

GolfRSA General Terms of Competition

[Version September 2024]

ALL players, including the parents/guardians of minors, consent to follow the GolfRSA General Terms of Competition. By ticking the "agree button" on the online entry, you are confirming you have the legal right to agree to these terms on behalf of the player entering.

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1. General

- (a) By entering any GolfRSA Tournament or Championship (“**the Championship**”), the player agrees to these *GolfRSA General Terms of Competition* (“**Competition Terms**”), along with the relevant Championship’s *Terms of Entry*.
- (b) The entry process will be completed once all information is provided accurately and in full and the entry fee has been paid online.
- (c) The onus is on the player 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*.
- (d) 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 Championship’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 R 50.00 administration fee.
- (e) All entries shall be subject to the approval of GolfRSA, which reserves the right to refuse any entry without giving a reason. The decision of GolfRSA as to the acceptance or refusal of any entry shall be final.
- (f) GolfRSA will not be responsible to compensate any entrant for costs incurred prior to the final players’ list being confirmed, or where the Championship is cancelled for any valid reason as determined by GolfRSA.

2. Format of Championships

The format of the Championship can be found in the relevant Championship’s *Terms of Entry* and will include specifications regarding handicap requirements, division breakdowns, and how final places will be decided.

3. Eligibility

Handicaps

Each Championship will specify a maximum handicap index (HI) assessed in terms of the World Handicap System, or an equivalent handicap, as issued by a recognised Handicap Authority acceptable to GolfRSA.

GolfRSA reserves 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 & 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 as recognised by GolfRSA, and any age limitations.

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 (“**the Rules**”). Copies of the Additional Local Rules will be available from GolfRSA at the Championship venue. All players are advised to familiarise themselves with these Additional Local Rules.

6. Scoring & Results

In Stroke Play, a player is considered to have returned their scorecard 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. If 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 & Equipment Branding

Dress Code

Only golf specific attire [shoes, socks (ideally should be predominantly white and cover the players' ankles), shirts and pants/shorts/skirts/dresses] will be permitted during all GolfRSA Championships. Players are expected to always look neat and tidy, and men/boys must have their shirts always tucked in. 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 for Inter Provincial Tournaments: Socks are part of the team's uniform and to keep the team looking neat and tidy the entire team must wear the same make, colour and brand socks which should be predominantly white and cover the players' ankles.

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.

Clothing & Equipment Branding

Competitors and caddies are to conform with the GolfRSA Logo and Marks Policy as it pertains to branding on clothing and equipment. Further, the player agrees to abide by the GolfRSA Logo and Marks Policy (found at www.golfrsa.com) the content of which the player acknowledges and is hereby incorporated by reference. Incorrectly dressed players will not be permitted to play and any queries in this regard should be made to the Championship Director to avoid embarrassment.

9. Player Registration

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

10. Caddies

During a 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 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 regarding dress code and access to facilities.

Boys Championships only: U19 and U17 Championships

Caddies are allowed unless the *Terms of Entry* states 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 championship round.

U15, U13 Championships

No caddies allowed

11. Code of Conduct

Player Conduct & 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 Championship 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 is 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 upon himself or herself to move tee-markers or boundary stakes.
- Consumption of alcohol for the duration of a round.
- Throwing a club toward 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 could assist or if 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.

Code of Conduct Violation Penalties

- Any code of conduct violation on the golf course may be handled under the Rules of Golf and powers of the Committee as set out in Rule 1.2b in the Rules of Golf. Any code of conduct violation could also result in a written letter to the player concerned and, in the case of a junior player, his/her parent/guardian. The player and/or parent will have 14 days to submit a written account of the violation and thereafter GolfRSA will assess whether a disciplinary hearing is required. The person concerned will then be given 10 days' notice to attend such a hearing.
- Should the player be found guilty of any breach of this Code of Conduct after a disciplinary hearing has been held, GolfRSA reserves the right to suspend the player from entering national tournaments for a specific period. The player's Union will be advised of such disciplinary hearing and outcome thereof.

Junior Tournaments

These are wider Codes for minors participating in a junior tournament (penalties may include disqualification under Rule 1.2a or penalties other than disqualification):

Violations on the golf course. There shall be no:

- Unsportsmanlike conduct, abusive language, club throwing, disrespect to volunteers, officials, or fellow competitors, or abuse of the course.
- Conduct which is contrary to the etiquette of the rules of golf as detailed by The R&A Rules Ltd.
- Conduct which may bring the game into disrepute. Bringing the game into disrepute includes tarnishing the name of golf, damaging the reputation or image of golf, bringing dishonour into golf, causing golf to lose its prestige, and disgracing the game of golf.
- Use of drugs or alcohol.

Violations off the golf course. There shall be no:

- Use of, or association with, recreational drugs.
- Smoking or, the use of alcohol, by players under the age of 18 years.
- Vandalism at the accommodation, abusive or inappropriate behaviour to other players, captain, team manager, staff, or other players sharing the accommodation.
- Behaviour or acts, on the premises of the club or otherwise, which may be offensive to accepted social protocol.
- Conduct which may bring the game into disrepute.
- Junior tournaments where all players are accommodated together: Players may not leave the premises of either the accommodation establishment or the golf course without the permission of their Union chaperone. GolfRSA cannot accept responsibility for the safety of the players if they leave any of the aforementioned premises without permission. For this reason, any player who breaches this code will be subject to discipline and this may include suspension from the Championship, as well as other GolfRSA tournaments.

