



**BLACKWOOD**  
GOLF CLUB

# **Women's Induction Handbook**

Version 3.2

Issue Date: 19/08/20

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Club facilities .....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Practice facilities.....	3
2.2	Bag and buggy storage .....	3
2.3	Locker room .....	3
2.4	Refreshments .....	4
2.5	Pro Shop .....	4
<b>3</b>	<b>Other membership information .....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1	The Members’ Handbook .....	4
3.2	Membership disc.....	4
3.3	Club Advantage Card .....	4
3.4	Name badges .....	4
<b>4</b>	<b>Playing a round of golf at Blackwood.....</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1	When can I play?.....	5
4.2	Sunday Women .....	5
4.3	How do I book a game of golf?.....	5
4.4	What do I do on the day I play?.....	5
4.5	How do I enter competitions? .....	6
4.6	Why is there an issue about slow play?.....	6
<b>5</b>	<b>Golf handicaps.....</b>	<b>6</b>
5.1	What is a golf handicap?.....	6
5.2	Do I need a golf handicap? .....	7
5.3	How do I get a golf handicap? .....	7
5.4	Further information on handicaps .....	7
<b>6</b>	<b>The Rules of Golf .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>The golf season - intra &amp; inter club competitions .....</b>	<b>8</b>
7.1	Blackwood women’s club events .....	8
7.2	Social events .....	8
7.3	Golf Australia interclub competitions.....	9
7.4	Country Week .....	9
7.5	Open Days at other clubs .....	10
<b>8</b>	<b>Dress requirements .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Who’s Who in women’s golf at Blackwood.....</b>	<b>10</b>
9.1	The Women’s Committee .....	10
9.2	The Women’s Captain .....	11
9.3	Communication protocol.....	11

<b>10</b>	<b>Keeping informed.....</b>	<b>11</b>
10.1	Social media.....	11
10.2	Blackwood Golf Club website.....	11
10.3	Newsletter.....	12
10.4	Instagram.....	12

## 1 Welcome

### **A warm welcome to Blackwood Golf Club “Where challenge and friendship meet”.**

We hope your time at the Club brings much pleasure as you enjoy the facilities, our beautiful course and the opportunity to make lifelong friendships.

The Blackwood Golf Club offers a wide range of golfing and social activities for men and women and we look forward to meeting you and establishing a positive and happy relationship.

This Induction Handbook is a supplement to the Members’ Handbook that can be accessed from the website through the link <https://www.blackwoodgolf.com.au/policies-publications/>

If, at any time, you have questions please do not hesitate to ask the Women’s President or Captain. Their names and photos are on the board in the entrance to the locker room.

## 2 Club facilities

### 2.1 Practice facilities

The Club has a range of practice facilities including two driving ranges (long and short), two nets, a practice hole with two sand bunkers, another practice sand bunker, and two practice greens. The green on the western side of the club house can also be used for chipping practice.

The driving range is open from first light until 4:00pm when the driving range is closed for ball collection. It reopens at 5:00pm. You cannot use your own balls as it is too dangerous to collect them. The practice hole is similarly open at first light and your own balls can be used.

Tokens for practice balls are available from the Pro Shop. 1 token=\$5, 2 tokens=\$8 and 3 tokens=\$12. Each token = 35 balls. You may also use your own practice balls on both the chipping and putting green.

### 2.2 Bag and buggy storage

There are facilities to store your bag/buggy at the clubhouse for a fee. However, there is currently a waiting list – see the Office for further information/to apply.

### 2.3 Locker room

Facilities are available from 7:00am each day until 5.30 – 6:00pm. Induction will include a tour and an explanation of the facilities. Lockers are available for annual rental for a fee (enquire at the office for details).

## **2.4 Refreshments**

The main bar/restaurant is upstairs and open every day – see the Members’ Handbook.

## **2.5 Pro Shop**

Matthew Dent is the Golf Professional at Blackwood. Matthew and his team are available to help with all your golfing needs in their well-stocked shop. You can book an individual or group lesson, get advice and purchase clubs, have clubs fitted and re-gripped, and purchase golf clothing and accessories.

The Pro Shop is where you enter the daily competition and purchase buckets of practice balls. It is also where you scan your scorecard after your round of golf, once it is all added up and signed.

