

# 2017 EMIRATES AUSTRALIAN OPEN

## CONDITIONS OF PLAY

### A. GENERAL

1. The Championship is scheduled to be played over 72 holes stroke play; 18 holes each on Thursday 23 November, Friday 24 November, Saturday 25 November, and Sunday 26 November 2017 at The Australian Golf Club.
2. 156 players will be eligible to compete comprising those exempt from Qualifying and successful competitors from Qualifying. The leading 60 professionals after 36 holes, plus any tying for 60<sup>th</sup> place, plus any amateur with an equivalent or better 36-hole total to the 60<sup>th</sup> placed professional, will qualify for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> rounds; the remainder will be eliminated. In the event that the number of competitors qualifying for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> rounds is such that the number of players in each group will not total the requisite figure, the Championship Play Committee will appoint a playing marker, or markers.
3. In the event of a tie for the Championship after 72 holes, a play-off to produce a single winner must be conducted. Players in such a tie will continue over such holes as the Championship Play Committee will decide in a sudden-death, hole-by-hole play-off until the winner is determined.
4. In the event of play being either delayed or declared null and void for any round of the Championship or the play-off (if one is required), additional play beyond Sunday 26 November will be at the discretion of the Championship Play Committee.
5. The winner will receive the Championship Gold Medal and will hold the Stonehaven Cup for one year. The leading amateur in the Championship, unless they be the winner and given that they have completed the Championship, will receive the Championship Silver Medal. All amateurs who complete the Championship will receive a bronze medallion.
6.
  - (a) The Championship will be under the sole management and control of the Championship Play Committee which will comprise Golf Australia's Director – Championships, Chairman – Rules Committee, Director – Rules & Handicapping, Manager – Championships and Rules, and the PGA Tour of Australasia's Director of Tournaments. 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) The Rules of Golf, as adopted by R&A Rules Limited, will apply together with 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 condition of this event.
7. The specimen conditions in the Rules of Golf are in effect as regards Conforming Golf Balls, Conforming Driver Heads, and One Ball Condition.
8. Clubs Conforming with Groove and Punch Mark Specifications: The player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from 1 January 2010.  
 \*PENALTY FOR CARRYING, BUT NOT MAKING STROKE WITH, CLUB OR CLUBS IN BREACH OF CONDITION: Two strokes for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – four strokes. \*Any club or clubs carried in breach of this condition must be declared out of play by the player to their marker or fellow competitor immediately upon discovery a breach has occurred. If the player fails to do so, they are disqualified. PENALTY FOR MAKING STROKE WITH CLUB IN BREACH OF CONDITION: Disqualification.  
NB. This is in effect for the Championship Proper Only (it is not in effect for Qualifying).
9. The following Local Rule will be in effect for the Qualifying Rounds only (it is not in effect for the Championship Proper):  
*A player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect their play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3.*
10. It is prohibited for a player or their caddie to ride in or on a motorised vehicle unless permitted to do so by the Championship Rules Committee. Penalty: Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – four strokes. Procedure when breach discovered: Use of any unauthorised form of transportation must be discontinued immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. Otherwise the player is disqualified.
11. 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, shall be disqualified and subject to any sanction(s) brought down by ASADA. A list of 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](http://www.asada.gov.au)
12. Pace of Play: Pace of play guidelines will be laid down and strictly enforced (see Note 2; Rule 6-7).
13. During practice or during the Championship, a player or their caddie will not mark the course, or cause to have the course marked, to indicate, or to assist in gauging, course measurements. A player in breach of this condition may be disqualified.
14. Caddies must wear the caddie clothing provided. Competitors will at all times be liable for the actions of their caddies. A player whose caddie is in breach of this condition may be disqualified.
15. All amateur competitors agree to conform to the 2017 PGA of Australia Members Regulations.
16. Golf Australia, PGA of Australia and Sponsors arrange publicity before and during the Championship 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 and its Sponsors. All rights for televising live, television recordings or for any visual or electronic reproduction of the Championship are reserved only to Golf Australia and PGA of Australia and may only be made under licence.

### B. ENTRIES

1. The Championship is open to all professional golfers (trainee professionals by Trainee Invite Only) – 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 2.0 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. NB Amateurs (excluding those exempt under Tournament Exemption Category D9) 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. Entries close 5.00 pm (AEDT), 2 November 2017. **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. A LIST OF AMATEUR ENTRIES WILL BE POSTED AT [www.golf.org.au/ausopen](http://www.golf.org.au/ausopen). A PLAYER'S ENTRY FORM HAS NOT OFFICIALLY BEEN RECEIVED UNTIL THEIR NAME HAS BEEN POSTED AT [www.golf.org.au/ausopen](http://www.golf.org.au/ausopen).**
3. Amateur entries will be accepted via the Golf Australia online entry system only. Manual entries may be accepted at the discretion of Golf Australia. Payment will be made online using the PayPal gateway.  
 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](http://www.pga.org.au)
4. The entry fee for Qualifying and the Championship Proper is AUD\$125.00 (includes GST).
5.
  - (a) The Championship Play Committee reserves the right to accept late entries from invited players who are exempt from Qualifying for the Championship Proper up to 5.00 pm (AEDT) on Friday 17 November 2017, under special circumstances.

