



GOLF
AM TOUR

Player Handbook
GOLF Channel Amateur Tour Australia
2019 Season

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GOLF AM Tour POLICIES

1. Eligibility

The number of Entries available for the Tournament is strictly limited and may sell out at any time. Entries are unable to be reserved for the Tournament. Bookings will be accepted on a first come, first accepted basis. A Participant of the Tournament must be 18 years of age or over as of the first day of the Tournament. To be eligible to win any of the prizes on offer a Participant must meet the Eligible Participant requirements. Players without an official Golf Australia handicap will play in a separate category and be ineligible to win any major prizes.

2. Assumption of Risk and Release from Liability

By signing or electronically submitting a member application and entering and playing in an GOLF AM Tour Tournament ("tournament"), the Participant understands and agrees that there are certain dangers involved with participation in a golf tournament, including but not limited to being struck by lightning, getting hit by a golf club, suffering from heat exhaustion, heart attack or injury from uneven terrain. Participant assumes and solely accepts these risks and waives all claims of injury to body or property against GOLF Channel. Further, the Participant agrees that while on the premises of an GOLF AM Tour Tournament, the Participant, and any guest, relative or anyone else affiliated with the Participant, shall be present at their own risk and that GOLF Channel shall not be liable for any claims for injuries or damages whatsoever to person or property of the Participant or related person arising out of or in connection with the participation in the Tournament or presence at the Tournament. Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless GOLF Channel from all claims by or liability to the Participant or affiliated person.

3. GOLF Am Tour Australia exclude all liability for Consequential Loss.

The Tournament may include the supply of goods or services from third parties (Third Party Products). The provision of Third-Party Products will be subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable Third-Party suppliers. GOLF Am Tour Australia excludes all liability in relation to Third Party Products.

Each Player is responsible for ensuring that all necessary personal insurance policies are obtained prior to the Tournament.

To the extent permitted by law, each Player agrees to release and hold harmless GOLF Am Tour Australia and each of their employees, agents, sub-contractors, directors, officers and related bodies corporate from any and all actions and claims which may be made by the Player or on behalf of the Player or by other parties for, or arising out of, any injury, loss, damage or death occurring as a result of participation in the Tournament.

4. Tour Format

The majority of tournaments are a two-person Aggregate Stableford Tournament unless otherwise specified in the Tournament Terms and Conditions. GOLF AM Tour play will be governed by the current Rules of Golf as approved by Royal & Ancient (“R&A”) and modified by the Rules or “Notice to Players” sheet prepared by the GOLF AM Tour Committee. Other specialised formats, such as Stroke, Stableford, Ambrose, Match Play or Best Ball, will be played in accordance with R&A Rules of Golf. GOLF AM Tour Officials will be on site at every tournament to handle player registration/check-in, provide assistance, handle scoring/prize pools, monitor the pace of play and make rulings. Any GOLF AM Tour Official may assess penalty strokes for rules infractions or slow play. All decisions made by the GOLF AM Tour Committee shall be final.

5. Rules of Golf

Play will be conducted in accordance with the Royal & Ancient Rules of Golf as available at <http://www.randa.org/>

The Tournament Committee will announce any special or additional Local Rules that will apply to the conditions of play for the day.

6. Handicap

All players must have a current Golf Australia handicap via providing a valid GolfLink number. The following handicap restrictions will apply:

- Men – a maximum daily handicap of 27 including the Slope allowance; and
- Ladies – a maximum daily handicap of 36 including the Slope allowance.

7. On Course Rules

All play will be governed by the current R&A Rules of Golf as set forth by the R&A. The Tournament Committee will provide a “Notice to Contestants” rules sheet containing local rules, and those rules will govern play for that Tournament.

8. Spectators and Caddies

Spectators are welcome at all GOLF AM Tour tournaments provided the course allows spectators to walk the course and the spectators do not interfere with pace of play.

Spectators are the responsibility of the player they are watching and must remain out of play (i.e. cart path, rough, etc) and practice proper golf etiquette at all times. Caddies are welcome at all GOLF AM Tour Tournaments provided the course allows caddies to walk the course and the caddies do not interfere with pace of play. Caddies are the responsibility of the associated player and are requested to practice proper golf etiquette. If there is an issue with the behaviour of a spectator(s), or caddie(s), the individual(s) will be asked to leave the premises. Spectators and/or caddies are not permitted in a player golf cart (exception: A caddie or spectator may ride in a cart to the starting hole and from green to tee. In addition, a spectator or caddie may sit in a cart only when it is parked at a tee or at a green). Use of golf carts is for the sole purpose of the players. Any spectator or caddie found riding in a golf cart during play of a stipulated hole may result in the immediate disqualification of the player(s) who are associated with the violating spectator(s) and/or caddie(s) at Major Championships and the National Final. For local (18-hole) Tournaments only, spectators and/or caddies are permitted in a player golf cart and may rent a cart depending on availability and course policy as well as local Tour policy.

