

# New Zealand Golf Rules Education Pathway



The international governing body for the Rules of Golf is the R&A. New Zealand Golf is now working closely with the R&A to align our education process and materials to their recommended guidelines.

With the adoption of the Rules Modernisation project from January 1, 2019, we have been given an opportunity to refresh our pathway and use the high quality materials provided to us by the R&A.

New Zealand Golf will adopt the R&A's three-tier Rules Education Pathway. These resources provide for official Rules education in New Zealand to deliver to clubs and to referees.

The major benefits of aligning with the R&A are;

- International best practice.
- International consistency.
- Direct access to the significant investment capacity and expertise of the R&A.

It is hoped that Local District Rules Associations will use the R&A materials that will be provided for them each year. As will be outlined below the materials are able to be tailored to the individual requirements of each Local Rules Association.

New Zealand Golf's Rules Education Pathway enables people of various skill or knowledge levels to further develop and improve their capacity to conform with or deliver the Rules of Golf and competition management.

New Zealand Golf's Rules Education Pathway aims to cater for those who simply want a better understanding of the most common rules scenarios right through to those who wish to referee in an official capacity at the highest level.

## 1. Level 1

Level 1 courses should be conducted by Local Referee Associations. Local referee associations set the time that each course would go for, whether it be over several evenings or in one session. (length of course is determined by the preference of the Local Referee Association, and can be tailored by the presenters to meet specific time requirements).

When a Local Rules Association sets the dates of a level 1 course New Zealand Golf will update a schedule of Level 1 Rules Seminars online.

### **Summary of course content and aims:**

- Focus on the Definitions and the Players Edition of the Rules of Golf.

- Level 1 is designed by the R&A for golfers with a limited or low understanding of the Rules.
- The R&A has no expectation that golfers be Rules experts and Level 1 doesn't seek to make an expert of them. It is for golfers who either desire to become better informed about the Rules for their personal golfing benefit, or who want a starting point to enable progression to other tiers of the R&A's international Rules education structure.

Level of knowledge: no knowledge of the Rules or a basic understanding.

Objective: successful participants at Level 1 would be regarded as reasonably well-informed golfers who would be able to proceed correctly in the majority of common situations encountered on the golf course.

Following attendance of the Level 1 course, attendees will be given the option to sit the R&A Level 1 exam

The Level 1 exam lasts 1 hour and is open book, i.e. the Players Edition and the Rule book may be used. Participants must attain a mark of at least 60% to pass. A pass of between 80-89% is a pass with Merit and a pass of 90% or higher is a pass with Distinction.

In addition to being able to sit this at a seminar delegates can also complete this exam online. There is no limit to the number of times an individual may attempt the online exam.

New Zealand Golf will provide a new level 1 exam to Local Rules Associations each year.

Each rules association should update New Zealand Golf with those delegates that pass a Level 1 exam to become a level 1 or club referee.

## 2. Level 2

Level 2 Courses are organised by each Local Rules Association. They are conducted over a number of days / evenings by experienced members of Local Rules Associations. (length of course is determined by the preference of the Local Referee Association, and can be tailored by the presenters to meet specific time requirements).

In District Associations where there are no active Local Rules Association or members able to present New Zealand Golf on request will schedule a Level 2 Seminar which will take place over two days.

**Summary of course content and aims:**

- The Level 2 course is designed to provide an upskilling opportunity for key club officials in order to enable them to better perform their club duties – for example golf shop staff, club captains, match committee members. These are people who do not necessarily wish to referee, but wish to improve their knowledge of the Rules of Golf and competition management capacity.
- The Level 2 course is also intended to cater for those people who wish to continue their progression on the elite referee pathway.

Level of knowledge: ideally attendees would have successfully completed a Level 1 School (either an actual Level 1 School or the online Rules Academy equivalent) and, in any case, attendees would be expected to know the basics of the Rules of golf.

A key part of the Level 2 school is the on-course ‘Practical Demonstration / Role Play’ sessions. During the Role Play’ sessions, attendees can either watch and/or ask questions, or they may choose to deliver role play rulings in front of the group to the presenter.

