Pg 124 - 130	For Information
11.	High Performance				
	11.1 High performance Update	<i>Report 11.1</i>	Att # 15 & 16	Pg 131 - 134	For Information
12.	Other Business	<i>verbal</i>			

## Minutes of the GOLF AUSTRALIA Board Meeting

Golf Australia – 26 August 2013

**Present:** John Hopkins (Chair), Robert Crosby, John Karren, Michael Sammells, Carmel Smith, Jill Spargo, Malcolm Speed

**Apologies:** Stuart Cox, Kerri-Anne Kennerley

**Executive:** Stephen Pitt, Gerard Kennedy

---

### Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Opened: 8.40am**

#### **1. Welcome from the Chairman**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

#### **2. Minutes of Meeting held 28 June 2013 and Action Points**

The minutes were adopted as a true and correct record of the Board meeting held 28 June 2013.

Action Item 8 is still in the process of being completed by M Speed.

Action: M Speed to complete paper on Golf Australia Governance and Delivery Model.

J Karren provided an update on discussions with Accenture regarding financial modelling of One Management and informed the Board of a further meeting due to take place on Thursday 29 August. The Board endorsed J Karren to continue discussions with Accenture and recommended that Golf NSW be used as the test site.

Action: J Karren to continue discussion with Accenture to complete financial modelling of One Management.

All other Action Items had been completed or would be covered during the Board meeting.

#### **3. CFO Report**

##### *3.1 2012/13 Annual Financial Report*

R Crosby moved that the 2012/13 Annual Financial Report be approved by the Board. J Karren seconded.

The Board unanimously agreed that the 2012/13 Annual Financial Report be signed by the Chairman.

##### *3.2 2012/13 Audit Report*

The report was taken as read.

##### *3.3 2013/14 YTD Financial Report*

The report was taken as read.

##### *3.4 Election Timeframe Information*

The Board appointed Gerard Kennedy as the Returning Officer.

The Board appointed Josh Pearse (KPMG) and Ian Fullagar (Lander & Rogers) to act as independent scrutineers.

#### **4. CEO Report**

##### *4.1 Golf Link Update*

The CEO informed the Board that Golf Link has advised of two recent offers to purchase the business. Following the legal advice of Peter Jones the CEO has replied to Golf Link to reiterate Golf Australia's view that any sale would be subject to the change of control conditions contained in the current contract.

Further discussion of Golf Link was deferred to the Strategic Plan discussion.

---

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## Minutes of the GOLF AUSTRALIA Board Meeting

Golf Australia – 26 August 2013

**Present:** John Hopkins (Chair), Robert Crosby, John Karren, Michael Sammells, Carmel Smith, Jill Spargo, Malcolm Speed

**Apologies:** Stuart Cox, Kerri-Anne Kennerley

**Executive:** Stephen Pitt, Gerard Kennedy

---

### Meeting Minutes

#### *4.2 Strategic Plan/ Governance Structure*

Discussion of the Strategic Plan and Governance Structure was deferred to later in the meeting.

#### *4.3 QANTAS Social Golf*

The CEO provided an overview of recent discussion between Golf Australia, 3 Links Golf and QANTAS regarding a social golf offering for QANTAS frequent flyers. 3 Links Golf and QANTAS have been developing a golf offering and have requested the involvement of Golf Australia primarily as a means of including a handicap in the product.

The CEO acknowledged the risk of a negative reaction from clubs but also highlighted the existence of like products, and Golf Australia's minimal leverage as the product could easily be developed without Golf Australia's involvement.

Golf Australia has outlined the following objectives to QANTAS and 3 Links Golf:

1. The program must result in more people playing golf
2. The program must help golf clubs
3. The program must help social members transition to full membership

Should the program fail these objectives Golf Australia would exit the agreement.

M Speed enquired about the potential of this program to breach the Golf Link contract. S Pitt to seek legal advice on this point.

The Board endorsed the current course of action and approved management to continue discussions with QANTAS subject to any agreement being approved by the Board.

The CEO also advised that Crown Lager is seeking to exit their contract as of 1 November 2013. If an agreement with QANTAS is reached existing CLSGC members will be transitioned to the new program. M Speed recommended that Golf Australia investigate the option of Federal Government buying out the sponsorship.

Action: S Pitt to seek legal advice on any potential breach of Golf Link contract arising from QANTAS social golf program and continue discussions with QANTAS subject to any agreements being approved by the Board.

Action: S Pitt to investigate Federal Government buyout of sporting sponsorship by alcohol companies.

#### *4.4 Kinghorn Update*

The report was taken as read.

#### *4.5 Organisational Values*

The CEO provided an update on Golf Australia's organisational values that were recently developed by the staff. These were endorsed by the Board.

#### *4.6 Director Terms*

The CEO distributed a draft of proposed changes to the constitution. Following a detailed discussion on ideal director terms, the Board agreed that the principles set out in the paper were the correct ones for Golf Australia. It was resolved M Speed and S Pitt draft the required changes for approval at the AGM.

Action: M Speed & S Pitt to draft constitutional change to allow for extended terms in exceptional circumstances.

---

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## Minutes of the GOLF AUSTRALIA Board Meeting

Golf Australia – 26 August 2013

**Present:** John Hopkins (Chair), Robert Crosby, John Karren, Michael Sammells, Carmel Smith, Jill Spargo, Malcolm Speed

**Apologies:** Stuart Cox, Kerri-Anne Kennerley

**Executive:** Stephen Pitt, Gerard Kennedy

---

### Meeting Minutes

The CEO also distributed an example of by-law for the establishment an operation of a Nominations Committee. It was agreed that M Speed and the CEO alter the example to make appropriate for Golf Australia.

Action: M Speed & S Pitt to draft Nominations Committee by law.

#### **5. Australian Opens**

##### *5.1 Emirates Australian Open Update*

The CEO provided a general update on the Australian Open including issues surrounding the announcement of Rory McIlroy and other likely high profile additions to the field.

##### *5.2 ISPS Handa Women's Australian Open*

The Chairman invited M Speed to absent himself from the meeting due to his role at VMEC. M Speed advised this was not required as VMEC had provided an official response to the additional funding request which was included in the Board Papers.

The CEO outlined that the VMEC agreement for 2012 and 2014 was entered into at a time when it was very unlikely that the tournament would be part of the LPGA tour. Following this decision Dr Handa and ISPS changed their position and elected to support a move to the LPGA tour which has increased costs due to the increased scale of the event. VMEC have declined a request to increase their funding of the event which was supported by an Economic Impact Statement outlining the increased scale and profile of the event. J Hopkins requested the Economic Impact Statement be circulated to the Board.

The CEO advised that the current forecast for the 2014 event is a \$535k loss and that management is seeking to improve this position by securing additional sponsorship revenue. J Karren sought further information on certain costs, in particular in the Player Expenses category. S Pitt confirmed that the bulk of these items were contractual commitments under the LPGA agreement, however the Vault commission may not occur this year.

The CEO also advised that ISPS have signed a contract for the 2014 event.

Action: S Pitt to circulate Economic Impact Statement to the Board.

##### *5.3 Senior Australian Open*

The CEO advised that this event is unlikely to be conducted due to lack of commercial interest.

#### **6. Championships**

##### *6.1 Amateur Foursomes*

The report was taken as read.

R Crosby indicated the date may cause a clash with the Victorian Pennant Season.

Action: S Pitt to discuss potential date clash with Emily Miller.

---

CONFIDENTIAL

## Minutes of the GOLF AUSTRALIA Board Meeting

Golf Australia – 26 August 2013

**Present:** John Hopkins (Chair), Robert Crosby, John Karren, Michael Sammells, Carmel Smith, Jill Spargo, Malcolm Speed

**Apologies:** Stuart Cox, Kerri-Anne Kennerley

**Executive:** Stephen Pitt, Gerard Kennedy

---

### Meeting Minutes

#### *6.2 Interstate Eligibility Condition*

The report was taken as read.

#### **7. Commercial**

##### *7.1 Commercial Report*

The CEO provided an update on the redundancy of Jo De Jong. Recruitment process for a Commercial Director has commenced. We are seeking a candidate with a proven track record in generating commercial revenue and we hope to have the position filled prior to the Australian Open.

##### *7.2 Marketing Report*

M Speed requested further information on the costs of production and placement of the Play Golf / Adam Scott campaign. S Pitt confirmed that Golf Australia would only be paying the production costs and that these were within budget. Placement activities are subject to funding by industry partners such as the PGA, Golf Victoria and Golf NSW.

#### **8. Digital**

##### *8.1 Handicapping Changes Report*

M Sammells highlighted that meeting the January 23 project deadline is critical. J Karren informed the Board that he had met with Adrian Logue (key project developer) and has an increased level of comfort regarding his capabilities.

#### **9. Golf Development**

##### *9.1 Golf Development Report*

The report was taken as read. The CEO provided an overview of recent discussions with Golf England surrounding Club Development and difficulties they have encountered with 5% annual declines in membership in spite of developing strong Club Development resources.

#### **10. Handicapping, Rules and Course Rating**

##### *10.1 Handicapping System Project Update*

The report was taken as read.

##### *10.2 Course Rating Sub-Committee*

The report was taken as read

#### **11. High Performance**

##### *11.1 US National Camp Report*

The report was taken as read.

##### *11.2 Player Motor Vehicle Accident Report*

The report was taken as read.

#### **12. Other Business**

(S Pitt and G Kennedy absented themselves from the meeting)

CEO Key Performance Indicators were discussed. (S Pitt and G Kennedy returned to the meeting)

---

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Minutes of the GOLF AUSTRALIA Board Meeting**

**Golf Australia – 26 August 2013**

**Present:** John Hopkins (Chair), Robert Crosby, John Karren, Michael Sammells, Carmel Smith, Jill Spargo, Malcolm Speed

**Apologies:** Stuart Cox, Kerri-Anne Kennerley

**Executive:** Stephen Pitt, Gerard Kennedy

---

**Meeting Minutes**

**4. CEO Report (continued...)**

*4.2 Strategic Plan / Governance*

The CEO provided an overview of the Strategic Planning process to date and requested the Board review the latest draft with a view to approving. It was noted the Strategic Plan will be a public document available on the Golf Australia website and will be distributed to relevant stakeholders such as the Australian Sports Commission and Member Associations.

A detailed review of the Strategic Plan was conducted. The Board approved the Strategic Plan subject to incorporation of suggested changes and distribution of a final copy to the Board. It was agreed that the sections on Golf Link and the Australian Opens should be removed from any public copies of the document as they are commercial in confidence.

There was a discussion on a financial model prepared by Management that supports a higher valuation of Golf Link than the KPMG valuation. J Hopkins requested a detailed business case be submitted to the Board to facilitate further discussion

Action: S Pitt to amend the Strategic Plan with suggested changes and create a copy for public distribution with Golf Link & Australian Open strategic challenges removed.

Action: G Kennedy to prepare Business Case on the value of Golf Link to Golf Australia

**Meeting Closed:** 2.20pm

**Next meeting – Friday 18 October 2013, Perth**

Signed as a true and correct record.

---

John Hopkins  
Chairman  
18 October 2013

**Minutes of the GOLF AUSTRALIA Board Meeting**

**Golf Australia – 26 August 2013**

**Present:** John Hopkins (Chair), Robert Crosby, John Karren, Michael Sammells, Carmel Smith, Jill Spargo, Malcolm Speed

**Apologies:** Stuart Cox, Kerri-Anne Kennerley

**Executive:** Stephen Pitt, Gerard Kennedy

**Meeting Minutes**

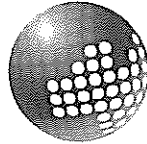
**Action Items**

**August 2013 Board Meeting**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
1.	Governance and Delivery Model Paper	M Speed to prepare paper on Golf Australia Governance and Delivery Model	M Speed
2.	One Management Financial Model	Engage an appropriate firm to complete financial modelling of One Management.	S Pitt
3.	Legal advice on impact of QANTAS on Golf Link contract	S Pitt to seek legal advice on any potential breach of Golf Link contract arising from QANTAS social golf program and continue discussions with QANTAS subject to any agreements being approved by the Board.	S Pitt
4.	Investigate Federal Government buyout of Crown sponsorship	S Pitt to investigate Federal Government buyout of sporting sponsorship by alcohol companies.	S Pitt
5.	Director Terms Constitution Amendment	M Speed & S Pitt to draft constitutional change to allow for extended terms in exceptional circumstances.	M Speed & S Pitt
6.	Nominations Committee By Law	M Speed & S Pitt to draft Nominations Committee by law.	M Speed & S Pitt
7.	Circulate WAO Economic Impact Statement	S Pitt to circulate Economic Impact Statement to the Board.	S Pitt
8.	Amateur Foursomes Date Clash	S Pitt to discuss potential date clash with Emily Miller.	S Pitt
9.	Strategic Plan	S Pitt to amend the Strategic Plan with suggested changes and create a copy for public distribution with Golf Link & Australian Open strategic challenges removed.	S Pitt
10.	Golf Link Business Case	G Kennedy to prepare Business Case on the value of Golf Link to Golf Australia	G Kennedy

**CONFIDENTIAL**





GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item:	3.0 CFO Report
Board Meeting:	18 October 2013 (#6 – 2013)
Subject:	3.1 2013/2014 YTD Financial Report
Summary of Issue:	<p>The 2013/2014 YTD P&amp;L, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement are attached. Forecast result for the 2014 Financial Year is a surplus of \$357k which will increase equity to \$3m and result in an expected cash balance of \$2.46m.</p> <p>There are opportunities for further improvements in the forecast surplus, particularly in the area of commercial revenue for the Women's Open which will be targeted with the aim of recording a surplus in excess of \$400k.</p> <p>Crown Lager has expressed a desire to terminate their sponsorship of the Social Golf program as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013, a year earlier than the 3 year contract term. We will be seeking payment of the outstanding cash component of the sponsorship as a minimum which will ensure no impact on the forecast surplus.</p>
Cost:	N/A
Budget Impact:	Nil, forecast surplus of \$357k remains in line with budget.
Strategy / Vision	Strong financial management to ensure moderate surpluses in line with budget with the aim of increasing equity and maintaining a strong cash position to ensure the financial stability of Golf Australia.
Action:	For information only
Recommendation:	N/A
Responsible Manager:	Gerard Kennedy
Attachments:	<b>Attachment #1 – Pg 8 - 12</b> 2013/14 YTD Financial Report

# CFO Report

as at 7 October 2013

GOLF AUSTRALIA Limited												
Profit & Loss Statement												
Month reported to September	Year to Date			2013/14 Financial Year						Prior Year		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Note	Forecast	Budget	Variance	Note				
<b>Income</b>												
Affiliation Fees	5,035,169	5,200,375	(165,206)	1	5,035,169	5,200,375	(165,206)	1	4,888,353			
High Performance	921,784	819,200	102,584	2	1,939,200	1,658,400	280,800	2	1,675,733			
GOLFLink	0	0	0		950,000	950,000	0		989,147			
Commercial & Marketing	232,626	360,660	(128,034)	3	923,286	575,660	347,626	3	992,735			
Game & Industry Development	568,462	577,675	(9,213)		1,341,133	1,086,693	254,440	4	910,842			
National Championships	30,105	27,787	2,318		181,937	141,951	39,986	5	219,817			
Interest Received	39,565	46,016	(6,451)		176,278	150,033	26,245	6	177,964			
Other Income	273	0	273		273	0	273		14,898			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,827,983</b>	<b>7,031,713</b>	<b>(203,730)</b>		<b>10,547,275</b>	<b>9,763,112</b>	<b>784,163</b>		<b>9,869,489</b>			
<b>Expenses</b>												
Insurance - Affiliation fees	356,458	366,106	9,648	1	356,458	366,106	9,648	1	364,721			
High Performance	655,884	431,346	(224,538)	2	1,946,197	1,665,090	(281,107)	2	1,707,232			
GOLFLink	700	4,650	3,950		961,400	961,400	0		976,899			
Commercial & Marketing	42,201	56,000	13,799	3	114,998	128,000	13,002	3	174,611			
Digital Development	56,892	54,759	(2,133)		218,884	219,040	156		167,186			
Game & Industry Development	498,447	640,253	141,806	4	1,512,948	1,093,805	(419,143)	4	1,107,766			
National Championships	16,601	32,068	15,467	5	318,140	281,894	(36,246)	5	347,200			
Rules & Handicapping	45,924	123,074	77,150	7	355,665	355,469	(196)		328,580			
Support Services	350,175	341,345	(8,830)		1,157,260	1,184,240	26,980	8	1,335,626			
Employment Costs	674,859	648,279	(26,580)		2,605,606	2,527,285	(78,321)	9	2,495,495			
Revenue transfer to Opens	0	0	0		215,000	130,000	(85,000)	10	299,950			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,698,141</b>	<b>2,697,880</b>	<b>(261)</b>		<b>9,762,556</b>	<b>8,912,329</b>	<b>(850,227)</b>		<b>9,305,266</b>			
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	<b>4,129,842</b>	<b>4,333,833</b>	<b>(203,991)</b>		<b>784,720</b>	<b>850,783</b>	<b>(66,063)</b>		<b>564,223</b>			
<b>Major Events</b>												
Men's Open (net result)	(6,448)	(8,783)	2,335		110,134	110,568	(434)		68,513			
Women's Open (net result)	453,310	294,814	163,496	10	(537,598)	(590,213)	52,615	10	(19,552)			
Handa Senior Open contribution	0	0	0		0	0	0		(27,500)			
<b>Event Surplus</b>	<b>451,861</b>	<b>286,031</b>	<b>165,830</b>		<b>(427,465)</b>	<b>(479,645)</b>	<b>52,180</b>		<b>21,461</b>			
<b>Total Surplus</b>	<b>4,581,703</b>	<b>4,619,864</b>	<b>(38,161)</b>		<b>357,255</b>	<b>371,138</b>	<b>(13,883)</b>		<b>585,684</b>			

# CFO Report

as at 7 October 2013



GolfAustralia

Budget Variances Report for the period ended September				Strategy
Note	Department	Impact	Comment	
1	Affiliation Fees	(165,206)	Decrease in Affiliation Fee revenue due to actual membership of 403,328 (budget of 416,030 member based on 2013 actual)	Improve budget process by obtaining actual state numbers.
		9,648	Corresponding decrease in player insurance expenditure due to decreased membership numbers	Game Development initiatives seeking to arrest ongoing decline in club membership
2	High Performance	0	YTD increased spending on AIS program & Camps. Timing difference only	Nil, timing difference only
		0	\$280k revenue increase due to recognition of Acushnet contra product	Nil, improved disclosure of contra only
3	Commercial & Marketing	0	\$280k expenditure increase due to allocation of Acushnet contra product	GA working to ensure payment of cash component as a minimum
			Year to date timing issue: Crown Lager have not yet been invoiced as they are seeking an early exit from the contract	
		20,000	Increased revenue - Tag Heuer Women's Australian Open sponsorship	
		270,000	Increased revenue - Coca-Cola Industry & WAO sponsorship	Continue efforts to sign sponsors to maximise commercial revenue
		30,000	Increased revenue - Groupon Industry sponsorship	
		40,000	Increased revenue - Host Plus increased WAO sponsorship	
4	Game & Industry Development	15,000	Reduction to discretionary merchandise spend to offset Adam Scott TVC	Manage expenses to ensure TVC is funded with no impact on bottom line
		0	\$223k revenue increase due to recognition of Crown contra advertising	Nil, improved disclosure of contra only
			\$223k expenditure increase due to allocation of Crown contra advertising	
		(135,000)	Distribution of Coca Cola sponsorship to States	Nil, overall increase in surplus from Coca-Cola sponsorship
		(50,000)	Adam Scott TVC cost - offset by reduction to marketing and contingency	Offset by reduction to merchandise & contingency
		43,000	Sportscover - 2013 Financial Year royalty on Australian Golf insurance premiums	Reduce all discretionary expenditure in Social Golf program
5	National Championships	(26,000)	Sales of Crown Lager Social Golf below forecast	Resource sales are not budgeted due, minimal profit margin
		0	\$13k year to date sales revenue for MyGolf, rules etc. Cost of goods sold on above sales	
6	Interest Received	0	Year to date spending below budget due to delays in MyGolf & Female golf product development costs	Nil, timing difference only
		0	\$37k revenue increase due to recognition of Coca-Cola contra product	Nil, improved disclosure of contra only
		25,000	\$37k expenditure increase due to recognition of Coca-Cola contra product	
			Increased interest revenue due to early payment of Government funding in revised cash flow forecast	Manage cash flows closely to maximise interest revenue form term deposits

August 2013  
Gerard  
Kennedy

Level 3, 95 Coventry Street South Melbourne Victoria 3205 Australia  
Telephone 03 9626 5050 Facsimile 03 9626 5095 Website www.golfaustralia.org.au  
Reg No. A0048256Z ARBN 118 151 894 ABN 54 118 151 894



GolfAustralia

# CFO Report

as at 7 October 2013



GolfAustralia

7	Rules & Handicapping	0	Year to date spend below budget. Costs expected to increase in conjunction with launch of handicapping system	Nil, timing difference only
8	Support	25,000	Reduction to contingency budget to offset Adam Scott TVC	Manage expenses to ensure TVC is funded with no impact on bottom line
9	Employment Costs	(80,000)	Increased employment costs due to restructure of Commercial department	Commercial restructure to deliver increased commercial expenditure
		20,000	Increased revenue - Tag Heuer WAO sponsorship	
		25,000	Increased revenue - Coca-Cola WAO sponsorship	
		40,000	Increased revenue - Host Plus increased WAO sponsorship	
10	Women's Open	(85,000)	Increased WAO sponsorship revenue transfer from Commercial to WAO	Continue efforts to sign sponsors to maximise commercial revenue from all properties available to Women's Australian Open
		(30,000)	Adjustment \$120 cost reduction included in Budget to \$90k	
		0	YTD revenue increase due to marketing plans submitted earlier than budget	Nil, timing difference only



GolfAustralia

Level 3, 95 Coventry Street South Melbourne Victoria 3205 Australia  
 Telephone 03 9626 5050 Facsimile 03 9626 5095 Website www.golfaustralia.org.au  
 Reg No. AOC48256Z ARBN 118 151 894 ABN 54 118 151 894

August 2013  
 Gerard  
 Kennedy

# CFO Report

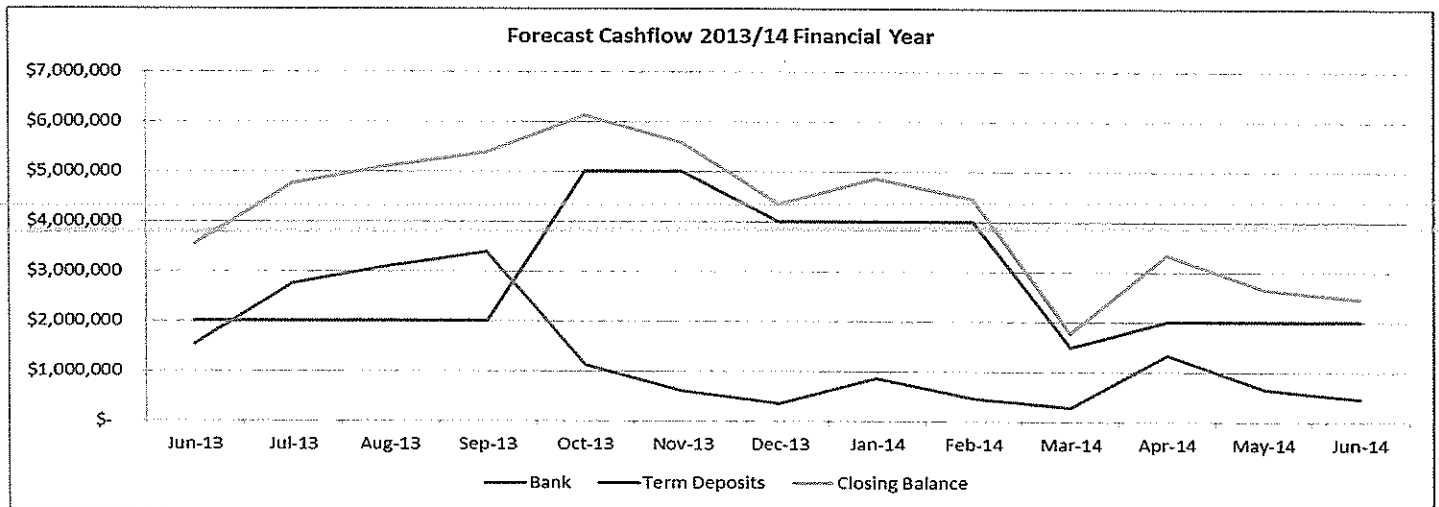
as at 7 October 2013

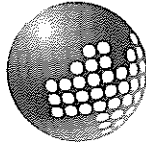
GOLF AUSTRALIA Limited Statement of Financial Position as at 30 September 2013				Notes	
<b>ASSETS</b>	<i>Note</i>	<b>30 September 2013</b>	<b>30 June 2013</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>				<b>1. Cash and cash equivalents:</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	1	5,400,659	3,545,703	Trading Account	35,160
Trade and other receivables	2	3,129,714	815,107	Investment Account	3,365,499
Inventories		74,205	22,937	Term Deposit - maturing 14/10/2013	2,000,000
Assets classified as held for sale		0	0		
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>8,604,578</u>	<u>4,383,747</u>	<b>2. Trade and other receivables</b>	
<b>Non-current assets</b>				<b>Top 5 Receivables:</b>	
Property, plant and equipment		155,568	172,797	Golf NSW Ltd	\$ 2,160,358
Intangible assets		502,229	352,130	Destination NSW	440,000
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>657,797</u>	<u>524,927</u>	Golf SA Inc.	180,125
				Jack Newton Jr Golf Foundation	60,898
				Sportscover Australia	48,187
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>9,262,375</u>	<u>4,908,674</u>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				<b>3. Trade and other payables</b>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>				<b>Top 5 Payables:</b>	
Trade and other payables	3	1,733,099	1,956,462	ATO - September BAS	\$ 481,678
Provisions		285,365	290,005	World Sport Group	440,000
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>2,018,464</u>	<u>2,246,467</u>	Moonah Links Settlement	50,000
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>				KPMG	36,000
Provisions		33,283	33,283	VF Trainor	33,935
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<u>33,283</u>	<u>33,283</u>		
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>2,051,747</u>	<u>2,279,750</u>	<b>4. Retained Profits</b>	
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>7,210,627</u>	<u>2,628,924</u>	Total Equity as at 30 June 2013	2,628,924
<b>EQUITY</b>				Forecast Surplus	357,255
Reserves		0	0	Forecast Equity as at 30 June 2014	2,986,179
Retained profits	4	7,210,627	2,628,924		
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>7,210,627</u>	<u>2,628,924</u>		

# CFO Report

as at 7 October 2013

Forecast Statement of Cash Flows for the year ending 30 June 2014		Notes:	
<b>Forecast cash flows from operating activities</b>		Forecast cashflow for the 2014 Financial Year is negative due to the following items being prepaid in June 2013:	
Receipts from customers	11,158,420		
Payments to suppliers and employees	(14,113,188)		
Revenue from Government Grants	2,046,000		
Interest paid			
Interest received	176,278		
<b>Net cash (outflow)/ inflow from operating activities</b>	<b>(732,490)</b>		
<b>Forecast cash flows from investing activities</b>			Destination NSW - 2013 MAO \$900,000 ASC - Game Development Grants \$200,000 ASC - High Performance Grant \$150,000 \$1,250,000
Payments for property, plant and equipment and intangibles	(351,041)		
<b>Net cash inflow from investing activities</b>	<b>(351,041)</b>		These items are reflected in the large forecast decrease to trade and other creditors
<b>Forecast cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Repayment of borrowings	-		
<b>Net cash (outflow) from financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Forecast net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(1,083,531)</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial period	3,546,713		
<b>Cash and cash equivalents end of period</b>	<b>2,463,182</b>		
<b>Reconciliation of forecast profit to net cash inflow from operating activities</b>			
Forecast Surplus for the period	357,255		
Depreciation and amortisation	201,964		
Loss on sale of property, plant and equipment	0		
Provision for doubtful debts	0		
<b>Change in operating assets and liabilities</b>			
(Increase)/decrease in trade receivables	157,765		
(Increase)/decrease in other receivables and assets	2,732		
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(52,000)		
(Decrease)/increase in GST liability	(106,635)		
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other creditors	(1,322,696)		
(Decrease)/increase in provisions	29,124		
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>(732,490)</b>		





GolfAustralia

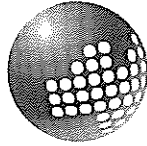
## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item:	3.0 CFO Report
Board Meeting:	18 October 2013 (#6 – 2013)
Subject:	3.2 Election Timeframe Information
Summary of Issue:	<p>Attached timeline outlines key dates for upcoming annual elections.</p> <p>As at 8<sup>th</sup> October nominations have only been received from John Hopkins and Michael Sammells.</p> <p>A further verbal update will of all nominations received to date will be provided at the meeting. Closing date for nominations is 5pm AEST Friday 18 October 2013.</p>
Cost:	N/A
Budget Impact:	N/A
Strategy / Vision	N/A
Action:	For information only
Recommendation:	N/A
Responsible Manager:	Gerard Kennedy
Attachments:	<b>Attachment #2 – Pg 14</b> Election Timeframe

Election Timeline - Directors

Date	Event	Per
Monday, 26 August 2013	Board appoints returning officer	
Monday, 26 August 2013	Board appoints 2 independent scrutineers (Josh Pearse of KPMG & Ian Fullagar Lander & Rogers)	
Monday, 30 September 2013	CEO to call for nominations 45 days prior to AGM	23.1
Monday, 14 October 2013	Written notice of AGM & any Special Resolutions to directors, members, auditor (Not less than 21 days prior to the AGM)	16.3
Friday, 18 October 2013	October Board Meeting - Perth	
Friday, 18 October 2013	Nominations must be received by CEO 30 days before AGM	23.1
Friday, 18 October 2013	Finalise Annual Reports	
Monday, 21 October 2013	Send Ballot information to delegates	
Tuesday, 22 October 2013	Board fixes time not less than 14 days before AGM for opening of the Ballot	23.3 (a)
Friday, 15 November 2013	Ballot closes 5pm 2 days prior to the AGM	23.3 (a)
Thursday, 14 November 2013 Sunday, 17 November 2013	Australian Masters - Royal Melbourne GC	
Monday, 18 November 2013	AGM	
Thursday, 21 November 2013 Sunday, 24 November 2013	World Cup of Golf - Royal Melbourne GC	
Thursday, 28 November 2013 Sunday, 1 December 2013	Australian Open - Royal Sydney GC	





GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item:	4.0 CEO Report
Board Meeting:	18 October 2013 (#6 – 2013)
Subject:	4.1 Golf Link
Summary of Issue:	<p>Peter Sidwell provided Malcolm Speed with a letter (attached) outlining a binding in principle agreement with Micropower Solutions Limited for the assignment of the Supply of Services Agreement with GA.</p> <p>Gilbert &amp; Tobin have been engaged by Golf Australia to draft the response requested in the letter. This is expected to be sent by Friday 11 October and will be circulated to the Board once finalised. Broadly it will seek clarification of the nature of the “assignment” and a request for further information on Micropower.</p> <p>Business Case on the value of GLP to GA is being finalised. gemba have been engaged to provide a valuation of the value of the database to GA’s sponsorship properties. Valuation is due to be completed 16 October and will be incorporated into the Business Case which will be presented at the Board Meeting.</p>
Cost:	N/A
Budget Impact:	N/A
Strategy / Vision	Maximise the value and return Golf Australia’s membership database by either reaching an acceptable price with Golf Link Partners or establishing a non-commercial database.
Action:	For discussion
Recommendation:	N/A
Responsible Manager:	Stephen Pitt
Attachments:	<b>Attachment #3 – Pg 16</b> Golf Link Letter



October 4, 2013.

Golf Australia Ltd  
Level 3,  
95 Coventry Street  
South Melbourne, Vic.

**Attention:**  
Malcolm Speed, Director

Dear Malcolm,

**Agreement between Golf Link Partners Pty Ltd and Golf Australia Ltd.**

I understand Stephen Pitt is absent overseas at this time, hence my communication to you.

We refer to the supply of services agreement dated 16 November 2010 (**Agreement**) between Golf Link Partners Pty Ltd (**GLP**) and Golf Australia Ltd (**GA**) pursuant to which, GLP provides certain services to GA.

We previously indicated to GA that GLP was looking to sell its interests in the business to an appropriate third party.

We can now advise that GLP has recently entered into discussions with a third party, Micropower Solutions Ltd (**Micropower**), in connection with the proposed assignment of our interests to Micropower of the business conducted by GLP (**Proposed Transaction**). These discussions have resulted in GLP and Micropower entering into a binding terms sheet and the parties now moving to due diligence and the formal documentation in respect of the Proposed Transaction.

It is contemplated that, in connection with and subject to completion of the Proposed Transaction, GLP's rights under the Agreement will be assigned to Micropower. Under the Agreement, GA must provide its consent to an assignment of the benefit of the Agreement by GLP if the proposed assignee, in this case Micropower, is capable of meeting the obligations of GLP under the Agreement.

To ensure that this matter is dealt with as expediently as possible, we have decided to write to you to inform you of the Proposed Transaction at this time (with Micropower's consent) so that GA is in a position to confirm its acceptance of Micropower as an assignee as soon as possible.

Micropower is already an approved service provider to the Golf Industry which attests its capabilities, both in terms of delivering the services under the Agreement and otherwise discharging the obligations of GLP under the Agreement. Accordingly, Micropower is an appropriate party to take an assignment of the Agreement.

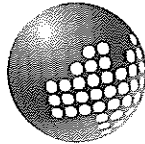
We would be grateful if you could confirm within 7 days that GA consents to Micropower assuming the obligations of GLP under the Agreement. Please feel free to contact me to discuss this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. D. Sidwell", written over a horizontal line.

Peter D. Sidwell.  
Director.

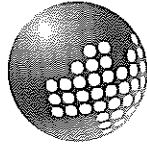
GOLF Link Partners Pty Ltd  
Address: Suites 10 & 11, 5 Everage Street, Moonee Ponds, VIC 3039 | Email: [help@golflink.com.au](mailto:help@golflink.com.au) | Tel: 03 8371 0011  
[www.golflink.com.au](http://www.golflink.com.au)



GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item:	4.0 CEO Report
Board Meeting:	18 October 2013 (#6 – 2013)
Subject:	4.2 QANTAS Social Golf
Summary of Issue:	<p>General progress update on discussions with QANTAS regarding establishing a partnership in the casual and social golfer area.</p> <p>Gilbert &amp; Tobin have reviewed the QANTAS proposal for any potential breach of the Golf Link Partners Supply of Services Agreement. Stephen Pitt will provide the Board with a verbal update on their advice at the meeting.</p>
Cost:	N/A
Budget Impact:	N/A
Strategy / Vision	Engage and commercialise the casual golfer and to provide a pathway to club membership
Action:	For discussion
Recommendation:	<p>Development of the program continues with a view to signing an agreement with QANTAS subject to the final product delivering the following key outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The program must result in more people playing golf</li><li>2. The program must help golf clubs</li><li>3. The program must help social members transition to full membership</li></ol>
Responsible Manager:	Stephen Pitt
Attachments:	<b>Attachment #4 – Pg 18</b> QANTAS Social Golf Update



**GolfAustralia**

---

### **QANTAS Social Golf Update**

Three key issues have emerged to be clarified prior to an agreement being finalised with Qantas:

1. Database Access for GA:

GA is seeking full access to the Qantas Golf Club handicapped player database for club membership promotional purposes, with discussions to be held over the level of access granted to GA over higher-level access.

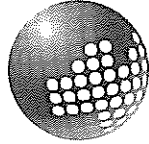
2. Extent of official alignment and branding:

The Qantas Golf Club will become the official casual and social golfer program of Golf Australia replacing the current Crown Lager program. The extent of GA branding will be finalised during contractual negotiations.

3. GA Service Fee:

Throughout discussions with Qantas, there has been an understanding that handicap management by GA would form the basis of any commercial agreement between the two parties. This presents GA with an opportunity to derive profit in addition to the increased Affiliation Fee. However, preliminary modelling indicates that a program with 20,000 members playing two rounds per month would require up to 12 staff members (based on manual input of score cards) to maintain. This would require a significant change to the operating model of Golf Australia.

Further meeting will be held between QANTAS and Golf Australia on 21 October to progress discussion further from the initial concept.



GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item: 4.3 CEO Report

Board Meeting: 18 October 2013 (#6 – 13)

Subject: 4.3 AGIC Update

Summary of Issue: Attached are documents relating to the AGIC, namely minutes from the last face-to-face meeting and an initial overview report into golf tourism. Also attached is an article about NZ golf tourism that was published recently in Golf Digest. The three main initiatives currently on the AGIC agenda are golf tourism, health outcomes for older Australians created by golf and the Home of Golf project.

Cost: N/A

Budget Impact: N/A

Strategy / Vision Participate in an effective AGIC organisation that helps to drive some positive outcomes for golf.

Action: For Information Only

Recommendation: N/A

Responsible Manager: Stephen Pitt

Attachments: **Attachment #5 – Pg 20 - 27**  
AGIC Minutes  
**Attachment #6 – Pg 28 - 32**  
Tourism Overview Paper  
**Attachment #7 – Pg 33**  
NZ Golf Tourism article

## MINUTES

Australian Golf Industry Council (AGIC)

Date: Wednesday 26 June 2013

Location – Twin Waters Novotel, Coolumb, Queensland

Present

<b>DIRECTORS</b>
Stephen Pitt, Golf Australia (CHAIR, GA)
David Burton (GMA) (from 11am)
Brian Thorburn (PGA)
Gavin Kirkman (PGA)
Graham Papworth (SAGCA)
Peter Frewin (AGSCA)
Peter Lonergan (AGSCA)
Shannon Walker (ASGA) via teleconference
<b>NON DIRECTORS</b>
Jennifer Cromarty – Socom
Jeff Blunden (JBAS Advisory Services) via dial in

### Apologies

Warren Sevil, (ALPGA) – resigned from position

Shani Waugh (ALPGA)

Cameron Wade (GA)

*The meeting was opened at 10.34am*

### 1. *Welcome, minutes from previous meeting*

Stephen welcomed all. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

### 2. *Actions arising*

#### **Update on accounts – financial reports**

Stephen Pitt informed members that Golf Australia is now responsible for the management of the accounts and invoicing. The secretariat will liaise with GA for relevant financial actions but this will ensure there is a better use of the secretariat time i.e. briefing papers and subcommittee support.

The annual accounts have been reviewed and showed a surplus of \$6000 from the last FY.

All Directors agreed that financials are approved as recorded and circulated.

#### **Sports Hydrant collaboration**

Sports Hydrant is a specialist lobbyist for sports participation through events held in Canberra.

Shannon Walker has spoken to Andy Turnbull from Sports Hydrant about a few things including AGIC and the potential to work together. The next Sports Hydrant Parliamentary Sports Day is scheduled

for 27 October (not sure if dinner is Sunday or Monday night). This is the middle weekend of new Parliament Sitting week.

Brian Thorburn has also spoken to Andy re: setting up a golf competition around this time. Discussions are continuing regarding this opportunity.

Members discussed the benefit of partnering with Sports Hydrant. Members agreed it is worthwhile as the focus is on sport, and golf has not had a presence in the past with the Sports Hydrant activity. This provides a great engagement opportunity for AGIC. AGIC could develop an advocacy strategy in the lead up to engage with relevant MPs.

Sports Hydrant can also assist in identifying MPs and bureaucrats for the activity. Need to be careful of corporates out numbering MPs in the event.

Andy Turnbull believed he could deliver 40-50 MPs and bureaucrats to the golf activity. It costs \$2500 to be part of the Sports Hydrant group. This includes access to dinners and relevant MPs.

Brian said that the PGA – can assist with running the golf competition/ event. Use event to change perception of golf and do something a bit innovative.

#### **ACTION:**

- Socom to inform Deanna that the annual accounts have been approved by AGIC Directors
- Brian Thorburn to continue liaising with Sports Hydrant re: the opportunity on 27 October.
- Socom and Stephen Pitt to discuss potential advocacy strategy /opportunity for 27 October event.
- Socom to contact Deanna to pay for AGIC to join Sports Hydrant \$2500.

#### **CARRY OVER ACTIONS ARISING:**

- Gavin Kirkman to follow up with Kerri Evans regarding other research links to support AGIC business case.
- Jeff Blunden will draft a letter on behalf of AGIC Chair to the all courses in metro Melbourne to measure activity on public courses.

### **3. *Sub-committees- update***

#### **Industry information**

Members discussed the research brief circulated by Shannon Walker.

Stephen Pitt updated members regarding some recent relevant research. The Australian Sports Commission use GEMBA for research in various sports re: participation and commercial relationships. Stephen said the first iteration of the report that he saw a few days ago would be very useful in terms of informing the consumer research brief developed by Shannon.

The new research will cover off some of the consumer behaviour data AGIC is looking for but need to now identify the gaps for any further research.

Stephen agreed to circulate the report to AGIC Directors.

The report covers off issues like:

- How is sport perceived? Golf is No. 1 in the most boring category
- However, golf rates well as being international and popular
- The sport rates well in terms of integrity
- Rates well in participation levels throughout all stages of life
- Participants vs. non participants and rating who would be interested in taking up sport in the near future
- What barriers there are to taking up the sport

The Australian Sports Commission has paid for this research and GEMBA is willing to share elements.

