



## Western Province Golf

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NPO Registration Number 296-572

# 2026 JUNIOR INVITATIONAL POLICY

## SCOPE

This policy applies to the invitational inclusion to Western Province Golf (WP Golf) Junior teams and training squads (when applicable).

## AIM

To formalise the process of invitation to play in WP Golf Junior teams or tournaments that is understood by players, parents, coaches, the wider golfing membership, media and other interested parties as well as to encourage player participation.

## PURPOSE

To establish a clear, transparent and accountable system for the invitation of players to participate in WP Junior Golf Teams / Squads and to:

- † Identify the player eligibility and general criteria to represent WP Golf Junior Teams.
- † Publish the criteria and factors for consideration for the invitation of players to be included in WP Golf Junior Golf Teams.
- † Clarify the invitation process.

## WP GOLF INVITATION OBJECTIVES

The invitation objectives for WP Junior Golf are to:

- † Invite players for inclusion in Teams or individual players to participate in selected Tournaments as set out and published on the WPG website.
- † Ensure that future playing potential and current achievement remains a key factor in the selection of players.
- † Recognise the importance of players education, and not to penalise such players unwittingly when educational/examination needs prevent them from playing in qualifying events.
- † Obtain as much available information as possible about players to ensure objective, impartial selection/inclusion invitation.

## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

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## **Essential Eligibility Criteria:**

All Junior players invited by WP Golf for to be included in teams and /or training squads shall:

- ⌚ Be a member of and handicapped at a club affiliated to WP Golf;
- ⌚ Comply with the Rules of Amateur Status as laid down by R&A Rules Ltd.;
- ⌚ Sign and abide by the Parent and Player WP Golf Code of Conduct;
- ⌚ Comply with WP Golf regulations, policies and rules in force at any time;
- ⌚ Comply with accepted standards of behaviour at all times; and
- ⌚ Not be the subject of any welfare, criminal or legal investigation/concern from which invitation would present a risk of harm to the reputation of WP Golf.

Those players who are affiliated to WP Golf and who have not been in South Africa for the last 6 months or part thereof prior to selection, are required to submit their scores on the HNA as a "foreign round" and a verification of the foreign rounds, unless sufficient current rounds have been played in South Africa to validate their South African handicap.

## **Supplementary Criteria:**

All persons invited by WP Golf must, to the satisfaction of the WP Junior Golf Portfolio committee:

- ⌚ Follow and have followed the WP Parent and Player Golf Code of Conduct.
- ⌚ Comply and have complied with the generally accepted etiquette of golf.
- ⌚ Follow and have followed guidelines relating to anti-doping regulations (listed below).
- ⌚ Not be under any review for code of conduct or disciplinary issues either from their Club, WP Golf or GolfRSA.

## **TEAM INVITATIONS**

The principle of inviting players to be included in WP Golf Junior Teams will be based on inviting players that will most likely deliver the best individual and team performance at the Tournament for which they are being selected. The player invitation process shall not be subject to an appeals process.

### **Primary Invitation Factors:**

- ⌚ Junior Invitation Criteria published by WPG.
- ⌚ The applicable WPG Junior Ranking / Order of Merit.
- ⌚ Overall level and consistency of performance.
- ⌚ Performance in key WP Golf and National Tournaments.
- ⌚ Historical performance record at previous Tournaments.

### **Secondary Invitation Factors:**

- ⌚ Willingness of player to represent WP Golf.
- ⌚ Player injury or unavailability but whose experience, form or performance is considered invaluable.
- ⌚ Performance in WP Golf School Leagues (if applicable).
- ⌚ Handicap Records – stroke averages.

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- ⌘ Golf based statistics.
- ⌘ Individual strengths that may contribute to the performance of the team as a whole.
- ⌘ Players not fulfilling the minimum number of qualifying rounds on the order of merit e.g. players moving to WP Golf from another union.
- ⌘ Players past general conduct and behaviour, both on-course and off-course and at events in which the player has participated.

