

GOLF AUSTRALIA RULES

NEWSLETTER:

Autumn 2017



GolfAustralia

New Rules of Golf Decision Limits Use of Video Review

On 25th April this year The R&A and the USGA issued a new Decision on the Rules of Golf to limit the use of video evidence in the game which takes effect immediately.

The two organisations have also established a working group of LPGA, PGA Tour, European Tour, Ladies European Tour and PGA of America representatives to immediately begin a comprehensive review of broader video issues that arise in televised competitions, including viewer call-ins.

New Decision 34-3/10 implements two standards for Rules committees to limit the use of video: 1) when video reveals evidence that could not reasonably be seen with the “naked eye” and 2) when players use their reasonable judgment to determine a specific location when applying the Rules. The full language of the Decision can be found at www.randa.org.

The first standard states “the use of video technology can make it possible to identify things that could not be seen with the naked eye.” An example includes a player who unknowingly touches a few grains of sand in taking a backswing with a club in a bunker when making a stroke.

If the committee concludes that such facts could not reasonably have been seen with the naked eye and the player was not otherwise aware of the potential breach, the player will be deemed not to have breached the Rules, even when video technology shows otherwise. This extends the provision from ball at rest moved cases, which was introduced in 2014 (Decision 18/4).

The second standard applies when a player determines a spot, point, position, line, area, distance or other location in applying the Rules and recognises that a player should not be held to the degree of precision that can sometimes be provided by video technology. Examples include determining the nearest point of relief, or replacing a lifted ball.

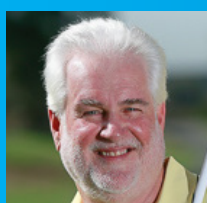
So long as the player does what can reasonably be expected under the circumstances to make an accurate determination, the player’s reasonable judgment will be accepted, even if later shown to be wrong by the use of video evidence.

Both of these standards have been extensively discussed as part of the Rules modernisation initiative and The R&A and the USGA have decided to enact this Decision immediately because of the many difficult issues arising from video review in televised golf.

The standards in the Decision do not change any of the current requirements in the Rules, as the player must still act with care, report all known breaches of the Rules and try to do what is reasonably expected in making an accurate determination when applying the Rules.

Video-related topics that require a deeper evaluation by the working group include the use of information from sources other than participants such as phone calls, email or social media and the application of penalties after a score card has been returned.

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Rod Clark from Golf NSW provides an insight to his role over 25 years



The Journey to Seoul
Stephanie Wearne details her experiences as a Referee.



Single Handicap System
The R&A and USGA Work Towards a Single World Handicap System



Martin Slumbers, Chief Executive of The R&A, said, "We have been considering the impact of video review on the game and feel it is important to introduce a Decision to give greater clarity in this area. Golf has always been a game of integrity and we want to ensure that the emphasis remains as much as possible on the reasonable judgment of the player rather than on what video technology can show."

USGA Executive Director/CEO Mike Davis said, "This important first step provides officials with tools that can have a direct and positive impact on the game. We recognise there is more work to be done. Advancements in video technology are enhancing the viewing experience for fans but can also significantly affect the competition. We need to balance those advances with what is fair for all players when applying the Rules."

The R&A and the USGA will consider additional modifications recommended by the working group for implementation in advance of 1 January 2019, when the new code resulting from the collaborative work to modernise golf's Rules takes effect.

Explanation regarding Lexi Thompson penalty

In the final round of the LPGA Tour's ANA Inspiration, Lexi Thompson held a two-stroke lead through 12 holes when she was approached by an LPGA Tour referee. On the 17th green in the third round the day before, Thompson had marked her ball on the putting green, lifted it and then replaced it in a slightly different position. Thompson's situation was complicated by the fact that no one, including Thompson, noticed she had played from a wrong place until long after she had signed her score card.

The R&A and the USGA have received questions on the ruling that occurred with Lexi Thompson at the ANA Inspiration.

