



## Memo

**To:** Clubs  
**c.c.:** Member States, Golf Link, Tier 3 Providers  
**From:** Simon Magdulski  
**Date:** 11 December 2009  
**Subject:** UPDATE – Delay to Men’s & Women’s Australian Handicapping System Changes

---

As has been previously advised in various correspondence from GA and State Associations, Australia’s handicapping systems are set for substantial changes over the next couple of years. This will not occur all in one hit, instead the changes will be bundled into several packages and introduced incrementally.

The first package of changes was initially scheduled for implementation on 1 February 2010. The second package of changes had been scheduled for implementation no earlier than mid-2010. The introduction of further packages is to be announced in due course.

The first package includes only the following (note: details are contained in the GA memo of 31/7/2009):

- A. Calculation of handicap – commence operation of the USGA’s ‘rolling sample’ method.**
- B. Remove CCR for men’s handicapping (note: CCR was removed from women’s handicapping in 2007).**

From the outset, GA has been determined to design the implementation strategy in such a way as to minimise cost and logistical challenges for all interested parties. This has involved GA and Golf Link working through a comprehensive analysis of each of the potential regulations considered for inclusion in the first package of changes. Such analysis has involved consideration of an array of potential macro changes. Additionally, the inter-connected nature of a regulatory framework has required the juggling of a significant number of micro changes.

Whilst this process has taken longer than initially anticipated, GA’s view is that timing concerns should not compromise the management of cost. We have also been particularly mindful to arrive at an outcome which will be as simple for clubs to manage as possible; particularly in the early phases.

**As a result, we now wish to confirm that the first package of changes will be delayed and will NOT become effective on 1 February 2010. GA will announce on Friday 29 January confirmation of the new implementation date for the first package of changes. We anticipate the implementation date being in late March or early April 2010.**

**What we CAN confirm at this point is the first package of changes to handicapping regulations will NOT require changes to any Tier 3 system. Additionally, the first package of changes has been designed to allow all Golf Link clubs (either Tier 1 or Tier 3) to continue to operate all of their computerised handicap operations exactly as they currently do.** (Note: This includes for example the processing of competitions and the creation of initial handicaps.)

Once the initial package of changes becomes effective, you will of course see that Golf Link will calculate handicaps quite differently. You will also see that some of your Golf Link actions will have quite different consequences. All of this is because Golf Link will be applying a changed set of rules. However, we reiterate that club handicap administrators should continue to follow their existing procedures.

The communication scheduled for 29 January 2010 will include full details of the new rules involved in the initial package of changes. This will enable you to follow the new way in which Golf Link will be calculating your members' handicaps. (For non-Golf Link clubs, the further information will enable the uniform application of the Australian Handicapping Systems.)

In relation to our strategy beyond the first package of changes, Tier 3 clubs should be aware that the phased implementation in Australia of the USGA Handicap System is being designed with a view to incorporating no more than two separate packages of software adjustments to Tier 3 computerised club handicap management systems. In short, we have identified the limitation of packages of Tier 3 adjustments as a critical goal. The value of this will be self-evident to Tier 3 clubs.

We hope this information is of assistance. Attached is a Q&A document setting out answers to some commonly asked questions.



Simon Magdulski  
**Manager – Rules & Handicapping**

*Email – [simonm@golfaustralia.org.au](mailto:simonm@golfaustralia.org.au)  
Direct phone – (03) 9626 5023*