

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

12 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 Sport Championship Organisational Manual.

A - 2. The Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the rules as laid down by *The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland* and the (R&A) and *United States Golf Association (USGA)* unless otherwise stated.

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

The Championship shall be a five (5) day event with the format defined in item B - 1.

A - 5. Eligibility

A - 5.1 All students must be 12 years of age and under on 31 December of the year of competition unless age dispensation has been granted as per rule A - 6 Students must be at least 10 years old when attending the championship.

A - 5.2 Must possess a golf Handicap which is recognised by Golf Australia.

A - 5.3 Written evidence and a Golfink number verifying a current handicap should be forwarded to the National Golf Advisor and the Host Body at least six (6) weeks before the Championships. Any handicap changes should be tabled at the Pre Championship meeting.

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 - 7.1 A team will consist of twelve (12) players, six (6) boys and six (6) girls.

A - 7.2 Each member body may enter a team with a minimum number of six (6) boys and six (6) girls.

A - 8. 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. Championship Format

B - 1.1 Where possible the championship format should be as follows:

- Day 1 – Sunday - Teams arrive – practice day, Pre-Championship briefing.
- Day 2 – Monday – 4 Person Ambrose – 3 Mixed Teams of two boys and two girls per member body. If teams have less numbers the teams will still be mixed with appropriate handicap modification.
- Day 3 – Tuesday – 18 Hole Strokeplay – Team and Individual Stroke Event
- Day 4 – Wednesday - Educational Excursion, Post Championship evaluation.
- Day 5 – Thursday – 18 Hole Strokeplay – Team and Individual Stroke Event – Presentation Lunch
- **Format may change if the Championships are part of a SSA “Games”.**

B - 1.2 Where possible an AM start is preferable on all days.

Amended December 2025

B - 1.3 Pace of Play - To assist in the pace of play – a shot gun start is the preferred start format for all days/events.

B - 1.4 Adverse Playing Conditions – All Events

B - 1.4.1 Play will continue under any weather conditions, except as follows:

B - 1.4.1.1 The Club in question declares its course unplayable; or

B - 1.4.1.2 A suspension of play is declared by the Tournament Convener appointed by the host member body.

B - 1.4.1.3 In the event of B - 1.4.1.1 or B - 1.4.1.2 above, the Tournament Convener of the host Member body 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 - 2. Draw

B - 2.1 Draws for (i) teams in the Ambrose Event and (ii) groupings in the Stroke Event are to be conducted by the host member body and should be included in the Program.

B - 2.2 Individual players should be grouped with different students on each day of the Craig Parry Shield. A combination of handicaps should be evenly

dispersed through all groups. The intent is to have a mix of handicaps in each group and players from each State and Territory.

mended March 2025

Duration of matches

All daily events in the Championships will be of 18 holes.

B - 3. Championship 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 permitted unless dispensation is given by School Sport Australia. An appropriate person may need to be provided to drive the cart. Under no circumstances are cart drivers allowed to act in the role of a caddy. Motorised pull buggies are permitted.

B - 3.1.1.1 Managers are to set a responsible example with the appropriate use of motorised carts, abiding by the safe use of these vehicles i.e. two (2) people per cart.

B - 3.1.1.2 Students are not to be in charge of motorised carts at any time during the Championship.

B - 3.1.2 Mobile phones and other electronic devices must be turned off or on silent mode on the course during competition.

B - 3.1.3 Spectators, Parents and Team Managers are not allowed to coach or offer advice either verbally or by gesture to competitors during their round.

B - 3.1.4 Parents and spectators are required to stay 30m in front of groups and to the side of the fairway. If this rule is breached the offenders will face the following consequences;

- a) On the first breach they will be given a warning. A State Team Manager or any official can give this warning. The relevant State Team Manager and Championship Officials need to be informed immediately
- b) A second breach will incur a two shot penalty for the relevant player – this can be imposed by a State Team Manager or any official. The relevant State Team Manager and Championship Officials need to be informed immediately
- c) A third breach will result in the offending parent/spectator being asked to leave the course. The NSA or Championship Official can impose this final warning. If the offending parent/spectator refuses to leave the course, the player will be disqualified and must leave the course.

