



GolfRSA General Terms of Competition

1. General

By entering any GolfRSA Tournament or Championship (*referred to just as Championship for the remainder of this document*), participants enter an agreement with GolfRSA to be bound by the relevant Championships' **Terms of Entry** along with **GolfRSA General Terms of Competition** and **GolfRSA Logo and Marks Policy** which can be viewed on the GolfRSA website.

The **General Terms of Competition** document has been compiled by GolfRSA's Championships Committee and are subject to amendment under circumstances deemed appropriate by this Committee.

It is the responsibility of each entrant to ensure that they have read and comply with the **GolfRSA General Terms of Competition**.

- The entry process will be completed once all information is provided accurately and in full and the entry fee has been paid online.
- The onus is on the entrant to ensure that their entry is correct, all information supplied is accurate and that the entry has been received by GolfRSA, in accordance with the relevant Championship's **Terms of Entry**.
- No telephonic, telegraphic or priority mail entries will be accepted.
- Entry fees will only be refunded if a player withdraws prior to the closing date or if a replacement is available to play from off the tournament's alternates list. In the event of a withdrawal prior to the closing date for entries, players will be entitled to a refund of their entry fee with the deduction of a R50-00 administration fee.
- All entries shall be subject to the approval of GolfRSA who reserves the right to refuse any entry without giving reason. The decision of GolfRSA as to the acceptance or refusal of any entry shall be final.
- GolfRSA will not be responsible to compensate any entrant for costs incurred prior to the final players' list being confirmed or where the Tournament or Championship is cancelled for any valid reason as determined by GolfRSA.

2. Format of Championships

The format of the relevant championship can be found in the relevant Championship's **Terms of Entry** and will include specifications with regards to handicap requirements, division break downs and how final places will be decided.

3. Eligibility

Handicaps

Each GolfRSA Championship will specify a maximum handicap index (HI) assessed in terms of the World Handicap System, or an equivalent handicap, assessed under an alternative system acceptable to GolfRSA.

GolfRSA reserve the right to not accept a player's entry if the player has score abnormalities, such as more than two (2) penalty scores or incorrectly captured scores, on Handicap Network Africa (HNA).

Gender and Age

Each GolfRSA Championship will specify, in its **Terms of Entry**, whether the championship is open to male and/or female golfers who are members of a golf club affiliated to a Union recognized by GolfRSA.

4. Exemption Categories

In the event of GolfRSA receiving more than the maximum field size advertised in the **Terms of Entry**, the championship's **Exemption Criteria (including the championship Ballot Process)**, will be used to decide the final players and alternates lists.

5. Rules of Golf

The Championship will be held in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by the R&A Rules Ltd, GolfRSA's Permanent Local Rules (**'Hard Card'**) and Additional Local Rules approved by GolfRSA. Copies of the Additional Local Rules will be available from GolfRSA at the Championship venue. All entrants are advised to familiarize themselves with these Additional Local Rules.

6. Scoring & Results

In Stroke Play, a player is considered to have returned their score card when they have left the designated scoring area. The results are deemed to be officially announced and the competition closed at the commencement of the prize-giving ceremony/announcement of the stroke play results.



During match play rounds, the Results of the Match are considered final once both players have reported the result to the official scorer or 15 minutes after the scorer has received the result from the first player. In the event that a match has a walking/designated Referee, the result of the match is considered Final once the designated Referee has reported the result of the match to the official scorer.

7. **Deciding Ties**

The method for deciding ties is provided in the relevant **Terms of Entry** which will be published at the golf course by GolfRSA.

8. **Dress Code, Clothing and Equipment Branding**

Dress Code

Only golf specific attire will be permitted during all GolfRSA Championships. This regulation applies to all players when on the host golf course and official practice facility during any official Championship practice or tournament day.

Note: Restrictions on dress code may be stricter at certain host venues and it is up to all players, in such cases, to adhere to the club's dress code which will be published on the championship notice board.

Clothing and Equipment Branding

Competitors and caddies are to conform with the **GolfRSA Logo and Marks Policy** as it pertains to branding on clothing and equipment. **The relevant document can be viewed on www.golfrsa.co.za**

Incorrectly dressed players will not be permitted to play and any queries in this regard should be made to the Tournament Director to avoid embarrassment.

9. **Player Registration**

The Registration process, for all GolfRSA Championships, will be stipulated in the relevant Championship's **Terms of Entry** and will be specific depending on the Tournament Committee's requirements.

10. **Caddies**

During a GolfRSA Championship, caddies may or may not be permitted depending on the nature of the championship and their availability and/or the host venue's security policy etc.

