

## 2024 Program FAQ Guide

### How many girls can we offer scholarships to?

It is expected that each centre engages a minimum of five scholarship holders (girls aged 9 to 16 years). There are exceptions for clubs that are regional and rural based.

If your club has 11 or more participants, then you are eligible for additional funding, being \$4,200 excluding GST. Please indicate this on your survey response and we will advise whether your application has been successful.

### 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; and
2. Teenage years

The scholarship program focuses on assisting girls to integrate into club membership. They are supported to progress to on-course play, obtaining a handicap, and playing competition.

Additionally, another key to the success of the program is that the girls are experiencing the program with other girls, so there is a social connection to help keep them engaged and supported.

### Can we have girls aged under 9?

The target market is girls aged 9-16. However, if there is a younger girl/s aged seven, who displays outstanding talent, and/or desire to be involved, she can be invited to take part, but the expectation is that she has had experience playing golf.

### Can we accept total beginners?

We encourage the girls to have had at least a four-to-five-week introduction to golf, before being accepted. The program works best when the girls have had some exposure to how to swing a club, so there isn't a big gap between those learning how to hold a club and hit a golf ball, and those learning to perfect their swing.

### Can girls already with a handicap be accepted?

Yes. Your target market should be girls who, having tasted an introduction to golf, are ready to take the next step on their golfing journey, or are recent handicap recipients. If, however, there is a girl with more experience, but 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 to the program by inviting them to join clinics at certain times and/or connecting these girls with the scholarship holders through on-course play.

### Can girls who held a scholarship through this program in 2021, 2022 or 2023 be granted another scholarship in 2024?

The intent of the program is to *introduce* new girls into your club each year. We understand that due to exceptional circumstances 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 a minimum number of girls and deliver a successful program.

**Our club received funding in 2021, 2022 and/or 2023 can we receive funding for 2024?**

Yes. All clubs are invited to apply for funding in 2024, 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. The girls must receive a 1-year membership at a club as part of the application.

**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 2024.

**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.

**Do these sessions have to be delivered by a PGA Professional?**

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.

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

Successful clubs/facilities will receive \$2,100 (plus GST) in funding which is to cover coaching requirements that consist of 24 x one-hour sessions. Clubs/facilities will need to cover the 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. There are weather dependent exceptions.

**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 holidays. All clubs should seek to avoid any missed scholarship coaching sessions from girls 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 supportive environment for the girls to consider staying on as members. The more girls that stay on, the more friends they will have to play with. 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 2024 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. We find that receiving a girl's bio, with the application to your club, is a fun but learning experience for a young girl. The bio is extremely helpful with the selection process as well. You will get great feedback as to how keen the junior is, what their prior experience is with golf, and with their parents there you will also be able to meet potential new members of the club.

We can provide a question template if needed.

It is also expected that funded centres carry out activities associated with the ethos of the program, including an induction and graduation ceremony.

**How does the induction and graduation ceremony work?**

It is very important to run both an induction and graduation ceremony for your scholarship holders. This should include leaders at your club (such as committee members) and your PGA Professional or Community Instructor 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.