



2024 ISPS HANDA AUSTRALIAN OPEN

**Kingston Heath GC & Victoria GC
Melbourne, VIC**

28 November – 1 December, 2024

Entry Fee:

Amateurs – AUD \$165 (inc. GST)

All amateur registrations online at www.golf.org.au/ausopen

Professionals – via respective tours

Format:

72 Holes Stroke

- Rounds 1 & 2 – Kingston Heath GC & Victoria GC (one round on each)
- Rounds 3 & 4 – Kingston Heath GC

Eligibility:

Professional golfers & amateur golfers (GA Handicap or overseas equivalent does not exceed 2.0 (women) & 0.0 (men) as at the time of entry).

Prize Money:

Minimum AUD \$3.4m total prize pool shall be allocated to women and men professional golfers in accordance with the WPGA Tour of Australasia (women) and DP World Tour (men) distribution formulas.

Entries Close:

Professionals (women): 5pm AEDT on Friday 25 October 2024

Amateurs: 2pm AEDT Thursday 7 November 2024

Non-Member Professionals (men): 2pm AEDT Thursday 7 November 2024

Professionals (PGA of Australia members): 2pm AEDT Thursday 14 November 2024

Professionals (DP World Tour members): as per Member Handbook

www.ausopengolf.com

28 NOVEMBER – 1 DECEMBER 2024

KINGSTON HEATH & THE VICTORIA GOLF CLUB

2024 ISPS HANDA AUSTRALIAN OPEN – TERMS OF COMPETITION

A. GENERAL:

1. The Women's & Men's Australian Open Championships will each be played over 72 holes stroke play at Kingston Heath Golf Club and Victoria Golf Club, 18 holes each day on Thursday 28 November to Sunday 1 December 2024.

- First & Second Rounds – Kingston Heath GC & Victoria GC
- Third and Fourth Rounds – Kingston Heath Golf Club

The Championship Play Committee reserves the right to fix and/or alter starting times. In the event of bad weather, or for any other reason, the Championship Play Committee may either shorten the tournament or appoint another day or days for completion of the Championships.

2. **Australian Open (Women)** – A maximum of 84 competitors shall be eligible to compete comprising exemptions from Qualifying and successful competitors from Qualifying. The leading 30 professional scores after 36 holes and any tied for 30th place, plus any amateur player on an equivalent or better 36-hole total to the 30th placed professional, shall qualify for the third and fourth rounds; the remainder shall be eliminated.

In the event that the cut after 2 rounds qualifies between 43 & 45 players for the third and fourth rounds then there may be an additional cut after 3 rounds to the highest 54-hole total score required to reduce the field to a maximum of 42 players. Such a decision will be taken by the Tournament Director in accordance with the following guidelines:

- In the event of a weather impacted event, where there will be a re-draw between rounds 3 and 4 and a 3 ball 2 tee start is required for the final round.
- Where the cut is of such a size that in order to finish for required TV off-air times on the final day there is insufficient daylight, or the first tee time would be prior to 06:15 local time.
- Where fog or other bad weather is forecast with potential delay to the start of the final day that would necessitate an immediate switch to a 3 ball 2 tee start on the final day.

In the event that the cut after 2 rounds qualifies more than 45 players for the third and fourth rounds then there will be an additional cut after 3 rounds to the highest 54-hole total score required to reduce the field to a maximum of 42 players.

Exception: this 3rd round cut will not be implemented where circumstances dictate that there is no re-draw between rounds 3 and 4.

Note: if a 54-hole cut is required and fewer than 30 women professionals play the final round, any woman professional making the 36-hole cut will be paid in line with the WPGA Tour of Australasia prizemoney distribution formulas.

Australian Open (Men) – 156 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 and fourth rounds; the remainder shall be eliminated.

In the event that the cut after 2 rounds qualifies between 79 & 84 players for the third and fourth rounds then there may be an additional cut after 3 rounds to the highest 54-hole total score required to reduce the field to a maximum of 78 players. Such a decision will be taken by the Tournament Director in accordance with the following guidelines:

- In the event of a weather impacted event, where there will be a re-draw between rounds 3 and 4 and a 3 ball 2 tee start is required for the final round.
- Where the cut is of such a size that in order to finish for required TV off-air times on the final day there is insufficient daylight, or the first tee time would be prior to 06:15 local time.
- Where fog or other bad weather is forecast with potential delay to the start of the final day that would necessitate an immediate switch to a 3 ball 2 tee start on the final day.

In the event that the cut after 2 rounds qualifies more than 84 players for the third and fourth rounds then there will be an additional cut after 3 rounds to the highest 54-hole total score required to reduce the field to a maximum of 78 players.

Exception: this 3rd round cut will not be implemented where circumstances dictate that there is no re-draw between rounds 3 and 4.

