

The Australian Golf Foundation, in association with Golf Australia is delighted to present the Australian Golf Foundation Junior Girls Scholarship program in 2024. Because of the foresight and generosity of Bonnie Boezeman AO, a director of The Australian Golf Foundation, the program, which has seen a forty-two percent increase in participation from 2022 to 2023, has provided girls aged 9 to 16 with the opportunity to fall in love with the game.

2024 will again see further growth for the program. We are thrilled to announce NEXTGEN Group as the principal partner of the AGF Scholarship Program once again for their third year in 2024. Important financial support also continues to be provided by a number of generous private benefactors, in addition to golfing bodies.

The Scholarship program has grown considerably over the past three years, from thirty-seven funded clubs and 226 girls in the inaugural pilot year (2021) to 142 clubs and 974 girls in 2023.

In 2024, we are aiming to have over 1,000 scholarship holders spread across the country.

#### **AIM OF THE PROGRAM**

Aligning to Golf Australia's strategic plan for women and girls through [our Women and Girls Engagement Strategy](#), this program is designed to foster a deep love of golf by creating a strong bond between girls (aged 9-16) and their golf club/facility. Encouraging and supporting junior program participants to continue their golfing journey beyond their initial introductory steps and to obtain a handicap, this program will in turn help to reduce drop-out rates of teenage girls in golf.

While the program's primary aim is to retain girls, those new to golf may also be engaged in this program, should they demonstrate a commitment to learning the sport. However, it is a strong preference and based on our prior learning, that girls have some previous experience within the sport.

Under the tutelage of a club PGA professional and/or community instructor, along with the support of your club membership, scholarship holders will have the opportunity to:

- Advance their skills through ongoing coaching.
- Obtain a handicap.
- Play in club competitions.
- Form lifelong golfing friendships with other girls and members.

#### **PROGRAM OUTLINE**

The Australian Golf Foundation will provide each of the participating clubs/facilities funding (\$2,100 + GST) for a minimum of five and maximum of ten (if more than 10 girls in the program, the club will receive double funding) girls to cover the cost of:

- Twenty-four sessions with a club professional and/or community instructor
- A shirt and cap with AGF Scholarship identification. Clubs/facilities are encouraged to add their logo and program year to these items at their own cost. A suggestion is that it looks great on one sleeve in white or on the front of the shirt in your club colour. By including the club identity, it makes the girls feel extra proud to be loyal to their own club.

Funding requires that each centre provides a one-year junior club membership that carries playing rights, to ensure girls can participate in club competitions and obtain a handicap.

Centres will also have the option of raising additional funds to increase the subsidisation of membership fees, amount of coaching and/or number of girls involved.

**TIMELINES**

The 2024 Australian Golf Foundation Junior Girls Scholarship program will start at the beginning of Term 1, 2024.

Item	Date
Application from centres open	18th August, 2023
Application from centres close	28th October, 2023
Successful centres notified	Early November, 2023
Participant interviews to take place (by the centre)	November, 2023
Participants informed of success	Late November, 2023
Participant details to be supplied to GA	Early December, 2023
Shirts/caps posted to centres	December 2023 – January, 2024
Induction ceremonies take place	Start of February, 2024
Program starts by	Mid-February, 2024

**CENTRE TERMS & CONDITIONS**

- The acceptance of \$2,100 from the Australian Golf Foundation can only be used for the payment of twenty-four sessions of group tuition (scholarship girls only) on a weekly or fortnightly basis with a registered PGA professional and/or qualified Community Instructor for a minimum of 1 hour per lesson.
- The scholarship funds must be used in the 2024 calendar year unless there is a clear acceptable reason to delay the program. This delay must be approved Golf Australia with reasonable notification.
- If the total cost of the program at a club/facility exceeds the contribution by the Australian Golf Foundation, then it is the sole responsibility of the club/facility to supplement the short fall.
- It is suggested that the centre will encourage scholarship holders to continue to stay on with their club/centre after the Scholarship year is completed.
- Scholarship centres must report to Golf Australia (format to be forwarded) at both the commencement and end of the funding period.
- The suggested skill level of girls is of progressing from clinics to on-course play and obtaining handicaps. 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.
- The suggested ages for the program are girls from 9 to 16 years old. There are exceptions allowed for girls from 7 to 9 if they have already displayed exceptional capabilities for their age.
- 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.

### HOW TO APPLY

Visit [www.australiangolffoundation.org.au/vision-2025](http://www.australiangolffoundation.org.au/vision-2025).

### SELECTION CRITERIA

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

### CASE STUDY

This program was born at Killara Golf Club and the case study provides a great overview of the successes that the program can bring to a club that implements and fully supports the program from the top down. You can find this on the Scholarship section of [www.australiangolffoundation.org.au/vision-2025](http://www.australiangolffoundation.org.au/vision-2025).

### ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN GOLF FOUNDATION (AGF)

Australian Golf Foundation is the national fundraising body for golf in Australia. The Foundation's purpose is to raise funds that support targeted initiatives that benefit the community and inspire and enable more Australians to play more golf.

Visit [www.australiangolffoundation.org.au](http://www.australiangolffoundation.org.au) for further information.