



## **2018 SAPPHIRE COAST SENIOR AMATEUR TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS**

### **1. Format**

1.1 The Sapphire Coast Senior Amateur will be decided over 72 holes stroke play comprising 36 holes at Pambula Merimbula Golf Club (PMGC) and 36 holes at Tura Beach Country Club (TBCC). This event is an Australian Men's Senior Ranking tournament and a qualifying event for the NSW Senior Open. Round 4 will be a shotgun start with a seeded draw.

1.2 The 36 hole events (Pambula Merimbula Senior Open) and (Tura Beach Senior Amateur Classic) are individual NSW SOOM ranking events. Players may elect to play in only one of the 36 hole events.

1.3 In the event of a tie after 72 holes, there will be a sudden death play-off using the 1<sup>st</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> holes at TBCC until a winner is decided. All other prizes will be determined using the Golf Australia count back system, including the winners of the 36 hole NSW SOOM ranking events.

### **2. Tournament Committee**

2.1 The Tournament Committee (the Committee) will comprise Members of PMGC and TBCC Match Committees. The Committee will have the sole management and control of the Tournament with full power at any time to alter or vary any of the conditions. The Committee's decision on matters affecting the Tournament will be final.

2.2 Protests must be made in writing and submitted to the Committee within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the day's play.

### **3. Rules of Play**

3.1 The Rules of Golf, as adopted by R&A Rules Ltd will apply together with Local Rules as drawn up by the Committee. Local rules will be displayed on the respective Local Rules boards at PMGC and TBCC.

### **4. Eligibility**

4.1 The Sapphire Coast Senior Amateur is an Australian Senior Order of Merit Amateur Ranking event. It is also Qualifying event for the NSW Senior Open to be held at Thurgoona Golf Club in November 2018. However, the qualifying conditions for these two events are different.

4.2 Eligible male amateurs must have reached their 55th birthday by 15 Apr 2018 to participate in the following events and receive SOOM points:

- Sapphire Coast Senior Amateur – 72 hole SOOM National Ranking Event \*\*
- Pambula Merimbula Senior Open – 36 hole NSW SOOM Event
- Tura Beach Senior Amateur Classic – 36 hole NSW SOOM Event

\*\* Refer 5. Qualifying for NSW Senior Open

### **5. Qualifying for NSW Senior Open**

5.1 The NSW Senior Open is an event on the Ladbrokes Legends Tour, a Professional golf circuit for Professional Golfers aged 50 and over and managed by the PGA of Australia. Golf NSW will offer a number of invitations to senior amateur golfers to play in the NSW Senior Open via a series of qualifying tournaments. The Sapphire Coast Senior Amateur is one of these qualifying tournaments, where a senior amateur over 50 must be given the opportunity to qualify to play with the Professionals in the NSW Senior Open.

5.2 Therefore, male amateurs who have reached their 50th birthday by 15 April 2018 may enter the Sapphire Coast Senior Amateur in an attempt to qualify for the NSW Senior Open. Apart from this incentive, 72 hole prizes will only be awarded to players in the 50-54 age group if sufficient entries are received.

5.3 Only players who have reached their 55th birthday by 15th April 2018 will be eligible to win the Sapphire Coast Senior Amateur and receive Australian Senior Order of Merit ranking points.

5.4 Entries are restricted to amateur golfers who are members of clubs affiliated with Golf NSW or of golf clubs registered with such other State or Overseas Associations as are affiliated with or recognised by this Association and/or Golf Australia.

## **6. Entries**

6.1 Entries must be made on the Official entry form or a copy thereof.

6.2 The entry fee for the 72 hole event is \$150 for visitors and \$120 for members of PMGC and TBCC. The entry fee for either of the 36 hole events is \$75 for visitors and \$60 for members of PMGC and TBCC. Both events are separate NSW SOOM Ranking events for player over 55

6.3 In the unlikely event of the number of applicants exceed the places available in the tournament, a ballot may be conducted and visitors travelling will be given priority. If a further ballot is required, those players with the highest handicap will be balloted out first. The Tournament committee reserves the right to manage the size and content of the field to allow as many players as possible to compete.

