



2022 VIC OPEN



13th Beach Golf Links | 10-13 February

Entry Fee:

Amateurs – AUD \$200 (inc. GST)

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

Exempt amateur players are required to pay full entry fee

Non-exempt amateur players are required to submit initial fee of \$100 plus an additional \$100 if successful at Qualifying (both AUD inc. GST)

Format:

72-Holes Stroke

- Rounds 1 & 2 – Beach & Creek Courses (one round on each)
- Rounds 3 & 4 – Beach Course

Eligibility:

Male & female professionals & amateur golfers (GA Handicap or overseas equivalent does not exceed 2.4 (men) & 4.4 (women) as at the time of entry).

Prize Money:

Minimum AUD \$410,000 each shall be allocated to male and female professional golfers in accordance with the PGA Tour of Australasia (men) and WPGA Tour of Australasia (women) distribution formulas.

Entries Close:

Amateurs – 5pm AEDT 20 January 2022. Handicap ballot to apply.

Professionals – 5pm AEDT 20 January 2022



2022 VIC OPEN – TERMS OF COMPETITION

A. GENERAL:

1. The 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 10, Friday 11, Saturday 12, and Sunday 13 February 2022.

- 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. **Vic Open (Men)** – A maximum of 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 35 players and any tied for 35th place (professionals and amateurs) will qualify for the fourth round; the remainder will be eliminated.

Vic Open (Women) – A maximum of 72 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 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.

4. **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 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, Play Management & Regulations Senior Manager, and the PGA Tour of Australasia's Tournament Director Australasia and the CEO of the WPGA. 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 and any Pre-Qualifying Tournament, the Rules of Golf, as adopted by R&A Rules Limited, will apply together with the PGA of Australia/WPGA "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.

6. **The Model Local Rules relating to Conforming Driver Heads (MLR G-1), Conforming Ball List (MLR G-3) and The One Ball Rule (MLR G-4) are in effect.**

7. **Clubs Conforming with Groove and Punch Mark Specifications:** Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect.

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. **PENALTY FOR MAKING STROKE WITH CLUB IN BREACH OF THIS LOCAL RULE: Disqualification.**

NB. This is in effect for the Championship Proper Only (it is not in effect for Qualifying).

8. **Distance Measuring Devices:** For the Qualifying Rounds only, Rule 4.3a(1) of the Rules of Golf will apply. For the Championship proper, Rule 4.3a(1) is modified in the following way:

During a round, a player must not obtain distance information by the use of an electronic distance measuring device. Penalty for breach of Rule 4.3a: See penalty statement in Rule 4.3

9. **Prohibiting Use of Motorised Transportation:** Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect and modifies Rule 4.3a(i) in this way:

During a round a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorised transportation except as authorised or later approved by the Rules Committee. (A player taking a stroke and distance penalty is always authorised).

10. **Anti-Doping:** The GA anti-doping policy applies for this event. The GA anti-doping policy is the Australian National Anti-Doping Policy, effective from 1 January 2021, and can be found by [clicking here](#).

11. **Pace of Play:** Pace of play guidelines will be laid down and strictly enforced (Rule 5.6b(3)).

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

13. **Practice:** 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.

14. **Caddies:**

a) Caddies are optional for all rounds of the Championship proper.

b) Any 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 be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and will be required to show proof of vaccination on arrival at the event – this applies to all caddies in both the Pre-Qualifying and the Tournament proper.

15. **Pull buggies:** Pull buggies are permitted for all rounds of the Championship Proper.

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

17. **Publicity:** Golf Australia, PGA of Australia, WPGA 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, WPGA 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 and WPGA and may only be made under licence.

B. ENTRIES:

1. **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 2.4 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. NB Amateurs will be permitted to change the status of their entry from amateur to professional up until the end of the day immediately prior to Qualifying.

2. **Women:** The Championship is open to all professional golfers – NB professionals do not need to be members of a WPGA or WPGA Tour; and amateur golfers who either have a GA Handicap (or other national union) of 4.4 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. NB Amateurs will be permitted to change the status of their entry from amateur to professional up until the end of the day immediately prior to Qualifying.

3. **COVID-19 Vaccinations:** all players must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and will be required to show proof of vaccination on arrival at the event – this applies to all players and caddies in both the Pre-Qualifying and the Tournament proper.

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

5. **Closing dates:** Professional entries for the Championships (including Qualifying) close at 5pm AEDT on Thursday 20 January 2022.

Amateur entries for the Championships (including Qualifying) close at 5pm AEDT on Thursday 20 January 2022.

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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.golf.org.au/vicopen.

6. ENTRY PROCESS (inc. QUALIFYING):

Amateur: Amateur entries will only be accepted via the Golf Australia online entry system at www.golf.org.au/vicopen.

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.

Female Professionals: WPGA and other professionals must enter via the WPGA.

