

## **Section 1 – Introduction**

### **The spirit of the game**

All players are expected to play in the spirit of the game by:

- Acting with integrity – for example, by following the rules of golf, applying all penalties, and being honest in all aspects of play.
- Showing consideration to others – for example, by playing at a prompt place, looking out for the safety of others, and not distracting the play of another player. If a player plays a ball in a direction where there might be a danger of hitting someone, they should immediately shout a warning, such as 'fore'.
- Taking good care of the course - for example, by replacing divots, smoothing bunkers, repairing ball marks, and not causing unnecessary damage to the course.

### **The World Handicap System**

The purpose of the World Handicap System is to enable as many golfers as possible the opportunity to:

- Obtain and maintain a Handicap Index
- Use their handicap Index on any golf course around the world
- Compete, or play recreationally, with anyone else on a fair and equal basis.

The whole purpose of the system is to provide equity for all players by creating a level 'playing-field' – enabling players of all abilities to have a fair and enjoyable game, with or against any other players.

In the spirit of the game, players should:

- Every player will endeavour to make the best score she can at each hole in every qualifying round she plays and will report such rounds for handicap purposes.
- Every golf club or handicapping authority will whenever possible run Strokeplay competitions as 'acceptable for handicap' (previously termed 'Qualifying')