### **Additional Invitation Factors:**

The features, conditions and design of the course on which a Tournament is to be played may be taken into account when inviting players, along with the assessment of players overall ability to cope with a range of factors such as:

- ⌘ Competition format: team and/or individual.
- ⌘ Type of course with the assessed difficulty of the course.
- ⌘ Player performances, including foursomes / match play records when appropriate.
- ⌘ Climatic conditions.
- ⌘ General fitness level – determined by reference to appropriate objective reports or tests.
- ⌘ Medical considerations.

### **INVITATION PROCESS**

The following invitation process shall be followed:

- i. When deemed necessary by WP Golf, a Team invitation strategy/approach meeting will be called at least one month prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> invitation meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to identify the pool of players according to the invitation criteria and factors to be considered for invitation.
- ii. General Manager of WP Golf to check that all players identified in the strategy meeting are available for the tournament.
- iii. General Manager of WP Golf / Chair of the WP Golf Junior Portfolio Committee to compile and issue all relevant invitation information e.g. applicable Order of Merit standings, etc. to the WP Golf Junior Portfolio Committee at least one week prior to invitation meeting.
- iv. Convene meeting to finalise player invitations. Non-travelling reserve(s) player invitations shall be extended, only when required.
- v. Chair of the WP Golf Junior Portfolio Committee to send invited players to the President and the Vice Presidents (Men & Women) as applicable for ratification. vi. General Manager of WP Golf to promptly send ratified teams via letter to the invited players and all affiliated clubs as well as post on WP Golf's media platforms.

The final invitation to WP Golf Junior Teams and/or Squads rests with the WP Golf Junior Portfolio Committee and their invitations are final unless questioned at ratification by the President and Vice-Presidents.

All WP Golf Junior Portfolio Committee members receive one vote. In the event of the invitation of a player being split, the Chair shall have the deciding vote.

All invitation meetings are to be recorded (meeting minutes / notes) and any order of merit used for the selection process shall form part of the invitation meeting minutes / notes

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## **CONDITIONS & PROCESS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF A PLAYER'S INVITATION**

A player's invitation may be withdrawn, at the sole discretion of the WP Golf Junior Portfolio Committee, from a Team for which they were invited to play in if:

- a) Following receiving their invitation, a player fails to:
  - (i) Sign and comply with the WP Parents and Players Golf Code of Conduct;
  - (ii) Immediately inform WP Golf of any illness or injury that could reasonably impact on their ability to perform at the level expected of them; and
  - (iii) If required, submit to a medical examination not less than 2 weeks before the Tournament;
- b) If at any time after invitation and before departure to an event, a golfer is assessed as injured, ill or unfit, that player may be withdrawn from the team at the discretion of WP Golf;
- c) Players must attend all pre-tournament training and other activities, if so required and directed by WP Golf;
- d) During the period between the announcement of a team and the date of departure, a player fails to demonstrate they are physically fit, performing well and likely to compete at an appropriate level for which they have been selected, and in this regard:
  - (i) WP Golf may make periodic assessment of the selected players level of fitness, progress in training and preparedness for the tournament for which they have been invited; and
  - (ii) If, as a result of such assessment, it appears that by reason of ill health, injury or some other matter, that the selected player has not maintained their fitness or standard of performance so as to be able to perform to a standard comparable to that exhibited to gain selection, WP Golf will have the power to withdraw that player from the team and select a replacement.

## **ANTI-DOPING POLICY (Drug Free Sport)**

All invited players are subject to the provisions of the International Golf Federation's Anti-Doping Policy. Details of the Policy, and the current Prohibited Substances and Methods, are available from the International Golf Federation's website.

<https://www.igfgolf.org/integrity/anti-doping/documentation-regulations>

## **POLICY ENFORCEMENT**

This policy will be enforced by the President & Vice-Presidents (Men & Women) of WP Golf.

## **REVIEW**

This policy will be subject to regular review and amendment.

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