- (b) Under circumstances not covered by B.5(a), entries physically received after the respective closing time may still be accepted at the discretion of the Championship Play Committee.
6. Amateurs wishing to withdraw may do so by contacting GA to ensure a full refund. Professionals entered into qualifying and wishing to withdraw may do so in writing to [tour@pga.org.au](mailto:tour@pga.org.au) up until 5pm on Friday 17 November to ensure a full refund.
  7. All entries will be subject to the approval of the Championship Play Committee, which reserves the right to accept or refuse any entry without giving reason for its decision which will be final. The Championship Play Committee may require independent certified evidence of the playing ability of entrants.

### C. QUALIFYING

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

1. Ten (10) spots will be available in the Championship proper for non-exempt players. The 10 spots available to make up the field will be pro rata between the three qualifying courses.
2. Three separate stroke play competitions of 18 holes each will be played on Monday 20 November 2017 at Liverpool Golf Club, Ryde-Parramatta Golf Club and Carnarvon Golf Club.
3. Should the number of entries for Qualifying exceed the capacity, priority will be given to (in order): 1. PGA of Australasia Full Tournament Members; 2. Full Members of the Australian PGA (based on most recent Final National Rankings, then order of entry); 3. Members of other recognised Tours (in order of date of entry); 4. Members of other recognised PGAs (in order of date of entry); 5. Non-aligned professionals (in order of date of entry); 6. Amateurs in exact handicap order (handicap as at time of entry).
4. For these Qualifying competitions, competitors will be divided between the courses.
5. Ties for the last available 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 will be decided either by sudden-death, hole-by-hole play-off, or by lot, as the Committee in charge may determine.
6. Alternates from Qualifying will be used only for the purpose of filling Qualifying positions that become vacant. Championship alternates will continue to be taken from the relevant eligibility categories until all such avenues have been exhausted, at which time alternates from Qualifying may be utilised to fill field positions that become vacant.

### D. EXEMPTIONS FROM QUALIFYING

Exemptions for 2017 will be granted to the following (NB there will be 146 exempt players):

#### TOURNAMENT CATEGORIES

1. Any former champion of the tournament at or under the age of 60 as at 23 November 2017
2. Leading ten (10) Australian and New Zealand players within the top 200 of the Official World Golf Rankings as at the close of entries for the tournament
3. OneAsia Order of Merit winners in 2015-2017
4. Winners of any OneAsia Tournament in 2016 and 2017
5. Leading 3 players not otherwise exempt in a higher category from the final 2017 combined Regular Season and Web.com Finals priority list (capped to 25th position)
6. Five (5) Asian Players selected at the discretion of Golf Australia
7. Seven (7) players selected at the discretion of the Tournament Promoter
8. Seven (7) players from the current Golf Australia Rookie Squad as at close of entries for the tournament
9. Six (6) amateur players selected at the discretion of Golf Australia
  - a. 2017 Australian Amateur Champion
  - b. 2017 Asian Amateur Champion
  - c. 2016 Aaron Baddeley World Junior Champion
  - d. 2017 Australian Boys' Amateur Champion
  - e. 2017 The Open (British) Amateur Champion
  - f. 2017 Japan Amateur Champion
10. The leading PGA of Australia Trainee from the Trainee National Averages at close of entries for the tournament
11. Ten (10) Tournament Invitations
12. Ten (10) players from Qualifying
13. Remainder of the field to be filled from the 2017 PGA Tour of Australasia tournament exemption categories (excluding PGA Tour of Australasia Category 4, the Top 100 from OWGR in Category 5 and Category 6)

#### Eligibility Notes:

Any unutilised positions in Categories 8, 9 and 11 above will remain at the discretion of Golf Australia's use. All other unutilised positions between Categories 1-12 above will revert to PGA Tour of Australasia and shall be filled in sequential order from the PGA Tour of Australasia's categories in accordance with Category 13.

### E. REGISTRATION

All competitors in the Championship Proper must register at The Australian Golf Club either between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm on Monday 20 November, or between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm on Tuesday 21 November. Any competitor failing to register within these times may be eliminated from the Championship. The Championship Play Committee reserves the right to waive this condition in special individual circumstances.

### F. PRIZE MONEY

Prize money of minimum AUD\$1,250,000.00 will be allocated to professional golfers in accordance with the distribution formula of the PGA Tour of Australasia.

### G. PRO-AM & PRACTICE

The Championship Pro-Am will be held on Wednesday 22 November (by entering the Australian Open, players automatically commit themselves to play in the Pro-Am as required by Golf Australia). Practice facilities and specific operating times will be noted on the Australian Open website.

[www.golf.org.au/ausopen](http://www.golf.org.au/ausopen)

