



Golf WA Recommended Guidelines for Junior Opens

Introduction

Junior golf in Western Australia has enjoyed strong club support with Junior Opens for many years and it is a testimony to the success of Junior Golf in WA that these events are growing in size. Golf WA is committed to introducing golf in primary and secondary schools across the State. With the introduction of the MyGolf Centre's over the past twelve months and the initiative of the MyGolf Tour it is expected that participation rates at the lowest grassroots level, 6-12 year olds will increase significantly over the next 2 to 5 years. We also expect to see numbers increasing in Junior Opens in the metropolitan and regional areas as the MyGolf Schools program and MyGolf Tour participants graduate to the Junior Opens.

Golf WA is committed to best practice as a way of helping clubs, parents and children see golf as a broad, consistent and well coordinated/administered sport. Committing to standard formats for Junior Opens will help WA clubs implement best practice as identified by Junior Coordinators in association with Golf WA. Consistent and well run Junior Opens will help to improve the confidence level of children, parents and sponsors in our sport.

Golf WA will assist clubs to help ensure a consistent approach, however continuous improvement of these guidelines is vital to the continuous improvement of junior golf in Western Australia and a consultative approach will always be part of any change. The following recommendations are based upon the experience of several junior coordinators within WA clubs.

Entry

- Entry to Junior Opens to be under 18 years of age as at the date on the first round of the event.
- Entrants must have a Golflink handicap.
- Entry form to be emailed to Golf WA for website publishing, a month prior to the event.
- Entry form should have a closing date for entries 4 days prior to the event.
- Draw for the event to be emailed to Golf WA for website publishing at least 2 days prior to the event. The email address to be sent to is events@golfwa.org.au
- The entry fee should be set at between \$15-\$30 depending upon the prize pool (see later), food catering and levels of sponsorship.
- With the number of primary school aged juniors increasing it is advisable to allow players under the age of 12 to enter the event if they have an Australian Handicap of 30 or better (boys) and handicap of 40 or better (girls).
- For the event to have Junior Stroke Average/Ranking Status it must be played over a minimum of 18 holes of stroke play. A Stableford section for higher handicap or younger players can be included in the event.



Divisions and Prizes

The prize recommendations below should be adjusted according to their own budgets/capacity, whilst still recommending a standard breakdown on the relative/proportional value of the individual prizes. Clubs are welcome to be creative with their novelties or division "places" to further tailor the event.

General:

- A junior should only be able to win one Open/Division prize (not including novelties).
- Gross should take priority at the Open level with Nett taking priority in all Age/Gender Divisions.

Divisions:

- Girls and Boys should be in separate divisions.
- 15 – 17 years
- 13 - 14 years
- 12 and under (handicap limit of 30 for boys and 40 for girls)

Prizes:

- Open Gross and Nett Winners (4 players) – Appox \$80-\$100 in value each.
- Gross and Nett Division Winners (12 players) – Approx 50% of Open prize value.

Where numbers are larger in an age or gender division then runner-up prizes may be considered as well, e.g. if there's 20 Boys versus 5 girls in the same age division, then award a boys runner-up at 30-40% of the Division Prize Value.

Skill based novelties are encouraged though still optional and at the discretion of the club, examples are Nearest the Pin or Longest Drive. Ideally one novelty within the age divisions and gender, staged to reflect an appropriate "challenge" for that division and recommended at 10% of the Open Prize Value, e.g. a sleeve of golf balls should be sufficient.

As an example:

Open Gross and Nett	$\$100 + \$100 \times \text{Girls \& Boys} = \400
Gross and Nett 15 – 17 years, Girls & Boys	$\$50 + \$50 \times \text{Girls \& Boys} = \200
Gross and Nett 13 - 14 years, Girls & Boys	$\$50 + \$50 \times \text{Girls \& Boys} = \200
Gross and Nett 12 and under, Girls & Boys	$\$50 + \$50 \times \text{Girls \& Boys} = \200



A total of \$1000 without runners-up or novelties represents a serious commitment for any club event, especially if it is not being covered by competition fees or outside sponsorship.

There can be a number of ways to reduce the prize pool whilst maintaining a fair and competitive Junior Open. Alternatively the competition could be "nett" biased, a not uncommon approach to senior events, whereby the Gross prizes are 50-75% of the Nett prize value, or perhaps even eliminated from the age divisions and only retained at the Open level.

Emergency Contact Person

It is recommended that clubs provide the details of a contact person for any withdrawals or emergencies for the event on the entry form.

Event

It is recommended to provide lunch or snacks for all participants at the completion of the event. This will also encourage the players to stay back for presentations.

Results

At the completion of the event, the list of winners from each division and the overall list of participants with their gross scores **must** be emailed to Golf WA.