



Encourage Shield
Junior Golfers

Encourage Shield

Conditions of Competition

The Encourage Shield is an annual handicap match play competition for teams of young members of Golf Clubs in the Sydney Metropolitan Region.

The objective of the Encourage Shield is to provide young golfers the opportunity to test their skills and learn match play competition in an environment that is fun and supportive and free of undue interference.

More information may be found at the web site: www.encourageshield.com.au

The competition is convened by the captain (or their delegate) of the club, that currently holds the Encourage Shield.

The Encourage Shield is governed by the participating clubs. Each year, generally on the first Monday in July, the Captain (or his delegate) chairs the Encourage Shield Annual General Meeting of delegates from participating clubs. Each participating club is entitled to have one voting delegate. A delegate may be authorized in writing to represent multiple clubs.

Any changes to the Encourage Shield Conditions of competition must have majority support by the delegates present at the Annual General Meeting.

The Competition commences on the first Sunday after the Labour Day weekend and is run over consecutive Sundays.



1. DEFINITIONS

- a. Convening Club: The club that currently holds the Encourage Shield
- b. Committee: The match Committee of the *Convening Club* comprising the captain and other members deemed appropriate by the Captain. Members of the Match Committee should not be *Team Managers* or players.
- c. Team: A team comprises 5 players and 1 playing reserve. The *Team* must comprise at least 4 male players in the Division *Rounds* and 3 male players in the Elination, Quarter, Semi-Final and Final *Rounds*.
- d. Composite Team: A team comprising players from two Golf Club
- e. Contest: The competition consisting of *Matches* between the Teams from two clubs.
- f. Match: The competition between two players from each *Team*.
- g. Round: A series of *contests* held at the *Host Club* on a single day.
- h. Host Club: The Club at which a *Round* of the Encourage Shield is conducted.

2. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- a. A Club's nomination and its inclusion in the draw confirm that the Club agrees to, and will comply with, these Conditions of Competition.
- b. Clubs are permitted to enter more than one Team.
- c. Two Clubs may enter a composite Team if each club has sufficient players to field a Team. The Team Manager of the Composite Team is responsible for notifying the Committee, prior to the date of the commencement of the Competition, of the names and clubs of the players comprising the Composite Team and the name of the Club they represent.
- d. The Entry Fee determined at the previous year's Encourage Shield AGM must accompany the entry form; or be received by the Convening Club within one week of the clubs nomination via the Encourage Shield website.
- e. Clubs must be prepared to host one Round of Division Contests for each Team entered. The Host Club must provide a drink (Gatorade or water) and a sandwich for each Team Manger and player.



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- f. Each Team must be accompanied by an adult Team Manager who is responsible for the conduct and management of the Team. The Note to Rule 8 (of the Rules of Golf) does **not** apply to the Team Manager.
- g. Entries close on the 30th August each year. The Committee may accept late entries at its discretion.

3. RULES

- a. Play must be in accordance with the Rules of Golf 2008-2012. The penalty for breach of rules as noted in the Rules of Golf.
- b. These Conditions of Competition and the Host Club's Local Rules also apply.
 - Exception: See Condition 12. DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES
- c. The Host club should provide each Team Manager and Player with a printed copy of the Local Rules applicable on the day of the Contest.
- d. The match committee of the Host club represents the Committee at Division Rounds and at the Elimination, Quarter and Semi-Finals and make decisions on the Conditions of Competition and the Rules of Golf. A Member of the Host Club who is associated with a Team competing at the Host Club (that is, Team Manager or Player) must not be a member of the Match Committee.
- e. Decisions made by the relevant Match Committee are final.