12. Clubs & Balls

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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 Championship *Terms of Entry*, or authorised by the Championship Committee, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorised 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.com.

Spectators may not hire golf carts or bring golf carts on-site during 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 Championship 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 Championship *Terms of Entry*, when an individual stroke play championship includes, as a subsidiary component, a team competition.

15. Championship Committee

The Championship Director, Host Venues Representative, and up to two other persons, nominated by them, will constitute the Championship Committee. This Championship 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 Championship 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 regarding 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 Championship, additional play will be at the discretion of the Championship Committee. If in the opinion of the Championship Committee, adverse weather or any other occurrence beyond its control renders the commencement or continuation of any stipulated round impractical then, in stroke play championships, 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 Championship Committee, such suspended rounds will be continued as soon as play can be re-commenced 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 Championship 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 their sponsors may arrange publicity before, during, and after the Championship in the press, by live and recorded radio, television, and by filming. By entering a GolfRSA sanctioned tournament, the player and/or their parent/guardian agrees to reasonable and traditionally acceptable (for a golf tournament) references and pictures of him/her at practice and in play appearing and being used for commercial purposes by GolfRSA, the Championship organisers and their sponsors.

21. Photography Consent

The player and/or parent/guardian of the player (for a minor), declare that by entering the Championship, I automatically consent and grant GolfRSA, its employees, agents and representatives the rights to photograph, film or otherwise record the player's image and/or likeness and/or voice and to copyright publish, distribute and use such image or recording for any lawful purpose, including but not limited to: publicity, illustration, advertising, social media, broadcasting and web content. I understand that should I wish to withdraw this consent; I will write directly to the GolfRSA administrator withdrawing my consent and I will ensure the player wears a mutually agreed item to assist in identifying my withdrawal of consent to the event organisers and personnel.

22. Image Use Waiver

By entering an event venue or otherwise by participating in a GolfRSA Championship, the player and/or their parent/guardian, understand that the player's image may be captured accidentally on live streaming, photographs, television coverage and or other mediums utilised during the event. Whilst every effort will be made to ensure those who withdraw their consent to direct images being utilised, it is not possible to ensure that images are not caught accidentally in the general activity around the premises, or part of the event. GolfRSA and their affiliated members will take the necessary measures to ensure that once the photographs, television coverage and or other mediums utilised during the event is used thereafter, that it will go through an editing process to, as far as reasonably practicable, remove and / or edit out those members who withdrew their consent. GolfRSA accepts no liability for this process and the player hereby fully indemnifies GolfRSA in that regard.

23. Indemnity

The player and/or parent/guardian of the player (for a minor), hereby indemnifies and holds harmless GolfRSA and the Union hosting the Championship (including their employees, office bearers, volunteers, chaperones, other players, and spectators) and all persons appointed by them, from any liability to compensate the player in respect of any injury, loss, damages or otherwise that he/she may sustain whilst being engaged in any activity related to playing in the Championship, specifically but not limited to injury, loss, damages or otherwise:

- (a) whilst being chaperoned at or to the Championship;
- (b) whilst being transported to or from said Championship, training camp, or ancillary social function, whether by GolfRSA or the relevant Union or the appointed transport service provider of, or volunteer to, both GolfRSA or the Union;

further any and all:

- (c) physical or emotional injuries suffered by the player during the Championship or preliminary training camp due to any acts of God suffered as a direct result of events such as being struck by lightning, falling trees, etc.

- (d) physical injuries of any kind sustained or caused by the player, another player, or spectator i.e., being struck by a golf ball by negligence, or otherwise. The player hereby acknowledges the inherent risk in playing golf and the fast velocities of golf balls in an outside playing area, unsighted players, changing weather conditions, swinging clubs, and the general risks in being in the vicinity of other players striking golf balls, whether in play or in practice;
- (e) 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;
- (f) damages suffered to any property of the player or another player; and
- (g) any financial costs endured by the player due to the player being disqualified from the Championship.

24. Safeguarding

GolfRSA wishes to safeguard the welfare of all persons involved with GolfRSA Championships and takes this responsibility very seriously. Safeguarding is considered to be the responsibility of organisations to make sure their staff, volunteers, operations, and programmes do no harm to children or vulnerable adults or expose them to harassment, abuse, or exploitation. It is, however, increasingly becoming best practice to think about how we safeguard everyone in our organisations at all times, including protecting staff, spectators, and volunteers from inappropriate behaviour such as bullying and harassment. Therefore, the player agrees to abide by the GolfRSA Safeguarding Policy (found at www.golfrsa.com) the content of which the player acknowledges and is hereby incorporated by reference.

25. GolfRSA Championship POPIA Consent

By entering any Championship, the player hereby consents to GolfRSA collecting and storing certain personal information about the player (the minimum needed to conduct the administration of the Championship). Please be assured that GolfRSA is fully compliant with the Protection of Personal Information Act (“**POPIA**”) regarding how we collect personal information from the player, why GolfRSA collects it, what it is used for, and how it is stored. This personal information may be used to provide the player with further details of the event the player is entering and may be stored by GolfRSA for purposes of further such events. The players’ 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.

26. Anti-Doping Policy

Anti-doping constitutes a range of activities aimed at eliminating doping in sports, as well as protecting clean athletes and the integrity and values of sports. 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 authorise that athlete 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 working days before the start of the Championships. Drug testing may be authorised at any event under the jurisdiction of GolfRSA.

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