

FAQ

How many girls can we offer scholarships to?

Each club/facility is expected to offer scholarships for a minimum of five and a maximum of eight girls.

Who is the target market for this program?

Many girls tend to drop out of golf at two critical stages:

1. Transitioning from clinics into playing/membership/competition
2. As teenagers.

The scholarship program therefore focuses on assisting girls to integrate into club membership. They are supported to progress into on-course play, obtaining a handicap and playing competition. It is vital that girls enjoy this experience together to keep them engaged and supported.

Can we have girls aged under 10?

The target market should be girls aged 10-16 as a guide. However, if there is a younger girl who displays outstanding talent and/or desire to be involved, she can be invited to take part.

Can we accept total beginners to the Scholarship Program?

We encourage you do not accept raw beginners. The program works best when the girls have had some exposure to how to swing a club.

Can girls already with a handicap be accepted?

As per above, your target market should be girls who are ready to take the next step on their golfing journey or are recent handicap recipients. If, however, there is a girl/s who is not in that category, or it is perceived she could benefit from a scholarship, she can be invited to take part.

Girls *with* handicaps can be excellent role models for aspiring players. If not officially a scholarship-holder, it is recommended you still connect these girls by inviting girls with handicaps to join clinics at times and/or connect these girls up to play together.

Can girls who held a scholarship through this program in 2021 or 2022 be granted another scholarship in 2023?

The intent of the program is to introduce new girls into your club each year. We understand that due to exceptional circumstances – such as flooding, the pandemic etc. – that this may require decisions to be made on a case-by-case basis. If you would like to discuss this, please contact us at Golf Australia to talk through your specific circumstances.

What are the selection criteria?

The AGF Scholarship Steering Committee is seeking an equitable representation of clubs from all states and territories and regional/metropolitan areas. Selection will also be based on a club's capacity to recruit at least five girls and deliver a successful program.

Our club received funding in 2021 and/or 2022, can we receive funding for 2023?

Yes, all clubs are invited to apply for funding in 2023 regardless of whether you have received funding previously or not.

Can driving ranges apply for funding?

Funding is offered to those facilities that demonstrate an ability to connect girls and offer membership. Driving Ranges may obtain funding to run coaching sessions but on the proviso they are working in partnership with a local club to transition girls into on-course play, competition, obtaining memberships etc.

Can we combine our application with a neighbouring club/facility?

Two clubs can collaborate if both clubs cannot attract five girls each. The following terms and conditions apply:

- Only one club to take full responsibility for the application
- Sessions can be delivered between the two clubs if the group of scholarship holders remains together for those sessions.
- Each scholarship holder needs to participate in the full program (24 sessions), not 12 sessions.
- All correspondence must be with the one nominated club.
- Only one club will be listed on the representative list for 2023.

Can girls hold a scholarship but remain in their pre-existing programs mixed with non-scholarship holders?

No. Scholarship holders must have a stand-alone program. This is a vital component of the program.

Does a PGA professional have to deliver coaching?

It is preferred that PGA professionals deliver coaching for the scholarship program. If your club/facility does not have a resident PGA professional, you can engage an external PGA member to deliver and/or appoint a Community Instructor. For rural-based clubs where a PGA professional is not readily available, you may like to consider engaging a Community Instructor to run three weeks of tuition and ask a PGA Professional to visit once per month, as an example. Please contact Golf Australia if you wish to discuss your individual situation further.

Will our club/facility be out of pocket for this program?

Successful clubs/facilities will receive \$2000 (plus GST) in funding. Coaching requirements are 24 x one-hour sessions (at an estimated \$100 per session). Clubs/facilities will need to cover the \$400 shortfall and one-year free membership for each of the participants. Shirts and caps will be provided at no cost.

Can we combine the hour coaching lessons into 2 hour lessons to shorten the length of the weeks to less than 24?

No. Each club must have 24 weeks of lessons.

What is the timing of an ideal professional teaching program?

Ideally, the program works very smoothly to have six weeks of training per school semester of 6 x 4 school semesters. But some clubs also suggest using the time in school holidays. However some of the girls may be away on vacation during school holiday. All clubs must avoid any drop-outs from the pro training sessions who do not have a valid reason for missing the lesson.

How does a club encourage the junior girl scholars to continue their club membership after the year is up?

We encourage each club's management, committee and members to offer to play golf with the girls and create a welcoming and encouraging environment for the girls to consider staying on as members. The more girls that stay on, they will have more of their mates to play with as well. Try to keep girls playing and training together beyond their scholarship year. Ask

girls if they would like to continue group coaching the following year (at a cost), encourage them to exchange phone numbers so they can organise to play together, (such as creating a group WhatsApp account), invite girls to attend some of your 2023 sessions so they can act as mentors for the next group of girls. Most importantly, it is vital to have a membership offer in place ready for each scholarship holder for the following year once they have completed their program.

Is it necessary to have an interview process before choosing the successful candidate?

Yes, this is an important process firstly to ask young girls to write a biography about themselves in which the feedback reflects a real “grown-up” project they do with their parents. It is important for the parents to bring the child to be interviewed. We encourage the women’s committee to have someone on the interview panel. You will get great feedback as to how keen the junior is, what their prior experience is with golf, and to meet potential new members of the club. We can provide a questions template if needed. It is also expected that funded centres carry out activities associated with the ethos of the program, that is to run an induction and graduation ceremony.

How does the induction and Graduation ceremony work?

It is very important that both an induction and graduation ceremony are run for your Scholarship holders. This should include leaders at your club (such as committee members) and your PGA Professional, and serve as recognition of the girls for the work they are about to do, or have completed.

For your induction, you should hand out the shirts, caps and membership cards to the girls, and outline the structure of the program at your club. If there is an additional present from our sponsors, we will have distributed this to you to hand out.

For your graduation ceremony, leaders from your club should attend, and you should look to host a small catered function for the Scholarship holders and their parents to recognise their achievement, while handing out graduation certificates.