



2020 VICTORIAN FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

~ Men's, Women's & Mixed Sections ~

2020 Metropolitan Qualifying Rounds		2020 Regional Qualifying Rounds	
Monday 6 January	Commonwealth	Sunday 12 January	Murray Downs
Tuesday 14 January	Kingston Heath	Sunday 19 January	Traralgon
Tuesday 28 January	Woodlands	Friday 24 January	Mornington
Monday 3 February	Southern	Sunday 2 February	Horsham & Trentham
Friday February 14	Cranbourne	Sunday 16 February	Ballarat & Jubilee
Thursday 20 February	Keysborough	Sunday 23 February	Neangar Park
Monday 24 February	Gardiners Run	Friday 28 February	Flinders
Friday 28 February	Club Mandalay	Sunday 1 March	Coomealla & Hill Top
		Tuesday 3 March	13 th Beach – Vic Open*
		Sunday 8 March	Bairnsdale
<p>2020 Victorian Four-Ball Championship – State Final 36 Holes Four-Ball Stableford Round 1: Sorrento – Monday 16 March Round 2: The National (Moonah Course) – Tuesday 17 March</p>			

Entry Fee:	<p>\$140.00 per pair (incl. GST) for each Metropolitan Qualifying Round \$90.00 per pair (incl. GST) for non-members at each Regional Qualifying Round \$60.00 per pair (incl. GST) for host club members at each Regional Qualifying Round *\$180.00 per pair (incl. GST) for the Vic Open Qualifying Round at 13th Beach Golf Links</p>
Inclusion:	Lunch
Format:	18-Hole Four-Ball Stableford
Tee Times:	7:45am multi-tee starts at all qualifying venues
Eligibility:	Male and Female Amateur Golfers
GA Handicap:	All players must have a valid GA handicap
Entries Open:	Wednesday 6 November
Entries Close:	Metropolitan Qualifying Rounds – 5pm Tuesday 10 December 2019 <i>Note: Venue allocations will be available online after Friday 13 December 2019</i>

Qualifying Rounds:

- Each pair is required to nominate their three preferred options of Metropolitan qualifying round venues. The Championship Committee will then allocate each pair to a qualifying venue on the basis of championship conditions 1.2.3 & 1.2.4. Entries must list the three preferred venues. **Entries with less than three different venues will not be accepted.**

2020 VICTORIAN FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP TERMS OF COMPETITION

1. COMPETITION PROCEDURE

1.1. Competition Structure

1.1.1. The championship will be played in three sections;

- Men's Section
- Women's Section
- Mixed Section

1.1.2. The championship will be played in two parts;

- Qualifying Rounds
- Championship Final

1.2. Qualifying Rounds (Metropolitan & Regional)

1.2.1. All entering pairs must compete in a Qualifying Round. Qualifying Rounds shall consist of 18 holes of Four-Ball Stableford play. Each entering pair may compete in multiple qualifying rounds.

1.2.2. Each individual player is permitted to enter as part of a men's or women's pair (as applicable) and as part of a mixed pair.

1.2.3. Each competing pair will be required to nominate their three preferred options of qualifying venues for Metropolitan venues. The Championship Committee will then allocate each pair to a Metropolitan qualifying venue(s) on the basis of entries received and preferred options. Entries with less than three different venues will not be accepted.

1.2.4. Should excess entries be received for any Metropolitan qualifying venue, a random ballot will be undertaken to determine the starting field. Starting field positions will be reserved for a minimum of 10 men's, 10 women's and 10 mixed pairs at each qualifying venue up until 10 days prior. After this date, excess entries will be determined by a waiting list (if applicable).

1.2.5. Entries for the Regional qualifying venues will be accepted on the basis of receipt. Starting field positions will be reserved for a minimum of 10 men's, 10 women's and 10 mixed pairs at each qualifying venue up until 10 days prior. After this date, excess entries will be determined as per date of entry.

1.2.6. The leading men's, women's and mixed pairs from each Qualifying venue will qualify for the final. **Note:** *Should any of the men's, women's or mixed sections have less than 4 pairs at any venue, the section may be combined with another section (ie. Women's & Mixed Section).*

Additional pairs may qualify from the venues with the largest fields based on the proportion of total entries. The number of qualifying pairs at each venue in the Men's Section, Women's Section and Mixed Section will be proportionately determined on the basis of the total number of entries for the championship.

