



# **METROPOLITAN INFORMATION FORUMS**

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# **CURRENT ISSUES IN GOLF**

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**PRESENTED BY GOLF NSW**

Graeme Phillipson – General Manager - Golf

[www.golfnsw.org](http://www.golfnsw.org)





## DISCUSSION POINTS

- Pace of Play
- Using Multiple Tees
- Pennant Software
- Junior Pro-Am
- 2019 Rules Modernisation
- Statistics on [www.golfnsw.org](http://www.golfnsw.org)
- Course Rating
- High Performance



## PACE OF PLAY

### Did you know?

If each player in a four-ball takes 5 seconds less to play each shot, the round time can be improved by over 25 minutes.



Golf courses are becoming far too long. Twenty years ago we played three rounds of golf a day and considered we had taken an interminably long time if we took more than two hours to play a round. Today it not infrequently takes over three hours.

— Alister MacKenzie —

A recent R&A survey -  
60% of golfers  
wished their rounds  
to be shorter





## PEOPLE THESE DAYS ARE TIME POOR

### CONSIDERATIONS

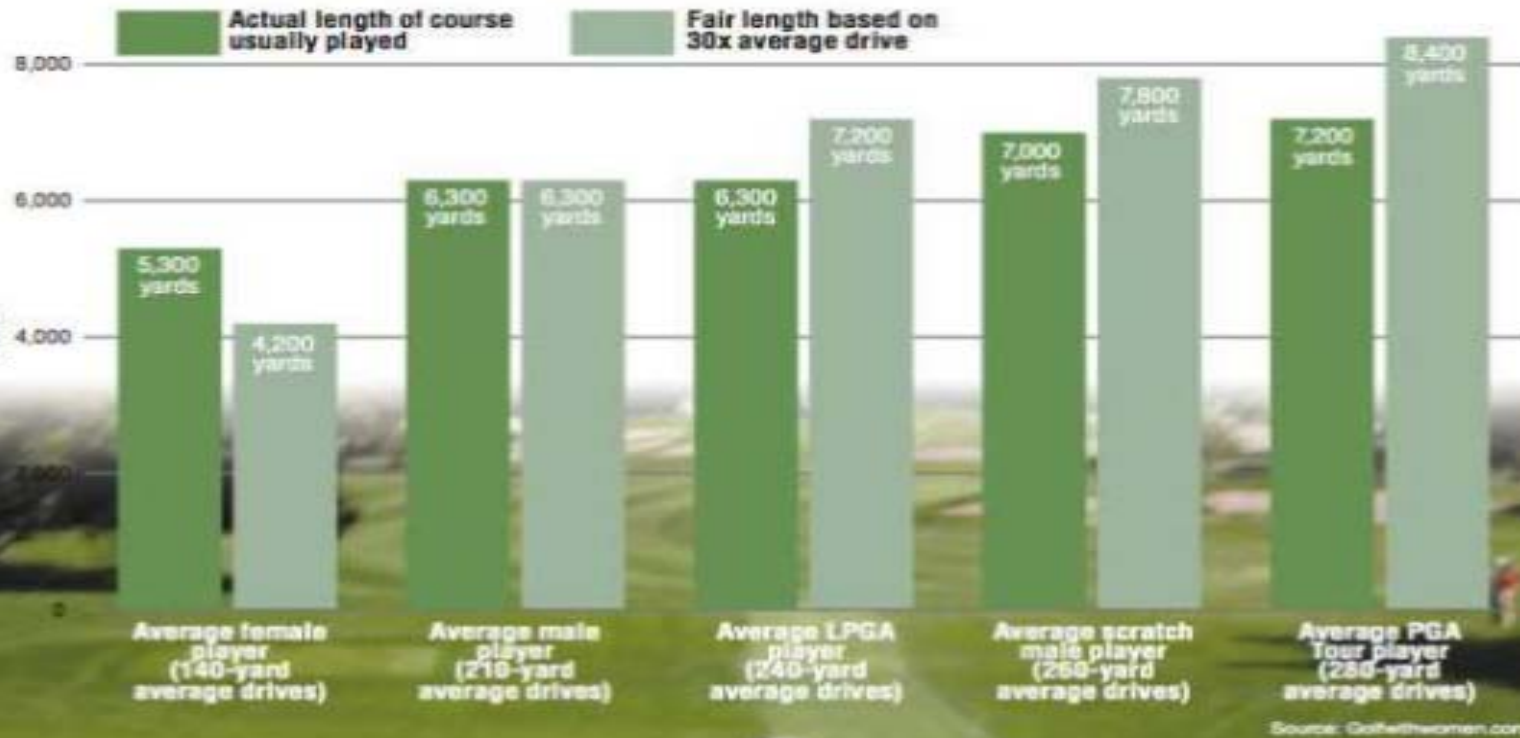
- 9 Hole Competitions
- Have forward tees rated
- Ready golf





## Course lengths too long for women?

The forward tees at most golf courses are actually too long for an average female golfer, according to a study by [golfwithwomen.com](http://golfwithwomen.com). The average woman hits the ball 140 yards with a driver off the tee, while the average course length from the forward tees is 5,300 yards. Based on an average drive, women should actually be playing a course that is 4,200 yards in length, according to the study. The lengths of courses are actually more fair for nearly every other group of golfers. Below are the average course lengths for several groups of golfers, and the "fair" length based on an average drive for that group:



Men -competition rounds of forward tees and only their Championship or Medal Rounds from their back tees.

