

The National High-Performance Program

1. BACKGROUND

In order for Australia to reach its potential in producing world class players and influence the growth of the game, Golf Australia needs the support of all the State Associations and their High Performance (HP) Programs. It is Golf Australia's goal to have a strong integration process with the State HP programs to maximize all of our resources as we strive for common goals; and that the information provided to potential 'world class' players is consistent from their time in underpinning programs, through to their involvement in National programs, teams and beyond.

2. GOLF AUSTRALIA NATIONAL PROGRAM

The State HP programs will be the driving force behind the success of the Golf Australia National HP program. Each of the State HP programs will together form the National program. Without a coordinated approach the success of the National program and its players will be extremely limited. While working closely with Golf Australia, each National Coach will be responsible for forming a world class team of service providers around the players of their respective HP programs. This will involve setting up the structure of the entire HP program from the underpinning to the elite level programs.

3. VISION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAM

The overall vision of the Golf Australia High Performance Program is to identify as early as possible Australia's most talented golfers and give them the best possible opportunities and world class resources to fully develop their potential on and off the golf course.

4. RATIONALE UNDERPINNING THE NATIONAL PROGRAM

Australia producing golfers who are capable of winning golf's Major Championships, Olympic medals and Top 100 World Ranking status, is the most effective means to boost participation in the game and attract funding to the sport of golf in Australia, due to the publicity such success attracts.

If our athletes can reach their full potential, we believe Australia will enjoy continued and sustained success on the world stage. High Performance is the face of participation, the growth of the game from grassroots to the professional level is the driving influence behind a National program. Australia has some of the best resources in the world, from our sporting culture, coaches, sport science, sport medicine, weather, golf courses, competition, culture of success, and much more.

5. DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAM

The overall direction of the National High-Performance Program going forward will be to focus the overall vision and strategy from a short term results orientated program to a long term holistic direction to better prepare our athletes for the elite amateur and professional level. The physical, technical, strategic and emotional processes will be evaluated at an earlier age so individual plans can be better established to better prepare our athletes for the long term. The process of long term development needs to begin at a much younger age to ensure our players are better exposed to the skills and resources needed to not only be a professional golfer but to have success at the National and International professional level.

National and State tournaments such as the Interstate Series, National ranking events and the International Amateur events play an important role in shaping our players' futures. However, as we enter into a new era of elite golf development in Australia it's important to start looking at developing our elite athletes into potential Major and Olympic Championship winners, PGA and LPGA Tour players and to look at these events as tools and not benchmarks. This is also in line with the way most of our elite amateurs view these events. Having a major or Olympic champion and a higher number of Top 100 players on the PGA or LPGA tour will have a bigger impact on the big picture of Australian golf in years to come. Success at the highest level will help the growth of the game, sponsorship opportunities, player development and the "give back" culture. These will be better served through the long term success of our athletes.

Given the limited number of elite Australian golfers who have the talent, work ethic and desire to enjoy success at a world class level, it's important that Golf Australia and the States run an integrated and coordinated HP program to maximize the potential of our most elite players. With limited resources across the country, and to mitigate against confusing our players, coaches, and key stakeholders, it's critical that across the country we run one HP program, coordinated across Golf Australia, State Associations, ALPG, APGA, Institute and Academy programs.

While acknowledging the importance of representative golf at all levels, it is imperative if our goals are to produce World Top 100 players, Major and Olympic Champions that a long-term view be held by the player and all the key stakeholders associated with the player.

The Golf Australia high performance program comprises four levels. The funding for service provision and development opportunities increase as the athlete moves through the levels from four towards one.

Level 1	Golf Australia Rookie Program (professional golfers only)
Level 2	State Elite Program - (NSW, Queensland Academy of Sport, SA, TAS, Victorian Institute of Sport, WA)
Level 3	State Development Program - (NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, WA)
Level 4	State Talent ID Programs - (NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, WA, NT)

For athletes who sit within levels 2-3, the daily training environment and development processes are implemented, and or monitored by the state high performance program with Golf Australia adding value, providing guidance and offering support. Funding for these programs come from Golf Australia, state bodies, state institute/academy programs and major sponsors. Level 4 athletes are invited by the state HP programs to attend talent ID camps for assessment and possible inclusion into level 2 or 3 programs. Golf Australia benchmark athletes sit at level 2/3 of the high-performance pathway.

High-Performance in Victoria

1. THE VISION OF THE GOLF VICTORIA HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

The vision of the Golf Victoria High Performance Program is to capture as early as possible Victoria's most talented golfers and give them the best possible opportunities and resources to fully develop their potential on and off the golf course with a view to becoming successful international players.

The major objective is to produce high quality Victorian players to raise the profile of golf in the state of Victoria.