The below information reviews the facts of the ruling and further clarifies how the Rules of Golf applied in this situation:

- During the final round, Lexi was assessed four penalty strokes for two breaches of the Rules that occurred the day before during the third round:
- On the 17th hole in that round, she replaced her ball on the wrong spot and then played the ball from that wrong place. This was a breach of Rule 16-1b, which imposes a two-stroke penalty.
- Because Lexi did not know she had incurred this penalty, she did not include it when she signed and returned her score card at the end of the third round, which was a further breach of the Rules under Rule



6-6d. Before 2016 this would have resulted in her disqualification. Under a 2016 rule change, Rule 6-6d now has an exception so that when the reason for the score card error was that the player did not include a penalty she did not know she had incurred, the player will receive an additional two-stroke penalty rather than being disqualified.

The LPGA learned of this breach after reviewing video evidence that was brought to its attention during the final round. The LPGA then correctly ruled that Lexi would receive a total of four penalty strokes, two strokes for playing from a wrong place and two additional strokes for returning the incorrect score card.

These types of situations do not occur frequently, but when they do, the committee's responsibility is to consider the evidence provided and apply the Rules accordingly. This was obviously a highly unfortunate situation which Lexi handled with poise and professionalism.

As part of their Rules Modernisation initiative, The R&A and the USGA have been discussing the use of video evidence and have developed a proposed new standard to limit its use when a player is estimating or measuring a spot, point, line, area or distance.

Proposed new Rule 1.3a(2) provides that "so long as the player does all that can be reasonably expected under the circumstances to make an accurate estimation or measurement, the player's reasonable judgment will be accepted even if later shown to be wrong by other information (such as video technology)."

When the proposed new Rules take effect in 2019, the committee would apply this new standard in determining whether there would be any penalty in this type of situation.

The Journey To Seoul

By Stephanie Wearne
Golf Victoria's Golf Events Coordinator

I have been very privileged to have been brought up in a "golfing" family. My father has been a teaching professional and club manager his whole career, my mother was a multiple-time club champion and my grandparents played also. It was inevitable therefore that my younger sister and I would play the sport.

I grew up in Heathcote in central Victoria and the golf course was quite literally our playground growing up, our front yard just metres from the front door of the club.

After a long career as the professional or manager at various clubs including Heathcote, Bendigo, Seymour, Goonawarra and in Singapore, my father Bryan is back playing on the PGA Legends tour.

I left the comfort of Heathcote after I finished high school to study in Melbourne. An Exercise Science/Sport Management double degree at Victoria University tickled my fancy while I spent a bit of time toying heavily with the idea of joining the police force, a career that had always resonated strongly with me.

Through my study I was required to undertake a "work placement" subject which I was lucky to have had the opportunity to complete at Golf Victoria, and upon me finishing my course I was offered an Events Officer role within that organisation.

I hadn't had much experience with golf rules until I started in my role at GV. I sat my State Level exam in mid-2016 and acted as an observer at the Emirates Australian Open later that year in November. This was a fantastic experience; my first Open inside the ropes which gave me a comprehensive view of what was required of referees in tournaments like this. It was quite surreal to be right there while players like Adam Scott, Geoff



Left to Right: Olivia Wilson (Golf NSW), Se-Ri Pak, Stephanie Wearne



Members of the Rules Committee at the
2017 ISPS Handa Women's Australian Open:
Front Row: Michelle Hui, Joanna Charlton

Back Row: Brian Hill, David Blake, Stephanie Wearne, Tyson Zeinstra

Ogilvy and Jordan Spieth were given rulings. I even got to witness a ruling where a ball had come to rest in a spectator's crossed arms, something I thought could only happen on TV, then I remembered where I was!

After I got over the initial shock and excitement of what was involved in the role of a referee in its entirety, it was time to prepare for the 2017 ISPS Handa Women's Australian Open in Adelaide where I was to have my first duty as an official myself. And what an experience it was! I was extremely nervous going to the course each day, possibly more so than what I would have been if I was playing in the event, but the nerves gradually left, easing more after each hole was completed.

The first two rounds I had the same grouping, which was really good. I felt comfortable knowing how each player and their respective caddies went about their work. It was fantastic to walk the fairways behind Minjee Lee who shot 6 under in her first round of the tournament at the lovely Royal Adelaide Golf Club, an awesome first day as a referee!

I left Adelaide that weekend feeling pretty proud of what I had just done and what I had accomplished in order to get to that point.