Further – Golf Australia has received a \$60K grant for consumer behaviour research in specific reference to female participation. There is the potential for AGIC to 'workshop' this research for outcome relevant to AGIC.

One of the key outcomes for the AGIC research is to provide information that will support all members in their efforts to grow golf as well as to provide advice on an action plan to move forward and implement.

Stephen said that there is potential to leverage \$60K to supplement other research grants. Once the brief has been reviewed and revised, Shannon will circulate to Directors to final feedback. At this stage, Directors can then use the brief to approach researchers to respond and seek proposals/quotes.

Directors agreed that this project could be a catalyst for AGIC and strategic planning.

**ACTION:**

- Stephen Pitt will circulate the GEMBA research to all AGIC Directors as commercial in confidence for review.
- Shannon Walker, Cameron Wade and Jeff Blunden to review research and identify gaps required to fulfil the brief and consider best use of \$60K with focus on female participation.

**Government relations**

Stephen Pitt updated members and stated that there was been an enormous amount happening on the government relations front.

After the Canberra trip in February, there has been another 7-8 blocks of meetings held related to key issues: Home of Golf and Health Benefits of Golf in Older Australians.

Meetings have occurred with Andrew Robb, local Federal MP in Elsternwick. Andrew Robb supports the Home of Golf concept as good public policy. However, the Coalition is not in a position to make a budget commitment until they do an analysis of budget position after election. It is more likely first or second year government term project.



Jamie Briggs is still well involved and Peter Dutton is a strong supporter of the health benefits project. We met with Tony Abbott's sports advisor Sam Watson and our message is getting across. Also met with Luke Hartsyker, but currently unsure if he will be Sports Minister if the Coalition is elected. Kate Lundy is still a strong supporter and Tom Stead (Mark Butler's advisor) recommends we review the sports grant scheme for funding for the health benefits ask if the scheme is still running after the election.

Stephen said that it was time to look at tourism / economic development ask. NZ golf has ramped up efforts recently. We should have capacity to develop our ask with the wine industry as a package for domestic and international tourism

Key points included:

- 20% of golf industry revenues come from tourism.
- Need to look at state based tourism strategies – take the best ideas and develop a national focus. Government understands the opportunity provided by golf tournaments but not economic opportunity presented by the Free and Independent Travellers market. The consumer research AGIC is developing may assist in understanding this opportunity also.
- Great Golf Courses of Australia, Liz Sattler is working with Tourism Australia and getting some international branding and exposure. AGIC should be looking at supporting this.
- Need to look at other partners – Packers and Crown in terms of linking their tourism marketing and link to golf
- Ask needs to focus on jobs and economic growth for Australia

Important person to target is Bob Baldwin, Shadow Minister for Tourism and Regional Development, Member for Patterson.

**ACTION:**

- Socom to meet with Stephen Pitt re: development of government relations strategy for coming 3- 6months
- Socom to gather information from AGIC Members and state based golf initiatives in golf tourism to inform discussion paper.

#### **Industry efficiency and exchange**

A report from Peter Frewin was circulated prior the meeting.

Board of AGSCA would not be involved in the joint summit concept if a PCO is hired without appropriate re-imbursement of revenue streams to AGSCA. AGSCA could run the whole piece or will need the \$200K. Further, GMA/PGA/AGSCA could have individual organisers but if using PCO for joint stuff - could cause problems with venue as they only want to deal with one contact.

The EMG proposal identifies opportunities to work together. The advice says the Expo is too long but with technology, having staff away is not as difficult as in the past as people can access emails etc.

via smart phones. Members agreed that regardless of arrangements - if there is a joint event it needs to be innovative and big.

The issues that need to be resolved are in the area of due diligence with major sponsors and solving any cross over. There are benefits in getting the industry together. Each association will still have individual identity within the construct of the event.

Due to the size of event it would only be able to be held at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre and would need to move quickly to secure venue for 2015.

GMA, AGSCA and PGA will need a report drafted for respective boards in the next two months about the proposal. There would also be the need to review membership fees/structures between each association. It would not an annual event but only held every 2-3 years. Focus on getting all of industry together.

**ACTION:**

- Peter Frewin to coordinate meeting with GMA, AGSCA and PGA to fine-tune approach and vision for shared summit in coming weeks.

**Awareness of golf**

The notion of National Golf Day is under consideration.

Stephen Pitt said he wants to look at a Golf Week in October 2014 and he offered to prepare a paper to update AGIC Director. The idea would be to concentrate all marketing activity for that week and kick off with Sunday celebrity and end the following Sunday with Open Day for golf courses i.e. junior sign on in morning.

**Other activities:**

- Free coaching clinics via PGA
- Bring a non-member day
- Female related activity
- Urban golf day in CBD

**Strategy/tactics to be informed by research that identify gaps i.e. objectives could include:**

- Grow club membership
- Junior sign ups
- More coaching for PGA
- More women joining

We would need benchmark to measure success of Golf Week. Stephen advised AGIC Directors that there is need to make a decision in the next five months so clubs can set their calendar of events. Part of the process would require feedback from a range of club managers regarding how marketing

activities have worked in the past. An open day is on trial in South Australia in October which will help with data and feedback.

**ACTION:**

- Stephen to provide AGIC Directors with a concept paper for Golf Week for 2014.

**Structure and resources**

Deanna is managing the financials for AGIC which will help free up the secretariat to focus on higher level strategic advice and support.

*Membership fees*

Some associations are being questioned about fees by members. There is a need to look at revenues and expenses and plan for development of strategic documents required.

GA and PGA have traditionally supported AGIC outside of existing revenues i.e. Health Benefits report was funded by GA. GA gets a benefit from AGIC government funding so are OK to look at supporting the AGIC. Directors agreed that this support from GA should be the exception rather than the rule.

Membership fees for all member associations for 2013/14 were agreed to remain the same as last FY. The exception for the 2013/14 FY is that the Directors resolved to provide a 50% discount to SAGCA.

Directors agreed that government grants can't be used to fund ongoing activities for AGIC – only for project or program based activities.

Directors discussed the need to have greater female input into AGIC. Natalie Ritter (PGA) was suggested as an option and could provide strategic advice on the Week of Golf and Parliamentary Day activities.

Directors also suggested waiting and seeing if the ALPG would recruit a female in the coming months.

**ACTIONS:**

- Stephen will draft AGIC financials report for Directors to review
- Socom to contact Deanna Yong (GA) re: new invoices for 2013-14 and amended invoice amount for SAGCA in the new FY
- Jeff Blunden to look at costs for golf rounds reports incurred and project for cash flow in next FY
- Socom and Stephen Pitt to meet to draft one page strategic plan covering AGIC actions for next FY

**4. My Golf**

Stephen Pitt updated members regarding the My Golf program. He said it was positive for industry. The PGA and GA are working towards how to structure a joint venture for junior golf participation and the PGA wants My Golf as the banner to run the program.

**5. AGIC consumer research study – brief**

This agenda item was addressed in the sub-committee reports

**6. General Business**

Email from Gwyn Rees from CLubsACT regarding the volumetric water abstraction charge (WAC) introduced in the ACT in 1999. She is seeking some assistance in mounting an argument for competition between courses as this is key to getting the competition equalisation scheme applied.

Directors agreed that the issue falls outside of responsibility of the AGIC.

**ACTION**

- Socom to draft letter to Gwyn Rees stating that the AGIC believes that the issue outlined in her letter falls outside of the responsibility of the AGIC.

**NEXT MEETING: -**

Directors discussed holding the next AGIC in conjunction with the 27 October Sports Hydrant event in Canberra or when the World Cup of Golf is held 18-24 November. Directors discussed the need to catch up prior to the next face to face meeting and agreed to hold a teleconference in mid-September.

**ACTION:**

- Socom to coordinate dates for the next face to face meeting (late October or late November) and teleconference in mid-September as per minutes.

*MEETING CLOSED 1.15 pm*

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ARISING**

Action	Responsibility
Socom to inform Deanna that the annual accounts have been approved by AGIC Directors	Socom
Brian Thorburn to continue liaising with Sports Hydrant re: the opportunity on 27 October.	Brian Thorburn
Socom and Stephen Pitt to discuss potential advocacy strategy /opportunity for 27 October event.	Socom Stephen Pitt
Socom to contact Deanna to pay for AGIC to join Sports Hydrant \$2500.	Socom
Gavin Kirkman to follow up with Kerri Evans regarding other research links to support AGIC business case.	Gavin Kirkman
Jeff Blunden will draft a letter on behalf of AGIC Chair to the all courses in metro	Jeff Blunden

Melbourne to measure activity on public courses.	
Stephen Pitt will circulate the GEMBA research to all AGIC Directors as commercial in confidence for review.	Stephen Pitt
Shannon Walker, Cameron Wade and Jeff Blunden to review research and identify gaps required to fulfil the brief and consider best use of \$60K with focus on female participation.	Shannon Walker Cameron Wade Jeff Blunden
Socom to meet with Stephen Pitt re: development of government relations strategy for coming 3- 6 months	Socom Stephen Pitt
Socom to gather information from AGIC Members and state based golf initiatives in golf tourism to inform discussion paper.	Socom
Peter Frewin to coordinate meeting with GMA, AGSCA and PGA to fine-tune approach and vision for shared summit in coming weeks.	Peter Frewin
Stephen to provide AGIC Directors with a concept paper for Golf Week for 2014.	Stephen Pitt
Stephen will draft AGIC financials report for Directors to review	Stephen Pitt
Socom to contact Deanne re: amended invoice amount for SAGCA in the new FY	Socom
Jeff Blunden to look at costs for golf rounds reports incurred and project for cash flow in next FY	Jeff Blunden
Socom and Stephen Pitt to meet to draft one page strategic plan covering AGIC actions for next FY	Socom Stephen Pitt
Socom to draft letter to Gwyn Rees stating that the AGIC believes that the issue outlined in her letter falls outside of the responsibility of the AGIC.	Socom
Socom to coordinate dates for the next face to face meeting (late October or late November) and teleconference in mid-September as per minutes.	Socom

---

# International Golf Tourism

---

---

## Australian Golf Industry Council

“Tourism Australia believes the dramatic US Masters victory by ‘Friends of Australia’ tourism ambassador Adam Scott will act as a fillip to the promotion of Australian golf tourism on the international stage.”

*Tourism Australia Media Release, 18 April 2013*

**SOCOM**  
Strategic Outcomes

This desktop review was compiled by Socom, Secretariat for the Australian Golf Industry Council.

[www.socom.com.au](http://www.socom.com.au)

Level 4, 140 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC  
T: 03 8317 0111

---

Section

1

## Project Description

Undertake a desktop review to identify what other countries around the world (specifically Ireland) do to promote golf tourism in their country and to understand what is currently being delivered in golf tourism in Australia. This review is being provided on behalf of the Secretariat of the Australian Golf Industry Council (AGIC).

### Project Objectives

- Identify the necessary steps required to position Australia as a world class golf destination e.g. identify what is being undertaken by Tourism Australia to meet this goal
- Identify possible opportunities to tie in golf tourism with Australia's wine industry
- Provide a basis to undertake further work into the opportunity of exploring a collaborative golf tourism effort in Australia

Section

2

## Sector Case Study

### Sector Case Study – Caribbean Tourism Organisation

A paper produced by the Caribbean Tourism Organisation provides some high level background information on the current operating environment for golf tourism around the world. Interestingly, Australia is considered 'mature' in terms of the available golfing market. The paper is focused on potential markets for the Caribbean but the general profiling of a golf tourist may be of use for further exploration of the golf tourism sector in Australia.

#### *Estimate of global market size*

The global golf tourism market is worth over \$17 billion, according to the International Association of Golfing Tour Operators (IAGTO). 56 million people play golf worldwide. Of this 56 million, between 5% and 10% travel overseas each year for the main purpose being to play golf – therefore making the international size of the golf tourism market between 2.8 million and 5.6 million pax.

#### *Main source markets*

The main source markets for golf tourism in the Caribbean are: USA, UK, Japan, Canada and Australia. The main emerging markets for golf tourism in the Caribbean are: Taiwan, Malaysia, China and Thailand.

Emerging golf destinations are Korea and China that will, albeit from small numbers, exhibit significant growth over the next five years:

- Korea: currently has 200 golf courses; this is expected to double to 400 by 2016
- China: currently has a growth rate of 40% per annum in terms of golfing facilities. At present there are 311 golf courses and this is expected to double over the next 10 years.

Section

3

## Sector Analysis

This desktop review of the sector aims to identify what other countries around the world (specifically Ireland) are doing to promote golf tourism and what being delivered in golf tourism in Australia.

### Global Golf Tourism Initiatives

In order to better understand the golf tourism operating environment a visit to the website of the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO) yielded some useful links to publications but it was unclear how many Australian operators are IAGTO members.

*As the global trade organisation for golf tourism, we are committed to helping golf tour operators and golf destinations give you the best possible golf holiday experience. It is estimated that IAGTO's operators control over 85% of golf holiday packages sold worldwide and turnover more than €1 billion per year.*

#### Scotland

Like Ireland, there is a dedicated golf tourism board who recently commissioned a report on the contribution golf makes to the national economy (1bn GBP).

In 2009 another report was commissioned by Scottish Enterprise and housed on the Visit Scotland website to understand the economic impact of golf. The report content template may be used to develop a similar report for Australian golf tourism.

#### Ireland – Hidden Links

Online search identified a company called Hidden Links as a key player in golf tourism in Ireland. Hidden Links prepares itineraries for Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales as well as Canada. Hidden Links promotes Guinness on their site as a recommendation ('pint of Guinness by the fire') but there does not appear to be a formal relationship with the brand.

#### Ireland – Dunbar Golf Tours

Another tour operator based in Ireland covers the same regions in Great Britain and Ireland as Hidden Links but also includes golfing itineraries for Spain, Portugal and South Africa and they claim that "while we do focus on golf, we can include as much or as little golf as required and switch our focus as required to include more sightseeing."

Dunbar Golf Tours understand that "travelling to play golf is not an inexpensive proposition" and promote the different course options so that the experience is more affordable.

#### Ireland – Ireland.com

The Tourism Board in Ireland does not promote the tour operators such as Hidden Links and Dunbar Golf Tours. The website includes links to articles and a range of recommendations and are very much promoting independent golf travel rather than links with operators.



## **National Golf Tourism Initiatives**

Tourism Australia already recognises the opportunity for golf tourism. The following is an excerpt from a media release issued by Tourism Australia on 18 April 2013.

*Tourism Australia Managing Director Andrew McEvoy said that Scott's Masters win ...had the potential to help position Australia as one of the world's leading golf tourism destinations.*

*"With such great advocates as Adam Scott, and helped by our recent partnership with the Great Golf Courses of Australia, we're well positioned to take advantage of the lucrative global golf tourism market - internationally savvy golf enthusiasts seeking world class experiences," said Mr McEvoy.*

### **Great Golf Courses of Australia**

Great Golf Courses of Australia is "a marketing collaboration between Australia's premier golf courses, Tourism Australia, State Tourism Offices and the PGA of Australia aimed at tapping into the tourism potential of golf in Australia."

The site appears to meet the objectives of the AGIC in that it provides assistance in booking golf tours for the independent traveller includes links to food and wine options the featured east coast states (Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Queensland and NSW) and four out of the five featured states include a food and wine tourism suggestion. The site uses social media and boasts 47,000 likers on Facebook and a Japanese translation option.

### **Golf Tourism Australia**

Golf Tourism Australia is the company and website name of a licensed travel agent whose golf tours span Australia, Europe and Africa – with the exception of Tasmania in Australia. The business is based in Mornington, Victoria. The Golf Tourism Australia website also owns a Golf China URL which houses information about golfing tour for this country, including an FAQ list.

### **Aus Golf**

Pitched as Australia's most informative golf website, the site lists packages from around the country. The website also promotes golf real estate. The site also promotes outbound golf tourism to courses in China and Thailand.

## **Tourism Australia Strategic Direction**

Understanding of Tourism Australia's strategic directions for marketing will enable AGIC to prepare a targeted approach.

The Tourism 2020 Strategy is a rallying call to Australian industry and governments to focus on increased returns from the tourism industry. To achieve the Tourism 2020 Strategy, Tourism Australia will focus the majority of its global marketing resources on markets which represent the greatest potential for tourism growth to the year 2020.

Tourism Australia will also target those emerging markets that have the strongest growth potential, and will continue to support rest-of-world markets. (details available if required)

Section

**4**

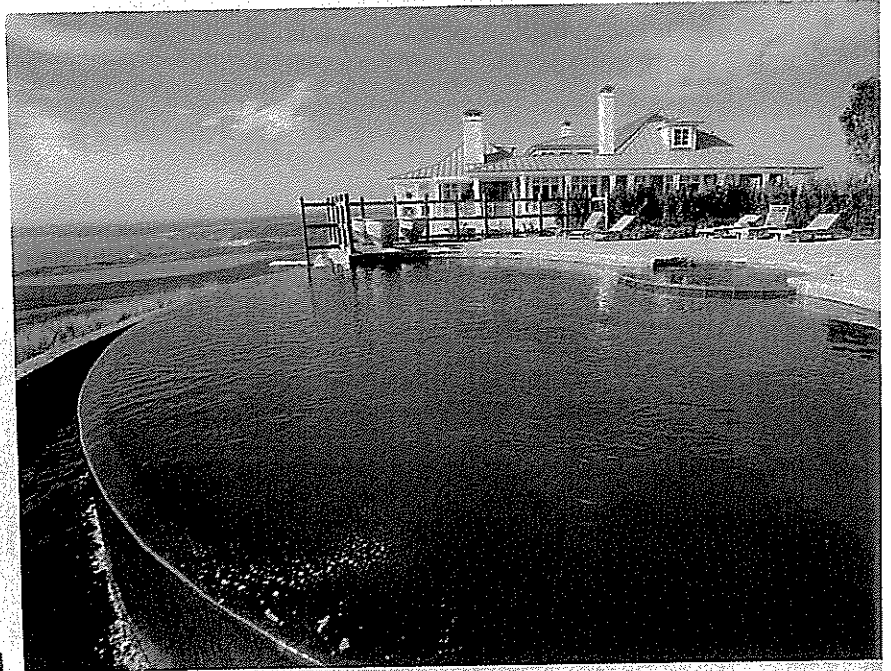
## **Recommendations for AGIC next steps**

- Seek more information from PGA and partners regarding the Great Golf Courses of Australia website. Given the website's relationship with Tourism Australia, and the marketing focus, this may be a prudent move to demonstrate an existing collaborative effort.
- AGIC to arrange a meeting with Wine Australia, review its strategic directions and pursue relevant links to the strategic direction of Tourism Australia.
- AGIC to arrange a meeting with Tourism Australia to identify opportunities to work with AGIC on promoting golf tourism.
- AGIC to seek funding with Tourism Australia to develop an economic impact study to better understand the contribution golf makes to tourism and the economy as a whole (target the Minister for Foreign Affairs – international tourism focus).
- Work with Tourism Australia and Wine Australia to develop an approach for Federal Government funding (matched by AGIC) to promote golf tourism internationally and align with a wine offering.

***A list of source websites and materials are being held on file if required.***

# Finally, some real money!

By Denise Langdon



**T**OURISM New Zealand recently confirmed that it would support the developing golf tourism market with a significant boost of \$NZ2 million over the next three years. Tour operators, the country's 400 golf courses, and the national amateur body, New Zealand Golf, are enthusiastically welcoming this major breakthrough. All will benefit.

I was part of a previous golf cluster that failed to get much traction, despite the efforts of a small but dedicated committee. A lack of real funds to market internationally was one of the constraints. It is good to see that the New Zealand tourism industry now sees the value to the golf and broader tourism sectors of golfers as tourists.

As a target market, golf tourists have a lot going for them. Generally, they are affluent and influential people who like to travel and spend their money on four- and five-star accommodation as well as food, wine and clothing. On top of this, they like to play and watch golf. They tend to be business leaders, often retired, who are able to spend long periods on their sport and travel.

The Golf Tourism Strategy Report, presented by the recently formed Golf

Working Group under Tourism New Zealand General Manager Marketing Communications, Justin Watson, stated that on average golf tourists spend \$NZ3,300 per visit compared with the overall average of \$NZ2,500.

The total number of golf tourists per annum into New Zealand is reported as averaging 63,000 per year, with a target to increase that number to more than 70,000 by 2016. This would represent a potential increased annual return of \$NZ85 million – not bad for a \$NZ2 million investment.

Can we attract more golfers Down Under? We certainly have plenty to offer in New Zealand, with more golf courses per head of population than most other golfing nations. Our courses are first-rate, with several frequently receiving world accolades.

Construction is set to begin at a new resort course at Tara-iti, about an hour north of Auckland. Another impressive layout at Wanaka, an hour from Queenstown, has achieved final consent for development.

"No doubt. It will be stunning from all accounts," said Tourism Golf Working Group member Geoff Burns.

## GOLFERS TO TACKLE LAKE TAUPO'S 'BIG THREE' COURSES

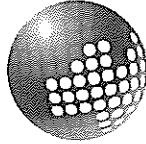
ALL roads lead to Taupo in late October for the first edition of The Hilton Lake Taupo Golf Masters.

This newest addition to the New Zealand golfing calendar is presented by local PGA professional Jim Clelland in partnership with Aaron Carter of Total Sport, and brings to golfers an opportunity to compete over three courses in three days in a Pairs format, but still with recognition given for individual performances.

The Kinloch Club, Wairakei Golf and Sanctuary and The Centennial Course at the Taupo Golf Club will host The Hilton Lake Taupo Masters from October 30-November 1. Playing each course is special enough but to play all three in three days will provide a memorable experience. The format will see players compete in combined score Pairs at Wairakei and Centennial, while best-ball scoring will be used at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Kinloch.

*Check out [laketaupomastersgolf.co.nz](http://laketaupomastersgolf.co.nz)*

*Denise Langdon is the Director of PaRnz Golfing Holidays, based in Auckland, NZ.*



GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item:	4.4 CEO Report
Board Meeting:	18 October 2013 (#6 – 13)
Subject:	4.4 Director Terms and Nominations Committee
Summary of Issue:	Attached is the revised nominations committee information for Board review. If the Board decides to adopt the rules outlined here, they will be incorporated into Golf Australia's by-laws. Also attached is information pertaining to the revised director's terms that has now gone to the membership in preparation for the AGM. This was discussed at the last Board meeting and was refined based on Board feedback.
Cost:	N/A
Budget Impact:	N/A
Strategy / Vision	Make the required alterations to the constitution and by-laws to ensure we have the best possible governance structure.
Action:	For Information Only
Recommendation:	N/A
Responsible Manager:	Stephen Pitt
Attachments:	<b>Attachment #8 – Pg 35-38</b> Nominations Committee By-Laws <b>Attachment #9 – Pg 39-41</b> Director's Terms information and resolution

# Golf Australia

## Nominations Committee Charter

### 1. Introduction.

---

The Nominations Committee (the Committee) is established by the Board within the bylaws of Golf Australia.

The object of this Charter is to regulate and provide a framework for the operation of the Committee to assist the Board in relation to the conduct of elections and/or appointment of directors to the Board.

This Charter shall be read subject to the Constitution and, to the extent that any provision of this Charter is inconsistent with the Constitution, that provision shall be of no effect.

This Charter is to be made available on the Golf Australia website.

The formation and operation of the Committee does not prevent any member who is authorised to do so, from standing for election to the Board pursuant to Clauses 22 and 23 of the Constitution.

### 2. Membership of the Committee.

---

The Committee shall consist of:

- A minimum of three members;
- At least one of whom shall be a former director of Golf Australia who is of good standing in the community;
- At least one of whom has extensive practical experience as a consultant or other professional in the field of board composition and structure; and
- Not more than one current Board director who;
  - Is not the Chairman; and
  - is not seeking election as a director in the current year; and

# Nominations Committee Charter

---

- is appointed by the Board for a one-year term.

The Board shall appoint a member of the Committee to be Chairman of the Committee.

The Committee shall meet as and when directed by the Chairman.

A quorum shall be two members one of whom shall be the current Board director.

---

### 3. Role and Responsibilities – Election of Directors

---

In relation to *election of directors*, the role of the Committee is to assist the Board, as required, to identify individuals who are qualified to become board members. Specifically, the Committee is empowered to:

- a) At the request of a prospective candidate, meet with that person prior to the deadline for nominations, to discuss the process and the skills that the Board has asked the Committee to prioritise in identifying individuals who are qualified to become Board members;
- b) After nominations have closed and before the date set for ballot papers to be sent to delegates, request any new director nominees, to meet with the Committee and to provide it with any relevant information. A nominee may decline to be interviewed by the Committee;
- c) Provide the Board with an assessment as to whether in the Committee's opinion, it is satisfied that each nominee is a suitable person to serve as a director. Factors to be considered when reviewing a potential candidate for Board election include without limitation:
  - I. The skills, experience, expertise and personal qualities that will best complement Board effectiveness – this will be assessed using the Board Skills Matrix;
  - II. The existing composition of the Board, having regard to the objective of achieving a Board comprising Directors from a diverse range of backgrounds;

# Nominations Committee Charter

---

III. The capability of the candidate to devote the necessary time and commitment to the role (this involves a consideration of matters such as other Board or executive appointments)

IV. Independence and potential conflicts of interest.

- d) If the Chairman so requests, rank each of the nominees in terms of their suitability to serve as a director taking into account the criteria in part c) hereof..

## 4. Role and Responsibilities – Appointment of Directors

---

Pursuant to Clause 22 of the Constitution the Board is empowered to appoint directors in the circumstances outlined in that clause. In relation to *appointment of directors*, the role of the Committee is to assist the Board, as required, to identify individuals who are qualified to become board members. Specifically, the Committee is empowered to:

- a. Interview such candidates as are identified by the Board and provide the Board with an assessment as to whether in the Committee's opinion, it is satisfied that each candidate is a suitable person to serve as a director. Factors to be considered when reviewing a potential candidate for Board appointment include without limitation;
- I. The skills, experience, expertise and personal qualities that will best complement Board effectiveness – this will be assessed using the Board Skills Matrix;
  - II. The existing composition of the Board, having regard to the objective of achieving a Board comprising Directors from a diverse range of backgrounds;

V. Independence and potential conflicts of interest.

- b. If the Chairman so requests, rank each of the nominees in terms of their suitability to serve as a director, taking into account the criteria in part c. hereof

## 5. The Role and Responsibilities of the Board in Relation to the Nominations Committee

---

The Board has the following role and responsibilities in relation to the Nominations Committee:

- (a) Appoint the Committee pursuant to this Charter;

# Nominations Committee Charter

---

- (b) Provide the Committee with a Skills Matrix that seeks to identify the high-level skills of the current board directors and any skill-gaps that might exist in the Board. It is to be used as a guide for the Committee in making its recommendations but is not a binding criterion;
- (c) In relation to *electd positions*, receive the assessment of the Committee as to whether nominees are suitable persons to serve as directors and, if the Chairman has requested it, the Committee's ranking of each of the nominees in terms of their suitability to serve as a director. Having received the Committee's assessment, the Board is to decide whether and in what manner that information is to be communicated to nominees and members.
- (d) In relation to *appointment in the case of casual vacancies and in other situations covered by Clause 26.2 of the Constitution*, provide the Committee with a list of candidates to be interviewed and receive the assessment of the Committee as to whether candidates are suitable persons to serve as directors and, if the Chairman has requested it, the Committee's ranking of each of the candidates in terms of their suitability to serve as a director. Having received the Committee's assessment and after having considered such other information as it deems appropriate, the Board may appoint a candidate to fill the casual vacancy.
- (e) For the avoidance of doubt, the Committee has no jurisdiction in respect of appointment of directors and it has no jurisdiction in respect of assessing the suitability of current board members who are seeking re-election.
- (f) Take such other action as is appropriate to give effect to the operation of the Committee.

Adopted as a Charter by the Board on      , 2013

-----  
Chairman



## 23. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

### 23.1 Election of Directors

Directors will be elected in accordance with **Rules 23.1 to 23.5**. The Chief Executive Officer will call for nominations for persons to be considered for election as Directors ~~45-60~~ days prior to that Annual General Meeting. Nominations must be received by the Chief Executive Officer ~~30-45~~ days before that Annual General Meeting.

### 23.4 Term of appointment

(a) Each Director shall hold office for a term of a maximum of three years but is eligible for re-election. Appointed Directors may serve a maximum term of ~~three-six~~ consecutive years, subject to **Rule 23.4(d)**.

(b) The terms of office of Directors shall rotate in accordance with the terms determined under **Rule 23.5**.

(c) Directors, other than Appointed Directors, are eligible for re-election but shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms, subject to **Rule 23.4(d)**.

(d) Notwithstanding anything else in this **Rule 23.4** Directors other than Appointed Directors may be re-elected for a third consecutive term of three years. Before a Director can be considered for election for a third consecutive term under this rule the Director's decision to nominate must first be endorsed by Board resolution to go on to the election ballot. If the Board so resolves, the CEO shall notify the members of the Director's nomination to go onto the ballot. State Associations will have the opportunity to object to the applicant going on to the ballot, but must do so prior to nominations closing 30 days prior to the AGM. If three or more State Associations object to the Director being on the ballot, the Director will not be placed on the ballot. A Director is not eligible to serve any further term if elected for a third consecutive term under this rule and **Rule 23**.

### 23.5 Rotational terms

~~(a) Subject to the provisions in this Constitution and the Act relating to the earlier retirement or removal of a Director, Directors elected under this clause shall hold office for a term of three years from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at which they were elected until the conclusion of the third Annual General Meeting thereafter.~~

~~(b) To ensure rotational terms, two of the six Directors who took office on 1 February 2008 shall retire after one year. A further two of them will retire after two years. The remaining two of them will retire after three years. Those Directors to have one and two year terms will be decided by agreement or if no agreement by lot conducted by the Board.~~

## **Resolution #1 – Nomination Dates and Directors Terms**

***“That the alterations to the constitution outlined in attachment #1 be adopted by the meeting.”***

After much consideration, the Golf Australia Board has decided to recommend the following changes to the Golf Australia constitution in relation to Nomination dates and Director Terms.

1. The Chief Executive Officer to call for nominations no later than 60 days prior to the AGM (instead of 45 as currently stipulated) and the cut-off for nominations to be received to be 45 days (instead of 30 as currently stipulated)
2. Increasing the maximum term of Appointed Directors from three consecutive years to six consecutive years. (Clause 23.4(a))
3. Allowing in rare cases, the capacity of Elected Directors to serve three consecutive terms rather the current two. (Clause 23.4(d))

### **Explanatory Notes**

1. The new timelines relating to the calling for and closing off of nominations will allow for a smoother processing of nominations and also allow for consideration of candidates by Member States and/or a Nominations Committee.
2. Increasing the maximum term of Appointed Directors from three consecutive years to six consecutive years.

Quite clearly three years is not long enough to get the full benefit that Appointed Directors can provide to Golf Australia. A significant disparity in the number of years a Director can serve, also creates an inequity between Appointed Directors and Elected Directors that need not exist. Appointed Directors have the same legal responsibility to the company as Elected Directors. It is also an unnecessary burden for the organisation to source and appoint new directors every three years.

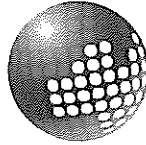
3. Allowing in rare cases, the capacity of Elected Directors to serve three consecutive terms rather the current two.

Whilst believing that in most cases, a six year limit for Directors was appropriate, it had become clear that some increased flexibility around terms in rare and well regulated situations, would benefit our structure.

It is therefore proposed that a process be established to allow for a director to do a third consecutive term, but for strict controls to be implemented governing the process.

The suggested controls will occur in three ways. Firstly, Directors wanting to stand for a third term will need to be approved by the Golf Australia Board. Secondly State Associations will have the opportunity to oppose a Director going on to the ballot and if three associations object to the Director standing for a third consecutive term they will not be placed on the ballot. Finally, they will need to go through the election process and be elected by the State Associations.

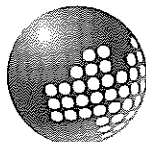
The benefits we see this alteration providing are significant, particularly in relation to succession planning for the Chairman's role. Currently this is not an easy process with blanket six year limits for directors. The other major benefit that we see being delivered is that in rare cases it may be desirable to keep a Director on for a third term when that director has the capacity to contribute to the organisation in an exceptional manner. It should be stressed this is being proposed to accommodate uncommon circumstances and in the normal course of proceedings Directors will step down after six years. The ASC recommends within its governance principles that sports restrict the length of service of Directors to no more than 10 years. With the proposed change we do not breach this governance principle.



GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

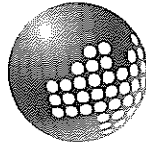
Agenda Item:	4.4 CEO Report
Board Meeting:	18 October 2013 (#6 – 13)
Subject:	4.5 Governance Case Study
Summary of Issue:	<p>Accenture have been engaged to prepare a case study of the operational efficiencies that would be delivered by the "One Management" governance model using NSW as a test site.</p> <p>Accenture have commenced initial information collection with the bulk of the project to be undertaken from 21 October 2013 to 15 November 2013.</p> <p>John Karren, Stephen Pitt and Gerard Kennedy will be the key contacts for Golf Australia. The project will also rely on the co-operation of Golf NSW.</p>
Cost:	Final cost to be determined but has been minimised through a contra agreement with payment of reasonable of reasonable expenses and provision of hospitality at the Men's and Women's Australian Opens.
Budget Impact:	N/A
Strategy / Vision	Optimal governance and delivery model for Golf Australia in order to ensure one company behaviour
Action:	For Information Only
Recommendation:	N/A
Responsible Manager:	Stephen Pitt
Attachments:	N/A



GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

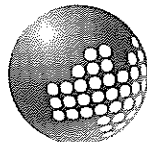
Agenda Item:	5.0 Australian Opens
Board Meeting:	18 October 2013 (#6 – 13)
Subject:	5.1 Emirates Australian Open
Summary of Issue:	<p>Preparations for the Emirates Australian Open are continuing on plan with another successful event expected. A brief overview of recent operational developments is included below for information only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Player appearance fee budget is now exhausted and there will be no further players seeking appearance fees secured.</li><li>• R&amp;A's International Qualifying Series for the British Open will result in the leading three players who are not otherwise exempt and finish within the top ten gaining entry into the 2014 British Open.</li><li>• Prize money of \$1.25m.</li><li>• Recent favourable weather conditions have assisted course condition in particular light renovations to greens to reduce impact of Poa seed heads.</li><li>• There have been some parking issues with council however Woollahra Golf Club has agreed to provide public parking and volunteer parking across 4 holes.</li><li>• Building Plans are finalised including a bigger and more stylish corporate build around the 18<sup>th</sup> this year.</li></ul>
Cost:	N/A
Budget Impact:	N/A
Strategy / Vision	Optimise the role and the value of the Australian Opens to showcase golf in Australia to grow participation and the Golf Economy
Action:	For Information Only
Recommendation:	N/A
Responsible Manager:	Trevor Herden
Attachments:	N/A



GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item:	5.0 Australian Opens
Board Meeting:	18 October 2013 (#6 – 13)
Subject:	5.2 ISPS Women's Australian Open
Summary of Issue:	<p>Planning for the ISPS Women's Australian Open is continuing. A brief overview of recent developments is included below for information only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key priority to reduce the net loss of the event through the sale of further sponsorships. Discussions are continuing with prospects such as Parmalat, Mumm Champagne and Accor Hotels.</li><li>• Player Agreements between ISPS, LPGA and Golf Australia for 2014 have been signed. This is a one year Agreement with the rights for all parties to continue to 2015 if agreed.</li><li>• Seeking to secure the World number one ranked player Inbee Park. Regardless, the scheduling of the event as the second on the LPGA Tour is expected to assist in delivering a strong field. Current expectation is 7 of top 10 players will participate at the event.</li><li>• The Victoria Golf Club has been very supportive at this early stage. Event will also use Cheltenham Golf Club for driving range, public parking and media centre facilities.</li><li>• The course is now confirmed at 5925 Metres, Par 72 – this will be a great test on a great layout.</li></ul>
Cost:	N/A
Budget Impact:	N/A
Strategy / Vision	Optimise the role and the value of the Australian Opens to showcase golf in Australia to grow participation and the Golf Economy
Action:	For Information Only
Recommendation:	N/A
Responsible Manager:	Trevor Herden
Attachments:	N/A



GolfAustralia

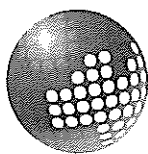
## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item: 6.0 Championships  
Board Meeting: 18 October 2013 (#6 – 13)  
Subject: 6.1 Championships Update  
Summary of Issue: No major activities or issues to report. Championships Committee Meeting minutes attached for information only.

An update from the National Senior Advisory Group Meeting will be provided at the meeting for information only. Items to be discussed at the meeting include:

- Australian Men's Senior Ranking System – Proposed change of format to Fed Ex style of system
- Australian Senior Men's Amateur Championship – Proposed format change
- Future of Australian Men's Senior Match Play Championship

Cost: N/A  
Budget Impact: N/A  
Strategy / Vision: N/A  
Action: For Information Only  
Recommendation: N/A  
Responsible Manager: Emily Miller  
Attachments: **Attachment # 9 – Pg 45-46**  
**Championships Committee Meeting Minutes**



GolfAustralia

**Championships Committee Meeting – 28 August 2013; 10.15 am  
Via Phone**

**AGENDA**

In attendance: Stuart Cox, Trevor Herden, Emily Miller, Matt Cutler.

**1. 2014 Australian Men's, Women's, Boys' and Girls' Ranking Conditions**

(a) Changes to 2014 Conditions

The following changes to the 2014 Australian Men's, Women's, Boys' and Girls' ranking were approved by the Committee.

- i. There was a slight anomaly with points gained from Stroke Play Events followed by Match Play Rounds. Specifically, as these events count as two events for Divisor purposes, a player who finishes 33<sup>rd</sup> in the stroke play, and fails to qualify for the match play, is slightly "better off" than a player finishing a 32<sup>nd</sup> in the stroke play, unless they reach the Semi-Finals of the match play. Accordingly, any event that has a Stroke Play component followed by a Match Play component, will now count as one event for Divisor purposes.
- ii. As a result, the points gained in Match Play Rounds will be reduced by two levels – without the reduction, players would be significantly advantaged by qualifying for the Match Play Rounds.
- iii. The minimum Divisor will be revised down as follows:
  - a. Men's Divisor: from 10 to 9
  - b. Women's Divisor: from 9 to 8
  - c. Boys' Divisor: 8 (of which 5 must be junior events)
  - d. Girls' Divisor: 7 (of which 4 must be junior events)
- iv. The points gained for State Opens and the Australian Opens will be increased, as they are currently not comparable respective to the Amateur Events (i.e. a player will now gain greater points for finish positions in the Opens).
- v. The calculation of Event Weightings will remain unchanged (i.e. based on their starting field, and other criteria).
- vi. The Guidelines of Member Associations regarding the 'Nominated Ranking Events' remain unchanged.

(b) Number of Events

The suggestion to expand the Australian Men's and Women's Ranking calendars to include events such as the Avondale Medal and City of Sydney Medal was again discussed.

All agreed that the current system achieves its purpose by showing the best players in the country and as such the calendars should remain the same for 2014.

Emily Miller will communicate the above to the State Associations along with the change of Conditions.



## **2. Australian Men's and Women's Senior Rankings – Chris Everett Proposal (Fed Ex Style)**

Chris Everett has proposed the Australian Senior Rankings be based on a Fed-Ex Cup style, where points from all events played will be aggregated for a total number of points. There will be no minimum divisor.

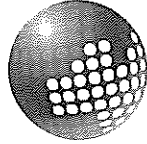
It was agreed that the proposal has some merit however needs to be discussed further. Emily Miller to forward the proposal to NSAG for comments and further discussion will take place at the NSAG meeting in October.

## **3. Scheduling of NSAG Meeting**

The NSAG Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 15 October at 4.00 pm via phone. Emily Miller to advise the Committee.

## **4. Australian Men's Senior Match Play Championship**

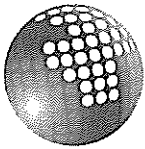
Emily Miller advised that only 7 entries had been received to date for the Australian Men's Senior Match Play Championship which closes on Thursday 5 September. An assessment will be made at the close of entries as to whether the event should proceed.



GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item:	7.0 Commercial & Marketing Report
Board Meeting:	18 October 2013 (#6 – 2013)
Subject:	7.1 Commercial Report
Summary of Issue:	<p>Attached report provides a summary of current signed sponsorship agreements and an overview of pending agreements &amp; proposals.</p> <p>Parmalat have also provided a positive response to draft agreement terms, however they have still not given a firm commitment.</p> <p>Outstanding proposals to Mumm Champagne for an Industry Partner and HWAO Event Sponsorship and Accor Hotels for Industry Partnership and HWAO Event Sponsorship are both still pending replies.</p> <p>Selling the remaining unsold properties for Handa Women's Australian Open and securing a naming rights sponsor for the MyGolf National Junior Golf Program remain priorities.</p>
Budget Impact:	No change to the budget position since the August Board Meeting
Strategy / Vision:	N/A
Action:	Attached Sponsorship Summary provided for information only, no change since August Board Meeting.
Recommendation:	N/A
Responsible Manager:	N/A
Attachments:	<b>Attachment #10 Pg 49-50</b> Sponsorship Summary



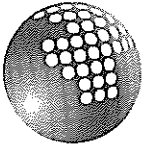
**GolfAustralia**

**Signed Sponsorship Agreements**

Partner	Total Contract Value		Expires	Current Financial Year Value								Total Contra	Note			
	Total	Cash		Contra	Property				WAO Cash	WAO Contra	Total 2014 FY Value			Total Cash		
					Industry Cash	Program Cash	Program Contra	Champs Cash								
Crown Lager	1,046,700	355,450	691,250	31/10/2014	122,000	223,750							345,750	122,000	223,750	1
Acushnet	840,000	840,000	-	31/12/2014		280,000							280,000	-	280,000	
Get Wines Direct	330,000	210,000	120,000	31/08/2015	50,000				20,000	40,000			110,000	70,000	40,000	
Audi	280,000	240,000	40,000	28/02/2015	80,000			20,000	20,000	20,000			140,000	120,000	20,000	
Host Plus	295,450	235,450	-	6/07/2015	57,500				45,000				102,500	102,500	-	2
Golf Link	100,000	100,000	-		100,000								100,000	100,000	-	
Drummond Golf	45,000	45,000	-	28/02/2014					45,000				45,000	45,000	-	
Tag Heuer	37,000	37,000	-	28/02/2014				3,500	20,000				20,000	20,000	-	
College of Elite Golf	3,500	3,500	-										3,500	3,500	-	
					287,500	122,000	503,750	23,500	150,000	60,000			1,146,750	583,000	563,750	

**Notes**

1. Crown Lager has indicated their desire for an early termination as of 31 October 2013, releasing them from the final year of the current agreement. We will seek the full cash amount and may consider releasing them from the contra advertising commitments as this now has minimal benefit to GA given the program will not be continuing in its' current form.
2. Host Plus has indicated that they will be extending and upgrading their current agreement.

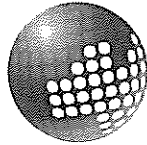


**GolfAustralia**

**Pending Sponsorship Agreements**

Partner	Total Proposal Value		Term	Current Financial Year Value								Total 2014 FY Value	Total Cash	Total Contra	Status
	Total	Cash		Contra	Property		WAO		WAO		Total				
					Program	Contra	Cash	Contra	Cash	Contra					
Industry Cash	Program Cash	Program Contra	WAO Cash	WAO Contra	WAO Cash	WAO Contra	Property Program Cash	Property Program Contra	Property Program Contra	Property Program Contra					
Coca-Cola Amatil	1,071,000	810,000	261,000	3 years + 3 year option	245,000	37,000	25,000	50,000	357,000	270,000	87,000	Verbal Acceptance			
Host Plus	TBC	TBC	-	3 year extension + upgrade	30,000	40,000	40,000	-	40,000	40,000	-	Verbal Acceptance			
Groupon	30,000	30,000	-	1 year	30,000	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	-	Verbal Acceptance			
Parimat	65,000	65,000	-	1 year	65,000	-	65,000	-	65,000	65,000	-	Verbal Acceptance			
Mumm Champagne	350,000	350,000	-	1 year	50,000	-	300,000	-	350,000	350,000	-	Response Pending			
Accor Hotels	130,000	130,000	-	2 years	50,000	-	30,000	50,000	130,000	80,000	50,000	Response Pending			
Star Athletic	20,000	-	20,000	1 year	20,000	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000	Response Pending			
					<b>375,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>460,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>992,000</b>	<b>835,000</b>	<b>157,000</b>			

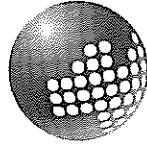
Note: Coca-Cola Industry Cash Contribution includes \$135,000 contribution to State Bodies. Net cash amount to GA is \$135,000 for Industry & HWA0.



GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

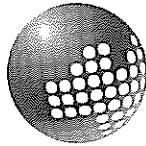
Agenda Item:	7.0 Commercial & Marketing Report
Board Meeting:	18 October 2013 (#6 – 2013)
Subject:	7.2 Adam Scott TVC
Summary of Issue:	<p>Adam Scott “play golf” TVC is due to be completed week ending 11 October 2013 and will be shown to the Board at the meeting.</p> <p>We are still working with Drummond Golf (Fox Sports), PGA (Channel 10 &amp; 7) and Golf Victoria (Channel 9) on attaining media placement through their respective broadcast rights and contra placements.</p> <p>Confirmation of placement should be received within the next fortnight.</p>
Cost:	<p>Production costs remain in line with previous forecast of \$120,000.</p> <p>GA will incur no placement costs through a strategy of leveraging existing industry stakeholder spend.</p>
Budget Impact:	Production costs are in line with forecast and are being absorbed by budgeted Marketing spend and contingency budgets.
Strategy / Vision:	Promotion of the Playgolf brand to drive participation numbers.
Action:	For information only
Recommendation:	N/A
Responsible Manager:	Stefanie Carniato (interim)
Attachments:	N/A



GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

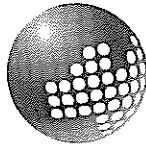
Agenda Item:	7.0 Commercial & Marketing Report
Board Meeting:	18 October 2013 (#6 – 2013)
Subject:	7.3 Play Golf Week
Summary of Issue:	<p>Play Golf Week planning continues on schedule as the event moves closer to delivery mode. The week will run from Monday 28 October to Sunday 3 November in South Australia. The concept has been well received with 40 Clubs registering to participate and strong support from Golf SA.</p> <p>Key Events: Monday 28 October - Official Launch at North Adelaide GC Tuesday 29 October - MYGolf Junior Day at North Adelaide GC Thursday 31 October - Ladies Sip &amp; Swing Event at Audi Solitaire Showroom Friday 1 November - Urban Golf at UniSA City West Campus Sunday 3 November - Participating Golf Club Open Days</p>
Cost:	Play Golf week is forecast to cost \$80,000. A contribution of \$30,000 from Golf SA will reduce the net cost to \$50,000 which is in line with budget.
Budget Impact:	Production costs are in line with forecast and are being absorbed by budgeted Marketing spend and contingency budgets.
Strategy / Vision:	<p>Play Golf brand is designed to increase overall participation. Specific targets for this event are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 50 x new golf club membership sign-ups</li><li>• 50 x new sign-ups to MYGolf Junior program</li><li>• 200 x women to attend an event during the week</li><li>• 4,000 unique website hits</li><li>• 2,000 entries into the Playgolf WEEK competition</li></ul>
Action:	For information only
Recommendation:	N/A
Responsible Manager:	Stefanie Carniato (interim)
Attachments:	N/A



GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item:	8.0 Digital
Board Meeting:	18 October 2013 (#6 – 13)
Subject:	8.1 Handicapping Changes Report
Summary of Issue:	<p>Provide a progress report on the status of each project component that comprises the overall Handicap Change project.</p> <p>At this point the project is on schedule to be delivered by the planned date, 23 January 2014.</p>
Cost:	Golf Link and Adrian Logue have both agreed to fixed engagements to mitigate the risk to GA of the project exceeding budget. The combined fixed contracts are \$250k of the \$350k budget for completion of this project.
Budget Impact:	N/A
Strategy / Vision	N/A
Action:	For Information Only
Recommendation:	N/A
Responsible Manager:	John Sutherland
Attachments:	<b>Attachment # 11 – Pg 54-55</b> Handicapping Changes Project Status



## Golf Australia

---

### Handicapping Changes Project

#### Tier 3 API development & Core Handicapping Modules

Status: Green

All development phase activities for the Tier 3 API and Core Handicapping Modules are complete. Four weeks of bug fixing and system testing has been undertaken.

A dedicated testing resource has been employed and has commenced work on creation of a regression test suite for the Tier 3 API as well as creation of unit tests.

Following the beta release there were numerous issues reported by the Tier 3's, however many of these proved to be related to the old data that they were using in the sandbox environment. Some were genuine bugs which have been addressed with iterative deployments over the past few weeks. The stability of the API is now satisfactory and Tier 3 issues have noticeably declined.

We've also created a test suite of XML requests that can be used to regression test the API prior to new deployments.

*Risk:* Uncovering issues that haven't yet been encountered through our own testing and the Tier 3 use of the API

*Mitigation:* We've employed a tester who has commenced work and is building out our test suite to include more edge cases.

*Risk:* Incorrectly handicapping golfers

*Mitigation:* Assistance from the tester, code review and subject matter experts to thoroughly examine the handicap algorithms

#### Tier 3s Development

Status: Amber

The 3 largest Tier 3 providers, MiClub, Micropower and Pricap all asked for extensions to their project, Accreditation dates have been pushed back, however they are now comfortable with the revised dates.

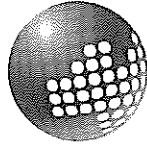
The status of these providers is generally good, with a high level of questions throughout the development indicating they are across all the requirements of the project. The extension request can also be viewed as a positive, indicating they are adequately aware of the work required to complete their deliverables.

In contrast some of the smaller Tier 3s have been fairly quiet and have only just recently started to show signs of understanding the work involved. This has been addressed directly with the relevant providers and they are now on track but we will continue to monitor closely.

*Risk:* Tier 3 isn't giving an accurate indication of their progress

*Mitigation:* Regular contact with the Tier 3s to extract information on their deployment/rollout plans, questions about development and readiness for accreditation. All of these are indicators that help us build up a true and accurate picture of a Tier 3's project status.





## GolfAustralia

---

### **Tier 1 Development**

Status: Amber

Tier 1 development has been slow but we are now at a point where much of the functionality has been implemented and it is also being used in the sandbox environment by the Tier 3s to validate their work and carry out testing. Tier 1 will also have an important role in the accreditation tests and the changes required to the Tier 1 screens to facilitate the tests have been carried out.

The new testing resource has also commenced the process of testing scenarios in Tier 1 in much the same way Tier 3 systems will be tested in the accreditation process.

*Risks:* Time constraints on Jason providing guidance to Shaun on the lower level detail of screens.

*Mitigation:* Continued involvement from Kris, and Jason soon to be coming off Tier 3 work.

### **Golflink Website**

Status: Green

Requirements for the handicap history page and the Daily Handicap calculator are well understood detailed wireframes have been developed and the visual design work is commencing soon.

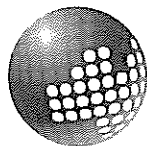
### **Workstation**

Status: Green. All complete

### **Data Migration**

Status: Green

The Data Migration work will be commenced once the Tier 3 accreditation tests are underway.



GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item: 9.0 Golf Development Report

Board Meeting: 18 October 2013 (#6 – 13)

Subject: 9.1 Golf Development Report

Summary of Issue: Table below reports competition rounds of golf played by State. Overall competition rounds have increased by 5.5% for July-September 2013 compared to the same period in 2012.

State/Territory	Aug 2012/13	Aug 2013/14	Sep 2012/13	Sep 2013/14	YTD 2012/13	YTD 2013/14	% change over PY
ACT & NSW	411,291	445,872	434,961	451,605	1,230,066	1,310,293	6.5%
VIC	240,830	265,297	269,729	283,891	761,003	819,693	7.7%
QLD	211,006	227,051	203,428	218,401	594,230	636,820	7.2%
WA	92,641	93,085	85,632	83,232	268,228	265,915	-0.9%
SA	77,757	74,308	75,743	81,216	230,630	228,495	-0.9%
TAS	22,633	20,841	25,135	22,727	72,136	67,565	-6.3%
NT	5,079	5,801	5,012	5,722	15,228	16,649	9.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,061,237</b>	<b>1,132,255</b>	<b>1,099,640</b>	<b>1,145,794</b>	<b>3,171,521</b>	<b>3,345,430</b>	<b>5.5%</b>

The MyGolf program is currently under review by gamba and will be relaunched in term 1 2014.

All discretionary cost for the Crown Lager Social Club program has been placed on hold due to Crown indicating their intention to cease sponsorship and the strong possibility the program will change with the involvement of QANTAS.

Cost: N/A

Budget Impact: N/A

Strategy / Vision: To increase the number of golfers in Australia and increase the amount of golf being played

Action: For information only

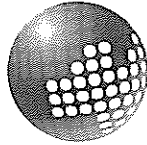
Recommendation: N/A

Responsible Manager: Cameron Wade

Attachments: N/A

Level 3, 95 Coventry Street South Melbourne Victoria 3205 Australia  
Telephone 03 9626 5050 Facsimile 03 9626 5095 Website [www.golfaustralia.org.au](http://www.golfaustralia.org.au)

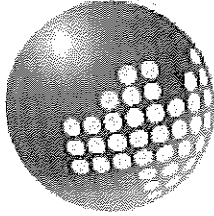
Reg No. A0048256Z ARBN 118 151 894 ABN 54 118 151 894



GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item:	10.0 Handicapping, Course Rating & Rules Report
Board Meeting:	18 October 2013 (#6 – 2013)
Subject:	10.1 Current Version of the New GA Handicap System (Draft 9iii)
Summary of Issue:	<p>Attached for the consideration of the Board are a 'black-lined' version and a 'clean' version of Draft 9iii of the new GA Handicap System. The black-lining denotes all changes made subsequent to Draft 8c (which is the most recent draft to have been presented to the Board).</p> <p>In summary, the various changes have arisen from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The array of software development work. This work has generated suggestions around more efficient solutions from a software perspective (that do not compromise handicapping outcomes). It has also generated clarification on various points (due to the necessity of having in place a comprehensive software solution).</li><li>• Feedback arising from the State Handicapping Seminar (held in June 2013).</li><li>• Feedback arising from the national series of Club Handicapping Seminars (held in June-July 2013).</li></ul> <p>Draft 9iii is presented to the Board in readiness for publication.</p>
Cost:	Nothing further at this time
Budget Impact:	Costs within Budget.
Strategy / Vision	To implement as seamlessly as possible the best handicap system for Australia within an agreed timeframe and utilising a clear communication program for our constituents.
Action:	For information only
Recommendation:	The Handicapping & Rules Policy Committee recommends to the Board that it ratify Draft 9iii in readiness for publication.
Responsible Manager:	Simon Magdulski
Attachments:	<b>Attachment #12 – Pg 58-90</b> Draft 9iii of new GA Handicap System (black-lined version) <b>Attachment #13 – Pg 91-123</b> Draft 9iii of new GA Handicap System (clean version)



GolfAustralia

# GA Handicap System

(Copyright)

*Draft Version 9iii – 2012/13*

*This document is available via free download from [www.golfaustralia.org.au](http://www.golfaustralia.org.au). Any other website is welcome to feature a link to the specific webpage. The document itself must not be made available for download from any website other than [www.golfaustralia.org.au](http://www.golfaustralia.org.au).*

# CONTENTS

1. First Principles of the GA Handicap System
2. General
3. Types of Official GA Handicap & Types of Handicap Status
4. Definitions
5. The Player
6. The Home Club
7. The Visited Club
8. Daily Scratch Rating (DSR) and Course Rating
9. Stableford Handicapping Adjustment (SHA)
10. Scores for Handicap Purposes
11. Allocation of GA Handicap
12. Calculation of Handicaps
13. Life of Scores & Lapsed Handicaps
14. Maximum Handicaps, Provisional Handicaps, and Club Handicaps
15. Manual Override by Club of Normal Handicap Calculation Process
16. Manual Bonus Reduction for Exceptional Net Score
17. Allocation of Special Competition Handicap in Extraordinary Circumstances
18. Handicap Information Disclosure
19. Common Handicapping Scenarios – Procedures for Pro Shops & Handicapping Administrators

**NOTE: All defined terms are in *italics* and are listed in the Definitions section (Section 4).**

## 1. First Principles of the GA Handicap System

The *GA Handicap System* should achieve each of the following:

- (i) Be primarily tailored for *competition* golf and afford each player in the field a reasonable prospect of winning or placing well if that player plays reasonably better than their handicap.
- (ii) A player's handicap should be reflective of their better performances and should not increase substantially due to a temporary loss of form.
- (iii) The calculation of a handicap should take into account the degree of difficulty presented at the time by the playing conditions.
- (iv) The calculation of a handicap should be sufficiently flexible to be consistently calculated irrespective of the mix of handicaps held by players on a *course* on any given day.
- (v) The handicap system should have the confidence of the Australian golf community and should not place an unreasonable burden on any club in order for proper administration to be achieved.

## 2. General

- (i) This *GA Handicap System* is the official *Golf Australia GA* regulatory code governing women's handicapping in Australia AND men's handicapping in Australia. Whilst it provides a single methodology for both women's handicapping and men's handicapping, it does not provide for single-gender handicaps. The *GA Handicap System* requires that women's handicaps determined under this System be determined in accordance with women's scores and standards, and that men's handicaps determined under this System be determined in accordance with men's scores and standards.
- (ii) The System is based on the assumption that every player will endeavour to make the best score they can at each hole in every round they play and that they will report every *Eligible Score* (as determined by Section 10) to their *Home Club's Handicapping Authority*, regardless of where the round was played. Players who fail to meet this requirement are effectively operating outside the System and, at the discretion of their club's *Handicapping Authority*, may have their *GA Handicap* re-assessed or withdrawn.
- (iii) *Golf Australia GA* delegates to its *Member Associations* the power to administer on its behalf the handicapping of all players who are members of clubs affiliated with such Associations. Any disputes shall be referred to *Golf Australia GA* whose decision shall be final and binding. An interpretation of a regulation contained within this System, or a decision in relation to this System, which is supplied in writing by *Golf Australia GA* will be deemed to have full authority under this System and will supersede any alternate position which may exist on the same point.
- (iv) Any handicap administered by an affiliated Australian golf club, and calculated in accordance with this System, is owned by *Golf Australia GA*.
- (v) Essential points of the System are that:
  - All handicaps shall be calculated in accordance with this System.
  - All handicaps referred to in this System are stroke handicaps.
  - There be uniform determination of the course rating of golf *courses* in Australia.
  - The *GA Handicap System* be properly applied.
  - The settings of the System must operate such that it adequately caters for net events regardless of field size.
  - In certain situations discussed in Section 15 of this System a *GA Handicap* may be adjusted other than in accordance with the formulas described within this System.

## 3. Types of Official GA Handicap & Types of Handicap Status

### (i) *GA Handicaps and Daily Handicaps*

There are two types of official handicap allocated under this System; a *GA Handicap* and a *Daily Handicap*. The *GA Handicap* is not designed for use in handicap *competition* play; rather it is *GA's* assessment of the relative golfing ability of a player on a *course* with a *neutral Slope Rating*. The *Daily Handicap* is the handicap to be used in handicap *competition* play. The *GA Handicap* is one of the factors used in the calculation of the *Daily Handicap*.

### (ii) *Handicaps for Men and Handicaps for Women*

Only a female may hold a *Women's GA Handicap* or a *Women's Daily Handicap*. Only a male may hold a *Men's GA Handicap* or a *Men's Daily Handicap*. Where the term *GA Handicap* is used in the *GA Handicap System*, it is deemed to mean either *Women's GA Handicap* or *Men's GA Handicap* or both, as the

appropriate context determines. Where the term *Daily Handicap* is used in the *GA Handicap System*, it is deemed to mean either *Women's Daily Handicap* or *Men's Daily Handicap* or both, as the appropriate context determines.

Note: The *GA Handicap System* requires that women's handicaps determined under this System be determined in accordance with women's scores and standards, and that men's handicaps determined under this System be determined in accordance with men's scores and standards.

### (iii) Professional Golfers

Whilst a professional golfer, or a player awaiting reinstatement to Amateur Status, may hold a *GA Handicap* if they meet the various eligibility criteria (see Section 6(iv) and 13(iii)), a committee is permitted to have a condition restricting entry to any (or all) event(s) it controls to Amateurs only (or to Professionals only). (Exception: Players awaiting reinstatement to Amateur Status (or players who are not Amateur Golfers) after having lost their Amateur Status by virtue of accepting a prize of excessive value for performance in a handicap competition in violation of Amateur Status Rule 3-2a, or who played for prize money in a handicap competition in violation of Amateur Status Rule 3-1, are not eligible to hold a *GA Handicap*.)

### (iv) Types of Handicap Status

There are ~~four~~<sup>six</sup> different types of status that may apply to a *GA Handicap*. Only one status will apply to a *GA Handicap* at any given time. The ~~four~~<sup>six</sup> different types of status are as follows:

- ~~"Unallocated"~~ (see Definition of ~~Unallocated GA Handicap~~);
- ~~"Normal"~~ *GA Handicap* (see Definition of ~~Normal GA Handicap~~) (this is the default status, it applies when ~~GA Handicap~~ has not been Frozen, or Suspended, and has not been rendered Provisional);
- ~~"Frozen"~~ *GA Handicap* (see Definition of ~~Frozen GA Handicaps~~);
- ~~"Provisional"~~ *GA Handicap* (see Definition of ~~Provisional GA Handicaps~~);
- ~~"Suspended"~~ *GA Handicap* (see Definition of ~~Suspended GA Handicaps~~);
- ~~"Lapsed"~~ (see Definition of ~~Lapsed GA Handicap~~).

**Comment [SM1]:** These proposed changes arise from a mix of software discussions, a desire to have "unallocated" be differentiated from "provisional", and ongoing queries around "lapsed" handicaps.

## 4. Definitions

The Definitions are listed alphabetically and, in the regulations themselves, defined terms are in *italics*.

### Actual Score

An *Actual Score* is a score that is to be considered when determining a player's most recent 20 scores. (See Section 12(ix) for details of which scores are *Actual Scores* and which scores are not *Actual Scores*.)

### Anchor Handicap

A player's *Anchor Handicap* is the best/lowest *GA Handicap* from the 12-month period extending back in time from the round that resulted in their most recent *Actual Score*. (The *GA Handicap* that results from the processing of the most recent round is eligible to count as the *Anchor Handicap*.) (See Section 12(ii) for full details.)

### Batch

'*Batch*' is a term that is used for *DSR* calculation purposes. It is the full set of scores made on a single day and in a given *competition* round, or the full set of *Conforming Social Scores* made on a single day by a given group of players. (The *Handicapping Authority* is authorised to amend the composition for *DSR* calculation purposes of such a group at any time prior to the processing of the *Batch* in GOLF Link.)

A *Batch* of scores must comprise scores returned by players of the same gender, and who have played from the same tees, and who have returned scores of the same type (ie Stableford, Stroke, or Par), and who have GOLF Link numbers.

Handicap administrators have an option available to them in GOLF Link or their Tier 3 system which enables them when processing a *Batch* of scores to split a single *Batch* into two Sub-Batches. A club should consider splitting a *Batch* into two Sub-Batches when for example the conditions altered significantly during the day on which the scores were made (or when it is normal for conditions at that club to alter significantly during a day). In such a case, an AM Sub-Batch and a PM Sub-Batch will be created. If for example a *Batch* of *competition* scores is split into two Sub-Batches, a separate *DSR* will be calculated for each Sub-Batch even though all players have competed in the one *competition*.

When processing scores through GOLF Link, the *Handicapping Authority* should link selected *Batches* of scores returned at its club on a single day if it deems that the players in the different *Batches* have not encountered conditions that are significantly different. (The linking of different *Batches* of scores is a different action to combining all scores into one *Batch* before submission to GOLF Link. For example, if a *Batch* of women's *competition* scores are linked to a *Batch* of men's *competition* scores, GOLF Link will combine the scores for the purposes of *DSR* calculation, however it will return the scores to the club neatly packaged back into their separate

men's and women's *Batches*.) Where selected *Batches* of scores are linked for this purpose, a separate *DSR* will be calculated for each *Batch*, however all *DSRs* will differ from the respective *Scratch Ratings* by the same amount (unless they are calculated to have the same values as the respective *Scratch Ratings*).

#### **Bona-fide Body**

A *Bona-fide Body* is a formally constituted club, association or group formed primarily for the purpose of conducting ongoing golf events, played in accordance with the Rules of Golf and appropriate local rules, or otherwise to administer golf for a defined area or group of golfers.

#### **Cap**

The *Cap* regulation is designed to eliminate the capacity for extreme outward movements of a *GA Handicap* within short spaces of time. As a result, a loss of form does not cause a player's *GA Handicap* to move too far from a level which is consistent with their underlying ability. The *Cap* also makes the *GA Handicap System* less susceptible to manipulation. (See Section 12(ii) for full details of the *Cap* regulation.)

#### **Cap Point**

A player's *Cap Point* is the best/lowest *GA Handicap* from the 12-month period extending back in time from the round that resulted in their most recent *Actual Score*. (The *GA Handicap* that results from the processing of the most recent round is eligible to count as the *Cap Point*.) (See Section 12(ii) for full details.)

**Comment [SM2]:** These changes are the result of R&A/USGA requests.

#### **Competition**

A *Competition* will be deemed to have been held when it has been conducted as follows:

- In accordance with the current Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited.
- By a recognised golf club, its professional or agent, or other *bona-fide body*.
- Where trophies or prizes are awarded for golfing performance.
- Where scores are *Eligible Scores* as determined by this System.

Note i: A *Handicapping Authority* may determine to hold a *Competition* for which trophies or prizes are not awarded.

Note ii: There is nothing in this System, or in any other *GA* regulatory code, to prevent a club from requiring the payment of an entry fee as a condition of eligibility for a *Competition*.

#### **Competition Score**

The *Competition Score* is the score that is used to determine the player's final position within a *competition* field. The *Handicapping Score* is the score that is used in the administration of the player's handicap. For example, a player has scored 40 points for their first 16 holes at which stage the *course* is considered to be unplayable due to darkness. The player correctly returns their score card in accordance with the Rules of Golf. The player's *Handicapping Score* is 44 points (see Section 10(vi)), and their *Competition Score* is 40 points. Decision 8 in Section 19 explains how this round is entered into *GOLF Link*.

#### **Conforming Social Score**

A *Conforming Social Score* will be deemed to have been made when the following has occurred:

- The player's *Home Club* has determined to accept *Conforming Social Scores* for handicapping. (Note: *GA* encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club.)
- The round has been played in accordance with the current Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited.
- A score card attested by a *Marker* as defined within this System has been submitted to the *Handicapping Authority* or its representative. The *Marker* must have accompanied the player for all of the holes for which they are attesting scores.
- The score format must be singles *Stableford*.
- The player has nominated prior to playing a stroke on their first hole to be played that the score is to count for handicapping purposes and the number of holes they will play. If the round is played at the player's *Home Club*, or is being controlled by the player's *Home Club*, such nomination must be in accordance with the requirements of the *Handicapping Authority* of the player's *Home Club*.
- If the round is not played at the player's *Home Club* and is not being controlled by the player's *Home Club*, such nomination must be in accordance with a procedure that is acceptable to the player's *Home Club*.

**Comment [SM3]:** Added due to repeated requests that *GA* include in the handicap system its recommendation around the application of this regulation.

Note i: There is nothing in this System, or in any other *GA* regulatory code, which prevents a *Handicapping Authority* from deeming specific individuals, or specific groups of individuals, or individuals who hold specific categories of membership, ineligible to return *Conforming Social Scores*.



Note ii: There is nothing in this System, or in any other GA regulatory code, which prevents a *Handicapping Authority* from limiting the number of *Conforming Social Scores* a member (or specific members) may return within a given period of time, or from making rounds played away from the *Home Club* ineligible for consideration as *Conforming Social Scores*.

Note iii: There is nothing in this System, or in any other GA regulatory code, to prevent a club from requiring the payment of a fee as an additional eligibility criteria for a *Conforming Social Score*.

Note iv: *Conforming Social Scores* will be processed for handicapping and will be treated by this System in the same manner as scores returned in *Competitions* (this includes instances where a player has pre-nominated that their score is to count for handicapping purposes and where the player does not return a score card in accordance with the requirements of the Rules of Golf, or plays less than the pre-nominated number of holes – see Section 19).

Note v: A *Stipulated Round* of less than 18 holes is eligible to serve as a *Conforming Social Score* at the discretion of the *Handicapping Authority* of the player's *Home Club*.

#### Course

In this System, the term *Course* is used to mean a playing option at a golf facility that has been provided its own *Scratch Rating*. In addition to a *Scratch Rating*, each *Course* will also be provided its own *Slope Rating*. The starting point on each hole of a *Course* is designated by a distinctive set of permanent rating markers.

An 18-hole configuration at a facility will have multiple *Courses*. Facility managers will install different permanent rating markers for each *Course*. For example, permanent rating markers for the women's major *competition Course* at a facility will typically be red, and the permanent rating markers for the men's major *competition Course* at a facility will typically be blue.

Facility managers should consider establishing multiple playing options to cater for different types of player and different types of play. Facility managers should consider ensuring each of the following categories of play is adequately catered for (note: in some cases, one *Course* will cater for more than one of the below categories):

- *Competition men's play.*
- *Competition women's play.*
- *Regular men's play.*
- *Regular women's play.*
- *Veteran men's play.*
- *Veteran women's play.*
- *Beginner men's play.*
- *Beginner women's play.*

#### Daily Handicap

A *Daily Handicap* is the number of strokes a player receives for play at the *course* being played. The *Daily Handicap* is expressed as a whole number. (Note: The *GA Handicap* is not designed for use in handicap *competition play*; rather it is one of the factors used in the calculation of the *Daily Handicap*. The *Daily Handicap* is the handicap to be used in handicap *competition play*.) (The formula for determination of a *Daily Handicap* is listed in Section 12(iii)(B).)

#### Daily Scratch Rating (DSR)

The *Daily Scratch Rating (DSR)* is a value that is determined in accordance with this System. The value will be determined as a whole number. It is the *Scratch Rating* of a *course* adjusted to account for variations experienced on a given day to the conditions which are normally experienced at that *course*. A *DSR* will be determined for each day on which a score is processed for handicapping purposes (unless the only scores processed on the day are scores listed in Section 8(ii)(B)(II-III)). If in the opinion of the *Handicapping Authority*, the conditions alter significantly during a day on which scores are being processed for handicapping purposes, it should consider segregating the field and determining more than one *DSR*.

#### Differential

The *Differential* is the value that is featured in the 'Played to' column of a player's handicap record on [www.golflink.com.au](http://www.golflink.com.au). It is the best 8 of the player's most recent 20 *Differentials* that are directly used in the calculation of the player's handicap. The player's *Differential* for a round is provided as a number calculated to one decimal place. Its primary purpose is to serve as a direct representation of the handicap the player 'played to' for that round (as opposed to the handicap they 'played off'). It is a value that is determined in accordance with this System – see Section 12(i).

#### Eligible Score

*Eligible Scores* are those scores detailed in Section 10.

#### Estimate Score

An *Estimate Score* is not a score the player has returned; it is a score the *Home Club* estimates is consistent with the player's current level of play.

#### Frozen GA Handicap

A *Frozen GA Handicap* is a *GA Handicap* that has been capped at a specific value for a stipulated period of time in accordance with Section 15.

#### GA Handicap

A *GA Handicap* is GA's assessment of the relative golfing ability of a player on a *course* with a *neutral Slope Rating*. It is expressed as a number taken to one decimal place and is determined in accordance with the *GA Handicap System*. The *GA Handicap* is not designed for use in handicap *competition* play; rather it is one of the factors used in the calculation of the *Daily Handicap*. The *Daily Handicap* is the handicap to be used in handicap *competition* play.

#### GA Handicap System

The *GA Handicap System* is GA's method of evaluating golfing abilities so that each player in a handicap event (whether it be a formal *competition* or socially) has a reasonable prospect of winning or placing well if they play reasonably better than their handicap.

Any reference to the *GA Handicap System* includes all of the requirements and procedures as described in this System.

#### Golf Australia (GA)

*Golf Australia (GA)* is the governing authority for handicapping in Australia.

#### Handicapping Authority

The *Handicapping Authority* is an individual or committee or group that is permitted by a club or other appropriate entity to exercise the authority granted to that club or entity by this System.

#### Handicapping Score

The *Handicapping Score* is the score that is used in the administration of the player's handicap. The *Competition Score* is the score that is used to determine the player's final position within a competition field. For example, a player has scored 40 points for their first 16 holes at which stage the *course* is considered to be unplayable due to darkness. The player correctly returns their score card in accordance with the Rules of Golf. The player's *Handicapping Score* is 44 points (see Section 10(vi)), and their *Competition Score* is 40 points. Decision 8 in Section 19 explains how this round is entered into GOLF Link.

#### Home Club

The *Home Club* is the body as nominated by the player which has primary responsibility for ensuring the proper administration of a player's handicap.

#### Lapsed GA Handicap

A player's *GA Handicap* is considered to be "Lapsed" if they are not a current member of an affiliated body and if they have a GOLF Link record which contains more than two 18-hole *Differentials*, and when none of the other five handicap status options apply (an 18-hole *Differential* created from the combination of two 9-hole *Differentials* will be considered to be an 18-hole *Differential* for this purpose).

Comment [SM4]: See explanation under Section 3(iv).

#### Live Score

A score is a *Live Score* if it is one of the player's most recent 20 *Actual Scores*. (If the player's handicap record contains less than 20 *Actual Scores*, all *Actual Scores* are *Live Scores*.)

#### Marker

The *Marker* is a member of any golf club or golf association recognised by *Golf Australia* GA, or a person otherwise approved by the club's *Handicapping Authority*. They are appointed to mark the score card in accordance with the Rules of Golf of a player who is returning a score for handicapping purposes.

#### Member Associations

The *Member Associations* are the associations that are members of GA. In addition to any other members who may be added from time to time, the *Member Associations* of GA are:

- Golf New South Wales
- Golf Northern Territory
- Golf Queensland
- Golf South Australia
- Golf Tasmania
- Golf Victoria
- Golf Western Australia

**Multiplier**

The *Multiplier* is a component of the *GA Handicap* calculation formula. It is a balancing factor designed to offset the impact of players on different handicap levels exhibiting different standard distributions—deviations of net scores. Its ultimate objective is to help to achieve national results patterns for net competitions that are as equitable as possible. It is a numeric value (0.93). The average of the *Differentials* to be used in the calculation of a player's handicap is multiplied by this value (0.93) in the calculation of the player's *GA Handicap*. (See Section 12(ii) for details.)

**Neutral Slope Rating**

The *neutral Slope Rating* is 113. A player's *Daily Handicap* on a course with a *neutral Slope Rating* will be their rounded *GA Handicap*.

**Normal GA Handicap**

This is the default status for a *GA Handicap*. It applies when the player's GOLF Link record contains more than two 18-hole *Differentials*, and when none of the other five handicap status options apply (an 18-hole *Differential* created from the combination of two 9-hole *Differentials* will be considered to be an 18-hole *Differential* for this purpose).

Comment [SM5]: See explanation under Section 3(iv).

**Provisional GA Handicap**

A handicap will lose its full status in the event that a player should accrue in their most recent 20 *Actual Scores* five or more entries with a status of 'No Score – Not Approved' (note: full status is automatically regained upon the number of 'No Score – Not Approved' entries in the player's most recent 20 *Actual Scores* decreasing to four or less). Such a handicap will be known as a "*Provisional GA Handicap*". *GA* recommends that players with *Provisional GA Handicaps* will not be eligible to win prizes in competitions which have as a condition of entry a requirement that competitors hold *GA Handicaps*.

*Provisional GA Handicaps* are also allocated as an interim measure to enable players to return initial scores for the purposes of gaining a *GA Handicap* in accordance with Section 11(i)(D).

Comment [SM6]: Changed to Temporary Daily Handicaps.

**Scratch Rating**

A *Scratch Rating* for women is the evaluation of the normal playing difficulty of a course for a player with a women's handicap of zero. A *Scratch Rating* for men is the evaluation of the normal playing difficulty of a course for a player with a men's handicap of zero. Where the term *Scratch Rating* is used within the *GA Handicap System*, it is deemed to mean either a women's *Scratch Rating* or a men's *Scratch Rating* as the appropriate context determines. *Scratch Ratings* are determined in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System. *Scratch Ratings* are assessed to one decimal place based on distance and other obstacles to the extent they affect the scoring ability of the player with a handicap of zero. Before use in any calculation performed under the *GA Handicap System*, the *Scratch Rating* is rounded to the nearest whole number (with .5 being rounded to the next higher whole number). ~~The *Scratch Rating* must be an 18-hole figure.~~

**Slope Rating**

*Slope Rating* is the designation that indicates the relative playing difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch golfers (ie players who do not have a *GA Handicap* of 0) relative to the *Scratch Rating* of a course. A golf course of neutral playing difficulty has a *Slope Rating* of 113. The maximum *Slope Rating* is 155. The minimum *Slope Rating* is 55. *Slope Ratings* are determined in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System.

**Special Competition Handicap**

A *Special Competition Handicap* is a handicap allocated to a player by the committee in charge of a competition for use in a specific competition (or specific competitions) of which that committee has control. It must be allocated in accordance with Section 17 of this System. It will be used by the player in lieu of the *Daily Handicap* calculated from their *GA Handicap*. A *Special Competition Handicap* is allocated to a player when for whatever reason the committee in charge of the competition deems to be inappropriate the *Daily Handicap* that would be calculated from their *GA Handicap*.

**Stableford Handicapping Adjustment (SHA)**

For handicapping, all *eligible scores* must be adjusted to, and processed as, Stableford scores. (See Section 9 for details.)

**Stipulated Round**

The number of holes in a *stipulated round* is 18 unless a smaller number is authorised by the committee. (Rules of Golf – refer to definitions.)

**Suspended GA Handicap**

A *Suspended GA Handicap* is a *GA Handicap* that has been rendered completely inactive for a stipulated period of time (or a stipulated minimum period of time) in accordance with Section 15.

**Tee Up**

*Tee Up* is the term used to describe a local rule which, if in operation, permits a player to lift their ball in play, clean it, and place it on a tee for the play of their next stroke [note: the committee must specify the areas on the course where the ball must initially lie in order for a player to invoke this local rule, eg on fairways only].

#### Unallocated GA Handicap

A player's GA Handicap status is "Unallocated" when they have a GOLF Link record which contains less than three 18-hole Differentials, and when none of the other five handicap status options apply (an 18-hole Differential created from the combination of two 9-hole Differentials will be considered to be an 18-hole Differential for this purpose).

**Comment [SM7]:** See explanation under Section 3(iv).

#### **United States Golf Association (USGA)**

The USGA is the owner and author of the USGA Course Rating System. All affiliated courses in Australia are rated in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System. The GA Handicap System uses the USGA Course Rating System, Slope and Standard Slope Rating and formulas as an integral component of its handicap calculation process. The USGA Course Rating System and the Slope component of the GA Handicap System are used in Australia and by GA only under licence granted to GA by the USGA.

## **5. The Player**

- (i) A player shall have one GA Handicap only and this shall be managed by their Home Club.
- (ii) If a player is, or becomes, a member of more than one club, they shall select one club as their Home Club (for handicapping purposes only) and shall report to this club their decision and the names of their other club or clubs. They shall also report to their other clubs the name of their Home Club, their GA Handicap, and any alterations that may be made to their GA Handicap from time to time (unless all their clubs are on GOLF Link). If a player ceases to be a member of another club, they shall report the fact to their Home Club so that it at all times has a record of all clubs of which they are a member.
- (iii) The player is responsible for ensuring that all of their Eligible Scores, including those made at clubs other than their Home Club, are displayed on GOLF Link.
- (iv) It is desirable that the player, when playing at a visited club, carries their GOLF Link card, or an introductory card that lists their current GA Handicap.
- (v) A player is responsible for using their correct handicap at all times (see also Section 12(viii)).
- (vi) ~~By using a handicap allocated under this System, the player acknowledges that their name, GOLF Link number, and information relevant to their scoring and handicapping history, certain information may be made publicly available on a GA authorised webpage (including a club, Member Association, or GOLF Link webpage) for the purposes of administering the System (unless the player provides exclusionary advice in writing to GA). The information that may be displayed (at the discretion of GA) includes the player's:~~
  - Name;
  - GOLF Link number;
  - Club name;
  - Information relevant to their scoring and handicapping history;
  - Any determination made by a club, Member Association or GA (or made under a review of such decision) to adjust, freeze or suspend a GA Handicap, or to suspend or terminate a player's membership of any golf club.

**Note:** GA will be bound by all relevant privacy legislation. Any request to remove such information from a GA authorised website must be made in writing and will be considered by the website owner or GA.

**Comment [SM8]:** Changes here are to reflect further legal advice.

- (vii) By using a handicap allocated under this System, the player agrees to be bound by the GA Handicap System.

## **6. The Home Club**

- (i) An essential element of the GA Handicap System is that each affiliated club will ensure it is properly administered in accordance with the interpretations of Golf Australia GA. It is for each club to establish and maintain its own procedures for ensuring it properly administers the GA Handicap System.
- (ii) The duties, responsibilities, and authorities of each club are as follows (note: as a club does not always have complete control of the course or courses on which its members play, it should conform with the following to the extent that its authority permits):
  - (A) Responsible for ensuring compliance by the golf club with all aspects of the GA Handicap System, including the determination of each member's GA Handicap.
  - (B) Responsible for ensuring the set-up of its course (or courses) complies with the requirement to maintain the rated length (see Section 10(x)).

