

2018 CONDITIONS

A. GENERAL

1. The Championship is scheduled to be played over 72 holes stroke play; 18 holes each on Thursday 15, Friday 16, Saturday 17, and Sunday 18 February 2018.
2. A maximum of 144 players will be eligible to compete comprising those exempt from Qualifying and successful competitors from Qualifying. The leading 70 players and ties will qualify for the 3rd and 4th rounds; the remainder will be eliminated. In the event that the number of competitors qualifying for the 3rd and 4th rounds is such that the number of players in each group will not total the requisite figure, the Championship Play Committee will appoint a playing marker, or markers.
3. In the event of a tie for the Championship after 72 holes, a play-off to produce a single winner must be conducted. Players in such a tie will continue over such holes as the Championship Play Committee will decide in a sudden-death, hole-by-hole play-off until the winner is determined.
4. In the event of play being either delayed or declared null and void for any round of the Championship or the play-off (if one is required), additional play beyond Sunday 18 February will be at the discretion of the Championship Play Committee.
5. The winner will receive the Championship Gold Medal and will hold the Patricia Bridges Bowl for one year. The leading amateur in the Championship, unless they be the winner and given that they have completed the Championship, will receive the Championship Silver Medal. All amateurs who complete the Championship will receive a bronze medallion.
6. (a) The Championship will be under the sole management and control of the Championship Play Committee which will comprise Golf Australia's Director – Championships, Chairman – Rules Committee, Director – Rules & Handicapping, and the ALPG and LPGA Tours Director of Tournaments. In the absence of any members of the Championship Play Committee, such members of the Championship Play Committee who may be present at any time may give a decision, and any such decision will be deemed to be a decision made by the Championship Play Committee in its entirety.
- (b) The Rules of Golf, as adopted by R&A Rules Limited, will apply together with such Local Rules as are approved by the Championship Play Committee.
- (c) Any decision of the Championship Play Committee will be final in all matters relating to the Championship.
- (d) The Championship Play Committee reserves the right to vary any condition of this event.
7. The specimen conditions in the Rules of Golf are in effect as regards Conforming Golf Balls, and Conforming Driver Heads.
8. The specimen condition in Decision 4-1/1 of the Decisions of the Rules of Golf is in effect for Grooves and Punch Marks for the Championship Proper and Qualifying.
9. It is prohibited for a player or their caddie to ride in or on a motorised vehicle unless permitted to do so by the Championship Rules Committee. Penalty: Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – four strokes. Procedure when breach discovered: Use of any unauthorised form of transportation must be discontinued immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. Otherwise the player is disqualified.
10. All competitors gaining entry to the ISPS Handa Women's Australian Open are subject to and agree to comply with the provisions of the LPGA Anti-Doping Program and Protocol in force at the date of the ISPS Handa Australian Open. Any competitor who refuses to participate and/or comply with the LPGA's Anti-Doping Program and Protocol may be disqualified and subject to potential sanctions.
11. Pace of Play: Pace of play guidelines will be strictly enforced (these will be available at registration).
12. During practice or during the Championship, a player or their caddie will not mark the course, or cause to have the course marked, to indicate, or to assist in gauging, course measurements. A player in breach of this condition may be disqualified.
13. In connection with the player's participation in the Championship and any events or activities related thereto, player willingly consents to and hereby grants and assigns, without compensation, to the LPGA and its licensees, successors and assigns the right to use player's name, picture, image, likeness, voice and/or words, and other identifying, performance and/or biographical information ("Appearance") throughout the world in connection with television, radio, video, audio, internet, film, motion picture, digital signal, photographs, computer network, IPTV, wireless distribution, mobile communications device, print or any other medium or method of distribution which is now known or hereafter may exist, including, without limitation, free over-the-air broadcast, cablecast, satellite, broadband, wireless, pay television, subscription television and on-demand platforms. Player understands that use of the Player's Appearance by the LPGA and its licensees, successors and its assigns may include, without limitation, the following: (1) advertising, promoting or publicizing the Championship, LPGA, LPGA programs such as the official world rankings, or LPGA events or initiatives; (2) live or delayed transmission or other exploitation of the Championship, and the advertising and promotion thereof; (3) recorded transmissions of the Championship as a part of a program, film or motion picture, or other audio-visual materials; and/or (4) sports, news, special, or other programming. Player agrees to refrain from any action that will interfere with the LPGA and its licensees, successors and assigns recording, production, reproduction, publication, dissemination, or other exploitation of the rights granted herein.
14. The personal data contained in this entry will be permanently retained by Golf Australia. This data may be utilised by Golf Australia or its sponsors for the distribution of correspondence, in both electronic and hard copy means. From time to time players may be sent entry forms, event literature, the Golf Australia e-newsletter, or marketing material by the sponsor(s) of Golf Australia events, or information about events conducted by Golf Australia-approved bodies. Upon receipt by Golf Australia of a written request, a player may either have access to their details, or have their details deleted from the database.

