

# 2018 MEN'S & WOMEN'S OATES VIC OPEN



to be played on the Beach & Creek Courses of

## 13<sup>th</sup> Beach Golf Links

Barwon Heads Road, Barwon Heads, Victoria

**Thursday 1 – Sunday 4 February**

<b>Entry Fee (Amateur):</b>	<b>\$200.00</b> (inc. GST) – all entries to be made via online portal at <a href="http://www.golfvic.org.au">www.golfvic.org.au</a> Exempt Amateur players are required to pay full entry fee; Non-exempt amateur players are required to submit initial fee of <b>\$100.00</b> plus a further \$100.00 at registration if successful at final qualifying.	
<b>Format:</b>	72-Hole Stroke Play	
	<b><u>Men's Oates Vic Open</u></b>	<b><u>Women's Oates Vic Open</u></b>
	Rds 1 & 2 – Beach & Creek Courses Rounds 3 & 4 – Beach Course	Rds 1 & 2 – Beach & Creek Courses Rounds 3 & 4 – Beach Course
<b>Eligibility:</b>	Open to male & female Professionals & Amateur Golfers (whose GA Handicap or overseas equivalent does not exceed <b>2.4 strokes</b> (Men) and <b>4.4 strokes</b> (Women))	
<b>Prize Money:</b>	Prize money of <b>\$650,000 AUD</b> shall be allocated to professional golfers at both the Men's Oates Vic Open and Women's Oates Vic Open in accordance with PGA of Australia and ALPG distribution formulas.	
<b>Entries Close:</b>	<b>5:00pm on Wednesday 17 January 2018</b>	

### CONDITIONS FOR AMATEUR GOLFERS

- All Men's Professional entries must be made through the PGA of Australia.
- All Women's Professional entries must be made through Australian Ladies Professional Golf.

Enter Online at [www.golfvic.org.au](http://www.golfvic.org.au)

Golf Victoria, PO Box 2168 Hampton East, VIC 3188

Phone: (03) 8545 6200 Fax: (03) 9543 9307 Email: [tournaments@golfvic.org.au](mailto:tournaments@golfvic.org.au)

# 2018 MEN'S & WOMEN'S OATES VIC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS – TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS

## A. GENERAL:

### 1. THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The respective Men's & Women's Oates Vic Open Championships will each be played over 72 holes stroke play at the 13th Beach Golf Links (Beach & Creek Courses), 18 holes each day on Thursday 1, Friday 2, Saturday 3, and Sunday 4 February 2018.

- First & Second Rounds – Creek & Beach Courses
- Third and Fourth Rounds – Beach Course

### 2. COMPETITORS:

**Men's Oates Vic Open** – A maximum of 144 competitors shall be eligible to compete comprising those exempt from Qualifying and successful competitors from Qualifying. The leading 60 professional scores after 36 holes and any tied for 60th place, plus any amateur player on an equivalent or better 36-hole total to the 60<sup>th</sup> placed professional, shall qualify for the third round; the remainder shall be eliminated. At the completion of the third round (54 holes), the leading 35 players and any tied for 35<sup>th</sup> place (professionals and amateurs) will qualify for the fourth round; the remainder will be eliminated.

**Women's Oates Vic Open** – A maximum of 144 competitors shall be eligible to compete comprising those exempt from Qualifying and successful competitors from Qualifying. The leading 60 professional scores after 36 holes and any tied for 60th place, plus any amateur player on an equivalent or better 36-hole total to the 60<sup>th</sup> placed professional, shall qualify for the third round; the remainder shall be eliminated. At the completion of the third round (54 holes), the leading 35 players and any tied for 35<sup>th</sup> place (professionals and amateurs) will qualify for the fourth round; the remainder will be eliminated.

### 3. CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE:

The Championships will be under the management and control of the Championship Committee, consisting of representatives of Golf Victoria; the PGA of Australia and Australian Ladies Professional Golf Inc (ALPG). In the absence of the full Championship Committee, such members thereof as may be present at any time may give a decision and any decision shall be deemed the decision of the full Championship Committee. The Championship Committee reserves the right to vary any condition of this event.

