



2025 VIC OPEN



13th Beach Golf Links | 6-9 February



Entry Fee:

Amateurs – AUD \$165 (inc. GST)

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

Professionals – AUD \$154 (women); AUD \$110 (men), enter via respective tours

Format:

72 Holes Stroke

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

Eligibility:

Professional golfers & amateur golfers (GA Handicap or overseas equivalent does not exceed 3.0 (women) & 1.0 (men) as at the time of entry).

Prize Money:

AUD \$200,000 each shall be allocated to professional golfers in accordance with the PGA Tour of Australasia (men) and WPGA Tour of Australasia (women) distribution formulas.

Entries Close:

Amateurs – 2pm AEDT 23 January 2025. Handicap ballot to apply.

Professionals – 2pm AEDT 23 January 2025.

2025 VIC OPEN – TERMS OF COMPETITION

A. GENERAL:

1. The Women's and Men'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 6, Friday 7, Saturday 8, and Sunday 9 February 2025.

- 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 (Women)** – A minimum of 90 competitors, or more at the discretion of the Committee, shall be eligible to compete comprising exemptions from Qualifying and successful competitors from Qualifying. The leading 50 scores (professionals and amateurs) after 36 holes and any tied for 50th place, 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 (Men) – 132 competitors shall be eligible to compete comprising exemptions from Qualifying and successful competitors from Qualifying. The leading 50 professional scores after 36 holes and any tied for 50th place, plus any amateur player on an equivalent or better 36-hole total to the 50th 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 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 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 Tour of Australasia. 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 Women's Vic Open and the Men's Vic Open (including qualifying), the Rules of Golf, as adopted by R&A Rules Limited, will apply together with the **PGA of Australia Hard Card**, plus additional supplementary local rules.
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. **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](#).

8. **Caddies:**

- a) Caddies are optional for all rounds of the Championship proper, except for players in the last 6 groups on Saturday and Sunday. Players in these groups will be required to have a caddie.
- 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.

9. **Pull buggies:** Pull buggies are permitted for all rounds of the Championship Proper except for the last 6 groups on Saturday and Sunday, where all players in these groups will be required to have a caddie carrying the bag (i.e., pull buggies are NOT permitted for these groups).

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

11. **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. **Women:** The Championship is open to all professional golfers – NB professionals do not need to be members of a WPGA or the WPGA Tour of Australasia; and amateur golfers who either have a GA Handicap (or other national association handicap) of 3.0 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 association handicap) of 1.0 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. **Gender Policy:** Golf Australia's Gender Policy applies to all amateur golfers.

4. **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/vicopen. Amateur entries will close at 2.00 pm AEDT on Thursday 23 January.

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 2.00 pm AEDT on Thursday 23 January.

Professionals (Men): PGA Tour of Australasia members MUST enter online via myPGA or the PGATA App. All other professionals must enter online via the Non-Member entry page available online via the PGA website www.pga.org.au. Entries for men professionals will close at 2.00 pm AEDT on Thursday 23 January.

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/vicopen.

5. **ENTRY FEES:**

6. The entry fee is \$165 (including Final Qualifying) for amateur golfers, \$154 for women professionals, and \$110 for PGA Tour of Australasia members; or \$275 for PGA Tour of Australasia non-members. All fees include GST.

7. **WITHDRAWALS & REFUNDS:**

Amateurs wishing to withdraw must contact GA up until 5.00 pm AEDT on Friday 31 January 2025 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 5.00 pm AEDT on Friday 31 January to ensure a full refund.

Professionals (men) wishing to withdraw from qualifying may do so in writing to tour@pga.org.au up until 5.00 pm AEDT on Friday 31 January 2025 to ensure a full refund. A Member who has been confirmed as part of the "Final Field", after close of entries, will

2025 VIC OPEN – TERMS OF COMPETITION

forfeit their entry fee if withdrawing for reasons other than those permitted circumstances as outlined in the PGA Membership Regulations”.