9. Dress Code

Players must abide by the dress code of each of the host Golf Course.

10. Player Conduct

Players and/or their guest(s) shall conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times. Any excessive display of anger, vulgar language, club throwing, alcohol abuse, illegal drug use, lack of golfing etiquette or disrespect to a fellow player or any other individual may be grounds for disqualification from any Tournament. The GOLF AM Tour reserves the right to revoke the membership, without a refund, of any individual at any time for conduct deemed inappropriate or damaging to the Tour.

11. Prizes

For each tournament, a portion of each player's entry fee is used to generate the prize pool. The value of the prize pool at each tournament will be established prior to the tournament and is based on participation. The prize pool may vary slightly the day of the Tournament due to late entries or withdrawals. In order to adhere to the R&A Rules of Amateur Status, no single prize awarded will exceed \$1,200 in value. The prize pool will be distributed via prizes or gift certificates to the value prize pool. Under no circumstances will cash awards be distributed.

12. Trophies

The winner from each Tournament will receive a trophy, plaque or like item, presented the day of the Tournament.

13. Pace of Play Policy

The GOLF AM Tour policy leaves the responsibility for maintaining the pace of play where it belongs, with the player. Efficient pace of play is a huge factor of a successful and positive GOLF AM Tour experience for all Participants in accordance with Rule 6-7 of the R&A Rules of Golf.

Lead Group(s):

The first group(s) must finish their first nine holes within the maximum allotted time established by the committee (typically, this time will be 2 hours 15 minutes). If the lead group finishes over the maximum allotted time after nine holes, each player in the group will be assessed a 2-stroke penalty on their 9th hole. The first group(s) off each tee must also finish 18 holes within the maximum allotted time established by the committee (typically, this time will be 4 hours 30 minutes). Failure to finish under this maximum allotted time for 18-holes will result in a 2-stroke penalty, which will be assessed to the score on the final hole of play.

Exception:

If the lead group(s) are held up by public play that was sent out before them or that began on the opposite tee, they will be exempt from the pace of play penalty(s) if they finish over their maximum time but within 14 minutes of the group ahead of them

Following Groups:

A 2-stroke penalty will be assessed to any group failing to complete their 9th hole within 14 minutes of the group in front of them AND over their maximum allotted time. A 2-stroke penalty will be assessed to any group failing to complete their 18th hole within 14 minutes of the group in front of them AND over their maximum allotted time.

14. Concerned Players and Appeals

A player concerned about slow player(s) in a group should first remind that player of the pace of play policy and encourage them to play more efficiently. The concerned player may, before or after penalties are assessed, request an Official to monitor the group. If a player is identified as holding up the pace of the group, penalties may be applied to that player and rescinded from the others. Appeals for exceptional situations will be considered only in the scoring area after the completion of the round and prior to the return of a player's scorecard.

15. Inclement Weather

Severe weather-related conditions may delay or suspend play. Such conditions are as follows:

- The safety of the player due to the danger from lightning;
- The course being deemed unplayable (as determined by the host course)

If such inclement weather is present, every effort will be made by the Tournament Committee to complete the full number of holes. If play is delayed, all players should remain at the host facility and await official announcements from the Tournament Committee. If the course remains unplayable and/or lightning is present, and as the last option, the following may result in an official Tournament:

- 18-hole (local) Tournaments may become official and shortened. If a minimum of 9-holes is not possible, local Tournaments may be rescheduled;
- 36-hole Tournaments may become official and shortened to an 18-hole Tournament;
- 54-hole Tournaments may become official and shortened to an 18-hole Tournament.
- 72-hole Tournaments may become official and shortened to an 18-hole tournament. While the Tournament Committee will do everything possible to complete the full number of holes, there will be no refunds should inclement weather shorten the Tournaments.