2. GOLF VICTORIA RELATED GOALS

- Victorian State Teams finish within the leading two teams at the Australian Interstate & Junior Team's Series
- Average 5 male and 5 female Victorian players ranked within the top 20 Australian Amateur Rankings at the conclusion of each year.
- Victorian male and female players to represent not less than 25% of male and 25% of female players selected in Australian representative amateur teams in every calendar year.
- Support the VIS Golf Program and KPS's specific to it.
- Support, align and feed into the Golf Australia National High-Performance Program.

3. GOLF VICTORIA HIGH PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop and oversee best practice coaching, training and tournament play schedule for all squads/teams including sports science applications
- Determine and appoint coaches and managers for all squads/teams including monitoring player results
- Select the Victorian state teams, representative players, development squads and junior teams
- Liaise with the VIS regarding the golf program and via the VIS program management committee
- Liaise with Golf Australia regarding the National High-Performance Program
- Co-ordinate administration requirements for representative teams and selected individual participation in Championships including all travel arrangements as required.

4. GOLF VICTORIA HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM TIERS

The following state based tiers and programs combine to form the Golf Victoria development pathway and sit underneath the GA Rookie Program at National Level.

Tier 1	VIS Golf Program
Tier 2	Golf Victoria Elite Player Program
Tier 3	Golf Victoria State Development Squads (Under 18)
Tier 4	Victorian Regional Academies of Sport Golf Programs

5. VIS GOLF PROGRAM – Tier 1

- The VIS Golf Program holds an established place at the top of the Victorian Golf Development Pathway and has produced many of Victoria's leading players since its inception in the early 1990s.
- Athletes work directly under VIS Head Coach and the VIS Assistant Coach who utilise a team of National/Victorian service providers and have access to some of the best HP resources in the country.
- To obtain entry into the VIS squad, entrants proceed through an application process in January, with selection occurring in February.

6. GV ELITE PLAYER PROGRAM – Tier 2

- The Golf Victoria Elite Player Program (EPP) replaces the Elite Squad as it operated from 2013 – 2016.
- The EPP will encompass many of the elements that the VIS program has developed over the years and enable the next generation of elite players the opportunity to excel and potentially move through the development pathway.
- The EPP enables our HP team to have more regular contact with the athlete, more focused training opportunities in a squad environment (both in the gym and on the range/course), and a stronger link with the home coach.
- Personal development/mentoring sessions also form an important part of the EPP.
- The EPP will consist of a development phase, through our winter months, and a competition phase over the summer.
- To obtain entry into the EPP, entrants proceed through an application process in January, with selection occurring in February/March.

8. STATE DEVELOPMENT SQUADS – Tier 3

State Development Squad Program (Male and Female Squads – Age U/18)

- This program is designed to be a talent ID vehicle and provide an introduction to HP training, systems and methods.
- This program can potentially act as a feeder into Junior Teams and open age programs.
- This program may provide some of: skills testing, sports psychology sessions and strength and conditioning exposure and information.
- Day training sessions are conducted every few months on weekends and/or during school holidays primarily during the second half of the year, leading into the summer tournament period.

9. VRAS GOLF PROGRAMS – Tier 4

Victorian Regional Academies of Sport/High School Golf Programs

- Golf Victoria supports many programs around Victoria to assist in the development of athletes, primarily through the VRAS coaches in conjunction with the State Development Coach.
- Resources additional to those normally used, such as Trackman and Sam Putt Lab, can add value and data to those programs through the link with the State Development Coach.
- The VRAS programs also provide a talent ID vehicle for emerging talent from regional areas.

10. GOLF VICTORIA HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM STAFF

Position	Name
GV High Performance Manager	Ashley Marshall
GV HP Coaches	
GV National Coach/VIS Head Coach	Marty Joyce
VIS Assistant Coach	Darren Cole
GV State Development Coach	Paul Skinner
GV Men's State Coach	Marty Joyce
GV Women's State Coach	Darren Cole
GV Junior Girl's State Coach	Darren Cole
GV Junior Boy's State Coach	David Capaldo
GV HP Service Providers	
Physiotherapist	Darren Lay/MGIC
Strength and Conditioning	Luke Mackey
3D Biomechanist	Mark Bull
Technology, Aimpoint	Stuart Leong
Sport Psychologist	Noel Blundell

11. GOLF VICTORIA BENCHMARK ATHLETES

- Athletes achieving state benchmark criteria during the preceding 12-month period receive direct funding from Golf Victoria. The benchmark year commences on July 1 each year.
- The intent of the selection/performance criteria is to provide our athletes a series of participation, ranking and performance benchmarks. Golf Victoria views these benchmarks as appropriate goals to achieve, so that athletes are best prepared for potential success at the national/international level.
- Golf Victoria may adjust the criteria as necessary in order for our athletes to remain competitive on the national/international stage.
- If at any time during the benchmark year a non-benchmarked athlete reaches the performance criteria they will become a supported benchmark athlete. This is reviewed quarterly and the level of support is adjusted accordingly on a pro rata basis.
- Benchmark athletes are announced in the second half of the year in preparation for the summer tournament period in Australia.

Note: *Current benchmarks can be viewed in the HP Selection Process document.*