

**SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA**  
***18 Years & Under Golf Championships***  
**RULES AND GUIDELINES**

## Section A – Championship Overview

- A - 1.** These Rules and Guidelines should be read in conjunction with School Sport Australia Policies, Championship Protocols and the Golf Championship Organisational Manual.
- A - 2.** The Championships shall be conducted in accordance with The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews (R&A) and United States Golf Association (USGA) in conjunction with the following Conditions of Play in B - 3.1.
- A - 3.** The Championships shall be conducted in accordance with a current Memorandum of Understanding between School Sport Australia and Golf Australia.

### A - 4. Championship Length

- A - 4.** Duration of competition shall be six (6) days from Sunday to Friday.
- A - 4.** The championship is made up of 54 holes of strokeplay followed by 4 rounds of seeded matchplay. A presentation lunch will be held on the final day. Wednesday is usually allocated to the educational program.

### A - 5. Eligibility

- A - 5.** Bona-fide secondary school students 18 years of age and under as at 31 December in the year of competition unless age dispensation has been granted as per rule A - 6.

- A - 5.** A Player **must** possess a Club Handicap which is recognised by Golf Australia.

### A - 6. Age Dispensation

Age Dispensation may be granted to a State or Territory for these Championships as allowed through the School Sport Australia Sport Participation Policy.

### A - 7. Team Size

- A - 7.** A team will consist of six (6) players.

Amended December 2020

- A - 7.** Either a boys' team or a girls' team or both with a minimum of four (4) bona-fide players may be entered by each State / Territory.
- A - 7.** There will be separate divisions for boys' teams and girls' teams.
- A - 7.** Each Team may have one (1) Manager.

### Attendance at Championships

All students who participate in the School Sport Australia Golf Championships must remain at the Championship location throughout the duration of the Championships and be bound by all Championship arrangements, except in exceptional circumstances as per School Sport Australia policy.

## Section B – Competition Structure

## **B - 1. Program / Schedule**

### **B - 1.1 54 Hole Strokeplay Championship**

The students will play 54 holes of Strokeplay with hit off times negotiated with the host club/s. The competition is a Gross and Nett event. The respective boy's and girl's winners will be declared SSA Golf Strokeplay Champions.

### **B - 1.2 Teams Match Play**

The draw will be prepared by the National Golf Advisor in consultation with Championship Convenor to suit the local conditions. Teams will be seeded into two pools based on the previous year's results.

### **B - 1.3 Adverse Playing Conditions**

#### **B - 1.3.1 Stroke and Handicap Events**

**B - 1.3.1.1** Play will continue under any weather conditions, except as follows:

**B-1.3.1.1.1** The Club in question declares its course unplayable, or

**B-1.3.1.1.2** A suspension of play is declared by the referee appointed by the host State / Territory

**B-1.3.1.1.3** In the event of B-1.3.1.1.1 or B-1.3.1.1.2 above, the Tournament Convenor of the host State / Territory in consultation with the National Golf Advisor shall, without delay, convene a meeting of team managers, to determine what action will be taken to decide the winners of the event.

#### **B - 1.3.2 Teams Match Play – Australian Teams Matchplay Championship**

**B - 1.3.2.1** Matches are to be played at the times set down, under any weather conditions, except as follows

**B-1.3.2.1.1** The Tournament Convenor and the National Golf Advisor in consultation with relevant managers decide to alter the tee times or match order

**B-1.3.2.1.2** The Club being used declares its course unplayable before the start of play, or

**B-1.3.2.1.3** A suspension of play is declared by the referees appointed by the host State / Territory.

- B - 1.3.2.2** In B-1.3.2.1.1 above, the matches will be played on that day, if the course becomes playable.
- B - 1.3.2.3** In B-1.3.2.1.3 above, play will be resumed from the point reached at the time of suspension of play.
- B - 1.3.2.4** In B-1.3.2.1.2 and B-1.3.2.1.3 above, the referee will be the sole judge in deciding when play will commence, and any changed conditions, such as the number of holes for the determination of matches.
- B - 1.3.2.5** Should play not be possible on any day, every attempt will be made to complete the Teams Championship, with one or more of the following:
  - B-1.3.2.5.1** by playing more rounds than originally scheduled for a day or days
  - B-1.3.2.5.2** by using the education-come-recreation day, and
  - B-1.3.2.5.3** by shortening the number of holes for matches in one or more rounds.

## **B - 2. Draw**

### **B - 2.1 Individual Championships – Stroke Event**

- B - 2.1.1** The draw is to be conducted by the Host Member body. It is recommended for students with equal ability to be grouped together.