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 Patricia Bridges Bowl (Women) and Stonehaven Cup (Men). 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's Tournament Director, GA's Head of Rules, the PGA Tour of Australasia's Tournament Director, the CEO of the WPGA Tour of Australasia and the DP World Tour's Tournament Director. 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 Proper and any Pre-Qualifying Tournament, the Rules of Golf, as adopted by R&A Rules Limited, will apply together with the PGA of Australia "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, which, subject to the number of exempt entrants for either field, may include amendments to the field sizes.

6. **The PGA of Australia Hard Card** (available at registration and on the tee) will be in effect for the Women's Australian Open and the Men's Australian Open (including qualifying), plus additional supplementary local rules.

7. **Pace of Play: The PGA of Australia Pace of Play Policy** (available at registration and on the tee) will be in effect for the Women's Australian Open and the Men's Australian Open.

8. **Anti-Doping and Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy:** ([click here](#) to view). 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.

9. **Caddies:**

- a) Caddies are compulsory for all rounds of the Championship Proper.

- 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 considered by the Championship Play Committee to be ineligible to compete and be withdrawn from the competition.

10. **Pull buggies:** Pull buggies are not permitted for any round of the Championship Proper. Pull buggies are permitted for the Qualifying competitions and Practice Rounds however are subject to availability.

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

12. **Publicity:** Golf Australia, PGA Tour Australasia, WPGA Tour of Australasia, DP World Tour 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 Tour Australasia, WPGA Tour of Australasia, DP World Tour 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 Tour Australasia, WPGA Tour of Australasia, DP World Tour and Sponsors and may only be made under licence.

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B. ENTRIES:

- Women:** 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 2.0 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.
- 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 0.0 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.
- Gender Policy:** GA's [Gender Policy](#) applies to all amateur golfers.
- 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/ausopen. Amateur entries will close at 2pm AEDT on Thursday 7 November, 2024.

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 5pm AEDT on Friday 25 October, 2024.

Professionals (Men): PGA Tour of Australasia members MUST enter online via myPGA or the PGATA App, and DP World Tour members MUST enter in terms of their Members General Regulations Handbook. All other professionals must enter online via the Non-Member entry page available online via the PGA website www.pga.org.au. PGA of Australia members are required to enter by 2pm AEDT on Thursday 14 November, 2024. DP World Tour will close entries in terms of their Members General Regulations Handbook. All other players required to enter by 2pm AEDT on Thursday 7 November, 2024.

Notes:

- 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.
- The Championship Play 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/ausopen.

5. ENTRY FEES:

The entry fee is \$165 inc. GST (including Final Qualifying) for all players, with the exception of those players qualifying through the DPWT exemption categories, who will be charged the entry fee in terms of their Members General Regulations Handbook

6. WITHDRAWALS & REFUNDS:

Amateurs wishing to withdraw must contact GA up until 5pm AEDT on Thursday 21 November 2024 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 may do so in writing to the WPGA Tour of Australasia up until 5pm AEDT on Thursday 21 November 2024 to ensure a full refund. Note: Exempt WPGA members are to refer to their Members Regulations.

Professionals (men) wishing to withdraw from qualifying may do so in writing to tour@pga.org.au up until 5pm AEDT on Friday 22 November to ensure a full refund. Note: Exempt DP World Tour and PGA of Australia members are to refer to their Members General Regulations Handbook.

C. FINAL QUALIFYING:

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

- Women:** Up to five (5) places will be available in the Australian Open Championship Proper for non-exempt players.
- Men:** Up to six (6) places will be available in the Australian Open Championship Proper for non-exempt players. The 6 places available to make up the field will be pro-rataed between the qualifying courses.

- Qualifying venues:** At least three separate stroke play competitions of 18 holes each will be played on Monday 25 November 2024 at Keysborough, Spring Valley and Woodlands Golf Clubs.

The men's field shall be divided as evenly as possible between Keysborough, Spring Valley and Woodlands Golf Clubs. The women's field will be allocated to the Keysborough Golf Club only.