- (C) Responsible for verifying that all required *Eligible Scores* made by their members are reported for handicap purposes and that only *Eligible Scores* are included in the handicap records of their members.
- (D) Has the authority to determine if *course* conditions are so poor that handicapping of *competitions* at that facility should be suspended (unless the *Member Association* supplies different guidance). If handicapping is suspended for an extended period, the golf club must obtain approval from its *Member Association*.
- (E) Responsible for ensuring the *Scratch Rating* and *Slope Rating* of each *Course* at the facility is posted in a prominent place (it is advisable for these ratings to be printed on the score card).
- (F) The club should compare the *Scratch Rating* and *Slope Rating* of each *course* it regularly uses with those of other *courses*. Separate ratings must be made from each set of tee markers as practical for each gender. A club must accept and use the ratings issued by its *Member Association*. If a club disagrees with its ratings, it may request its *Member Association* to review the ratings in accordance with the relevant *GA* policy.
- (G) The club should examine results of *competitions*. If net scores of any players appear exceptional, the club should take appropriate action as specified by this System.
- (H) Ensure accurate maintenance of its members' handicap records. The club is responsible for reviewing the data entered into GOLF Link and received from GOLF Link and applying all other procedures of the *GA Handicap System*.
- (I) Responsible for ensuring any existing handicap record of a new member of the club is appropriately transferred as required by Section 11(i) or Section 13(ii). If a handicap record is unavailable, the direction stipulated in Section 11(ii) must be followed. (Note: The handicap record of a member who resigns will be preserved automatically by GOLF Link for an indefinite period.)
- (J) Responsible for reviewing the accuracy of handicap records of members of the club. Responsible for ensuring compliance with the published *GA* guidelines regarding when (and when not) to record the status of a round as "No Score – Not Approved". If errors exist, the club must move to have such errors corrected as soon as possible. A club may wish to consult its *Member Association* or GOLF Link for assistance.
- (K) The club may check periodically and consult with other clubs, its *Member Association*, or *GA*, on matters including, but not limited to:
- The allocation of handicap-stroke holes on the *course*.
  - The determination of handicap competition grades at the club (given that it is considered preferable by the club to split players into separate handicap grades for handicap competition purposes). To enable comparisons and consistency from club to club and from one set of tees to another set of tees, it is recommended that handicap competition grades be determined on the basis of *GA Handicaps*.
  - The determination of *course* set-up and par.
  - The determination if the condition of the *courses* being utilised by the club is so poor that handicapping should be suspended.
  - The maintenance of playing difficulty of the *course*.
  - Operation of any Local Rule on preferred lies or *tee up*.
- In working with other clubs, the club has the responsibility to provide handicap information in a timely manner.
- (L) Responsible for ensuring new members of the club clarify in writing whether or not they have previously held an official Australian handicap or recognised overseas equivalent, what such handicap was, the lowest handicap the player has held, and timelines for each.
- (M) Responsible for ensuring the proper application by the club of Section 15 ("Manual Override by Club of Normal Handicap Calculation Process").
- (N) Responsible for ensuring the proper application by the club of Section 16 ("Manual Bonus Reduction for Exceptional Net Score"). The club should only effect a Manual Bonus Reduction if it considers that the normal calculation process has not produced an appropriate reduction.
- (O) Responsible for ensuring that the committee in charge of each competition conducted by the club has determined whether or not to adopt the *GA* recommendation that any player whose *GA Handicap* has reverted to *Provisional* status (as per Section 14(iii)) will not be eligible to win a prize in a competition or to win a competition.
- (PN) Where the *GA Handicap System* provides to a club flexibility for it to determine its own policy on a specific point, the club should ensure it establishes a position on that point. To assist in determining such positions, a club may consult with other clubs, its *Member Association*, or *GA*. Note: Where a club has separate internal authorities for males and females, the bodies within the club responsible

**Comment [SM9]:** These changes arise from State Seminar and Club Seminar feedback.

for each should engage in dialogue before establishing any policies relating to handicapping or competition management.

- (iii) Scores should be returned by players as soon as is practicable. If a club feels it is experiencing an unacceptable level of delay in score card return, it would be proper for it to set a reasonable time limit within which scores may be returned (whilst taking into account any individual cases of extenuating circumstances).
- (iv) The club committee may determine which of its membership categories are eligible to hold *GA Handicaps*. Such handicaps shall only be available to golfers in respect of whom an annual affiliation fee is payable to the *GA Member Association*.

## 7. The Visited Club

- (i) Whilst it is the responsibility of the individual player to ensure that all *Eligible Scores* made at clubs other than the player's *Home Club* are brought to the attention of the *Handicapping Authority* of the player's *Home Club*, in addition, visited clubs shall return *Eligible Scores* to a visitor's *Home Club* (unless they are both on GOLF Link, in which case the visited club will enter the scores into GOLF Link).
- (ii) When a player plays a substantial amount of golf (36 holes or more) over a relatively short period of time at a club (for this purpose called the Visited Club) which is not their *Home Club* and in circumstances which preclude the proper administration of their handicap record and handicap, the Visited Club may use the player's scores to alter their handicap temporarily, in accordance with this System to the extent possible.
- (iii) When a player comes to Australia with a current handicap certified by the governing body of another country, this handicap should be accepted for *competition* at any club in Australia. If the visiting player's handicap has been allocated in accordance with a handicap system which utilises Slope, the player's 'handicap index' should be considered to be the equivalent of a *GA Handicap* for this purpose. Otherwise the player's handicap should be used as a *Daily Handicap*, irrespective of the *Slope Rating* of the *course* being played.

## 8. Daily Scratch Rating (DSR) and Course Rating

### (i) Scratch Rating

- (A) There are two types of *Scratch Rating*:
  - A *Scratch Rating* for women.
  - A *Scratch Rating* for men.
- (B) *Scratch Ratings* in effect at Australian golf *courses* are considered official if they have been determined in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System, and otherwise where explicitly authorised by *GA*.
- (C) Where a *Member Association* officially brings into effect a *Scratch Rating* or a *Slope Rating* for a specific set of tees at a *course*, any previously assessed rating for that set of tees is deemed to be redundant.
- (D) A *Scratch Rating* for women is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a *course* for a player with a women's *GA Handicap* of zero. A *Scratch Rating* for men is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a *course* for a player with a men's *GA Handicap* of zero. Where the term *Scratch Rating* is used within the *GA Handicap System*, it is deemed to mean either a women's *Scratch Rating* or a men's *Scratch Rating* as the appropriate context determines. *Scratch Ratings* are determined in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System. *Scratch Ratings* are assessed to one decimal place based on distance and other obstacles to the extent they affect the scoring ability of the player with a handicap of zero. Before use in any calculation performed under the *GA Handicap System*, the *Scratch Rating* is rounded to the nearest whole number (with .5 being rounded to the next higher whole number); the figure used in the calculation must be an 18-hole figure.

### (ii) Daily Scratch Rating (DSR)

- (A) The *Daily Scratch Rating (DSR)* is a value that is determined by applying the suite of *DSR* formulas (note: these formulas are posted in the 'Handicapping & Course Rating' section of [www.golfaustralia.org.au](http://www.golfaustralia.org.au)). The value will be determined as a whole number. The *DSR* is the *Scratch Rating* of a *course* adjusted to account for variations experienced on a given day to the conditions which are normally experienced at that *course*.
- (B) WHEN TO USE A D.S.R. AND WHEN TO USE A SCRATCH RATING
  - (1) Except where explicitly stated otherwise, it is the *DSR* that is used when determining *Differentials* for use in the calculation of a *GA Handicap*, and not the *Scratch Rating*.

- (II) When determining *Differentials* for use in the calculation of a *GA Handicap*, *Scratch Ratings* in lieu of *DSRs* will be used when processing scores only in accordance with the following Sections of this System or in the following circumstances:
- Where a score (which is equal to or better than the player's official *Daily Handicap* for that round) from a corporate/trade day or the like, not played in a *Competition* round but played in accordance with the Rules of Golf, is used in accordance with Section 10(i).
  - Section 10(iii) 'Competition Condition Limits Number of Clubs to Less than 14'.
  - Section 10(v) 'Four-ball Scores'.
  - Where scores have been returned over 8-15 holes inclusive in accordance with Section 10(vi).
  - Where the play has been managed or controlled by a *Bona-fide Body* that does not have access to GOLF Link or is otherwise not practicably able to process the scores through GOLF Link.
- (III) When a score that should be included in a *Batch* of scores is omitted either because of administrative error, or because the player has failed to return the score within an appropriate timeframe, or because the GOLF Link number was not available to the administrator at the time the scores were processed, that score (where reasonably possible) should be processed at a later time. When the score is processed at a later time, it should be added to GOLF Link as an Ad Hoc score. The *DSR* value calculated for that the original *Batch* of scores is to be used in the Ad Hoc score entry unless after reasonable effort the administrator is not able to identify the correct *DSR*, in which case the *Scratch Rating* is to be used.
- (C) A *DSR* will be determined in accordance with this System for each day on which one or more scores is submitted to GOLF Link for handicapping purposes.
- (D) Clubs should contact the GOLF Link Customer Service Centre (phone 1300 650 750) in order to establish the value of any *DSR* previously determined by GOLF Link.
- (E) ~~A *Batch* of scores submitted to GOLF Link must comprise scores returned by players of the same gender and who have played from tees with the same *Scratch Rating* and who have GOLF Link numbers.~~
- (E) When processing scores through GOLF Link, the Handicapping Authority should link selected *Batches* of scores returned at a single club if it deems that the different *Batches* of players have not encountered conditions that are clearly different. (The linking of multiple *Batches* of scores is an entirely different action to combining all scores into a single *Batch* before submission to GOLF Link. The difference stems from the importance that is attached to ensuring that each score is correctly identified in GOLF Link as either a score made in a *Competition* (and the type of *Competition*), or a *Conforming Social Score*. Scores need to be *Batched* appropriately to ensure GOLF Link is able to make these distinctions (the regulations governing the make-up of a *Batch* of scores are provided in Clause F below). Contact GOLF Link or your software provider if operational assistance is required.)
- Note i: Where selected *Batches* of scores are linked for this purpose, a separate *DSR* will be calculated for each *Batch*, however all *DSRs* will differ from the respective *Scratch Ratings* by the same amount (unless they are calculated to have the same values as the respective *Scratch Ratings*).
- Note ii: It is permissible to link a *Batch* of *Competition Scores* with a *Batch* of *Conforming Social Scores*.
- Note iii: Two *Batches* of scores must not be linked when the stipulated round for one *Batch* does not include a hole (or holes) that is (are) included in the stipulated round for the other *Batch*.
- Note iv: Where different *bona fide bodies* (or entities permitted by this System to conduct *Competitions* from which scores may qualify as *eligible scores*) are using the same course or facility on the same day, the resultant *Batches* of scores must not be linked for *DSR* calculation purposes. If the different *Batches* from such sources are returned on the same course, they should be processed through GOLF Link as a single *Batch* if it is administratively practicable to do so and if the committee responsible for each *Batch* is agreeable.
- ~~(F) If in the opinion of the Handicapping Authority, the conditions alter significantly during a day on which scores are being processed for handicapping purposes, it should consider segregating the field and determining more than one *DSR*. (Contact GOLF Link or your software provider if operational assistance is required.)~~
- (F) Regulations governing the make-up of a *Batch* of scores.
- ~~A *DSR* will be determined by GOLF Link for each submitted *Batch* or Sub-*Batch* of scores.~~

**Comment [SM10]:** Moved from K with a view to achieving greater clarity (in response to various feedback).

**Comment [SM11]:** Moved to H with a view to achieving greater clarity (in response to various feedback).

(II) A Batch of scores submitted to GOLF Link must comprise scores returned by players of the same gender and who have played from tees with the same Scratch Rating and who have GOLF Link numbers.

(III) of Competition Scores.—Competition Scores made on a given day must not be submitted to GOLF Link in a Bbatch that includes Competition Scores made on a different day.

(IV)

(H) A DSR will be determined by GOLF Link for a submitted Bbatch of Conforming Social Scores. Conforming Social Scores made on a given day must not be submitted to GOLF Link in a Bbatch that includes Conforming Social Scores made on a different day.

(V)

(I) A Bbatch of Conforming Social Scores processed through GOLF Link must not include any Competition Scores. A Bbatch of Competition Scores processed through GOLF Link must not include any Conforming Social Scores.

(J) The Handicapping Authority may submit multiple batches of scores to GOLF Link at the same time (or in close proximity to one another) provided the scores from multiple batches are not combined prior to their receipt by the central GOLF Link system. (Contact GOLF Link or your software provider if operational assistance is required.)

(G) If in the opinion of the Handicapping Authority, there is a clear change during the day to the conditions experienced by players in a single Batch (or it is typical for there to be a clear change during the day to the conditions), GA recommends that the field be split and that two separate DSRs be calculated. This is done by splitting the Batch in GOLF Link into 2 Sub-Batches (eg AM Sub-Batch and PM Sub-Batch). When this action is performed, the scores all stay in the correct competition datasets for competition and prize allocation purposes, however GOLF Link will handicap the morning players against an AM DSR and will handicap the PM players against a PM DSR. (Contact GOLF Link or your software provider if operational assistance is required.)

(K) When processing scores through GOLF Link, the Handicapping Authority should link selected batches of scores returned at a single club if it deems that the different batches of players have not encountered conditions that are significantly different. (The linking of different batches of scores is a different action to combining all scores into one batch before submission to GOLF Link—contact GOLF Link or your software provider if operational assistance is required.)

Note i: Where selected batches of scores are linked for this purpose, a separate DSR will be calculated for each batch, however all DSRs will differ from the respective Scratch Ratings by the same amount (unless they are calculated to have the same values as the respective Scratch Ratings).

Note ii: It is permissible to link a batch of Competition Scores with a batch of Conforming Social Scores.

Note iii: Two batches of scores must not be linked when the stipulated round for one batch does not include a hole that is included in the stipulated round for the other batch.

Note iv: Where different bona fide bodies (or entities permitted by this System to conduct competitions from which scores may qualify as eligible scores) are using the same course or facility on the same day, the resultant batches of scores must not be linked for DSR calculation purposes. If the different batches from such sources are returned on the same course, they should be processed through GOLF Link as a single batch. If it is administratively practicable to do so and if the committee responsible for each batch is agreeable.

(HL) A DSR will not be permitted to be more than four strokes above the relevant Scratch Rating or more than three strokes below the relevant Scratch Rating.

Exception: For courses that are regularly exposed to severe weather conditions, Member Associations are empowered to approve up to an additional two strokes allowance above the relevant Scratch Rating. Once this approval has been given, it will apply at all times unless it is withdrawn by the Member Association. There will not be any capacity for discretionary day-to-day application of this Exception.

(IM) It will be the GOLF Link status of a score that will dictate whether it is included or excluded by GOLF Link in the DSR calculation process (see Section 12(ix) for the operational notes and handicapping implications relating to those score statuses). This process is set out as follows:

- "Normal Score": Included as returned.
- "No Score – Not Approved": Included with a deemed net value (for DSR calculation purposes only) of 10 points worse than the Scratch Rating.
- "No Score – Approved": Excluded.
- "Illegitimate Score": Excluded.
- "Non-Standard Entry": The handicapping score is included as entered.

**Comment [SM12]:** Moved from F with a view to achieving greater clarity (in response to various feedback). Also incorporates a text change to make clear what GA's recommendation is (we have received a fair amount of feedback suggesting that clubs desire recommendations around this).

**Comment [SM13]:** Moved to F with a view to achieving greater clarity (in response to various feedback).



~~“Initial” Excluded.~~

Note i: If a score is eligible for inclusion in a *DSR* calculation, it must be submitted to GOLF Link within the appropriate *Batch* of scores.

Note ii: The results of all players to have commenced play (but who are not eligible for inclusion in a *DSR* calculation) should be submitted to GOLF Link within the appropriate *Batch* of scores.

Note iii: Scores submitted to GOLF Link must include each player's correct *Daily Handicap*.

(JN) Scores returned by players without *Normal* or *Frozen GA Handicaps* or with *GA Handicaps* at the following values will be excluded from the *DSR* calculation:

- Women – 42.5-45.4
- Men – 33.5-36.4

~~(O) The *DSR* process is supported by a suite of *DSR* formulas. These formulas are posted in the 'Handicapping & Course Rating' section of [www.golfaustralia.org.au](http://www.golfaustralia.org.au).~~

(KR) In applying the *DSR* formulas (which are posted in the 'Handicapping & Course Rating' section of [www.golf.org.au](http://www.golf.org.au)), GOLF Link will:

- (i) Establish each of the following:
  - The average net score for a field.
  - The average handicap of a field.
  - The field size.
  - The type of competition (Stroke, Stableford or Par).
  - The gender of the competitors.
- (ii) Once each of these factors has been established, GOLF Link will compare the actual average net score on the day with the average net score that analysis of millions of prior rounds dictates is normal for this precise field composition. The *DSR* is derived from the outcome of this comparison.

### (iii) Special GA Short Course Ratings

Where a *course* does not meet the minimum length eligibility requirements of the USGA Course Rating System, but is determined by *GA* and the relevant *Member Association* to present sufficient challenge, it may at the discretion of *GA* and the *Member Association* have a special *GA Short Course Rating* determined for it. Such special *GA Short Course Ratings* may at the discretion of *GA* allow for allocation of official *GA* handicaps.

### (iv) Tee Up and Preferred Lies

The operation at a club of the Preferred Lies local rule, or of the Tee Up local rule, does not automatically change a course rating. In most instances across Australia, the operation at a club of these local rules will essentially serve to 'normalise' course difficulty (ie the impact is to cancel out the increase in difficulty caused by heavy conditions or of decreased turf quality). However, where a club is operating either, or both, of these local rules, and it believes there is a resultant clear impact to the difficulty of the course, it should contact its Member Association to establish whether a change to a course rating would be appropriate.

When Tee Up is allowed 'through the green', the Scratch Rating is reduced by 2 strokes. (Through the Green is a defined term in the Rules of Golf. 'Through the Green' is the whole area of the course except the teeing ground and putting green of the hole being played, and all hazards on the course.)

Note i: For GOLF Link clubs, this reduction will be performed automatically if the appropriate GOLF Link box is 'ticked'.

Note ii: The Preferred Lies local rule has no impact on either the Scratch Rating or the DSR.

**Comment [SM14]:** This solution was worked through the most recent GA Course Rating Sub-Committee meeting.

## 9. Stableford Handicapping Adjustment (SHA)

(i) For handicapping, all *eligible scores* must be adjusted to, and processed as, *Stableford scores* (with 100% of the applicable *Daily Handicap* to be used – the applicable *Daily Handicap* is the *Daily Handicap* derived in accordance with the *GA Handicap System* from the player's *GA Handicap*). The purpose of this regulation is to:

- Reduce the effect of high hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential ability.
- Make all handicaps as equitable as possible by using a uniform score type for all handicapping.

Exception: A medal play event which is considered by *GA* or a *Member Association* to be primarily for elite players, may at the discretion of the committee in charge of the competition be exempted from this condition.

(ii) For all eligible rounds, *Stableford points* must be awarded at each hole as follows (exception – see clause 9(iv) for details of the adjustment formula for rounds played under the *Par scoring system*):

Score on an individual hole	Points
More than one over net par <u>OR</u> no score returned	0
One over net par	1
Net par	2
One under net par	3
Two under net par	4
Three under net par	5
Four under net par	6

- (iii) Players may be requested to calculate their own Stableford points for all rounds which are eligible for handicapping purposes. (Note: Whilst the Rules of Golf do not provide to a Committee the authority to penalise a player for failing to calculate their own Stableford points, a Committee may, to assist with handicap administration, introduce a "club regulation" to this effect and provide disciplinary sanctions (eg ineligibility to play in the next club competition/s) for failure to act in accordance with the regulation.)
- (iv) Any round eligible for handicapping purposes which is played under the Par scoring system will be adjusted by GOLF Link into a Stableford score by adding 36 points to the player's final result (for example GOLF Link will adjust a score of 4 down into 32 points; the score of 32 points will be the player's *Handicapping Score*). No special consideration will be given to any score on a hole that gives rise to a result better than net birdie, or a plus.
- (v) If a player is competing in a Par, or Medal (stroke) play *competition*, for these *competitions* their Stableford score is disregarded when assessing any of the following:
- *Competition* placings.
  - Allocation of prizes.
  - Event winners or results.
- (vi) When returning a score for the purpose of attaining a *GA Handicap*, see Section 11(i)(B) for details regarding the allocation of a *Provisional-Temporary GA-Daily Handicap*.

## 10. Scores for Handicap Purposes

### (i) Regular Singles Competitions and Conforming Social Scores

Scores established in all 18-hole singles stroke (includes Par and Stableford) *Competition* rounds and all *Conforming Social Scores* (see Definitions) played at *courses* with a *Scratch Rating* determined in accordance with a system which is officially recognised by *Golf Australia GA* will be used for handicapping purposes.

### (ii) One Player in *Competition* (who has not played unaccompanied)

If there is only one player in a *competition* otherwise deemed eligible for handicapping by Section 10, the *competition* must still be processed for handicapping purposes provided the player has been accompanied throughout the round by a *Marker* or *Markers*.

### (iii) *Competition* Condition Limits Number of Clubs to Less than 14

When a *competition* limits the number of clubs that may be used to less than 14, only a score that is equal to or better than the player's official *Daily Handicap* for that round will be entered into GOLF Link.

Note i: These scores must be entered into GOLF Link as Ad Hoc scores. They must not be used in any *DSR* calculation. The *Scratch Rating* will be used in the *Differential* calculation, not any *DSR*.

Note ii: The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

Note iii: GA encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club.

### (iv) Score for Player Who is Disqualified

When a player is disqualified, the score they had may be used for handicapping purposes at the discretion of the *Handicapping Authority*. If it is a technical Rules breach that has caused disqualification (eg card not signed or handicap not recorded), at the discretion of the *Handicapping Authority* the score should still be used for handicapping.

Note i: An underlying principle of the GA Handicap System is that a score should be used for handicapping unless there is a good reason not to use it. Being disqualified under the Rules of Golf is in itself not a good reason to preclude a score from being used for handicapping. As a general principle, a score should not be used for handicapping if it was made in such way that would necessitate a significant amount of guess work being involved in estimating what the proper score would have been had the

**Comment [SM15]:** Added due to repeated requests that GA include in the handicap system its recommendation around the application of this regulation.

round been played strictly in accordance with the Rules of Golf (eg because the player used non-conforming clubs, or used non-conforming balls, or because the player cheated)

**Note ii:** See Section 19 for further related guidance.

(v) **Four-ball Scores**

(A) **WHEN TO USE SCORE OBTAINED IN FOUR-BALL COMPETITION FOR HANDICAPPING PURPOSES**

Four-ball scores (including from mixed events) SHOULD be used for handicapping an individual player but only if the following requirements are met:

- The pair that the relevant player played in has a score of at least 6 better than the *Scratch Rating of the tees that the relevant player played from*. (Note: *DSRs* will not be calculated for four-ball events.)
- The individual player's score appears at least 9 times on the four-ball score card.
- The adjusted score (after the method described in (B) below has been followed to create an individual score card) is equal to or better than the individual player's official *Daily Handicap* for that round.

(B) **PROCEDURE FOR CREATING INDIVIDUAL SCORE CARD FROM FOUR-BALL SCORE CARD FOR HANDICAPPING PURPOSES:**

- Where an individual player's score is to be handicapped (irrespective of whether the *competition* is played as Par, Stroke, or Stableford), it must be processed as a Stableford score in accordance with the procedures contained within this regulation.
- When a player's score is not recorded on the four-ball card, they are given 1½ Stableford points. (Exception: When a player's score is not recorded on the four-ball card, and their partner's score is 1 Stableford point, the player is given 1 Stableford point.)
- When a player's score counts on the four-ball card for a hole, they are given the appropriate number of Stableford points for that hole. (When both players have 0 Stableford points on a hole, they are both considered to have their score listed on the score card, including for the purposes of 'being on the card 9 times or more'. For the purposes of creating an adjusted individual score card, each player will have 0 points listed on the individual card for this hole.)
- If two identical net scores are recorded by partners on a hole, both scores are eligible to be used on an adjusted individual score card. However, if the first player to hole out can be readily identified, the second player is deemed to have not recorded a score for that hole.  
 Note: Clubs are to strongly discourage players from recording the scores of both partners on a hole or holes unless a concurrent singles event is being played. Players who regularly return four-ball score cards featuring identical net scores for both players in the same hole will not be eligible to have these rounds handicapped under Section 10(v) of this System – clubs should consider using Section 15 of this System to accommodate such players.
- When all the gaps in the card have been filled in, the points are totalled, and where a half appears in the total, the points total is rounded to the next lower whole number.

(C) If an extended 18-hole individual score obtained via this method is processed through GOLF Link, the score type option to be chosen in GOLF Link by the administrator MUST be 'Four-ball'.

(D) The course rating GOLF Link will use for this purpose is the *Scratch Rating*, not a *DSR*. In all other respects regarding the inclusion of the score in the player's handicap record, the score will be treated as a regular 18-hole singles competition score.

(E) The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

**Comment [SM16]:** This change arises from European Golf Association discussions.

**Comment [SM17]:** This change clarifies the *Scratch Rating* to be used in the handicapping of mixed four-ball scores. The text reflects existing policy (but that the handicap system document itself had not explicitly detailed). The change is added subsequent to the 26/8/13 Policy Committee meeting and is requested by Bob Crosby after discussion with Simon Magdalski.

**(vi) Scores Returned From Play of Anywhere Between 8 and 17 Holes**

Scores returned from 8-17 holes of play may be used for handicapping purposes at the discretion of the *Handicapping Authority*. The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play). (Note: GA encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club, and provided there is not a clear novelty nature to the play.)

See Decision 8 and Decision 11 in Section 19 for GOLF Link score entry instructions.

The following conditions will apply to 8-17 hole scores.

- (A) Where 16-17 holes inclusive have been played, the player will be deemed to have had net par for the remaining holes (unless it is considered the player has discontinued play with a view to achieving a specific score for handicap purposes). The score will be processed as an 18-hole score.
- (B) Scores returned over 8-15 holes will not be doubled or extended. They will be entered into GOLF Link as 9-hole scores.
- (C) Where only 8 holes have been played, the player will be deemed to have had net par on the 9<sup>th</sup> hole. The score will be entered into GOLF Link as a 9-hole score.
- (D) Any score of less than 8 holes will be disregarded.
- (E) Where 10-15 holes inclusive have been played, the first 9 holes played will be used and the remaining holes will be disregarded.

Note i: Should the player not have started from the 1<sup>st</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> holes (as per the order on the score card), it is holes 1-9 or 10-18 that will be used with the remainder being disregarded.

Note ii: If the player has not played the complete 1<sup>st</sup> nine holes on the score card OR the complete 2<sup>nd</sup> nine holes on the score card, but has played as many as 8 holes of either of the two nines, it is those 8 holes that will be used, with all others being disregarded. In such a case, the player will be deemed to have had net par on the unplayed hole on the nine to be used.

Note iii: The scores shall not be used for handicapping if the player has not played as many as 8 holes of either the 1<sup>st</sup> nine holes OR the 2<sup>nd</sup> nine holes on the score card.

Exception: If a club is regularly conducting events on an 8-16 hole configuration that does not include as many as 8 holes of either the 1<sup>st</sup> nine holes OR the 2<sup>nd</sup> nine holes on the score card, and where the club wishes to be able to use such scores for handicapping, it should contact its *Member Association*. The *Member Association* will provide a *Scratch Rating* that will enable the use of such scores.

**(F) Determination of Daily Handicap for score returned over 8-17 holes**

(i) For a score returned over 16-17 holes on a course, a player's Daily Handicap is their 18-hole Daily Handicap for that course (note: the player is deemed to have net par for the hole not played, or for the two holes not played (see Clause A above)).

(ii) A player's Daily Handicap for a 9-hole score on a course is determined firstly by establishing what the player's 18-hole Daily Handicap would be for that course. The 18-hole Daily Handicap is then applied to the course's ordinary 18-hole Stroke Index to determine the number of strokes the player will receive on the specific holes being played.

Note: Even if the player plays 8 holes, or plays anywhere between 10-15 holes inclusive, the player is still handicapped only on a 9-hole score (see Clause F above). As a result, if the player has played anywhere between 10-15 holes inclusive, the only interest for handicapping purposes is in what their handicap is and what their score is for the 9 holes being handicapped.

**The step-by-step process for determining a 9-hole Daily Handicap is:**

- The 9-hole course option being used will have a Slope Rating number that looks like an 18-hole Slope Rating number.
- The 18-hole Daily Handicap the player would play off for that Slope Rating number is assessed.
- The 18-hole Daily Handicap number is then applied to the Stroke Index on the score card to determine how many handicap strokes the player receives for the 9 holes being played.

- EXAMPLE 1: If Stroke Index holes 1 and 3 are on the front nine and the 9-hole round is being played over the front 9, then a player whose 18-hole Daily Handicap

**Comment [SM18]:** Added due to repeated requests that GA include in the handicap system its recommendation around the application of this regulation.

came out at 3 (after following the above process) would play off a handicap of 2 for that nine. (The same player would play off a handicap of 1 if the round was being played on the back nine.)

- **EXAMPLE 2:** If Stroke Index holes 1,3,5,7,9,11,13,15,17,19, and 21 are on the front nine and the 9-hole round is being played over the front 9, then a player whose 18-hole *Daily Handicap* came out at 21 (after following the above process) would play off a handicap of 11 for that nine. (The same player would play off a handicap of 10 if the round was being played on the back nine.)

**Note:** When entering a 9-hole score into GOLF Link, it is important that the above process be followed, and that what is entered is the 9-hole *Daily Handicap* value that has been calculated for the player as a result. This is because part of the process GOLF Link will automatically perform when it combines two 9-hole scores is to add together the 9-hole *Daily Handicaps* from the two 9-hole score entries. (If an 18-hole *Daily Handicap* value is wrongly entered with a 9-hole score entry, GOLF Link will think that the player played off a handicap which was twice as large as what it actually was – and that will credit the player with a score that is twice as good as what it actually was.)

- (GF) The initial 9-hole score a player returns is to be entered into GOLF Link; it will not immediately be used in the calculation of the player's *GA Handicap*. It will be automatically held by GOLF Link in the player's handicap record until another 9-hole score is entered. The two 9-hole scores will be combined automatically by GOLF Link to create a single 18-hole score.

**Note:** The rating for each 9 holes is retained in the GOLF Link database, so it does not matter whether the two 9-hole scores to be combined come from the same *course* or different *courses* – GOLF Link will add the two 9-hole scores together, it will also add the two 9-hole *Scratch Ratings* together, and then compare the two totals (the average of the two *Slope Ratings* will be used). It is this 18-hole score that will be used in the calculation of the player's handicap.

- (HG) A 9-hole score will be retained for combination with another 9-hole score until it is older than the 20<sup>th</sup> oldest 18-hole *Actual Score*. 9-hole scores will be combined in the order they are received by GOLF Link, and not necessarily by date order.

- (IH) An 18-hole score created by the combination of two 9-hole scores will display the date and *course* name of both 9-hole scores. It will also display the average of the two 9-hole *Slope Ratings*, and the rounded sum of the two 9-hole *Scratch Ratings* (these *Slope Rating* and *Scratch Rating* values will be used in the calculation of the *Differential*).

(vii) **Player Plays Within *Competition Field* But Doesn't Enter *Competition***

When a person plays within a *competition* field, but does not actually enter the *competition*, their score, if attested by a member of any golf club or golf association recognised by *Golf Australia GA* (or a person otherwise approved by the *Handicapping Authority*), should be used for handicapping purposes at the discretion of the *Handicapping Authority*.

The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

If the *Handicapping Authority* determines to use such scores, they will be deemed to be *Confirming Social Scores*.

(viii) **Scores Returned in a *Competition* that has been Declared Null and Void**

A score returned by a player in a *competition* declared null and void should be used for handicapping purposes provided *course* or weather conditions have not notably compromised the proper playing of the game for that player.

The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping.

(ix) **Scores Returned in Open or Professional *Competitions***

Scores returned in Open or Professional *competitions* by players with *GA Handicaps* will be used for handicapping purposes. All such players to have played in a given round will be entered into GOLF Link in a single batch.

(x) **Requirement to Maintain the Overall Distance of a Rated *Course***

- (A) Whilst a *course* should generally be played at its rated length, a club does have a large degree of flexibility around the movement of tee markers from day to day provided overall *course* distance remains substantially the same. Where unusual weather or *course* conditions are in evidence, a club may wish to set the daily tee markers such that overall *course* distance is altered provided the overall change is no more than 100 metres.

**Comment [SM19]:** This is in-line with the concepts which support the handicap system currently in operation. However, these regulations are not contained within the current system – they only exist in support documents. It is proposed they be incorporated into the handicap system itself to enable it to serve as a comprehensive canonical regulatory system (for which officials don't have to remember bits of documentation that exist all over the place!).

~~— Scores must not be handicapped—~~ When the position of the daily tee markers on the course played are more than 100 metres overall from the permanent rating markers for that course for an 18-hole round, the scores must not be handicapped.

Note i: If on one hole the tee markers are 15 metres forward and on another hole they are 10 metres back, the overall difference for these two holes is considered to be 5 metres from the rated length.

Note ii: For a round of less than 18 holes, a pro rata length must be calculated; eg for a 9-hole round, the distance is 50 metres.

(B) Unless determined otherwise by the Member Association, handicap conditions do not prevail when the tee markers, under normal circumstances, are placed more than 20 metres in front or 20 metres behind the relevant set of permanent rating markers on more than three holes for rounds of 14-18 holes, or on more than two holes for rounds of 8-13 holes. (An exception applies for courses with cyclical permanent rating marker placements which have been approved by a Member Association.)

(C) Note: Where average tee marker placement over time on a course results in an effective average total course distance that is considered by the Member Association to be materially different to the rated course, the Member Association should amend the official Scratch Rating accordingly.

(D) Hole placements are not taken into consideration in determining whether or not a club has satisfied the requirements around maintaining the overall distance of a rated course.

(xi) Scores Returned in Novelty Events such as Bisque Par and Three-Ball Competitions

Scores returned in novelty events such as Bisque Par and Three-Ball competitions may be used for handicapping at the discretion of the Handicapping Authority but only after conversion to a regular Stableford format, and only if the Rules of singles stroke play have been adhered to.

The Handicapping Authority should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

(Note: GA encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club, and provided there is not a clear novelty nature to the relevant competition.)

**Comment [SM20]:** Amendments are for the purposes of clarification further to feedback in State forum and from Club seminars.

(xii) Scores Returned in Aggregate Teams Events

Scores returned in Aggregate Teams Events (eg Two-ball Aggregate and Two-Ball Multiplier competitions) should be used for handicapping.

Note A: To be used for handicapping, these events must require each player to play their own ball on each hole until it is no longer reasonable for them to record at least 1 Stableford point. It is each player's individual score that is used for handicapping.

Note B: The Handicapping Authority should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

Note C: The Handicapping Authority should advise all players prior to the commencement of the competition that the Rules of singles stroke play will apply – with specific attention being drawn to the Advice Rule and also to the Rule regarding Order of Play.

Note D: From time to time a committee may be concerned that the Rules of singles play may not have been strictly adhered to. In such a case, the competition should only be disqualified from being processed for handicapping if the committee makes the determination that the results have been clearly impacted by widespread non-adherence to the Rules of singles play.

**Comment [SM21]:** Added due to repeated requests that GA include in the handicap system its recommendation around the application of this regulation.

(xiii) Scores Returned in Pro-Am Events

Scores returned in Pro-Am events may, at the discretion of the committee, be used for handicapping provided one of the following requirements is met:

(A) The Rules of singles stroke play are adhered to and each player's hole-by-hole scores are recorded on the submitted score card.

(B) The Rules of four-ball stroke play are adhered to.

Note i: The Handicapping Authority should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that are unusual in character (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

Note ii: GA encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club.

**Comment [SM22]:** Added due to repeated requests that GA include in the handicap system its recommendation around the application of this regulation.

(xiv) Scores Returned in Corporate/Trade Days

A score returned in a corporate/trade day or the like, not played in a Competition round but played in accordance with the Rules of Golf, may be used but only where it is equal to or better than the player's official Daily Handicap for that round.

Note i: The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that are unusual in character (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

Note ii: GA encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club.

**Comment [SM23]:** Added due to repeated requests that GA include in the handicap system its recommendation around the application of this regulation.

## 11. Allocation of GA Handicap

### (i) Allocation of GA Handicap to Player Who Has NOT Previously Held an official Australian Handicap or Recognised Overseas Equivalent

In order for a player who has NOT previously held an official Australian handicap or recognised overseas equivalent to obtain a *GA Handicap*, the following process must be followed:

(A) Have the player clarify in writing that they have not previously held an official Australian handicap or recognised overseas equivalent.

(B) *Stableford Handicapping Adjustment* will apply to a player's Initial rounds. When returning an Initial score for the purpose of attaining a *GA Handicap*, a male player is provisionally granted a *Temporary GA-Daily Handicap* of 36-4 and a female player is provisionally granted a *Temporary GA-Daily Handicap* of 45-4.

Note a: These *Provisional-Temporary GA-Daily Handicaps* enable the player to know how many handicap strokes they receive on each hole. They apply solely for handicap calculation purposes and have no standing for the purposes of calculating any competition results.

Note b: These *Provisional-Temporary GA-Daily Handicaps* shall not be altered until the player has returned the requisite number of initial scores. Once the player has returned such number of scores, the *Provisional-Temporary GA-Daily Handicaps* shall be completely disregarded.

Note c: The *Provisional GA Handicap* shall be used to calculate the *Daily Handicap* that is appropriate to the course on which the player is playing an Initial round (see Section 12(iii)(B)).

Note d: GOLF Link will not display the *Provisional-Temporary Daily Handicap* values for a player's Initial rounds. GOLF Link will display the 'Played To' values for each of a player's Initial rounds.

(C) A player will not be eligible to receive a *GA Handicap* until their handicap record in GOLF Link includes at least three 18-hole rounds. (Whilst 9-hole scores may be used for this purpose at the discretion of the *Home Club*, two 9-hole scores will be the equivalent of one 18-hole round.)

Exception: Where a player's GOLF Link handicap record does not include three 18-hole rounds but it is clear that the maximum *GA Handicap* is warranted, the *Home Club* should take immediate action to enable the player to receive a *GA Handicap* which is the maximum value. This immediate action will include adding into the player's GOLF Link handicap record enough *Estimate Scores* with high values that will enable the player to immediately receive the maximum handicap.

(D) Each Initial score the player returns should be entered into GOLF Link as soon as possible. The GOLF Link Score Status option to be used for these scores is "Initial". The only GOLF Link Score Status options available for these scores are "Normal Score" or "Non-Standard Entry" (the score must be disregarded if it is not appropriate to either of these two options).

Note: Should the *Handicapping Authority* have good reason to believe a lesser or higher *GA Handicap* is more appropriate than that which is indicated by the Initial scores, it should amend in GOLF Link the values of the Initial scores to the extent needed to produce the appropriate *GA Handicap*.

**Comment [SM24]: EXPLANATORY**  
NOTE: "Provisional" changed to "Temporary" in this context to avoid confusion with the primary use of "provisional" within this handicap system – see definition of "Provisional GA Handicap".

**Comment [SM25]:** Changed from GA Handicap to Daily Handicap to make process simpler for clubs to operate – further to feedback from State forum.

**Comment [SM26]:** This change is the outcome of software development discussions.

Note A: Section 12 details the procedure by which these and other scores are utilised to calculate a *GA Handicap*.

Note B: The *Handicapping Authority* should immediately effect a handicap adjustment (see Section 12(vi)) if it has good reason (other than that provided by any previously-held handicap (see Section 11(ii) if the player has previously held an official handicap)) to consider that a lower or higher handicap is more appropriate to the player's ability than that which results from this process. In such a case, the *Handicapping Authority* is not required to act in accordance with Section 15.

Note C: Any previously-held official Australian handicap and handicap record (or recognised overseas handicap) must be reinitiated in accordance with Section 11(ii).

(ii) Reinitiating Handicap for Player Who Has Previously Held an official Australian Handicap or Recognised Overseas Equivalent

- (A) When a player (who has previously been a member of an affiliated club) joins a club after a period away from handicap golf, the *Handicapping Authority* of the 'new' club must reinitiate the status of the player's last-recorded handicap (using the player's archived GOLF Link handicap record if applicable) even if there is good reason to consider that a lower or higher *GA Handicap* is more appropriate to the player's current ability (but see 11(ii)(C) and 11(ii)(D) below). If the player's handicap record is not available, the player's handicap must be reinitiated by the *Home Club* entering three 18-hole *Estimate Scores* (using the player's last-known handicap as a guide) into GOLF Link.
- (B) Where both the previous *Home Club* and the 'new' *Home Club* are on GOLF Link, the 'new' *Home Club* **MUST** perform a '*Home Club Transfer*'. (Queries regarding this process should be directed to the GOLF Link Customer Service Centre on 1300 650 750.) A new handicap record must not be created.
- (C) If the *Handicapping Authority* of the 'new' club quickly considers there is good reason for the player to hold a *GA Handicap* that is higher than their last recorded handicap, a handicap adjustment should be effected. In such a case, the *Handicapping Authority* is not required to act in accordance with Section 15. However, the *Member Association* Handicap Manager must be consulted if the determined figure would fall into any of the following categories:
- More than two strokes higher than the most recent previous figure for players whose last recorded handicap was 4.4 or less.
  - More than 3 strokes higher than the previous handicap for players whose last recorded handicap was 4.5-10.4.
  - More than 4 strokes higher than any previous handicap for players whose last recorded handicap was greater than 10.4.
- (D) If the *Handicapping Authority* of the 'new' club considers there is good reason for the player to hold a *GA Handicap* that is lower than their last recorded handicap, a handicap adjustment should be given due consideration. Any ensuing handicap adjustment must be effected in accordance with Section 15.
- (E) The procedure detailed in Section 12(vi) is to be used to effect handicap adjustments.

Note: 'Last recorded handicap' may include, at the discretion of the *Member Association*, an official handicap issued by a recognised overseas *handicapping authority*.

## 12. Calculation of Handicaps

**General Note:** There are two types of official *GA Handicap*; a *GA Handicap* and a *Daily Handicap*. The *GA Handicap* is not designed for use in handicap competition play; rather it is GA's assessment of the relative golfing ability of a player on a course with a *neutral Slope Rating*. The *Daily Handicap* is the handicap to be used in handicap competition play. The *GA Handicap* is one of the factors used in the calculation of the *Daily Handicap*.