My latest rules experience was the Tournament Administration and Rules School (TARS) that was held in Seoul in mid-March. This was a very comprehensive 3-day course that covered in depth many aspects of tournament management and of course, the testing Level 3 R&A Rules exam. It was wonderful having the opportunity to be a part of the Australian contingent for this TARS instalment, especially with the development of the rules modernisation project coming to fruition.

A Rule of Twenty Years?

By Rod Clark
Former Manager Rules & Handicapping - Golf NSW

By way of introduction, I am Rod Clark and have been employed by Golf NSW (previously NSW Golf Assoc) for a little over twenty years and am currently on leave with my resignation effective at the end of my leave – I have effectively retired, sold up and moved out of Sydney and we are currently living in the Newcastle area hoping to purchase a home in Stockton on the north side of the river from Newcastle City centre, close to the beach and Newcastle Golf Club – and loving it so far.

Employment started at Golf NSW/NSWGA in a role developing and running the participation program known as the NSW Golf League. As this established I was probably spending about 60% of time on this project and the remainder on other duties, a large part of which was as secretariat to the Rules Committee.

Thus started a journey involving the Rules of Golf. Many have asked how I became interested in the Rules, and to be honest, from my upbringing and involvement in other sports I simply viewed it as beneficial and necessary to be aware of the parameters in which you were to operate, be it in sport, work or other areas of life.

I had played golf from about age twelve and been a member of North Ryde Golf Club since the age of fourteen (and will have up 50 years of membership at that club in August this year). I was fortunate to represent the club at all levels and had success in junior, club and foursomes championships.

One should also be aware that in “the old days”, the vast majority of clubs had the policy whereby new members effectively had indoctrination by having to play a nominated number of their initial games with a club captain or director. This procedure allowed the new golfer to be assessed and if necessary given advice on etiquette and Rules. It is a shame that so many clubs appear to have foregone this procedure, I believe it serves the game well.

For me, the Rules education process had begun much earlier with both my father and older brother being members of the same club, my mother and sister were subjected to all sorts of golfing discussion within the home. Thus my journey in the Rules of Golf really started way back then and helped serve me well when representing the club from about age sixteen.

On commencing work with Golf NSW/NSWGA my knowledge of the Rules was an added bonus and nurtured by management and the Rules Committees.

In the early years I went through the procedures and passed the “Club Level” and “State Level” accreditation exams (these have recently been replaced by The R&A Level 1 & 2 courses).

I began assisting at the club and state level education programs and when experienced enough effectively became the delivery person within NSW for the Club Level seminars and exams, and one of the group who conducted the annual State Level programs.

Delivery of these education programs possibly gave me my greatest pleasure in the workplace. Yes, it did get me out of the office travelling to most areas within the state of NSW, and whilst that was usually looked forward to the real pleasure came from being able to impart knowledge to so many. The role of teacher provides great satisfaction when you could literally see “the light globe go on” when you were able to explain something to someone and all of a sudden you can see that they “get it”.

At these sessions people often had that question they had been dying to ask someone for so long. They did not always get the answer they desired and a few wagers were probably lost, hopefully they all went away with the correct knowledge and understanding of why it was that way.

Having achieved State Level Accreditation I was afforded the opportunity to officiate as a “Rules Walker” at my first Australian Open (Men's) at Royal Sydney Golf Club in 1999. As the event rotated around the states I was not involved again until a few years later when it returned to Sydney.



Since the formation of Golf Australia I have also had the pleasure of refereeing at the Australian Open (Women's) events. Add to this the NSW Opens reintroduced from 2002 it has given me access to some great golf and great events.

Whilst being inside the ropes with the golfers is a fantastic way to view the sport, many possibly do not appreciate the daunting task it can be, and what can befall a referee. Imagine an event nearing completion, the crowds are large and a marquee golfer in your group suddenly wants a ruling. Now picture several thousand spectators looking over your shoulder to see what happens, then add the television crews and their cameras, then realise this is being broadcast to the world – no pressure whatsoever!