1.2.7. Players who have already qualified for the state final may compete at further events for prizes but cannot qualify again or with a different partner.

Exception: *Before playing a second qualifying round, a player can notify Golf Australia that the pair who previously qualified cannot participate in the state final.*

1.2.8. Ties for the last places of qualifying pair(s) in any Section and all trophies will be decided by the system of countback as specified by Golf Australia.

1.3. Championship Final

1.3.1. The Victorian Four-Ball Championship State Final shall consist of 36 holes of Four-Ball Stableford play. Round 1 will be played on Monday 16 March 2020 at Sorrento GC & Round 2 at The National (Moonah Course) on Tuesday 17 March 2020.

1.3.2. The field for the Championship Final will consist of a maximum of 100 pairs (200 players) comprising of those pairs who have qualified for the Final at a Metropolitan or Regional Qualifying Round, as per condition 1.2.6 above.

1.3.3. Men's qualifying pairs will play PM (Monday 16 March) & AM (Tuesday 17 March). Women & Mixed pairs will play AM (Monday 16 March) & PM (Tuesday 17 March).

1.3.4. In the event of a tie for the Championship and all trophies in any section, all positions/winners shall be decided by the system of count-back as specified by Golf Australia.

1.3.5. **Substitutions** – Subject to the approval of the Championship Committee, following entry into the competition, it is permissible to substitute an alternative player for a nominated player who is unable to compete due to illness, injury or any other justifiable reason. However, only one player substitution can occur at the specific qualifying round. If both players are unavailable to play, they must withdraw allowing any subsequent pairs on the waiting list to participate. **No substitutions are permitted once a pair has qualified for the Championship Final.** The substitute player must be eligible to compete in accordance with the conditions of the competition.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1. Eligible players are male and female amateur golfers whose Golf Australia Handicap (or overseas equivalent) at the time of entry does not exceed 36.4 strokes (Men) and 45.4 strokes (Women).

2.2. In accordance with Section 17 of the GA Handicap System, the GA Match Committee reserves the right to allocate Special Competition Handicaps to any player participating in the Victorian Four-Ball Championship. Circumstances which may lead to such action includes (but is not limited to):

- Qualification for a minimum of two State Finals over the past four years;
- Finished with a two-round total of 86 points or more at the previous year's State Final;
- Qualification for the current year's State Final with a score that in the view of the GA Match committee has not resulted in an appropriate reduction of one or both player's GA Handicaps following application of the GA Handicap System;
- Achieved notable performances in club, District or other external Four-Ball and/or team competitions

Note: *Such Special Competition Handicaps may apply solely to the Victorian Four-Ball Championship or to all Four Ball/Teams events (including Club/District events) for a defined period as the GA Match Committee will determine.*

3. ENTRIES

3.1. The entry fee is \$140.00 per pair for Metropolitan Qualifying Rounds. The entry fee for Regional Qualifying rounds is \$60.00 per pair if both players are members at the host club or \$90.00 per pair if not (excluding 13th Beach - \$180.00 per pair). Entry fee includes light lunch and GST at all venues.

3.2. Entries shall only be made online via the registration link at www.golf.org.au/vicfourball.

3.3. Golf Australia shall have the right to refuse the entry of any person without being required to give any reason for such refusal.

3.4. The draws for the competition will be sent to players and available at www.golf.org.au/vicfourball approximately one week before the event.

4. TROPHIES

4.1. Qualifying Rounds (18-Hole Stableford):

- Winning Pair – Men's, Women's & Mixed sections
- Runner-Up Pair – Men's, Women's & Mixed sections
- Third Place Pair – Men's, Women's & Mixed sections
- NTP – Men & Women

Note: *Minimum of 5 pairs in each of the above sections will be required for third place trophies to be awarded.*

2020 VICTORIAN FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP TERMS OF COMPETITION

4.2. State Final (36-Hole Stableford):

- Winning Pair – Men's, Women's & Mixed sections
- Runner-Up Pair – Men's, Women's & Mixed sections
- Third Place Pair – Men's, Women's & Mixed sections
- Best 18-Hole Stableford (Rd 1 & 2) – Men's, Women's & Mixed sections
- Daily NTP – Men & Women

5. CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

The Committee shall consist of Golf Australia representatives. In the absence of a full Championship Committee, such members thereof, as may be present at the time, may give a decision so given shall be deemed to be a decision of the full Championship Committee. In the event of bad weather, or for any other reason, the Championship Committee may shorten the competition, appoint another day or days for completion of, or may transfer play to another course. Protests must be made to the Championship Committee not later than 10 minutes after the conclusion of each round.

