

## 6.3 Handicapping & Course Rating Report

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As this is the final meeting for a number of Councillors I thought it timely to provide an update of changes that are occurring.

### GOLFAUSTRALIA HANDICAP SURVEY

This survey was sent electronically to all Clubs within Australia.

There were 792 responses (approx. 1500 clubs in Australia) with 49% responding for both genders, 28% responded for men only, 23% for women only and 22 respondents skipped answering the question about who they were representing.

Summary of the results of a few of the questions asked:

Do you agree that the maximum handicap of 36 men and 45 women is right – 81% agreed.

Playing a competition which involves different groups from different tees for the same prizes – 58% say they only play either a men's or a women's competition.

45% believe that 36 points should be the measure of whether a player has played to his/her handicap (40% disagree and 15% had no firm opinion).

61% agree that the DSR range of 4 above and 3 below the scratch ratings are the correct limits.

72% agree that the new GA system is reasonably fair to all while 24% believe the system disadvantages players with handicaps of less than 10.

### HANDICAPPING

STATISTICAL VERIFICATION PROCESS – Golf Australia is formulating this system in order to maintain players' handicaps and course ratings. It is anticipated that Golfink will provide weekly documentation to the State Assns using scores returned during that week. It should also enable the State Assn to look at the courses experiencing problems with their ratings. No specific details about the process are available at present.

### COURSE RATING

Courses will not be re-rated within 10 years in accordance with the requirements of the USGA System. It is envisaged that the Statistical Review Process will provide that information without physically re-rating.

A small number of qualified raters will be retained within each State to carry out new ratings and any alterations to courses.

Many of the current Councillors who will completed their term this year have also been active course rating officials, I would like to express my personal thanks to those Councillors and indeed all raters for the commitment and dedication they have shown during the implementation of the US rating process, it involved much voluntary labour and a time commitment greater than first expected.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the retiring Councillors for their support and friendship during the past 6 years. Whilst I have spent a great deal of time with course rating, it has been very rewarding, I have been fortunate enough to travel throughout our State and I have met many wonderful, dedicated players and administrators of our game. Thank you so much for making my course rating experience enjoyable and my best wishes to you for the future.

Lynne Ritchie