- (i) **Differential** (this is the value that is featured in the 'Played to' column on [www.golflink.com.au](http://www.golflink.com.au))  
*Differentials* must be calculated as follows:

$\begin{aligned} & \text{Course Par plus Daily Handicap minus (Stableford Points Total minus 36)} = A \\ & A \text{ minus Daily Scratch Rating} = B \\ & B \text{ multiplied by Neutral Slope Rating (ie 113)} = C \\ & C \text{ divided by Slope Rating} = D \\ & D \text{ (rounded to one decimal place (note: 0.15 rounds to 0.2, +0.15 rounds to +0.1))} = \text{Differential} \end{aligned}$
---

**Exception:** Where D is calculated to be more than 40 for men or 50 for women, the *Differential* will be deemed to be 40 for men or 50 for women.

- (ii) **Formula for Calculation of *GA Handicap***

A *GA Handicap* is calculated from a rolling sample of the player's most recent 20 *Actual Scores* (note: the most recent 20 *Actual Scores* are known as *Live Scores*). If a player's handicap record contains a lesser number than 20 *Actual Scores*, the number of *Live Scores* used to calculate the player's handicap is as listed in the table below.

There is no requirement for a player's *Live Scores* to have been returned within a specific timeframe. For example, the *Live Scores* may span a period of three years or they may span a period of three months.

Once a player's handicap record contains 20 *Live Scores*, the next *Actual Score* they return will result in the oldest of the existing *Live Scores* losing its status as a *Live Score* (to be replaced by the new *Actual Score*). Hence, the handicap calculation process is considered to be a 'rolling sample' method.



The procedure for calculating a *GA Handicap* is as follows:

**STEP 1** – Use the table below to determine the number of *Differentials* to be included in the calculation of a player's *GA Handicap* (note: the *Differential* is the value that is featured in the 'Played to' column on [www.golflink.com.au](http://www.golflink.com.au)):

<i>Number of Live Scores in Player's Handicap Record</i>	<i>Differentials to be Used in the Calculation</i>
3 to 6	Lowest 1
7 or 8	Lowest 2
9 or 10	Lowest 3
11 or 12	Lowest 4
13 or 14	Lowest 5
15 or 16	Lowest 6
17 or 18	Lowest 7
19 or 20	Lowest 8

**STEP 2** – Average the *Differentials* being used (as determined by the above table):

**STEP 3** – Multiply the average by 0.93. (Note: This is the *Multiplier*. The *Multiplier* is a mathematical balancing factor, the purpose of which is to help to achieve national results patterns for net competitions that are as equitable as possible. Its necessity is the result of the different standard distributions-deviations of net scores exhibited by players on different handicap levels.

**STEP 4** – After applying STEP 3, delete all numbers after the tenths' digit. Do NOT round to the nearest tenth. (For example 23.6983 becomes 23.6. The *GA Handicap* is therefore 23.6 (although note the *Anchor-Cap* Provision below).)

**Note:** **ANCHOR-CAP PROVISION** – A player's *GA Handicap* is not permitted to increase by any more than 54 strokes beyond their best/lowest *GA Handicap* from the previous 12-month rolling period

- (A) A player's *Anchor-Cap Point Handicap* is their best/lowest *GA Handicap* from the 12-month period extending back in time from the round that resulted in their most recent *Actual Score*. (The *GA Handicap* that results from the processing of this most recent round is eligible to count as the *Anchor-HandicapCap Point*.) The *Anchor-HandicapCap Point* displayed in GOLF Link is considered in the processing of the next round the player will play. When the player's next round is processed through GOLF Link, the resultant *GA Handicap* that will be calculated for the player will not be permitted to be more than four-five strokes above the *Anchor-HandicapCap Point*.
- (B) Each time a player has an *Actual Score* processed for handicapping purposes, they shall also have their *Anchor-HandicapCap Point* re-determined. This re-determined value is only permitted to apply to the NEXT round the player plays, NOT the CURRENT round. The *Anchor-HandicapCap Point* permitted to apply to the current round is that *Anchor HandicapCap Point* which was calculated from the most recent score played prior to the current round.
- (C) A newly-determined *Anchor-HandicapCap Point* is considered in the processing of the player's NEXT *Actual Score* irrespective of when this next round is played. (As a result, it is permissible for a player's *Anchor-HandicapCap Point* to become more than 12 months old in the period between two rounds being played.)
- (D) Upon the completion of Step 4 above, the calculated figure will be compared with the *Anchor-HandicapCap Point*. If the *Anchor-HandicapCap Point* is four-five or more strokes lower than the figure produced by Step 4, the *Anchor-Cap* will take effect and the player's *GA Handicap* will be the sum of the *Anchor-HandicapCap Point* PLUS 54.0 strokes. (Example: Where in the previous 12-month period a player's best/lowest *GA Handicap* is 11.4, the player's *GA Handicap* (when it is recalculated as a result of their NEXT round being processed) will not be permitted to increase beyond 165.4 at this time.)
- (E) There is no limit on downward movement of a player's *GA Handicap*.
- (F) The *Anchor-Cap* will only take effect once a player has 20 *Actual Scores* in their handicap record. (For *Anchor-Cap* purposes, a *GA Handicap* calculated on the basis of less than 20 *Actual Scores* can not be an *Anchor-HandicapCap Point* and is disregarded.)
- (G) Where the player's *Home Club* performs an upward handicap adjustment, for *Anchor-Cap* purposes, a *GA Handicap* calculated prior to such a manual over-ride can not be an *Anchor HandicapCap Point* and is totally disregarded. (The same exclusion does not apply in the case of downward manual adjustments.)

**(iii) Formula for Calculation of Daily Handicap**

(A) A *Daily Handicap* is the number of strokes a player receives for play from a specific and officially-rated set of tees at the *course* being played. The *Daily Handicap* is expressed as a whole number.

Note: The *GA Handicap* is not designed for use in handicap competition play; rather it is one of the factors used in the calculation of the *Daily Handicap*. The *Daily Handicap* is the handicap to be used in handicap competition play.

$$(B) \text{ Daily Handicap} = \text{GA Handicap} \times (\text{Slope Rating} \div 113)$$

Note i: 0.5 rounds to 1, 10.5 rounds to 11, 20.5 rounds to 21, etc.

Note ii: +0.5 rounds to Scratch, +1.5 rounds to +1, +2.5 rounds to +2, etc.

**(iv) Maximum Handicaps**

(A) The maximum value for *GA Handicaps* is as follows:

- Women 45.4
- Men 36.4

(B) The maximum value for *Daily Handicaps* is as follows:

- Women 45
- Men 36

**(v) Player Fails to Return Score Card**

If a player fails (for a reason which is not approved by the committee in charge of the *competition*) to post an acceptable score as soon as practicable after completion of their round, the following process should be followed:

- The round is to be recorded in GOLF Link with the status of 'No Score – Not Approved' (provided the Stipulated Round was intended to be anywhere from 8 to 18 holes inclusive).
- However, if the committee considers the player is most likely to have had a 'good' score, it should NOT use the 'No Score – Not Approved' option. Instead it should enter a score for the player for that round equivalent to the best/lowest *Differential* of the player's most recent previous 19 *Differentials* AND select the GOLF Link 'Non-Standard Entry' score status option.
- Where a committee records a player's score status for a round as either 'Non-Standard Entry' or 'No Score – Not Approved', but then subsequently becomes aware of the score the player actually had, it SHOULD replace the original entry with the score the player had.

Note i: See Section 12(ix) for operational notes and handicapping implications of the above stipulated score statuses.

Note ii: A handicap will lose its full status in the event that a player should accrue in their most recent 20 *Actual Scores* (ie their list of *Live Scores*) five or more entries with a status of 'No Score – Not Approved'. Such a handicap will be known as a "*Provisional GA Handicap*".

**(vi) Manual Handicap Adjustments****Operational Notes:**

When a club's GOLF Link administrator uses the 'Adjust Handicap' function in GOLF Link, GOLF Link will automatically add a series of artificial scores to the player's handicap record. It is these artificial scores that will result in the player's handicap adjusting to the desired figure.

Note: Non-GOLF Link clubs will need to ensure their calculation processes replicate those performed by GOLF Link.

**(vii) Recalculation of Handicap after New Score Processed**

*Eligible scores* are to be processed through GOLF Link as soon as practicable. GOLF Link will re-calculate a player's *GA Handicap* immediately upon the receipt of a new score for that player.

Note: Non-GOLF Link clubs will need to ensure their calculation processes replicate those performed by GOLF Link.

**(viii) Player Competes in Competition Round before a Previous Handicap-Altering Score is Processed**

(A) In a situation where a player competes in a competition round before a previous handicap-altering score is processed, their correct *GA Handicap* will be that displayed by either GOLF Link or (for clubs not operating within the GOLF Link system) such other display item as designated by their *Home Club* (even if they are aware of what their new handicap will be).

Note: The provisions of this System which enable a Visited Club to temporarily amend a player's handicap (ie Section 7(ii)) will govern in the event of a conflict between those provisions and this Clause.

(B) The committee in charge of a competition may require a player to play off the *Daily Handicap* appropriate to what their new *GA Handicap* will be, even if their *GA Handicap* is yet to be officially adjusted.

- (C) A committee may also adjust a player's *Daily Handicap* and net score after the player has submitted their score card in a stroke play competition. In such an instance, the listing of the incorrect *Daily Handicap* is considered to be a committee error and consequently the player is not penalised.
- (D) In a match play competition, a player's *Daily Handicap* may not be altered after their round has commenced. Any queries regarding a player's handicap must be raised with the committee in charge of the competition prior to the commencement of the player's round.

(ix) **GOLF Link Score Status Options – Operational Notes & Handicap Implications**

The various GOLF Link score status options and their associated handicap implications are as follows (see Section 19 for examples of practical application):

(A) **"Normal Score"**

- This is an 'Actual Score' which is to be considered when determining a player's *Live Scores*.

(B) **"No Score – Not Approved"**

- The player's *Differential* for that round will be deemed to be the equivalent of the worst *Differential* of the player's 19 most recent previous 19-18-hole *Differentials* (an 18-hole *Differential* created from the combination of two 9-hole *Differentials* will be considered to be an 18-hole *Differential* for this purpose). Provided the Stipulated Round was intended to be anywhere from 8-18 holes inclusive, an 18-hole "No Score – Not Approved" entry will be inserted into the player's GOLF Link record as a result of this action. (Note: If the player's handicap record contains less than 19 entries of actual or artificially generated score values, the player's *Differential* for that round will be deemed to be the equivalent of the worst *Differential* of all scores contained in the player's handicap record.)

**Comment [SM27]:** This clarifies the outcome of software discussions.

- This is an *Actual Score* which is to be considered when determining a player's *Live Scores*.

Note i: A handicap will lose its full status in the event that a player should accrue in their most recent 20 *Actual Scores* (ie their list of *Live Scores*) five or more entries with a status of 'No Score – Not Approved'. Such a handicap will be known as a "Provisional GA Handicap".

Note ii: The GOLF Link Tier 1 website provides a function which enables clubs to produce a report listing the quantity of 'No Score – Not Approved' entries each member has in their most recent 20 *Actual Scores* (ie their list of *Live Scores*). (Ring the GOLF Link Customer Service Centre on 1300 650 750 with any queries.)

(C) **"No Score – Approved"**

- The entry appears in the player's handicap record however the player is not considered to have returned a score.
- This is NOT an *Actual Score* and is to be discounted when determining a player's *Live Scores*.

(D) **"Illegitimate Score"**

- The entry appears in the player's handicap record however the player is not considered to have returned a score.
- This is NOT an *Actual Score* and is to be discounted when determining a player's *Live Scores*.

(E) **"Non-Standard Entry"**

- This Score Status option is used when:
  - (a) A player competes in a Stableford or Par competition and does not complete the stipulated round but returns a legitimate score card.
  - (b) A player (who has played at least eight holes) has failed to complete all holes in a Stroke competition and where the Handicapping Authority wishes to use the score for handicapping purposes.
  - (c) A player in Stroke, Par, or Stableford completes all holes, is disqualified, and the Handicapping Authority wishes to use the score for handicapping purposes (this should happen for example when the only breach is a technical one such as failure to sign score card, or failure to record handicap on score card).
- The club's GOLF Link administrator will enter into GOLF Link the player's *handicapping score* and also where applicable their *competition score*.
- Where applicable, the *competition score* will be included in the list of results for that *competition* and will be used in the determination of prizes.
- If for a 'Non-Standard Entry' there is a *handicapping score* entered but no *competition score* entered, on [www.gofflink.com.au](http://www.gofflink.com.au) the player's *competition score* entry for this round will be displayed as '-'
- The *handicapping score* is an *Actual Score* which is to be considered when determining a player's *Live Scores*.

~~(F) "Initial"~~

- ~~— This Score Status option is applied to each of the scores a player returns in order to gain an initial handicap.~~
- ~~— This is an Actual Score which is to be considered when determining a player's Live Scores.~~

Note: Non-GOLF Link clubs will need to ensure their calculation processes replicate those performed by GOLF Link.

### 13. Life of Scores & Lapsed Handicaps

- (i) A score is a *Live Score* if it is one of the player's most recent 20 *Actual Scores*. There is no requirement for a player's *Live Scores* to have been returned within a specific timeframe.
- (ii) When a player changes from one *Home Club* to another, a copy of their handicap record shall be given to the new *Home Club* so that administration of their *GA Handicap* can be taken up by the new *Home Club*. Where both the previous *Home Club* and the 'new' *Home Club* are on GOLF Link, the 'new' *Home Club* **MUST** perform a '*Home Club Transfer*'. (Queries relating to this process should be directed to the GOLF Link Customer Service Centre on 1300 650 750.) **A new handicap record must not be created.**
- (iii) If a player has no current membership of an affiliated body, their most recent 20 *Actual Scores* remain *Live Scores*, however their *GA Handicap* will be considered to be *Lapsed* and will have no official status.

### 14. Maximum Handicaps, Provisional Handicaps, and Club Handicaps

- (i) Calculation of a women's *GA Handicap* beyond 45.4 is not permitted. Calculation of a men's *GA Handicap* beyond 36.4 is not permitted.
- (ii) Calculation of a women's *Daily Handicap* beyond 45 is not permitted. Calculation of a men's *Daily Handicap* beyond 36 is not permitted.
- (iii) A handicap will lose its full status in the event that a player should accrue in their most recent 20 *Actual Scores* five or more entries with a status of 'No Score – Not Approved' (note: full status is automatically regained upon the number of 'No Score – Not Approved' entries in the player's most recent 20 *Actual Scores* decreasing to four or less). Such a handicap will be known as a "*Provisional GA Handicap*". *GA* recommends that players with *Provisional GA Handicaps* not be eligible to win prizes in competitions which have as a condition of entry a requirement that competitors hold *GA Handicaps*.  
 Note: The GOLF Link Tier 1 website provides a function which enables clubs to produce a report listing the quantity of 'No Score – Not Approved' entries each member has in their most recent 20 *Actual Scores* (ie their list of *Live Scores*). (Ring the GOLF Link Customer Service Centre on 1300 650 750 with any queries.)
- (iv) GOLF Link will not maintain or record "*Club Handicaps*". Should a committee consider it appropriate, it may allocate selected members with internal "*Club Handicaps*". It will be solely for the respective committee to determine how it calculates the "*Club Handicaps*" of its members. When entering a score into a player's GOLF Link handicap record (or when processing a *competition* for handicap purposes), it is the player's *Daily Handicap* that must be used to calculate a net score, NOT any *Club Handicap* that may have been used for the purposes of determining *competition* placings, allocation of prizes, or event winners or results.

### 15. Manual Override by Club of Normal Handicap Calculation Process

Note: It is recommended that clubs consult their *Member Association* if they feel action under Section 15 of this System may be appropriate.

#### (i) ~~General~~ GENERAL

- (A) Handicaps are intended to enable players to compete in handicap events on even terms.
- (B) This System assumes players will exhibit scoring patterns that are consistent with what is considered to be normal.
- (C) The scoring of some players will however not be consistent with what is considered to be normal or what is considered to be reasonably close to normal, and the adjustment, freezing, or suspension of a player's *GA Handicap* will be necessary other than in accordance with the formulas applied by this System in order to achieve fair opportunity for all those who participate in handicap golf.
- (D) Accordingly, ~~by~~ using a *GA Handicap*, a player accepts that from time to time a club of which they are a member, a *Member Association*, or ~~Golf Australia~~ *GA* may adjust, freeze, or suspend that *GA Handicap*. Such adjustment may be other than in accordance with the formulas applied by this System. An adjustment may be a reduction or increase in a player's *GA Handicap*. Section 15 of this System may be

**Comment [SM28]:** Non-cosmetic changes in this section are to reflect further legal advice. As are several other related changes in other Sections of this document.

implemented at any time. Any club of which a player is a member has equal authority to adjust, freeze, or suspend the relevant *GA Handicap*.

- (E) The lack of an overwhelming statistical case to support this Section being put into effect does not alter the authority of a club of which the player is a member, a Member Association, or Golf AustraliaGA from taking action in accordance with their best assessment of the outcome most likely to achieve fair opportunity for all those who participate in handicap golf.

(F) **Reduction or Freezing of a GA Handicap**

Examples of scenarios which may warrant the reduction or freezing of a player's *GA Handicap* include but are not limited to:

- Where a player is showing better form than their *GA Handicap* or where a player is showing an increased interest in playing better golf but is not returning cards which lead to an automatic reduction in handicap and the improvement, current ability, or some other justifiable circumstances make it apparent to the *Handicapping Authority* of any club of which the player is a member that the player is over-handicapped.
- Where following investigation of a player's performance, a player's returns give rise to suspicion they may be attempting to "manipulate a handicap", or are in serious breach of this System or the Rules of Golf or Etiquette (as contained in the Rules of Golf booklet). (Note: This second described scenario may also in some instances provide reason for a club of which the player is a member, a Member Association, or Golf AustraliaGA to suspend a the player's *GA Handicap*.)

(G) **Suspension of a GA Handicap**

Should ~~the any club of which the player is a member, a Member Association, or Golf AustraliaGA~~ an inquiry, be satisfied that a *GA Handicap* has not been determined in accordance with the *GA Handicap System* or that the player has acted in serious breach of this System or the Rules of Golf or otherwise detrimentally to the best interests of the game, it may suspend the *GA Handicap* for a stipulated period of time or for a stipulated minimum period of time.

(H) **Increasing a GA Handicap**

Although the primary calculation performed by this System in order to determine a handicap is to average a player's current form, the basic premise of any handicap system is that a handicap should not be inconsistent with a player's underlying ability. (That underlying ability is considered to be reflected by the player's better performances. Although any player may temporarily lose form, it is not in the interests of equity for a handicap to increase substantially due to such a temporary loss of form.) Being mindful of this fundamental premise, *Handicapping Authorities* are encouraged to consider reviewing increasing the handicaps of players whose circumstances reflect the following:

1. Where a player is in the process of experiencing, or recovering from, a significant long-term injury or illness.
2. Where a player has changed clubs and finds the new course to be far more challenging for them for whatever reason than the previous course.
3. Where a player has been Anchored-Capped due to them reaching a handicap that is clearly better than any other handicap they have achieved for at least two years AND that the *Handicapping Authority* believes was clearly better than their underlying ability.

4. Where the *Handicapping Authority* firmly believes the player's *GA Handicap* for whatever reason is not commensurate with the player's underlying ability. (Note: *GA* encourages clubs to be especially sympathetic to the plight of a player who due to advancing age experiences a rapid deterioration of their underlying ability. It is recommended that a *Handicapping Authority* will move quickly to adjust a player's *GA Handicap* when it has clearly established that a player is in this situation.)

- (I) There is nothing in Clause 15(i) of this System that allows action to be taken to reward or punish a player for a one-off score (but see Section 16). It is in the nature of golf performance that the scoring of some players is not consistent with normal distribution patterns, and also that a player will on occasion display extraordinary form.

- (J) Where a club of which the player is a member puts this Section into effect, approval from the Member Association is not required. However, the club must provide notification in accordance with Clause (iv) of this Section.

(ii) **Decision to Freeze a Player's GA Handicap**

~~Close-~~As stated in Section 15(ii)(D), analysis of a *GA Handicap* may also result in a decision to freeze it at a given figure.

- (A) A freeze may be effected for a stipulated period of either one month, two months, or three months only.
- (B) Upon the expiration of the initial freeze period, where the reason to freeze a *GA Handicap* continues to apply, the body that took the initial decision to freeze a *GA Handicap* may extend the freeze period.

**Comment [SM29]:** This change is further to various club and golfer feedback.

- (C) The figure at which the handicap is frozen may not necessarily reflect the figure the normal calculation method would produce.
- (D) Where this System's normal handicap calculation method determines a lower value than the freeze value, the normal handicap calculation method will over-ride the freeze.
- Note: If within the stipulated freeze period, this System's normal handicap calculation method determines a higher value than the freeze value, the freeze will over-ride the normal handicap calculation method.
- (E) A *Frozen GA Handicap* may still be used by a player in exactly the same fashion as a *Normal GA Handicap*.
- (iii) A decision to adjust, freeze or suspend a *GA Handicap* under this Section must be ratified by the General Committee (Board of Directors) of the club which is taking such action. It is not a requirement that this ratification occur at a formal meeting. It may occur for example via email.
- (iv) **Administration**
- (A) Notification of a decision to adjust, freeze, or suspend a *GA Handicap* under this Section must be forwarded by the club taking such action to the relevant *Member Association* (and, if the club taking such action is not the player's *Home Club*, the club taking such action must also immediately notify the player's *Home Club*). Such notification must include copies of the accumulated information on which the decision was based.
- (B) In all cases of decisions to adjust or suspend a player's *GA Handicap*, it is the *Home Club* that is responsible for making the adjustment to GOLF Link (or other handicap record system maintained by the *Home Club*).
- (C) In the event that it is not the *Home Club* that has made the decision to adjust or suspend a player's *GA Handicap*, the *Home Club* will be obligated to immediately adjust the player's handicap record in accordance with the direction of the club that has made the decision. The *Home Club* may ~~appeal~~ seek a review of the decision to the Member Association in accordance with Section 15(v), however any such ~~appeal~~ review must not delay the amendment of the player's handicap record to have it reflect the determination of the other club. Once such advice has been forwarded to the *Home Club*, any *Competition* committee must consider the figure contained in this advice to be the player's current *GA Handicap*.
- (D) Only *Golf AustraliaGA* will have physical access to the GOLF Link freezing functionality and to the GOLF Link suspension functionality (note: this does not alter the authority of any club of which the player is a member, or *Member Association*, or *GA* to take a decision to freeze or suspend a *GA Handicap*). The process to follow in order to effect the decision of a club to freeze or suspend a *GA Handicap* on GOLF Link is for the club to notify its *Member Association* of the decision to freeze (note: such notice must include stipulation of the figure at which the *GA Handicap* is to be frozen) or to suspend the *GA Handicap*; the *Member Association* will then notify *Golf AustraliaGA*. *Golf AustraliaGA* will only effect the decision of a club to freeze or to suspend a player's *GA Handicap* upon the receipt of a written request of a *Member Association*. Any *Competition* committee must consider a *GA Handicap* to be frozen or suspended upon the earlier of either:
- it becoming aware that notification of the determining club's decision has been received by the *Member Association*, or
  - the player's GOLF Link handicap display being accordingly amended.
- (v) **Review of Decisions**
- (A) Where a club of which the player is a member has made a decision to adjust, freeze or suspend a player's *GA Handicap*, the relevant *Member Association* or *Golf AustraliaGA*, on inquiry, may amend or reinstate the player's *GA Handicap*. Such inquiry may be requested in writing by the player to the *Member Association*, or it may be otherwise launched by the *Member Association* or *GA* if the *Member Association* or *GA* determines it is appropriate to do so. A decision of the *GA Board* will be final.
- (B) Where a *Member Association* has reviewed a decision of a club to adjust, freeze or suspend a player's *GA Handicap*, *GA* may (if it considers it appropriate to do so) amend or reinstate the player's *GA Handicap*. Such inquiry may be requested in writing by the player to *GA*, or it may be otherwise launched by *GA* if *GA* determines it is appropriate to do so.
- (C) A decision made by *GA* under section 15(v)(A) or 15(v)(B) is final and binding. There is no further right of appeal or review for the player, club or *Member Association*.
- (vi) It is entirely at the discretion of a committee in charge of a competition as to whether or not the determination of net results is made with reference to *Daily Handicaps*.
- (vii) *Golf AustraliaGA* does not seek to limit members of an Australian club to compete only in those net competitions the results of which are determined with reference to *Daily Handicaps*.

(viii) A *GA Handicap* is GA's assessment of the relative golfing ability of a player. Players are not obliged to utilise this assessment. It shall always be the player's decision as to whether or not they make use of a *GA Handicap*.

(ix) **Implementation Conditions**

The following conditions are to assist clubs in implementing this Section and to provide uniformity in handicapping among all who play handicap golf:

- (A) The General Committee (Board of Directors) must accumulate data and/or cards and/or scores and/or competition results that would indicate it is necessary to adjust, freeze, or suspend the player's *GA Handicap* in order to maintain uniformity in handicapping among all who play handicap golf.
- (B) The General Committee (Board of Directors) must as a body, make a decision to adjust, freeze, or suspend a *GA Handicap* as indicated by this Section of the *GA Handicap System*. It is not a requirement that this decision occur at a formal meeting. It may occur for example via email. Any decision should be recorded in writing (eg email, minutes of meeting etc).
- (C) No one person or group of persons at a club, other than the General Committee (Board of Directors) has the power to adjust, freeze, or suspend a *GA Handicap* when exercising a club's authority under this Section.
- (D) Appropriate letters for use by clubs wishing to implement this Section are available from *Member Associations*. The first letter advises the member that the *GA Handicap* is to be reviewed due to better than reflected, or otherwise, performances. The second letter advises of the newly-approved *GA Handicap*.

## 16. Manual Bonus Reduction for Exceptional Net Score

- (i) Essential points of the Manual Bonus Reduction regulation are as follows:
  - Some golfers have inconsistent scoring patterns such that their underlying ability is not typically reflected in their handicap. As these players operate outside normal patterns, regular handicap system regulations do not always cater for them.
  - These players will sometimes return Exceptional Net Scores that are reflective of their underlying ability but not of their handicap.
  - It is GA's position that a handicap system should not be designed around a small minority.
  - A handicap system should not penalise such players by unfairly limiting their capacity to achieve handicap reductions.
- (ii) Where such a player returns an Exceptional Net Score, their club should effect a Manual Bonus Reduction to their *GA Handicap*, unless there is clearly a good reason not to.
- (iii) An "Exceptional Net Score" is considered to be a score that produces a *Differential* (ie the value that is featured in the 'Played to' column on [www.golflink.com.au](http://www.golflink.com.au)) which is 7 or more better than the *GA Handicap* current at the time the round is played (or in a case where rounds have been played but not processed, the value at which the *GA Handicap* will be calculated once all previous rounds have been processed).
- (iv) Manual Bonus Reductions should not be effected in cases where the player's club considers the Exceptional Net Score to be clearly not reflective of the player's underlying ability, or where a Manual Bonus Reduction would see the player reduced to a *GA Handicap* that the player's club considers would be clearly inappropriate for the player.
- (v) A Manual Bonus Reduction should only be effected after the score itself has been processed through GOLF Link. The club should not effect a Manual Bonus Reduction if it considers that the normal calculation process has produced an appropriate reduction.
- (vi) Any club of which the player is a member may make a decision on a Manual Bonus Reduction.
- (vii) It is solely for the player's club to determine whether or not to effect a Manual Bonus Reduction. It is solely for the player's club to determine which official or committee is authorised to make decisions on Manual Bonus Reductions. The player's club has absolute authority in this regard. Clubs are not required to refer such decisions to the club General Committee or Board of Directors.
- (viii) GA considers that a player's club will have an adequate feel of the player's underlying ability in order to make an informed assessment as to whether or not a Manual Bonus Reduction would be inappropriate. A club should not effect a Manual Bonus Reduction on a player for whom it believes it does not have an adequate feel for their underlying ability.

(ix) The following table must be used when effecting Manual Bonus Reductions:

Number of Strokes the <i>Differential</i> (ie the value featured in the 'Played to' column on <a href="http://www.golflink.com.au">www.golflink.com.au</a> ) is Better than the <i>GA Handicap</i> in effect when the round was played	Number of strokes the new <i>GA Handicap</i> (after the Manual Bonus Reduction has been performed) will be lower than the <i>GA Handicap</i> in effect when the round was played
7-9	2
10-11	3
12-13	4
14 or more	5

**Example:**

- A player (with a *GA Handicap* of 17.4) returns a net score that produces a *Differential* of 7.1 (note: the *Differential* is the value that is featured in the 'Played to' column on [www.golflink.com.au](http://www.golflink.com.au)). This is 10 better than the player's *GA Handicap* (ie 17.4 minus 7.1 = 10.3 which rounds to 10). (Note: .5 rounds up, for example 10.5 would round up to 11.)
- The club considers the normal calculation process to not have produced an appropriate reduction.
- The club considers that a Manual Bonus Reduction would be appropriate given their *its* feel for the player's underlying ability.
- The player's *GA Handicap* is to be reduced so it will be 3 strokes less than the *GA Handicap* in effect when the round was played.
- The player's *GA Handicap* will be reduced to by 3 from 17 to 14.4.

**Note:** The reduction to the player's handicap should be achieved via the Handicap Adjustment function in GOLF Link (or the club's Tier 3 software system).

**Comment [SM30]:** The changes here are for the purposes of clarification further to feedback in State forum.

## 17. Allocation of Special Competition Handicap in Extraordinary Circumstances

A committee in charge of a competition is authorised to allocate to a competitor (or group of competitors) a *Special Competition Handicap* if the following requirements are met:

- (i) The *Member Association* must first have been consulted to determine whether a general adjustment or otherwise of the player's *GA Handicap* is warranted.

**Note:** That the *Member Association* may have decided a general adjustment or otherwise of the player's *GA Handicap* is unwarranted does not prevent a committee in charge of a competition from allocating a *Special Competition Handicap*. A committee in charge of a competition will be eligible to allocate a *Special Competition Handicap* as soon as it has lodged in writing with the *Member Association* a submission or notice regarding re-assessment or otherwise of the player's *GA Handicap*. (Note: In this context, 'notice' may comprise for example a recommendation from the relevant competition committee to the *Member Association* for it to analyse the player's performances.)

- (ii) The committee in charge of the competition must accumulate a body of evidence (eg data, cards, scores, competition results) that would indicate the application of a *Special Competition Handicap* is necessary. The body of evidence need not be extensive but it must be compelling.

**Note:** It will be for the committee in charge of the competition to determine whether or not this requirement has been met.

- (iii) The *Special Competition Handicap* must reflect the accumulated body of evidence.

**Note:** It will be for the committee in charge of the competition to determine whether or not this requirement has been met.

**Note i:** Any committee in charge of a competition which allocates a *Special Competition Handicap* will be solely responsible for all associated outcomes.

**Note ii:** Neither ~~Golf Australia GA~~, nor any *Member Association*, will be obliged to assist with any outcomes associated with the allocation of a specific *Special Competition Handicap*.

**Note iii:** When entering a score into a player's handicap record (or when processing a *competition* for handicap purposes), it is the *Special Competition Handicap* that should be used to calculate a net score. (In such a case, the *Special Competition Handicap* must be listed as the 'Played Off' handicap within the GOLF Link data entry process.)



Note iv: It is for the committee allocating a *Special Competition Handicap* to determine in which competitions the *Special Competition Handicap* will apply. A committee is not permitted to allocate to a player a *Special Competition Handicap* for a competition of which it does not have charge.

## 18. Handicap Information Disclosure

No affiliated club, association or other affiliated or non-affiliated body may make handicaps or records of handicaps calculated under this System available outside the environs of its golf facility, clubhouse or office. This prohibits the unauthorised display of handicap information on the Internet and other forms of public media. For the purpose of viewing members' handicap information outside the club environs, the club, association or other body may, with the express written consent of Golf Australia GA, link its Internet site to the approved Golf Australia GA GOLF Link Internet site, and/or other GOLF Link media facilities as advised from time to time.



## 19. Common Handicapping Scenarios – Procedures for Pro Shops & Handicapping Administrators

Note: Non-GOLF Link clubs should refer to Section 12(ix) for full details of the required GOLF Link score status options stipulated in the Handicapping Action column.

SCENARIO	COMPETITION ACTION	HANDICAPPING ACTION / GOLF Link SCORE STATUS
1. No handicap on card. (i) STROKE (Rule 6-2b) (ii) PAR & STABLEFORD (Rule 6-2b & 32-2a)	(i) Disqualified from net event. (ii) As above. Note: If gross event is held, card accepted for gross.	(i) & (ii) Apply correct handicap and use for handicapping. Choose the <b>"Non-Standard Entry"</b> option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter '34' for -2, or enter '40' for +4) into the <b>Handicapping Score</b> box. Leave the <b>Competition Score</b> box blank.
2. Card not signed (Rule 6-6b). Or card handed in after competition has closed.	Disqualified from the competition.	Use for handicapping as returned. Choose the <b>"Non-Standard Entry"</b> option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter '34' for -2, or enter '40' for +4) into the <b>Handicapping Score</b> box. Leave the <b>Competition Score</b> box blank.
3. Higher handicap on card which affects the number of strokes received. (i) STROKE (Rule 6-2b) (ii) PAR & STABLEFORD (Rule 6-2b & 32-2a)	(i) Disqualified from net event. (ii) As above. Note: If gross event is held, card accepted for gross.	(i) & (ii) Apply correct handicap and use for handicapping. Choose the <b>"Non-Standard Entry"</b> option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter '34' for -2, or enter '40' for +4) into the <b>Handicapping Score</b> box. Leave the <b>Competition Score</b> box blank.
4. Higher score recorded on a hole than actually taken in Stroke, Par and Stableford (Rules 6-6d & 32-2a) which affects the player's Competition Score.	Card accepted as returned.	Choose the <b>"Non-Standard Entry"</b> option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's actual Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter '34' for -2, or enter '40' for +4) into the <b>Handicapping Score</b> box. Enter the score as listed on the score card into the <b>Competition Score</b> box.
5. Score not listed on score card in Stroke for hole or holes which have been completed.	Disqualified from the competition.	(A) If the correct score/s can be readily identified (to a reasonable degree of certainty), it is to be used for handicapping. Choose the <b>"Non-Standard Entry"</b> option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's actual Stableford score into the <b>Handicapping Score</b> box. Leave the <b>Competition Score</b> box blank. (B) If correct score/s cannot be identified, the player is deemed to have had 2 points for each missing score. Choose the <b>"Non-Standard Entry"</b> option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's Stableford score into the <b>Handicapping Score</b> box. Leave the <b>Competition Score</b> box blank.
6. Lower score recorded than actually taken on a hole in Stroke (Rule 6-6d).	Disqualified from the competition.	Choose the <b>"Non-Standard Entry"</b> option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's actual Stableford score into the <b>Handicapping Score</b> box. Leave the <b>Competition Score</b> box blank.

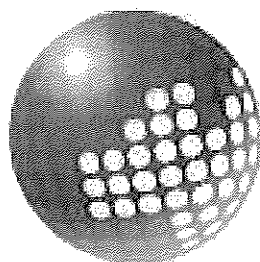
SCENARIO	COMPETITION ACTION	HANDICAPPING ACTION / GOLF Link SCORE STATUS
<p>7. Lower score recorded than actually taken in Par and Stableford. (Refer to Rule 32-2a and relevant Rules of Golf Decisions.)</p>	<p>(i) If result of hole affected – Disqualified from the competition. (ii) If result of hole not affected, no penalty applies and card accepted for the competition.</p>	<p>(i) Choose the <b>“Non-Standard Entry”</b> option in GOLF Link. Enter the player’s actual Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter ‘34’ for -2, or enter ‘40’ for +4) into the <b>Handicapping Score box</b>. Enter the score as listed on the score card into the <b>Competition Score box blank</b>. (ii) Use for handicapping as returned. <b>GOLF Link Score Status: “Normal Score”.</b></p>
<p>8. Player fails to complete all holes in the round due to any of the following being considered by the club to be of reasonable significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Illness</li> <li>▫ Injury</li> <li>▫ Emergency</li> <li>▫ Bad weather (Note: In this context, ‘bad weather’ does NOT generally need to be bad enough to force a suspension or cancellation of play. If <u>That some players are may be willing to continue does not mean it is necessarily unreasonable in this context for others to stop. Clubs should be reasonably understanding in determining when weather is considered ‘bad’. It should be remembered that club golfers play the game as a recreation.</u>)</li> <li>▫ Other reason for stopping which is considered valid by the club.</li> </ul> <p><b>(i) PLAYER HAS COMPLETED LESS THAN 8 HOLES.</b> <b>(ii) PLAYER HAS COMPLETED 8 HOLES OR MORE.</b></p>	<p>(i) &amp; (ii) The player’s result in the competition should be recorded as “Withdrawn”.</p>	<p>(i) Not used for handicapping. <b>GOLF Link Score Status: “No Score – Approved”.</b> (ii) <b>(A)</b> In Stableford and Par, if the player’s incomplete score is identified and the player has returned a legitimate score card, the club’s GOLF Link administrator should enter this into GOLF Link as the player’s <b>Competition Score</b>. The <b>Handicapping Score</b> is determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – ‘Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes’. Choose the <b>“Non-Standard Entry”</b> option in GOLF Link. Enter the player’s Stableford score into the <b>Handicapping Score box</b>. Leave the <b>Competition Score box blank</b>. <b>(B)</b> In Stroke, choose the <b>“Non-Standard Entry”</b> option in GOLF Link. If the player’s incomplete score is identified, the club’s GOLF Link administrator should enter into GOLF Link the player’s <b>Handicapping Score</b> as a Stableford score which has been determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – ‘Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes’. The <b>Competition Score</b> entry box will be left blank. <b>(C)</b> If the club does not, or can not, create an 18-hole score, the card is not used for handicapping. <b>GOLF Link Score Status: “No Score – Approved”.</b></p>
<p>9. Lower handicap on card in Stroke, Par or Stableford (Rule 6-2b &amp; 32-2a).</p>	<p>Card accepted for competition as returned.</p>	<p>The club’s GOLF Link administrator should enter into GOLF Link as the player’s <b>Competition Score</b> the net score they had with the inaccurate handicap. (Note: GOLF Link will then automatically calculate the correct <b>Differential</b>.) <b>GOLF Link Score Status: “Normal Score”.</b></p>

SCENARIO	COMPETITION ACTION	HANDICAPPING ACTION / GOLF Link SCORE STATUS
<p>10. Score for hole omitted in Par &amp; Stableford where hole has been played.</p>	<p>Card accepted as returned. (No obligation under the Rules of Golf to record a score for every hole in Par or Stableford.)</p>	<p>(A) If the player's complete score is identified, the club's GOLF Link administrator should enter into GOLF Link the player's incomplete <i>Competition Score</i>, as well as the score they actually had into the <i>Handicapping Score</i> box. <u>GOLF Link Score Status: "Non-Standard Entry".</u></p> <p>(B) If correct score/s cannot be identified, the club's GOLF Link administrator should enter into GOLF Link the player's incomplete <i>Competition Score</i> as well as their <i>Handicapping Score</i>. The <i>Handicapping Score</i> is determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – 'Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes'. <u>GOLF Link Score Status: "Non-Standard Entry".</u></p>
<p>11. When NOT APPROVED by the club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Player fails to complete all holes in the round, or;</li> <li>◆ Card not returned.</li> </ul> <p>(i) <b>PLAYER HAS COMPLETED LESS THAN 8 HOLES.</b></p> <p>(ii) <b>PLAYER HAS COMPLETED 8 HOLES OR MORE.</b></p>	<p>Disqualified from the <i>competition</i>.</p>	<p>(i) <u>The round should be entered into GOLF Link with a Score Status of: "No Score – Not Approved".</u></p> <p>(ii) (A) If a disqualified player's incomplete score is identified, the club's GOLF Link administrator should enter into GOLF Link the player's <i>Handicapping Score</i> as their score for the round. The <i>Handicapping Score</i> is determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – 'Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes'. <u>Leave the <i>Competition Score</i> box blank. GOLF Link Score Status: "Non-Standard Entry".</u></p> <p>(B) In Stableford and Par, if the player's incomplete score is identified and the player has returned a legitimate score card, the club's GOLF Link administrator should enter into GOLF Link the player's <i>Handicapping Score</i> as a Stableford score which has been determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – 'Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes'. The player's actual score is entered into the <i>Competition Score</i> entry box. <u>GOLF Link Score Status: "Non-Standard Entry".</u></p> <p>(C) If a complete 18-hole score is identified, it is used for handicapping as played. <u>Choose the "Non-Standard Entry" option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter '34' for -2, or enter '40' for +4) into the <i>Handicapping Score</i> box. Leave the <i>Competition Score</i> box blank.</u></p> <p>(D) If the player's score is not identified, or if the <i>Handicapping Authority</i> decides not to apply the 'Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes' regulation; <u>the round should be entered into GOLF Link with a Score Status of: "No Score – Not Approved".</u></p> <p><b>GENERAL NOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the vast majority of cases where a player has failed to return a score card or has failed to complete a round without good reason, it is because they have played poorly. As a result, it is equitable and accurate that the player be attributed a poor score by GOLF Link.</li> <li>• It is also the case that there exists a small minority of players who repeatedly fail to return score cards or who fail to complete rounds.</li> </ul>

SCENARIO	COMPETITION ACTION	HANDICAPPING ACTION / GOLF Link SCORE STATUS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A handicap will lose its full status in the event that a player should accrue in their most recent 20 <i>Actual Scores</i> (ie their list of <i>Live Scores</i>) five or more entries with a status of 'No Score – Not Approved'. Such a handicap will be known as a "<i>Provisional GA Handicap</i>".</li> <li>Clubs are able to access through GOLF Link a report listing the number of "<i>No Score – Not Approved</i>" entries each member has in their list of <i>Live Scores</i>. For assistance in accessing this report, ring the GOLF Link Customer Service Centre on 1300 650 750.</li> </ul>
<p><u>12. Player disqualified for a breach of the Rules that makes the estimation of a score, or the use of the round for handicapping purposes, to be inappropriate (eg use of non-conforming clubs, use of non-conforming balls, cheating).</u></p>	<p><u>Disqualified from the competition.</u></p>	<p><u>Not used for handicapping. GOLF Link Score Status: "Illegitimate Score".</u></p>
<p><u>13. Player repeatedly fails to provide Stableford scores on their score card either in a Stableford competition, or for the purposes of complying with the SHA regulation in a Stroke competition.</u></p>	<p><u>No penalty in competition being played.</u></p> <p><u>(Note: While it is not permissible to penalise a player under the Rules of Golf for failing to calculate their Stableford points, the Committee may, in order to assist in the administration of the competition, introduce a 'club regulation' to this effect and provide disciplinary sanctions (eg ineligibility to play in the next club competition/s).</u></p> <p><u>GA will support in writing clubs who apply such sanctions. It is fundamental to the culture of Australian golf that players assist their clubs by recording Stableford scores on score cards when required.)</u></p>	<p><u>Use for handicapping as returned. GOLF Link Score Status: "Normal Score".</u></p>

**Comment [SM31]:** Added for clarification purposes – further to queries arising from the international discussions.

**Comment [SM32]:** Added due to feedback from Club seminars.



**GolfAustralia**

# **GA Handicap System**

**(Copyright)**

*Draft Version 9iii – 2012/13*

*This document is available via free download from [www.golf.org.au](http://www.golf.org.au). Any other website is welcome to feature a link to the specific webpage. The document itself must not be made available for download from any website other than [www.golf.org.au](http://www.golf.org.au).*

# CONTENTS

1. First Principles of the GA Handicap System
2. General
3. Types of Official GA Handicap & Types of Handicap Status
4. Definitions
5. The Player
6. The Home Club
7. The Visited Club
8. Daily Scratch Rating (DSR) and Course Rating
9. Stableford Handicapping Adjustment (SHA)
10. Scores for Handicap Purposes
11. Allocation of GA Handicap
12. Calculation of Handicaps
13. Life of Scores & Lapsed Handicaps
14. Maximum Handicaps, Provisional Handicaps, and Club Handicaps
15. Manual Override by Club of Normal Handicap Calculation Process
16. Manual Bonus Reduction for Exceptional Net Score
17. Allocation of Special Competition Handicap in Extraordinary Circumstances
18. Handicap Information Disclosure
19. Common Handicapping Scenarios – Procedures for Pro Shops & Handicapping Administrators

**NOTE: All defined terms are in *italics* and are listed in the Definitions section (Section 4).**

## 1. First Principles of the GA Handicap System

---

The *GA Handicap System* should achieve each of the following:

- (i) Be primarily tailored for *competition* golf and afford each player in the field a reasonable prospect of winning or placing well if that player plays reasonably better than their handicap.
- (ii) A player's handicap should be reflective of their better performances and should not increase substantially due to a temporary loss of form.
- (iii) The calculation of a handicap should take into account the degree of difficulty presented at the time by the playing conditions.
- (iv) The calculation of a handicap should be sufficiently flexible to be consistently calculated irrespective of the mix of handicaps held by players on a *course* on any given day.
- (v) The handicap system should have the confidence of the Australian golf community and should not place an unreasonable burden on any club in order for proper administration to be achieved.

