

A. GENERAL:

1. THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The respective Men’s & Women’s 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 7, Friday 8, Saturday 9, and Sunday 10 February 2019.

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

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.

2. COMPETITORS:

ISPS Handa Vic Open (Men) – A maximum of 156 competitors shall be eligible to compete comprising exemptions from Qualifying and successful competitors from Qualifying. The leading 65 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 65th 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 35th place (professionals and amateurs) will qualify for the fourth round; the remainder will be eliminated.

ISPS Handa Vic Open (Women) – A maximum of 156 competitors shall be eligible to compete comprising exemptions from Qualifying and successful competitors from Qualifying. The leading 65 professional scores after 36 holes and any tied for 65th place, plus any amateur player on an equivalent or better 36-hole total to the 65th 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 35th place (professionals and amateurs) will qualify for the fourth round; the remainder will be eliminated.

3. TIES:

In the event of a tie or ties for the Men’s and/or Women’s Championships after 72 holes, a play-off to produce a single winner in each championship must be conducted. Players in such a tie will 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.

5. TROPHIES:

The winners will receive the Victorian Open Cup (Men) and Victorian Open Salver (Women).

The leading Amateur in each event will each receive a trophy.

6. CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE:

The Championships will be under the management and control of the Championship Committee, consisting of representatives of Golf Australia; the ISPS PGA Tour of Australasia, Australian Ladies Professional Golf Tour, European Tour and Ladies Professional Golf Association. 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. Any decision of the Championship Committee will be final in all matters relating to the Championship. The Championship Committee reserves the right to vary any condition of this event.

7. RULES:

The ISPS Handa Vic Open (Men) will be played under the auspices of the PGA of Australia, in accordance with the current PGA of Australia Member Regulations Handbook. The ISPS Handa Vic Open (Women) will be played under the auspices of Australian Ladies Professional Golf Inc and in accordance with ALPG 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. The Golf Australia Code of Conduct applies to all amateur competitors and their caddies. A copy of the code can be viewed at www.golf.org.au/championship-conditions-policies.

8. 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

9. 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.

10. CADDIES:

Caddies will be mandatory for all rounds of the Championship proper. Pull buggies will be allowed for rounds 1 and 2 only.

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.

11. AMATEURS:

All amateur competitors must comply with the Rules of Amateur Status as applicable by the R&A Rules Ltd.

All amateur competitors agree to conform to the 2019 PGA of Australia and ALPG Members Regulations.

12. PUBLICITY:

Golf Australia, PGA of Australia, ALPG, ET, LPGA 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 Australia, PGA of Australia, ALPG, LPGA and Sponsors. All rights for televising live, television recordings or for any visual or electronic reproduction of the Championship are reserved only to Golf Australia, PGA of Australia, ALPG, ET and LPGA and may only be made under licence.

B. ENTRIES:

1. MEN:

The ISPS Handa Vic Open is open to male golfers, either amateur or professional.

Professionals do not need to be members of a PGA or PGA Tour and trainee professionals will be accepted by Trainee Invite Only.

Amateur male players, other than exempt players must have an Australian GA Handicap (or other national union) of 2.4 or less at the time of entry. In the case of overseas amateurs, handicaps must be certified by their Home Club or National Association.

2. WOMEN:

The ISPS Handa Vic Open is open to female golfers, either amateur or professional.

Amateur female players, other than exempt players must have an Australian GA Handicap (or other national union) of 4.4 or less at the time of entry. In the case of overseas amateurs, handicaps must be certified by their Home Club or National Association.

3. GENDER POLICY:

Golf Australia's Gender Policy applies to all amateur golfers.

4. CLOSING DATES:

Professional entries for the Championships (including Qualifying) close at 5pm on Thursday 3 January 2019 (Women) and 5pm on Thursday 17 January 2019 (Men).

Amateur entries for the Championships (including Qualifying) close at 5pm on Thursday 17 January 2019.

The Championship Committee reserves the right to accept late entries after that time under special circumstances.

