



GolfRSA launches the 2026 GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge at Royal Birkdale

The R&A 9-Hole Challenge Final is played on The Open Championship course prior to The Open. It is contested by competitors from Great Britain & Ireland, Argentina, Australia, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, Germany, Canada and South Africa, with one pair able to play in the R&A 9 Hole Challenge Final at Royal Birkdale in 2026.

Two lucky golfers will win:

Grand Prize sponsored by the R&A is likely to be similar to 2025 with *(final prize from R&A TBC)*:

1. **4 nights' B&B accommodation** – Players may bring a guest, but any additional charges would be at players' own cost.
2. All reasonable **return travel costs** to Royal Birkdale venue – for the two players only
3. Travel to/from the hotel from the airport
4. Possible tickets to The Open practice round

Additional contribution from GolfRSA:

1. Refund for the **cost of a short-stay visa** to the UK.
2. **A daily subsistence allowance** for 5 days.
3. Some additional **funding support** towards costs associated with staying for The Open Championships.
4. Some GolfRSA Clothing.

The **2026 GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge at Royal Birkdale** series will run as follows:

- Each club in South Africa that has **registered to be part of the 2026 Challenge** will run their own internal **9-Hole Competitions or Series** to identify the two golfers to proceed to the **Regional Final stage** of the Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge. **The two golfers need to be identified** by the end of February 2026.
- Once the clubs have completed their 9 Hole Series and provided GolfRSA with the names of their two winners, **a draw will take place**. The **lucky winners** of the draw will take part in the **GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge National Final** in April 2026.
- **The allocation of these National Final places** will be in proportion with the number of clubs registered **per Union** for the Challenge. The draw will take place at the beginning of March 2026.
- The GolfRSA National 9 Hole Challenge will take place **at a Zwartkop Golf Club from 12th to 14th April 2026**. The **top two players** from this event will represent GolfRSA at the R&A 9 Hole Challenge at Royal Birkdale.
- Players will be **eligible for the GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge** and final prize if they meet all of the following criteria:
 - **GolfRSA affiliated member** with a handicap with HNA
 - South African citizen / **passport holder**
 - **Adult** of over 18 years of age
 - **Be in possession of a passport valid for 6 months** after return date of travel (end Jan 2027) at the National Final (a copy will need to be provided).

The **2026 GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge at Royal Birkdale** series will be project managed by Paul Adams from Golf Notions. Paul will be in contact with the clubs with more detailed information in the next few weeks. For any queries, please contact Paul **directly** on: paul@golfnotions.co.za

Please support the Sponsors who make it possible!



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