We all know that “Murphy's Law” will always bring about requirement for interesting and peculiar rulings. Following are details of two such experiences that occurred in Australian Opens:

Royal Sydney Golf Club: Aaron Baddeley pushes his drive into the trees in the right rough of the 12th hole (dogleg right). He was probably about 160 metres from the green and without a clear easy shot. The only likely shot to get anywhere near the green was a low running draw under the canopy of the trees. This was a reasonable shot to attempt in the circumstances, however there were two advertising signs near the green that were on a direct line to the hole and he asked if he could get TIO (Temporary Immovable Obstruction) relief. The signs were reachable and on a direct line to the hole. One of our Rules rovers was nearby and I solicited his assistance and he duly gave Aaron the relief he requested. What followed was not understood by most golfers who do not generally participate in events where TIO's are on the course. TIO's are generally in professional events and include items such as advertising signs, grandstands, tents etc., the things that are temporary for that event and not normally fixtures at the venue.

Because of the nearness to the green, the angle necessary to give Aaron relief meant that he ended up dropping the ball approximately 30 metres away and back on the fairway. Although he still had trees on the dogleg hindering his line to the hole for his next stroke it was a much simpler stroke than if he was not given relief. I have probably lost count of the number of people who asked how he was allowed to drop as far away as was permitted.

The interesting follow up to that is that the following year for both the men's and women's Australian Opens, most of the advertising hoardings were constructed such that they sat in metal sleeves and are now treated as movable obstructions. This action has simplified many rulings involving this type of signage.

The Lakes Golf Club: John Daly (1st Round) - most will recall that John had what could be called a meltdown and left the course after not completing the 11th hole at The Lakes.

The prelude was that he had double bogeyed the 9th to turn 4 over par on day one and then on the 10th hole went into the front greenside

bunker and played a wrong ball. His ball had actually hit the green on the full and gone into the back bunker. Unfortunately a range ball of the same brand he was using had strayed into the front bunker. Hence he played a wrong ball and after locating his original, then three putted for a triple.

Then came the 11th, a par 5 that goes in a right hand arc with water all the way to the green on the right side. John's drive rolled off the fairway to the light rough but on a slope with the ball well below his feet.

Hunter Mahan leaked a drive right and it caught the bank and rolled into the water. To get a flat stance he wanted to drop as close to the hazard as possible and so a redrop was required. He unfortunately did not carry the hazard with his next shot and so I assisted him with the procedure again. After going up the slope to the fairway John Daly was dropping a ball, so I asked the nearby marshal and a bunker carer if he had put one in the water. They responded he had put two in and this was his third.

Those two and what followed was a surreal live version of Kevin Costner dumping lots of balls in the water in the movie Tin Cup. Unfortunately for John it did not have the happy movie ending. The crowd had become involved and after each attempt the cheers got louder, so John would have another go - he hit seven in the water. What occurred next is something I am not sure you can practise or train for - the player simply stated to the effect; "That's it for me, I'm out of balls".

I must confess that my first thought was that it was not for me to check his bag to see if he had any more balls (I was not feeling that brave)!! In retrospect someone more regular to the tour environment may have advised him that more balls could have been obtained and brought out to him. But I somehow suspect his mind by then was such that he would not be able to qualify and just wanted to be out of there.

Whilst his actions cannot be condoned as walking out gives the wrong image and message to the young and impressionable, it also denied opportunity for those who still liked watching him play golf. I will say in fairness to him, at no time did he show any other poor behaviour or blame anyone else - just seemed to implode on himself.

But his situation still left some Rules work to be done, so here was John Daly walking from the course and one had to tactfully advise there were duties to complete with regard to the scorecard he had for his fellow competitor. As advised he then signed that card and said his farewell to the group.

Whilst there have been many interesting rulings the above are possibly the two most prominent and involving golfers of high profile.

Meanwhile, back in the office work goes on in the everyday world of club golf, and with NSW having approximately 40% of the affiliated golfers in Australia, in discussion one day it became apparent by these statistics it was likely that I was being asked more Rules of Golf questions than anyone else in Australia. Whether that stands true or not the office was the hub of queries for all level of golfers within NSW.

One learnt to be careful when receiving a query. People often only give enough information to obtain the answer they want or expect, years of experience taught the process of asking enough questions to be satisfied of the facts before delivering a Ruling. Often with queries from individuals you had to be careful in that it was often following a Ruling by a committee with which they did not agree. In these situations advice was often that the answer given was based purely on the facts they presented and to give an official Ruling we would need the committee's (or other party's) version of events. I am sure many clubs will not be aware of the many fires that were put out in the background.

