



2022 ISPS HANDA AUSTRALIAN OPEN

ISPS
HANDA



Victoria GC & Kingston Heath GC
| 1- 4 December, 2022

Entry Fee:

Amateurs – AUD \$165 (inc. GST)

Note: all registrations online at www.golf.org.au/ausopen

Professionals – via respective tours

Format:

72 Holes Stroke

- Rounds 1 & 2 – Victoria GC & Kingston Heath GC (one round on each)
- Rounds 3 & 4 – Victoria GC

Eligibility:

Professional golfers & amateur golfers (GA Handicap or overseas equivalent does not exceed 2.0 (women) & 0.0 (men) as at the time of entry).

Prize Money:

Minimum AUD \$1.7m each shall be allocated to female and male professional golfers in accordance with the WPGA Tour of Australasia (women) and DP World Tour (men) distribution formulas.

Entries Close:

Amateurs – 5pm AEDT 10 November 2022. Handicap ballot to apply.

Professionals – refer to respective tour closing dates.



2022 ISPS HANDA AUSTRALIAN OPEN – TERMS OF COMPETITION

A. GENERAL:

1. The Women's & Men's Australian Open Championships will each be played over 72 holes stroke play at the Victoria Golf Club and Kingston Heath Golf Club, 18 holes each day on Thursday 1, Friday 2, Saturday 3, and Sunday 4 December 2022.

- First & Second Rounds – Victoria GC & Kingston Heath GC
- Third and Fourth Rounds – Victoria Golf Club

The Championship Play Committee reserves the right to fix and/or alter starting times. In the event of bad weather, or for any other reason, the Championship Play Committee may either shorten the tournament or appoint another day or days for completion of the Championships.

2. **Australian Open (Women)** – 144 competitors shall be eligible to compete comprising exemptions 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 60th placed professional, shall qualify for the third round; the remainder shall be eliminated. At the completion of the third round (54 holes), the leading 30 players and any tied for 30th place (professionals and amateurs) will qualify for the fourth round; the remainder will be eliminated.

Australian Open (Men) – 144 competitors shall be eligible to compete comprising exemptions 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 60th placed professional, shall qualify for the third round; the remainder shall be eliminated. At the completion of the third round (54 holes), the leading 30 players and any tied for 30th 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 Women's and/or Men'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 Play 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.

4. **Trophies:** The winners will receive the Patricia Bridges Bowl (Women) and Stonehaven Cup (Men). The leading Amateur in each event will each receive a memento.

5. a) The Championship will be under the sole management and control of the Championship Play Committee which will comprise Golf Australia's Chief Executive Officer, GA Tournament Director, GA's Head of Rules, the CEO of the WPGA Tour of Australasia, the PGA Tour of Australasia's Tournament Director Australasia, and the DP World Tour Tournament Director. 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) In the case of both the Championship Proper and any Pre-Qualifying Tournament, the Rules of Golf, as adopted by R&A Rules Limited, will apply together with the PGA of Australia "Hard Card" and 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 term of this event, which, subject to the number of exempt entrants for either field, may include amendments to the field sizes.

6. **The PGA of Australia Hard Card** ([click here](#) to view) will be in effect for the Women's Australian Open and the Men's Australian Open (including qualifying), plus additional supplementary local rules. Key items from the PGA of Australia Hard Card include:

- **Back-on-the-line relief (MLR E-12).**
- **Immovable Obstruction Close to Putting Green (MLR F-5).** Modified as outlined in the PGA of Australia Hard Card.
- **Restrictions on Green Reading Material (MLR G-11).** Only a book approved by the Championship Play Committee may be used.
- **Limiting When Stroke Made From Putting Green Must Be Replayed (MLR D-7).** This modifies Exception 2 to Rule 11.1b.
- **46" Club-length Limitation (MLR G-10)**

- **Club Replacement (MLR G-9)**
- **List of Conforming Driver Heads (MLR G-1)**
- **Groove and Punch Mark Specifications (MLR G-2).** There is no penalty under this Local Rule for carrying but not making a stroke with a club which does not conform to these groove and punch mark specifications.
- **Conforming Ball List (MLR G-3)**
- **The One Ball Rule (MLR G-4)**
- **Prohibiting Use of Motorised Transportation: (MLR G-6)**
- **Embedded Ball (MLR F-2.2).** Rule 16.3 is modified in this way "free relief is not allowed when a ball is embedded in the stacked turf face above a bunker".
- **Restriction on Relief from Stance in Animal Hole.** Rule 16.1 is modified in this way: "Interference does not exist if the animal hole only interferes with the player's stance".

7. **Pace of Play: The PGA of Australia Pace of Play Policy** ([click here](#) to view) will be in effect for the Women's Australian Open and the Men's Australian Open.

8. **Anti-Doping and Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy:** The Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy within Sport Integrity Australia's National Integrity Framework and Sport Integrity Australia's National Anti-Doping policy apply for this event. The National Anti-Doping Policy prevails if there are inconsistencies. These can be found by [clicking here](#).