- Entry ballot:** Should the number of entries exceed the course capacity, priority will be given to (in order):
 - PGA Tour of Australasia/WPGA Tour of Australasia Full Tournament Members
 - DPWT Ranked Members
 - Full Vocational Members of the PGA of Australia (based on the National Pro-Am Order of Merit from the previous season, then in order of date entry)
 - Temporary Tournament Member (Tour) (in order of date of entry)
 - PGA of Australia Senior Tournament Members (in order of date of entry)
 - Members of other recognised Tours (in order of date of entry)
 - Members of other recognised PGAs/WPGAs (in order of date of entry)
 - Non-aligned professionals (in order of date of entry)
 - Amateurs in exact GA Handicap order (GA Handicap as at close of entry).
- 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 25 November), 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 on Monday 25 November 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 2.00pm AEDT on Wednesday 27 November, 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. AUSTRALIAN OPEN (WOMEN) – FIELD COMPOSITION:

The maximum field of 84 women players will be determined as follows:

a. Professionals:

- Past Champions under the age of 65 years who are a current member of a recognised Tour and within the WWGR top 1,000 as at close of entries.
- 2024 The Athena Champion
- Leading thirty (30) exempt professionals from the WPGA Tour of Australasia 2024 Exemption categories (not otherwise exempt).
- Top 10 players from the top 30 2024 WPGA OOM (not otherwise exempt).
- Leading fifteen (15) players from the top 400 players of the WWGR as at close of entries.

b. Golf Australia Invitations:

Up to five (5) players at the discretion of GA, including but not limited to:

- Current Australian Amateur Champion
- Current Australian Junior Amateur Champion
- Current Asia Pacific Amateur Champion
- Remaining two (2) selections at the discretion of GA

c. Tournament Invitations:

Up to fifteen (15) invitations at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, including:

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- i. Three (3) Women's Golf India Invitations
- ii. Three (3) Thai Women's Tour Invitations
- d. **Qualifying:** Five (5) places from qualifying

Note: Any spots not filled from the above exemption categories shall revert to the WPGA Tour of Australasia.

E. AUSTRALIAN OPEN (MEN) – FIELD COMPOSITION:

The field of 156 men players will be determined as follows:

- a. Any former champion of the tournament at or under the age of 60 as at 28 November 2024.
- b. **Golf Australia Invitations:** Up to four (4) players at the discretion of GA, including but not limited to:
 - i. Current Australian Amateur Champion
 - ii. Current Australian Junior Amateur Champion
 - iii. Current Asia Pacific Amateur Champion
 - iv. Remaining one (1) selection at the discretion of GA.
- c. **Tournament Invitations:** Up to twelve (12) invitations at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
- d. **Qualifying:** Up to six (6) places from qualifying.
- e. **Professional:** The leading 60 available players from the 2025 DP World Tour Exemption Categories excluding Categories 6 and 8.
- f. The leading 3 players from the PGA Tour of Australasia's Mini Order of Merit following the 2024 NSW Open
- g. **Professional:** Remainder of the field to be filled from the 2024/25 PGA Tour of Australasia Tournament exemption categories with the exception of categories 8 and 11b.

Eligibility Notes:

The following policy will be adopted at close of entries for all players who are members of and exempt through both the PGA Tour of Australasia and the DP World Tour:

- i. Australasian players who are exempt through the PGA Tour of Australasia, will be entered through (g) above, otherwise will be entered through (e).
- ii. Players from outside of Australasia who are exempt through the DP World Tour, will be entered through (e) above, otherwise will be entered through (g).
- iii. When a Player who is a member of both Tours becomes exempt, he will remain allocated to the Tour under which he first became Exempt, even if he subsequently becomes Exempt through his "home" Tour.
- iv. If there are less than 60 players entered through e) above, then the remaining spots will be allocated to (g).
- v. Any spots not filled from (b) or (c) shall revert to the PGA Tour of Australasia.

F. REGISTRATION:

All competitors must register at Kingston Heath Golf Club with tour officials in the Tournament Office between 25-27 November as follows: 9:00am – 5:00pm (Monday), 7:00am – 5:00pm (Tuesday) and 7:00am – 2:00pm (Wednesday). The Championship Play Committee reserves the right to waive this condition in special individual circumstances.

G. PRIZEMONEY:

A minimum of AUD\$3.4m total prize pool shall be allocated to women and men professional golfers in accordance with the WPGA Tour of Australasia (women) and DP World Tour (men) distribution formulas.

Note i: Only players whose entry status is recorded on the official list of entries as 'professional' at the time they commence their first round in the Championship Proper are eligible to receive prize money. For clarification, any player who does not have an (a) "for amateur" next to their name is considered 'professional'.

Note ii: For the Men's Australian Open, although the cut is made to the leading 60 professionals and ties, prize money and Ranking Points will be paid in line with the standard DPWT cut to the leading 65 professionals and ties. This will include reserve money if this is more than 70 professionals.

H. PRO-AM & PRACTICE:

The Pro-Am will be held at Kingston Heath Golf Club and Victoria Golf Club on Wednesday 27 November 2024 (AM only). By entering the

Australian Open, all players automatically commit themselves to play in the Pro-Am as required by GA.

Practice times at Kingston Heath Golf Club and Victoria Golf Club will be available on Monday 25, Tuesday 26, and Wednesday 27 November 2024. Practice facilities and specific operating times will be included in the Player Fact Sheet available via GA and the tours one month prior.