



Encourage Shield Guidelines for Team Managers

1. THE ENCOURAGE SHIELD

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 competition 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.

The Encourage Shield has been conducted continuously since 1971 and has established a sound reputation for supporting and encouraging young golfers.

The Encourage Shield is governed by the Encourage Shield affiliated clubs. Each year, usually in July, the Annual General Meeting of Encourage Shield affiliated clubs makes decisions relating to the conduct of the Encourage Shield.

2. DOCUMENT PURPOSE

All junior sport requires the support of adults. It is important that adults provide positive support and that a kid's involvement in the sport leaves them with positive memories.

The Encourage Shield Conditions of Competition require that *"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."*

The purpose of this document is to guide Team Managers in the execution of their duties and to ensure the kids involved enjoy the experience.

If the information in this document is inconsistent with, or appears to contradict, the Conditions of Competition, the information in the Conditions of Competition takes precedence.

3. RULES OF GOLF, CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION AND LOCAL RULES

The Encourage Shield is conducted under the Rules of Golf, the Encourage Shield Conditions of Competition and the Host Club's Local Rules.

The Team Manager should be familiar with all three documents and ensure their players understand the relevant points. There is plenty of time, before the competition begins, to help your Team learn the Rules.

4. ADVICE

One of tenets of the Encourage Shield is to limit outside interference and this is why caddies are not permitted. Under the Rules of Golf, a player may seek advice from their caddy or playing partner only. In an Encourage Shield Match, a player has neither a playing partner nor a caddy. Therefore, the player must not ask advice from anyone.

What is advice? The Rules of Golf define advice as 'any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in determining his play, the choice of club or the method of making a stroke.

'Information on the Rules, distance or matters of public information, such as the position of hazards or the flagstick on the putting green, is not advice'.



5. TEAM MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Before the Competition Starts

- i. Get your entry and fee in before the closing date.
- ii. Organise Team shirts and caps.
- iii. Organise a BBQ (or whatever) to present the shirts and caps and invite the Team, their parents and supporters. Tell the parents about the Encourage Shield and how they can best help their kids.
- iv. Get the Team together for practice matches after school or on weekends.
- v. Print the draw from the Encourage Shield web site and discuss the courses with your Team.
- vi. Organise some practice rounds at the courses that your Team will play.
- vii. Get your PGA Pro involved with the Team.
- viii. Get some Team photos and publish a story on the club web site or newsletter
- ix. Kids respond well to text messaging¹. Get their mobile numbers and use a broadcast text service like SMSGlobal (www.msglobal.com.au) to let them know what's happening.

b. Before each Contest

- i. Tell your Team the time and place of each Round and ensure each player is available and can get there.
- ii. Find out the dress regulations at the Host Club and tell the parents what's expected.
- iii. On the day before the Contest, call the Host Club to check the tee times and to ensure you have a cart booked, if required.
- iv. On the Sunday morning of the Contest, check GolfLink for each of your players and record their handicaps. Getting their handicaps correct is **your** responsibility.

c. At the Contest

- i. Record your players' names and handicaps on the Results Form. Submit the Results Form to the Host Club's Match Committee at least 20 minutes before the tee time.
- ii. Take your Team through the Local Rules. The Host Club should provide a printed copy of the Local Rules to each Manager and player. If not, ask why not!
- iii. Make sure each player knows the handicap difference to their opponent and on which holes they get or give strokes.
- iv. Remind the parents and supporters of their responsibilities.
- v. Maintain an optimistic, light hearted approach to the Contest. Above all else, your Team should have fun.
- vi. Organise water/Gatorade and food for the Team. The Host Club should provide this for free but, if it's a hot day, the kids will need more than one Gatorade.
- vii. Remember, once a Match starts, you cannot give advice to your players.

¹ Avoid one-on-one text conversations with kids. Contact the Child Protection and Employee Screening Unit of NSW Sport and Recreation on 9006 3871 for more information.



Encourage Shield

Junior Golfers

- viii. At the conclusion of the Matches, ensure the Results Form is completed correctly and signed by your Team Captain.
- ix. Whether your Team won or lost, be upbeat, accentuate the positives and never, ever, berate any your players for their performance.
- x. Celebrate the day with a visit to McDonalds!