9. **COVID-19:** The Championship Play Committee reserves the right to withdraw any player from the event for COVID-19-related circumstances.

10. **Caddies:**
 - a) Caddies are compulsory for all rounds of the Championship Proper.
 - b) Caddies must wear the caddie clothing provided. Competitors will always be liable for the actions of their caddies. A player whose caddie is in breach of this Term may be disqualified.
 - c) All caddies must comply with GA's COVID vaccination policy at the time of the competition.

11. **Pull buggies:** Pull buggies are not permitted for any round of the Championship Proper. Pull buggies are permitted for the Qualifying competitions and Practice Rounds however are subject to availability.

12. **Code of Conduct:** The Golf Australia Code of Conduct applies to all amateur competitors and their caddies. View the Code [here](#).

13. **Publicity:** Golf Australia, PGA Tour Australasia, DP World Tour, WPGA Tour of Australasia 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 Tour Australasia, DP World Tour, WPGA Tour of Australasia 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 Tour Australasia, DP World Tour, WPGA Tour of Australasia and may only be made under licence.

B. ENTRIES:

1. **Women:** The Championship is open to all professional golfers – NB professionals do not need to be members of a WPGA or WPGA Tour of Australasia; and amateur golfers who either have a GA Handicap (or other national union) of 2.0 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.

2. **Men:** The Championship is open to all professional golfers – NB professionals do not need to be members of a PGA or PGA Tour; and amateur golfers who either have a GA Handicap (or other national union) of 0.0 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.

3. **COVID-19 Vaccinations:** Players must comply with GA's COVID vaccination policy at the time of the competition.

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

5. **ENTRY PROCESS (inc. QUALIFYING) & CLOSING DATES:**

Amateurs: Amateur entries will only be accepted via the Golf Australia online entry system at www.golf.org.au/ausopen. Amateur entries will close at 5pm AEDT on Thursday 10 November.

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Professionals (Women): WPGA Tour of Australasia and other professionals must enter via the WPGA Tour of Australasia website www.wpga.org.au. Entries for women professionals will close at 5pm AEDT on Friday 28 October.

Professionals (Men): PGA Tour of Australasia members MUST enter online via myPGA or the PGATA App, and DP World Tour members MUST enter in terms of their Members General Regulations Handbook. All other professionals must enter online via the Non-Member entry page available online via the PGA website www.pga.org.au. PGA Tour of Australasia professionals, within exemption categories 1-21, are required to enter by 5pm AEDT on Thursday 17 November. DP World Tour will close entries in terms of their Members General Regulations Handbook. All other players required to enter by 5pm AEDT on Thursday 10 November.

Notes:

- i. All entries shall be subject to the approval of the Championship Play Committee which reserves the right to accept or refuse any entry without giving any reason for the decision which shall be final.
- ii. The Championship Play Committee reserves the right to accept late entries after that time under special circumstances.
- iii. 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.
- iv. An amateur player's entry has not been officially received until their name has been posted at www.golf.org.au/ausopen.

6. ENTRY FEES:

The entry fee is \$165 inc. GST (including Final Qualifying) for all players, with the exception of those players qualifying through the DPWT exemption categories, who will be charged the entry fee in terms of their Members General Regulations Handbook

7. WITHDRAWALS & REFUNDS:

Amateurs wishing to withdraw must contact GA up until 5pm AEDT on Thursday 24 November 2022 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.

Professionals (women) wishing to withdraw from qualifying or the Championship Proper may do so in writing to the WPGA Tour of Australasia up until 5pm AEDT on Thursday 24 November 2022 to ensure a full refund.

Professionals (men) wishing to withdraw from qualifying or the Championship Proper may do so in writing to tour@pga.org.au up until 5pm AEDT on Friday 25 November to ensure a full refund. Note: DP World Tour members to refer to their Members General Regulations Handbook

C. FINAL QUALIFYING:

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

1. **Women:** Up to five (5) places will be available in the Australian Open Championship Proper for non-exempt players.
2. **Men:** Up to six (6) places will be available in the Australian Open Championship Proper for non-exempt players. The 6 places available to make up the field will be pro-rataed between the qualifying courses.
3. **Qualifying venues:** At least three separate stroke play competitions of 18 holes each will be played on Monday 28 November 2022 at Heritage, Sanctuary Lakes and Spring Valley Golf Clubs.
The men's field shall be divided as evenly as possible between Heritage, Spring Valley and Sanctuary Lakes Club. 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) PGA Tour of Australasia/WPGA Tour of Australasia Full Tournament Members
 - b) DPWT Ranked Members
 - c) Full Members of the PGA of Australasia (based on the National Pro-Am Order of Merit from the previous season, then in order of date entry)
 - d) Temporary Tournament Member (Tour) (in order of date of entry)
 - e) PGA of Australia Senior Tournament Members (in order of date of entry)
 - f) Members of other recognised Tours (in order of date of entry)
 - g) Members of other recognised PGAs/WPGAs (in order of date of entry)

- h) Non-aligned professionals (in order of date of entry)
- i) 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 hole-by-hole play-off.

