

# Golf Tournament Policy

## 1. Purpose

To ensure golf tournaments are conducted fairly, safely, and consistently, in accordance with:

- The **Rules of Golf (R&A/USGA)**
- The **Golf NZ Handicap System**
- **Golf New Zealand and District regulations**
- Any published **Conditions of Play** for the event

---

## 2. Governance & Authority

- The tournament will be administered by a **Tournament Committee** appointed by the organising body.
- The Committee has final authority on:
  - Rules interpretations
  - Conditions of play
  - Penalties and disqualifications
  - Event suspension, cancellation, or abandonment

All decisions of the Tournament Committee are final.

---

## 3. Eligibility

Players must:

- Be a current member of a **Golf NZ-affiliated club**, or meet the event's stated entry criteria
- Hold a **current Golf NZ Handicap Index**, where required
- Meet any age, gender, or residency criteria outlined in the event conditions

---

## 4. Format & Conditions of Play

The event conditions will specify:

- Competition format (Stroke Play, Match Play, Stableford, Par, Teams)
- Number of rounds and holes
- Tee allocations
- Handicap allowances (as per Golf NZ tables)
- Tie-breaking procedures (countback, playoff, etc.)

Conditions of Play will be published prior to the commencement of play.

---

## 5. Rules of Golf

- The **Rules of Golf**, as approved by the R&A, apply at all times.
- Local Rules will be displayed or communicated before play.
- Breaches of the Rules may result in penalty, disqualification, or further action.

---

## 6. Pace of Play

- Players are required to keep pace with the groups in front.
- The Tournament Committee may:
  - Monitor groups
  - Issue warnings



- Apply penalties in accordance with any published Pace of Play policy

---

## 7. Handicapping

- Handicaps will be calculated under the **Golf NZ Handicap System**.
- The Committee reserves the right to:
  - Verify Handicap Indexes
  - Adjust Playing Handicaps
  - Investigate exceptional scores or discrepancies

---

## 8. Player Conduct

Players must:

- Act in a sporting manner at all times
- Comply with the **Taranaki Golf Code of Conduct**
- Observe club standards relating to dress, behaviour, and safety

Unacceptable behaviour (including abuse, cheating, intoxication, or equipment abuse) may result in:

- Warning
- Disqualification
- Referral to the District or Golf New Zealand

---

## 9. Safety & Weather

- Play may be suspended or abandoned due to:
  - Lightning
  - Extreme weather
  - Unsafe course conditions
- Suspension signals will follow recognised Taranaki Golf procedures.
- Player safety takes precedence over completion of the competition.

---

## 10. Entry Fees & Refunds (DotGolf or Taranaki Golf Payments)

- All entry fees must be paid via **Taranaki Golf** account or **DotGolf** at the time of entry unless otherwise stated.
- **Once an entry fee has been paid via Taranaki Golf or DotGolf, no refunds will be issued.**
- This includes, but is not limited to:
  - Withdrawal after entry
  - Illness or injury
  - Travel or accommodation issues
  - Weather conditions, unless the event is abandoned and the Committee determines otherwise
- Refunds will only be considered if:
  - The event is cancelled by the organising body, or
  - Exceptional circumstances apply, at the sole discretion of the Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee's decision regarding refunds is final.

---

## 11. Protests & Disputes



- Any protest must be lodged with the Tournament Committee **before the close of the competition.**
- The Committee will consider all relevant information and issue a ruling.
- Appeals beyond the event may be referred to the District or Golf New Zealand.

---

## **12. Prizes & Amateur Status**

- All prizes must comply with **R&A Rules of Amateur Status.**
- Prize limits will be set in accordance with Golf NZ regulations.
- Players may forfeit prizes if found in breach of event conditions or eligibility requirements.

---

## **13. Privacy & Photography**

- Player information will be used solely for tournament administration.
- Photography and video may be used for promotional purposes unless a player has formally opted out.