Women generally play from their Championship tees in every round.

Clubs need to ensure that forward tees are rated for new golfers, for senior golfers and for women.




# READY GOLF



## WHAT IS IT?


- Refers to a method for golfers to speed up play
- Hit when ready
- Shorter hitters can play first
- More efficient play

TOUR & NEWS

### R&A set to implement Ready Golf in 2017 amateur events

 **Sean Zak**  
Wednesday June 7th, 2017

SHARE  



*Ready Golf* was just one of a number of Rules changes proposed in February.

GETTY IMAGES // MARK RUNNAGLES

Who needs to be patient in this game of golf? The R&A sure isn't planning to be.

One of golf's governing bodies, the R&A is set to bring "ready golf" to its [amateur championships](#) beginning this year, instead of waiting until 2019 as was proposed earlier in 2017. The decision will be implemented with pace of play in mind, and will affect events such as the men's and women's



# What Influences Pace of Play?

There are three factors which influence the Pace of Play:

- The management of play
- The course design and set-up
- The players

Explore the panels opposite to find out more information on each of the topics.

Before embarking on any attempts to improve pace of play, it is best to assess whether there is a widespread view among users of the facility that there is an issue with pace of play. The Pace of Play Manual provides guidance on simple methods of data gathering.







# MULTI TEE AND MIXED GENDER COMPETITIONS

## HOW?

- Each golfer plays from a specific set of tees of their choice
- Slope rating help to adjust the competition handicap
- Further adjustment of a handicap may be required





# MULTI TEE AND MIXED GENDER COMPETITIONS

## AN EXAMPLE: AT THURGOONA

- Stuart plays off the blue – par 72, scratch 73 (so his course is 1 harder than par)
- Bernard plays off white – par 72, scratch 72 (so his course is same as par)
- Piret plays off the red – par 74, scratch 75 (so her course is 1 harder than par)



# SOFTWARE FOR DISTRICTS

## GOLF BOX SOFTWARE

- Golf NSW has been using Golf Box software for 3 years
- Also used by the R&A, England Golf, European Tour
- Free Pennant Software for all Districts
- Clubs enter their own results – immediate availability to view





[Men's Metropolitan Major Pennant](#)

[Division: Division 1](#)  
[Pool: Section 1](#)

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[SCORES](#) | [CONTACT INFO](#) | [INFO](#)

PLAYED  
  IN PROGRESS  
  STILL TO PLAY
 Last updated: 4:28 pm (UTC+10:00)

Reloads in 78 seconds

Pos	Team name	MATCHES				Score	Pts
		Total	Won	Tied	Lost		
1	St. Michael's	6	6	0	0	31 - 11	6
2	Mona Vale	6	2	1	3	19.5 - 22.5	2.5
3	Macquarie Links	6	2	0	4	15 - 27	2
4	Bonnie Doon	6	1	1	4	18.5 - 23.5	1.5

DECISIONS ON EQUAL POSITION ▼

MATCH OVERVIEW

Match #	Date	Start	Team name	Score	Team name
24767	12/02/2017	11:30	Bonnie Doon	3 - 4	St. Michael's
24768	12/02/2017	11:30	Macquarie Links	4.5 - 2.5	Mona Vale





Bonnie Doon		3	Team score	4	St. Michael's	
		3.5				
Round 1		12/02/2017				
Match	Player	Result			Player	Hole
1	GRIERSON, James Bonnie Doon Golf Club		3&2		SMYTH, Travis St Michael's Golf Club	F
3	GANNON, Mitchell Bonnie Doon Golf Club		4&3		LYRAS, John St Michael's Golf Club	F
5	MCLEOD, JACK Bonnie Doon Golf Club		4&3		BAKER, Jake St Michael's Golf Club	F
7	BURNS, Kurt Bonnie Doon Golf Club		4&2		CLARKE, Joshua St Michael's Golf Club	F
9	COMERFORD, Jones Bonnie Doon Golf Club		3&2		HAMMOND, Mike St Michael's Golf Club	F
11	DEUTROM, Nick Kooyonga Golf Club		4&2		COSTA, Samuel St Michael's Golf Club	F
13	KEANE, Ethan Bonnie Doon Golf Club		2 Holes		CROWE, Harrison St Michael's Golf Club	F







# JUNIOR PRO AM @ NSW OPEN

A GOLF NSW INITIATIVE



# Rules Modernisation

A Fundamental Revision to the Rules of Golf for 2019





# 2019 RULES MODERNISATION

## SPEEDING UP PLAY

- Caddies can't stand behind players to line them up
- Must play within 40 seconds
- Can establish a maximum number of strokes in a competition
- Specifically allow golfers to play out of turn







# 2019 RULES MODERNISATION



## Time for Ball Search



Three minutes will be the maximum allotted time to search for a ball, rather than the current five minutes.