## 2. General

---

- (i) This *GA Handicap System* is the official GA regulatory code governing women's handicapping in Australia AND men's handicapping in Australia. Whilst it provides a single methodology for both women's handicapping and men's handicapping, it does not provide for single-gender handicaps. The *GA Handicap System* requires that women's handicaps determined under this System be determined in accordance with women's scores and standards, and that men's handicaps determined under this System be determined in accordance with men's scores and standards.
- (ii) The System is based on the assumption that every player will endeavour to make the best score they can at each hole in every round they play and that they will report every *Eligible Score* (as determined by Section 10) to their *Home Club's Handicapping Authority*, regardless of where the round was played. Players who fail to meet this requirement are effectively operating outside the System and, at the discretion of their club's *Handicapping Authority*, may have their *GA Handicap* re-assessed or withdrawn.
- (iii) GA delegates to its *Member Associations* the power to administer on its behalf the handicapping of all players who are members of clubs affiliated with such Associations. Any disputes shall be referred to GA whose decision shall be final and binding. An interpretation of a regulation contained within this System, or a decision in relation to this System, which is supplied in writing by GA will be deemed to have full authority under this System and will supersede any alternate position which may exist on the same point.
- (iv) Any handicap administered by an affiliated Australian golf club, and calculated in accordance with this System, is owned by GA.
- (v) Essential points of the System are that:
  - All handicaps shall be calculated in accordance with this System.
  - All handicaps referred to in this System are stroke handicaps.
  - There be uniform determination of the course rating of golf *courses* in Australia.
  - The *GA Handicap System* be properly applied.
  - The settings of the System must operate such that it adequately caters for net events regardless of field size.
  - In certain situations discussed in Section 15 of this System a *GA Handicap* may be adjusted other than in accordance with the formulas described within this System.

## 3. Types of Official GA Handicap & Types of Handicap Status

---

### (i) *GA Handicaps* and *Daily Handicaps*

There are two types of official handicap allocated under this System; a *GA Handicap* and a *Daily Handicap*. The *GA Handicap* is not designed for use in handicap *competition* play; rather it is GA's assessment of the relative golfing ability of a player on a *course* with a *neutral Slope Rating*. The *Daily Handicap* is the handicap to be used in handicap *competition* play. The *GA Handicap* is one of the factors used in the calculation of the *Daily Handicap*.

### (ii) Handicaps for Men and Handicaps for Women

Only a female may hold a *Women's GA Handicap* or a *Women's Daily Handicap*. Only a male may hold a *Men's GA Handicap* or a *Men's Daily Handicap*. Where the term *GA Handicap* is used in the *GA Handicap System*, it is deemed to mean either *Women's GA Handicap* or *Men's GA Handicap* or both, as the appropriate context determines. Where the term *Daily Handicap* is used in the *GA Handicap System*, it is



deemed to mean either *Women's Daily Handicap* or *Men's Daily Handicap* or both, as the appropriate context determines.

Note: The *GA Handicap System* requires that women's handicaps determined under this System be determined in accordance with women's scores and standards, and that men's handicaps determined under this System be determined in accordance with men's scores and standards.

**(iii) Professional Golfers**

Whilst a professional golfer, or a player awaiting reinstatement to Amateur Status, may hold a *GA Handicap* if they meet the various eligibility criteria (see Section 6(iv) and 13(iii)), a committee is permitted to have a condition restricting entry to any (or all) event(s) it controls to Amateurs only (or to Professionals only). (Exception: Players awaiting reinstatement to Amateur Status (or players who are not Amateur Golfers) after having lost their Amateur Status by virtue of accepting a prize of excessive value for performance in a handicap competition in violation of Amateur Status Rule 3-2a, or who played for prize money in a handicap competition in violation of Amateur Status Rule 3-1, are not eligible to hold a *GA Handicap*.)

**(iv) Types of Handicap Status**

There are six different types of status that may apply to a *GA Handicap*. Only one status will apply to a *GA Handicap* at any given time. The six different types of status are as follows:

- "*Unallocated*" (see Definition of *Unallocated GA Handicap*).
- "*Normal*" (see Definition of *Normal GA Handicap*).
- "*Frozen*" (see Definition of *Frozen GA Handicap*).
- "*Provisional*" (see Definition of *Provisional GA Handicap*).
- "*Suspended*" (see Definition of *Suspended GA Handicap*).
- "*Lapsed*" (see Definition of *Lapsed GA Handicap*).

## 4. Definitions

---

The Definitions are listed alphabetically and, in the regulations themselves, defined terms are in *italics*.

**Actual Score**

An *Actual Score* is a score that is to be considered when determining a player's most recent 20 scores. (See Section 12(ix) for details of which scores are *Actual Scores* and which scores are not *Actual Scores*.)

**Batch**

'*Batch*' is a term that is used for *DSR* calculation purposes. It is the full set of scores made on a single day and in a given *competition* round, or the full set of *Conforming Social Scores* made on a single day by a given group of players. (The *Handicapping Authority* is authorised to amend the composition for *DSR* calculation purposes of such a group at any time prior to the processing of the *Batch* in GOLF Link.)

A *Batch* of scores must comprise scores returned by players of the same gender, and who have played from the same tees, and who have returned scores of the same type (ie Stableford, Stroke, or Par), and who have GOLF Link numbers.

Handicap administrators have an option available to them in GOLF Link or their Tier 3 system which enables them when processing a *Batch* of scores to split a single *Batch* into two Sub-Batches. A club should consider splitting a *Batch* into two Sub-Batches when for example the conditions altered significantly during the day on which the scores were made (or when it is normal for conditions at that club to alter significantly during a day). In such a case, an AM Sub-Batch and a PM Sub-Batch will be created. If for example a *Batch* of *competition* scores is split into two Sub-Batches, a separate *DSR* will be calculated for each Sub-Batch even though all players have competed in the one *competition*.

When processing scores through GOLF Link, the *Handicapping Authority* should link selected *Batches* of scores returned at its club on a single day if it deems that the players in the different *Batches* have not encountered conditions that are significantly different. (The linking of different *Batches* of scores is a different action to combining all scores into one *Batch* before submission to GOLF Link. For example, if a *Batch* of women's *competition* scores are linked to a *Batch* of men's *competition* scores, GOLF Link will combine the scores for the purposes of *DSR* calculation, however it will return the scores to the club neatly packaged back into their separate men's and women's *Batches*.) Where selected *Batches* of scores are linked for this purpose, a separate *DSR* will be calculated for each *Batch*, however all *DSRs* will differ from the respective *Scratch Ratings* by the same amount (unless they are calculated to have the same values as the respective *Scratch Ratings*).

### **Bona-fide Body**

A *Bona-fide Body* is a formally constituted club, association or group formed primarily for the purpose of conducting ongoing golf events, played in accordance with the Rules of Golf and appropriate local rules, or otherwise to administer golf for a defined area or group of golfers.

### **Cap**

The *Cap* regulation is designed to eliminate the capacity for extreme outward movements of a *GA Handicap* within short spaces of time. As a result, a loss of form does not cause a player's *GA Handicap* to move too far from a level which is consistent with their underlying ability. The *Cap* also makes the *GA Handicap System* less susceptible to manipulation. (See Section 12(ii) for full details of the *Cap* regulation.)

### **Cap Point**

A player's *Cap Point* is the best/lowest *GA Handicap* from the 12-month period extending back in time from the round that resulted in their most recent *Actual Score*. (The *GA Handicap* that results from the processing of the most recent round is eligible to count as the *Cap Point*.) (See Section 12(ii) for full details.)

### **Competition**

A *Competition* will be deemed to have been held when it has been conducted as follows:

- In accordance with the current Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited.
- By a recognised golf club, its professional or agent, or other *bona-fide body*.
- Where trophies or prizes are awarded for golfing performance.
- Where scores are *Eligible Scores* as determined by this System.

Note i: A *Handicapping Authority* may determine to hold a *Competition* for which trophies or prizes are not awarded.

Note ii: There is nothing in this System, or in any other *GA* regulatory code, to prevent a club from requiring the payment of an entry fee as a condition of eligibility for a *Competition*.

### **Competition Score**

The *Competition Score* is the score that is used to determine the player's final position within a *competition* field. The *Handicapping Score* is the score that is used in the administration of the player's handicap. For example, a player has scored 40 points for their first 16 holes at which stage the *course* is considered to be unplayable due to darkness. The player correctly returns their score card in accordance with the Rules of Golf. The player's *Handicapping Score* is 44 points (see Section 10(vi)), and their *Competition Score* is 40 points. Decision 8 in Section 19 explains how this round is entered into GOLF Link.

### **Conforming Social Score**

A *Conforming Social Score* will be deemed to have been made when the following has occurred:

- The player's *Home Club* has determined to accept *Conforming Social Scores* for handicapping. (Note: *GA* encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club.)
- The round has been played in accordance with the current Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited.
- A score card attested by a *Marker* as defined within this System has been submitted to the *Handicapping Authority* or its representative. The *Marker* must have accompanied the player for all of the holes for which they are attesting scores.
- The score format must be singles Stableford.
- The player has nominated prior to playing a stroke on their first hole to be played that the score is to count for handicapping purposes and the number of holes they will play. If the round is played at the player's *Home Club*, or is being controlled by the player's *Home Club*, such nomination must be in accordance with the requirements of the *Handicapping Authority* of the player's *Home Club*.
- If the round is not played at the player's *Home Club* and is not being controlled by the player's *Home Club*, such nomination must be in accordance with a procedure that is acceptable to the player's *Home Club*.

Note i: There is nothing in this System, or in any other *GA* regulatory code, which prevents a *Handicapping Authority* from deeming specific individuals, or specific groups of individuals, or individuals who hold specific categories of membership, ineligible to return *Conforming Social Scores*.

Note ii: There is nothing in this System, or in any other *GA* regulatory code, which prevents a *Handicapping Authority* from limiting the number of *Conforming Social Scores* a member (or specific members) may return within a given period of time, or from making rounds played away from the *Home Club* ineligible for consideration as *Conforming Social Scores*.

Note iii: There is nothing in this System, or in any other GA regulatory code, to prevent a club from requiring the payment of a fee as an additional eligibility criteria for a *Conforming Social Score*.

Note iv: *Conforming Social Scores* will be processed for handicapping and will be treated by this System in the same manner as scores returned in *Competitions* (this includes instances where a player has pre-nominated that their score is to count for handicapping purposes and where the player does not return a score card in accordance with the requirements of the Rules of Golf, or plays less than the pre-nominated number of holes – see Section 19).

Note v: A *Stipulated Round* of less than 18 holes is eligible to serve as a *Conforming Social Score* at the discretion of the *Handicapping Authority* of the player's *Home Club*.

### Course

In this System, the term *Course* is used to mean a playing option at a golf facility that has been provided its own *Scratch Rating*. In addition to a *Scratch Rating*, each *Course* will also be provided its own *Slope Rating*. The starting point on each hole of a *Course* is designated by a distinctive set of permanent rating markers.

An 18-hole configuration at a facility will have multiple *Courses*. Facility managers will install different permanent rating markers for each *Course*. For example, permanent rating markers for the women's major *competition Course* at a facility will typically be red, and the permanent rating markers for the men's major *competition Course* at a facility will typically be blue.

Facility managers should consider establishing multiple playing options to cater for different types of player and different types of play. Facility managers should consider ensuring each of the following categories of play is adequately catered for (note: in some cases, one *Course* will cater for more than one of the below categories):

- *Competition men's play.*
- *Competition women's play.*
- Regular men's play.
- Regular women's play.
- Veteran men's play.
- Veteran women's play.
- Beginner men's play.
- Beginner women's play.

### Daily Handicap

A *Daily Handicap* is the number of strokes a player receives for play at the *course* being played. The *Daily Handicap* is expressed as a whole number. (Note: The *GA Handicap* is not designed for use in handicap *competition* play; rather it is one of the factors used in the calculation of the *Daily Handicap*. The *Daily Handicap* is the handicap to be used in handicap *competition* play.) (The formula for determination of a *Daily Handicap* is listed in Section 12(iii)(B).)

### Daily Scratch Rating (DSR)

The *Daily Scratch Rating (DSR)* is a value that is determined in accordance with this System. The value will be determined as a whole number. It is the *Scratch Rating* of a *course* adjusted to account for variations experienced on a given day to the conditions which are normally experienced at that *course*. A *DSR* will be determined for each day on which a score is processed for handicapping purposes (unless the only scores processed on the day are scores listed in Section 8(ii)(B)(II-III)). If in the opinion of the *Handicapping Authority*, the conditions alter significantly during a day on which scores are being processed for handicapping purposes, it should consider segregating the field and determining more than one *DSR*.

### Differential

The *Differential* is the value that is featured in the 'Played to' column of a player's handicap record on [www.golflink.com.au](http://www.golflink.com.au). It is the best 8 of the player's most recent 20 *Differentials* that are directly used in the calculation of the player's handicap. The player's *Differential* for a round is provided as a number calculated to one decimal place. Its primary purpose is to serve as a direct representation of the handicap the player 'played to' for that round (as opposed to the handicap they 'played off'). It is a value that is determined in accordance with this System – see Section 12(i).

### Eligible Score

*Eligible Scores* are those scores detailed in Section 10.

### Estimate Score

An *Estimate Score* is not a score the player has returned; it is a score the *Home Club* estimates is consistent with the player's current level of play.

**Frozen GA Handicap**

A *Frozen GA Handicap* is a *GA Handicap* that has been capped at a specific value for a stipulated period of time in accordance with Section 15.

**GA Handicap**

A *GA Handicap* is *GA's* assessment of the relative golfing ability of a player on a *course* with a *neutral Slope Rating*. It is expressed as a number taken to one decimal place and is determined in accordance with the *GA Handicap System*. The *GA Handicap* is not designed for use in handicap *competition* play; rather it is one of the factors used in the calculation of the *Daily Handicap*. The *Daily Handicap* is the handicap to be used in handicap *competition* play.

**GA Handicap System**

The *GA Handicap System* is *GA's* method of evaluating golfing abilities so that each player in a handicap event (whether it be a formal *competition* or socially) has a reasonable prospect of winning or placing well if they play reasonably better than their handicap.

Any reference to the *GA Handicap System* includes all of the requirements and procedures as described in this System.

**Golf Australia (GA)**

*Golf Australia (GA)* is the governing authority for handicapping in Australia.

**Handicapping Authority**

The *Handicapping Authority* is an individual or committee or group that is permitted by a club or other appropriate entity to exercise the authority granted to that club or entity by this System.

**Handicapping Score**

The *Handicapping Score* is the score that is used in the administration of the player's handicap. The *Competition Score* is the score that is used to determine the player's final position within a competition field. For example, a player has scored 40 points for their first 16 holes at which stage the *course* is considered to be unplayable due to darkness. The player correctly returns their score card in accordance with the Rules of Golf. The player's *Handicapping Score* is 44 points (see Section 10(vi)), and their *Competition Score* is 40 points. Decision 8 in Section 19 explains how this round is entered into GOLF Link.

**Home Club**

The *Home Club* is the body as nominated by the player which has primary responsibility for ensuring the proper administration of a player's handicap.

**Lapsed GA Handicap**

A player's *GA Handicap* is considered to be "*Lapsed*" if they are not a current member of an affiliated body and if they have a GOLF Link record which contains more than two 18-hole *Differentials*, and when none of the other five handicap status options apply (an 18-hole *Differential* created from the combination of two 9-hole *Differentials* will be considered to be an 18-hole *Differential* for this purpose).

**Live Score**

A score is a *Live Score* if it is one of the player's most recent 20 *Actual Scores*. (If the player's handicap record contains less than 20 *Actual Scores*, all *Actual Scores* are *Live Scores*.)

**Marker**

The *Marker* is a member of any golf club or golf association recognised by *GA*, or a person otherwise approved by the club's *Handicapping Authority*. They are appointed to mark the score card in accordance with the Rules of Golf of a player who is returning a score for handicapping purposes.

**Member Associations**

The *Member Associations* are the associations that are members of *GA*. In addition to any other members who may be added from time to time, the *Member Associations* of *GA* are:

- Golf New South Wales
- Golf Northern Territory
- Golf Queensland
- Golf South Australia
- Golf Tasmania
- Golf Victoria
- Golf Western Australia

**Multiplier**

The *Multiplier* is a component of the *GA Handicap* calculation formula. It is a balancing factor designed to offset the impact of players on different handicap levels exhibiting different standard deviations of net scores. Its ultimate objective is to help to achieve national results patterns for net competitions that are as equitable as possible. It is a numeric value (0.93). The average of the *Differentials* to be used in the calculation of a player's handicap is multiplied by this value (0.93) in the calculation of the player's *GA Handicap*. (See Section 12(ii) for details.)

**Neutral Slope Rating**

The *neutral Slope Rating* is 113. A player's *Daily Handicap* on a course with a *neutral Slope Rating* will be their rounded *GA Handicap*.

**Normal GA Handicap**

This is the default status for a *GA Handicap*. It applies when the player's GOLF Link record contains more than two 18-hole *Differentials*, and when none of the other five handicap status options apply (an 18-hole *Differential* created from the combination of two 9-hole *Differentials* will be considered to be an 18-hole *Differential* for this purpose).

**Provisional GA Handicap**

A handicap will lose its full status in the event that a player should accrue in their most recent 20 *Actual Scores* five or more entries with a status of 'No Score – Not Approved' (note: full status is automatically regained upon the number of 'No Score – Not Approved' entries in the player's most recent 20 *Actual Scores* decreasing to four or less). Such a handicap will be known as a "*Provisional GA Handicap*". *GA* recommends that players with *Provisional GA Handicaps* will not be eligible to win prizes in competitions which have as a condition of entry a requirement that competitors hold *GA Handicaps*.

**Scratch Rating**

A *Scratch Rating* for women is the evaluation of the normal playing difficulty of a course for a player with a women's handicap of zero. A *Scratch Rating* for men is the evaluation of the normal playing difficulty of a course for a player with a men's handicap of zero. Where the term *Scratch Rating* is used within the *GA Handicap System*, it is deemed to mean either a women's *Scratch Rating* or a men's *Scratch Rating* as the appropriate context determines. *Scratch Ratings* are determined in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System. *Scratch Ratings* are assessed to one decimal place based on distance and other obstacles to the extent they affect the scoring ability of the player with a handicap of zero. Before use in any calculation performed under the *GA Handicap System*, the *Scratch Rating* is rounded to the nearest whole number (with .5 being rounded to the next higher whole number).

**Slope Rating**

*Slope Rating* is the designation that indicates the relative playing difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch golfers (ie players who do not have a *GA Handicap* of 0) relative to the *Scratch Rating* of a course. A golf course of neutral playing difficulty has a *Slope Rating* of 113. The maximum *Slope Rating* is 155. The minimum *Slope Rating* is 55. *Slope Ratings* are determined in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System.

**Special Competition Handicap**

A *Special Competition Handicap* is a handicap allocated to a player by the committee in charge of a competition for use in a specific competition (or specific competitions) of which that committee has control. It must be allocated in accordance with Section 17 of this System. It will be used by the player in lieu of the *Daily Handicap* calculated from their *GA Handicap*. A *Special Competition Handicap* is allocated to a player when for whatever reason the committee in charge of the competition deems to be inappropriate the *Daily Handicap* that would be calculated from their *GA Handicap*.

**Stableford Handicapping Adjustment (SHA)**

For handicapping, all *eligible scores* must be adjusted to, and processed as, Stableford scores. (See Section 9 for details.)

**Stipulated Round**

The number of holes in a *stipulated round* is 18 unless a smaller number is authorised by the committee. (Rules of Golf – refer to definitions.)

**Suspended GA Handicap**

A *Suspended GA Handicap* is a *GA Handicap* that has been rendered completely inactive for a stipulated period of time (or a stipulated minimum period of time) in accordance with Section 15.

**Tee Up**

*Tee Up* is the term used to describe a local rule which, if in operation, permits a player to lift their ball in play, clean it, and place it on a tee for the play of their next stroke [note: the committee must specify the areas on the *course* where the ball must initially lie in order for a player to invoke this local rule, eg on fairways only].

**Unallocated GA Handicap**

A player's *GA Handicap* status is "Unallocated" when they have a GOLF Link record which contains less than three 18-hole *Differentials*, and when none of the other five handicap status options apply (an 18-hole *Differential* created from the combination of two 9-hole *Differentials* will be considered to be an 18-hole *Differential* for this purpose).

**United States Golf Association (USGA)**

The *USGA* is the owner and author of the USGA Course Rating System. All affiliated *courses* in Australia are rated in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System. The *GA Handicap System* uses the USGA Course Rating System, Slope and Standard *Slope Rating* and formulas as an integral component of its handicap calculation process. The USGA Course Rating System and the Slope component of the *GA Handicap System* are used in Australia and by *GA* only under licence granted to *GA* by the *USGA*.

**5. The Player**

- (i) A player shall have one *GA Handicap* only and this shall be managed by their *Home Club*.
  - (ii) If a player is, or becomes, a member of more than one club, they shall select one club as their *Home Club* (for handicapping purposes only) and shall report to this club their decision and the names of their other club or clubs. They shall also report to their other clubs the name of their *Home Club*, their *GA Handicap*, and any alterations that may be made to their *GA Handicap* from time to time (unless all their clubs are on GOLF Link). If a player ceases to be a member of another club, they shall report the fact to their *Home Club* so that it at all times has a record of all clubs of which they are a member.
  - (iii) The player is responsible for ensuring that all of their *Eligible Scores*, including those made at clubs other than their *Home Club*, are displayed on GOLF Link.
  - (iv) It is desirable that the player, when playing at a visited club, carries their GOLF Link card, or an introductory card that lists their current *GA Handicap*.
  - (v) A player is responsible for using their correct handicap at all times (see also Section 12(viii)).
  - (vi) By using a handicap allocated under this System, the player acknowledges that certain information may be made publicly available on a *GA* authorised webpage (including a club, *Member Association*, or GOLF Link webpage) for the purposes of administering the System. The information that may be displayed (at the discretion of *GA*) includes the player's:
    - Name.
    - GOLF Link number.
    - Club name.
    - Information relevant to their scoring and handicapping history.
    - Any determination made by a club, *Member Association* or *GA* (or made under a review of such decision) to adjust, freeze or suspend a *GA Handicap*, or to suspend or terminate a player's membership of any golf club.
- Note: *GA* will be bound by all relevant privacy legislation. Any request to remove such information from a *GA* authorised website must be made in writing and will be considered by the website owner or *GA*.
- (vii) By using a handicap allocated under this System, the player agrees to be bound by the *GA Handicap System*.

**6. The Home Club**

- (i) An essential element of the *GA Handicap System* is that each affiliated club will ensure it is properly administered in accordance with the interpretations of *GA*. It is for each club to establish and maintain its own procedures for ensuring it properly administers the *GA Handicap System*.
- (ii) The duties, responsibilities, and authorities of each club are as follows (note: as a club does not always have complete control of the course or courses on which its members play, it should conform with the following to the extent that its authority permits):
  - (A) Responsible for ensuring compliance by the golf club with all aspects of the *GA Handicap System*, including the determination of each member's *GA Handicap*.
  - (B) Responsible for ensuring the set-up of its *course* (or *courses*) complies with the requirement to maintain the rated length (see Section 10(x)).

- (C) Responsible for verifying that all required *Eligible Scores* made by their members are reported for handicap purposes and that only *Eligible Scores* are included in the handicap records of their members.
- (D) Has the authority to determine if *course* conditions are so poor that handicapping of *competitions* at that facility should be suspended (unless the *Member Association* supplies different guidance). If handicapping is suspended for an extended period, the golf club must obtain approval from its *Member Association*.
- (E) Responsible for ensuring the *Scratch Rating* and *Slope Rating* of each *Course* at the facility is posted in a prominent place (it is advisable for these ratings to be printed on the score card).
- (F) The club should compare the *Scratch Rating* and *Slope Rating* of each *course* it regularly uses with those of other *courses*. Separate ratings must be made from each set of tee markers as practical for each gender. A club must accept and use the ratings issued by its *Member Association*. If a club disagrees with its ratings, it may request its *Member Association* to review the ratings in accordance with the relevant *GA* policy.
- (G) The club should examine results of *competitions*. If net scores of any players appear exceptional, the club should take appropriate action as specified by this System.
- (H) Ensure accurate maintenance of its members' handicap records. The club is responsible for reviewing the data entered into GOLF Link and received from GOLF Link and applying all other procedures of the *GA Handicap System*.
- (I) Responsible for ensuring any existing handicap record of a new member of the club is appropriately transferred as required by Section 11(i) or Section 13(ii). If a handicap record is unavailable, the direction stipulated in Section 11(ii) must be followed. (Note: The handicap record of a member who resigns will be preserved automatically by GOLF Link for an indefinite period.)
- (J) Responsible for reviewing the accuracy of handicap records of members of the club. Responsible for ensuring compliance with the published *GA* guidelines regarding when (and when not) to record the status of a round as "No Score – Not Approved". If errors exist, the club must move to have such errors corrected as soon as possible. A club may wish to consult its *Member Association* or GOLF Link for assistance.
- (K) The club may check periodically and consult with other clubs, its *Member Association*, or *GA*, on matters including, but not limited to:
- The allocation of handicap-stroke holes on the *course*.
  - The determination of handicap competition grades at the club (given that it is considered preferable by the club to split players into separate handicap grades for handicap competition purposes). To enable comparisons and consistency from club to club and from one set of tees to another set of tees, it is recommended that handicap competition grades be determined on the basis of *GA Handicaps*.
  - The determination of *course* set-up and par.
  - The determination if the condition of the *courses* being utilised by the club is so poor that handicapping should be suspended.
  - The maintenance of playing difficulty of the *course*.
  - Operation of any Local Rule on preferred lies or *tee up*.
- In working with other clubs, the club has the responsibility to provide handicap information in a timely manner.
- (L) Responsible for ensuring new members of the club clarify in writing whether or not they have previously held an official Australian handicap or recognised overseas equivalent, what such handicap was, the lowest handicap the player has held, and timelines for each.
- (M) Responsible for ensuring the proper application by the club of Section 15 ("Manual Override by Club of Normal Handicap Calculation Process").
- (N) Responsible for ensuring the proper application by the club of Section 16 ("Manual Bonus Reduction for Exceptional Net Score"). The club should only effect a Manual Bonus Reduction if it considers that the normal calculation process has not produced an appropriate reduction.
- (O) Responsible for ensuring that the committee in charge of each competition conducted by the club has determined whether or not to adopt the *GA* recommendation that any player whose *GA Handicap* has reverted to *Provisional* status (as per Section 14(iii)) will not be eligible to win a prize in a competition or to win a competition.
- (P) Where the *GA Handicap System* provides to a club flexibility for it to determine its own policy on a specific point, the club should ensure it establishes a position on that point. To assist in determining such positions, a club may consult with other clubs, its *Member Association*, or *GA*. Note: Where a club has separate internal authorities for males and females, the bodies within the club responsible

for each should engage in dialogue before establishing any policies relating to handicapping or competition management.

- (iii) Scores should be returned by players as soon as is practicable. If a club feels it is experiencing an unacceptable level of delay in score card return, it would be proper for it to set a reasonable time limit within which scores may be returned (whilst taking into account any individual cases of extenuating circumstances).
- (iv) The club committee may determine which of its membership categories are eligible to hold *GA Handicaps*. Such handicaps shall only be available to golfers in respect of whom an annual affiliation fee is payable to the *GA Member Association*.

## 7. The Visited Club

---

- (i) Whilst it is the responsibility of the individual player to ensure that all *Eligible Scores* made at clubs other than the player's *Home Club* are brought to the attention of the *Handicapping Authority* of the player's *Home Club*, in addition, visited clubs shall return *Eligible Scores* to a visitor's *Home Club* (unless they are both on GOLF Link, in which case the visited club will enter the scores into GOLF Link).
- (ii) When a player plays a substantial amount of golf (36 holes or more) over a relatively short period of time at a club (for this purpose called the Visited Club) which is not their *Home Club* and in circumstances which preclude the proper administration of their handicap record and handicap, the Visited Club may use the player's scores to alter their handicap temporarily, in accordance with this System to the extent possible.
- (iii) When a player comes to Australia with a current handicap certified by the governing body of another country, this handicap should be accepted for *competition* at any club in Australia. If the visiting player's handicap has been allocated in accordance with a handicap system which utilises Slope, the player's 'handicap index' should be considered to be the equivalent of a *GA Handicap* for this purpose. Otherwise the player's handicap should be used as a *Daily Handicap*, irrespective of the *Slope Rating* of the *course* being played.

## 8. Daily Scratch Rating (DSR) and Course Rating

---

### (i) *Scratch Rating*

- (A) There are two types of *Scratch Rating*:
  - A *Scratch Rating* for women.
  - A *Scratch Rating* for men.
- (B) *Scratch Ratings* in effect at Australian golf *courses* are considered official if they have been determined in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System, and otherwise where explicitly authorised by *GA*.
- (C) Where a *Member Association* officially brings into effect a *Scratch Rating* or a *Slope Rating* for a specific set of tees at a *course*, any previously assessed rating for that set of tees is deemed to be redundant.
- (D) A *Scratch Rating* for women is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a *course* for a player with a women's *GA Handicap* of zero. A *Scratch Rating* for men is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a *course* for a player with a men's *GA Handicap* of zero. Where the term *Scratch Rating* is used within the *GA Handicap System*, it is deemed to mean either a women's *Scratch Rating* or a men's *Scratch Rating* as the appropriate context determines. *Scratch Ratings* are determined in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System. *Scratch Ratings* are assessed to one decimal place based on distance and other obstacles to the extent they affect the scoring ability of the player with a handicap of zero. Before use in any calculation performed under the *GA Handicap System*, the *Scratch Rating* is rounded to the nearest whole number (with .5 being rounded to the next higher whole number); the figure used in the calculation must be an 18-hole figure.

### (ii) *Daily Scratch Rating (DSR)*

- (A) The *Daily Scratch Rating (DSR)* is a value that is determined by applying the suite of *DSR* formulas (note: these formulas are posted in the 'Handicapping & Course Rating' section of [www.golf.org.au](http://www.golf.org.au)). The value will be determined as a whole number. The *DSR* is the *Scratch Rating* of a *course* adjusted to account for variations experienced on a given day to the conditions which are normally experienced at that *course*.
- (B) WHEN TO USE A D.S.R. AND WHEN TO USE A SCRATCH RATING
  - (I) Except where explicitly stated otherwise, it is the *DSR* that is used when determining *Differentials* for use in the calculation of a *GA Handicap*, and not the *Scratch Rating*.



- (II) When determining *Differentials* for use in the calculation of a *GA Handicap*, *Scratch Ratings* in lieu of *DSRs* will be used when processing scores only in accordance with the following Sections of this System or in the following circumstances:
- (a) Where a score (which is equal to or better than the player's official *Daily Handicap* for that round) from a corporate/trade day or the like, not played in a *Competition* round but played in accordance with the Rules of Golf, is used in accordance with Section 10(i).
  - (b) Section 10(iii) 'Competition Condition Limits Number of Clubs to Less than 14'.
  - (c) Section 10(v) 'Four-ball Scores'.
  - (d) Where scores have been returned over 8-15 holes inclusive in accordance with Section 10(vi).
  - (e) Where the play has been managed or controlled by a *Bona-fide Body* that does not have access to GOLF Link or is otherwise not practicably able to process the scores through GOLF Link.
- (III) When a score that should be included in a *Batch* of scores is omitted either because of administrative error, or because the player has failed to return the score within an appropriate timeframe, or because the GOLF Link number was not available to the administrator at the time the scores were processed, that score (where reasonably possible) should be processed at a later time. When the score is processed at a later time, it should be added to GOLF Link as an Ad Hoc score. The *DSR* value calculated for the original *Batch* of scores is to be used in the Ad Hoc score entry unless after reasonable effort the administrator is not able to identify the correct *DSR*, in which case the *Scratch Rating* is to be used.
- (C) A *DSR* will be determined in accordance with this System for each day on which one or more scores is submitted to GOLF Link for handicapping purposes.
- (D) Clubs should contact the GOLF Link Customer Service Centre (phone 1300 650 750) in order to establish the value of any *DSR* previously determined by GOLF Link.
- (E) When processing scores through GOLF Link, the *Handicapping Authority* should link selected *Batches* of scores returned at a single club if it deems that the different *Batches* of players have not encountered conditions that are clearly different. (The linking of multiple *Batches* of scores is an entirely different action to combining all scores into a single *Batch* before submission to GOLF Link. The difference stems from the importance that is attached to ensuring that each score is correctly identified in GOLF Link as either a score made in a *Competition* (and the type of *Competition*), or a *Conforming Social Score*. Scores need to be *Batched* appropriately to ensure GOLF Link is able to make these distinctions (the regulations governing the make-up of a *Batch* of scores are provided in Clause F below). Contact GOLF Link or your software provider if operational assistance is required.)
- Note i: Where selected *Batches* of scores are linked for this purpose, a separate *DSR* will be calculated for each *Batch*, however all *DSRs* will differ from the respective *Scratch Ratings* by the same amount (unless they are calculated to have the same values as the respective *Scratch Ratings*).
- Note ii: It is permissible to link a *Batch* of *Competition Scores* with a *Batch* of *Conforming Social Scores*.
- Note iii: Two *Batches* of scores must not be linked when the stipulated round for one *Batch* does not include a hole (or holes) that is (are) included in the stipulated round for the other *Batch*.
- Note iv: Where different *bona fide bodies* (or entities permitted by this System to conduct competitions from which scores may qualify as *eligible scores*) are using the same *course* or facility on the same day, the resultant *Batches* of scores must not be linked for *DSR* calculation purposes. If the different *Batches* from such sources are returned on the same course, they should be processed through GOLF Link as a single *Batch* if it is administratively practicable to do so and if the committee responsible for each *Batch* is agreeable.
- (F) **Regulations governing the make-up of a *Batch* of scores.**
- (I) A *DSR* will be determined by GOLF Link for each submitted *Batch* or Sub-*Batch* of scores.
  - (II) A *Batch* of scores submitted to GOLF Link must comprise scores returned by players of the same gender and who have played from tees with the same *Scratch Rating* and who have GOLF Link numbers.
  - (III) *Competition Scores* made on a given day must not be submitted to GOLF Link in a *Batch* that includes *Competition Scores* made on a different day.
  - (IV) A *DSR* will be determined by GOLF Link for a submitted *Batch* of *Conforming Social Scores*. *Conforming Social Scores* made on a given day must not be submitted to GOLF Link in a *Batch* that includes *Conforming Social Scores* made on a different day.

- (V) A *Batch of Conforming Social Scores* processed through GOLF Link must not include any *Competition Scores*. A *Batch of Competition Scores* processed through GOLF Link must not include any *Conforming Social Scores*.
- (G) If in the opinion of the *Handicapping Authority*, there is a clear change during the day to the conditions experienced by players in a single *Batch* (or it is typical for there to be a clear change during the day to the conditions), *GA* recommends that the field be split and that two separate *DSRs* be calculated. This is done by splitting the *Batch* in GOLF Link into 2 *Sub-Batches* (eg AM *Sub-Batch* and PM *Sub-Batch*). When this action is performed, the scores all stay in the correct competition datasets for competition and prize allocation purposes, however GOLF Link will handicap the morning players against an AM *DSR* and will handicap the PM players against a PM *DSR*. (Contact GOLF Link or your software provider if operational assistance is required.)
- (H) A *DSR* will not be permitted to be more than four strokes above the relevant *Scratch Rating* or more than three strokes below the relevant *Scratch Rating*.  
Exception: For *courses* that are regularly exposed to severe weather conditions, *Member Associations* are empowered to approve up to an additional two strokes allowance above the relevant *Scratch Rating*. Once this approval has been given, it will apply at all times unless it is withdrawn by the *Member Association*. There will not be any capacity for discretionary day-to-day application of this Exception.
- (I) It will be the GOLF Link status of a score that will dictate whether it is included or excluded by GOLF Link in the *DSR* calculation process (see Section 12(ix) for the operational notes and handicapping implications relating to those score statuses). This process is set out as follows:
- “Normal Score”: Included as returned.
  - “No Score – Not Approved”: Included with a deemed net value (for *DSR* calculation purposes only) of 10 points worse than the *Scratch Rating*.
  - “No Score – Approved”: Excluded.
  - “Illegitimate Score”: Excluded.
  - “Non-Standard Entry”: The *handicapping score* is included as entered.
- Note i: If a score is eligible for inclusion in a *DSR* calculation, it must be submitted to GOLF Link within the appropriate *Batch* of scores.
- Note ii: The results of all players to have commenced play (but who are not eligible for inclusion in a *DSR* calculation) should be submitted to GOLF Link within the appropriate *Batch* of scores.
- Note iii: Scores submitted to GOLF Link must include each player’s correct *Daily Handicap*.
- (J) Scores returned by players without *Normal* or *Frozen GA Handicaps* or with *GA Handicaps* at the following values will be excluded from the *DSR* calculation:
- Women – 42.5-45.4
  - Men – 33.5-36.4
- (K) In applying the *DSR* formulas (which are posted in the ‘Handicapping & Course Rating’ section of [www.golf.org.au](http://www.golf.org.au)), GOLF Link will:
- (i) Establish each of the following:
    - The average net score for a field.
    - The average handicap of a field.
    - The field size.
    - The type of competition (Stroke, Stableford or Par).
    - The gender of the competitors.
  - (ii) Once each of these factors has been established, GOLF Link will compare the actual average net score on the day with the average net score that analysis of millions of prior rounds dictates is normal for this precise field composition. The *DSR* is derived from the outcome of this comparison.
- (iii) **Special *GA Short Course* Ratings**  
Where a *course* does not meet the minimum length eligibility requirements of the USGA Course Rating System, but is determined by *GA* and the relevant *Member Association* to present sufficient challenge, it may at the discretion of *GA* and the *Member Association* have a special *GA Short Course* Rating determined for it. Such special *GA Short Course* Ratings may at the discretion of *GA* allow for allocation of official *GA* handicaps.
- (iv) ***Tee Up* and Preferred Lies**  
The operation at a club of the Preferred Lies local rule, or of the *Tee Up* local rule, does not automatically change a course rating. In most instances across Australia, the operation at a club of these local rules will essentially serve to ‘normalise’ course difficulty (ie the impact is to cancel out the increase in difficulty caused by heavy conditions or of decreased turf quality). However, where a club is operating either, or both,

of these local rules, and it believes there is a resultant clear impact to the difficulty of the course, it should contact its *Member Association* to establish whether a change to a course rating would be appropriate.