### **B - 2.2 Australian Teams Matchplay Championship**

- B - 2.2.1** Draws for position for the year are to be based on previous year's standings. (Pool A - 1, 4, 6) (Pool B - 2, 3, 5)
- B - 2.2.2** If after invitations are issued and acceptances received, the individual states or territories not able to participate are removed from the draw and all other States / Territories are moved up to fill the vacant position/s.
- B - 2.2.3** The draw to be structured so that where possible, tees be organized to facilitate proximity of both boy's and girl's teams.
- B - 2.2.4** A balance between early and late starts should be pursued for participating teams matches where practical.
- B - 2.2.5** The draw is a two pool Round Robin format with cross-over semi's and play-offs for positions.

## **B - 3. Game Protocols / Specific Rules / Results**

### **B - 3.1 Conditions of Play**

**B - 3.1.1** No ride-on motorised carts, caddies or bag-pullers will be allowed for players unless dispensation is given by School Sport Australia. Power pull buggies **ARE PERMITTED**. An appropriate person may need to be provided to drive a cart (for an injured player) Under no circumstances are cart drivers allowed to act in the role of a caddy.

**B - 3.1.2** On Course Team Managers are to be identified at the Pre Event briefing. In any subsequent rule the word “manager” refers to the “On Course Team Manager”.

**B - 3.1.3** The responsible use of motorised carts is to be addressed at the pre-event briefing of the Championship:

**B - 3.1.3.1** Managers are to set a responsible example with the appropriate use of motorised carts, abiding by the safe use of these vehicles i.e. 2 people per cart.

**B - 3.1.3.2** Students are not to be in charge of motorised carts at any time during the Championship. Exemptions may be sought from the National Golf Advisor.

**B - 3.1.4** Mobile phones and other communication devices are to be stored in golf bags while on the course.

**B-3.1.4.1** Where the Championship Convenor has accessed and arranged for online scoring systems, students can use phones to utilize live scoring ONLY. Breach of this rule in match play is loss of hole and in play disqualification. After that hole and before  
stroke  
next tee.

**B-3.1.4.2** In case of an emergency which includes rule clarification from the designated rules official, the phone or communication device may be used to contact the designated number. This number is to be given out at the pre- championship briefing.

added September 2024

- B - 3.1.5** Distance measuring devices may be used in all forms of play during the National Championships. (slope function is not permitted)
  - B - 3.1.6** On golf courses hosting match play rounds, where limited practice facilities exist, players can be granted permission by the Championship Convenor and National Golf Advisor to play a maximum of one hole up to their starting tee with the use of one ball only.
  - B - 3.1.7** The National Golf Advisor has the right to alter the tee times, taking into account School Sport Australia policies of participation.
  - B - 3.1.8** At the completion of a Match Play round the players must cease play.
  - B - 3.1.9** **In match play events advice may be given to the player only by the designated team managers.** In the first instance a warning will be given by the referee or National Golf Advisor and any subsequent breaches will result in loss of hole.
  - B - 3.1.10** Parents/supporters/team members must remain at least 30 metres from players during competition play. In the first instance a warning will be given by the referee or National Golf Advisor and any subsequent breaches will result in loss of hole, as per the rules of Golf 8.1.
- B - 3.2 Individual Championships – Stroke Event**
- B - 3.2.1** A separate competition for Boys and Girls is to be conducted using Gross scores in a 54 Hole Stroke Event.
- B - 3.3 Individual Championships – Handicap Event**
- B - 3.3.1** An individual 54 Hole Nett Event shall be played in conjunction with the Individual Championships for Boys and Girls.
- B - 3.4 Australian Teams Matchplay Championship**
- B - 3.4.1** Match Play - six players from a State / Territory to play against six from another State / Territory.
  - B - 3.4.2** Except as noted (B - 1.3), matches are scheduled for determination over 18 holes. In the event of an individual match being "all square" at the completion of 18 holes, the match shall be declared squared.
  - B - 3.4.3** In the event of a player being unavailable for play with prior knowledge of the Team Manager, the position of that player will be "number 6". If however, the team sheet has been submitted and an unforeseen circumstance arises, then the match where the player was listed shall be forfeited.

**B - 3.4.4** Team managers are to hand in to the National Golf Advisor at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the teams match play each day, a written list of their team numbered 1- 6. The order is at the discretion of the team manager. The order cannot be changed once team lists have been submitted. The matches will hit-off in the order of number six (6) through to number one (1).