B. ENTRIES

1. The Championship is open to all female professional golfers (includes trainee professionals), as recognised by the LPGA. – NB professionals do not need to be members of a PGA or a Tour; and amateur golfers who either have an Australian (or other national association) GA Handicap of 2.4 strokes or less, or who are exempt from Qualifying. Amateurs must conform in all respects with the Rules of Amateur Status as adopted by R&A Rules Limited. NB Amateurs (excluding those amateurs in exemption categories 4(a) will be permitted to change the status of their entry from amateur to professional up until 5.00 pm the day immediately prior to Qualifying.
2. Entries for Qualifying and the Championship Proper close at 5.00 pm (Eastern Time) on 3 January 2018 (i.e. 9.00 am on 4 January 2018 AEDT). **IT IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ENTRANT TO ENSURE THEIR ENTRY IS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE CLOSING TIME FOR ENTRIES. A GOLFER'S ENTRY FORM HAS NOT OFFICIALLY BEEN RECEIVED UNTIL THEIR NAME HAS BEEN POSTED AT www.womensausopen.com**
3. Amateur entries must be via the GA on-line entry system. Entries will not be accepted by telephone, facsimile or in electronic form. Professional golfers MUST enter via the LPGA or the ALPG. Professional golfers who are members of both the LPGA and the ALPG MUST enter through both tours.

4. The entry fee for Qualifying and the Championship Proper is USD\$150 or AU\$175.00 (includes GST). Qualifiers progressing to the Championship Proper DO NOT pay a further entry fee.
5. Players wishing to withdraw prior to the start of the competition may do so by contacting the organisation they entered the tournament through to ensure a full refund.
6. All entries will be subject to the approval of the Championship Play Committee, which reserves the right to accept or refuse any entry without giving reason for its decision which will be final. The Championship Play Committee may require independent certified evidence of the playing ability of entrants.

C. QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS

For those competitors NOT exempt directly into the Championship Proper, the qualifying procedure will be as follows:

1. Three (3) places are available in the Championship Proper for non-exempt players.
2. One competition of 18 holes will be played on Tuesday, 13 February at The Grange Golf Club, East Course
3. Should the number of entries for Qualifying exceed the maximum field size (this number is at the discretion of the Championship Committee) a ballot may occur. Should a ballot occur, priority will be given to (in order):
 - i. LPGA and ALPG Full Tournament Members (in order of date of entry);
 - ii. Members of other recognised Tours (in order of date of entry);
 - iii. Members of other recognised PGAs (in order of date of entry);
 - iv. Amateurs in exact handicap order (handicap as at time of entry);
 - v. Non-aligned professionals (in order of date of entry).
4. Ties for the last available place will be decided by sudden-death, hole-by-hole play-off as soon as practicable after all players have finished play. Reserve places (alternates) in case of subsequent withdrawals of Qualifiers from the Championship Proper will be decided either by sudden-death, hole-by-hole play-off, or by lot, as the Committee in charge may determine.
5. Any player who fails to arrive at Qualifying without notifying the Tournament Organisers will be listed on the results as Disqualified.

D. THE STARTING FIELD AND ALTERNATES

In the event of an exempt player withdrawing from the Championship or further places becoming available in the starting field up until the commencement of Qualifying (i.e. 8.00 am on Tuesday 13 February), these places will be taken from the relevant eligibility categories. In the event players are not available from the relevant eligibility categories, remaining places will be filled by the alternates from the qualifying. Places in the field as a result of withdrawals after 8.00 am on Tuesday 13 February will be allocated to the alternates from Qualifying.

E. EXEMPTIONS FROM QUALIFYING

Exemptions for 2018 will be granted to the following (NB there will be 141 exempt players):

General

1. 100 LPGA members who have committed to the event in order of priority on the LPGA Priority List (including the winner of the Pure-Silk Bahamas LPGA Classic if not otherwise entered in the field via categories 1 - 6).
2. 23 places as agreed between ALPG and GA, not including those who qualify in 1 above.
3. Five (5) ISPS Exemptions
4. Four (4) Swinging Skirt Exemptions
5. One (1) JTBC Exemption
6. Five (5) Golf Australia Invitations
7. Three (3) Golf Australia Amateur Exemptions as follows:
 - i. 2018 Australian Amateur Champion
 - ii. 2017 Australian Girls' Amateur Champion
 - iii. 2017 Aaron Baddeley World Junior Champion
8. Three (3) players from qualifying

F. REGISTRATION

All competitors in the Championship Proper must register at Kooyonga Golf Club either between 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm on Monday 12 February, or between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm on Tuesday 13 February. Any competitor failing to register within these times may be eliminated from the Championship. The Championship Play Committee reserves the right to waive this condition in special individual circumstances.

G. PRIZE MONEY

Prize money of US\$1,300,000 will be allocated to professional golfers in accordance with the distribution formula of the LPGA.

H. PRO-AM & PRACTICE

The Championship Pro-Am will be held on Wednesday 14 February (by entering the ISPS Handa Women's Australian Open, players automatically commit themselves to play in the Pro-Am as required by Golf Australia). Practice facilities will be available as follows (NB specific times will be noted on the Australian Open website); Sunday 11 February, Monday 12 February, and Tuesday 13 February. Practice arrangements at the Qualifying venue will be noted on the competitor information on the Australian Open Website.

I. CADDIES

Players can not use a pull buggy/trolley and must have a caddie. Players requiring a caddie must complete the relevant section of the Championship entry form. NB Each qualifier who requests a caddie is asked, if she subsequently decides to provide her own caddie, to notify Golf Australia immediately (Phone 613 9626 5000 / Fax 613 9696 5095 / championships@golf.org.au) about her decision not to use the allocated caddie. Caddies will not be provided for those players who do not execute the caddie section of the entry form. (NB A professional caddie will assist with yardages, etc, a Bag Carrier will purely carry the bag.) **Caddie requests MUST be received by Golf Australia prior to 5.00 pm on Sunday 11 February.**

QUALIFYING ROUND DRAW AND INFORMATION

The Draw and Competitor Information will be posted at www.womensausopen.com
The Qualifying Round Draw will be posted by 5.00 pm Thursday 8 February