One of the fantastic benefits of my position at Golf NSW was the people I got to deal with. In so many situations I was dealing with the core of the people who make this such a great game and industry - the volunteers that make up and run our clubs and district associations, without whom we would all be worse off. I have truly met some great people, characters of all sorts and forged many long term friendships.

I must say thank you to a few people. Firstly to David Allen and John Higson who were CEO and Director of Golf respectively at NSWGA -

they gave me opportunity and their guidance for which I will be forever grateful.

During my times as secretariat to the Rules Committee I was working with two gentlemen for whom I have the utmost respect, as Rules persons, Chairmen of the Rules Committees and also as friends, mentors and good but humble human beings.

Firstly the late Bob McEwan and secondly Frank Gal. Bob McEwan had involvement in any number of curious Rulings and whilst many would want to jump in and give Rulings, he would remain calm and be prepared to come back with an answer rather than rush in and possibly err. I recall a couple of specific cases whereby the answers were actually contained within the Rules but careful reading was required to get the correct understanding and interpretations. His calmness and care to get it correct were great attributes to learn from.

Many will be aware of Frank Gal, he has often been the Rules walker with the leading groups and marquee players and has officiated with distinction with players including McElroy, Scott, Day, Spieth etc..... I have had a great working relationship with Frank and he also displays many of the above attributes of Bob McEwan.

If I had any doubt on a Ruling I could contact Frank and Frank would often converse and check with me in a similar manner. The aim of a good Rules official/referee/committee person is not to have a competition to try and prove who is most knowledgeable; it is ultimately to get the correct answer for the situation. Both the above gentleman had/have excellent knowledge of the Rules of Golf and also displayed calm cool mind and did not let ego get in the way of striving to get correct Rulings.

Another part of the puzzle solving Rules group that must receive some mention is Golf Australia's Simon Magdulski. Effectively GA/Simon is the first port of call if a query is of such nature that a state body thinks it may need further clarification or had some doubt. If GA/Simon could not give a definitive answer they would often forward it to The R&A for comment and Ruling. Simon has been complicit in assisting with many intricate Rulings and I must thank him for his assistance and guidance over the many years. Those that know us both may not be surprised that there have possibly been a few lengthy conversations over this time. Also, thank you to Simon and GA for the opportunities afforded me.

I would be remiss if I did not also thank the many staff, directors and committee people at Golf NSW over the years with whom I have worked, it has been a pleasure.

On retiring from Golf NSW I have received many e-mails and responses to the article on the Golf NSW website of well wishes, congratulations and thanks for my involvement. I have had club captains ask who they can now call on a Saturday night now that I am not there (although my wife will not miss those calls).

I also received a flattering e-mail from Grant Moir (The R&A) thanking me for my involvement and contribution over the years but possibly the e-mail that I hope sums it up best is the one that follows:

*Hi Rod,
I am disappointed I won't be attending any more of your Rules Nights. Since I commenced golf in 2009 I would have attended at least one of your Rules nights every year. I was always impressed by your knowledge of the Rules and your ability to explain the Rules to anyone and everyone. Replacing you will be a daunting task. Thank you for making the Rules of Golf entertaining and encouraging us to believe that, with knowledge of the Rules, you can make them work for you. I wish you all the best in your new life in Stockton.*

If I have been able to assist and influence others in this manner I would conclude by saying it has been a worthwhile journey to date and long may it continue.

Wishing everyone great golf and looking forward to the new Rules of Golf scheduled for 2019.

Rules Quiz

By Brian Nesbitt (Victorian Level 2 Referee)

Level 1, No Rule Book Quiz – Rule Headings Please.

The key here is to try to learn Pages 3 and 4 in the Rule Book.

1. Rule 1 Heading is....
2. Rule 28
3. Rule 2
4. Rule 27
5. Rule 8
6. Rule 9
7. Rule 12
8. Rule 13
9. Rule 17
10. Rule 14

Level 1, you may use the Rule Book if necessary here, but I want the Rule number and sub-paragraph as well please.

