



**BLACKWOOD**  
GOLF CLUB

# **New Member's Information Guide**

Version 1.1

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## 1 Welcome



We at the Club hope your time here 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 Information Guide 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 a Committee member. General Committee names and photos are on the board in the breezeway downstairs and the Women’s Committee photos are in the entrance to the women’s 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 it is closed for ball collection. It reopens at 5:00pm. You cannot use your own golf balls as it is too dangerous to collect them. The practice hole is also open at first light and your own golf 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. The practice ball dispensing machine is located on the Pro Shop wall facing the chipping green. The Pro Shop also offers a small bucket of 15 balls that is available for purchase at the counter for \$3.00.

The top range (closest to the club) is restricted to golf shots that travel no more than 170 metres and all shots must be played from the artificial turf strip. The lower range provides the opportunity for practice of longer golf shots and from normal turf.

### 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. We 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 Bar & Restaurant**

The main bar/restaurant is upstairs and open every day – see the Members' Handbook. We encourage you to use your GOLF Link card in the bar/restaurant. Your house levy is available through this card. If you top it up with \$200 at any time you will receive \$210 worth of credit.

## **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. Please give Matthew the opportunity to quote and compare his prices.

The Pro Shop is where you:

- enter the daily competition.
- purchase tokens to redeem for buckets of practice balls.
- book and pay for the club owned motorised golf carts.
- scan your scorecard after your round of golf, once it is all added up and signed.
- collect your prizes (balls and vouchers) from the daily competitions. Prizes are normally available for collection within a week of the competition date.

# **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 so they are easily differentiated.

## **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 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 Membership Playing Rights on our website or refer to your Members' Handbook for more detail.

Once you have a handicap (see section 5), we encourage you to play in our competitions. 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 How do I book a game of golf?**

The Member Login Portal Guide available on the [Policies and Publications](#) page on our website explains how to 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 that you to log and book as soon as the relevant booking sheet becomes available at 1:00pm, 8 days before each competition (e.g. book at 1:00pm on Thursday for the Friday competition the following week).

### **4.3 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 and advise the Pro Shop that you have arrived (even if you are not playing in the competition of the day). You can also collect a scorecard, check the Local Rules Board on the verandah for any temporary rules in place for that day, warm up and practice.

#### 4.4 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. You must enter the competition of the day on:

- Tuesday (mornings only) - women
- Wednesday (all day) – men until 1pm
- Saturday (all day) – men & women.

A small fee is charged to enter the daily competition and this is used to provide a prize pool. 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. Fees are:

- \$7 for the Saturday competition
- \$5 for all other 18 hole competitions
- \$5 for the 9 hole twilight competition on Thursday evenings from November to March
- \$2.50 for other 9 hole competitions

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

#### 4.5 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 briskly between shots and be **ready to hit** when it is your turn.
- Keep your pre-shot routine short.
- **Try to take no more than one practice swing.**
- Take plenty of clubs with you to your ball when leaving your bag or motorised cart.
- Consider all options as you approach your ball to **make decisions quickly.**
- **Watch all balls** until they stop rolling to avoid lengthy searches.
- Use a fixed object as a **reference point** to help find the ball.
- All players should **go directly** to their own ball and play when ready.
- If you do fall behind, have one or two members of your group putt out and move to the next tee and hit off immediately.
- If you still fall behind, **let faster groups play through.** Remember only **3 minutes** is allowed to look for a lost ball.

- **Continue putting** until holed out unless you would be standing on someone’s putting line.
- **No more than 10 strokes** should be hit on each hole i.e. if you reach 10 shots pick up your ball and walk the rest of the hole.

## 5 Golf handicaps

### 5.1 Blackwood Handicap Ranges

At Blackwood we have 3 men’s handicap divisions:

Grade	Daily Handicap Range
A	Up to 12
B	13 - 19
C	20 - 54

There are 4 women’s handicap divisions:

Grade	Daily Handicap Range
A	Up to 18
B	19 - 26
C1	27 - 35
C2	36 - 54

The Golf Australia (GA) handicap is a base number which is adjusted according to the difficulty (slope rating) of the golf course and the tees in play (e.g. blue tees or white tees).

### 5.2 More handicap information

If you are a new golfer, you will find more information in the How to get a Handicap Guide on the [Policies and Publications](#) page on our website.

## 6 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.

### 6.1 Blackwood men’s club events

These are listed in the Member’s Handbook.

### 6.2 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 Special Event Entry Form 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.

The season starts in late February or 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 the end of February.