## 9. **Stableford Handicapping Adjustment (SHA)**

- (i) For handicapping, all *eligible scores* must be adjusted to, and processed as, Stableford scores (with 100% of the applicable *Daily Handicap* to be used – the applicable *Daily Handicap* is the *Daily Handicap* derived in accordance with the *GA Handicap System* from the player's *GA Handicap*). The purpose of this regulation is to:

- Reduce the effect of high hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential ability.
- Make all handicaps as equitable as possible by using a uniform score type for all handicapping.

Exception: A medal play event which is considered by *GA* or a *Member Association* to be primarily for elite players, may at the discretion of the committee in charge of the competition be exempted from this condition.

- (ii) For all eligible rounds, Stableford points must be awarded at each hole as follows (exception – see clause 9(iv) for details of the adjustment formula for rounds played under the Par scoring system):

Score on an individual hole	Points
More than one over net par <u>OR</u> no score returned	0
One over net par	1
Net par	2
One under net par	3
Two under net par	4
Three under net par	5
Four under net par	6

- (iii) Players may be requested to calculate their own Stableford points for all rounds which are eligible for handicapping purposes. (Note: Whilst the Rules of Golf do not provide to a Committee the authority to penalise a player for failing to calculate their own Stableford points, a Committee may, to assist with handicap administration, introduce a "club regulation" to this effect and provide disciplinary sanctions (eg ineligibility to play in the next club competition/s) for failure to act in accordance with the regulation.)
- (iv) Any round eligible for handicapping purposes which is played under the Par scoring system will be adjusted by GOLF Link into a Stableford score by adding 36 points to the player's final result (for example GOLF Link will adjust a score of 4 down into 32 points; the score of 32 points will be the player's *Handicapping Score*). No special consideration will be given to any score on a hole that gives rise to a result better than net birdie, or a plus.
- (v) If a player is competing in a Par, or Medal (stroke) play *competition*, for these *competitions* their Stableford score is disregarded when assessing any of the following:
- *Competition* placings.
  - Allocation of prizes.
  - Event winners or results.
- (vi) When returning a score for the purpose of attaining a *GA Handicap*, see Section 11(i)(B) for details regarding the allocation of a *Temporary Daily Handicap*.

## 10. Scores for Handicap Purposes

- (i) **Regular Singles *Competitions* and *Conforming Social Scores***

Scores established in all 18-hole singles stroke (includes Par and Stableford) *Competition* rounds and all *Conforming Social Scores* (see Definitions) played at *courses* with a *Scratch Rating* determined in accordance with a system which is officially recognised by *GA* will be used for handicapping purposes.

- (ii) **One Player in *Competition* (who has not played unaccompanied)**

If there is only one player in a *competition* otherwise deemed eligible for handicapping by Section 10, the *competition* must still be processed for handicapping purposes provided the player has been accompanied throughout the round by a *Marker* or *Markers*.

- (iii) ***Competition* Condition Limits Number of Clubs to Less than 14**

When a *competition* limits the number of clubs that may be used to less than 14, only a score that is equal to or better than the player's official *Daily Handicap* for that round may be entered into GOLF Link.

Note i: These scores must be entered into GOLF Link as Ad Hoc scores. They must not be used in any *DSR* calculation. The *Scratch Rating* will be used in the *Differential* calculation, not any *DSR*.

Note ii: The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

Note iii: GA encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club.

**(iv) Score for Player Who is Disqualified**

When a player is disqualified, the score they had may be used for handicapping purposes at the discretion of the *Handicapping Authority*. If it is a technical Rules breach that has caused disqualification (eg card not signed or handicap not recorded), at the discretion of the *Handicapping Authority* the score should still be used for handicapping.

Note i: An underlying principle of the GA Handicap System is that a score should be used for handicapping unless there is a good reason not to use it. Being disqualified under the Rules of Golf is in itself not a good reason to preclude a score from being used for handicapping. As a general principle, a score should not be used for handicapping if it was made in such way that would necessitate a significant amount of guess work being involved in estimating what the proper score would have been had the round been played strictly in accordance with the Rules of Golf (eg because the player used non-conforming clubs, or used non-conforming balls, or because the player cheated).

Note ii: See Section 19 for further related guidance.

**(v) Four-ball Scores**

**(A) WHEN TO USE SCORE OBTAINED IN FOUR-BALL COMPETITION FOR HANDICAPPING PURPOSES**

Four-ball scores (including from mixed events) SHOULD be used for handicapping an individual player but only if the following requirements are met:

- The pair that the relevant player played in has a score of at least 6 better than the *Scratch Rating* of the tees that the relevant player played from. (Note: DSRs will not be calculated for four-ball events.)
- The individual player's score appears at least 9 times on the four-ball score card.
- The adjusted score (after the method described in (B) below has been followed to create an individual score card) is equal to or better than the individual player's official *Daily Handicap* for that round.

**(B) PROCEDURE FOR CREATING INDIVIDUAL SCORE CARD FROM FOUR-BALL SCORE CARD FOR HANDICAPPING PURPOSES:**

- Where an individual player's score is to be handicapped (irrespective of whether the *competition* is played as Par, Stroke, or Stableford), it must be processed as a Stableford score in accordance with the procedures contained within this regulation.
- When a player's score is not recorded on the four-ball card, they are given 1½ Stableford points. (Exception: When a player's score is not recorded on the four-ball card, and their partner's score is 1 Stableford point, the player is given 1 Stableford point.)
- When a player's score counts on the four-ball card for a hole, they are given the appropriate number of Stableford points for that hole. (When both players have 0 Stableford points on a hole, they are both considered to have their score listed on the score card, including for the purposes of 'being on the card 9 times or more'. For the purposes of creating an adjusted individual score card, each player will have 0 points listed on the individual card for this hole.)
- If two identical net scores are recorded by partners on a hole, both scores are eligible to be used on an adjusted individual score card. However, if the first player to hole out can be readily identified, the second player is deemed to have not recorded a score for that hole.

Note: Clubs are to strongly discourage players from recording the scores of both partners on a hole or holes unless a concurrent singles event is being played. Players who regularly return four-ball score cards featuring identical net scores for both players in the same hole will not be eligible to have these rounds handicapped under Section 10(v) of this System – clubs should consider using Section 15 of this System to accommodate such players.

- When all the gaps in the card have been filled in, the points are totalled, and where a half appears in the total, the points total is rounded to the next lower whole number.

- (C) If an extended 18-hole individual score obtained via this method is processed through GOLF Link, the score type option to be chosen in GOLF Link by the administrator MUST be 'Four-ball'.
- (D) The course rating GOLF Link will use for this purpose is the *Scratch Rating*, not a *DSR*. In all other respects regarding the inclusion of the score in the player's handicap record, the score will be treated as a regular 18-hole singles competition score.

- (E) The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

**(vi) Scores Returned From Play of Anywhere Between 8 and 17 Holes**

Scores returned from 8-17 holes of play may be used for handicapping purposes at the discretion of the *Handicapping Authority*. The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play). (Note: GA encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club, and provided there is not a clear novelty nature to the play.)

See Decision 8 and Decision 11 in Section 19 for GOLF Link score entry instructions.

The following conditions will apply to 8-17 hole scores.

- (A) Where 16-17 holes inclusive have been played, the player will be deemed to have had net par for the remaining holes (unless it is considered the player has discontinued play with a view to achieving a specific score for handicap purposes). The score will be processed as an 18-hole score.
- (B) Scores returned over 8-15 holes will not be doubled or extended. They will be entered into GOLF Link as 9-hole scores.
- (C) Where only 8 holes have been played, the player will be deemed to have had net par on the 9<sup>th</sup> hole. The score will be entered into GOLF Link as a 9-hole score.
- (D) Any score of less than 8 holes will be disregarded.
- (E) Where 10-15 holes inclusive have been played, the first 9 holes played will be used and the remaining holes will be disregarded.

Note i: Should the player not have started from the 1<sup>st</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> holes (as per the order on the score card), it is holes 1-9 or 10-18 that will be used with the remainder being disregarded.

Note ii: If the player has not played the complete 1<sup>st</sup> nine holes on the score card OR the complete 2<sup>nd</sup> nine holes on the score card, but has played as many as 8 holes of either of the two nines, it is those 8 holes that will be used, with all others being disregarded. In such a case, the player will be deemed to have had net par on the unplayed hole on the nine to be used.

Note iii: The scores shall not be used for handicapping if the player has not played as many as 8 holes of either the 1<sup>st</sup> nine holes OR the 2<sup>nd</sup> nine holes on the score card.

Exception: If a club is regularly conducting events on an 8-16 hole configuration that does not include as many as 8 holes of either the 1<sup>st</sup> nine holes OR the 2<sup>nd</sup> nine holes on the score card, and where the club wishes to be able to use such scores for handicapping, it should contact its *Member Association*. The *Member Association* will provide a *Scratch Rating* that will enable the use of such scores.

**(F) Determination of *Daily Handicap* for score returned over 8-17 holes**

- (I) For a score returned over 16-17 holes on a *course*, a player's *Daily Handicap* is their 18-hole *Daily Handicap* for that *course* (note: the player is deemed to have net par for the hole not played, or for the two holes not played (see Clause A above)).

- (II) A player's *Daily Handicap* for a 9-hole score on a *course* is determined firstly by establishing what the player's 18-hole *Daily Handicap* would be for that *course*. The 18-hole *Daily Handicap* is then applied to the *course's* ordinary 18-hole Stroke Index to determine the number of strokes the player will receive on the specific holes being played.

Note: Even if the player plays 8 holes, or plays anywhere between 10-15 holes inclusive, the player is still handicapped only on a 9-hole score (see Clause E above). As a result, if the player has played anywhere between 10-15 holes inclusive, the only interest for handicapping purposes is in what their handicap is and what their score is for the 9-holes being handicapped.

The step-by-step process for determining a 9-hole *Daily Handicap* is:

- The 9-hole *course* option being used will have a *Slope Rating* number that looks like an 18-hole *Slope Rating* number.
- The 18-hole *Daily Handicap* the player would play off for that *Slope Rating* number is assessed.

- The 18-hole *Daily Handicap* number is then applied to the Stroke Index on the score card to determine how many handicap strokes the player receives for the 9 holes being played.

- EXAMPLE 1: If Stroke Index holes 1 and 3 are on the front nine and the 9-hole round is being played over the front 9, then a player whose 18-hole *Daily Handicap* came out at 3 (after following the above process) would play off a handicap of 2 for that nine. (The same player would play off a handicap of 1 if the round was being played on the back nine.)
- EXAMPLE 2: If Stroke Index holes 1,3,5,7,9,11,13,15,17,19, and 21 are on the front nine and the 9-hole round is being played over the front 9, then a player whose 18-hole *Daily Handicap* came out at 21 (after following the above process) would play off a handicap of 11 for that nine. (The same player would play off a handicap of 10 if the round was being played on the back nine.)

Note: When entering a 9-hole score into GOLF Link, it is important that the above process be followed, and that what is entered is the 9-hole *Daily Handicap* value that has been calculated for the player as a result. This is because part of the process GOLF Link will automatically perform when it combines two 9-hole scores is to add together the 9-hole *Daily Handicaps* from the two 9-hole score entries. (If an 18-hole *Daily Handicap* value is wrongly entered with a 9-hole score entry, GOLF Link will think that the player played off a handicap which was twice as large as what it actually was – and that will credit the player with a score that is twice as good as what it actually was.)

- (G) The initial 9-hole score a player returns is to be entered into GOLF Link; it will not immediately be used in the calculation of the player's *GA Handicap*. It will be automatically held by GOLF Link in the player's handicap record until another 9-hole score is entered. The two 9-hole scores will be combined automatically by GOLF Link to create a single 18-hole score.

Note: The rating for each 9 holes is retained in the GOLF Link database, so it does not matter whether the two 9-hole scores to be combined come from the same *course* or different *courses* – GOLF Link will add the two 9-hole scores together, it will also add the two 9-hole *Scratch Ratings* together, and then compare the two totals (the average of the two *Slope Ratings* will be used). It is this 18-hole score that will be used in the calculation of the player's handicap.

- (H) A 9-hole score will be retained for combination with another 9-hole score until it is older than the 20<sup>th</sup> oldest 18-hole *Actual Score*. 9-hole scores will be combined in the order they are received by GOLF Link, and not necessarily by date order.
- (I) An 18-hole score created by the combination of two 9-hole scores will display the date and *course* name of both 9-hole scores. It will also display the average of the two 9-hole *Slope Ratings*, and the rounded sum of the two 9-hole *Scratch Ratings* (these *Slope Rating* and *Scratch Rating* values will be used in the calculation of the *Differential*).

**(vii) Player Plays Within *Competition* Field But Doesn't Enter *Competition***

When a person plays within a *competition* field, but does not actually enter the *competition*, their score, if attested by a member of any golf club or golf association recognised by *GA* (or a person otherwise approved by the *Handicapping Authority*), should be used for handicapping purposes at the discretion of the *Handicapping Authority*.

The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

If the *Handicapping Authority* determines to use such scores, they will be deemed to be *Conforming Social Scores*.

**(viii) Scores Returned in a *Competition* that has been Declared Null and Void**

A score returned by a player in a *competition* declared null and void should be used for handicapping purposes provided *course* or weather conditions have not notably compromised the proper playing of the game for that player.

The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping.

**(ix) Scores Returned in Open or Professional *Competitions***

Scores returned in Open or Professional *competitions* by players with *GA Handicaps* will be used for handicapping purposes. All such players to have played in a given round will be entered into GOLF Link in a single *batch*.

**(x) Requirement to Maintain the Overall Distance of a Rated Course**

(A) Whilst a *course* should generally be played at its rated length, a club does have a large degree of flexibility around the movement of tee markers from day to day provided overall *course* distance remains substantially the same. Where unusual weather or *course* conditions are in evidence, a club may wish to set the daily tee markers such that overall *course* distance is altered provided the overall change is no more than 100 metres.

When the position of the daily tee markers on the *course* played are more than 100 metres overall from the permanent rating markers for that *course* for an 18-hole round, the scores must not be handicapped.

Note i: If on one hole the tee markers are 15 metres forward and on another hole they are 10 metres back, the overall difference for these two holes is considered to be 5 metres from the rated length.

Note ii: For a round of less than 18 holes, a pro rata length must be calculated; eg for a 9-hole round, the distance is 50 metres.

(B) Unless determined otherwise by the *Member Association*, handicap conditions do not prevail when the tee markers, under normal circumstances, are placed more than 20 metres in front or 20 metres behind the relevant set of permanent rating markers on more than three holes for rounds of 14-18 holes, or on more than two holes for rounds of 8-13 holes. (An exception applies for *courses* with cyclical permanent rating marker placements which have been approved by a *Member Association*.)

(C) Where average tee marker placement over time on a *course* results in an effective average total *course* distance that is considered by the *Member Association* to be materially different to the rated *course*, the *Member Association* should amend the official *Scratch Rating* accordingly.

(D) Hole placements are not taken into consideration in determining whether or not a club has satisfied the requirements around maintaining the overall distance of a rated *course*.

**(xi) Scores Returned in Novelty Events such as Bisque Par and Three-Ball Competitions**

Scores returned in novelty events such as Bisque Par and Three-Ball competitions may be used for handicapping at the discretion of the *Handicapping Authority* but only after conversion to a regular Stableford format, and only if the Rules of singles stroke play have been adhered to.

The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play). (Note: GA encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club, and provided there is not a clear novelty nature to the relevant competition.)

**(xii) Scores Returned in Aggregate Teams Events**

Scores returned in Aggregate Teams Events (eg Two-ball Aggregate and Two-Ball Multiplier competitions) should be used for handicapping.

Note A: To be used for handicapping, these events must require each player to play their own ball on each hole until it is no longer reasonable for them to record at least 1 Stableford point. It is each player's individual score that is used for handicapping.

Note B: The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

Note C: The *Handicapping Authority* should advise all players prior to the commencement of the competition that the Rules of singles stroke play will apply – with specific attention being drawn to the Advice Rule and also to the Rule regarding Order of Play.

Note D: From time to time a committee may be concerned that the Rules of singles play may not have been strictly adhered to. In such a case, the competition should only be disqualified from being processed for handicapping if the committee makes the determination that the results have been clearly impacted by widespread non-adherence to the Rules of singles play.

**(xiii) Scores Returned in Pro-Am Events**

Scores returned in Pro-Am events may, at the discretion of the committee, be used for handicapping provided one of the following requirements is met:

(A) The Rules of singles stroke play are adhered to and each player's hole-by-hole scores are recorded on the submitted score card.

(B) The Rules of four-ball stroke play are adhered to.

Note i: The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that are unusual in character (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

Note ii: GA encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club.

**(xiv) Scores Returned in Corporate/Trade Days**

A score returned in a corporate/trade day or the like, not played in a *Competition* round but played in accordance with the Rules of Golf, may be used but only where it is equal to or better than the player's official *Daily Handicap* for that round.

Note i: The *Handicapping Authority* should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that are unusual in character (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

Note ii: GA encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club.

## 11. Allocation of *GA Handicap*

**(i) Allocation of *GA Handicap* to Player Who Has NOT Previously Held an official Australian Handicap or Recognised Overseas Equivalent**

In order for a player who has NOT previously held an official Australian handicap or recognised overseas equivalent to obtain a *GA Handicap*, the following process must be followed:

(A) Have the player clarify in writing that they have not previously held an official Australian handicap or recognised overseas equivalent.

(B) *Stableford Handicapping Adjustment* will apply to a player's Initial rounds. When returning an Initial score for the purpose of attaining a *GA Handicap*, a male player is granted a *Temporary Daily Handicap* of 36 and a female player is granted a *Temporary Daily Handicap* of 45.

Note a: These *Temporary Daily Handicaps* enable the player to know how many handicap strokes they receive on each hole. They apply solely for handicap calculation purposes and have no standing for the purposes of calculating any competition results.

Note b: These *Temporary Daily Handicaps* shall not be altered until the player has returned the requisite number of initial scores. Once the player has returned such number of scores, the *Temporary Daily Handicaps* shall be completely disregarded.

Note c: GOLF Link will not display the *Temporary Daily Handicap* values for a player's Initial rounds. GOLF Link will display the 'Played To' values for each of a player's Initial rounds.

(C) A player will not be eligible to receive a *GA Handicap* until their handicap record in GOLF Link includes at least three 18-hole rounds. (Whilst 9-hole scores may be used for this purpose at the discretion of the *Home Club*, two 9-hole scores will be the equivalent of one 18-hole round.)

Exception: Where a player's GOLF Link handicap record does not include three 18-hole rounds but it is clear that the maximum *GA Handicap* is warranted, the *Home Club* should take immediate action to enable the player to receive a *GA Handicap* which is the maximum value. This immediate action will include adding into the player's GOLF Link handicap record enough *Estimate Scores* with high values that will enable the player to immediately receive the maximum handicap.

(D) Each Initial score the player returns should be entered into GOLF Link as soon as possible. The only GOLF Link Score Status options available for these scores are "Normal Score" or "Non-Standard Entry" (the score must be disregarded if it is not appropriate to either of these two options).

Note: Should the *Handicapping Authority* have good reason to believe a lesser or higher *GA Handicap* is more appropriate than that which is indicated by the Initial scores, it should amend in GOLF Link the values of the Initial scores to the extent needed to produce the appropriate *GA Handicap*.

Note A: Section 12 details the procedure by which these and other scores are utilised to calculate a *GA Handicap*.

Note B: The *Handicapping Authority* should immediately effect a handicap adjustment (see Section 12(vi)) if it has good reason (other than that provided by any previously-held handicap (see Section 11(ii) if the player has previously held an official handicap)) to consider that a lower or higher handicap is more appropriate to the player's ability than that which results from this process. In such a case, the *Handicapping Authority* is not required to act in accordance with Section 15.

Note C: Any previously-held official Australian handicap and handicap record (or recognised overseas handicap) must be reinitiated in accordance with Section 11(ii).



(ii) **Reinitiating Handicap for Player Who Has Previously Held an official Australian Handicap or Recognised Overseas Equivalent**

- (A) When a player (who has previously been a member of an affiliated club) joins a club after a period away from handicap golf, the *Handicapping Authority* of the 'new' club must reinitiate the status of the player's last-recorded handicap (using the player's archived GOLF Link handicap record if applicable) even if there is good reason to consider that a lower or higher *GA Handicap* is more appropriate to the player's current ability (but see 11(ii)(C) and 11(ii)(D) below). If the player's handicap record is not available, the player's handicap must be reinitiated by the *Home Club* entering three 18-hole *Estimate Scores* (using the player's last-known handicap as a guide) into GOLF Link.
- (B) Where both the previous *Home Club* and the 'new' *Home Club* are on GOLF Link, the 'new' *Home Club* **MUST** perform a '*Home Club Transfer*'. (Queries regarding this process should be directed to the GOLF Link Customer Service Centre on 1300 650 750.) A new handicap record must not be created.
- (C) If the *Handicapping Authority* of the 'new' club quickly considers there is good reason for the player to hold a *GA Handicap* that is higher than their last recorded handicap, a handicap adjustment should be effected. In such a case, the *Handicapping Authority* is not required to act in accordance with Section 15. However, the *Member Association* Handicap Manager must be consulted if the determined figure would fall into any of the following categories:
- More than two strokes higher than the most recent previous figure for players whose last recorded handicap was 4.4 or less.
  - More than 3 strokes higher than the previous handicap for players whose last recorded handicap was 4.5-10.4.
  - More than 4 strokes higher than any previous handicap for players whose last recorded handicap was greater than 10.4.
- (D) If the *Handicapping Authority* of the 'new' club considers there is good reason for the player to hold a *GA Handicap* that is lower than their last recorded handicap, a handicap adjustment should be given due consideration. Any ensuing handicap adjustment must be effected in accordance with Section 15.
- (E) The procedure detailed in Section 12(vi) is to be used to effect handicap adjustments.

Note: 'Last recorded handicap' may include, at the discretion of the *Member Association*, an official handicap issued by a recognised overseas *handicapping authority*.

## 12. Calculation of Handicaps

**General Note:** There are two types of official *GA Handicap*; a *GA Handicap* and a *Daily Handicap*. The *GA Handicap* is not designed for use in handicap competition play; rather it is GA's assessment of the relative golfing ability of a player on a *course* with a *neutral Slope Rating*. The *Daily Handicap* is the handicap to be used in handicap competition play. The *GA Handicap* is one of the factors used in the calculation of the *Daily Handicap*.

- (i) **Differential** (this is the value that is featured in the 'Played to' column on [www.golflink.com.au](http://www.golflink.com.au))  
*Differentials* must be calculated as follows:

<i>Course Par</i> plus <i>Daily Handicap</i> minus (Stableford Points Total minus 36) = A
A minus <i>Daily Scratch Rating</i> = B
B multiplied by <i>Neutral Slope Rating</i> (ie 113) = C
C divided by <i>Slope Rating</i> = D
<b>D (rounded to one decimal place (note: 0.15 rounds to 0.2, +0.15 rounds to + 0.1)) = Differential</b>

Exception: Where D is calculated to be more than 40 for men or 50 for women, the *Differential* will be deemed to be 40 for men or 50 for women.

- (ii) **Formula for Calculation of *GA Handicap***

A *GA Handicap* is calculated from a rolling sample of the player's most recent 20 *Actual Scores* (note: the most recent 20 *Actual Scores* are known as *Live Scores*). If a player's handicap record contains a lesser number than 20 *Actual Scores*, the number of *Live Scores* used to calculate the player's handicap is as listed in the table below.

There is no requirement for a player's *Live Scores* to have been returned within a specific timeframe. For example, the *Live Scores* may span a period of three years or they may span a period of three months.

Once a player's handicap record contains 20 *Live Scores*, the next *Actual Score* they return will result in the oldest of the existing *Live Scores* losing its status as a *Live Score* (to be replaced by the new *Actual Score*). Hence, the handicap calculation process is considered to be a 'rolling sample' method.

The procedure for calculating a *GA Handicap* is as follows:

**STEP 1** – Use the table below to determine the number of *Differentials* to be included in the calculation of a player's *GA Handicap* (note: the *Differential* is the value that is featured in the 'Played to' column on [www.golflink.com.au](http://www.golflink.com.au)):

<i>Number of Live Scores in Player's Handicap Record</i>	<i>Differentials to be Used in the Calculation</i>
3 to 6	Lowest 1
7 or 8	Lowest 2
9 or 10	Lowest 3
11 or 12	Lowest 4
13 or 14	Lowest 5
15 or 16	Lowest 6
17 or 18	Lowest 7
19 or 20	Lowest 8

**STEP 2** – Average the *Differentials* being used (as determined by the above table).

**STEP 3** – Multiply the average by 0.93. (Note: This is the *Multiplier*. The *Multiplier* is a mathematical balancing factor, the purpose of which is to help to achieve national results patterns for net competitions that are as equitable as possible. Its necessity is the result of the different standard deviations of net scores exhibited by players on different handicap levels.

**STEP 4** – After applying STEP 3, delete all numbers after the tenths' digit. Do NOT round to the nearest tenth. (For example 23.6983 becomes 23.6. The *GA Handicap* is therefore 23.6 (although note the *Cap Provision* below).)

**Note:** **CAP PROVISION** – A player's *GA Handicap* is not permitted to increase by any more than 5 strokes beyond their best/lowest *GA Handicap* from the previous 12-month rolling period

- (A) A player's *Cap Point* is their best/lowest *GA Handicap* from the 12-month period extending back in time from the round that resulted in their most recent *Actual Score*. (The *GA Handicap* that results from the processing of this most recent round is eligible to count as the *Cap Point*.) The *Cap Point* displayed in GOLF Link is considered in the processing of the next round the player will play. When the player's next round is processed through GOLF Link, the resultant *GA Handicap* that will be calculated for the player will not be permitted to be more than five strokes above the *Cap Point*.
- (B) Each time a player has an *Actual Score* processed for handicapping purposes, they shall also have their *Cap Point* re-determined. This re-determined value is only permitted to apply to the NEXT round the player plays, NOT the CURRENT round. The *Cap Point* permitted to apply to the current round is that *Cap Point* which was calculated from the most recent score played prior to the current round.
- (C) A newly-determined *Cap Point* is considered in the processing of the player's NEXT *Actual Score* irrespective of when this next round is played. (As a result, it is permissible for a player's *Cap Point* to become more than 12 months old in the period between two rounds being played.)
- (D) Upon the completion of Step 4 above, the calculated figure will be compared with the *Cap Point*. If the *Cap Point* is five or more strokes lower than the figure produced by Step 4, the *Cap* will take effect and the player's *GA Handicap* will be the sum of the *Cap Point* PLUS 5.0 strokes. (Example: Where in the previous 12-month period a player's best/lowest *GA Handicap* is 11.4, the player's *GA Handicap* (when it is recalculated as a result of their NEXT round being processed) will not be permitted to increase beyond 16.4 at this time.)
- (E) There is no limit on downward movement of a player's *GA Handicap*.
- (F) The *Cap* will only take effect once a player has 20 *Actual Scores* in their handicap record. (For *Cap* purposes, a *GA Handicap* calculated on the basis of less than 20 *Actual Scores* can not be a *Cap Point* and is disregarded.)
- (G) Where the player's *Home Club* performs an upward handicap adjustment, for *Cap* purposes, a *GA Handicap* calculated prior to such a manual over-ride can not be a *Cap Point* and is totally disregarded. (The same exclusion does not apply in the case of downward manual adjustments.)

**(iii) Formula for Calculation of Daily Handicap**

- (A) A *Daily Handicap* is the number of strokes a player receives for play from a specific and officially-rated set of tees at the *course* being played. The *Daily Handicap* is expressed as a whole number.

Note: The *GA Handicap* is not designed for use in handicap competition play; rather it is one of the factors used in the calculation of the *Daily Handicap*. The *Daily Handicap* is the handicap to be used in handicap competition play.

<b>(B) <math>Daily\ Handicap = GA\ Handicap \times (Slope\ Rating \div 113)</math></b>
--

Note i: 0.5 rounds to 1, 10.5 rounds to 11, 20.5 rounds to 21, etc.

Note ii: +0.5 rounds to Scratch, +1.5 rounds to +1, +2.5 rounds to +2, etc.

**(iv) Maximum Handicaps**

(A) The maximum value for *GA Handicaps* is as follows:

- Women 45.4
- Men 36.4

(B) The maximum value for *Daily Handicaps* is as follows:

- Women 45
- Men 36

**(v) Player Fails to Return Score Card**

If a player fails (for a reason which is not approved by the committee in charge of the *competition*) to post an acceptable score as soon as practicable after completion of their round, the following process should be followed:

- The round is to be recorded in GOLF Link with the status of 'No Score – Not Approved' (provided the *Stipulated Round* was intended to be anywhere from 8 to 18 holes inclusive).
- However, if the committee considers the player is most likely to have had a 'good' score, it should NOT use the 'No Score – Not Approved' option. Instead it should enter a score for the player for that round equivalent to the best/lowest *Differential* of the player's most recent previous 19 *Differentials* AND select the GOLF Link 'Non-Standard Entry' score status option.
- Where a committee records a player's score status for a round as either 'Non-Standard Entry' or 'No Score – Not Approved', but then subsequently becomes aware of the score the player actually had, it SHOULD replace the original entry with the score the player had.

Note i: See Section 12(ix) for operational notes and handicapping implications of the above stipulated score statuses.

Note ii: A handicap will lose its full status in the event that a player should accrue in their most recent 20 *Actual Scores* (ie their list of *Live Scores*) five or more entries with a status of 'No Score – Not Approved'. Such a handicap will be known as a "*Provisional GA Handicap*".

**(vi) Manual Handicap Adjustments**

**Operational Notes:**

When a club's GOLF Link administrator uses the 'Adjust Handicap' function in GOLF Link, GOLF Link will automatically add a series of artificial scores to the player's handicap record. It is these artificial scores that will result in the player's handicap adjusting to the desired figure.

Note: Non-GOLF Link clubs will need to ensure their calculation processes replicate those performed by GOLF Link.

**(vii) Recalculation of Handicap after New Score Processed**

*Eligible scores* are to be processed through GOLF Link as soon as practicable. GOLF Link will re-calculate a player's *GA Handicap* immediately upon the receipt of a new score for that player.

Note: Non-GOLF Link clubs will need to ensure their calculation processes replicate those performed by GOLF Link.

**(viii) Player Competes in Competition Round before a Previous Handicap-Altering Score is Processed**

(A) In a situation where a player competes in a competition round before a previous handicap-altering score is processed, their correct *GA Handicap* will be that displayed by either GOLF Link or (for clubs not operating within the GOLF Link system) such other display item as designated by their *Home Club* (even if they are aware of what their new handicap will be).

Note: The provisions of this System which enable a Visited Club to temporarily amend a player's handicap (ie Section 7(ii)) will govern in the event of a conflict between those provisions and this Clause.

(B) The committee in charge of a competition may require a player to play off the *Daily Handicap* appropriate to what their new *GA Handicap* will be, even if their *GA Handicap* is yet to be officially adjusted.

(C) A committee may also adjust a player's *Daily Handicap* and net score after the player has submitted their score card in a stroke play competition. In such an instance, the listing of the incorrect *Daily Handicap* is considered to be a committee error and consequently the player is not penalised.

(D) In a match play competition, a player's *Daily Handicap* may not be altered after their round has commenced. Any queries regarding a player's handicap must be raised with the committee in charge of the competition prior to the commencement of the player's round.

**(ix) GOLF Link Score Status Options – Operational Notes & Handicap Implications**

The various GOLF Link score status options and their associated handicap implications are as follows (see Section 19 for examples of practical application):

**(A) "Normal Score"**

- This is an 'Actual Score' which is to be considered when determining a player's *Live Scores*.

**(B) "No Score – Not Approved"**

- The player's *Differential* for that round will be deemed to be the equivalent of the worst *Differential* of the player's 19 most recent previous 18-hole *Differentials* (an 18-hole *Differential* created from the combination of two 9-hole *Differentials* will be considered to be an 18-hole *Differential* for this purpose). Provided the *Stipulated Round* was intended to be anywhere from 8-18 holes inclusive, an 18-hole "No Score – Not Approved" entry will be inserted into the player's GOLF Link record as a result of this action. (Note: If the player's handicap record contains less than 19 entries of actual or artificially generated score values, the player's *Differential* for that round will be deemed to be the equivalent of the worst *Differential* of all scores contained in the player's handicap record.)
- This is an *Actual Score* which is to be considered when determining a player's *Live Scores*.

Note i: A handicap will lose its full status in the event that a player should accrue in their most recent 20 *Actual Scores* (ie their list of *Live Scores*) five or more entries with a status of 'No Score – Not Approved'. Such a handicap will be known as a "Provisional GA Handicap".

Note ii: The GOLF Link Tier 1 website provides a function which enables clubs to produce a report listing the quantity of 'No Score – Not Approved' entries each member has in their most recent 20 *Actual Scores* (ie their list of *Live Scores*). (Ring the GOLF Link Customer Service Centre on 1300 650 750 with any queries.)

**(C) "No Score – Approved"**

- The entry appears in the player's handicap record however the player is not considered to have returned a score.
- This is NOT an *Actual Score* and is to be discounted when determining a player's *Live Scores*.

**(D) "Illegitimate Score"**

- The entry appears in the player's handicap record however the player is not considered to have returned a score.
- This is NOT an *Actual Score* and is to be discounted when determining a player's *Live Scores*.

**(E) "Non-Standard Entry"**

- This Score Status option is used when:
  - (a) A player competes in a Stableford or Par *competition* and does not complete the *stipulated round* but returns a legitimate score card.
  - (b) A player (who has played at least eight holes) has failed to complete all holes in a Stroke *competition* and where the *Handicapping Authority* wishes to use the score for handicapping purposes.
  - (c) A player in Stroke, Par, or Stableford completes all holes, is disqualified, and the *Handicapping Authority* wishes to use the score for handicapping purposes (this should happen for example when the only breach is a technical one such as failure to sign score card, or failure to record handicap on score card).
- The club's GOLF Link administrator will enter into GOLF Link the player's *handicapping score* and also where applicable their *competition score*.
- Where applicable, the *competition score* will be included in the list of results for that *competition* and will be used in the determination of prizes.
- If for a 'Non-Standard Entry' there is a *handicapping score* entered but no *competition score* entered, on [www.golflink.com.au](http://www.golflink.com.au) the player's *competition score* entry for this round will be displayed as '-'.
  - The *handicapping score* is an *Actual Score* which is to be considered when determining a player's *Live Scores*.

Note: Non-GOLF Link clubs will need to ensure their calculation processes replicate those performed by GOLF Link.

### 13. Life of Scores & Lapsed Handicaps

---

- (i) A score is a *Live Score* if it is one of the player's most recent 20 *Actual Scores*. There is no requirement for a player's *Live Scores* to have been returned within a specific timeframe.
- (ii) When a player changes from one *Home Club* to another, a copy of their handicap record shall be given to the new *Home Club* so that administration of their *GA Handicap* can be taken up by the new *Home Club*. **Where both the previous *Home Club* and the 'new' *Home Club* are on GOLF Link, the 'new' *Home Club* MUST perform a '*Home Club Transfer*'. (Queries relating to this process should be directed to the GOLF Link Customer Service Centre on 1300 650 750.) **A new handicap record must not be created.****
- (iii) If a player has no current membership of an affiliated body, their most recent 20 *Actual Scores* remain *Live Scores*, however their *GA Handicap* will be considered to be *Lapsed* and will have no official status.

### 14. Maximum Handicaps, Provisional Handicaps, and Club Handicaps

---

- (i) Calculation of a women's *GA Handicap* beyond 45.4 is not permitted. Calculation of a men's *GA Handicap* beyond 36.4 is not permitted.
- (ii) Calculation of a women's *Daily Handicap* beyond 45 is not permitted. Calculation of a men's *Daily Handicap* beyond 36 is not permitted.
- (iii) A handicap will lose its full status in the event that a player should accrue in their most recent 20 *Actual Scores* five or more entries with a status of 'No Score – Not Approved' (note: full status is automatically regained upon the number of 'No Score – Not Approved' entries in the player's most recent 20 *Actual Scores* decreasing to four or less). Such a handicap will be known as a "*Provisional GA Handicap*". *GA* recommends that players with *Provisional GA Handicaps* not be eligible to win prizes in competitions which have as a condition of entry a requirement that competitors hold *GA Handicaps*.

Note: The GOLF Link Tier 1 website provides a function which enables clubs to produce a report listing the quantity of 'No Score – Not Approved' entries each member has in their most recent 20 *Actual Scores* (ie their list of *Live Scores*). (Ring the GOLF Link Customer Service Centre on 1300 650 750 with any queries.)

- (iv) GOLF Link will not maintain or record "*Club Handicaps*". Should a committee consider it appropriate, it may allocate selected members with internal "*Club Handicaps*". It will be solely for the respective committee to determine how it calculates the "*Club Handicaps*" of its members. When entering a score into a player's GOLF Link handicap record (or when processing a *competition* for handicap purposes), it is the player's *Daily Handicap* that must be used to calculate a net score, NOT any *Club Handicap* that may have been used for the purposes of determining *competition* placings, allocation of prizes, or event winners or results.

### 15. Manual Override by Club of Normal Handicap Calculation Process

---

Note: It is recommended that clubs consult their *Member Association* if they feel action under Section 15 of this System may be appropriate.

- (i) **GENERAL**
  - (A) Handicaps are intended to enable players to compete in handicap events on even terms.
  - (B) This System assumes players will exhibit scoring patterns that are consistent with what is considered to be normal.
  - (C) The scoring of some players will however not be consistent with what is considered to be normal or what is considered to be reasonably close to normal, and the adjustment, freezing, or suspension of a player's *GA Handicap* will be necessary other than in accordance with the formulas applied by this System in order to achieve fair opportunity for all those who participate in handicap golf.
  - (D) By using a *GA Handicap*, a player accepts that from time to time a club of which they are a member, a *Member Association*, or *GA* may adjust, freeze, or suspend that *GA Handicap*. Such adjustment may be other than in accordance with the formulas applied by this System. An adjustment may be a reduction or increase in a player's *GA Handicap*. Section 15 of this System may be implemented at any time. Any club of which a player is a member has equal authority to adjust, freeze, or suspend the relevant *GA Handicap*.
  - (E) The lack of an overwhelming statistical case to support this Section being put into effect does not alter the authority of a club of which the player is a member, a *Member Association*, or *GA* from taking action in accordance with their best assessment of the outcome most likely to achieve fair opportunity for all those who participate in handicap golf.

**(F) Reduction or Freezing of a GA Handicap**

Examples of scenarios which may warrant the reduction or freezing of a player's *GA Handicap* include but are not limited to:

- Where a player is showing better form than their *GA Handicap* or where a player is showing an increased interest in playing better golf but is not returning cards which lead to an automatic reduction in handicap and the improvement, current ability, or some other justifiable circumstances make it apparent to the *Handicapping Authority* of any club of which the player is a member that the player is over-handicapped.
- Where following investigation of a player's performance, a player's returns give rise to suspicion they may be attempting to "manipulate a handicap", or are in serious breach of this System or the Rules of Golf or Etiquette (as contained in the Rules of Golf booklet). (Note: This second described scenario may also in some instances provide reason for a club of which the player is a member, a *Member Association*, or *GA* to suspend the player's *GA Handicap*.)

**(G) Suspension of a GA Handicap**

Should any club of which the player is a member, a *Member Association*, or *GA* be satisfied that a *GA Handicap* has not been determined in accordance with the *GA Handicap System* or that the player has acted in serious breach of this System or the Rules of Golf or otherwise detrimentally to the best interests of the game, it may suspend the *GA Handicap* for a stipulated period of time or for a stipulated minimum period of time.