1. Damaged Clubs, Repair and Replacement
2. Scoring in Stroke Play
3. Wrong Ball
4. Striking Ball more than Once
5. Provisional Ball
6. Immovable Obstruction
7. Relief from Loose Impediments
8. Order of Play, Match Play
9. Lifting and Marking Ball
10. Putting Green; Lifting and Cleaning Ball

This next Section will require the use of the Decisions Book and is aimed at Level 2 officials. Please give the Decision number, but you should be able to give the Rule number and possibly the sub-paragraph from memory! Ideally we want a decision within 3 minutes.

First, however, write down the rule number and sub-para for the following Headings:

1. Making Stroke from where Previous Stroke Made
2. Playing from a Wrong Place – Stroke Play
3. Dropping and Re-dropping; When to re-drop
4. Ball in Abnormal Ground Condition, Not Found
5. Ball interfering with Play
6. Ball in Motion Stopped by Opponent
7. Anchoring the Club
8. Ball Falling Off Tee
9. Advice
10. Movable Obstruction, Ball in Motion

Now we will need the Decisions Book. Please give the rule number and sub-para if possible.

1. A player's ball lies on the putting green and his caddie attends the flagstick for him. The caddie suggests, before the stroke, that the player aim at the caddie's left foot. Is the player in breach of Rule 8-2b?
2. In a match between A and B, B made a statement, which A interpreted to mean that his (A's) next stroke was conceded. Accordingly, A lifted his ball. B then said that he had not conceded A's next stroke.
3. In a match, A believing he has won a hole picks up the coin marking the position of his opponent B's ball. In fact B had a putt to halve the hole. Should the picking up of B's ball-marker be considered a concession of B's next stroke?
4. In a match between A and B, A has made two strokes and the ball with which he made his second stroke out of the rough is on the green. B, having played five, concedes the hole to A. A then discovers that he has played a wrong ball to the green. What is your ruling?
5. In stroke play, two competitors, having completed the 11th hole, played from the 15th tee, completed the hole and played from the 16th tee. Before playing their second shots they realised their mistake, returned to the 12th tee and completed the round. On reporting the incident the competitors were each penalised two strokes, as the Committee interpreted the "next teeing ground" referred to in Rule 11-4b to be that of the 12th hole. Was this correct?



GA's Rules and Handicapping Director Simon Magdulski conducts a role play session at the 2016 Australasian Rules & Competitions School

The R&A and USGA Work With Handicap Authorities to Develop a Single World Handicap System

It was recently announced that The R&A and the USGA are working with golf's handicapping authorities to develop a single World Handicap System for the game.

More than 15 million golfers in over 80 countries presently have a handicap, a numerical index long used as a measure of a golfer's potential skill level. Handicaps are currently delivered through six different systems around the world.

The aim of the proposed handicap system is to adopt a universal set of principles and procedures that will apply all over the world.

An extensive review of existing handicap systems administered by Golf Australia, the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU) in Great Britain and Ireland, the European Golf Association (EGA), the South African Golf Association (SAGA), the Argentine Golf Association (AAG) and the United States Golf Association (USGA) has been undertaken.

Golf organisations from different parts of the world have also been engaged with the current handicap authorities for the past two years to help shape the proposed system, which takes into account the many different golf cultures and most common formats of play. Research conducted to date has also reviewed systems and best practices inherent to handicapping, such as course rating and administration.

A joint committee led by The R&A and the USGA has been formed, including representatives from each handicap authority as well as the Japan Golf Association and Golf Canada. The joint committee plans to announce its proposals later this year.

Martin Slumbers, Chief Executive of The R&A, said, "We have been concerned for some time that many golfers find the handicapping landscape to be complicated and can be frustrated when it is not always applied in the same way in different parts of the world.

"We are working closely with the existing handicapping bodies to benefit from their insights as we try to formulate a system that will be easy to understand and can be applied

consistently on a global basis. We very much appreciate their support for this initiative."

Mike Davis, Executive Director and CEO of the USGA, said, "One wonderful aspect of golf that separates it from other sports is the opportunity for players of differing abilities to play on an equitable basis through handicapping. With one global system, golf courses will be rated and handicaps calculated in a consistent manner everywhere in the world. Removing borders to provide an easy way for all to play together is great for the game and golfers everywhere."

Key quotes:

John Hopkins (Chairman, Golf Australia) said "Golf Australia believes that significant benefits will flow to players around the world by having a global handicap platform. We are already very encouraged by how the World Handicap System is coming together."

