



Memo

To: Member States, Clubs
c.c.: GA Board, GA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee, Golf Link, Tier 3 Providers
From: Simon Magdulski
Date: 24 March 2010
Subject: Countdown to 9 April & Details re Two Days of GOLF *Link* Downtime

Dear All,

Please see below information regarding the impending launch of the new rolling-sample method for calculating Australian Men's Handicaps and Australian Women's Handicaps. (Note: Full details of the new rolling-sample calculation method can be accessed from the following page of the Golf Australia website – www.golfaustralia.org.au/newsandcommunication.)

Countdown to 9 April Launch of New Rolling-Sample Handicap Calculation Method

- Note i. Please remember that Friday 9 April is now only 16 days away! As previously advised, the two key upcoming dates/times are:
- **9.00am (AEST) on Wednesday 7 April 2010** – GOLF *Link* goes offline (ie you will NOT be able to PROCESS any competitions through GOLF *Link*). In addition, the switchover to the new handicap calculation method will necessitate the GOLF *Link* website (www.golflink.com.au) being made unavailable for parts of the period between 9.00am (AEST) on 7 April and 9.00am (AEST) on 9 April. However, we will only make www.golflink.com.au unavailable when absolutely necessary. As a result www.golflink.com.au will be made available for your use whenever possible during this period. (Note: Any information displayed on www.golflink.com.au during this period will only be current as at 8.59am (AEST) on 7 April 2010.)
 - **9.00am (AEST) on Friday 9 April 2010** – The new rolling-sample method for calculating Australian Men's Handicaps and Australian Women's Handicaps becomes effective. GOLF *Link* is once again operational (ie you will again be able to process competitions through GOLF *Link*).
- Note ii. GOLF *Link* clubs will not need to do anything to instigate the process of recalculating all handicaps in accordance with the new regulations. GOLF *Link* will do everything for you. All Australian Men's Handicaps & Australian Women's Handicaps stored on GOLF *Link* will automatically be re-calculated in accordance with the new regulations and will be ready for use at 9.00am (AEST) on 9 April.

Status of Handicaps During Period When GOLF *Link* is Offline (ie from 9.00am (AEST) on 7 April until 9.00am (AEST) on 9 April)

- Note iii. From 9.00am (AEST) on 7 April until 9.00am (AEST) on 9 April, the official Australian Men's or Women's Handicap for a player will be the handicap displayed by GOLF *Link* at 8.59am (AEST) on Wednesday 7 April.
- Note iv. Further to Note iii, it may be that some players will play in competitions on 8 April or early on 9 April AFTER just having returned a score during the period GOLF *Link* is offline. In situations such as this, GA recommends that players be required to play off the handicap displayed by GOLF *Link* at 8.59am (AEST) on Wednesday 7 April.

(However, clubs should be aware that the Committee in charge of a competition may require a player to play off the figure their new handicap would be, even if their handicap is yet to be officially adjusted. (Until 9.00am (AEST) on 9 April, any manual re-calculations of this type will be in accordance with the OLD handicap calculation method.) A Committee in charge of a competition may do this for all affected competitors in the competition or only select competitors.)

- Note v. If a club is conducting a competition on 9 April and is unable to check the new handicaps of players prior to the commencement of the competition, it may:
- Require everyone to play in the competition off their old handicap; or
 - Have everyone go out and play and then allocate them their handicaps AFTER the round. This option will be easier to administer for Stroke competitions than it will for Stableford or Par competitions.
- Note vi. Competitions played during the period GOLF *Link* is offline should be processed through GOLF *Link* as soon as possible after 9.00am (AEST) on 9 April 2010.

Contacting the GOLF *Link* Helpdesk During the Time Around 9 April

- Note vii. As you can imagine, it is likely the GOLF *Link* Helpdesk will receive a significant number of queries in the time around 9 April. To assist GOLF *Link* with the efficient handling of these queries, we ask that you first check the Q&A section of the GOLF *Link* website (www.golfink.com.au/handicapchangesqanda.aspx). If you cannot find the answers you need please email your question to help@golfink.com.au and ensure you include your mobile phone number to enable GOLF *Link* to ring you back. There will be an immediate response to urgent queries. The response to other queries will be as quick as possible. If you do have an urgent query, you should always feel free to ring the GOLF *Link* Helpdesk on 1300 650 750.

List of Handicaps for Use Between 9.00am (AEST) on 7 April and 9.00am (AEST) on 9 April

- Note viii. GOLF *Link* will email to every club late on 6 April a weblink to an electronic list of the handicaps of their members. This will ensure clubs have a record of these handicaps to see them through until 9 April. As a back-up measure, we strongly encourage clubs to print a list of the handicaps of their members late on 6 April (after they have processed any competitions played on this day).

We hope this information is helpful as we look forward to the launch of the new handicap calculation method.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Kind regards,



Simon Magdulski
Manager – Rules & Handicapping

Email – simonm@golfaustralia.org.au
 Direct phone – (03) 9626 5023