Amended December 2022

B - 3.1.5 Spectators, for the benefit of students should refrain from smoking and the drinking of alcohol in the vicinity of Championship golfers. School Sport operates under 'smoke free' guidelines plus no alcohol is allowed at SSA Championships.

Amended December 2020

B - 3.1.6 Once competition starts, on course practice is not allowed on all championship venues. Breach of this rule will result in scores from that venue not counting for the relevant players.

Amended January 2019

B - 3.1.7 Each playing group should be accompanied by an adult 'walker', whose purpose is to monitor scores and control parental influences.

B - 3.1.8 Distance measuring devices are permitted (without slope function) in all competitions.

Added December 2020

B - 3.2 Ambrose Competition

Amended December 2024

B - 3.2.1 Teams of 2 Boys and 2 Girls in a mixed event.

B - 3.2.2 The six(6) boys and six(6) girls from each State / Territory will be seeded(on handicap) into three teams with 2 boys and two girls in each team. The Ambrose teams will be seeded.

B - 3.2.3 Team 1 (Boy's 1,6 and Girl's 1, 6)

B - 3.2.4 Team 2 (Boy's 2, 5 and Girl's 2,5)

B - 3.2.5 Team 3 (Boy's 3,4 and Girl's 3,4)

Amended December 2024

B - 3.2.6 Ambrose member body teams should play on consecutive holes. This allows managers to watch all groups more easily.

Amended December 2018

B - 3.2.7 It is normal practice in Ambrose competition for the highest handicapped player to hit first, the second highest handicapped player will be next and so on with the highest marker playing last. This may be altered for pace of play.

B - 3.2.8 Rules

B - 3.2.8.1 All traditional rules of golf and Ambrose format apply.

B - 3.2.8.2 Each player must use a minimum of 3 tee shots during the round.

Amended December 2024

B - 3.2.8.3 Through the green: Once selected, the ball is marked players may place ball within one club length of marker (no closer the hole). The ball must not be placed in a different course condition(eg rough to fairway, bunker to grass etc)

Amended December 2024

B - 3.2.8.4 Green: Once selected, the ball is marked player may place ball within one putter head of marker (no closer the hole). No tap ins.

Amended December 2018

B - 3.2.9 Cards

Each player should record their own card as an educational experience and submit it to their manager as a practice card. The Official with each group should keep the official score card.

Amended December 2018

Amended March 2017

B - 3.3 Strokeplay

The Strokeplay is a 36 hole team event played over two days. There are Gross (The Craig Parry Championship) and Nett (Brenda Carnavas Shield for girls and Bowtell / Abbott Shield for boys) team prizes with the Gross event being of more importance. Teams may win only one prize in each of the separate competitions.

There is also a 36 hole individual event for Gross and Nett prizes. Medals will be presented for 1st, 2nd and 3rd for Gross and Nett. Separate events for Boys and Girls.(12 medals in total).

B - 4. Method of Determining a Winner

B - 4.1 Ambrose

B - 4.1.1 Teams with the lowest score will be declared the winners.

B - 4.1.2 If teams are equal, a countback will be used to decide the winners using last 9, last 6, last 3, hole by hole.

B - 4.1.3 If teams are still equal, joint winners will be declared.

B - 4.1.4 The countback will be used for Gross and Nett.

B - 4.1.5 Medals will be awarded for first, second and third(Gross and Nett with Gross to take precedence)

B -5.1 added December 2024

B - 4.2 Strokeplay

B - 4.2.1 Brenda Carnavas Shield – Girls Team Nett Championships

The winning team will be the team with the least aggregate of each team's best 4 Nett scores from round 1 and the best 4 Nett scores from round 2.

