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## Memo

**To:** Clubs  
**c.c.:** Member States, GA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee  
**From:** Simon Magdulski  
**Date:** 2 March 2009  
**Subject:** Changes to Australian Women's Handicapping System & Australian Men's Handicapping System

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Dear All,

Golf Australia is pleased to announce that the below amended regulations are to be incorporated into the Australian Women's Handicapping System & Australian Men's Handicapping System.

Except where noted, all amended regulations will come into effect on **Wednesday 1 April 2009**.

The changes were formulated by the GA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee and have been ratified by the GA Board.

GA is continuing to work towards having in place unified methodologies for men's and women's handicapping and to strive to achieve regulations which provide for handicapping which is as equitable as possible.

### Quantity of Score Cards to be submitted to Gain and Retain an Australian Handicap (NB the change regarding the "retain" regulation came into effect on 1 January 2009)

*Note – It is mainly the men's regulations that have been changed.*

- ◆ Once a player has returned 3 eligible score cards, they will be allocated an Australian Handicap. NB Any stipulated Extra Day or competition round of between 9 and 18 holes inclusive returned on ANY course with an Australian Course Rating will be acceptable for this purpose (subject to the normal additional conditions a club may place on Extra Day Scores).
- ◆ All handicap records will be examined at 1 January each year, at which time all scores more than a year old will be disregarded, being no longer valid. The remaining scores will be considered "live scores". For a player to retain an Australian Handicap they must have at least 3 "live scores" in their handicap record. NB An eligible score returned from a stipulated round of 9-17 holes inclusive will have the same status as an eligible score returned from a stipulated round of 18 holes.
- ◆ For an Extra Day Score to be considered eligible it must be marked by a female or male member of any golf club or golf association recognised by Golf Australia, or by a person otherwise approved by the club committee.

### Club Handicaps

*Note – Both the men's regulations and the women's regulations have been changed to similar degrees.*

- ◆ The maximum Australian Men's Handicap is 36.4. If a male with an exact handicap of 36.4 returns a net score which is worse than the course rating, the handicap on their official handicap record will remain at 36.4. Official Club Handicaps beyond 36.4 will not be permitted.

- ◆ It has been clarified that the maximum Australian Women's Handicap is 45.4. If a female with an exact handicap of 45.4 returns a net score which is worse than the course rating, the handicap on their official handicap record will remain at 45.4. Official Club Handicaps beyond 45.4 will not be permitted.
- ◆ Should a committee consider it appropriate, it may allocate selected members with 'Club' handicaps. 'Club' handicaps must be recorded separately to Australian Handicaps (ie there must be separate record sheets). It will be solely for the respective committee to determine how it calculates the 'club' handicaps of its members.

### **Guidelines re Determining Handicap for Player Returning to Handicap Golf After Not Submitting Score for Two Years or More**

*Note – These guidelines are new to both women's handicapping and men's handicapping.*

If a player returns to playing, having not submitted a score for two years or more, the Handicapping Manager/Committee may allot a new Australian Women's or Men's Handicap under the procedure as described in [insert section number relating to allocation of initial handicap] (in doing so, the State handicap manager must be consulted when allocating a handicap more than two strokes higher than the previous handicap for players whose last recorded handicap was 4.4 or less; a handicap more than 3 strokes higher than the previous handicap for players whose last recorded handicap was 4.5-10.4; and a handicap more than 4 strokes higher than any previous handicap for players whose last recorded handicap was greater than 10.4), or reinstate their previous handicap once the player has returned the requisite number of "live scores".

### **Handicapping of Four-Ball Competitions**

*Note – It is mainly the women's regulations that have been changed.*

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

- ◆ The pair has a score of at least 42 Stableford points (6 up in Par or net 6 under in Stroke events)
- ◆ The individual player's score appears at least 9 times on the four-ball score card
- ◆ The adjusted score (after the below method has been followed to create an individual score card) will result in a reduction to the individual player's handicap

(GOLF Link clubs will enter these scores as ad-hoc scores, using the AMCR/AWCR as the MCCR/WCCR.)

Procedure for completing four-ball score card – When a player has no handicap stroke on a hole and their score is not recorded on the four-ball card, they should be given 1 stroke over the par of the hole. On holes where a player receives 1 handicap stroke but their score is not recorded on the four-ball card, they should be given 1½ strokes over the par of the hole. When a player receives 2 handicap strokes on a hole and their score is not recorded on the four-ball card, they should be given 2½ strokes over the par for the hole. When a player receives 3 handicap strokes on a hole and their score is not recorded on the four-ball card, they should be given 3½ strokes over the par for the hole.

(NB 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 established, the second player is deemed to have not recorded a score for that hole.)

When all the gaps in the card have been filled in, the scores should be added, and where a half appears in the total, the scores should be taken to the next higher whole number.

Except in the most unusual circumstances, the score obtained in this manner will be worse than the score actually recorded by the player and in this way does not attribute the player with a score better than their play reflected.

The score obtained is recorded in the player's handicap record sheet and treated in the same way as all singles scores for handicap purposes.

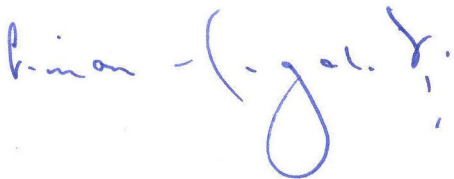
**Competitions of Between 9-17 Holes – Golf Australia Q&A for Committees**

*Note – The GA Q&A document regarding procedures for competitions of 9-17 holes has been amended. The amendments reflect a move by GA to use the 18-hole stroke index and 18-hole course rating for competitions of this type.*

The amended document is attached and is posted at [www.golfaustralia.org.au](http://www.golfaustralia.org.au).

Please contact your state association should you have any queries at all regarding any of the above.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simon Magdulski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Simon Magdulski  
**Manager – Rules & Handicapping**

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