## Repairing Spike Marks



It will be OK to repair spike marks and any other damage done by shoes, damage from a club and almost all other damage on the putting green.





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## Leaving Flagstick in the Hole

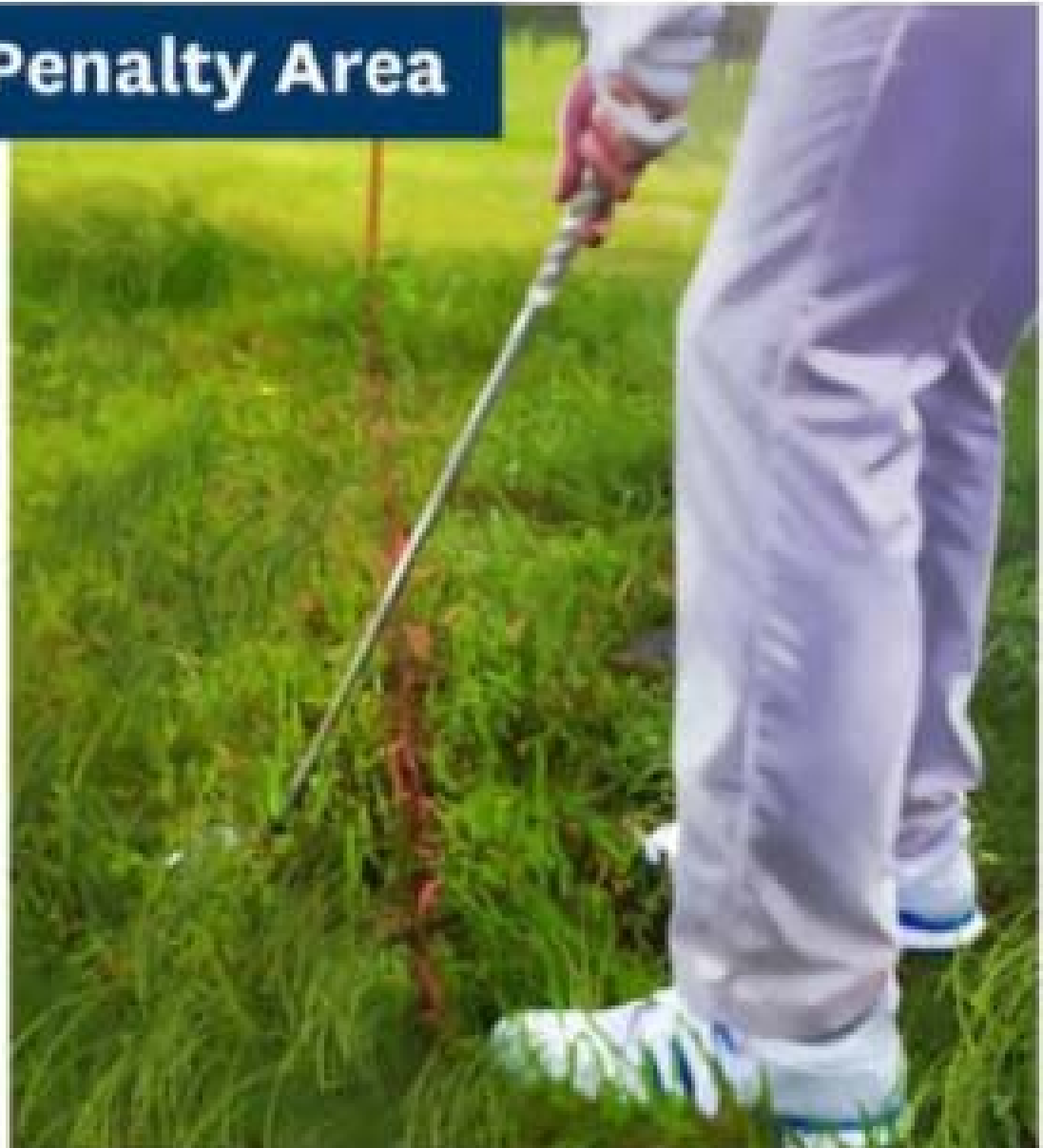
If you make a stroke from on the green and your ball hits the flagstick in the hole, there will be no penalty.





## Relaxed Rules in Penalty Area

You are allowed to ground your club and move loose impediments in a penalty area (an expanded concept of water hazards).





## BALL IN MOTION ACCIDENTALLY DEFLECTED



### Proposed Rule

If a ball in motion is accidentally deflected by you or your equipment, there will be no penalty and the ball will be played from where it comes to rest.

