

TERMS OF COMPETITION

1. COMPETITION PROCEDURES

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 over two rounds;

- Qualifying Rounds
- Championship Final

1.2. Qualifying Rounds

1.2.1. All entering pairs must compete in a Qualifying Round at their chosen qualifying venue. Each venue shall arrange one qualifying round on dates decided by the club, between 1 August 2023 and 1 December 2023. Qualifying Rounds shall consist of 18 holes of Four-Ball Stableford. 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, women's or mixed pair.

1.2.3. A minimum of 5 pairs will qualify for the state final, consisting of the leading two men's and two women's pairs and the leading mixed pair (if applicable) from each qualifying venue. If required the remaining places will be filled by the next best score.

Note: the number of qualifying pairs is subject to change depending on final numbers.

1.2.4. 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.

1.2.5. 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.

1.2.6. **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. **Substitutions are only permitted once a pair has qualified for the Championship Final in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of GA.** The substitute player must be eligible to compete in accordance with the conditions of the competition.

1.3. State Final

1.3.1. The Victorian Four-Ball Championship State Final shall consist of 36 holes of Four-Ball Stableford. Round 1 will be played on Monday 15 January 2024 at Spring Valley GC & Round 2 at Kingston Heath GC on Tuesday 16 January 2024.

1.3.2. The field for the Championship Final will consist of a maximum of 100 pairs who qualify via a Qualifying Round, as per term 1.2.3 above.

1.3.3. Successful pairs from the Qualifying Rounds must enter the State Final no later than 5.00 pm (AEDT) Wednesday 6 December 2023 via the link provided by Golf Australia.

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.

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. Players must comply with GA's [Gender policy](#) at the time of the competition.

2.3. In accordance with Section 17 of the GA Handicap System, the Championship Play 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 Championship committee has not resulted in an appropriate reduction of one or both players' 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 determined by GA.

3. ENTRIES

3.1. All entries shall only be made online via the registration link at www.golf.org.au/vicfourball.

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

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

3.4. Qualifying Venues

Entry price and maximum field size at each qualifying venue shall be determined by each club and entries will be accepted on an as received basis.

3.5. State Final

Entries for the State Final will consist of pairs as per term 1.2.3 above with an entry fee of \$350.00 (incl GST) per pair. Entry fee includes green fees, trophies and lunch each day of the final.

4. TROPHIES

4.1. State Final (36-Hole Stableford):

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

Note: Prizes at Qualifying Competitions are at the discretion of the club.

5. CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY COMMITTEE

5.1. The Committee Play Committee shall consist of Golf Australia representatives.

5.2. 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.

5.3. The Championship Play Committee will have the sole management and control of the championship, with full power at any time to alter or vary any of the terms.

5.4. Protests must be made to the Championship Committee not later than 10 minutes after the conclusion of each round.

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

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6. REFUND POLICY

Any entrant may withdraw and have the entrance fee refunded provided notification is received 5 days prior to the first round. To be eligible for a refund after this time players must provide Golf Australia supporting documents regarding their withdrawal from the event (e.g., medical certificate).

7. MOTORISED TRANSPORT

A player or a caddie will only be permitted to ride on motorised transportation in circumstances expressly described in (a) or (b) or (c) below.

- a. When authorised (or later approved) by the committee in charge of the competition due to circumstances that arise during the playing of a round. For example, a player who is about to play (or who has just played) under penalty of stroke and distance, and their caddie, is automatically authorised to ride on motorised transportation.
- b. When approved by Golf Australia as a person who currently requires the use of motorised transportation in order to participate in the game of golf. To be considered for approval, the player or caddie must provide to Golf Australia written advice from a medical practitioner, or a physiotherapist, or a chiropractor, or an osteopath, or the like, stating they currently require the use of motorised transportation to participate in the game of golf. The advice must be emailed to [insert contact] before the event's closing time for entries. The advice from the health professional must specify the period of time that use of the motorised transportation is required (i.e. 1 week, 1 month, 1 year, or indefinitely). When an exemption is granted, the use of motorised transportation must solely serve the purpose of transportation.
- c. Any player or caddie aged 75 years or over is permitted to use motorised transportation without needing to apply to Golf Australia for approval.

Penalty for breach of Local Rule: The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which there is a breach of this Local Rule. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.

Please note: The use of motorised transport for the qualifying venues is at the discretion of the host club.

8. RULES OF GOLF

The Rules of Golf, as adopted by R&A Rules Limited, and any supplementary local rules as determined by the Championship Play Committee, will apply.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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;

Stroke Play

2 Bad Times:	One Stroke Penalty
3 Bad Times:	Additional Two Penalty Strokes
4 Bad Times:	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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION – COMPETITION CLOSE

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

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granted it hereunder in connection with the promotion of this Championship as well as other GA Championships and GA. The cooperation of players with authorised representatives of the media is required, provided that no pre-Championship activities outside of those activities which are part of the Championship will be required and provided that the player's Championship play is not unreasonably interfered with.

16. 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](#).

17. DATABASE OF COMPETITORS' DETAILS

The personal data contained in this entry is permanently retained by GA. This data may be utilised by GA 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 GA e-newsletter, or marketing material by the sponsor(s) of GA events, or information about events conducted by GA approved bodies. Upon receipt by GA of a written request, a player may either have access to their details, or have their details deleted from the database.

For further details, please refer to our privacy policy by [clicking here](#).

18. CODE OF CONDUCT

All entrants are bound by GA's Code of Conduct ("the Code"). A copy of the Code is available by [clicking here](#). Any breach of the Code may be recorded on the Central Register of the Code ("the Register"). The Register may be accessed (and published from time to time) by any State Association or GA for the purposes of administering Competitions or state championships, events, competitions, practice sessions or major activities conducted or sanctioned by a State Association, or any State Association or GA codes of conduct and/or other related matters.

19. LEGAL POLICIES (E.G. MATCH FIXING POLICY)

All entrants are bound to comply with all of GA's legal policies. These policies relate to the golfer's behaviour and the behaviour of their associates during the tournament. Any breach of these policies may result in the competitor being withdrawn from the competition and subject to investigation and disciplinary proceedings. Depending on the nature of the offence, the competitor may also be subject to criminal charges arising from their conduct. It is the duty of the competitors and their associates to familiarise themselves with the relevant policies and ensure they comply. [Click here](#) to view GA's Legal Policies.

20. SMOKING & CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL POLICY

Players and caddies are prohibited from smoking and consuming alcohol during a round. (Note: In addition to the more traditional forms of smoking, this policy is also considered to cover vaping and the like).

The following penalty structure applies for a breach of the above policy:

- o First breach: Warning
- o Second breach: One-Stroke Penalty
- o Third breach: General Penalty
- o Fourth breach or any subsequent misconduct: Disqualification

The Championship Play Committee will impose any penalty, where applicable. Their decision is final.

21. IMAGES

GA may arrange for promotion of the Championship, for radio, internet and television broadcasting and other exhibition and publication of the Championship or excerpts thereof in any and all media throughout the world, whether now known or hereafter developed. By this application, the player consents to the use by GA, or persons authorised by GA, of their name, likeness, voice and references to them and photographs and other images of them and their play connected with their appearance in the Championship, or any portion(s) thereof, in connection with such media promotion, broadcasting and other exhibition and publication of the Championship. GA may utilise the rights