



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

### **Official Terms and Conditions**

31 August 2025

#### **1. General**

- The purpose of the GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge is designed to encourage the playing of more golf through more people playing more 9-hole rounds more often.
- The competition will run from 1 September 2025 to 28 February 2026.
- Each golf club will determine the types of 9-hole events / competitions that will make up the qualifying process to be followed at their specific club.
- The names of two players from each registered golf club will be provided to GolfRSA and entered into the Regional Final stage which will be held on a Lucky Draw basis.
- The ultimate winners of the Regional Final stage Lucky Draws in each of the fourteen Golf Unions will be invited to contest the National Final at a venue to be announced.
- The top two performing golfers at the all-expenses paid National Final will win a prize package, including the opportunity to play at The R&A 9 Hole Challenge at Royal Birkdale in July 2026.

**Support your Golf Club and have a fun time playing 9!**

#### **2. Eligibility**

- The GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge is open to anyone who is a paid-up member of a South African Golf Club that is affiliated to GolfRSA Union and who has an active official handicap on the Handicap Network Africa system (HNA).
- To enter, you must simply follow the process implemented at your golf club and play in the relevant 9-hole events.
- Employees of GolfRSA and any of the 14 Golf Unions in South Africa are not eligible to enter.
- Only 9-hole rounds are eligible; an 18-hole round may not be "divided" into two separate 9-hole rounds.
- Golfers need to be 18 years of age or older.
- Golf Clubs need to complete and return the Club Registration Form to the Project Manager ([paul@golfnotions.co.za](mailto:paul@golfnotions.co.za)) by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**.

#### **3. Format**

- The R&A 9 Hole Challenge is an Individual 9-hole competition although the winning two golfers will play at Royal Birkdale as a Team although not necessarily in the same 4-Ball.
- If a Golf Club runs "pairs" events that is up to the club, as long as it is clearly understood that the winning pair will be split and proceed to the next stages of the GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge as individuals.
- The different stages of the GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge are as follows:

#### **Club Qualifying**

- No registration fee will be charged by GolfRSA for the 2026 competition for Golf Clubs to register to participate.
- It is entirely up to the respective golf clubs as to how they structure the qualifying process at their golf club, but any qualifying competitions are to be over 9-holes.

*(See Rules of the GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge for examples of format and structure options.)*

- Entry fees charged at a golf club for Club Qualifying events are at the discretion of the Golf Club and can be used to benefit the Members and maintain or improve the golf course and clubhouse facilities.
- Any prizes allocated at a golf club's **Club Qualifying** events are the responsibility of the Golf Club.

### **Regional Final Stage**

- The Regional Final stage will be a Lucky Draw with a specific draw conducted for each of the 14 Regions or Unions.
- The structure of the Regional Final stage was the subject of market research and reasons for a Lucky Draw format include:
  - Geography of South Africa and distances to travel to "golf-playing" Regional Finals in many Regions.
  - Costs for players and logistics and timing of running "golf-playing" Regional Finals in 14 Union Regions.

### **National Final**

- The ultimate lucky winners from the fourteen Regional Final stage Lucky Draws will be invited to contest the National Final at a venue to be announced.
- The following expenses will be covered for each player attending the National Final:
  - Reasonable travel costs to and from the venue for people needing to travel more than 150 kilometres each way.
  - Accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis for a minimum of two nights.
  - Golf green fees. (Caddies and carts are for the players' own costs.)
  - Catering for lunch and dinner during the event.

## **4. Winning the GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge**

- The top two performing golfers at the GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge National Final in South Africa will win the R&A Grand Prize.
- The R&A Grand Prize is an invitation to attend and participate in the R&A 9 Hole Challenge Final in July 2026 at Royal Birkdale, Southport, England, UK.
- The R&A 9 Hole Challenge Final is played on The Open Championship course in the week prior to The Open Championship.
- It is contested by golfers from Great Britain & Ireland, Argentina, Australia, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, Germany, Canada and South Africa. Two golfers from South Africa are therefore invited to play in the 2026 R&A 9 Hole Challenge Final at Royal Birkdale Golf Club.
- The two successful golfers may win the following:
  - 4 nights' B&B accommodation – Players may bring a guest, but any additional charges would be at players' own cost.
  - All reasonable return travel costs to Royal Birkdale venue – for the two players only.
  - Airport transfers for the players to and from the hotel in Royal Birkdale.
  - Tickets to The Open practice round.

**Note:** *The details of the R&A Grand Prize are still to be confirmed by the R&A but are likely to be similar to the 2025 R&A Grand Prize.*

- Additional contribution from GolfRSA to include:
  - Refund for the cost of a short-stay visa to the UK.
  - A daily subsistence allowance per day for 5 days.
  - Some additional funding support towards costs associated with staying for The Open Championships.
  - Some GolfRSA Clothing

#### **4.1 Conditions of Attending the R&A 9 Hole Challenge Final at Birkdale, UK**

- The top two performing players at the GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge National Final 2026 will be eligible to attend the R&A 9 Hole Challenge Final at Royal Birkdale, Southport, UK if they meet the following criteria:
  - GolfRSA affiliated member with a handicap with HNA (no handicap limit.)
  - South African citizen / Permanent Resident / Passport holder.
  - Adult 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 at the National Final.)

#### **5. Communication**

- Communication will primarily be via email with:
  - The Registered Golf Clubs.
  - The players who win prizes in the various Regional Final stage Lucky Draws.
  - The National Finalists.
  - The two Grand Prize winners.
- There may be a need to contact the above via the cell phone numbers provided.
- All players entered into the Regional Final stage Lucky Draws by their Golf Clubs will automatically have their email address and cell phone number provided by the golf club to the competition Project Managers unless they declare that all communication should be via a designated person at their golf club.
- Copies of GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge Terms and Conditions as well as the Rules of the Competition and selected additional information will be available on the GolfRSA website. ([www.golfrsa.com](http://www.golfrsa.com))

#### **6. Substitutions**

##### **National Final**

- In the event of a player being unable to compete in the National Final, the first person in the Regional Final stage Lucky Draw to have missed out on a National Final place from the same Region will be offered the opportunity to attend the National Final.

##### **The R&A 9 Hole Challenge Final at Birkdale, UK.**

- In the event of a player(s) being unable to attend the R&A 9 Hole Challenge Final at Royal Birkdale, the next best-placed available person/s from the National Final will be invited.

##### **Contact Details:**

Paul Adams from Golf Notions will Project Manage the GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge and for any queries please contact Paul on: [paul@golfnotions.co.za](mailto:paul@golfnotions.co.za)



**GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge**

**Contact Details of Project Manager Paul Adams**

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***Please support the Sponsors who make it possible!***