# **3 Other membership information**

## **3.1 The Members’ Handbook**

The Blackwood Golf Club Members’ Handbook is published as a PDF on the Blackwood Club website and covers the golfing year from 1 April to 31 March. It contains lots of useful information including membership categories & rights, dress regulations, handicap ranges & grades, course etiquette, Clubhouse hours, Pro Shop services, bringing visitors along etc.

It also includes a complete diary of competitions for the coming year (intra and inter club). The women’s events are all printed in red.

## **3.2 Membership disc**

On joining you will be given a Blackwood Golf Club plastic disc to attach to your golf bag and each year you will be provided with a new annual membership sticker to attach to the disc. (These can be collected from the Office after payment of annual membership fees.)

## **3.3 Club Advantage Card**

All 5, 6 and 7-day (but not 5-day restricted) members are entitled to a Club Advantage Card, which includes 3 free rounds of golf each year at 5 other clubs – Flagstaff Hill, The Vines, Mount Osmond, West Lakes and Tea Tree Gully. You are simply required to book a tee time with the host Pro Shop and present both your GOLF Link and current Club Advantage card upon arrival. The card expires on 31 March each year and you need to collect a new card from the Office each April.

## **3.4 Name badges**

Name badges with the Blackwood logo are available for purchase through the office.

## **4 Playing a round of golf at Blackwood**

### **4.1 When can I play?**

Your membership category will determine when you can play – see your Members’ Handbook for more detail.

Once you have a handicap (see point 6), we encourage you to play in the main women’s competition on Tuesday either in the morning (reserved for women only) or in the afternoon (when men are also able to play). It’s a great opportunity to meet other members at the Club and to learn more about golf, including etiquette and the rules. Feel free to put your name down with anyone on the booking sheet.

### **4.2 Sunday Women**

We also have a special Sunday Women’s competition. The group usually starts at 8:30am but this time can occasionally vary depending on other scheduled club events.

Any 6-day member is welcome to join the Sunday Women for a game, even if you are a regular player on Tuesday. This group has a long history and was originally setup to cater for working women and students but is now open to all women eligible to play on Sundays.

Many women also play social games on Thursday and Friday, and if you are a 7-day member you are welcome to join the mixed competition on Saturdays. Wednesday is the men’s competition day, so women cannot play until the afternoon.

### **4.3 How do I book a game of golf?**

You will have been provided with a handout on how to log in to the Blackwood Golf Club website and book online. If you don’t have internet access at home, you can book a game on the computers at the Club. There is one in the Pro Shop and another upstairs next to the bar. You can also book a game by phoning the Pro Shop.

If you have a preferred start time, we recommend you to log and book on as soon as the relevant booking sheet becomes available at 1:00pm, 8 days before each competition (e.g. book at 1:00pm on Monday for the Tuesday competition the following week)."

### **4.4 What do I do on the day I play?**

Golfers are asked to be at the tee 10 minutes before they are due to hit off. It is suggested golfers arrive at least 30 minutes before their tee time – this allows time to get ready, including advising the Pro Shop that you have arrived (even if you are not playing in the competition of the day), collecting a scorecard, checking the Local Rules Board on the verandah for any temporary rules in place for that day, warming up and practicing.

## 4.5 How do I enter competitions?

The Club runs competitions every day but you can play a social or practice game of golf without entering the daily competition. The exception is Tuesday mornings where all players must enter the women's competition of the day.

A small fee is charged to enter the daily competition and this is used to provide a prize pool. To play in the Tuesday women's competition costs \$5. The fee is paid when you register at the Pro Shop on arrival, where you will be provided with a scorecard that includes your name and current handicap. Your completed and signed scorecard must be returned and scanned in the Pro Shop.

Competition results are published on the Club's website (under Member Login) and prizes are collected from the Pro Shop.

## 4.6 Why is there an issue about slow play?

When playing golf, it's important to be considerate of other golfers using the course. Four hours is used as a rough guide for 18 holes (less time if there are only 2-3 players in your group) and if rounds take longer than 4 hours you will hear people talking about 'slow play'. Slow play is generally not about how many shots you have but what you do between shots!

