

OPEN LETTER TO:

**Goulburn Murray Golf Association Administrators &
Members of Goulburn Murray Golf Association Clubs**

Dear Administrators and Members

Rich River Golf Club has elected to become a member of Golf New South Wales instead of continuing its long-standing Golf Victoria membership.

Golf Victoria is very grateful it has had the opportunity of serving Rich River Golf Club and its members for many years and we wish the club and its members the very best for the future.

It is unfortunate Rich River Golf Club's membership of Golf Victoria could not continue.

We would have far preferred if this outcome were otherwise but we recognise the club is entitled to make the decision it has made. The club's reasons for becoming a member of Golf New South Wales as noted below, are respected and understood by Golf Victoria/Golf Australia.

The club only reached its decision after lengthy internal deliberations and discussions with external parties including Golf New South Wales and Golf Victoria/Golf Australia.

Golf Victoria and Golf Australia now operate under Golf Australia's One Golf model for managing Australian golf. One Golf is in operation in five Australian jurisdictions but not yet in New South Wales or Western Australia, although positive and constructive dialogue with Golf New South Wales and Golf Western Australia for them to join One Golf continues.

The external party discussions necessarily involved Goulburn Murray Golf Association as well, for the club needed to understand if a decision to join Golf New South Wales could impact the club's ability to remain a part of the GMGA district.

Throughout the club's deliberations as to whether Golf Victoria membership or Golf New South Wales membership would best suit the interests of the club at this time, Golf Victoria/Golf Australia made it very clear that because Golf New South Wales is not presently part of One Golf, Rich River Golf Club would not be able to continue its involvement in the GMGA district if its membership changed from Golf Victoria to Golf New South Wales.

The compelling reason Rich River Golf Club has given for joining Golf New South Wales is the club's belief that Golf New South Wales is better placed than Golf Victoria/Golf Australia to help the club obtain government funding support for major capital works. Rich River Golf Club wants this financial support, assuming it is available, as it has a significant course irrigation project it wants to pursue.

Having reached this conclusion and recognising the primary importance of its future funding requirements, the club decided to seek Golf New South Wales membership notwithstanding the negative GMGA consequences for the club for as long as Golf New South Wales remains outside of One Golf.

It is understood the club's membership application was approved last week by Golf New South Wales. Because of this step, the club formally resigned as a Golf Victoria member (with effect from 12 March 2019).

What happens now until Golf New South Wales joins One Golf?

- GMGA will re-allocate any scheduled events at Rich River Golf Club which are currently on GMGA's syllabus.
- Rich River Golf Club is unable to enter any pennant team in any GMGA pennant competition and its members are ineligible to play in GMGA district championships or events in Victoria which are not classified as "open events". *
- Rich River Golf Club members are ineligible for selection in Victorian Country Week or Country Teams. They are also not eligible to play in Victorian Country Championships or to represent their club in the Victorian finals of the Silver Spoon, Doris Chambers Cup and Royal Women's Hospital 4BBB. *

**Should a Rich River Golf Club member be a member of another club affiliated with GMGA, the above will not apply to that player.*

Subject to the applicable rules and policies of Golf New South Wales, it is understood that Rich River Golf Club members will be eligible to play in all New South Wales country championships and other events in New South Wales conducted by Golf New South Wales and will be able to represent their new men's and women's districts at applicable events.

At some point in the near future, Golfink will also need to recognise the fact that Rich River Golf Club is now a golf club affiliated with Golf New South Wales and this **may** require a change in Golfink numbers used by Rich River Golf Club members.

If there are any questions or queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely

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