

Dear Golfers

Shew what a week!! The Grand opening of Course 1 last Monday was a great success together with my Captain's Dinner, which were both well supported by the Members.
Thank you for your support.

The Course 1 greens have turned out better than we all were expecting and they will just get better over time.
Thanks to Gilbert, our Greenkeeper and all his staff. Great job.

The World Handicap System

The USGA and The R&A are working with golf's handicapping authorities to develop a single World Handicap System for the sport.

More than 15 million golfers in over 80 countries presently have a handicap; a numerical index long used as a reference to gauge a golfer's potential skill level. Handicaps are currently delivered through six different systems around the world, of which the South African (SAGA) handicap system is one.

The aim of the proposed handicap system is to adopt a universal set of principles and procedures that will apply all over the world.

An extensive review of existing handicap systems administered by Golf Australia, the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU) in Great Britain and Ireland, the European Golf Association (EGA), the South African Golf Association (SAGA), the Argentine Golf Association (AAG) and the United States Golf Association (USGA) has been undertaken.

Golf organisations from different parts of the world have also been engaged with the current handicap authorities for the past two years to help shape the proposed system, which takes into account the many different golf cultures and most common formats of play. Research conducted to date has also reviewed systems and best practices inherent to handicapping, such as course rating and administration.

A joint committee led by the USGA and The R&A has been formed, including representatives from each handicap authority as well as the Japan Golf Association and Golf Canada. The joint committee plans to announce its proposals later this year.

Martin Slumbers, Chief Executive of The R&A, said, "We have been concerned for some time that many golfers find the handicapping landscape to be complicated and can be frustrated when it is not always applied in the same way in different parts of the world.

"We are working closely with the existing handicapping bodies to benefit from their insights as we try to formulate a system that will be easy to understand and can be applied consistently on a global basis. We very much appreciate their support for this initiative."

SAGA president Geoff Taylor commented, "The SAGA welcomes this initiative to standardise the handicap system methodology globally and which will in turn improve our local handicapping system. In anticipation of this implementation, a programme to re-rate all the golf courses in South Africa was embarked upon in 2016. While this programme presents a number of significant challenges, we believe that the benefits to golf globally and locally will be beyond measure in years to come. We shall continue to work closely with the R&A and USGA governing bodies to ensure a smooth and rapid transition."

1. What are the key objectives of this initiative?

To unify six different handicap systems into a single World Handicap System that will:

- enable golfers to play and compete anywhere around the world on equal terms;
- be easy to understand and implement, without sacrificing accuracy; and
- meet the needs and expectations of golfers, clubs and golf authorities around the world.

2. Why would this be a good change?

Each of the existing handicap systems is well received in the areas where it operates. However, because they all calculate handicaps differently, the result can be players of the same ability having different handicaps. A World Handicap System would mean that a handicap of 6.0 in Johannesburg should be the same as a handicap of 6.0 in both London and Los Angeles.

3. What are the other benefits of a World Handicap System?

As the world becomes a smaller place with a much greater frequency of international play, we believe that the game of golf will benefit from a unified handicap system, where handicaps are portable from country to country. It would result in less confusion, easier administration of international events and, potentially, it could allow national associations more opportunity to focus attention on golf development and strategic planning to support the game. A single world handicap system would also provide the opportunity to aggregate data to help ensure the game remains healthy.

[Click here for more questions and answers about the World Handicaps System.](#)

New Couch Potato Rule: -

The USGA and R&A seem to have acted quickly to stifle the increase in incidents of TV viewers calling in to report infractions by players, the latest one of which caused Lexi Thompson to lose a major on the LPGA Tour.

It appears that this has been thoroughly thought out. Very simply it's unfair that the players that are actually being filmed and aired on TV are the ones under the scrutiny, while 99% of the players could be making the same mistakes and getting away with them.

The USGA and R&A have added two new terms – “Reasonable standard of judgement” and “Naked Eye” into the mix. The first relates to relief, or replacing a ball and states that the player should not be held to the precision that can be provided by video technology. As long as the player does what would be “reasonably expected” under the circumstances, then the players reasonable judgement will be accepted.

The second is to accept what the naked eye can see, rather than that of high definition TV which is replayed in slow motion.