# Loose Impediments in a Bunker





## New Writing Style and Formats

### Rule 16

#### RULE 16

#### Rule 16 – Relief from Abnormal Course Conditions (Including Immovable Obstructions), Dangerous Animal Situations, Embedded Ball

##### Purpose of Rule 16:

Rule 16 covers when and how you may take free relief from interference by abnormal course conditions and dangerous animal situations.

- › Because such conditions and situations are not considered part of your challenge in playing the game, you are normally allowed relief without penalty when they interfere with your ball that lies anywhere on the course except in a penalty area.
- › You normally take relief by dropping your ball in and playing it from a relief area based on the nearest point of complete relief, so that you are completely free of the interference.

The Rule also allows you to take free relief when your ball is embedded in its own pitch mark in the general area.

##### 16.1 Abnormal Course Conditions (Including Immovable Obstructions)

This Rule covers relief from interference by *animal holes, ground under repair, immovable obstructions or temporary water*.

These are collectively called abnormal course conditions, but each of these terms has a separate Definition.

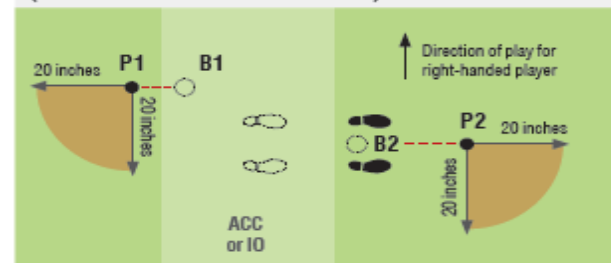
##### a. When You May Take Relief

**Meaning of Interference by Abnormal Course Condition.**  
Interference exists when:

- › Your ball touches or lies in or on an *abnormal course condition*, or
- › An *abnormal course condition* interferes with your area of intended *stance* or area of intended *swing*, or
- › Only when your ball is on *the putting green*, an *abnormal course condition* on or off *the putting green* intervenes on your *line of play*.

When your ball is off *the putting green*, intervention on your *line of play* is not interference under this Rule.

**FIGURE 16.1a. RELIEF FROM ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS (INCLUDING IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS)**



Relief is allowed for interference by an abnormal course condition (ACC), including an immovable obstruction (IO), when your ball touches or lies in or on the condition (B1), or the condition interferes with your area of intended stance or swing (B2). For a right-handed player, the nearest point of complete relief for B1 is very close to the condition (P1). For B2, it is farther from the condition to accommodate the stance (P2).

### Rule 16



## **DROPPING THE BALL**

- Within 20 or 80 inches rather than a club length or two
- Ball must land in and remain in the dropping area
- Drop from any height







## WHAT IF YOUR BALL DOESN'T STAY IN THE DEFINED DOPPING AREA

- Try Harder!
- Try a few different spots within that area
- Try releasing the ball closer to the ground
- If all that fails ...move to the nearest spot where the ball will come to rest, when dropped



