**New South Wales Veteran Golfers Association Inc.**

**Policy No.2**

**Requirements for the Conduct of NSWVGA Weeks of Golf and Responsibilities of**

**Tournament Directors**

**Purpose**

This policy has been developed to assist tournament directors to conduct a successful week of golf under the guidance of NSWVGA.

When tournament directors who oversee weeks of golf choose to conduct their event under the guidance of NSWVGA, then NSWVGA will support these Weeks of Golf by providing:

* Trophies and Gift cards
* A Representative
* Listing of their Week of Golf on the NSWVGA website annual program of events

Conversely when tournament directors choose not to follow NSWVGA Policy 2 then the above benefits will not be offered.

Tournament Directors still have a choice of

* Events to be played. i.e., Stableford, Ambrose, 4BBB etc. (Note for NSWVGA Championship Events competition formats will be determined and advised by NSWVGA)
* Number of days
* Handicap limits.
* Method of Trophy Presentation.

**Background**

The policy is aimed at achieving consistency in delivering a high standard “Week of Golf” that Veteran golfers will enjoy and continue to support.

The most successful weeks of golf engage travelling golfers as well as local members. This policy has been compiled from the results of many years’ experience involved in weeks of golf, post event discussions with individual tournament directors and the feedback from travelling veteran golfers.

Experience has shown that regular annual return of travelling golfers to Weeks of Golf is most prevalent at events where prizes and trophies are widely shared across participants. This has guided the development of NSWVGA expectations in respect of awarding prizes and trophies.

**Player Eligibility**

All participants at a tournament held under the guidance of NSWVGA must be 55 years of age or over at the commencement of the tournament and must be a financial member of NSWVGA.

**Nomination Form Requirements**

Each document (entry form, conditions, brochure etc.) to be posted to the Program page should be 1Mb or less – this is quite sufficient resolution for display on screens or for printing at A4 size. Any original documents that are larger than this should be reduced in resolution before sending.

The nomination pack will be placed on the website after being scrutinized by the Program Coordinator, or their nominee, to ensure all processes relevant to this policy are compliant. Should any shortcomings be identified then the Program Coordinator will contact the relevant tournament director to resolve prior to posting the nomination pack onto the website.

If an electronic booking system is being used, a link and a separate PDF should be provided for the NSWVGA website. This will allow all interested veteran golfers to view and enter if they so wish.

Minimum nomination form requirements are:

1. Event conducted “UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF NSWVGA” and display the NSWVGA Logo.
2. Daily programmed events and start times.
3. Nominate which programmed events will be used for the NSWVGA Shields.
4. A competitor must play a minimum of two days to be eligible to win the shield including the Shield Day.
5. Conditions of entry - NSWVGA member plus GA handicap
6. Handicap limits for both men and women for the event. (TD can decide the limits for their event.)
7. DAILY HANDICAPPING. All scores to be updated in Golf Australia system at the completion of each day.
8. “Wet Weather” and “Refund Policy of entry fees” to be outlined.
9. Cart hire process and costs. Private cart policy for the course.
10. General housekeeping such as starting, card returns, use of scoring app etc plus any other Club or course specific details should also be outlined.
11. A list of sponsors and accommodation options. The nomination payment details should be shown.
12. Host club bank details should be shown for funds transfer method for those who do not wish to disclose credit card details.

**Refunds**

Tournament Directors must have a policy on refunds clearly stated in the Conditions of Entry.

**Cancelled Days (bad weather)**

Tournament Directors are advised to declare their intentions in the event of day/days lost to bad weather. Best practice suggests that any form of compensatory refund will work in your favour for future tournaments.

**Tournament Director and NSWVGA Representative Responsibilities**

Once entries have closed, and prior to the commencement of the week, the Tournament Director is required to provide the NSWVGA Representative with an Excel Spreadsheet (containing Name, GolfID number and gender) of all nominee participants.

The Representative will complete a bulk query of the NSWVGA Membership database to confirm current NSWVGA membership. The resultant list of financial and non-financial members will then be shared with the Tournament Director.

The Tournament Director should then contact non-financial nominees, informing him/her that they are not currently recorded as financial members in the membership database and remind nominee of eligibility criteria.

Nominees are to be advised to join the Veterans group of their home club or Group.

If this is not possible, they can then join at Registration.

During Registration, the Tournament Director and the NSWVGA Representative should work together to complete membership for any remaining non-financial participants. The NSWVGA representative is responsible for collection of fees, payment into the account and advising NSWVGA Treasurer.

**Grades, Handicap Limits and Handicap Adjustments for Week of Golf**

Grades or divisions for an event must be advised before play commences, using players’ Daily Handicap that applies on the first day. The grades or divisions should be split into, as near as practical, equal numbers in each. The player then remains in that division for the remainder of the event no matter what handicap adjustments occur during the event.

Although the maximum handicap is now 54 for both men and ladies as directed by Golf Australia, Tournament Directors have the final say on Handicap limits for their week of golf.

A player is entitled to play off his/her correct, adjusted handicap each day of a daily event. All scores should be forwarded to Golf Australia Connect/Golf Id after each round for the necessary adjustment. All players play off their adjusted handicap each day for 36- or 54-hole events as well as daily events. **Note:** From 2024 the practice of freezing handicaps for 36/54-hole events is not a NSWVGA policy.

**NSWVGA Shield**

The NSWVGA Trophy is an individual Stableford event conducted at each “Week of Golf” in the NSWVGA tournament program.

All players must have played at least two days of the week to play for the NSWVGA Shield.

Tournament Directors stipulate the day/s to be programmed for the NSWVGA Shield.

The Trophy is a Perpetual Shield for both Men and Ladies which is retained by the Golf Club conducting the event. Winners are presented with a mini-Shield provided by NSWVGA.

The NSWVGA provides funds to purchase a gift card as prizes to be awarded to all winners of the above. **Vouchers to pro Shops are not to be provided in this instance.**

The values to be awarded for the NSWVGA event depend on the number of players and are reviewed annually and communicated to Tournament Directors. The NSWVGA Treasurer will contact the Tournament Director approximately two weeks prior to the event to discuss numbers and obtain bank details.

**Recommended Procedures for Awarding Trophies**

It is the aim of NSWVGA to have the widest spread of trophies possible.

NSWVGA strongly recommends that most valuable prizes are allocated first, down to least valuable last, and no-one should win 2 prizes. This provides an attractive spread of prize winners at each event.

The order which the Tournament Director chooses to present the trophies at their event will have a bearing on the future success of the event.

For simplicity, it is recommended that presentations are conducted at the conclusion of all of the major events for the week.

John Daley Aileen Williams

President NSWVGA Inc Secretary NSWVGA Inc