**B - 3.5 Teams Stroke Play – Dean Shakes Trophy**

**B - 3.5.1** A separate competition for Girls and Boys is to be conducted using gross scores from all rounds in the 54 Hole Stroke Event. The lowest aggregate of the best 4 scores each day will be used to decide the winner. If teams are tied the 5<sup>th</sup> best scores will be used. If still tied, use all scores. If still tied, joint champions are declared.

**B - 4. Points Allocation**

**B - 4.1 Australian Teams Matchplay Championship**

**B - 4.1.1** Points will be awarded for the position of each of the boy's and girl's teams. (ie 1<sup>st</sup> – 6 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> 5 points etc) the boy's and girl's combined total will determine the winner.

**B - 4.1.2** Should teams be equal the State / Territory winning more individual matches than its opponent State will be declared the winner. Should teams be still equal, joint champions will be declared.

**B - 5. Method of Determining a Winner**

**B - 5.1 Individual Championships – Stroke Event**

**B - 5.1.1** The winners of each division will be determined by the lowest aggregate scores from the three rounds, each of 18 holes stroke play.

**B - 5.1.2** In the event of a tie occurring by two or more competitors after 54 holes of Stroke Play in either the Boys or Girls Individual 36 Hole Stroke Event, a Sudden-Death Play-Off shall be conducted from a tee to be determined by the Tournament Committee to determine the winner. If play has to be suspended due to bad light or any unforeseen circumstances, then joint winners shall be awarded.

**B - 5.1.3** The Referee for a Sudden-Death Play-Off shall be the National Golf Advisor or a Manager appointed by him/her.

**B - 5.1.4** All minor placings in the Boys and Girls Individual 54 Hole Stroke Event are to be decided by a Countback (0).

**B - 5.2 Individual Championships – Handicap Event(Nett)**

**B - 5.2.1** The winners of each division will be determined by the lowest aggregate scores from two rounds, each of 18 holes stroke play, to be played concurrently on the same day.

**B - 5.2.2** In the event of a tie in the Individual 54 Hole Nett Event, all places are to be decided by a Countback (B - 5.6).

### **B - 5.3 Relative Importance of the Stroke and Handicap Events**

**B - 5.3.1** At School Sport Australia National Championships first, second and third places in the Individual Stroke Championship are the premier positions, then followed by the Handicap winners. This should be reflected in terms of trophy values. The program should list in the Individual Stroke Play results first, second and third together with their scores.

**B - 5.3.2** Players are eligible to win only one of the Gross or Nett trophies in the Individual Stroke Championship.

**B - 5.3.3** If a player has the best Gross score and the best Nett score in the Individual Stroke Championship, then the Gross trophy becomes the most important and is awarded to the player.

### **B - 5.4 Australian Teams Matchplay Championship**

**B - 5.4.1** Aggregate points after each team has played every other team in their pool will decide the placings, unless a tie or ties occur. If a tie occurs the two number 1 players in those teams will play sudden death to decide the winner. This method will be used to separate teams in all matches including pool games, play-offs, semi's and finals.

### **B - 5.5 Teams Stroke Play – Dean Shakes Trophy**

**B - 5.5.1** The winning team will be the team with the least aggregate gross scores using the best four rounds in each of the strokeplay rounds.

**B - 5.5.2** In the situation that scores are equal, then the next best score will be used (i.e. fifth best each day) from those teams tied. In the situation that scores are equal after using the fifth best scores, then the remaining scores will be used. In the situation that scores are equal then a tie will be declared and the trophy shared and presentations made to each team.

### **B - 5.6 Countback**

**B - 5.6.1** The system of countback to be used in deciding minor placings in the Boys and Girls Individual 54 Hole Stroke Event and in deciding all placings in the Boys and Girls Individual 54 Hole Handicap Event shall be:

1. last eighteen (18) holes, then
2. last nine (9) holes, then
3. last six (6) holes, then
4. last three (3) holes
5. Hole by hole
6. if scores are still tied then joint placings will be awarded

## **Section C – Facilities / Equipment**

### **C - 1. Venue**

The Golf course/s must have the following:

- High Standard, challenging Golf Courses/s
- Practice facilities available
- Good club catering that can provide a quality presentation lunch on the final day.
- A presentation area
- Pro-shop

### **C - 2. Equipment**

- 60 Golf Buggies
- Access to G A scoring platform
- An area for display of the scores
- 10 Golf Carts

## **Section D – Uniform**

**D - 1.** During the Golf Championship players and officials must wear the designated State / Territory uniform.

## **Section E – Injury Management**

Refer to School Sport Australia Championship Protocols and Policy for the management of injuries. This policy will override any sport specific injury management Protocols.