16. Miscellaneous

The policies and regulations of GOLF AM Tour are subject to revision. All Players in GOLF AM Tour Tournaments are deemed to be familiar with these policies and regulations, as well as the R&A Rules of Golf and agree to abide by them. Failure to comply with the aforementioned policies and regulations could result in penalties, suspension or expulsion from the GOLF AM Tour or a Tournament.

17. Payment

GOLF Am Tour Australia shall not be liable for any losses incurred by a Player as a result of the cancellation of the Tournament or a change to the date, time or venue of the Tournament (whether such cancellation or change is caused by the GOLF Am Tour Australia, factors beyond the GOLF Am Tour Australia reasonable control or otherwise).

Any refund or cancellation requests must be made in writing to GOLF Am Tour Australia at info@golfnow.com.au

Cancellation fees apply as follows:

- For cancellations made at least 21 days prior to the Tournament, a refund will be given, minus an administration fee equal to 20% of the Entry Fee
- For cancellations made within 14 days of the Tournament, 50% of the Tournament Entry Fee will be forfeited.
- For cancellations made within 48 hours of the Tournament, 100% of the Tournament Entry Fee will be forfeited.

18. Transport

Members are required to make their own travel arrangements to the Tournament unless otherwise stated in the Entry.

TOURNAMENT POLICIES

1. Tournament Registration

Players can register online for Local Tournaments and Major Championships at <http://golfamtour.com.au> or by emailing or calling their Tournament Manager. Tournaments may have a limitation on the number of entries, and therefore each Tournament will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Players are encouraged to register early as any Tournament may sell-out well in advance of the entry deadline. Entry Fees typically include all green fees, taxes, cart fees, range balls, scoring, prize fund, and trophies.

2. Tournament Application and Payment Policy

It is the responsibility of the Player to submit the required Entry Fee for each Tournament prior to the entry deadline as payment will secure a position in the Tournament field. Entry Fee payments should be made via the GOLF AM Tour website using a credit card. It will be assumed that a Player is not participating in a Tournament if the entry fee is not submitted on time. For all Major Championships and the National Final, a credit card must be paid prior to the closing of the entry deadline.

3. Cancellations and No Shows

Withdrawal from any Tournament must be done in accordance with the posted Tournament cancellation policy. If a Player withdraws prior to the Tournament they are subject to a cancellation fee. Any Player that has registered for a Tournament and does not show will forfeit their registration fee.

4. Tournament Format

Unless otherwise stated, most tournaments are a two-person Aggregate Stableford. At the discretion of the Tournament Manager the Tournament may utilise an alternate scoring system.

5. Starting Times

Tournaments will typically utilise a Shotgun start with occasional one and two tee starts (depending on the course and field size). Pairings will be available on the GOLF AM Tour website prior to the Tournament and will be emailed to all Tournament players. Pairings are subject to change any time prior to the Tournament. If an individual starting time has been changed, the Tournament Manager will notify that individual of the change.

6. Tees

The Tournament will be played from tees nominated by the Tournament Manager and may vary from course to course.

7. Scorekeeping and Scorecards

Responsibilities of the Competitor:

- To check the score for each hole, settle any doubtful points with the Tournament Committee, countersign the card, and return the card to the Committee as soon as possible (Rule 6-6b)
- In a handicap stroke play competition, ensure the handicap is recorded on the score card before it is returned (Rule 6-2b) –NB this need not be in the specific box provided) and to assist the Tournament Committee,

8. Determination of Tied Scores

Ties are to be decided by applying the countback system

If 2 or more players tie for a Tournament (or trophy) with the same number of total stableford points, the tie will be decided by:

- Firstly, determining the best Tournament score on the second nine as per the scorecard (not in the order of play if the second 9 or other holes were played first) of the course being played.
- If scores are still equal the next step is to decide the best Tournament score on the last 6 holes, then if scores are still tied;
- the best score on the last 3 holes.
- In the unusual event that scores are still tied, the countback shall proceed on a hole by hole basis from hole 18 backwards until a winner is found.
- If this doesn't produce a winner (i.e. stableford points on each of the 18 holes are exactly the same), the Tournament will be awarded to the player with the lowest handicap.

9. Distance Measuring Devices

Distance measuring devices are allowed at all Tournaments as long as the device does not measure slope, grade or wind and they comply with the R&A regulations.

10. Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Mobile Phones may be used only if doing so does not unduly delay play. Mobile phones must be on silent at all times. In the spirit of competition, mobile phone usage during competition is discouraged. A player should be respectful of their fellow competitors. The host Venue's own Mobile Phone policy may override the GOLF AM Tour policy.