If you play golf with the following in mind you are unlikely to be considered a slow golfer:

- Walk quickly between shots.
- Be ready to play when it's your turn: think about which club you're going to use as you are walking towards your ball.
- If your first putt doesn't go in the hole, keep putting until you are finished (except in Match play) or if you are going to be standing in someone's line.
- Always play 'ready golf'. Traditionally the person who wins the hole has the honour of hitting off first on the next tee, but whoever is ready should tee off first and write their scores afterwards. Similarly, you can hit out of turn on the fairway, as long as you don't endanger anyone.
- Keep up with the group ahead of you (it doesn't matter what the group behind you is doing).
- If you get behind, the first person to finish putting should tee off on the next hole. In the case of a 4-ball, the first two should move on.

# 5 Golf handicaps

## 5.1 What is a golf handicap?

As the Golf Australia website states:

*"The purpose of the Australian Handicap & Course Rating Systems is to make the game of golf more enjoyable for golfers by providing a means of measuring a golfer's performance and*

*progress and to enable golfers of differing abilities to compete on as equitable a basis as possible.*

*Through these systems, each golfer establishes an Australian Handicap which is a numerical measurement of a player’s potential (not actual) scoring ability.”*

## 5.2 Do I need a golf handicap?

Having a golf handicap is a great way to see how your golf is improving and allows you to play in a range of competitions including some fun ones in teams of two, three or four.

At Blackwood we have 4 handicap divisions:

Grade	Daily Handicap Range	GA Handicap Range
<b>A</b>	0 - 18	+1.3 – 16.5
<b>B</b>	19 - 26	16.6 – 24.0
<b>C1</b>	27 - 35	24.1 – 32.5
<b>C2</b>	36 - 54	32.6 – 54.0

The Golf Australia (GA) handicap is a base number which is adjusted according to the difficulty (slope rating) of the golf course. The above GA handicaps are based on playing off Women’s Red Tees. Scratch rating 75/Slope rating 129.

## 5.3 How do I get a golf handicap?

To get a golf handicap you need to play and score 3 rounds of 18 holes of golf or 6 rounds of 9 holes with a golfer who has a handicap. Your playing partner will score your round and write on top of your card ‘for handicap’. Both you and your playing partner must sign the card. Once you have the required number of cards hand them in to the office and you will receive an email from them advising you of your new handicap. When putting in a card for handicap you do not have to record more than 4 shots over par on any one hole (e.g. more than 7 shots on a par 3 or 9 shots on a par 5). Pick up your ball and mark on the card as pickup.

You will be sent a GOLF Link card with a 10 digit number 50201xxxxx – 50201 is Blackwood’s number and the next 5 digits are your personal number.

Each time you enter a competition, GOLF Link automatically adjusts your handicap. To check your current handicap, use the 10 digit number to log into [www.golflink.com.au](http://www.golflink.com.au). It will show your scores for the last 20 games you’ve played.

You need your personal 5 digit number to log into the ‘members only’ section of the Blackwood Golf Club website ([www.blackwoodgolf.com.au](http://www.blackwoodgolf.com.au)) to book a round of golf.

## 5.4 Further information on handicaps

There is a lot of information on handicaps – essentially your handicap will increase or decrease depending on your scores. For further information see:

- [www.golfaustralia.org.au](http://www.golfaustralia.org.au) - section on handicapping

- [www.golflink.com.au](http://www.golflink.com.au)
- Talk with the Women's Captain or Vice-Captain at the club. (See Members' Handbook)

## 6 The Rules of Golf

It takes a while to learn all the rules of golf. When you joined you will have been provided with a copy of:

- Rules of Golf and the Rules of Amateur Status, effective January 2019
- Check the temporary local rules sheet located in the glass cabinet near the entrance to the Pro shop.
- There are some local rules on the back of the printed score card too.

It's a good idea to attend one of the Rules sessions run once or twice a year after play on a Tuesday where you can ask questions.

## 7 The golf season - intra & inter club competitions

We are lucky in Australia to play golf all year round. However, we do organise our club calendar into a winter and a summer season.

Winter is our major season and it starts in early March with a day to celebrate the opening of the season (including a social game of golf and lunch) and goes through until the end of October. The Summer season runs from November to end of February.

### 7.1 Blackwood women's club events

In addition to the Tuesday and Sunday weekly competitions, there are other principal club events in which you may wish to participate.