### 4. RULES:

The Men's Oates Vic Open will be played under the auspices of the PGA of Australia, in accordance with the current PGA of Australia Member Regulations Handbook. The Women's Oates Vic Open will be played under the auspices of Australian Ladies Professional Golf Inc and in accordance with ALPG and LET tournament regulations. This will include The Rules of Golf, as adopted by R&A Rules Limited, Local Rules and Conditions of Competition (PGA Tour/ALPG Tour Hard Cards) as published by PGA Tour/ALPG, and such additional Local Rules as approved by the Championship Committee. All amateur players are required to adhere to Golf Victoria's Code of Conduct for the duration of the Championships.

**5. TIES:** In the event of a tie or ties for the Men's and/or Women's Oates Vic Open after 72 holes, unless the Championship Committee otherwise determines, play shall continue over such holes as the Championship Committee shall decide in a sudden-death, hole-by-hole play-off until the winner is determined. In the event of a tie or ties for the leading Amateur positions, (unless the players tie for the Championship) joint winners will be declared.

### 6. CONFORMING GOLF BALLS; CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS & ONE BALL CONDITION:

The specimen conditions in the Rules of Golf are in effect as regards Conforming Golf Balls, Conforming Driver Heads, and One Ball Condition.

### 7. CLUBS CONFORMING WITH GROOVE AND PUNCH MARK SPECIFICATIONS:

The player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from 1 January 2010.

**\*PENALTY FOR CARRYING, BUT NOT MAKING STROKE WITH, CLUB OR CLUBS IN BREACH OF CONDITION:** Two strokes for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – four strokes. \*Any club or clubs carried in breach of this condition must be declared out of play by the player to their marker or fellow competitor immediately upon discovery a breach has occurred. If the player fails to do so, they are disqualified. **PENALTY FOR MAKING STROKE WITH CLUB IN BREACH OF CONDITION:** Disqualification.

**Note: This is in effect for the Championship Proper Only (it is not in effect for Qualifying).**

### 8. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES:

The following Local Rule will be in effect for the Qualifying Rounds only (it is not in effect for the Championship Proper):

*A player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his/her play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule of Golf 14-3, for which the penalty is two-strokes for the first breach and disqualification for any subsequent breach.*

### 9. DRAW AND STARTING TIME:

A draw for each day's play will be made and published. Players shall start at the time and in the order arranged by the Committee. Rule 6-3a provides: "The player shall start at the time laid down by the Committee." The penalty for breach of Rule 6-3a is disqualification. The Championship Committee reserves the right to fix and/or alter starting times. In the event of bad weather, or for any other reason, the Championship Committee may either shorten the tournament or appoint another day or days for completion of the Championships.

### 10. PACE OF PLAY:

**Men's Oates Vic Open:** Pace of Play will be administered in accordance with the PGA of Australia's Pace of Play Policy as outlined on the PGA Tour Hard Card (Section 4). **Women's Oates Vic Open:** Pace of Play will be administered in accordance with the ALPG's Pace of Play Policy as outlined on the ALPG Tour Hard Card (Section 4).

### 11. COURSE MARKERS:

During practice or during the Championships a player shall not place on the course, or cause to be placed on the course, any artificial marker or other device designed to indicate course measurements. A player in breach of this condition may be disqualified.

### 12. TROPHIES:

The winners shall become the Men's Oates Vic Open Champion and Women's Oates Vic Open Champion and will hold the respective Open Championship Trophy for one year. The leading Amateur and runner-up in each event will each receive a trophy.

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## 13. CADDIES:

Caddies must wear the caddy clothing provided. Players will at all times be liable for the actions of their caddies. A player whose caddie is in breach of this condition may be disqualified.

## 14. MOTORISED TRANSPORT:

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 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.

**Exception:** - Referees may utilise motorised vehicles to transport a player/caddie in the interests of pace of play where necessary without penalty.

## 15. PUBLICITY:

Golf Victoria, PGA of Australia, ALPG and Sponsors arrange publicity before and during the Championships in the Media, by live and recorded radio and television broadcasting, by filming, and in electronic form. The players assent to references to them and pictures of them in practice and play appearing and being used for commercial purposes by Golf Victoria, PGA of Australia, ALPG and Sponsors. All rights for televising live, television recordings or for any visual or electronic reproduction of the Championship are reserved only to Golf Victoria, PGA of Australia, ALPG and may only be made under licence.