The Championship Committee reserves the right to accept additional post entries subject to availability for any venue that has not reached a full field capacity.

6. REFUND POLICY

Any entrant may withdraw and have their entry fee refunded providing notification is received within **three working days** prior to the qualifying round. Under no circumstances will entry fees be refunded after this date unless players can provide Golf Australia supporting documents regarding their withdrawal from the event (ie. Medical Certificate).

7. MOTORISED TRANSPORT

Competitors are permitted to ride in or on a motorised vehicle during any Regional Qualifying Round of the Championship.

Carts must be booked with Golf Australia and if limited carts are available preference will be given to those that require usage for medical purposes.

For the Metropolitan Qualifying Rounds and the State Final competitors must hold a medical certificate or be at least 75 years of age.

It should be noted that the hire or provision of such transport is at the competitor's own expense subject to arrangements and agreements with each host club.

8. CLUBS AND BALLS

List of Conforming Driver Heads: Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of Local Rule: Disqualification.

List of Conforming Golf Balls: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for breach of the Local Rule: Disqualification. Note: An updated List of Conforming Clubs and Balls is available on www.randa.org

9. PRACTICE (RULE 5.2)

In stroke play, Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: A player must not practise on the competition course before or between rounds. Exception: All recognised practice areas within the bounds of the course may be used by players for practice on any day of the competition.

10. PACE OF PLAY (RULE 5.6)

In the absence of mitigating circumstances, a group is liable to be timed if it is in excess of the time allowed and in the case of second or subsequent groups, out of position. From the commencement of timing, if any player exceeds 50

seconds on a 'first to play approach shot (including Par 3 tee shot), chip or putt', or 40 seconds if it is a tee shot or 'second or third to play shot', they shall be deemed to have had a bad time.

The time allowed will be determined by the Committee and will be available prior to play. Out of position is defined as being more than the starting interval behind the group in front.

A player whose group is timed will have a bad time carried forward in the round even if the group subsequently arrives back in position or within time.

Penalty for breach of local rule:

1 Bad Time: Verbal warning from referee and told that if they have a further bad time, they will be penalised;

<u>Stroke Play</u>	<u>Match Play</u>
2 Bad Times: One Stroke Penalty	One Stroke Penalty
3 Bad Times: Additional Two Penalty Strokes	Loss of Hole
4 Bad Times: Disqualification	Disqualification

Note:

- It is not necessary for players to be advised they are being timed.
- Timings will be taken from the moment it is deemed by the Official that it is the player's turn to play.
- In exceptional circumstances, an individual player, or two of the three players in a group, may be timed.

When Timing Commences:

Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is their turn to play and they can play without interference or distraction. Reasonable time spent by the first player to play in determining their yardage will not count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace their ball, repair damage to the green, and remove loose impediments on their line. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

11. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES

In accordance with Rule of Golf 4.3a(1), a player may obtain distance and direction information by use of a distance-measuring device. The provisions of Rule 4.3 apply in relation to Use of Equipment.

12. SUSPENSION OF PLAY (RULE 5.7)

The following signals will be used to suspend and resume play:

- Immediate stop for imminent danger – one prolonged note of a siren
- Stop for a non-dangerous situation – three consecutive notes of a siren
- Resumption of play – two consecutive notes of a siren
- Note: When play is stopped for imminent danger, all practice areas will be immediately closed.

13. RETURNING OF SCORE CARD

A player's scorecard is officially returned to the Committee when the player has left the recording office/area with both feet.

14. RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION – COMPETITION CLOSED

When the Championship trophy is presented to the winner, the results of the competition are officially announced, and the competition is closed.

2020 VICTORIAN FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP TERMS OF COMPETITION

15. DRUGS

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, will be disqualified and subject to any sanction(s) brought down by ASADA. A list of the 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.

16. DATABASE OF COMPETITOR'S DETAILS

The personal data contained in this entry is 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.