

# Australian Indoor Golf Team Championships

## RULES and NOTES

- 1. Surfaces to be used/Grounding clubs:** The main hitting mat should be used for all shots except when on screen caddie indicates ball is: in the rough, heavy rough, wild grass, pine needles, leaves, sod, dirt, desert, earth or sand (use long green brush mat). Note that clubs may be grounded when in bunkers. Other surfaces such as concrete, fringe, green, fairway, asphalt or dormant grass use main hitting mat or utility fringe mat. Ask for a ruling if in doubt. Using an incorrect mat maybe penalised with loss of hole or 2 stroke penalty (refer rulings #12). Use of rough mat to tee off is permitted but not when ball is on the fairway or other tight lie surfaces for subsequent shots as this can be an advantage for some shots.
- 2. Shots not registering or phantom shots:** If a shot does not register there is no penalty, this includes where a shot is too soft to register or the system does not detect the shot taken. If a short putt is played and is repeatedly not registered during regular season rounds contact a staff member to reset the simulator. In all cases the shot will have to be continually attempted until the shot is registered. If during a practice swing contact is accidentally made with the ball and the shot is 'registered' the ball is considered to be in play. Should a phantom shot be registered, a mulligan may be taken (in the presence of a TCB staff member). The opposing team (if available) and TCB staff should be consulted to determine the circumstances of the phantom shot. In all circumstances ask for a ruling.
- 3. Lining up shots/Mulligans:** Markers may assist the player in lining up shots and club selection. There is no requirement to move away from behind the player as the shot is played. Mulligans on scorecards may be penalised with a 2 stroke penalty or loss of hole in match play (1 per mulligan) unless authorised by a TCB staff member.
- 4. Playing order and Shot selection:** Players may alternate playing order at any time, except tee shots in the case of male/female/junior combination teams. There is no requirement to take a minimum number of tee shots from either player. Absolute care should be taken when selecting the best shot, as it is not possible to reverse the selection except when phantom shots are involved.
- 5. Substitute players/Playing for more than one team/Three person Teams:** Players are permitted to compete in up to 2 different teams (with a different partner) in any one competition. Arranging a substitute player during the regular rounds in the event of injury or unavailability will be considered on a case-by-case basis with potential handicap adjustments. All players of a team must play at least 40% of regular rounds to qualify for finals. Specific pairs within a three person team must have played at least 3 of the 12 regular season rounds to play in finals and have a unique pair handicap. Unqualified players/pairs will not be permitted to play in finals. Should one member of the team be unable to compete due to absence or injury the other team member is not permitted to play more than the one shot but can compete as a single player if desired. Should notification of injury or unavailability occur prior to the finals draw being promulgated and teams have to withdraw from the finals, the next highest ranked team would qualify for finals, otherwise a walkover is scored or that team will register zero points for the final. Should the three different pairs within a three person team have different handicaps and these handicaps place them in each of the handicap divisions, all the pairs, regardless of their handicap will be deemed to be in the higher handicapped division (Palmer Division) during the regular season and for finals. Teams may elect to compete in the lower handicap division (Nicklaus) but this would mean that the higher handicap pair(s) would be ineligible to compete. Teams in this situation may choose to compete in the Palmer Division using a Nicklaus handicap but not vice versa assuming points qualify them for finals.
- 6. Handicaps:** New teams are required to submit at least 3 handicap rounds (9 holes) to determine a starting handicap. All team's handicaps can be manually reviewed/adjusted during rounds 1 through 6 of any championship. Existing team's handicaps are determined at the beginning of each new competition by collecting the last 10 rounds of competition play, including finals. Maximum handicap is 27 except in exceptional circumstances. Juniors under 14 will play from the Ladies Tee. The last round of the regular season will not be used to increase or decrease handicaps. Three player teams will have individual handicaps for each pair.
- 7. Finals:** The majority of teams will qualify for semi final positions in either the Nicklaus or Palmer Divisions. Teams will be divided into divisions based on final handicap (after 12 rounds) and final points score. Although a floating figure the handicap used to divide the divisions will be approximately 3 strokes. Additionally the top scoring scratch teams, (providing they play off the Men's (Open) Tees during the regular season, will compete in Scratch finals. The top three ranked teams, plus any team within 12 strokes of third place will be eligible to compete. When determining ranking of finalists, should multiple teams finish on equal points or the same score (scratch) their ranking will be determined by a count-back (initially 6 rounds and then round by round through to round 1). Handicap semi final structure is in accordance with separately issued Finals Structure and will depend on numbers of teams competing, however the Nicklaus Handicap division will normally comprise of six teams and ties, whilst the Palmer division will be made up of the majority of the remaining teams. Some teams will miss out on Semi positions. Teams competing for the Scratch Title are also eligible for Nicklaus Division handicap honours. Handicap Finals are decided by the best accumulated scores over two 9-hole games and the best of three 9-hole games in Grand Finals. In semi finals the two 9-hole games are decided by the best accumulated stableford points with the lowest ranked teams eliminated. In week 1 of finals the No1 ranked team will be granted lucky loser status and will advance to week 2 even if they finish week 1 in an elimination position. In Grand Finals each of the three 9-hole games are individual matches. Teams that win two of the three matches will be the overall champions.