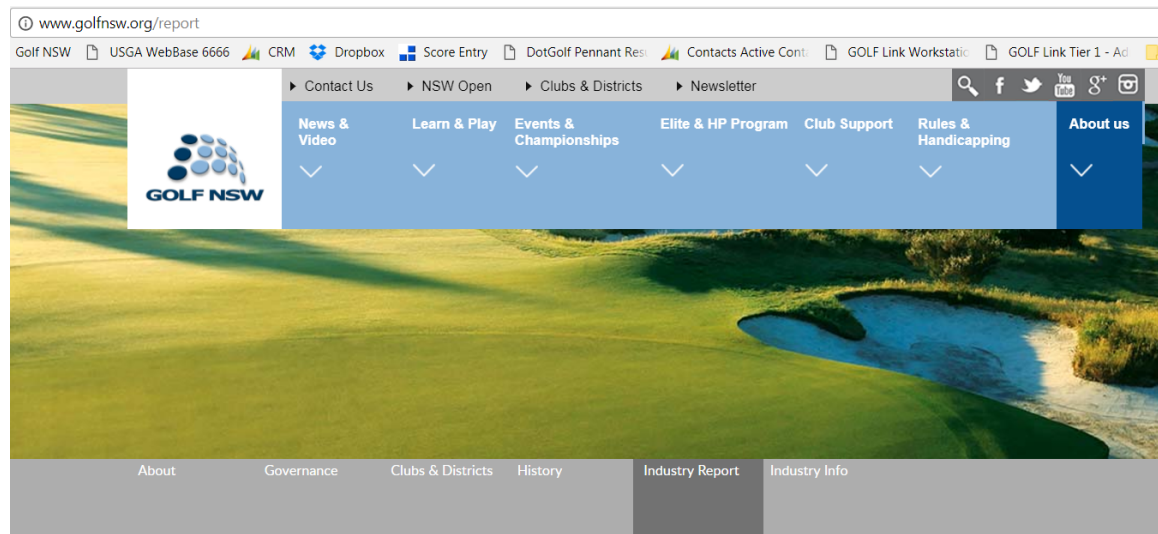
## TODAY'S GOLF GAME

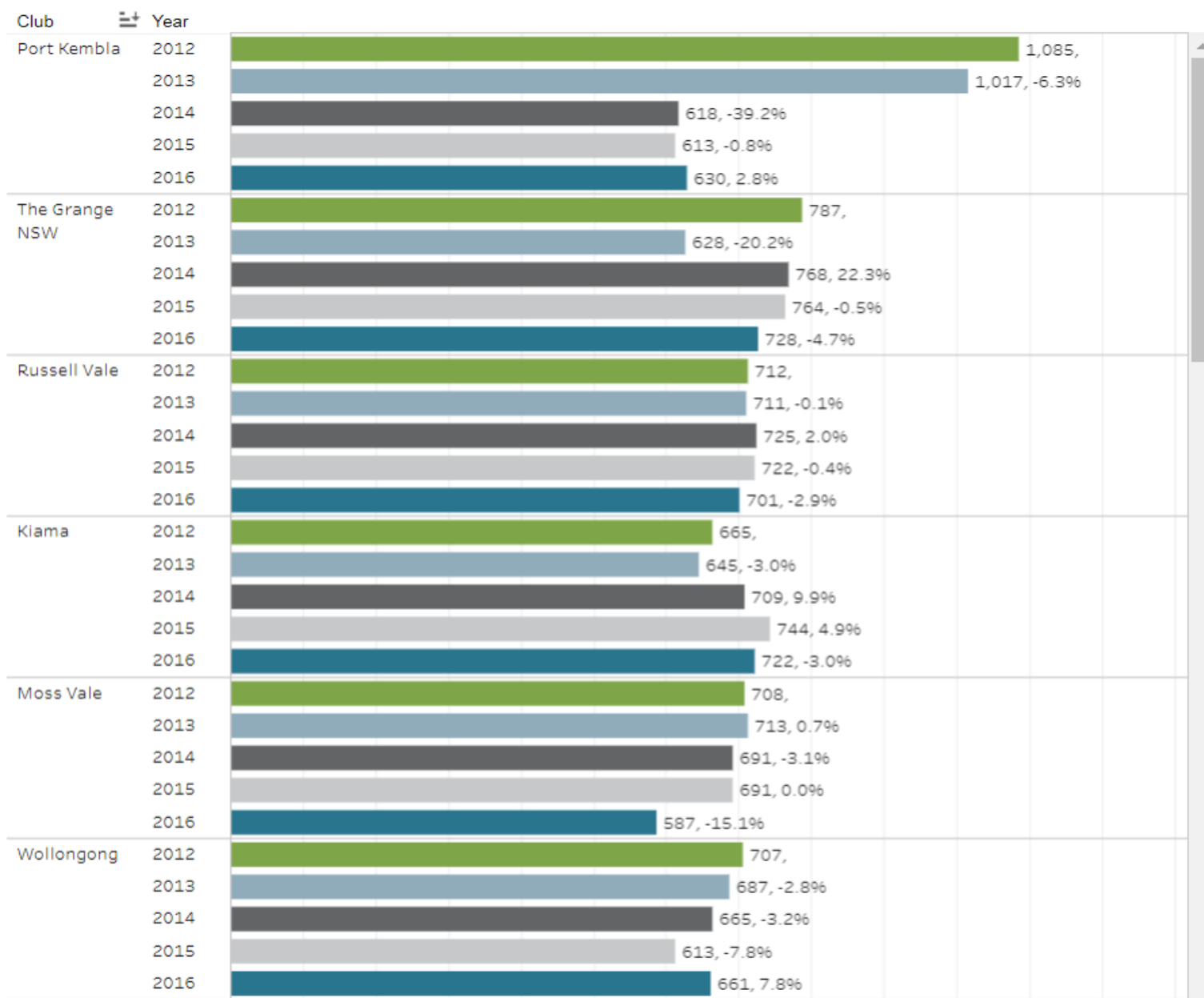
- Teams of 3 or 4 - 9 Holes
- Use each players tee shot at least once
- Choose the team's tee shot, then all play out as a single stableford from there. Best two scores on each hole to count. Par 3's just play your own ball.
- Play when ready. Be conscious of 'speed of play'
- I will arrange groups of four now I know who is playing and who needs a cart