4. DATES AND TIMES OF PLAY

- a. The Competition starts on the Sunday following the Labour Day Public holiday weekend in NSW.
- b. The draw must be published on the Encourage Shield website and distributed to clubs via email two weeks before the first Division Round.
- c. The Host club must schedule a block of tee times starting between 7:00 am and 1:00 pm. Three tee time lines are required for each Contest. Rounds may comprise one; two or three Contests. It is recommended that the Host Club allow at least a 30 minute buffer after the last Encourage Shield tee time.
- d. Contests must be played on the dates and at the times specified in the draw. The Host Club may alter the tee times up to 5 days before the Round and must notify participating Clubs and the Committee



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- e. Any Team failing to be available to play at the time specified by the Host Club shall forfeit the Contest to their opponent 5 ½ to 0.

5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- a. A Player must be a Member of the Club they are representing. The players category of membership must be such that they are eligible to play in the Club Junior Championship. (Penalty: Disqualification of the player)
 - i. Exception: A Player who is a member of a Composite Team and whose name has been notified to the Committee prior to the date of commencement of the Competition does not need to be a Member of the Club they represent.
- b. Players must be over 10 years of age and under 18 years of age at the date of commencement of the competition. (Penalty: Disqualification of the player)
- c. Male Players must not have played in a junior Pennant, Eric Apperly Shield, Major Pennant or District Pennant Team for any Club other than as a reserve. (Penalty: Disqualification of the Players)
- d. Female players must not have played in Bronze 1 Pennant, Bronze 2 Pennant, Grade Pennant or Mixed Pennant Team for any club other than as a Reserve. (Penalty: Disqualification of the Player)
- e. A Player may play for only one Club and one Team in any one year. (Penalty: Disqualification of the Player)
- f. A Player must play in two Division, Elimination Final, Quarter-Final or Semi-Final Contests to be eligible to play in the Final Contest. (Penalty: Disqualification of the Player)
- g. The Reserve Player is considered to have participated during any contest, even though the Reserve Match may not have counted towards the Contest result.

6. FORMAT OF PLAY

- a. The play is handicap match play over 18 Holes. Each Contest will comprise of five individual Matches and one Reserve Match. Each Individual Match counts for 1 point and the Reserve Match Counts for ½ point.



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- b. If a division Match is square after 18 holes, each Team is awarded $\frac{1}{2}$ point or $\frac{1}{4}$ point for the Reserve Match.
- c. For Elimination, Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final Contests each Match is played until a result is achieved. Handicap strokes are applied as per the Match index.
- d. The Reserve match does not count in the Elimination, Quarter-Final, Semi-Final or Final Rounds but the Reserve Match is still played.
- e. Play is conducted in groups of four Players. That is, there are two Matches per group. In respect of each Match in a group, the Players in the other Match are outside agencies. See the Rules of Golf Definitions for Outside Agency, Partner and Side.
- f. The honour on the first tee is decided by the toss of a coin by the Team Captains or Representative in the Captains absence.
- g. The Team Manager must provide the Host Club with a list of Team Members in Match Handicap order at least ten minutes prior to the first tee time. (Penalty: Loss of number 5 Match). The Team Manager should use the Results Form for this list.
- h. Play is in reverse Handicap (Whole number) order. That is, the Reserve and the highest Handicap Player tee off first, the lowest Handicap Players tee off last. For girls, the Match Handicap determines their order of play (See Condition 13 d).
- i. The Reserve Player does not need to be the Player with the Highest Handicap.
- j. Players with equal Handicaps (whole number) may play in any order.

7. ABSENCE OF PLAYERS AND RESERVE

- a. If a Team has less than the required number of Players, it must lose each Match for which a player is absent.
- b. A Player is considered absent if he is not ready to play at the time that his Match is scheduled to tee off.
- c. If, after the Team list has been submitted, a player is absent or otherwise unable to play the Reserve Player may take his place but must play in the same Team position as the Player for whom he is substituting. This should be noted on the Results Form.



