

# GolfWA Junior Events Caddie Policy

## Approval History

Version	Date	Approved By	Date Effective	Responsible
Final	01.12.2013	Chief Executive/Board	01.12.2013	Golf Management Committee
Updated	01.01.2018	Golf Management Committee	01.01.2018	Golf Management Committee
Updated	30.06.2021	Golf Operations Manager	30.06.2021	Golf Events Officer

## Distribution

Audience	Access
Public	GolfWA Intranet, GolfWA Policy & Procedures Manual, GolfWA Website Events Page.

## Required Reading

- GolfWA Chief Executive
- GolfWA Golf Operations Manager
- GolfWA Golf Events Officer

## Revision Schedule

Date of Next Review: 1/1/2023 or as required

Reviewer/s: Golf Operations Manager

## Document History

Version	Date	Author	Description of Changes
Final	December 2013	Russell O'Callaghan (P&AA)	Original
Draft 1	April 2017	Neil Goddard	Update
Updated	01.01.2018	Danielle Crane	Update
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# Introduction and Purpose

GolfWA is a major stakeholder in junior golf in Western Australia.

We aim to assist clubs in the development of young players through a variety of programs and events, ensuring that children can develop their golf in a safe and enjoyable environment, no matter their skill or competition level.

Research and observations around Australia and the world indicate that Junior Golfers need to be encouraged to develop independent thought processes and knowledge of the game. Competing without a caddie can be advantageous at certain stages of their golfing journey and assist with pace of play.

Keeping in alignment with Golf Australia and other State bodies, GolfWA has introduced a policy which does not permit a player in certain events to have a caddie. It's recommended that clubs consider adopting a similar position with their Junior Open events at a minimum.

## Scope

This policy applies to Junior events managed by Golf WA unless specified otherwise.

This policy should be read in conjunction with GolfWA's Junior and Parent Conduct Guide as per the below link:

<G:\GWA Policies\Policies Approved\GolfWA Junior and Parents Conduct Guide.docx>

## Responsibility

The GolfWA Golf Operations Manager is responsible for overseeing the application of this policy and due process.

The GolfWA Golf Events Officer is responsible for ensuring compliance with the policy.

## Definitions

### Caddie

A caddie is one who carries or handles a player's clubs and one who assists the player in shot and club selection.

*Note 1:* A person that carries or provides food and refreshment for a player, or assists in the search for golf balls, is not considered a caddie.

*Note 2:* Parents, guardians and interested persons are requested to stay at a discreet distance from the playing group unless absolutely required.

Listed below are tasks/cues **CADDIES MAY NOT** assist with:

- i) Teeing the ball on the teeing ground
- ii) Verbal cues while player is taking their shot
- iii) Technique coaching on course

## Policy

GolfWA acknowledges that at different stages of a Junior Golfers development, caddies can be of comfort and value, however as juniors progress towards competitive play we believe independent decision-making is an important part of their development. The decision to not permit the use of caddies in the following categories of events reflects this belief and will be in force from 1 January 2018.

### GolfWA Junior Open Events - Caddies Not Permitted

Caddies will not be permitted in the following junior open events conducted by GolfWA with the exception for juniors under the age of 12 at the date of the first day of the event;

- Secondary School Teams Championship
- Primary School Teams Championship
- Cobra-Puma Junior Championships
- Drummond Golf 54 Hole Junior Championships
- Junior Presentation Day

It is a condition of entry in the above events that players are not permitted to use a caddie during a stipulated round.

### GolfWA Junior Open Events - Caddies Permitted

- Boys and Girls Pennant Competitions
- Junior Amateur Championships

Caddies are permitted for Boys and Girls Pennants and the Junior Amateur Championships, however the role of the caddie is restricted to:

- Transporting the players bag, and
- Assisting in caring for the course (e.g. raking bunkers, filling divots)

Caddies are not permitted on the green, and may not assist the player with shot alignment in these events. Golf WA endeavours to encourage players to become independent in their golf game and will allow caddies in these instances for the purpose of increasing speed of play and caring for the course.

### Crunch & Sip GolfWA Junior Tour Events

As these events feed into the 18 hole events held by GolfWA it was felt that players should slowly be introduced to playing without a caddie.

### **i. Stableford – Caddies Not Permitted**

It is a condition of entry in these events that players are not permitted to use a caddie during a stipulated round.

### **ii. Modified Stroke – Caddies Permitted**

### **iii. Tiger Tees – Caddies Permitted**

After considering the age, skill, and physical and emotional development of participants in these categories it was decided to continue to allow players in these divisions to have a caddie. It was felt that one on one interaction between player and caddie (most often a parent) was going to be more beneficial in the long-term development of the player both as a golfer and as a person at this stage in their golfing development.

## **Disclaimer**

It is a condition of this policy that in unforeseen circumstances a committee in charge of a competition can alter this policy to allow a player to have a caddie in any of the above events.