

# WGV / VGA Amalgamation

## Frequently Asked Questions: April 2010

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### **Why amalgamate ... what are the benefits of amalgamation?**

The proposed amalgamation is fundamentally an administrative one and there will be lots of efficiencies as a result, for example: a more modern organisation, removal of overlap and duplication, potential savings, greater consistency, consistent affiliation fees, greater responsiveness to members, allowing more attention to developing and marketing the game, a unified approach to sponsors with the potential for increasing sponsorship and the ability to attract new players. Similarly amalgamation provides a singular approach to governments, media and industry stakeholders.

### **Will we be consulted on the change?**

Yes. A series of 'Open Forums' is planned for May/June taking in every country district and the metropolitan area.

### **Will amalgamation affect play or the rules of the game?**

No. Amalgamation is purely an administrative change, predominantly at the state level, and will not affect play or the rules of the game in any form.

### **Why has it taken so long to get this far?**

The way in which the VGA and WGV each organise the administration of the game is very different, particularly the voting systems. There are very complex differences which have taken a long time to work through.

### **Has the current model been agreed to?**

Both the VGA Council and WGV Board have given their full support for the current model. The VGA Country Conference and WGV Delegates have also given their support. However, it is the voting members who must decide whether or not amalgamation takes place and this must happen at Special General Meetings of each association.

### **Are there any rules governing the vote?**

It is a legal requirement that for amalgamation to proceed, 75% of eligible voting VGA members who cast their vote and 75% of eligible voting WGV members who cast their vote must be in favour.

### **Are proxies permitted?**

Yes, proxies will be permitted at the Special General Meetings, but postal votes will not.

### **Who are eligible voting members and are they the same for the VGA and WGV?**

Eligible voting members for the VGA are 'Member Clubs' (metropolitan clubs), Country Districts and the League. For the WGV, votes will be cast by a club delegate on behalf of affiliated members of the club. The ASC is encouraging all clubs and districts to consult widely and involve members in the decision.

### **When will the vote take place?**

It is envisaged that the formal vote will be taken in November 2010, so that there is plenty of time for consultation with members.

### **Doesn't the leadership or delegate determine the vote and so it doesn't matter what the rest of us think?**

It most certainly does matter what the "rest of us" think! The spirit of amalgamation is that it is a democratic process and those who wish to have a say ought to be able to. It is up to members and clubs to make sure they know the proper voting rights, entitlements and procedures.

### **If either the VGA or WGV say 'no' what happens?**

If *either* the VGA or the WGV register a 'no' vote (i.e. less than 75% of votes cast) amalgamation won't happen and an opportunity will have been missed. It seems likely that more time, effort and money will go into sustaining two organisations in the face of greater pressure to modernise, both internally and externally. In effect, 6 years work will have been wasted and it will be some time before the opportunity will arise again.

### **Will we have to align men's and women's districts?**

Most are already aligned but there will be a need to re-align some districts. It appears that very few clubs will be affected by a realignment however, and wherever possible districts will be given autonomy to determine their configuration (who they play with and how). Some districts may decide that it is desirable to take this opportunity to re-examine their configuration and may make some adjustments so that clubs don't travel as far (especially in country districts).

**Will we have to amalgamate men's and women's districts?**

The current *Golf Vic* model assumes that districts will amalgamate.

**Will districts have to review/renew their constitutions?**

Yes, though the Amalgamation Steering Committee will provide assistance, support and sample templates for these.

**What's the time-line for the amalgamation of districts?**

If the vote goes ahead in November 2010 and is successful then it is anticipated that amalgamation of districts could take at least a year following that. A state-wide consultation process will begin in May/June involving members of the Amalgamation Steering Committee. Individual districts/clubs will have an opportunity to put their views to the ASC members for consideration.

**How will amalgamation affect my club?**

Amalgamation will have a small effect on clubs as there will only be one state sporting association, not two, and particularly in respect of how they relate to their state and district associations. Clubs will continue to organise the men's game and the women's game as they think best.

**Will there be consultation with the leagues?**

Yes. It is assumed that the leagues will also amalgamate as part of the process and they are currently in discussion.

**What is the role of the Golf Victoria Advisory Committee (GVAC)?**

GVAC is advisory to the *Golf Vic* Board. It is the forum through which the membership and the industry provide a broader perspective on issues, provide advice and act as a sounding board for Board deliberations. It is expected that elected members of GVAC would also be members of sub committees and so have a direct link to the administration of the game.

**Who chairs GVAC?**

It is anticipated that the chair will be elected by the members of GVAC.

**In the new model will there be a country conference like there is in the VGA?**

The idea of a *Golf Vic* Country Conference has been well received by the Amalgamation Steering Committee but has not been included in the current model. The new board of *Golf Vic* will need to decide if it is a useful addition.

**What will happen to affiliation fees?**

There will be a need for some alignment of affiliation fees post amalgamation. For 2011 affiliation fees will be set on the same basis as they have been for 2010.

**When do you see Golf Victoria actually functioning?**

There is still much work to be done in relation to proper consultation, developing a new constitution and realigning districts. At present the timeframe is for a vote in November this year. If there is a vote in November and amalgamation is agreed by both parties then a transition phase would be likely for the 12 months following to allow for the election of the *Golf Vic* Board and Board positions to be taken up.