8. SUSPENSION OR POSTPONEMENT OF PLAY

- a. Every effort should be made to play the Contests on the scheduled day and time.
- b. If it is necessary to delay the commencement of play or suspend play because of weather conditions, play should not be suspended for the day until such time as it would not be possible for the last Match to be concluded on the day. The decision on this matter rests with the Match Committee of the Host Club.
- c. If, due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. inclement weather conditions, course unplayable) it is not possible for a contest to start, the Round can be postponed and a new Team submitted on the new date.
- d. For Contests that have commenced on the correct date, but are unable to be completed that day due to any circumstances, play must be suspended. Each group of players should Endeavour to complete the hole they are playing. If play is resumed on an alternative date, the players must follow the procedure as detailed in Rule 6-8d.
- e. In the event that play is suspended or does not commence, the alternate date and time arrangements must be made in conjunction with the Committee.
- f. If it is not possible to start or resume a Contest, the Contest will be decided as follows:
 - I. For any completed Matches, the result stands.
 - II. For any Matches that have completed nine holes or more, the result at the suspension of play is the final result.
 - III. For any Matches that have completed less than nine holes, the result is halved.
- g. The Committee reserves the right to make a decision in equity when it is impossible to complete one or more Matches in accordance with the Rules of Golf.

9. SUSPENSION OF PLAY DUE TO A DANGEROUS CONDITION

- a. When play is suspended by the Match Committee for a dangerous situation, if the players in a Match are between the play of two holes, they must not resume play until the Match Committee has ordered a resumption of play.



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- b. If the players in a Match are in the process of playing a hole, they must discontinue play immediately and not resume play until the Match Committee has ordered a resumption of play.
- c. If a player fails to discontinue play immediately, he is disqualified, unless circumstances warrant waiving the penalty as provided in Rule 33-7.
- d. The following signals are used:
 - I. Discontinue Play: One prolonged note of a siren
 - II. Resume Play: Two short notes of a siren, repeated

10. CADDIES

- a. A player is prohibited from using a caddie during the *Match*.
(Penalty: At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the *Match* is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per *Match* – two holes. In the event of a breach between two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole. A player having a caddie in breach of this condition must immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred ensure that he conforms to this condition for the remainder of the stipulated round. Otherwise, the player is disqualified.)

11. MOTORISED TRANSPORT

- a. A player must not ride on any form of transportation during the *Match* unless authorized by the *Committee*. The NSWGA Transportation Policy (January 2009) applies.
(Penalty: At the conclusion of the hole, at which the breach is discovered, the state of the *Match* is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per *Match*-two holes. In the event of a breach between two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole. Use of any unauthorized form of transportation must be discontinued immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. Otherwise, the player is disqualified.)



12. DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES

- a. Regardless of whether the *Host club's* Local Rules permit the use of distance measuring devices, the player must not use distance-measuring devices. See rule 14- 3 (of the Rules of Golf).

13. HANDICAPS

- a. Handicaps are those recorded on the GolfLink on the day of the *Contest*
- b. Boys' maximum handicap is 27. Boys whose handicap is greater than 27 may still Play but they play off a handicap of 27
- c. Girls' handicap is 36. Girls whose match handicap (see condition 13d) is greater than 36 may still play but they play off a handicap of 36.
- d. A girl's handicap is calculated using the formula: Girls Match handicap = Women's Australian handicap + (AWCR-AMCR). For instance if a girl's handicap is 20, the host club's course AWCR is 74 and AMCR is 40 the calculation is: $20 + (74 - 40) = 24$. See the Golf Australia web site for more information:
<http://admin.golfaustralia.org.au/site/content/document/00006775-source.pdf>

14. TEES

- a. Boys play from the Men Members' Tees
- b. Girls play from Women Members' Tees



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15. DIVISIONS

16. FINALS

17. PROTESTS

- a. Protests on matters deemed in breach of these Conditions, must be received in writing by the *Committee, Match Committee and* opponents within two days of the Contest(s) being held.

18. BY-LAWS, CLUB RULES AND DRESS REGULATIONS

19. MATCH INDEX

- a. If the *Host Club* does not have a published Match Index, the following Match Index must be used:

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Match Index	18	8	12	3	14	6	10	1	16	5	11	2	15	7	13	4	17	9