When caddies are permitted, at a GolfRSA Championship, the requirement is that only caddies that have registered with the host venue, prior to the championship (which includes official practice rounds), will be allowed to caddie.

All registered caddies will need to follow the host venues caddies Rules and Regulations with regards to dress code and access to facilities.

Boys Championships only

U19 and U17 Championships

Caddies are allowed unless **Terms of Entry** state otherwise.

When caddies are permitted parents and family members may not caddie, or interfere in any way, with any competitor's play during an official practice or tournament round.

U15, U13 Championships

No caddies allowed

11. **Code of Conduct**

Player Conduct and Spirit Of The Game

It is one of the central principles of the game of golf that all players are expected to play by the Rules and in the spirit of the game.

Under Rule 1.2a, the Tournament Committee may disqualify a player for serious misconduct for acting contrary to the spirit of the game.

Serious Misconduct

Examples of actions, amongst others listed in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf (Interpretation 1.2a/1), by a player that are likely to be considered serious misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- Deliberately causing serious damage to a putting green.
- Disagreeing with the course setup and taking it on himself or herself to move tee-markers or boundary stakes.

- Consumption of alcohol for the duration of a round.
- Throwing a club towards another player or spectator.
- Deliberately distracting other players while they are making strokes.
- Removing loose impediments or movable obstructions to disadvantage another player after that other player has asked him or her to leave them in place.
- Repeatedly refusing to lift a ball at rest when it interferes with another player in stroke play.
- Deliberately playing away from the hole and then towards the hole to assist the player's partner (such as helping the player's partner learn the break on the putting green).
- Deliberately not playing in accordance with the Rules and potentially gaining a significant advantage by doing so, despite incurring a penalty for a breach of the relevant Rule.
- Repeatedly using vulgar or offensive language.
- Using a handicap that has been established for the purpose of providing an unfair advantage or using the round being played to establish such a handicap.

Misconduct

Penalties other than disqualification may be imposed for player misconduct.

Examples of actions by a player that, although involving misconduct, are unlikely to be considered serious misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- Slamming a club to the ground, damaging the club, and causing minor damage to the turf.
- Throwing a club towards a golf bag that unintentionally hits another person.
- Carelessly distracting another player making a stroke.
- Bad language and shouting.

12. Clubs and Balls

- List of Conforming Driver Heads: Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect.
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of Local Rule: **Disqualification.**
- Groove and Punch Mark Specifications: Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect.
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of Local Rule: **Disqualification.**
- List of Conforming Golf Balls: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.
Penalty for breach of the Local Rule: **Disqualification.**

13. Transportation

Unless otherwise stipulated in the relevant **Terms of Entry**, or authorized by the Tournament Committee, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorized transportation during a round.

A player who will play, or has played, under penalty of stroke and distance is always authorised to ride on motorised transportation. The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which there is a breach. A breach between two holes applies to the next hole.

Requests to use a cart will only be granted to players who have a disability or a long-term degenerative medical condition as per the **GolfRSA Transportation Policy** which can be found on www.golfrsa.co.za.

Spectators may not hire golf carts or bring golf carts on site during GolfRSA Championships.

14. Advice in Team Competitions (Model Local Rule H-2 is in effect)

Each team may name one advice giver whom players on the team may ask for advice and receive advice from during the round. The team must identify each advice giver to the Tournament Committee before any player on the team begins his or her round.

The advice giver must not point out a line of play or walk on the putting green when the ball of a team player lies on the putting green.

Note: This MLR is not in effect, unless otherwise stated in the **Terms of Entry**, when an individual stroke play championship includes, as a subsidiary component, a team competition.

15. Tournament Committee

The Tournament Director, Host Venues Representative and up to two other persons, nominated by them, will constitute the Tournament Committee. This Tournament Committee reserves the right to alter the programme and conditions of the event at any time, including starting times. All disputes shall be settled by the Tournament Committee whose decision shall be final. Any dispute/protest must be lodged within 15 minutes of completion of the round. This information may be requested in writing.

16. Prize-Giving

GolfRSA will endeavour to start prizegiving functions as soon as possible after the completion of play and necessary administrative tasks.

It is the responsibility of the player to ascertain whether they will be receiving a prize and are encouraged to stay for the presentation of prizes as a sign of respect to sponsors, organisers, and prize winners.

17. Players with Disabilities

Applicants must contact GolfRSA individually for more information with regards to eligibility to play under the relevant category of Rule 25 in the 2023 Rules of Golf.