## 8. Ties in Finals:

- a. In the event of a tie in a Scratch Match Play game a 3-hole play-off, with sudden death after hole 3, will be used using **selected holes** of the course just played. Should teams not be available to compete in a play-off on the day/night a count-back system (initially the last 6 holes and then hole by hole from the 7<sup>th</sup> and then 8<sup>th</sup> last hole etc) will be used to determine the winners. A 3-hole play-off will always be used to decide all Grand Finals.
- b. In Handicap Semi Finals ties between the lowest ranked teams to be eliminated will be decided by determining the team that had the fewest wiper or 1 point holes (stableford scoring) for the two games. If there is still a tie, a 6-hole count-back will be applied (the last three holes from each 9-hole game (first 9 hole game first).
- c. In Handicap Grand Finals, ties in the first two matches of a handicap Grand Final are allowed. If one team wins one game and ties the other then they will be the winners. A tie after the first two games of the Grand Final will require a third game played. If the third game is tied on points then a fourth game will be played using a match play style involving a three hole play-off (initially) with sudden death after three holes. The alternate 9 holes of the third game will be used as a play off course with the starting hole determined by factoring in a handicap advantage (index) for the highest handicapped team within the first three holes. Note, although the Handicap Finals series is NOT match play a play-off using match play will be used in the deciding fourth game as required.

**9. Playing on Time:** All finals matches are to be played by the promulgated date where possible. Refer to the season draw for maximum possible extensions in extreme situations. Note that any extension will be granted by the match committee (TCB staff) without consultation with other competing teams.

**10. Selection of courses:** The selection of courses is in accordance with Finals Format guidelines and Finals Draw issued separately. All teams will select a course (9 holes) at approximately round 10 for potential use as a Grand Final course. Courses for the non Grand Final weeks of the Semis will be determined by the match committee at about round 10 of the season. The following courses may not be used in Finals: Devils Island, Par 3 Ocean, Three Canyons and others at the discretion of the match committee (to be advised). Depending upon course selected male players will be required to tee off from pre determined tee blocks. Additionally the following courses are not to be used when competing against teams with female players: Torrey Pines, Banff Springs, The Belfry, Pinehurst No2, St Andrews Jubilee, St Andrews New, Skeleton Coast and Pacific Rim plus some other courses to be advised by match committee. Some courses when selected by teams with female members may require male players to play from a different tee block to that used during the regular season or using composite layouts as deemed appropriate by match committee. Teams ranked 1 and 2 will have course selection privileges in week 1 of handicap finals.

**11. Finals Format:** Scratch Finals will be played over 18 holes in Ambrose Match Play format. Handicap Finals will be determined by either 2 or 3 nine-hole games using team's handicap and course index and then applying stableford point scoring. Handicap semi finals will be decided by highest point scores with the lowest scoring teams eliminated until only two teams remain. Handicap finals are not match play. Teams' handicaps will be adjusted during finals games in accordance with normal point scoring system. All play-offs and count-backs are played and conducted using the same format as used in the finals match. Grand Finals in the Handicap series are played over three 9-hole games. One match will be played at a course chosen by the participating teams and at one neutral course. A coin toss will decide which 9 holes will be used first should teams play head to head. The third game will be at the 9 holes chosen by the match committee.

### The following supplementary rules also apply:

12. In the event that a player takes a shot from an incorrect mat that shot is deemed to be not in play and may not be chosen by the competing team. Should both players play from an incorrect mat, or the ball deemed to be not in play is chosen the team will automatically be penalised by loss of hole in Match Play or a 2 shot penalty in stroke play.
13. Either player from the competing team may place the ball into the rough mat.
14. Mobile phones are to be switched off during Finals. Please observe all other golf play etiquette where appropriate such as:
  - a. Do not move, talk or stand close to or directly behind an opposing player making a stroke.
  - b. Always play without delay.
15. Golf club may be grounded in the rough mat.
16. In the event that an incorrect choice of ball is made the team will be required to continue play. There is no possibility to change the choice. Please take care when selecting preferred ball.
17. Unless otherwise specified in the season draw Men players play from the Pro tees, Ladies play from the Ladies tees, Juniors under 14 play from the Lady or Junior tees and Juniors under 17 play from Amateur tees. On courses where men play from Amateur tees Juniors under 17 may be permitted to play from either Lady or Junior tees. Lady teams or teams with a lady player may choose to play of the same tee block as the men if they wish to attempt to qualify for Scratch Finals.