

Visitor Competition Eligibility Policy

Paterson Golf Club

Effective From: 1st January 2025

Approved By: Paterson Golf Club Committee

Purpose

This policy outlines the eligibility of visiting players—particularly those holding online-only golf memberships—for participation in Paterson Golf Club competitions. It aims to maintain fairness, reward club members, and protect the long-term sustainability of traditional golf clubs.

Scope

This policy applies to **all non-members** of Paterson Golf Club who enter any club-run competitions, including weekly events, Open Days, and special tournaments.

Policy Details

Visitors who hold an official Golf Australia handicap through **online-only membership providers**—such as *Social Golf Australia*, *Future Golf*, or similar organisations—are welcome to play in Paterson Golf Club competitions **for the purposes of submitting a handicapped score**.

However, these players will **not be eligible to receive**:

- Major event trophies or titles
- Overall gross or nett prizes
- Nearest-the-pin or novelty prizes
- Qualification for regional/state finals or representative opportunities

This ensures that prizes and recognition are reserved for financial members who support the club's operations and facilities.

Rationale

- Traditional golf clubs rely on member subscriptions to maintain courses, facilities, and programs.
 - Online-only memberships offer handicaps without contributing to club infrastructure or community.
 - This policy protects the integrity of our events and encourages ongoing support for local golf clubs.
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Exceptions

- Players from recognised physical golf clubs (including reciprocal clubs) remain eligible for prizes.
 - Charity, sponsor, and select special events may include relaxed eligibility at the discretion of the Committee.
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Enforcement

- The Committee reserves the right to verify eligibility before prize distribution.
 - Misrepresentation of membership status may result in disqualification.
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Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Club Committee or as deemed necessary.