## 16. DRUG TESTING:

All competitors are subject to drug testing by the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency for banned substances as laid down in Golf Australia's Anti-Doping Policy. Any competitor infringing this policy, or refusing to take a test, shall be disqualified and subject to any sanction(s) brought down by ASADA. A list of prohibited substances will be available at registration. Clarification of any medication can be obtained via the ASADA hotline – 13 000 ASADA (13 000 27232), or from [www.asada.gov.au](http://www.asada.gov.au)

## B. ENTRIES:

1. The Men's Oates Vic Open is open to male golfers, either amateur or professional. Amateur male players, other than exempt players must have an Australian GA Handicap of 2.4 or less. In the case of overseas amateurs, they must have a handicap of 2.4 or less certified by their Home Club or National Association.
2. The Women's Oates Vic Open is open to female golfers, either amateur or professional. Amateur female players, other than exempt players must have an Australian GA Handicap of 4.4 or less. In the case of overseas amateurs, they must have a handicap of 4.4 or less certified by their Home Club or National Association.
3. Gender Policy: Golf Australia's Gender Policy applies to all amateur golfers.
4. Amateur entries must be accompanied by either the entrant's GolfLink No or a copy of the entrant's current handicap record, officially endorsed by the Home Club.
5. Amateur entries for the Championships (including Final Qualifying) close on Wednesday 17 January 2018 at 5.00pm, but the Championship Committee reserves the right to accept entries after that time.
6. The total amateur entry fee for each Championship is \$200.00 (includes GST). Exempt amateur players are required to pay full entry fee. Non-exempt amateur players are required to submit initial fee of \$100 (inc. GST). If

successful at final qualifying, a further \$100 (inc. GST) will be charged.

7. All amateur entries must be made online via the registration portal at [www.golfvic.org.au](http://www.golfvic.org.au). Entries will not be accepted over the phone.
8. All entries shall be subject to the approval of the Championship Committee who reserve the right to accept or refuse any entry without giving any reason for the decision which shall be final.
9. Entrance Fees will only be refunded in the case of a withdrawal being advised before the applicable closing time for entries.

## C. FINAL QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS:

If more than 144 entries are received for the Men's Oates Vic Open or more than 144 entries are received for the Women's Oates Vic Open, entrants other than those the Championship Committee may exempt will be required to qualify for the Championships. For those competitors NOT exempt direct into the Championships (Men's Oates Vic Open - Section D/Women's Oates Vic Open – Section E), the qualifying procedure will be as follows:

Separate stroke play competitions of 18 holes each shall be played on Monday 29 January 2018 at the Koorngal, Portarlinton and Curlewis Golf Clubs. For Final Qualifying, the men's field shall be divided as evenly as possible between the respective courses. The women's field will be allocated to the Koorngal Golf Club.

A minimum of fifteen (15) places will be available to make up the field for the Men's Oates Vic Open Championship proper and shall also be divided on the basis of field size at each course. Should the number of entries exceed the courses capacity, entrants on the higher handicaps will be balloted out.

A minimum of five (5) places will be available to make up the field for the Women's Oates Vic Open Championship proper. Should the number of entries exceed the course capacity, entrants on the higher handicaps will be balloted out.

Ties for the last places in Final Qualifying shall be decided by a hole by hole play-off as soon as practicable after all players have finished play. Alternate places in case of subsequent withdrawals from the Championship proper shall be decided by either hole by hole play-off or by lot as the Championship Committee may determine.

## D. MEN'S OATES VIC OPEN - EXEMPTIONS FROM QUALIFYING:

Exemptions from qualifying will be granted to the following players:

**General** - Players exempted by the Championship Committee (maximum 10).

**Professional** - Exempt professionals (104) from the PGA Tour exemption categories.

**Amateur** - Golf Victoria will provide up to a maximum of 15 male amateur player exemptions from final qualifying into the 2018 Championship starting field. Exemptions for the 2018 Championship will be allocated in the following order: -

- a. 2018 Australian Men's Amateur Champion
- b. Members of the 2017 Victorian Men's Amateur State Team (maximum 8)
- c. Maximum of two male amateur players exempted by Golf Victoria

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- d. 2017 Victorian Men's Amateur Champion
  - e. 2017 Port Phillip Open Amateur – Men's Champion
  - f. 2017 Riversdale Cup – Men's Champion
  - g. 2017 Victorian Junior Open – Boys Champion
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- h. 2017 Portsea Open – Men's Champion
  - i. 2017 Traralgon Classic – Men's Champion
  - j. 2017 Westcoast Open Amateur – Men's Champion
  - k. 2017 Cobram Barooga Open Amateur – Men's Champion
  - l. 2017 Ivo Whitton Trophy Winner
  - m. 2017 Dunes Medal Winner
  - n. 2017 Victorian Junior Boys Champion
  - o. 2018 Victorian Junior Masters – Boys Champion

