

Individual Player Development Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on how the TGA may support members pursuing high performance golf and/or professional golf.

Overview

Affiliate members who wish to compete in national/international level competitions outside of TGAs representative golf programme or wish to pursue professional careers may look to TGA for support in their endeavours.

Personal development of this nature is outside the mandate of the TGA for direct monetary assistance unless provided from the TGA Player Development Fund.

The Player Development Fund was established in April 2022 with an initial starting amount of \$9,000. Interest collected on TGAs main investment are contributed to the fund, until the fund reaches a maximum of \$15,000.

A maximum of \$6000 of the available funds may be distributed within the TGA financial year.

Third party donations given to the TGA for player development under this policy may be added to the fund with no maximum limit set on the fund total due to this contribution.

There will be a minimum of two application windows per year. These will be communicated in advance with details of the closing date for applications and a timeline for considering applications and subsequent decisions.

Aim

The aim of the Individual Player Development is to support up and coming representative players in the development of their golf skills.

When the support from the TGA is of a monetary nature from the Player Development Fund, the monetary support should provide a demonstrable mutual benefit to the player and the TGA.

The benefit to the TGA must be consistent with the current strategic plan of the TGA.

Qualification

To be eligible for assistance under this policy, an applicant must fulfil at least the following criteria

1. Players must be either a junior or senior player actively representing or seeking to represent Taranaki.
2. Be a financial member of at least one of the eighteen clubs in Taranaki
3. Have made an application to the executive and have the executive make a recommendation to the board on their behalf where applicable. The executive and board may consider demonstrable hardship as a relevant qualification for this fund.
4. Have represented Taranaki as junior or senior and are committed to being available for selection for at least the next 2 years; otherwise, is a junior or senior player who the Executive have recognised as a potential representative player.
5. Total monies received may not exceed \$6000 of all successful applications to this fund.
6. Must not have received a monetary grant from the fund within the 12 months of any successful application to this fund.
7. Must not have played in a master's event or currently be or have previously been a professional player.

Conditions 1 through 4 may be waived If the applicant has a written recommendation from either the TGA Executive Officer or the TGA Golf Participation Officer stating an alternate criteria for the executive and/or board to consider.

Suggested avenues of support

Golf NZ High Performance Development

Golf NZ has a high-performance development programme. TGA is able to assist with introductions to Golf NZ and advocate for inclusion of the programme to Golf NZ on behalf of the member..

If the member is already in this programme, the board should ensure it understands the support that the member is already receiving and take this into consideration when providing assistance.

General Monetary Grants

While the TGA is unable to access grants from funders directly on behalf of an individual, it is able to offer its experience with funding applications.

Support to the member may be provided to find suitable funders to make applications to and to assist in making applications.

TGA may also offer its endorsement of the individual to the funder.

Fund Raising

TGA is able to offer its assistance with golf related fund-raising activities.

For example, TGA may have the member play as a celebrity within one of its fund-raising events, with the proceeds for playing with that member going to the member.

Monetary Grant from the Player Development Fund

Tier 1 Grant

A sum of up to \$5,000 may be granted to a player who has shown exceptional form and support to the TGA.

The player should also be shown to be strongly contributing to the golfing community around them. The executive will consider applications for tier one grants as per the application procedures and applications meeting their criteria will be brought to the board for final consideration and decision.

Tier 2 Grant

A sum of up to \$1,000 may be granted to a player to assist with their development or hardship.

The executive will receive tier 2 grant applications either directly, via the board, or via TGA employees.

The executive will process applications as per the application procedures.

The executive may consider and approve any tier 2 grant to the maximum of \$1,000 without reference to the board but must not award combined grants of more than \$5,000 in total within a financial year.

Any tier two grant which would exceed the \$5,000 per financial year combined total must be referred to the board for final consideration and approval and will still be limited to the \$6,000 combined total as per this policy.

Accountability

When the TGA grants any monies in response to an application, it shall also determine the required level of accountability required from the recipient.

The board may consider offering monetary payment in exchange for assistance of the member to raise the profile of golf in the region. However, to measure the success of such a venture is very difficult. The board should exhaust all other ways of supporting a member before offering this support.

If this type of support is to be offered, a clear contract between the member and the TGA is to be drawn up. The contract should outline all of the criteria to be met and contain a clause allowing for the return of monies given if the criteria are not met.

If accountability is required, then the applicant must provide the required information within the prescribed period to the EO.

Failure to do so may result in withholding of funds, request for return of funds and/or disqualification from future applications as the board deems appropriate.

Conflict of Interest

Any board or executive member potentially involved in the decision of a grant who has a conflict of interest must declare the conflict and withdraw from the decision-making process.

Record keeping

All applicants will receive a written response from the EO after the board's final decision to whether their application was successful or not.

The written advice of a successful application will also include the details of the amount granted and any conditions and accountability set by the board.

The applicant is to be advised that written acceptance of these terms is required before any payments are made to the applicant.

Decisions

All decisions by the board and executive where applicable are final.

All decisions made by the executive will be reported to the board.

No correspondence regarding the decision will be entered into, although appropriate feedback may be given to assist future applications.

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed by the TGA Board on an annual basis.