Amended December 2024

B - 4.2.2 Bowtell / Abbott Shield – Boys Team Nett Championship

The winning team will be the team with the least aggregate of each team's best 4 Nett scores from round 1 and the best 4 Nett scores from round 2.

Amended December 2024

B - 4.2.3 In the event of a tie in the team 36 Hole Stroke Event joint winners / placings will be declared.

Amended June 2017

B - 4.2.4 Teams Stroke Play – Craig Parry Shield

The winning team will be the team with the least aggregate of each boy's team's best 4 Gross scores from round 1 and the best 4 Gross scores from round 2. This is added to the aggregate of each girl's team's best 4 Gross scores from round 1 and the best 4 Gross scores from round 2.

Amended December 2024

B - 4.2.5 In the situation that scores are equal joint winners / placings will be declared.

Amended June 2017

B - 4.3 Relative Importance of the Stroke and Handicap Events

At the School Sport Australia Championship first and second places (third if the numbers warrant) in the team Stroke and Individual Championships Gross results are the premier positions, then followed by the Handicap(Nett) winners. This should be reflected in terms of trophy values.

Section C – Facilities / Equipment

C - 1. To host the SSA 12 Years and Under Golf Championships the hosting body must have access to a Golf Club/s with the following facilities:

- Suitably challenging courses set up appropriately for 12 Years and Under players
- Practice facilities
- Buggies (40-60)
- Carts for officials
- Golfink compatible scoring system and score display facilities in clubhouse
- Catering

- Presentation area

Section D – Uniform

D - 1. Students shall compete in member body team uniforms.

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. Tournament Convener

It is the responsibility of the host body to provide a suitable Tournament Convener for the Championship. The Convener must have significant experience as a player/administrator in golf.

F - 2. Referees

It is the responsibility of the host member body to provide suitably qualified Referee(s) for the Championship.

Section G – Protests

G - 1. Any protests must be submitted in writing to the National Golf Advisor / Host Body Representative within 1 hour of the conclusion of that day's play. The judiciary shall meet at a suitable time on that day to deliberate on the issue. The decision will be conveyed to the Team Managers before the next day's play commences.

Added December 2020

Section H – Tribunal / Judiciary

H - 1. The Judiciary should consist of the National Golf Advisor (or Tournament Convener in their absence) and all selected member body delegates except from the member body that is involved in the dispute.

Amended January 2020

Section I – Trophies / Awards / Medals

I - 1. Ambrose Competition Prizes are to be awarded for:

I - 1.1 Winners : Gross & Nett

Runner's Up: Gross & Nett

Third: Gross & Nett

- I - 1.2** No member body team should win both a Gross & Nett award in the same event (Gross shall take precedence)

Amended January 2025

- I - 2.** Medals are to be presented to members and officials of the teams as per the table below.

		Gold	Silver	Bronze
Craig Parry Champions	Team Stroke Champions (Gross)	14	14	14
Teams Event Boys	Stroke (Nett)	7	7	
Teams Event Girls	Stroke (Nett)	7	7	

I - 3. Trophies

- I - 3.1** The perpetual Craig Parry Champions trophy is presented to the winners of the Teams Stroke competition.
- I - 3.2** The perpetual Bowtell / Abbott Trophy is presented to the winners of the Boy's Teams Nett – Championships.
- I - 3.3** The perpetual Brenda Carnavas Trophy is presented to the winners of the Girl's Teams Nett – Championships.
- I - 3.4** The winners, runners up and 2nd runner's up of the mixed Ambrose Gross and Nett competitions are presented prizes.(Usually a golf towel with SSA embroidery) The cost of the prizes is to be included in the Championship Levy.
- I - 3.5** In 2025 Individual Gross and Nett medals will be presented. Gold, Silver and Bronze in both events for Boys and Girls. Gross will take precedence.

I - 4. Memento

The School Sport Australia office organises a memento ball marker with the School Sport Australia logo, venue and year. The cost of the memento ball markers is to be included in the Championship Levy.

Added December 2024