Note: All entries shall be subject to the approval of the Championship Committee who reserves the right to accept or refuse any entry without giving any reason for the decision which shall be final.

7. 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.

8. WITHDRAWALS & REFUNDS:

Amateurs wishing to withdraw must contact GA prior to 5pm on Friday 4 February 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.

Male professionals entered into qualifying and wishing to withdraw may do so in writing to tour@pga.org.au up until 5pm on Friday 4 February to ensure a full refund.

Female professionals entered into qualifying and wishing to withdraw may do so in writing to the WPGA up until 7pm on Friday 4 February 2022 to ensure a full refund.

C. FINAL QUALIFYING:

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

1. **Men:** Ten (10) spots will be available in the Men's Vic Open championship proper for non-exempt players. The 10 spots available to make up the field will be pro-rataed between the qualifying courses.
2. **Women:** Four (4) spots will be available in the Women's Vic Open championship proper for non-exempt players.
3. **Qualifying venues:** At least two separate stroke play competitions of 18 holes each will be played on Monday 7 February 2022 at Curlewis Golf Club and Sanctuary Lakes Club. Should a third venue be required, Ranfurly Golf Club will be utilised.
The men's field shall be divided as evenly as possible between Curlewis and the Sanctuary Lakes Club. The women's field will be allocated to the Sanctuary Lakes Club. If required, additional men will be allocated to Ranfurly Golf Club.
4. **Entry ballot:** Should the number of entries exceed the course capacity priority will be given to (in order):
 - a) PGATA/WPGA Full Tournament Members
 - b) Full Members of the Australian PGA (based on most recent Final National Rankings, then order of entry)
 - c) PGATA Affiliate Members
 - d) PGA of Australia Senior Tournament Members
 - e) Members of other recognised Tours (in order of date of entry)
 - f) Members of other recognised PGAs/WPGAs (in order of date of entry)
 - g) Non-aligned professionals (in order of date of entry)
 - h) 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:

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 9 February, 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 tee 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.

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 7 February), these places will be taken from the relevant WPGA eligibility categories. 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 7 February will be allocated to the alternates from Qualifying.

D. VIC OPEN (MEN) – FIELD COMPOSITION:

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

- a. **General:** Players exempted by the Championship Committee (maximum 10).
- b. **Professional:** Exempt professionals (104) from the PGA Tour exemption categories.
- c. **Golf Australia:** Golf Australia may provide up to a maximum number of 20 exemptions for players from final qualifying into the 2022 Championship. Golf Australia will notify the relevant players of their exemption. Exemptions for the 2022 Championship will be allocated in the following order:
 - 2021 Australian Amateur Champion
 - 2021 Australian Boys' Amateur Champion
 - 2021 Vic Amateur Champion
 - 2021 Port Phillip Open Amateur Champion
 - 2021 Junior Vic Open Champion
 - 2022 Vic Junior Amateur Champion
 - Remaining exemptions to be determined by Golf Australia
- d. **Qualifying:** 10 places from qualifying

Note: Any unutilised positions from categories a, b & c will revert to qualifying.

E. VIC OPEN (WOMEN) – FIELD COMPOSITION:

The field of 72 female players will be determined as follows:

- a. **General:** Players exempted by the Championship Committee (maximum 10).
- b. **Professional:** Exempt professionals (38) from the WPGA exemption categories.
- c. **Golf Australia:** Golf Australia may provide up to a maximum number of 20 exemptions for players from final qualifying into the 2022 Championship. Golf Australia will notify the relevant players of their exemption. Exemptions for the 2022 Championship will be allocated in the following order:
 - 2021 Australian Amateur Champion
 - 2021 Australian Girls' Amateur Champion
 - 2021 Vic Amateur Champion
 - 2021 Port Phillip Open Amateur Champion
 - 2021 Junior Vic Open Champion
 - 2022 Vic Junior Amateur Champion
 - Remaining exemptions to be determined by Golf Australia
- d. **Qualifying:** 4 places from qualifying

Note: Any unutilised positions from categories a, b & c will revert to qualifying.

F. REGISTRATION:

All competitors must register at 13th Beach Golf Links between 9:00am–5:00pm (Monday) and 7:00am–5:00pm (Tuesday) with tour officials in the Tournament Office. The Championship Committee reserves the right to waive this condition in special individual circumstances.

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G. PRIZEMONEY:

Men: Prize money of minimum AUD \$410,000 will be distributed according to the PGA Tour of Australasia distribution formula.

Women: Prize money of minimum AUD \$410,000 will be distributed according to the WPGA Tour of Australasia distribution formula.

H. PRO-AM & PRACTICE:

The Pro-Am will be held at 13th Beach Golf Links on Wednesday 9 February 2022 at 7.45 am on 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 7, Tuesday 8, and Wednesday 9 (PM Only) February 2022.

Practice facilities and specific operating times will be included in the Player Fact Sheet available via GA and the tours one month prior.