6.4 Fully completed entry forms must be received at Pambula Merimbula Golf Club prior to 5pm Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

6.5 Entry fees will be refunded for withdrawals before the draw is done, and may be refunded after the draw in exceptional circumstances.

## **7. Registration**

7.1 In the event of a shotgun start, competitors must register at the Pro Shop at least 30 minutes prior to the official start time. In all other instances, competitors must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to their tee time.

7.2 The tournament committee has the power to amend the draw or substitute another player for any competitor who is not at the tee at the time appointed to play.

7.3 The Committee reserves the right to fix and/or alter starting times.

## **8. Pace of Play**

8.1 Rule 6-7 will be enforced and a Pace of Play policy endorsed. Groups that drop behind through lost balls etc. are expected to catch up within the next hole.

## **9. Motorised Transport**

9.1 Motorised golf vehicles (MGV) may be used. Carts are the player's expense and will be offered at Member's rates but must be booked in advance via the respective Pro Shops on 02-64956280 (PMGC) and 02-64959068 (Tura Beach).

9.2 At the Clubs discretion, visitors may bring their own MGV to use at either course under the following conditions:

- You must seek approval from the Committee prior to the tournament
- You will be required to sign the relevant Deed of Release and Indemnity for MGV
- You must provide proof of current insurances including public liability for potential damages sustained or caused using the MGV
- If PMGC or TBCC is able to provide carts to participants, a course usage fee may be applied to those who bring their own.

## **10. By-Laws, Rules and Dress Regulations**

10.1 Competitors shall comply with the by-laws, rules and dress regulations of PMGC and TBCC. Players or Caddies not dressed appropriately will not be allowed access to the course. Metal spikes are not permitted on either golf course. Soft spikes may be worn in the clubhouses.

## **11. Mobile Phones**

11.1 Mobile phones are not permitted to be used on the golf course except in the following circumstances:

- In a medical emergency
- To contact the Pro Shop on a golf related matter

11.2 If the competitor or his caddie is in the possession of a mobile phone it should be turned off. If the phone rings, it is deemed to be in use and the Committee may take disciplinary action against the offending player. **Note:** In deciding whether a penalty should be applied the Committee will consider Decision 33-7/8 "Meaning of Serious Breach of Etiquette" on pages 518-19 of the R&A Decisions on Rules of Golf 2016-2017.

## **12. Practice**

12.1 Practice rounds may be played prior to the Tournament upon payment of the appropriate green fee and/or competition fee. Players may only use designated practice areas within the bounds of the course for practice prior to, or after a round in stroke play. Practice rounds can be arranged by contacting the respective Pro Shops.

## **13. Distance Measuring Devices**

13.1 A player may obtain distance information using a device that measures distance only. (This includes mobile phones if used as a measuring device in silent mode only). If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used.

## **14. Suspension of Play**

14.1 If the playing conditions are deemed dangerous (eg. lightning) or unfair (e.g. balls are moving frequently on the putting greens due to strong winds or greens are so wet that they are considered unplayable), a member of the Tournament Committee may suspend play. This information will be passed to players yet to commence their game through the Pro Shop.

14.2 Suspension of play will be advised by one long blast from a siren at the clubhouse. On hearing this siren, all players **MUST** suspend play by marking their ball and are encouraged to find appropriate shelter or return to the Clubhouse. Players at the farthest point of the golf course may not hear the siren to discontinue play. Where possible, players already on the course will be advised of the impending severe weather. However, under Rule 6-8, players may make the decision to discontinue play if they believe there is danger from lightning.

14.3 Bad weather is not of itself a good reason for discontinuing play.

14.4 Players are not to resume play until advised by two short sirens repeated, or verbally advised by a Committee Member.

## **15. Return of score card**

15.1 Players must promptly return their score card to the match desk.

## **16. Prizes**

16.1 Prizes are awarded at the discretion of the Committee and will be based on the number of entries and grades or age divisions. Prizes will be awarded to the Winner and R/U Gross and Nett for the 36 holes played at PMGC and TBCC. However, the main prizes will be awarded for the Sapphire Coast Senior Amateur (72 holes).

16.2 Players may win a trophy in the 36 hole and 72 holes events. However, no player can win a trophy in more than one section ie. Gross, Nett and/or Age Group. Prizes will only be awarded in Age Groups where sufficient entries are received.