Most of our principal club events are held during the Winter season. Prior to opening day in March, you will be given a Block Booking sheet listing and explaining all the special competitions for the season and the associated entry fee (usually very minimal). You can enter as many or as few as you like. Some have restrictions, for example, the Senior Veteran's Prize is for those aged 65 and over.

Everyone with a handicap is encouraged to play in these competitions – it is good fun and great practice. As well as the Club Divisional Championships, there are encouragement competitions for higher handicappers, and Captain/President trophies for special events. A few events are knock-out competitions, meaning you play stroke play to qualify, and then match play eliminations and eventually a grand final.

There are a few trophy competitions in the summer season and information about these is usually provided by the Women's Captain at the Women's Annual Meeting in October.

### 7.2 Social events

The club has an active Social Committee which organises several social golf functions throughout the year, usually on a Sunday. These are generally mixed competitions and

they are listed in your Members Handbook, and advertised on the club website and in e-news. They usually combine a round of golf with a meal in the clubhouse if you wish to stay for dinner.

Twilight golf is held in the summer months during daylight saving on a Thursday. It is a mixed, 9-hole competition that is played after 3:30pm, and you can tee-off up to 6:00pm. It is a fun social game with weekly prizes and is followed by dinner in the clubhouse if you wish to stay. If you want to play 18 holes, you are free to play 9 and then go in to the Twilight competition.

Most of these competitions can be entered by placing your name on the online booking sheet. Some require you to book via the office. If you are not a 6-day member (i.e. eligible to play on Sundays) you can still play by paying a green fee at the pro-shop.

### 7.3 Golf Australia interclub competitions

There are great opportunities to play for Blackwood against other SA clubs and meet lots of new fellow women golfers. Blackwood currently has the following interclub competitions:

<b>Pennant A1 – Sanderson Cup</b>	For our best golfers
<b>Pennant A3 &amp; A4</b>	Handicaps generally under GA 15.9
<b>Cleek Stick</b>	Handicap range GA 16.0 – GA 25.4
<b>Hickory Stick</b>	Handicap range GA 25.5 – GA 34.6
<b>Nomads</b>	Handicap range GA 25.6 – GA 45.0
<b>Southern Challenge Shield</b>	Handicap range GA 16.5 – GA 25.8
<b>Blackwood Grange Challenge</b>	Handicap range GA 14.0 – GA 20.0

The dates of the competitions are listed in the Members Handbook and the Diary on line. If you are within the handicap range and wish to play, you can submit your name to the Captain or Team Manager or sign the expression of interest sheets on the women’s noticeboard in the breezeway.

### 7.4 Country Week

Golf SA runs Country Week, usually in July each year. Four of SA’s country clubs host three days of golf competition and social events together with the Country Championships for each grade. There are 4 grades:

- Silver                      GA to 16.0
- Bronze Salver            GA 16.1 to 21.4
- Bronze Shield            GA 21.5 to 28.0
- Bronze Plate              GA 28.0 to 45.4.

Each handicap division travels to a different location each year either to the mid north, Riverland, south east or southern.

Clubs from all over SA and the Country participate in Country week and it is great fun. The Women’s Captain appoints a coordinator for each grade to assist participants with

their entries (which are done on line through Golf Australia) and booking their accommodation.

Check out the Golf Australia website for more information <https://www.golf.org.au>

## **7.5 Open Days at other clubs**

All clubs have their ‘Open Day’ where players from other clubs are invited to play a game at their club. These are usually great social days with prizes and raffles and of course - golf.

Invitations to these events are also placed on the noticeboard in the Women’s locker room, and notice of these events may appear in the e-news.

## **8 Dress requirements**

Members and visitors are expected to be dressed appropriately when on the course or in the clubhouse.

For women, golf shirts, golf trousers,  $\frac{3}{4}$  length “Capri” trousers, shorts or skirts are required. Women’s round neck golf T-shirts and sleeveless collared golf shirts are permitted.

Sleeveless T-shirts, cut off shorts or shirts, blue Denim jeans, pool wear or athletic attire is not acceptable on the golf course.

Soft spike or flat soled training shoes must be worn and socks are required.

Dress which is acceptable for wearing on the course is also suitable for the Clubhouse. All members and guests are required to wear clean, neat and tidy attire in the clubhouse at all times. Jeans are permitted in the clubhouse provided they are not ripped.