# STATISTICS

## MAKE YOUR DECISIONS EVIDENCE BASED





**District**  
 Illawarra ▼

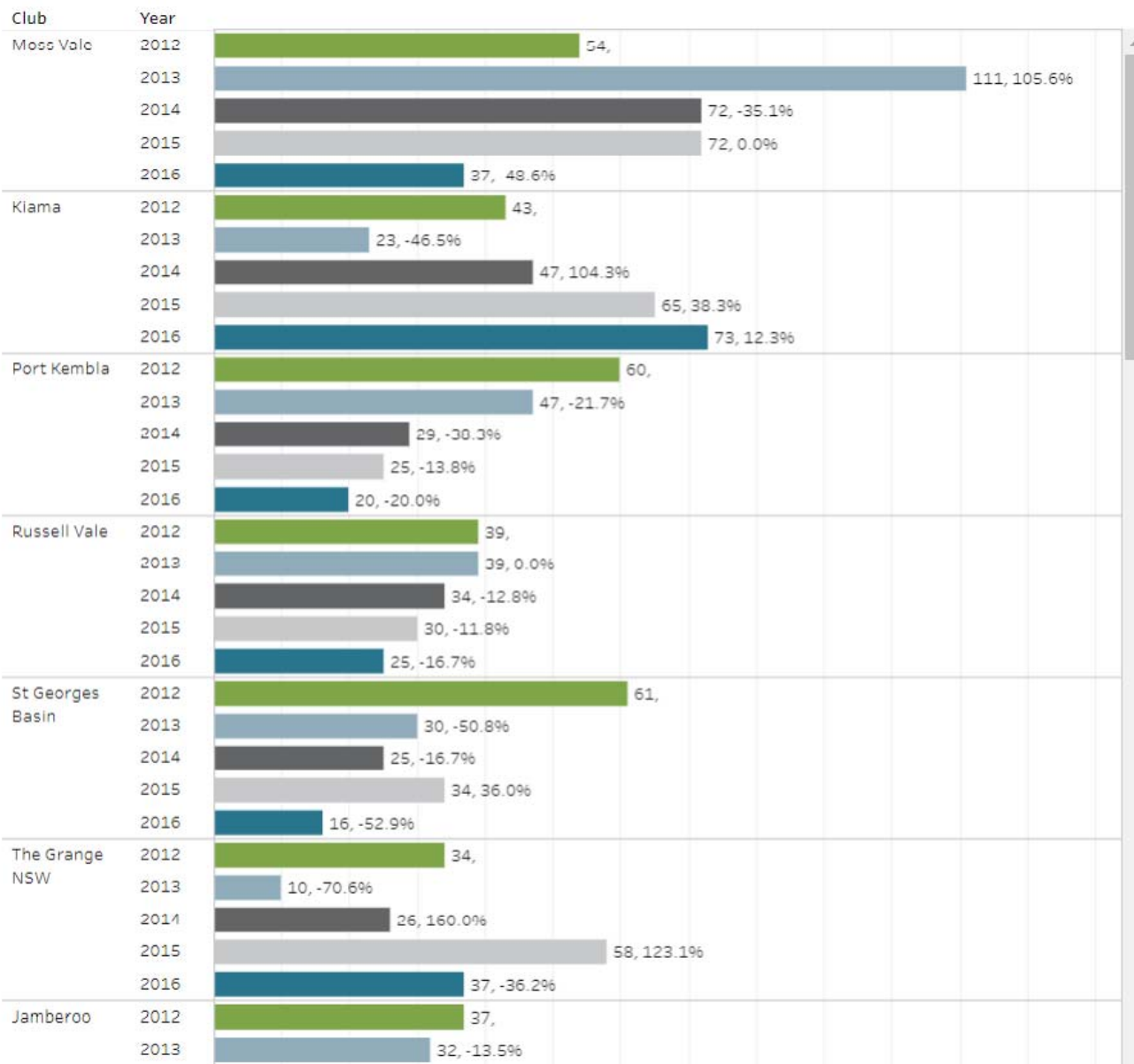
**Gender**  
 (All) ▼

**Adult / Juniors**  
 (All) ▼

**Club Type**  
 (All) ▼

**Club Size**  
 (Multiple values) ▼





District  
 Illawarra

Gender  
 (All)

Adult / Juniors  
 Juniors

Club Type  
 (All)

