



Short Course

Advantages for South Australian Golfers

Golf SA has noticed a trend appearing for clubs to offer extra courses for their players, whether a forward tee option such as a white course to vary the golf experience for its members, or a short course.

Golf Australia is actively urging clubs to offer a shorter course for learners/older players - from its instructions on offering competitions from different tees: ***GA encourages clubs to explore ways in which the club membership experience can be enhanced. One such way can be to provide to juniors, beginners, or members of lesser ability a shorter course option than would otherwise be available to them (which in many cases can make for a more enjoyable experience). A further benefit of this is that it will almost certainly lead to an improvement in the pace of play. A common refrain in world golf is that players should be encouraged to choose tee options that align with their level of play.***

The policy advocates that anything that can make the game fun at every level, should be encouraged.

Golf SA has encouraged clubs to label their shorter course as the **Orange** course, as we would like the concept of **Orange** tees to signal that a club has a set of tees that are beginner friendly. All of SA's premier sand-belt courses have had **Orange** tees rated, as have most of the Tier 2 clubs in the metro area, and we have rated several courses in the country districts.

The short course can be used for handicapping purposes. As long as the course measures greater than 2744 metres, it can be rated under the USGA system and will have a Scratch and a Slope rating, thus allowing a player to gain a handicap, or to use his/her GA handicap. To be eligible for rating under the current system, each 9 must have at least one hole which is longer than 230 metres.

GolfLink's Tier 1 system, as used by many of the country clubs, and Tier 3 systems administered through service providers such as MiClub and Micropower, have the facility to process results from a competition for handicap purposes, and then to combine these results with those from another competition played at the same time from a different tee or different tees. This would result in some scores being adjusted for the purpose of awarding overall prizes only. The result that would show on a player's GL record would be the handicapping record.

If desired by the club, the results from competitions played off different tees at the same time may be linked for DSR purposes, to ensure a larger statistical sample for more accuracy.

Orange tees are suitable for juniors/beginners and also for a number of other purposes as indicated:

- For beginners and juniors to become familiar with playing on a golf course
- For beginners and juniors to gain a handicap
- Juniors/beginners can play in amongst players from other tees
- For a social day – players can play 18 holes of golf with a shotgun start and be in for lunch in reasonable time
- To sharpen up short game skills for elite players
- To vary the golf experience for other players
- To keep that ageing player in the game longer

Short course doesn't mean easy - because an **Orange** course is short, and has a low Scratch and Slope rating, it may look to be an easy course to play. But as most **Orange** courses have a Par of approx. 62 – 65, but a Scratch rating lower than that, players must score several net birdies to play to their handicap, using less handicap than they are used to on the full length course. However, they will find net birdies easy to achieve and they will have fun doing it!