C. FINAL QUALIFYING:

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

1. **Women:** Up to six (6) places will be available in the Vic Open Championship Proper for non-exempt players.
2. **Men:** Up to ten (10) places will be available in the Vic Open Championship proper for non-exempt players. The 10 places available to make up the field will be pro-rated between the qualifying courses.
3. **Qualifying venues:** At least two separate stroke play competitions of 18 holes each will be played on Monday 3 February 2025 at Curlewis and Sanctuary Lakes Golf Clubs.

The men's field shall be divided as evenly as possible between Curlewis and Sanctuary Lakes Golf Clubs. The women's field will be allocated to Sanctuary Lakes 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 PGA of Australia (based on the most recent Final National Pro-Am Order of Merit, then date of entry)
 - c) PGATA Temporary Tournament Members Tour
 - 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:

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 3 February), 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 AEDT on Monday 3 February 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 5.00 pm AEDT on Tuesday 4 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 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. VIC OPEN (WOMEN) – FIELD COMPOSITION:

The field of 90 women players (minimum, but may be extended at the discretion of the Committee) will be determined as follows:

- a. **General:** Players exempted by the Championship Committee (maximum 10).
- b. **Professional:** Exempt professionals (54) 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 2025 Championship. Golf Australia will notify the relevant players of their exemption. Exemptions for the 2025 Championship will be allocated in the following order:
 - 2025 Australian Amateur Champion
 - 2024 Australian Girls' Amateur Champion

- 2024 Port Phillip Amateur Champion
- 2024 Vic Amateur Champion
- 2024 Junior Vic Open Champion
- 2024 Vic Junior Amateur Champion
- 2024 Riversdale Cup Winner
- 2024 The Dunes Medal Winner
- 2025 Australian Master of the Amateurs Winner
- Winner & runner up from the 2024 GA National Order of Merit

d. Qualifying: 6 places from qualifying

Note: Any unutilised positions from categories A and C will in the first instance revert to category B. Should they not be utilised in Category B, they will then revert to Category D.

E. VIC OPEN (MEN) – FIELD COMPOSITION:

The field of 132 men players will be determined as follows:

- a. **General:** Players exempted by the Championship Committee (maximum 10).
- b. **Professional:** Exempt professionals (94) from the PGA Tour exemption categories.
- c. **Golf Australia:** Golf Australia may provide up to a maximum number of 18 exemptions for players from final qualifying into the 2025 Championship. Golf Australia will notify the relevant players of their exemption. Exemptions for the 2025 Championship will be allocated in the following order (as at time of event):
 - Current Australian Amateur Champion
 - Current Australian Boys' Amateur Champion
 - Current Port Phillip Amateur Champion
 - Current Vic Amateur Champion
 - Current Junior Vic Open Champion
 - Current Vic Junior Amateur Champion
 - Current Riversdale Cup Winner
 - Current The Dunes Medal Winner
 - Current Australian Master of the Amateurs Winner
 - Winner & runner up from the 2024 GA National Order of Merit
 - Remaining exemptions to be determined by Golf Australia

d. Qualifying: 10 places from qualifying

Note: Any unutilised positions from categories A and C will in the first instance revert to category B. Should they not be utilised in Category B, they will then revert to Category D.

F. REGISTRATION:

All competitors (professionals and amateurs) must register online via the PGA app. Registration will open at 7.00 am AEDT on Monday 3 February, and players will be required to register by 5.00 pm AEDT on Tuesday 4 February. Players who fail to register may be removed from the tournament and replaced with the first available alternate. The Championship Play Committee reserves the right to waive this condition in special individual circumstances.

G. PRIZEMONEY:

Men: Prize money of minimum AUD \$200,000 will be distributed according to the PGA Tour of Australasia distribution formula.

Women: Prize money of minimum AUD \$200,000 will be distributed according to the WPGA Tour of Australasia distribution formula.

Note: Any amateur who gains a position in the field via Invitation or pre-qualifying shall be permitted to change their status to Professional at any stage up until their tee time in the 1st Round. This should be done in writing and emailed to tour@pga.org.au. Amateur players will not be permitted to claim prizemoney in any PGA Sanctioned Tournament.

H. PRO-AM & PRACTICE:

The Pro-Am will be held at 13th Beach Golf Links on Wednesday 5 February 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 3, Tuesday 4, and Wednesday 5 (PM Only) February 2025.

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