

SLOPE AND YOUR HANDICAP INFORMATION + DECISIONS of GOLF Changes

There is now a Daily Handicap Look-Up Chart available on the GA website (<http://www.golf.org.au/default.aspx?s=daily-handicap-lookup-chart>). By filling in your clubs details you will get a conversion from your GA Handicap to your Daily Handicap. I will post a few examples on the website. E.G. This means that if your new standardised handicap, called your GA Handicap, is 22.3, then when playing at these courses your playing handicap will be:

GA Handicap	Pittsworth (114)	St George (106)	Toowoomba (129)
22.3	22	21	25

You can also calculate your Daily Handicap by multiplying your GA Handicap, 22.3, by the club where you are playing's slope rating, 129, and divide by the Neutral slope rating, 113.

$$22.3 \times 129 \div 113 = 25.4$$

There are numerous resources on the GA website (<http://www.golf.org.au/default.aspx?s=handicappingandcourserating>) under the Handicapping & Course Rating Menu to support clubs through this transition. The video links there are also very good and club handicap administrators can register for a check list.

Recently an announcement was made via GA that on January 1, 2014, 87 changes to the Decisions on the Rules of Golf will be implemented. These can be accessed through <http://www.golf.org.au/default.aspx?s=newsdisplay&id=78305>

Among the changes for 2014-2015, four decisions are particularly noteworthy

- New Decision 14-3/18 confirms that players can access reports on weather conditions on a smartphone during a round without breaching the Rules. Importantly, this new Decision also clarifies that players are permitted to access information on the threat of an impending storm in order to protect their own safety.
- New Decision 18/4 provides that, where enhanced technological evidence (e.g. HDTV, digital recording or online visual media, etc.) shows that a ball has left its position and come to rest in another location, the ball will not be deemed to have moved if that movement was not reasonably discernible to the naked eye at the time. The R&A and the USGA have issued a Joint Statement on the Use of Video and other Visual Evidence to further explain the governing bodies' position on the use of this technology.
- Revised Decision 25-2/0.5 helps to clarify when a golf ball is considered to be embedded in the ground through the use of illustrations.
- Revised Decision 27-2a/1.5 allows a player to go forward up to approximately 50 yards without forfeiting his or her right to go back and play a provisional ball.