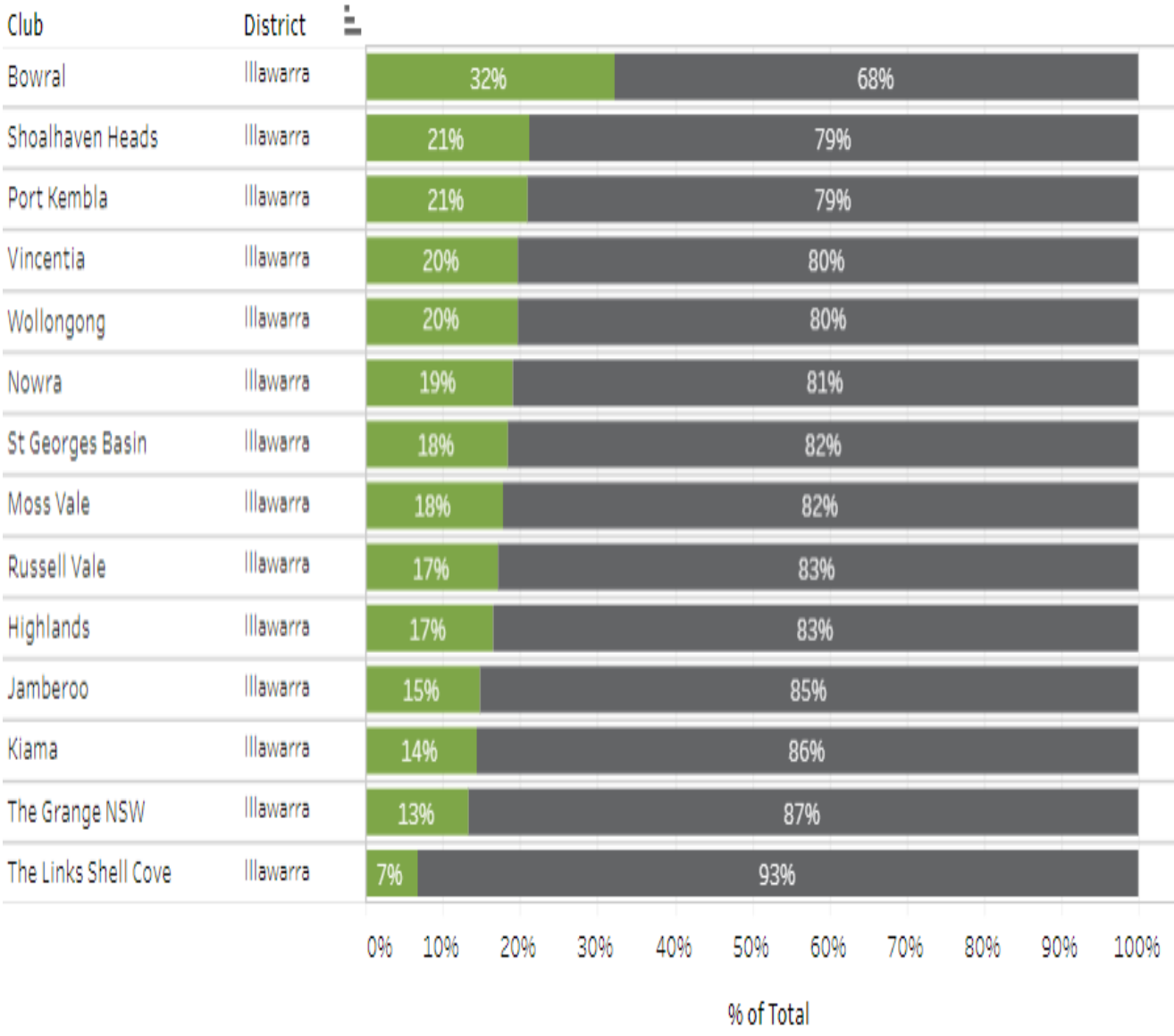
Club Size  
 (Multiple values)

# JUNIORS

The number of junior members in the District have dropped from 571 to 401 in four years !







Year  
2016

District  
Illawarra

Club Size  
(Multiple values)

Club Search  
Highlight Club

# GENDER MIX

Of the Clubs in this District, the gender mix varies from 32% female at Bowral to 7% female at The Links Shell Cove

All Clubs, other than Bowral, have a lower % of females than the State average



# COURSE RATING

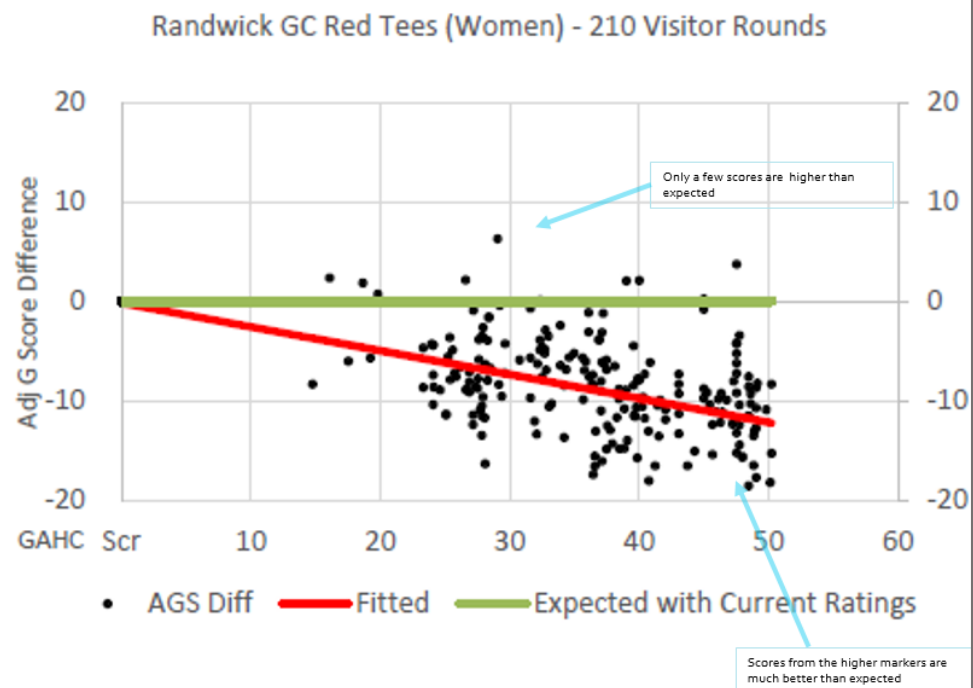
## IMPROVEMENTS

- Golf NSW and Golf Australia are working towards statistical methodology
- Reviewing current USGA ratings that are currently being used