**(H) Increasing a GA Handicap**

Although the primary calculation performed by this System in order to determine a handicap is to average a player's current form, the basic premise of any handicap system is that a handicap should not be inconsistent with a player's underlying ability. (That underlying ability is considered to be reflected by the player's better performances. Although any player may lose form, it is not in the interests of equity for a handicap to increase substantially due to such a loss of form.) Being mindful of this fundamental premise, *Handicapping Authorities* are encouraged to consider increasing the handicaps of players whose circumstances reflect the following:

1. Where a player is in the process of experiencing, or recovering from, a significant long-term injury or illness.
  2. Where a player has changed clubs and finds the new course to be far more challenging for them for whatever reason than the previous course.
  3. Where a player has been *Capped* due to them reaching a handicap that is clearly better than any other handicap they have achieved for at least two years AND that the *Handicapping Authority* believes was clearly better than their underlying ability.
  4. Where the *Handicapping Authority* firmly believes the player's *GA Handicap* for whatever reason is not commensurate with the player's underlying ability. (Note: *GA* encourages clubs to be especially sympathetic to the plight of a player who due to advancing age experiences a rapid deterioration of their underlying ability. It is recommended that a *Handicapping Authority* will move quickly to adjust a player's *GA Handicap* when it has clearly established that a player is in this situation.)
- (I) There is nothing in Clause 15(i) of this System that allows action to be taken to reward or punish a player for a one-off score (but see Section 16). It is in the nature of golf performance that the scoring of some players is not consistent with normal distribution patterns, and also that a player will on occasion display extraordinary form.
- (J) Where a club of which the player is a member puts this Section into effect, approval from the *Member Association* is not required. However, the club must provide notification in accordance with Clause (iv) of this Section.

**(ii) Decision to Freeze a Player's GA Handicap**

As stated in Section 15(i)(D), analysis of a *GA Handicap* may result in a decision to freeze it at a given figure.

- (A) A freeze may be effected for a stipulated period of either one month, two months, or three months only.
- (B) Upon the expiration of the initial freeze period, where the reason to freeze a *GA Handicap* continues to apply, the body that took the initial decision to freeze a *GA Handicap* may extend the freeze period.
- (C) The figure at which the handicap is frozen may not necessarily reflect the figure the normal calculation method would produce.
- (D) Where this System's normal handicap calculation method determines a lower value than the freeze value, the normal handicap calculation method will over-ride the freeze.

Note: If within the stipulated freeze period, this System's normal handicap calculation method determines a higher value than the freeze value, the freeze will over-ride the normal handicap calculation method.

- (E) A *Frozen GA Handicap* may still be used by a player in exactly the same fashion as a *Normal GA Handicap*.
- (iii) A decision to adjust, freeze or suspend a *GA Handicap* under this Section must be ratified by the General Committee (Board of Directors) of the club which is taking such action. It is not a requirement that this ratification occur at a formal meeting. It may occur for example via email.
- (iv) **Administration**
- (A) Notification of a decision to adjust, freeze, or suspend a *GA Handicap* under this Section must be forwarded by the club taking such action to the relevant *Member Association* (and, if the club taking such action is not the player's *Home Club*, the club taking such action must also immediately notify the player's *Home Club*). Such notification must include copies of the accumulated information on which the decision was based.
- (B) In all cases of decisions to adjust or suspend a player's *GA Handicap*, it is the *Home Club* that is responsible for making the adjustment to GOLF Link (or other handicap record system maintained by the *Home Club*).
- (C) In the event that it is not the *Home Club* that has made the decision to adjust or suspend a player's *GA Handicap*, the *Home Club* will be obligated to immediately adjust the player's handicap record in accordance with the direction of the club that has made the decision. The *Home Club* may seek a review of the decision in accordance with Section 15(v), however any such review must not delay the amendment of the player's handicap record to have it reflect the determination of the other club. Once such advice has been forwarded to the *Home Club*, any *Competition* committee must consider the figure contained in this advice to be the player's current *GA Handicap*.
- (D) Only GA will have physical access to the GOLF Link freezing functionality and to the GOLF Link suspension functionality (note: this does not alter the authority of any club of which the player is a member, or *Member Association*, or GA to take a decision to freeze or suspend a *GA Handicap*). The process to follow in order to effect the decision of a club to freeze or suspend a *GA Handicap* on GOLF Link is for the club to notify its *Member Association* of the decision to freeze (note: such notice must include stipulation of the figure at which the *GA Handicap* is to be frozen) or to suspend the *GA Handicap*; the *Member Association* will then notify GA. GA will only effect the decision of a club to freeze or to suspend a player's *GA Handicap* upon the receipt of a written request of a *Member Association*. Any *Competition* committee must consider a *GA Handicap* to be frozen or suspended upon the earlier of either:
- it becoming aware that notification of the determining club's decision has been received by the *Member Association*, or
  - the player's GOLF Link handicap display being accordingly amended.
- (v) **Review of Decisions**
- (A) Where a club of which the player is a member has made a decision to adjust, freeze or suspend a player's *GA Handicap*, the relevant *Member Association* or GA, on inquiry, may amend or reinstate the player's *GA Handicap*. Such inquiry may be requested in writing by the player to the *Member Association*, or it may be otherwise launched by the *Member Association* or GA if the *Member Association* or GA determines it is appropriate to do so.
- (B) Where a *Member Association* has reviewed a decision of a club to adjust, freeze or suspend a player's *GA Handicap*, GA may (if it considers it appropriate to do so) amend or reinstate the player's *GA Handicap*. Such inquiry may be requested in writing by the player to GA, or it may be otherwise launched by GA if GA determines it is appropriate to do so.
- (C) A decision made by GA under section 15(v)(A) or 15(v)(B) is final and binding. There is no further right of appeal or review for the player, club or *Member Association*.
- (vi) It is entirely at the discretion of a committee in charge of a competition as to whether or not the determination of net results is made with reference to *Daily Handicaps*.
- (vii) GA does not seek to limit members of an Australian club to compete only in those net competitions the results of which are determined with reference to *Daily Handicaps*.
- (viii) A *GA Handicap* is GA's assessment of the relative golfing ability of a player. Players are not obliged to utilise this assessment. It shall always be the player's decision as to whether or not they make use of a *GA Handicap*.
- (ix) **Implementation Conditions**
- The following conditions are to assist clubs in implementing this Section and to provide uniformity in handicapping among all who play handicap golf:
- (A) The General Committee (Board of Directors) must accumulate data and/or cards and/or scores and/or competition results that would indicate it is necessary to adjust, freeze, or suspend the player's *GA Handicap* in order to maintain uniformity in handicapping among all who play handicap golf.

- (B) The General Committee (Board of Directors) must as a body, make a decision to adjust, freeze, or suspend a *GA Handicap* as indicated by this Section of the *GA Handicap System*. It is not a requirement that this decision occur at a formal meeting. It may occur for example via email. Any decision should be recorded in writing (eg email, minutes of meeting etc).
- (C) No one person or group of persons at a club, other than the General Committee (Board of Directors) has the power to adjust, freeze, or suspend a *GA Handicap* when exercising a club's authority under this Section.
- (D) Appropriate letters for use by clubs wishing to implement this Section are available from *Member Associations*. The first letter advises the member that the *GA Handicap* is to be reviewed due to better than reflected, or otherwise, performances. The second letter advises of the newly-approved *GA Handicap*.

## 16. Manual Bonus Reduction for Exceptional Net Score

- (i) Essential points of the Manual Bonus Reduction regulation are as follows:
- Some golfers have inconsistent scoring patterns such that their underlying ability is not typically reflected in their handicap. As these players operate outside normal patterns, regular handicap system regulations do not always cater for them.
  - These players will sometimes return Exceptional Net Scores that are reflective of their underlying ability but not of their handicap.
  - It is *GA's* position that a handicap system should not be designed around a small minority.
  - A handicap system should not penalise such players by unfairly limiting their capacity to achieve handicap reductions.
- (ii) Where such a player returns an Exceptional Net Score, their club should effect a Manual Bonus Reduction to their *GA Handicap*, unless there is clearly a good reason not to.
- (iii) An "Exceptional Net Score" is considered to be a score that produces a *Differential* (ie the value that is featured in the 'Played to' column on [www.golflink.com.au](http://www.golflink.com.au)) which is 7 or more better than the *GA Handicap* current at the time the round is played (or in a case where rounds have been played but not processed, the value at which the *GA Handicap* will be calculated once all previous rounds have been processed).
- (iv) Manual Bonus Reductions should not be effected in cases where the player's club considers the Exceptional Net Score to be clearly not reflective of the player's underlying ability, or where a Manual Bonus Reduction would see the player reduced to a *GA Handicap* that the player's club considers would be clearly inappropriate for the player.
- (v) A Manual Bonus Reduction should only be effected after the score itself has been processed through GOLF Link. The club should not effect a Manual Bonus Reduction if it considers that the normal calculation process has produced an appropriate reduction.
- (vi) Any club of which the player is a member may make a decision on a Manual Bonus Reduction.
- (vii) It is solely for the player's club to determine whether or not to effect a Manual Bonus Reduction. It is solely for the player's club to determine which official or committee is authorised to make decisions on Manual Bonus Reductions. The player's club has absolute authority in this regard. Clubs are not required to refer such decisions to the club General Committee or Board of Directors.
- (viii) *GA* considers that a player's club will have an adequate feel of the player's underlying ability in order to make an informed assessment as to whether or not a Manual Bonus Reduction would be inappropriate. A club should not effect a Manual Bonus Reduction on a player for whom it believes it does not have an adequate feel for their underlying ability.
- (ix) The following table must be used when effecting Manual Bonus Reductions:

Number of Strokes the <i>Differential</i> (ie the value featured in the 'Played to' column on <a href="http://www.golflink.com.au">www.golflink.com.au</a> ) is Better than the <i>GA Handicap</i> in effect when the round was played	Number of strokes the new <i>GA Handicap</i> (after the Manual Bonus Reduction has been performed) will be lower than the <i>GA Handicap</i> in effect when the round was played
7-9	2
10-11	3
12-13	4
14 or more	5



**Example:**

- A player (with a GA Handicap of 17.4) returns a net score that produces a Differential of 7.1 (note: the Differential is the value that is featured in the 'Played to' column on [www.golflink.com.au](http://www.golflink.com.au)). This is 10 better than the player's GA Handicap (ie 17.4 minus 7.1 = 10.3 which rounds to 10). (Note: .5 rounds up, for example 10.5 would round up to 11.)
- The club considers the normal calculation process to not have produced an appropriate reduction.
- The club considers that a Manual Bonus Reduction would be appropriate given its feel for the player's underlying ability.
- The player's GA Handicap is to be reduced so it will be 3 strokes less than the GA Handicap in effect when the round was played.
- The player's GA Handicap will be reduced to 14.4.

Note: The reduction to the player's handicap should be achieved via the Handicap Adjustment function in GOLF Link (or the club's Tier 3 software system).

## 17. Allocation of Special Competition Handicap in Extraordinary Circumstances

A committee in charge of a competition is authorised to allocate to a competitor (or group of competitors) a *Special Competition Handicap* if the following requirements are met:

- (i) The *Member Association* must first have been consulted to determine whether a general adjustment or otherwise of the player's *GA Handicap* is warranted.

Note: That the *Member Association* may have decided a general adjustment or otherwise of the player's *GA Handicap* is unwarranted does not prevent a committee in charge of a competition from allocating a *Special Competition Handicap*. A committee in charge of a competition will be eligible to allocate a *Special Competition Handicap* as soon as it has lodged in writing with the *Member Association* a submission or notice regarding re-assessment or otherwise of the player's *GA Handicap*. (Note: In this context, 'notice' may comprise for example a recommendation from the relevant competition committee to the *Member Association* for it to analyse the player's performances.)

- (ii) The committee in charge of the competition must accumulate a body of evidence (eg data, cards, scores, competition results) that would indicate the application of a *Special Competition Handicap* is necessary. The body of evidence need not be extensive but it must be compelling.

Note: It will be for the committee in charge of the competition to determine whether or not this requirement has been met.

- (iii) The *Special Competition Handicap* must reflect the accumulated body of evidence.

Note: It will be for the committee in charge of the competition to determine whether or not this requirement has been met.

Note i: Any committee in charge of a competition which allocates a *Special Competition Handicap* will be solely responsible for all associated outcomes.

Note ii: Neither GA, nor any *Member Association*, will be obliged to assist with any outcomes associated with the allocation of a specific *Special Competition Handicap*.

Note iii: When entering a score into a player's handicap record (or when processing a competition for handicap purposes), it is the *Special Competition Handicap* that should be used to calculate a net score. (In such a case, the *Special Competition Handicap* must be listed as the 'Played Off' handicap within the GOLF Link data entry process.)

Note iv: It is for the committee allocating a *Special Competition Handicap* to determine in which competitions the *Special Competition Handicap* will apply. A committee is not permitted to allocate to a player a *Special Competition Handicap* for a competition of which it does not have charge.

## 18. Handicap Information Disclosure

No affiliated club, association or other affiliated or non-affiliated body may make handicaps or records of handicaps calculated under this System available outside the environs of its golf facility, clubhouse or office. This prohibits the unauthorised display of handicap information on the Internet and other forms of public media. For the purpose of viewing members' handicap information outside the club environs, the club, association or other body may, with the express written consent of GA, link its Internet site to the approved GA GOLF Link Internet site, and/or other GOLF Link media facilities as advised from time to time.

## 19. Common Handicapping Scenarios – Procedures for Pro Shops & Handicapping Administrators

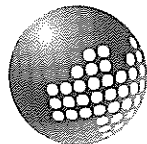
Note: Non-GOLF Link clubs should refer to Section 12(ix) for full details of the required GOLF Link score status options stipulated in the Handicapping Action column.

SCENARIO	COMPETITION ACTION	HANDICAPPING ACTION / GOLF Link SCORE STATUS
1. No handicap on card. (i) <b>STROKE</b> (Rule 6-2b) (ii) <b>PAR &amp; STABLEFORD</b> (Rule 6-2b & 32-2a)	(i) Disqualified from net event. (ii) As above. Note: If gross event is held, card accepted for gross.	(i) & (ii) Apply correct handicap and use for handicapping. <u>Choose the "Non-Standard Entry" option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter '34' for -2, or enter '40' for +4) into the Handicapping Score box. Leave the Competition Score box blank.</u>
2. Card not signed (Rule 6-6b). Or card handed in after competition has closed.	Disqualified from the competition.	Use for handicapping as returned. <u>Choose the "Non-Standard Entry" option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter '34' for -2, or enter '40' for +4) into the Handicapping Score box. Leave the Competition Score box blank.</u>
3. Higher handicap on card which affects the number of strokes received. (i) <b>STROKE</b> (Rule 6-2b) (ii) <b>PAR &amp; STABLEFORD</b> (Rule 6-2b & 32-2a)	(i) Disqualified from net event. (ii) As above. Note: If gross event is held, card accepted for gross.	(i) & (ii) Apply correct handicap and use for handicapping. <u>Choose the "Non-Standard Entry" option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter '34' for -2, or enter '40' for +4) into the Handicapping Score box. Leave the Competition Score box blank.</u>
4. Higher score recorded on a hole than actually taken in Stroke, Par and Stableford (Rules 6-6d & 32-2a) which affects the player's Competition Score.	Card accepted as returned.	<u>Choose the "Non-Standard Entry" option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's actual Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter '34' for -2, or enter '40' for +4) into the Handicapping Score box. Enter the score as listed on the score card into the Competition Score box.</u>
5. Score not listed on score card in Stroke for hole or holes which have been completed.	Disqualified from the competition.	(A) If the correct score/s can be readily identified (to a reasonable degree of certainty), it is to be used for handicapping. <u>Choose the "Non-Standard Entry" option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's actual Stableford score into the Handicapping Score box. Leave the Competition Score box blank.</u>  (B) If correct score/s cannot be identified, the player is deemed to have had 2 points for each missing score. <u>Choose the "Non-Standard Entry" option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's Stableford score into the Handicapping Score box. Leave the Competition Score box blank.</u>
6. Lower score recorded than actually taken on a hole in Stroke (Rule 6-6d).	Disqualified from the competition.	<u>Choose the "Non-Standard Entry" option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's actual Stableford score into the Handicapping Score box. Leave the Competition Score box blank.</u>

SCENARIO	COMPETITION ACTION	HANDICAPPING ACTION / GOLF Link SCORE STATUS
<p>7. Lower score recorded than actually taken in Par and Stableford. (Refer to Rule 32-2a and relevant Rules of Golf Decisions.)</p>	<p>(i) If result of hole affected – Disqualified from the competition. (ii) If result of hole not affected, no penalty applies and card accepted for the competition.</p>	<p>(i) <u>Choose the “Non-Standard Entry” option in GOLF Link. Enter the player’s actual Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter ‘34’ for -2, or enter ‘40’ for +4) into the Handicapping Score box.</u> <u>Enter the score as listed on the score card into the Competition Score box blank.</u> (ii) Use for handicapping as returned. <u>GOLF Link Score Status: “Normal Score”.</u></p>
<p>8. Player fails to complete all holes in the round due to any of the following being considered by the club to be of reasonable significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Illness</li> <li>▫ Injury</li> <li>▫ Emergency</li> <li>▫ Bad weather (<i>Note: In this context, ‘bad weather’ does NOT generally need to be bad enough to force a suspension or cancellation of play. That some players may be willing to continue does not mean it is necessarily unreasonable in this context for others to stop. Clubs should be reasonably understanding in determining when weather is considered ‘bad’. It should be remembered that club golfers play the game as a recreation.</i>)</li> <li>▫ Other reason for stopping which is considered valid by the club.</li> </ul> <p><b>(i) PLAYER HAS COMPLETED LESS THAN 8 HOLES.</b> <b>(ii) PLAYER HAS COMPLETED 8 HOLES OR MORE.</b></p>	<p>(i) &amp; (ii) The player’s result in the competition should be recorded as “Withdrawn”.</p>	<p>(i) Not used for handicapping. <u>GOLF Link Score Status: “No Score – Approved”.</u> (ii) <b>(A)</b> In Stableford and Par, if the player’s incomplete score is identified and the player has returned a legitimate score card, the club’s GOLF Link administrator should enter this into GOLF Link as the player’s <i>Competition Score</i>. The <i>Handicapping Score</i> is determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – ‘Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes’. <u>Choose the “Non-Standard Entry” option in GOLF Link. Enter the player’s Stableford score into the Handicapping Score box.</u> <u>Leave the Competition Score box blank.</u> <b>(B)</b> In Stroke, choose the “Non-Standard Entry” option in GOLF Link. If the player’s incomplete score is identified, the club’s GOLF Link administrator should enter into GOLF Link the player’s <i>Handicapping Score</i> as a Stableford score which has been determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – ‘Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes’. The <i>Competition Score</i> entry box will be left blank. <b>(C)</b> If the club does not, or can not, create an 18-hole score, the card is not used for handicapping. <u>GOLF Link Score Status: “No Score – Approved”.</u></p>
<p>9. Lower handicap on card in Stroke, Par or Stableford (Rule 6-2b &amp; 32-2a).</p>	<p>Card accepted for competition as returned.</p>	<p>The club’s GOLF Link administrator should enter into GOLF Link as the player’s <i>Competition Score</i> the net score they had with the inaccurate handicap. (Note: GOLF Link will then automatically calculate the correct <i>Differential</i>.) <u>GOLF Link Score Status: “Normal Score”.</u></p>

SCENARIO	COMPETITION ACTION	HANDICAPPING ACTION / GOLF Link SCORE STATUS
<p>10. Score for hole omitted in Par &amp; Stableford where hole has been played.</p>	<p>Card accepted as returned. (No obligation under the Rules of Golf to record a score for every hole in Par or Stableford.)</p>	<p>(A) If the player's complete score is identified, the club's GOLF Link administrator should enter into GOLF Link the player's incomplete <i>Competition Score</i>, as well as the score they actually had into the <i>Handicapping Score</i> box. <u>GOLF Link Score Status: "Non-Standard Entry".</u></p> <p>(B) If correct score/s cannot be identified, the club's GOLF Link administrator should enter into GOLF Link the player's incomplete <i>Competition Score</i> as well as their <i>Handicapping Score</i>. The <i>Handicapping Score</i> is determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – 'Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes'. <u>GOLF Link Score Status: "Non-Standard Entry".</u></p>
<p>11. When NOT APPROVED by the club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Player fails to complete all holes in the round, or;</li> <li>◆ Card not returned.</li> </ul> <p>(i) <b>PLAYER HAS COMPLETED LESS THAN 8 HOLES.</b></p> <p>(ii) <b>PLAYER HAS COMPLETED 8 HOLES OR MORE.</b></p>	<p>Disqualified from the competition.</p>	<p>(i) <u>The round should be entered into GOLF Link with a Score Status of: "No Score – Not Approved".</u></p> <p>(ii) (A) If a disqualified player's incomplete score is identified, the club's GOLF Link administrator should enter into GOLF Link the player's <i>Handicapping Score</i> as their score for the round. The <i>Handicapping Score</i> is determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – 'Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes'. <u>Leave the <i>Competition Score</i> box blank. GOLF Link Score Status: "Non-Standard Entry".</u></p> <p>(B) In Stableford and Par, if the player's incomplete score is identified and the player has returned a legitimate score card, the club's GOLF Link administrator should enter into GOLF Link the player's <i>Handicapping Score</i> as a Stableford score which has been determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – 'Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes'. The player's actual score is entered into the <i>Competition Score</i> entry box. <u>GOLF Link Score Status: "Non-Standard Entry".</u></p> <p>(C) If a complete 18-hole score is identified, it is used for handicapping as played. <u>Choose the "Non-Standard Entry" option in GOLF Link. Enter the player's Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter '34' for -2, or enter '40' for +4) into the <i>Handicapping Score</i> box. Leave the <i>Competition Score</i> box blank.</u></p> <p>(D) If the player's score is not identified, or if the <i>Handicapping Authority</i> decides not to apply the 'Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes' regulation; <u>the round should be entered into GOLF Link with a Score Status of: "No Score – Not Approved".</u></p> <p><b>GENERAL NOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the vast majority of cases where a player has failed to return a score card or has failed to complete a round without good reason, it is because they have played poorly. As a result, it is equitable and accurate that the player be attributed a poor score by GOLF Link.</li> <li>• It is also the case that there exists a small minority of players who repeatedly fail to return score cards or who fail to complete rounds.</li> </ul>

SCENARIO	COMPETITION ACTION	HANDICAPPING ACTION / GOLF Link SCORE STATUS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A handicap will lose its full status in the event that a player should accrue in their most recent 20 <i>Actual Scores</i> (ie their list of <i>Live Scores</i>) five or more entries with a status of 'No Score – Not Approved'. Such a handicap will be known as a "<i>Provisional GA Handicap</i>".</li> <li>• Clubs are able to access through GOLF Link a report listing the number of "<i>No Score – Not Approved</i>" entries each member has in their list of <i>Live Scores</i>. For assistance in accessing this report, ring the GOLF Link Customer Service Centre on 1300 650 750.</li> </ul>
<p>12. Player disqualified for a breach of the Rules that makes the estimation of a score, or the use of the round for handicapping purposes, to be inappropriate (eg use of non-conforming clubs, use of non-conforming balls, cheating).</p>	<p>Disqualified from the <i>competition</i>.</p>	<p>Not used for handicapping. <u>GOLF Link Score Status: "<i>Illegitimate Score</i>".</u></p>
<p>13. Player repeatedly fails to provide Stableford scores on their score card either in a <i>Stableford competition</i>, or for the purposes of complying with the SHA regulation in a <i>Stroke competition</i>.</p>	<p>No penalty in <i>competition</i> being played.</p> <p>(Note: While it is not permissible to penalise a player under the Rules of Golf for failing to calculate their Stableford points, the Committee may, in order to assist in the administration of the <i>competition</i>, introduce a 'club regulation' to this effect and provide disciplinary sanctions (eg ineligibility to play in the next club <i>competition</i>/s).</p> <p>GA will support in writing clubs who apply such sanctions. It is fundamental to the culture of Australian golf that players assist their clubs by recording Stableford scores on score cards when required.)</p>	<p>Use for handicapping as returned. <u>GOLF Link Score Status: "<i>Normal Score</i>".</u></p>



GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item:	10.0 Handicapping, Course Rating & Rules Report
Board Meeting:	18 October 2013 (#6 – 2013)
Subject:	10.2 Handicapping & Rules Policy Committee
Summary of Issue:	Minutes of meeting held 26 August 2013 provided for information only.
Cost:	N/A
Budget Impact:	N/A
Strategy / Vision	N/A
Action:	For information only.
Recommendation:	N/A
Responsible Manager:	Simon Magdulski
Attachments:	<b>Attachment #14 – Pg 125-128</b> Minutes of Handicapping & Rules Policy Committee Meeting (26/8/2013)



**GOLF AUSTRALIA**  
 Level 3, 95 Coventry Street  
 South Melbourne Victoria 3205  
 Australia  
 ABN: 54 118 151 894  
 Website: www.golfaustralia.org.au  
 Facsimile: 61 3 9626 5095

**GOLF AUSTRALIA  
 HANDICAPPING & RULES POLICY COMMITTEE  
 MEETING – MONDAY 26 AUGUST 2013  
 AT THE GOLF AUSTRALIA OFFICE**

**MINUTES**

**Present from the Committee:** John Hopkins (Chairman), Chris Allen, Robert Crosby, Simon Magdulski, Stephen Pitt, Michael Sammells, Jill Spargo

**In Attendance:** For Agenda Item 12 only – Cameron Wade (GA Development Director)

**1. Administrative Matters**

**1.1 Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Mr Crosby who was attending his first meeting.

**1.2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 2013**

These were agreed.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting of the Course Rating Sub-Committee held on 5 April 2013**

These were noted.

**3. Competition Conditions & Local Rules – GA Championships**

After consideration, the Committee made the following decisions around local rules and conditions for GA championships.

- To permit the use in all GA senior and mid-amateur events of devices that measure distance only.
- With reference to Decision 4-1/1, to implement the 'Groove Condition' for the first time in a GA-operated amateur event at the 2015 Australian Amateur Championship. (Note: The Committee decided to hold off until a later time on making a decision around implementation dates of the 'Groove Condition' for other GA events. This will enable consideration of the approaches taken by other countries. In addition, GA will continue to liaise with The R&A on this issue.)

**4. General Update from Chairman on International Handicapping Matters**

The Chairman provided an update on discussions regarding the development of an international handicap system. These discussions are taking place primarily between The R&A and the USGA, but also involve GA and various other significant golf associations.

**5. Amendments to Draft 8c of the New GA Handicap System**

The Committee discussed proposed amendments to the draft new GA Handicap System that have been formulated since the approval of Version 8c. After consideration, the Committee approved the incorporation of various amendments into a new Draft which will be Version 9iii.

In summary, the various changes have arisen from the following:

- The array of software development work. This work has generated suggestions around more efficient solutions from a software perspective (that do not compromise handicapping outcomes). It has also generated clarification on various points (due to the necessity of having in place a comprehensive software solution).
- Feedback arising from the State Handicapping Seminar (held in June 2013).
- Feedback arising from the national series of Club Handicapping Seminars (held in June-July 2013).
- Discussion during this meeting.

The Committee recommends to the Board that it adopt Version 9iii in readiness for publication.

## 6. Fine-tuning of the DSR Algorithm

The Committee discussed the DSR algorithm and some proposed fine-tuning which had been recommended by Peter Preston and Michael Maher. In working through the proposal, the Committee noted the following points:

- One of GA's key objectives in conducting the DSR live trials has been to try to identify any means by which we may be able to improve what we firmly believe is a world-class system.
- Whilst the feedback from the clubs involved in Phase 1 of the live trial was overwhelmingly positive, there were a few observations around the occasional anomalous result that prompted discussion amongst the DSR Statistical Review Group.
- Peter Preston proposed some fine-tuning which he believed would reduce even further the incidence of anomalous DSR results.
- The crux of his fine-tuning idea was that scores from lower handicappers should be given a greater weight in the DSR calculation than scores from higher handicappers. This is because scores from lower handicappers are statistically more reliable than scores from higher markers (due to the greater consistency and smaller standard score deviation of the low marker.)
- The Preston fine-tuning idea was unanimously supported by the DSR Statistical Review Group members as a means to improve the robustness of the algorithm.
- The revised algorithm has been used in the current (and final) Phase of the Live Trial.
- The feedback from the clubs involved in the final Phase of the Live Trial has been very positive.
- The proposed fine-tuning will avoid any disruption to the software development process.

After consideration, the Committee decided to approve the proposed fine-tuning. The upgraded suite of DSR algorithms is as follows:

For each player in the group, GOLF Link will calculate the Normal Deduction (ND) and the appropriate Weight (W) to be given to the player's score.

**Player's Normal Deduction:  $ND = mh + b$ ,**

where h is the player's played off handicap, m and b are taken from the table below, representing the slope and intercept of the straight line of best fit.

	Men		Women	
	m	b	m	b
<b>Par</b>	0.052	2.777	0.062	2.514
<b>Stableford</b>	0.111	3.498	0.117	3.338
<b>Stroke</b>	0.124	4.372	0.146	3.939



**Player's Weighting Factor:  $W = 1/(m'h+b)^2$ ,**

where m' and b' are taken from the table below representing the slope and intercept of the straight line of best fit for the empirically derived standard deviation of the player's score.

	Men		Women	
	m'	b'	m'	b'
<b>Par</b>	0.025	2.824	0.030	2.653
<b>Stableford</b>	0.060	3.545	0.060	3.478
<b>Stroke</b>	0.086	3.715	0.084	3.609

For each player in the group, GOLF Link will then calculate the Player Condition Estimate (PCE)

**Player Condition Estimate:  $PCE = (36+Par-SR-CPA-ND) - S = (36+Par-SR-CPA-mh-b-S)$ ,**

where S is the player's actual Stableford points scored, and

CPA (Course Parameter Adjustment) = Prior CPA + Prior WCA x 0.02 x (0.7 for Men, 0.5 for Women).

WCA is defined below. Prior WCA is the value of WCA from the most recent group at that club prior to the current one. The first time the formulae are used for a Club, the Prior CPA and Prior WCA are zero.

GOLF Link then computes weighted averages for the whole group, with the intermediate variables Group Weight and Weighted Condition Adjustment (WCA) leading to the final DSR.

**Group Weight =  $SUM(W) + 1/CSD^2 = SUM(1/(m'h+b)^2) + 1/CSD^2$**

where CSD (the Course Standard Deviation) is estimated at 1.5.

**Weighted Condition Adjustment:  $WCA = SUM\{PCE \times W\} / (Group\ Weight)$**

**DSR = SR + WCA**

**THE ABOVE CAN BE EXPRESSED IN A SINGLE FORMULA AS FOLLOWS:**

**$DSR = SR + \frac{SUM\{(36+Par-SR-CPA-mh-b-S)/(m'h+b)^2\}}{\{SUM(1/(m'h+b)^2) + 1/CSD^2\}}$**

## 7. Daily Scratch Rating – 2013 Update

A Michael Maher paper entitled "Daily Scratch Rating – 2013 Update" (19/8/2013) was tabled and noted by the Committee. (This paper sets out for the record the various developments around DSR that have taken place in 2013. It includes a summary of the work that has been undertaken by the GA statisticians to ensure that an efficient and accurate DSR software solution is achieved by GOLF Link.)

The Committee further noted its appreciation of the work performed by Peter Preston and Michael Maher in particular, but also the entire DSR Statistical Review Group, for their work in developing DSR to its current state of evolution.

**8. Update – Preparations for the Go-Live of the Complete New GA Handicap System**

The Committee received an update from Simon Magdulski around the preparations for the go-live of the complete new GA Handicap System.

**9. Draft GA Club Support Resource: “SINGLES COMPETITIONS PLAYED FROM MULTIPLE TEES & MIXED-GENDER SINGLES COMPETITIONS: Operational Guidance for Clubs”**

After consideration, the Committee approved for publication a new support resource for clubs entitled: “SINGLES COMPETITIONS PLAYED FROM MULTIPLE TEES & MIXED-GENDER SINGLES COMPETITIONS: Operational Guidance for Clubs”.

**10. GA Handicap System – The Cap Regulation**

**10.1 Correspondence Received from Ted Coker (life member of GMA)**

The Committee considered correspondence received from Ted Coker in which Mr Coker expressed concern at having his handicap Capped for periods of time, and in which he sought handicap relief.

Further to this, the Committee noted the following:

- Although, Mr Coker's exact handicap was Capped for multiple rounds, at no stage did this have the effect of restricting his rounded playing handicap from increasing. As a result, at no stage did the Cap actually restrict the movement of Mr Coker's playing handicap.
- In the time between the sending of Mr Coker's email and this Committee meeting, Mr Coker's handicap was adjusted by Royal Queensland Golf Club (and this action automatically reset Mr Coker's Cap). It was further noted that Royal Queensland's action was taken after various previous requests of Mr Coker to the club.

After consideration, the Committee felt that Mr Coker's concerns around his own existing situation would likely have been resolved (at least for the short-term) as a result of the Royal Queensland action. Nonetheless, the Committee determined that Golf Queensland's Golf Operations Manager, Luke Bates, should be contacted to establish whether he would be willing to meet with Mr Coker with a view to engaging him in a full discussion around some of these issues. Mr Bates would then be in a position to comprehensively report directly back to the Committee. Such a discussion would also enable Mr Coker to fully provide his perspective on the various related matters.

**10.2 Proposal to Amend the Cap Regulation – Received from Alan Nicholls (former president of Golf NT)**

Mr Nicholls has proposed the following:

- The Cap for the 65-70 age group be reduced to a 9-month period.
- The Cap for the 70-75 age group be reduced to a 6-month period.
- The Cap for the 75+ age group be reduced to a 3-month period.

In working through Mr Nicholls' proposal, the Committee noted the following points:

- Our statisticians have advised that the introduction of DSR into the GA Handicap System will significantly reduce the proportion of Capped players in Australia. As a result, the Committee is mindful to be developing solutions that are designed to fit the circumstances as they will be once the new handicap system becomes fully operative (23 January 2014).
- The Cap of every Australian golfer will be re-set at the time GOLF Link recalculates all handicaps to coincide with the go-live date of the new handicap system. As a result, a player's current Cap will expire no later than 23 January 2014.

- Implementation of Mr Nicholls' proposal would add complexity to the Cap regulation. It would also require further software work. More significantly it would require a significant upgrade to the data in the database around birthdates (which is currently understood to be materially deficient).
- Mr Nicholls' proposal has received some support from components of the Australian Veteran Golfers' Union. GA is to pick up a direct contact with the AVGU to pursue this.

After consideration, the Committee was unconvinced that Mr Nicholls' specific proposed solution would be ideal for the circumstances. However, it is to be retained on-file for further consideration.

Nonetheless, the Committee expressed its considerable sympathy for any player who has experienced some sort of rapid and permanent (or semi-permanent) deterioration of their ability – and the Committee agreed with Mr Nicholls' underlying sentiment that players over the age of 70 are considerably more likely to have this experience than a player under the age of 70. The Committee took the view that a player in this situation should not have their handicap constrained in such a way that would see it become unaligned with their deteriorating underlying ability. As a result, GA will continue to discuss this matter internally in the short term with a view to identifying a way in which players in this specific situation may have practical handicap relief made available to them. The objective is for this discussion to be resolved in the short-term.

#### **11. Mechanism for Hearing Appeals of Member Association Decisions re Handicap Adjustments**

The Committee noted that the GA Handicap System provides a mechanism for Member Association decisions around manual handicap adjustments to be appealed to Golf Australia.

After consideration, the Committee determined the following:

- When required, such a GA entity will be comprised of a minimum of 3 available members of this Committee.
- To initiate an appeal to GA, a player will need to pay a fee of \$200 to GA. In the event of a successful appeal, the entire fee will be refunded.
- A hearing must be convened by no later than 6 weeks after the player has notified GA in writing that they wish to appeal a decision of the Member Association.

#### **12. Official Handicap Offerings from Entities that are not Clubs (or that are not Traditional Clubs)**

The Committee had a general discussion around whether there is a potential for any negative ramifications to arise from affiliated entities that are not clubs (or that are not traditional clubs) allowing their members to return Conforming Social Scores.

After consideration, the Committee requested the Secretariat to furnish it with more information on this issue.

#### **13. Letter from New South Wales Veteran Golfers' Association (28/2/2013)**

The Committee considered the following proposal by the New South Wales Veteran Golfers' Association: "That to maintain a Golf Australia handicap a player must return a minimum number of scores over any 12-month period from that Club defined to be his or her Home Club, as designated by their current GOLF Link number. The minimum number of scores to be returned could be 3 or 5, or some other number deemed appropriate by GA."

The Committee noted that the New South Wales Veteran Golfers' Association is concerned at the growing "trend of golfers, both male and female, to switch club membership for financial reasons from clubs within their own locality to clubs in other

areas, which in some cases are considerable distances away from the locale in which they reside.

After consideration, the Committee decided against pursuing such a regulation. It felt that a regulation of this type would in upwards of 99% of occasions only serve to penalise a player who hadn't been able to play enough golf within a given timeframe. This would then serve to disincentivise that player from returning to golf due to the rounds they would have to play in order to regain their handicap. At a time when retention of members and attraction of new players is the biggest challenge facing the industry, it was felt that the introduction of further hurdles would be counter to the best interests of the game.

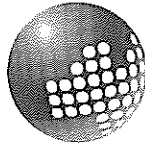
**14. USGA Course Rating System Guide – Metric Version & Imperial Version**

The Committee noted that Member Associations have available to them for use a version of the USGA Course Rating System Guide with metric measurements, and a version of the USGA Course Rating System Guide with imperial measurements.

The Committee considered whether one or the other should be the preferred version of GA. After discussion, the Committee determined that there will be no preferred GA version and that the decision of a Member Association as to which version of the guide to use should be solely a matter for that Member Association.

**15. Next Meeting**

To be confirmed.



GolfAustralia

## GA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item: 11.0 High Performance Report  
Board Meeting: 18 October 2013 (#6 – 2013)  
Subject: 11.1 High Performance Update  
Summary of Issue: General High Performance update

### **Upcoming tournaments**

We are entering a busy phase in terms of international representation. Teams have been selected/announced for the following events: Asia-Pacific Amateur, Spirit International, Nomura Cup and Argentine Amateur/Juan Carlos Tailhade. Teams selected feature a number of first time representatives with a number of players having recently turned Professional and events clashing with each other.

### **Professional transition**

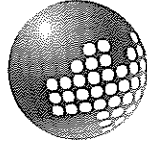
Cameron Smith turned professional in July and has been joined by fellow National Squad members Nathan Holman and Brett Drewitt. Holman and Drewitt made their professional debuts at the WA PGA (currently being played). All players are in contention for Rookie scholarships.

### **Spring Valley player arrangement**

Golf Australia has signed a contract with Spring Valley GC whereby visiting members of the National and Rookie squads have access to the practice facilities and course when they are in Melbourne. We have a number of players that visit Melbourne regularly to work with coaches and service providers and this arrangement gives them a quality base to practice and play.

### **National Squad selection criteria**

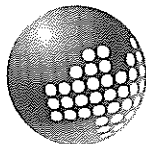
There has been a slight alteration to the automatic selection benchmarks for National Squad members through Tier 1, 2 and Junior squads. These see a slightly more difficult qualification around the WAGR criteria in order to guarantee we get the appropriate players qualifying for the National Squads. Full criteria attached.



## GolfAustralia

---

Cost:	Nil
Budget Impact:	N/A
Strategy / Vision	To continue to provide our athletes with the best possible chance of reaching their potential.
Action:	For information only
Recommendation:	N/A
Responsible Manager:	Brad James
Attachments:	<b>Attachment #15 – Pg 133</b> Golf Australia High Performance Teams <b>Attachment #16 – Pg 134</b> National Squad Selection Criteria



**GolfAustralia**

---

**Golf Australia team selections**

**Asia-Pacific Amateur (non-selected team – based on WAGR)**

24-27 October – Nanshan International GC, China

- Oliver Goss (WA)
- Daniel Hoeve (WA)
- Brady Watt (WA)
- Viraat Badhwar (QLD)
- Taylor MacDonald (QLD)
- Lucas Herbert (VIC)

**Spirit International**

30 October – 2 November – Whispering Pines GC, USA

- Hannah Green (WA)
- Grace Lennon (VIC)
- Sam Daley (QLD)
- Ruben Sondjaja (NSW)

**Nomura Cup**

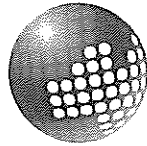
14-17 November – Santiburi CC, Thailand

- Taylor MacDonald (QLD)
- Aaron Wilkin (QLD)
- Geoff Drakeford (VIC)
- Cameron Davis (NSW)

**Argentine Amateur/Juan Carlos Tailhade**

14-24 November – Argentina

- Anthony Murdaca (SA)
- Jarryd Felton (WA)



**GolfAustralia**

---

### **National Squad Selection Criteria**

2014 Performance criteria as follows:

#### **Australian National Squad - Tier 1**

(Players must meet two of the following criteria to gain selection)

- Top 1 National Ranking
- Top 15 R & A World Ranking (men)
- Top 10 R & A World Ranking (women)
- Top 3 Asian Amateur (men)
- Top 16 of U.S Amateur or British Amateur Championship
- Top 30 at Australian Open
- Australian Amateur Champion

#### **Australian National Squad - Tier 2**

(Players must meet two of the following criteria to gain selection)

- Top 2 National Ranking
- Top 30 R & A World Ranking (men)
- Top 20 R & A World Ranking (women)
- Top 5 Asian Amateur (men)
- Top 32 of U.S Amateur or British Amateur Championship
- Top 60 at Australian Open
- Top 2 Australian Amateur

#### **Australian Junior Squad**

(Players must meet two of the following criteria to gain selection)

- Top 1 National Junior Ranking
- Top 10 National Ranking (men)
- Top 5 National Ranking (women)
- Top 100 R & A World Ranking (men)
- Top 30 R & A World Ranking (women)
- Top 10 Callaway Junior Worlds (men)
- Top 5 Callaway Junior Worlds (women)
- Top 32 of U.S Junior or British boys/girls Championship
- Top 64 of U.S Amateur or British Amateur Championship
- Top 16 at Australian Amateur (men)
- Top 4 at Australian Amateur (women)
- Australian Junior Champion