Both these changes form part of the new modernisation effort made by the two organisations to simplify both the actual rules and the language used in the Rules book.

While most of the new rules changes will be implemented in 2019, these two will be implemented immediately.

GOLF RULE FOR THE WEEK:

Advice



Question 1:

On a par-3 a player would like to know what club his fellow competitor is using. Is he penalised if he looks into his bag to determine which club he has taken

- a) ... if he does not touch anything?
- b) ... if he moves a towel or rain cover that is covering the clubs?

Answer 1:

- a) No, information obtained by observation is not advice. Decision 8-1/10.
 - b) Yes, A player is prohibited from obtaining such information through a physical act. Decision 8-1/11.
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Question 2:

Two fellow competitors are considering their next strokes. Which of the following questions would incur a penalty?

- a) How far is my ball from the flagstick?
- b) Does the putting green slope from front to back and is there a ridge running from left to right?
- c) Are there any hidden bunkers between my ball and the green?
- d) Is that a water hazard to the left of the bunker and how wide is the margin from the water?
- e) What is the condition of the ground on the approach to the green?
- f) How long is the rough behind the fringe?
- g) There is a lump of mud on my ball, am I permitted to clean it off?
- h) What is the line of play from where my ball lies?

Answer 2:

None of these questions a) to h) incurs a penalty, as they all relate to matters of distance, public information or the Rules.

Definition of Advice:

"Advice" is any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in determining his play, the choice of a club or the method of making a stroke.

Information on the Rules, distance or matters of public information, such as the position of hazards or the flagstick on the putting green, is not advice.

The first sentence of Rule 8-2b states;

*Except on the putting green, **a player may have the line of play indicated to him by anyone**, but no one may be positioned by the player on or close to the line or an extension of the line beyond the hole while the stroke is being made.*

WEEKLY MEMBERS / VISITORS CLUB COMPETITIONS:

WEDNESDAY: 10 MAY 2017

RESIDENTS GOLF – Played every Wednesday Afternoon

This is open to all Residents and Members at MECC.

If you would like to play please be at the Putting Green on Course 1 by 11.15am.

Place a Golf Ball into a Bag ready for the draw at 11.25am.

THURSDAY: 11 MAY 2017

Course: Course Two (2)

Club Competition Format: Betterball Stableford

Shotgun Start - Midday

SATURDAY: 13 MAY 2017

Course: Course One (1)

Club Competition Format: Fourball Alliance

LEAGUE 2017:

Allerton League –

Played on 30th April at MECC against Toti Golf Club – MECC won 9 - 3

MEMBERS GOLF COMPETITIONS:

Thursday 4 May 2017 : Course 1

Competition: 4 Ball Alliance

Winners: : 1st Place: Dhangee Puran, Nahari Reddy, Roy Sewpersad, Roy Bhagwandeem – 93 Points
2nd Place: Denzil Bourne, Jan van Rijn, Andre Schoeman, Nick Taylor – 92 Points
3rd Place: John Herselman, Greg Banks, Gary Harris, Angelo Biassoni – 92 Points
4th Place: Peter Taylor, Robin Scott, Kurt Kessler, Ray Ramandh – 90 Points

Saturday 6 May 2017 : Course 2 :

No Results Available

SENIOR MEMBERS COMPETITION:

Monday 1 MAY 2017:

Competition: Fourball Alliance

Winners: R Mcmorran, W Saroop, H Mc Glashan, T Laidlaw
T Tory , M Bennett , R Hillier , M Mounter 86 Points
Two club: C Buckham

Wednesday 3 MAY 2017:

Competition: Fourball Alliance

Winners: R Hillier , M Mounter , K Thompson , N Kent : 93 points
Two club: W Saroop

Friday 5 MAY 2017:

Competition: Three Ball Alliance

Winners: I Gruler, P Hopwood , H Voorma : 88 points
Two club: P Hopwood

Feedback:

If you have any ideas or suggestions please send them to feedback@mountecc.co.za

Please remember to play more rounds of golf, so let's see you out there playing on both our beautiful courses.
No Excuses!!

Thanks and see you on the Course !!

Peter Taylor
MECC Men's Captain
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