## VISITORS ROUNDS

## COMPARING EXPECTED SCORES WITH ACTUAL SCORES





## HIGH PERFORMANCE

- Talented 15-17 year old girls
- Talent ID in regional areas



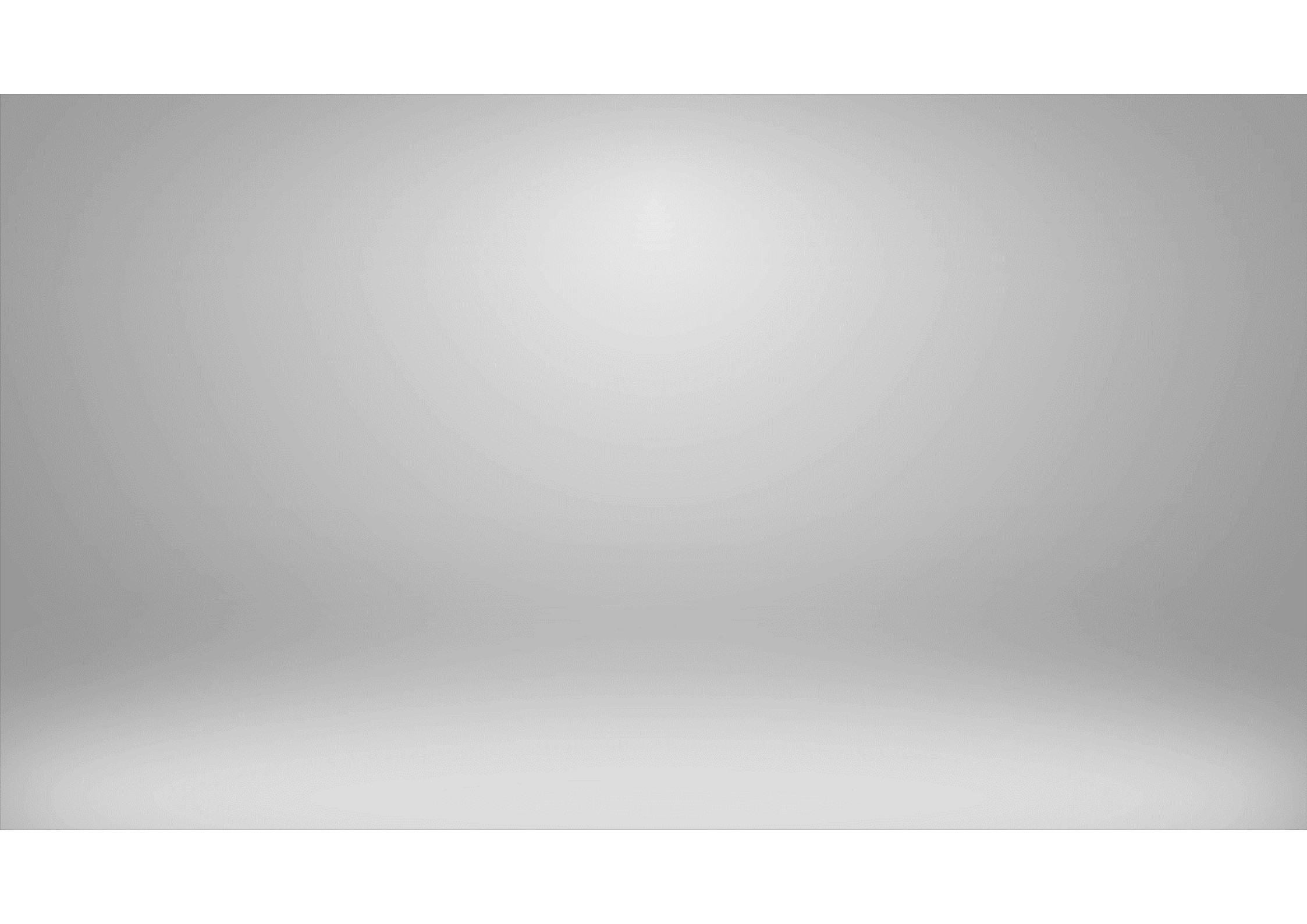


## **NEXT PRESENTATION**

### **CLUB SUPPORT**

- Golf NSW is doing so much in this area now
- A recent trip to Wilcannia has seen a joint initiative of NSW Government and Golf NSW result in the Club, which had been closed for 6 years, re-open its doors







## **NEXT PRESENTATION: CLUB SUPPORT**