[School-Sport-Australia-Injury-Management-Policy.pdf \(schoolsportaustralia.edu.au\)](https://schoolsportaustralia.edu.au/School-Sport-Australia-Injury-Management-Policy.pdf)

New Policy Dec 2023

## **Section F – Officials**

### **F - 1. Referees**

**F - 1.1** It is the responsibility of the Host State to organise a suitable Referee(s) for the Championship.

### **F - 2. Team Manager Carts**

**F - 2.1** Where possible, the Host State should include the cost of Team Managers' carts in the Event Budget.

## **Section G – Protests**

**G - 1.** Protests relating to the Strokeplay must be submitted in writing to the National Golf Advisor within 1 hour of the last card being handed in on the last day of the Strokeplay. The judiciary will meet as soon as is practicable to deliberate on the issue.

**G - 2.** Protests relating to matchplay should be dealt with by the match referees before players commence the next hole. Players and managers should call for an official if there is an unresolved dispute on the course.

## **Section H – Tribunal / Judiciary**

### **H - 1. Judiciary**

**H - 1.1** At the pre-event briefing a judiciary should be formed comprising the National Golf Advisor, a representative from the host state and a managers' representative. This manager should not have any conflict of interest in the matters under discussion and should indicate his/her interest at the pre-event meeting. The judiciary should have the flexibility to co-opt specialist personnel if required.

### **H - 2. All Australian Team**

**H - 2.1** All Australian Team selection is to be done by ALL managers (male-boys: female- girls) in consultation with the National Golf Advisor.

## **Section I – Trophies / Awards / Medals**

### **I - 1. All Australian Team**

**I - 1.1** The All Australian Teams consist of six (6) boys and six (6) girls.

**I - 1.2** At the conclusion of the annual competition an All Australian Team (Boys) and an All Australian Team (Girls) shall be selected from the participating players.

**I - 1.3** The All Australian Teams together with their two (2) captains shall be announced at the Presentation Dinner.

**I - 1.4** Selection procedures for All Australian Teams will be the responsibility of the All Australian Teams selectors with the National Golf Advisor and using the SSA Golf All Australian Teams policy.

- I - 1.5 All members of the All Australian team (12) will receive an SSA All Australian Team plaque supplied by the SSA Office.

**I - 2. Individual Stroke Championships – Boys**

- I - 2.1 Perpetual Trophy and gold, silver and bronze medals

**Individual Stroke Championships – Girls**

I - 2.2 Perpetual Trophy and gold, silver and bronze medals

**I - 3. Individual Nett Championships – Boys**

I - 3.1 Perpetual Trophy and gold, silver and bronze medals

**I - 4. Individual Nett Championships – Girls**

I - 4.1 Perpetual Trophy and gold, silver and bronze medals

**I - 5. Australian Teams Matchplay Championship – Boys**

I - 5.1 Winner of the matchplay final.

I - 5.2 Perpetual Trophy and gold, silver and bronze medals for team and Manager

**I - 6. Australian Team Matchplay Championship – Girls**

I - 6.1 Winner of the matchplay final/play-offs.

I - 6.2 Perpetual Trophy and gold, silver and bronze medals for team and Manager

**I - 7. Australian Teams Matchplay Champions**

I - 7.1 The aggregate points from boys and girls match results.

I - 7.2 Perpetual Trophy

**I - 8. Team Stroke – Dean Shakes Championships – Boys**

I - 8.1 Aggregate of four best Stroke rounds each day.

I - 8.2 Perpetual Trophy and gold, silver and bronze medals for team and Manager

**I - 9. Team Stroke – Dean Shakes Championships – Girls**

I - 9.1 Aggregate of four best Stroke rounds each day.

I - 9.2 Perpetual Trophy and gold, silver and bronze medals for team and Manager

**I - 10. Medals & Engraving**

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Championships Medals	Thirty-Two	Thirty-Two	Thirty-Two

GOLF 2003	GOLF 2003	GOLF 2003
OCEAN SHORES, NSW	OCEAN SHORES, NSW	OCEAN SHORES, NSW
BOYS TEAM	DEAN SHAKES GIRLS	BOYS STROKE
MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONS	STROKE TEAM CHAMPION	CHAMPION
(SECOND PLACE)	(SECOND PLACE)	(SECOND PLACE)
(THIRD PLACE)	(THIRD PLACE)	(THIRD PLACE)

**NEW PROTOCOL:**

**THAT ALL PERPETUAL TROPHIES BE RETAINED BY THE HOST STATE TO BE ENGRAVED AND THEN SENT TO THE STATE SPORT OFFICE OF THE STATE/TERRITORY IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR.**

**Replica Trophies for Boys and Girls gross and net events be purchased by the host state and included in the Championship budget.**