18. Cancellation of a Round

In the event of play being delayed or declared null and void for any round of a tournament, additional play will be at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. If in the opinion of the Tournament Committee, adverse weather or any other occurrence beyond its control render the commencement or continuation of any stipulated round impractical, then, in stroke play tournaments, the result will be declared over the number of rounds completed by all players. Play will not continue beyond the advertised final day of the stroke play Qualifying rounds. In the event of any round of the Match Play being suspended due to adverse weather or any other occurrence beyond the control of the Tournament Committee – such suspended rounds will be continued as soon as play can be re-commenced in-order-to determine a winner of the round. It is possible that such suspensions of play may result in the Finals of the match play being reduced to 18 holes. Any such reduction however will be announced to the finalists prior to the start of the finals.

In the event of the final match being started (whether scheduled to be played as a 36 or 18-hole final) and adverse weather or any other occurrence results in a suspension of play, play will be resumed as soon as is practically possible with the intent to play to the conclusion of the match. If the Final match cannot be concluded due to loss of light on the final day, the Championship will be shared as the finals will not be resumed beyond the final advertised day of the Match Play Championship.

19. Score Information

If requested to do so players, must provide score information to Tournament Officials during play. Live scoring may be conducted by way of an “electronic device” and if so, each match will be requested to submit scores using such a device.

20. Publicity

GolfRSA, the host venue and the sponsors of the Championship may arrange publicity before, during and after the Tournament in the press, by live and recorded radio, television and by filming. By entering the Championship, the players' assent to references to them and pictures or video footage of them at practice and in play appearing and being used for commercial purposes by GolfRSA and their Sponsors.

21. Liability

The host club, host Union, GolfRSA and its management will not be held liable or responsible for any damages, loss, including personal loss and or other forms of loss, harm or injury sustained as stipulated below:

- Physical and/or emotional injuries suffered by any person, including a player or spectator, during the tournament, due to any acts of God, suffered as a direct result thereof, including aspects such as being struck by lightning, etc.
- Physical injuries of any kind suffered by any person, including a player or spectator, sustained by own negligence, or otherwise.
- Emotional injuries sustained due to any loss, including death, suffered as a result of any of the above injuries sustained personally or by a spectator.
- Damages suffered to any property of a player or spectator.
- Any financial costs endured by a golfer due to disqualification/failing to read the **Terms of Entry** and **GolfRSA General Terms of Competitions**, making the final players list etc.

22. GolfRSA Tournament POPIA Consent

By entering this any GolfRSA Championship, you are consenting to GolfRSA collecting and storing certain personal information about you (the minimum needed to conduct the administration of this event). Please be assured that GolfRSA is fully compliant with the Protection of Personal Information Act (“POPIA”) regarding how we collect personal information from you, why we collect it, what it is used for and how it is stored. This personal information may be used to provide you further details of the event you are entering and may be stored by GolfRSA for purposes of further such events. Your personal information shall not be shared with any third party whatsoever, save for a GolfRSA approved scoring or handicap service provider to this event, who shall also be fully POPIA compliant.

If you are a minor, your parent or guardian must consent to you providing your personal information and must thus complete, sign and submit a separate POPIA document available from GolfRSA.

23. **Anti-Doping Policy**

Anti-Doping constitutes a range of activities aimed at eliminating doping in sport, as well as protecting clean athletes and the integrity and values of sport. There are 11 Anti-Doping Rule Violations of which Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method is one. All Competitors are subject to the provisions of the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport's Anti-Doping (SAIDS) Rules. Details of the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules, and the current List of Prohibited Substances and Methods, are available from the SAIDS website (www.drugfreesport.org.za). Competitors can do a medication check on the SAIDS website at the following link <https://drugfreesport.org.za/online-medication-check/> and

should bear in mind that this list does not include Supplements. Information on Supplements is available at the following link <https://drugfreesport.org.za/supplements-and-their-risks/>.

Competitors who have illnesses or conditions that require them to take particular medications or undergo procedures may have to apply for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE). If the medication or method a competitor requires to treat an illness or condition falls under the Prohibited List, a TUE may give that athlete the authorisation to use the required medicine or method. Only certain categories of Competitors need to apply for a TUE in advance. Competitors should check the SAIDS website at the following link <https://drugfreesport.org.za/who-needs-to-apply-for-a-tue/> which level of Competitors need to apply for a TUE in advance from SAIDS. Competitors who are taking medication and are in doubt as to their clinical status, should seek advice from GolfRSA no later than 30 days before the start of the Championships.

Drug-Testing may be authorised at any event under the jurisdiction of GolfRSA.