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.

Women 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 with a handicap 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.

### **6.3 Blackwood mixed club events**

Apart from the Club Mixed Foursomes usually played in September, Blackwood Golf Club has introduced a perpetual ‘Weekday Golfer of the Year Trophy’ for the best player (male or female) over the season across all 18 hole competitions from Monday through Friday. It will be presented to the person who has accumulated the most points over the period with a leader board maintained on [Events & Tournaments](#) page on our club website.

### **6.4 Blackwood 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, the noticeboards and in the club newsletter “Between the Greens”. They usually combine a round of golf with a meal in the clubhouse if you wish to stay for dinner.

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.



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.

Our Marketing Committee also organises several social functions over the year (e.g. Australia Day, Easter and the Melbourne Cup). Keep an eye out for them as they are a lot of fun and always sell out.

Blackwood participates in a Tri Club series with two our SA reciprocal clubs, Loxton and Millicent. You are welcome to join in the June and October long weekends away with fellow members and enjoy some country hospitality. Many extend their visit and take their caravans too.

## 6.5 Golf Australia interclub competitions

### Men

Blackwood has two Men’s Pennant teams and the pennant season runs from May to July. Those who have been a financial member of the club for at least three (3) months prior to the first day of the competition and who have playing rights allowing entry into the club championship, are eligible to play. There is no handicap limit.

We also have a Men’s Senior Pennant team for members 55 years of age and older, and they play between August and November.

### Women

There are many opportunities to play for Blackwood against other SA clubs, play on other courses and meet lots of 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 1 &amp; 2</b>	Handicap range GA 16.0 – GA 28.0
<b>Hickory Stick</b>	Handicap range GA 25.5 – GA 40.0
<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 Calendar 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.

## 6.6 Women’s Country Week

Golf Australia in 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:

<b>Silver</b>	GA up to 16.0
<b>Bronze Salver</b>	GA 16.1 to 21.4
<b>Bronze Shield</b>	GA 21.5 to 28.0
<b>Bronze Plate</b>	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.

Hundreds of players from clubs from all over SA 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 online through Golf Australia) and booking their accommodation.

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

## 6.7 Women’s Open Days at other clubs

Most clubs have an 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. Blackwood’s Open Day is generally held in November when we host visitors from many other clubs.

Invitations to external events are also placed on the noticeboard in the Women’s locker room, and notice of these events may appear in the Club newsletter “Between the Greens”.

## 7 Dress requirements

Members and visitors are expected to be dressed neatly and the [Dress Code](#) on our website outlines expectations on the course, around the practice facilities and in the clubhouse.

## 8 Who’s Who at Blackwood

### 8.1 The General Committee

The members of the club elect a General Committee headed by a President to manage the business and affairs of the Club. The General Committee has nominated positions of President, Vice-President, Captain and Vice-Captain. In addition, there are 5 committee member positions. Photographs and names of the current General Committee members are located in the breezeway near the men’s locker room.

They oversee several sub-committees including:

- Course Committee
- Finance Committee
- Marketing Committee
- Match Committee
- Social Committee
- Women’s Committee

## **8.2 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.

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 Keeping informed**

### **9.1 Social media**

#### **Facebook**

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.


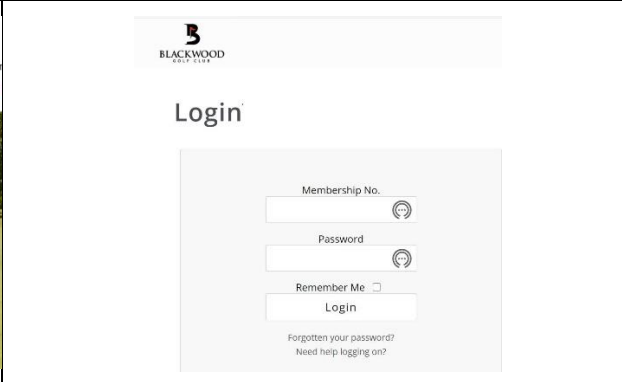
#### **Instagram**

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

### **9.2 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>MiClub 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://blackwood.miclub.com.au/security/login.msp">https://blackwood.miclub.com.au/security/login.msp</a></p>

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

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

### 9.3 Newsletter

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

If you have not received it, check your junk mail and if it is not there either, please contact the office to confirm they have your correct email address.

Club notices are also emailed when there is something urgent to communicate (e.g. COVID-19 updates).

If you don’t have email, you can pick up a hard copy from the office.