



**APPENDIX to GA Memo (29/1/2010) regarding the First Package of Changes to the Australian Men's & Women's Handicapping Systems**

**Appendix 1 of 3: THE NEW ('ROLLING SAMPLE') METHOD FOR CALCULATING AN AUSTRALIAN MEN'S HANDICAP OR AN AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S HANDICAP**

From 9 April 2010, Australian Handicaps will be calculated from a rolling sample of the player's previous 20 scores. If a player's handicap record contains a lesser number than 20 scores, the number of scores used to calculate the player's handicap is as listed in the table below.

Once a player's handicap record contains 20 scores, the next score they return will result in the oldest of the existing 20 scores being removed (to be replaced by the new score). Hence, the handicap record is considered to be a 'rolling sample' of the player's scores.

The new procedure for calculating an Australian Women's Handicap or an Australian Men's Handicap will be as follows:

**STEP 1** – Use the table below to determine the number of Handicap Differentials to be included in the handicap calculation: (Note: *Handicap Differential = Gross Score – AMCR/AWCR (this is the value that from 9 April 2010 will be featured in the 'Played to' column on [golflink.com.au](http://golflink.com.au)).*)

[AMCR = Australian Men's Course Rating; AWCR = Australian Women's Course Rating.]

<b><i>Number of Scores in Player's Scoring Record</i></b>	<b><i>Differentials to be Used in the Calculation</i></b>
3 to 6	Lowest 1
7 or 8	Lowest 2
9 or 10	Lowest 3
11 or 12	Lowest 4
13 or 14	Lowest 5
15 or 16	Lowest 6
17	Lowest 7
18	Lowest 8
19	Lowest 9
20	Lowest 10

**STEP 2** – Average the Handicap Differentials being used (as determined by the above table).

**STEP 3** – Multiply the average by 0.96. (Note: This is the 'bonus for excellence' factor. Bonus for excellence is the incentive for players to improve their golf game. As a player's handicap improves (gets lower), the player has a slightly better chance of placing high or winning a handicap event.)

**STEP 4** – After applying STEP 3, delete all numbers after the tenths' digit. Do NOT round to the nearest tenth. (For example 23.6983 becomes 23.6.)

**STEP 5** – In the example provided in STEP 4, the exact Australian Men's Handicap or Australian Women's Handicap is therefore 23.6. (Note: The playing handicap is determined by rounding off the exact handicap. (For this calculation, .5 or more IS rounded up, so in this example the player with an exact handicap of 23.6 will play off 24.))

## **NOTES**

- Note i** – The AMCR/AWCR is to be used to calculate all differentials used in the calculation of an Australian Handicap, not any CCR which may have been determined at the time a round was played. Hence, all 'Played to' values stored and displayed in each player's Golf Link handicap record from prior to 9 April 2010 will be recalculated according to this changed rule.
- Note ii** – At a later point, Australian Handicaps will only be revised (ie recalculated) on a periodic basis (somewhere between two weeks and one month). However, GA has not as yet determined a precise implementation date for this change. We are also as yet to determine the revision time period. When the 'rolling sample' method is first in operation, the existing regulations will continue to apply (ie the Australian Handicap will be recalculated by Golf Link immediately upon the processing of a player's score details). Processing of competitions through Golf Link should occur at the earliest convenience of the club's Golf Link administrator.
- Note iii** – There is no requirement for a player's most recent 20 scores to have been returned within a specific timeframe. For example, the most recent 20 scores may span a period of three years or they may span a period of three months.
- Note iv** – When the First Package of Changes becomes effective, the 'rolling sample' handicap calculation method will make use of scores already contained within a player's Golf Link handicap record. As a result, players with existing Australian Handicaps will not need to return any new scores to get a handicap under the new calculation method.
- Note v** – The following regulation has already been deleted: *"If on 1 January of a year, a player goes from having at least three "live scores" in their handicap record to having less than three "live scores", their handicap will be considered to be a "Lapsed Handicap" until the number of "live scores" again reaches three; at this point normal recording procedures resume operating from the player's last recorded exact handicap."* To clarify, it will no longer be possible for a player's Australian Handicap to lapse.
- Note vi** – Non-Golf Link clubs will need to ensure their calculation processes replicate those performed by Golf Link.
- Note vii** – 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.