



Dear Club Captain,

Announcement of Major Components of the Complete New GA Handicap System

I am writing to update you on our work regarding the design of the new GA Handicap System. This design process has been ongoing since late 2010 when the GA Board decided that a purpose-built system would provide better outcomes for Australian golf than the USGA Handicap System.

Together with a program of extensive consultation, we have spent the past 18 months analysing all concepts contained in each of the major handicap systems in operation around the world. These systems include the European Golf Association Handicap System, the Council of National Golf Unions (ie British) Unified Handicapping System, and the USGA Handicap System.

Along with some unique regulations of our own, we have identified those concepts we believe to be most consistent with the Australian golf culture and preferences. Our development process has also incorporated an ongoing program of extensive statistical analysis, as well as live trialling of the new Daily Scratch Rating system within a diverse sample of clubs across Australia.

The major components of the complete new GA Handicap System are as follows:

Already in Effect

- Best 8 of 20, multiplied by 0.93
- Anchor
- Immediate updating of handicaps
- No lapsed handicaps

Yet to be Implemented

- DSR (Daily Scratch Rating)
- Slope
- SHA (Stableford Handicapping Adjustment)
- Handicapping of Conforming Social Scores
- Handicapping of Four-ball scores (will be similar to current regulations)
- Changed 9-hole regulations (9-hole score to be automatically held in GOLF *Link* for combination with next 9-hole score)

This letter has two accompanying resources. The first provides a brief summary of each major component. The second outlines the key developments and actions from the design process.

The next stage in the implementation pathway is to work with GOLF *Link* and each of the Tier 3 providers to establish all software change requirements in detail, which will be a significant and complex project. Completion of this stage will enable the GA Board to sign off on the new handicap system's complete regulatory framework.

We currently estimate that the new GA Handicap System will become fully operational during the latter part of 2013. (Confirmation of the implementation date will be possible once the mapping work with GOLF *Link* and the Tier 3 providers has been completed.)

To make these changes we will need to co-ordinate a widespread re-build of what is a major national computerised network of inter-connected software systems. This is in contrast to the relatively small scale projects required to bring the April 2010 and September 2011 handicap system changes into effect.

GA also intends to deliver a series of education seminars around Australia. We anticipate being able to provide to you in October further details about these seminars as well as the final implementation date for the new handicap system.

Whilst construction of a complete new handicap system is a significant undertaking, GA had initially anticipated an earlier implementation. Our priority however is to ensure an appropriate level of live trialling and statistical work is performed in order that we deliver to our constituents the most effective system possible and in a cost efficient manner. We believe it would be contrary to the interests of Australian clubs and golfers to compromise on these objectives.

We hope this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

John Hopkins
Chairman of Golf Australia

1 June 2012