### Notes:

- (i) Should this number of amateurs not reach 15 it may be made up from amateur entries at the discretion of Golf Victoria.
- (ii) A player must be an amateur golfer as of Thursday 1 February 2018 in order to receive an amateur exemption.
- (iii) Players who win any of the events listed from clause h onwards (after the line) do not automatically receive an amateur exemption into the 2018 Championship starting field. As indicated above, amateur exemptions are provided in order from clause a. onwards until the maximum number of exempt male amateur players reaches 15.

### E. WOMEN'S OATES VIC OPEN - EXEMPTIONS FROM QUALIFYING:

Exemptions from qualifying will be granted to the following players:

**Professional (inc. General)** - 124 professional players as agreed between ALPG and Golf Victoria.

**Amateur** - Golf Victoria will provide up to a maximum of 15 female amateur player exemptions from final qualifying into the 2018 Championship. Exemptions for the 2018 Championship will be allocated in the following order: -

- a. 2018 Australian Women's Amateur Champion
  - b. Members of the 2017 Victorian Women's Amateur State Team (maximum 6)
  - c. Maximum of two female amateur players exempted by Golf Victoria
  - d. 2017 Victorian Women's Amateur Champion
  - e. 2017 Port Phillip Open Amateur – Women's Champion
  - f. 2017 Riversdale Cup – Women's Champion
  - g. 2017 Victorian Junior Open - Girls Champion
  - h. 2017 Portsea Open – Women's Champion
  - i. 2017 Traralgon Classic – Women's Champion
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- j. 2017 Westcoast Open Amateur – Women's Champion
  - k. 2017 Cobram Barooga Open Amateur – Women's Champion
  - l. 2017 Susie Tolhurst Trophy Winner
  - m. 2017 Women's Dunes Medal Winner
  - n. 2017 Victorian Junior Girls Champion
  - o. 2018 Victorian Junior Masters – Girls Champion

### Notes:

- (i) Should this number of amateurs not reach 15 it may be made up from amateur entries at the discretion of Golf Victoria.
- (ii) A player must be an amateur golfer as of Thursday 1 February 2018 in order to receive an amateur exemption.
- (iii) Players who win any of the events listed from clause j onwards (after the line) do not automatically receive an amateur exemption into the 2018 Championship starting field. As indicated above, amateur exemptions are provided in order from clause a. onwards until the maximum number of exempt male amateur players reaches 15.
- (iv) Should the field not be filled through these categories the balance of the field up to 139 players will be made up by players who have entered by their position on the Rolex Rankings at the closing date for entries.
- (v) Should any category not receive the allotted number of entries, these places will revert to Pre-Qualifying places.

### F. REGISTRATION:

All male competitors must register at 13th Beach Golf Links between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm on Monday 29 or Tuesday 30 January 2018. All female competitors must register at 13th Beach Golf Links between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm on Tuesday 30 January 2018. The Championship Committee reserves the right to waive this condition in special individual circumstances.

### G. PRIZEMONEY:

**Men's Oates Vic Open:** Prize money of minimum \$650,000 will be distributed in accordance with the PGA distribution formula applying to PGA Tour Tier 2 events.

**Women's Oates Vic Open:** Prize money of minimum \$650,000 will be distributed in accordance with the ALPG distribution formula applying to ALPG Tour events.

### H. TROPHIES:

The Men's winner and Women's winner will hold the respective Open Championship Trophies for one year. The leading amateur and runner-up amateur at each event will receive prize vouchers.

### I. MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES PRACTICE:

All male and female competitors will be made Honorary Members of 13th Beach Golf Links on and from 29 January 2018 until the conclusion of the Championship.

### J. PRACTICE & PRO-AM:

Practice times at 13th Beach Golf Links will be available on Monday 29, Tuesday 30 (PM Only) and Wednesday 31 (PM Only) January 2018.

Two Championship Pro-Ams will be held at 13th Beach Golf Links on the mornings of Tuesday 30 & Wednesday 31 January 2018 beginning at 7.45am on both the Beach and Creek courses.