Objective: successful participants would be able to give decisions on the Rules to interested golfers, give clubhouse decisions as part of a committee running a competition and resolve Rules disputes, ie perform the role of a club manager/competition secretary. Following additional practical work successful participants would be able to referee and deliver rulings in club and district based competition.

As part of the Level 2 course, attendees will have the option to sit the Level 2 written examination. The Level 2 exam consists of both a closed book and an open book section and must be completed within two hours (there is no practical element to this examination). Participants must attain a mark of at least 60% to pass. A pass of between 80-89% is a pass with Merit and a pass of 90% or higher is a pass with Distinction.

New Zealand Golf will provide a new level 2 exam to Local Rules Associations each year.

Once a referee has passed a level 2 exam it would be expected that the individual referee would complete several days observing at district based events with qualified district referees before the Local Referee Association would award the referee Level 2 or District referee status. A pass in the Level 2 R&A exam does not give a delegate District Referee status, that is for the Local Referee Association to accredit.

Each rules association should update New Zealand Golf with those delegates that pass a Level 2 exam to become a level 2 or District Referee.

### **3. Level 3 – New Zealand Referee School and Australasian Referees & Competitions School**

The Level 3 New Zealand Referees School is a new initiative to allow referees to become qualified as National Referees every year under the new modernised rules of golf.

This new level 3 school will not be conducted in 2019 as New Zealand Golf is scheduled to host the Australasian Referees & Competitions School, which also forms part of Level 3.

### **Summary of course content and aims:**

- The target attendees for this school are those personnel who are integrally involved in rules and refereeing and want to referee at the highest level in New Zealand.
- The course contains an equal mix of indoor classroom-style sessions, as well as outdoor practical sessions.
- Course sessions cover the rules referees will face in tournament golf and also elite referee best practice training.

Culminating the Level 3 New Zealand Referee School is the Level 3 examination. This is New Zealand Golf's highest level examination which, held over three hours, consists of both a closed book section on the Rules of Golf and an open book section on both the Rules of Golf and Official Guide to the Rules of Golf. Participants must attain a mark of at least 60% to pass. A pass of between 80-89% is a pass with Merit and a pass of 90% or higher is a pass with Distinction.

The Level 3 – Australasian Referees & Competitions School is a joint initiative of, New Zealand Golf, Golf Australia and The R&A and is presented by senior officials from The R&A, New Zealand Golf, Golf Australia and the PGA of Australia. It is conducted over three consecutive days and is held every two years.

### **Summary of course content and aims:**

- The target attendees for this school are those personnel who are integrally involved in rules administration and the delivery of elite competitions, or referees who wish to referee at National events.
- Whilst attendees will be benefited by having a strong working knowledge of the Rules of Golf, New Zealand Golf caters for any attendees who are less experienced (New Zealand Golf is mindful that we, by necessity, will wish to fast-track the development of an official who is less experienced).
- The course contains an equal mix of indoor classroom-style sessions, as well as outdoor practical sessions.
- Course sessions cover a wide variety of competition management subject matter, and also elite referee best practice training.

Culminating the Level 3 – Australasian Referees and Competitions School is the Level 3 examination (exam attendance is encouraged but not compulsory). This is the R&A's highest level examination which, held over three hours, consists of both a closed book section on the Rules of Golf and an open book section on both the Rules of Golf and Official Guide to the Rules of Golf. Participants must attain a mark of at least 60% to pass. A pass of between 80-89% is a pass with Merit and a pass of 90% or higher is a pass with Distinction.

The Australasian Referees and Competitions School will be held in New Zealand in May 2019 and in Australia in 2021.

A delegate who has passed the Level 3 exam with a pass of 80% or higher and have satisfied New Zealand Golf representatives during the practical sessions that they have a professional approach and ability to relate to players when delivering a ruling will obtain National Refereeing Status.

Until the first National referee school is held in 2020, any current National Referee that has passed

the current Level 2 R&A exam with a pass of 80% or higher would retain that status as being recognised as a National Referee and will be able to referee at National Events if requested by New Zealand Golf.