It is the sole responsibility of the entrant to ensure their entry is received prior to the closing time for entries that is applicable to them. An amateur player's entry has not been officially received until their name has been posted at www.vicopengolf.com/entries.

5. ENTRY PROCESS:

Amateur:

Amateur entries will only be accepted via the Golf Australia online entry system at www.vicopengolf.com/entries.

Male Professionals:

PGA of Australia members MUST enter online via myPGA. All other professionals must enter online via the Non-Member entry page available online via the PGA website www.pga.org.au. European Tour Member entries will be managed via the European Tour.

Female Professionals:

LPGA Member entries will be managed through the online LPGA Player Portal.

ALPG and other professionals must enter via the ALPG.

Notes:

- Professional golfers who are members of both the PGATA and the ET must enter through both tours.
- Professional golfers who are members of both the LPGA and the ALPG must enter through both tours.
- 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.

6. ENTRY FEES:

The amateur entry fee for Qualifying is AUD \$100 (inc. GST) and AUD \$200 (inc. GST) for the Championship Proper. Non-exempt amateurs will be required to submit a further \$100 (inc. GST) if successful at Final Qualifying prior to the commencement of the Championship.

All professionals are to refer to their respective tour entry conditions for fees.

7. WITHDRAWALS & REFUNDS:

Amateurs wishing to withdraw must contact GA prior to 5pm on Thursday 31 January 2019 to ensure a full refund. Refunds for withdrawals after this date will be subject to medical/personal reasons only and are subject to approval by GA.

Male professionals entered into qualifying and wishing to withdraw may do so in writing to tour@pga.org.au up until 5pm on Thursday 31 January 2019 to ensure a full refund.

Female professionals entered into qualifying and wishing to withdraw may do so in writing to ALPG up until 7pm on Sunday 3 February 2019 to ensure a full refund.

C. QUALIFYING:

For those competitors NOT exempt directly into the Championship Proper (Men's Section D / Women's – Section E), the qualifying procedure will be as follows:

1. MEN:

Six (6) spots will be available in the Men's Vic Open Championship proper for non-exempt players. The 6 spots available to make up the field will be pro-rataed between the three qualifying courses.

2. WOMEN:

Six (3) spots will be available in the Women's Vic Open Championship proper for non-exempt players.

3. QUALIFYING VENUES:

Three separate stroke play competitions of 18 holes each will be played on Monday 4 February 2019 at Curlewis Golf Club, Portarlinton Golf Club and Sanctuary Lakes Club.

The men's field shall be divided as evenly as possible between the three respective courses. The women's field will be allocated to the Sanctuary Lakes Club.

4. ENTRY BALLOT:

Should the number of entries exceed the course capacity priority will be given to (in order):

- a) PGATA/ET/ALPG/LPGA Full Tournament Members
- b) Full Members of the Australian PGA (based on most recent Final National Rankings, then order of entry)
- c) Members of other recognised Tours (in order of date of entry)
- d) Members of other recognised PGAs (in order of date of entry)
- e) Non-aligned professionals (in order of date of entry)
- f) Amateurs in exact handicap order (handicap as at close of entry).

5. TIES:

Ties for the last places in each competition 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 shall be decided by either hole by hole play-off or by lot as the Committee in charge may determine.

6. ALTERNATES:

Alternates from Qualifying will be used only for the purpose of filling Qualifying positions that become vacant. Championship alternates will continue to be taken from the relevant eligibility categories until all such avenues have been exhausted, at which time alternates from Qualifying may be used to fill field positions that become vacant.

D. ISPS HANDA VIC OPEN (MEN) – FIELD COMPOSITION:

The field of 156 male players will be determined as follows:

- a) Any former winner of the Victorian Open played at 13th Beach Golf Links (2013 onwards)
- b) Leading 60 available players from the 2019 European Tour Exemption Categories excluding categories 6 and 8.
- c) 8 Amateurs as selected by Golf Australia (see below)
- d) 8 Tournament Invitations
- e) The leading 6 players from Final Qualifying
- f) The remainder of the field will be filled by players from the 2019 PGA Tour of Australasia Tournament Exemption Categories.