Bob Carrick (Acting Chairman of CONGU) said, "The Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU) welcomes The R&A / USGA's initiative to develop a single Worldwide Handicapping System for the sport. We think that this is an exciting opportunity for standardising the system and for more players to obtain an official handicap. We will be delighted to work closely with other handicap authorities to ensure a smooth implementation."

Jean-Marc Mommer, President of the EGA declared: "It has been acknowledged that the European Golf Association (EGA), comprising 47 member national golf federations representing over four million registered golfers, has achieved considerable success to date in bridging a culturally diverse membership, and assisting the development of emerging golfing nations, with the EGA Handicap System. We are looking forward to contributing our knowledge, expertise and experience in working with The R&A, USGA and golf's other handicapping authorities in pursuing this most worthwhile task of uniting the golfing world under a single handicap system."

Geoff Taylor, President of the South African Golf Association said "The SAGA welcomes this initiative to standardise the handicap system methodology globally and which will in turn improve our local handicapping system. In anticipation of this implementation, a programme to re-rate all the golf courses in South Africa was embarked upon in 2016. While this programme presents a number of significant challenges, we believe that the benefits to golf globally and locally will be beyond measure in years to come. We shall continue to work closely with The R&A and USGA governing bodies to ensure a smooth and rapid transition."

Paul Feeney, Board Member of the Argentine Golf Association said: "The AAG is committed to assisting the development of a World Handicap System. We understand that golf has become a global sport and we are very enthusiastic about working together with many other associations in the development of WHS. A lot of work needs to be done; course ratings are one of the most significant challenges for Argentina, which we are trying to address."





Golf Australia

Rules Quiz Answers

Answers to Level 1 Quiz - Rule Numbers

1. The Game
2. Ball Unplayable
3. Match Play
4. Ball Lost, or Out of Bounds; Provisional Ball
5. Advice; Indicating Line of Play
6. Information as to Strokes Taken
7. Searching for and Identifying Ball
8. Ball Played as it Lies
9. The Flagstick
10. Striking the Ball

Answers to Level 1 Quiz using Rule Book

1. Rule 4-3
2. Rule 6-6
3. Rule 15-3
4. Rule 14-4
5. Rule 27-2
6. Rule 24-2
7. Rule 23-1
8. Rule 10-1
9. Rule 20-1
10. Rule 16-1b

Level 2 Decisions Book Answers – Rule Headings

1. Rule 20-5
2. Rule 20-7c
3. Rule 20-2c
4. Rule 25-1c
5. Rule 22-2
6. Rule 19-3
7. Rule 14-1b
8. Rule 11-3
9. Rule 8-1
10. Rule 24-1

Decision Book Answers

1. Decision 8-2b/2. If the caddie had placed his foot in position for the purpose of pointing out the line of putt, the player was in breach of Rule 8-2b as soon as the caddie placed his foot in that position. The breach could not be corrected by the caddie subsequently moving his foot.
If the caddie did not initially place his foot in such a position for the purpose of pointing out the line of putt but subsequently suggested the player aim at his left foot, the player would be in breach of Rule 8-2b if the caddie did not move that foot to another position that does not indicate a line of putt prior the stroke.
The same answer would apply if a player's partner attends the flagstick for him.
2. Decision 2-4/3. If B's statement could reasonably have led A to think his next stroke had been conceded, in equity (Rule 1-4), A should replace his ball as near as possible to where it lay, without penalty. Otherwise, A would incur a penalty stroke for lifting his ball without marking its position – Rule 20-1 – and he must replace his ball as near as possible to where it lay.
3. Decision 2-4/5. No. In equity (Rule 1-4), A should be penalised one stroke. Therefore, under the second paragraph of Rule 2-2 the hole is automatically halved. (Remember, once you have a half, you cannot lose it subsequently.)
4. Decision 2-4/9. A lost the hole (Rule 15-3a) before B conceded it to him. Therefore, B's concession was irrelevant.
5. No. Decision 11-5/1. When the competitors played from the 16th tee, they had played from "the next teeing ground" and could not correct their error. Therefore, they should have been disqualified. See also Decision 11-5/4 when error corrected.