6. ALTERNATES:

Women: 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 AEDT on Monday 28 November), these places will be taken from the relevant WPGA Tour of Australasia eligibility categories or Tournament Invitations. 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 Monday 28 November will be allocated to the alternates from Qualifying.

Men: Alternates generated from the pre-qualifying tournament will remain as Alternates only for those players who become eligible for the tournament field through the pre-qualifying tournament.

Any position in the tournament field that becomes available through a withdrawal of an exempt player after registration closes at 2.00pm AEDT on Wednesday 30 November, will be filled from the ranked Category Members of their respective Tour.

For sake of clarity, during Round 1, if a player fails to arrive at the tee within 5 minutes after their starting time, their position will be filled by the first alternate from their Tour if available. If no eligible tour Member is available then the next available alternate from pre-qualifying can take that place.

D. AUSTRALIAN OPEN (WOMEN) – FIELD COMPOSITION:

The field of 144 female players will be determined as follows:

a. Professionals:

- i. Leading thirty-five (35) exempt professionals from the WPGA Tour of Australasia 2022 Exemption categories.
- ii. Ten (10) WPGA Tour of Australasia member invites.
- iii. Leading thirty-eight (38) exempt professionals from the 2022 LET/LETAS exemption categories.
- iv. Four (4) players nominated by each of the following Tours: China LPGA, Thai LPGA, Taiwan LPGA, Women's Golf India, Japan LPGA Step Up Tour, Korean Dream Tour, and Sunshine Women's Tour.
- v. Leading associate professional as selected by the PGA of Australia.
- vi. Winners of the 2022 NSW Open and The Athena 2022.

b. Golf Australia Invitations:

Up to ten (10) players at the discretion of GA, including but not limited to:

- i. Current Australian Amateur Champion
- ii. Current Australian Junior Amateur Champion
- iii. Current Asia Pacific Amateur Champion (2022)
- iv. Remaining seven (7) selections at the discretion of GA.

c. Tournament Invitations:

Up to fifteen (15) invitations at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, including:

- i. Former Australian Open Champions at or under the age of 60 as at 1 December 2022
- ii. Leading ten (10) entrants who are within the top 150 of the Official World Golf Rankings as at the close of entries for the tournament.

d. Qualifying:

Up to five (5) places from qualifying

Notes:

1. Any unutilised positions from categories a, b & c will remain at the discretion of Golf Australia and the WPGA Tour of Australasia and shall be filled at their discretion.
2. Category c.ii): In the event of a tie, the player with the higher ranking in the official WAGR at the beginning of the week commencing Monday 28 November will be awarded a place.

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E. AUSTRALIAN OPEN (MEN) – FIELD COMPOSITION:

The field of 144 male players will be determined as follows:

- a. **Professional:** Sixty (60) exempt professionals from the PGA Tour of Australasia exemption categories.
- b. **Professional:** Sixty (60) exempt professionals from the DP World Tour exemption categories.
- c. **Golf Australia Invitations:** Up to four (4) players at the discretion of GA, including but not limited to:
 - i. Current Australian Amateur Champion
 - ii. Current Australian Junior Amateur Champion
 - iii. Current Asia Pacific Amateur Champion (2022)
 - iv. Remaining one (1) selection at the discretion of GA.
- d. **Tournament Invitations:** Up to fourteen (14) invitations at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
- e. **Qualifying:** Up to six (6) places from qualifying

Note: Any unutilised positions from categories b, c & d will revert to the PGA Tour of Australasia and shall be filled at their discretion.

F. REGISTRATION:

All competitors must register at Victoria Golf Club with tour officials in the Tournament Office between 28-30 November as follows: 9:00am – 5:00pm (Monday), 7:00am – 5:00pm (Tuesday) and 7:00am – 2:00pm (Wednesday). The Championship Play Committee reserves the right to waive this condition in special individual circumstances.

G. PRIZEMONEY:

Women: Prize money of minimum AUD \$1,700,000 will be distributed according to the WPGA Tour of Australasia distribution formula.

Men: Prize money of minimum AUD \$1,700,000 will be distributed according to the DP World Tour distribution formula.

Note: Only players whose entry status is recorded on the official list of entries as 'professional' at the time they commence their first round in the Championship Proper are eligible to receive prize money. For clarification, any player who does not have an (a) "for amateur" next to their name is considered 'professional'.

H. PRO-AM & PRACTICE:

The Pro-Am will be held at Victoria Golf Club on Wednesday 30 November 2022, starting at 7.00am and 1:00pm. By entering the Australian Open, all players automatically commit themselves to play in the Pro-Am as required by Golf Australia.

Practice times at Victoria Golf Club and Kingston Heath Golf Club will be available on Monday 28, Tuesday 29, and Wednesday 30 (Kingston Heath only) November 2022. Practice facilities and specific operating times will be included in the Player Fact Sheet available via GA and the tours one month prior.