Track suits, cut off shorts or shirts and thongs are not acceptable.

## **9 Who’s Who in women’s golf at Blackwood**

### **9.1 The Women’s Committee**

The women members of the club elect a Women’s Committee headed by a Women’s President, to oversee the sporting and social activities of the women members of the Club. (Clause 56.1 of Blackwood Golf Club Constitution).

Elections are held at the Women’s Annual Meeting in October each year and women are elected for two years.

There can be up to 12 on the Committee. The names and photographs of the current committee members are on a board at the entrance to the Women’s locker room.

When you have settled into the Club, we encourage you to consider serving on the committee at some time. It is a great way to get to know everyone, and learn more about the organisation of golf and the Blackwood Golf Club. And we have a lot of fun in the process!

## 9.2 The Women’s Captain

The Women’s Captain prepares, organises and oversees the year’s golfing events for women at Blackwood Golf Club. The position is generally filled for two years (elected at the Women’s Annual Meeting) and carries with it significant responsibility to ensure that the year’s golf is well organised, conducted successfully and is enjoyed by the membership.

In this role the Captain:

- liaises with Golf Australia SA Branch officials and Captains of other SA clubs
- liaises with BGC General, Match and Course Committees
- liaises with Club Professional and Office staff
- organises the year’s calendar of events one year in advance
- co-ordinates/plans/oversees/runs/reviews each event held during the year
- plans/co-ordinates/oversees/manages/selects women’s interclub teams including training schedules [Pennants, Cleek, Hickory, Nomads, Southern Challenge Shield, etc]
- encourages, promotes and supports junior golf programmes.

As you can see, she is a very busy woman! She is supported in this role by the Women’s Co Vice-Captains.

## 9.3 Communication protocol

If you have any concerns or issues, we ask you to raise them with the President of the Women’s Committee and she will do our best to resolve the matter.

# 10 Keeping informed

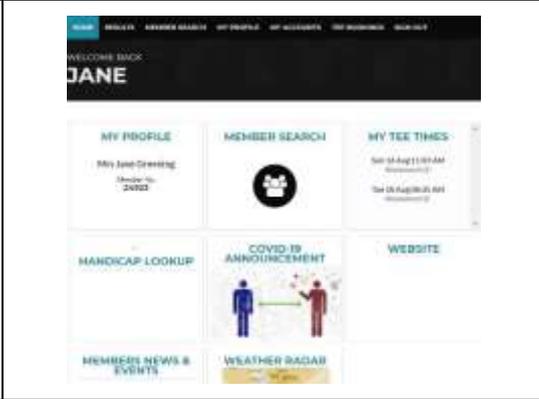
## 10.1 Social media

Blackwood Golf Club has a very active Facebook Page, so “like” our page and have fun following all the posts. It’s a good way to keep in touch and see some fabulous pictures of our members and flora and fauna on the course.

## 10.2 Blackwood Golf Club website

The club website is full of useful information:

- The first 6 menus (i.e. Visitors – Join) are externally focussed, with information like membership packages, golf coaching programs, functions and club sponsors,
- The last menu (Members) is focussed on existing members, with information like our golf calendar, events, news, policies and publications, volunteering and committees.

	
<p><b>Club website with Members menu highlighted</b></p>	<p><b>Portal accessible via “Member Login” in the Members menu</b></p>
<p><a href="http://www.blackwoodgolf.club">www.blackwoodgolf.club</a></p>	<p><a href="https://portalpreview.micropower.com.au/blackwood_gc">https://portalpreview.micropower.com.au/blackwood_gc</a></p>

On the Members menu, the Member Login provides access to the private portal where you can:

- book tee times
- check your handicap
- find contact details for other members
- check competition results
- update your personal details (including making your phone and email visible to club members, both of which are hidden by default).

Refer to the [Member Login Portal Guide](#) (on the Policies & Publications page on the website and also on the login screen of the Member Login Portal) for step-by-step instructions.

### 10.3 Newsletter

The Blackwood Golf Club newsletter known as “Between the Greens” is emailed to all members on the mailing list fortnightly on a Thursday. This will keep you in touch with what is happening at the club.

### 10.4 Instagram

Please follow Blackwood Golf Club on Instagram. Search for “blackwoodgolfclub” and it will take you to our Instagram account and click the ‘follow box’.