



# Golf Australia Rookie Program

## **Applications now open for the Golf Australia Rookie Program for 2023**

The purpose of the Golf Australia Rookie Program is to support athletes who are transitioning, or have transitioned, from amateur to professional competition and are in the first five years of their professional careers.

There are essentially two streams of funding:

1. **Training and preparation funding.** This is to support you with coaching, strength and conditioning, biomechanics, sports psychology, physiotherapy services etc. Through the Rookie Program Golf Australia will pay the agreed costs which are part of your annual plan with no requirement for you as the athlete to repay any of those agreed costs (outside the Golf Australia Give Back Program).
2. **Competition expenses.** An allocation of funding to assist you to compete in events that would form part of your competition schedule. This can include travel expenses, caddy fees, tournament entry, as well as costs associated with attending Qualifying Tournaments.

An athlete who is part of the Rookie Program may receive a scholarship up to \$100,000 AUD to cover aforementioned expenses. Partial Scholarships for targeted areas may also be offered.

**Please use the following link to submit an application for the 2023 Rookie Program:**

**<https://form.jotform.com/222974064041048>**

**Please note that applications will close at 5pm on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

For further details regarding the Golf Australia Rookie Program, please contact me at

[Emily.McLennan@golf.org.au](mailto:Emily.McLennan@golf.org.au) or on 0451 713 006.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emily McLennan".

Emily McLennan  
High Performance Operations Coordinator  
Golf Australia

# About the Rookie Program

## Overview

For more than 10 years, the Golf Australia Rookie Program has provided funding to young Australian professional golfers which had been unavailable prior to its inception.

If an applicant is successful in being offered a scholarship, the funding period will be for one calendar year (1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December). As the scholarship holder can be part of the program until their fifth year of professional golf, it is theoretically possible for an athlete to be a scholarship holder for five years.

## Criteria for Consideration

For an athlete to be eligible for selection into the Rookie Program, the following criteria are used to help make selections, but is not limited to:

- Be an Australian citizen
- Complete rookie squad application
- Completed High School, or are in the process of completing High School
- Have a successful amateur record at national and international level
- Be in the final six months of their amateur golf careers; or
- Have turned professional within the past five years
- Have in place a team of service providers
- Be hard working and highly self-motivated to achieve their objectives
- Submit a detailed budget (*see application*)
- Exceptional time management and organisational skills
- Competing on a recognised professional golf tour

*\*There will be no minimum or maximum number of Rookie Squad members. The program is looking for internally motivated individuals who are 100% committed to the process of reaching their full potential on and off the golf course.*

## Expectations of Scholarship Holders

Scholarship holders will be expected to:

- Abide by the Golf Australia Athlete Code of Ethics and by the code of ethics of their professional organisation/tour
- Abide by the Golf Australia Rookie Contract
- Sign the **Australian Golf Foundation Give Back** contract

## Key Performance Indicators

The overarching long-term goal of the High Performance program for Golf Australia is to create Major and Olympic Champions and increase the number of Australians in the World Top 100 Rankings.

Examples of KPI's can include but are not limited to:

Athletes	- Retain or improve full playing rights on recognised tours annually
	- Improve current world ranking status annually
	- Adhere to all aspects of training and competition program set out by service providers or coaching team

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|----------|---|
| Program  | - Agreed communication occurs between athletes & their service team |
| Services | - Services provided in a timely fashion                             |
|          | - Follow up details occurs within two days of consultation.         |

### **Application Process**

Applications will be reviewed in January following the closing date. You will become notified of the outcome of your application at the end of January/early February.

The closing date for applications will be 5pm on **5<sup>th</sup> January, 2023**.

### **Selection Process**

All applications will be assessed by the Golf Australia selection committee. It may also be necessary for the selection committee to gain further information on each applicant, such as speaking with their coach, PGA, WPGA, service team, etc.

Applicants will be contacted in late January/early February 2023 to discuss the outcome of their application. Successful applicants should expect a contract to be offered in February.

### **Performance Plans/Reviews/Evaluations**

It will be expected that players' service provider and coaching teams submit reports when deemed appropriate and attend face to face performance planning sessions and annual reviews with the Golf Australia HP staff. *(If reports are not handed in by the athlete, service provider or coaching team in a timely manner, reimbursement for expenses will be placed on hold).*

### **High School Certificate**

Applicants are required to have completed High School, or be in the process of completing High School to be eligible for the Rookie Program. Please be prepared to upload a copy of your High School certificate or proof that you are enrolled and working towards your High School certificate in order to meet these requirements.