11. Order of Merit Program

The GOLF AM Tour Order of Merit (OOM) program will run for the duration of the 2019 season and players earn Points at both Local and Major Tournaments. The following illustrates the allocation of points based on the following elements:

- Number of teams participating in the Tournament
- Finishing position of the team in the Tournament. (Points will be allocated to each player in the team)

Each player in the team will be allocated the same number of points and these points will contribute to their end of year Order of Merit position and eligibility to be invited to the National Final.

Order of Merit Points will be allocated to each team and split equally to each player based on the table below:

Position	Number of teams playing event				
	10 Teams	20 Teams	30 Teams	40 Teams	50 Teams +
1	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2	700	700	700	700	700
3	500	500	500	500	500
4	90	190	290	390	490
5	80	180	280	380	480
6	70	170	270	370	470
7	60	160	260	360	460
8	50	150	250	350	450
9	40	140	240	340	440
10	30	130	230	330	430
11		120	220	320	420
12		110	210	310	410
13		100	200	300	400
14		90	190	290	390
15		80	180	280	380
16		70	170	270	370
17		60	160	260	360
18		50	150	250	350
19		40	140	240	340
20		30	130	230	330
21			120	220	320
22			110	210	310
23			100	200	300
24			90	190	290
25			80	180	280
26			70	170	270
27			60	160	260
28			50	150	250
29			40	140	240
30			30	130	230
31				120	220
32				110	210
33				100	200
34				90	190
35				80	180
36				70	170
37				60	160
38				50	150
39				40	140
40				30	130
41					120
42					110
43					100
44					90
45					80
46					70
47					60
48					50
49					40
50					30

OOM Ties will be broken via the following;

1. Highest number of GOLF AM Tour Wins in the 2019 Season, then by
2. Most GOLF AM Tour rounds played in the 2019 Season, then by
3. Highest GOLF AM Tour team score in the any GOLF AM Tour event played in the 2019 season; then by
4. The team who most recently competed in the 2019 Season

12. National Final

The National Final will be a team event, over 36 holes. Qualifiers from all across the country will compete for a place in GOLF Am Tour history and the honour of becoming the National Champions. The National Final package will include:

- 2 rounds of golf
- 2 nights' accommodation, twin share
- Welcome event
- Presentation event
- Gift Pack

Please note you must make your own transport arrangements to and from the National Final venue.

13. National Final Qualifying

Invitations to the National Final will be based on the following:

- Category 1: Winning an event throughout the year; or
- Category 2: Finishing in the Top 10 of the 2019 OOM

a) The Entry Fee to the National Final will be based on the following formula:

Position	Prize	Entry Fee
Winning Team of qualifying event during regular season	Invitation to National Final	Subject to finishing position on the OOM below
1 to 10	Invitation to National Final	100% off Entry Fee
11 to 25	Discounted entry fee to National Final	75% off Entry Fee
26 to 40	Discounted entry fee to National Final	50% off Entry Fee
40+	Discounted entry fee to National Final	0% off Entry Fee
Invited Player Partner (Refer Clause 6b)	Guest invite to National Final	Subject to the final position of the OOM
Substitute Playing Partner (Refer Clause 6c)	Guest invite to National Final	Subject to the final position of the OOM

b) Invited Playing Partner - Top 10 in the Order of Merit can invite a guest to play with them at the 2019 National Final if they have not won a GOLF Am Tour 2019 local event (Single entrant). The invited playing partner must follow either of the two criteria;

- Hold a current Golf Australia handicap, and have played 4 rounds in the last 6 months from 27/05/2019.
- Played in three GOLF Am Tour events in 2019

- c) Substitute Playing partner – All 2019 season Event Winners are eligible invite a substitute player to the 2019 National Final if their playing partner is ineligible. The substitute player must meet both of the following entry conditions;
- Have an official Golf Australia Handicap and have played 4 rounds in the last 6 months from 27/05/2019.
 - The substitute's G.A Handicap must be within 3 shots of the ineligible player's GA handicap.

The winners of the National Final will win an entry, including entry, economy flights and accommodation, in the Duel of Desert GOLF AM Tour Tournament in Las Vegas in January 2020.

14. Tour Contact Information

Any questions or comments on the Player Handbook should be submitted to the Tournament Manager or the Tournament Committee. The most current version of the handbook can be found on the GOLF AM Tour website <http://golfamtour.com.au>. The electronic version online shall override and supersede any printed form of the document.