Male Amateur Exemptions:

8 Amateur exemptions as selected by Golf Australia will be allocated in the following order:

- a) 1st WAGR ranked Australian male as of Jan 25, 2019
- b) 2nd WAGR ranked Australian male as of Jan 25, 2019
- c) 2019 Australian Men’s Amateur Champion
- d) 2018 Victorian Men’s Amateur Champion
- e) 2018 Men’s Port Phillip Open Amateur Champion
- f) 2018 Victorian Boy’s Junior Open Champion
- g) Golf Australia Exemption
- h) Golf Australia Exemption

Notes:

- (i) Any unutilised positions from categories a-f above will revert to Golf Australia amateur exemptions.
- (ii) A player must be an amateur golfer as of Thursday 7 February 2019 to receive an amateur exemption.

E. WOMEN’S VIC OPEN - EXEMPTIONS FROM QUALIFYING:

The field of 156 female players will be determined as follows:

- a) Three (3) players from qualifying
- b) Seventy-nine (79) LPGA Members, ranked in the order of their position on the 2019 LPGA Priority List
- c) The winner, if an LPGA Member, of the 2019 Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions, if not already qualified.
- d) Alternates for b & c above will be filled by the next available LPGA Member from the LPGA Alternate list.
- e) Thirty (30) Players from the Ladies European Tour 2018 Money List (who are not otherwise exempt from the LPGA)
 - Alternates will be determined by the LET
- f) Thirty (30) Players from the Australian Ladies Professional Golf (as determined by the ALPG)
 - Alternates will be determined by the ALPG
- g) Eight (8) sponsor invitations as selected by Golf Australia
 - Alternates will be determined by GA
- h) Five (5) amateur exemptions as determined by Golf Australia
 - Alternates will be determined by GA

Female Amateur Exemptions:

5 Amateurs as selected by Golf Australia. Exemptions will be allocated in the following order:

- a) 1st WAGR ranked Australian female as of Jan 25, 2019
- b) 2019 Australian Women’s Amateur Champion
- c) 2018 Victorian Women’s Amateur Champion
- d) 2018 Women’s Port Phillip Open Amateur Champion
- e) 2018 Victorian Girls’ Junior Open Champion

Notes:

- (i) Any unutilised positions from categories a-f above will revert to Golf Australia amateur exemptions.
- (ii) A player must be an amateur golfer as of Thursday 7 February 2019 to receive an amateur exemption.

F. REGISTRATION:

All competitors must register at the 13th Beach Golf Links between the hours of 9:00am–5:00pm (Monday), 7:00am–5:00pm (Tuesday) and 7:00am–2:00pm (Wednesday) with the Player Admin Office (Men) and ALPG/LPGA Tour Office (Women). The Championship Committee reserves the right to waive this condition in special individual circumstances.

G. PRIZEMONEY:

Men: Prize money of minimum AUD \$1,500,000 will be distributed according to the European Tour distribution formula.

Women: Prize money of minimum AUD \$1,500,000 will be distributed according to the LPGA distribution formula.

H. MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES PRACTICE:

All male and female competitors will be made Honorary Members of 13th Beach Golf Links on and from 4 February 2019 until the conclusion of the Championship.

2019 ISPS HANDA VIC OPEN – MEN’S & WOMEN’S CONDITIONS OF PLAY



I. PRO-AMS & PRACTICE:

Two Championship Pro-Ams will be held at 13th Beach Golf Links on Tuesday 5 & Wednesday 6 February 2019 beginning at 7.45am on both the Beach and Creek courses.

By entering the Vic Open, all players automatically commit themselves to play in the Pro-Am as required by Golf Australia.

Practice times at 13th Beach Golf Links will be available on Monday 4, Tuesday 5 (PM Only) and Wednesday 6 (PM Only) February 2019.

Practice facilities and specific operating times will be noted on the Vic Open website at www.vicopengolf.com.