



Professional Golfers Association of Australia Limited

## PGA Bridging Program

PGA NATIONAL OFFICE

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# PGA Bridging Program

The PGA Bridging Program is operated by the PGA of Australia (RTO Number 22044) and is designed as a golf-specific educational opportunity for current or former tournament professionals. Subject to successful completion of course requirements, candidates will be eligible for Full Vocational Membership of the PGA of Australia.

All components of the Bridging Program are designed to be fully completed over twenty-four (24) months, with students having a maximum of eighteen (18) months to complete the academic components.

## 1. Credentials Offered Upon Graduation

Upon successful completion of all components of the PGA Bridging Program, graduates will be provided with the following memberships, qualifications and accreditations:

### **a. Full Membership (Vocational)**

Full Membership (Vocational) of the PGA provides the Member with various rights and responsibilities including, but not limited to the following:

- Employment services
- Membership services
- Training, education and accreditation programs
- Member benefits, discounts and offers
- Voting and meeting rights
- Program and event access
- Playing rights

### **b. SIS50512 Diploma of Sport Coaching**

Via completion of specific requirements within the PGA Bridging Program, students will complete the necessary units towards the nationally recognised vocational qualification SIS50512 Diploma of Sport Coaching.

It must be noted that the Diploma of Sport Coaching is a broad and extensive qualification that will require significant dedication to assessment completion. All PGA Bridging students must ensure that they have the required time available in order to complete all assessments by the required deadlines. A full list of the units of competency associated with the Diploma of Sport Coaching are outlined in Appendix 2.

### **c. Professional Golf Coach Accreditation**

The PGA is approved by the Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) to allocate Professional Golf Coach Accreditation to each graduate to Full Membership (Vocational) of the PGA.

Professional Golf Coach Accreditation is recognised by the golf industry and golfers alike as the highest level of coach accreditation available in the sport and therefore positions PGA Members as the experts in golf coaching and instruction.

### **d. Additional Courses and Accreditations**

In addition to the aforementioned professional membership, qualification and accreditation, the following courses and accreditations will be completed (or submitted if previously completed) as compulsory components of the program:

- ASADA Anti-Doping accreditation
- Working with Children Check (or equivalent)
- R&A Level 1 Rules of Golf accreditation
- TrackMan Level 1 accreditation
- TrackMan Level 2 accreditation
- First Aid certification
- Community Instructor – MyGolf Schools
- Community Instructor – MyGolf Clubs



## 2. Course Structure and Requirements

There are a number of compulsory components of the Bridging Program that contribute to the overall structure of the course, with each applicant assigned specific requirements following a review of their application:

### a. Training & Assessment

Candidates are required to complete online assignments, practical assessments and various examinations that apply to PGA Bridging Program requirements.

The PGA's e-learning platform – The Fairway is utilised extensively in the delivery of the academic components of the Bridging Program. In addition, each Bridging student will be assigned a PGA Member as a Mentor, with the Mentor acting as both an advisor and an assessor of students in relevant practical competencies. A number of Bridging Program training and assessment items will also require access to a suitable workplace for completion – it is the responsibility of each student to arrange access to a workplace for each applicable training and assessment item.

Academic course work is split in to two distinct sections – Course Work A and Course Work B. Students can move through each of the academic assessment tasks at their own pace with no set due dates for individual tasks. All sections of Course Work A must be successfully completed prior to being provided access to Course Work B.

All course work must be completed and submitted within eighteen (18) months of enrolling in the Bridging Course.

See Appendix 1 for an example PGA Bridging Program – Course Structure.

### b. Training Schools

Each PGA Bridging Trainee must attend each of the three (3) PGA Training Schools staged yearly within the duration of the program.

#### 1. February/March Training School

PGA Bridging Program Trainees must attend all Year 2 Trainee sessions at one of the February/March Training Schools held in each Division of the PGA. The 3-day Training Schools are held in the capital city of each state (excluding Adelaide and Hobart).

These schools are not residential and students are to arrange their own travel and accommodation. Upon successful entry into the program, the PGA Academy will advise Bridging students of the dates and times of these sessions.

#### 2. National School

PGA Bridging Program Trainees must attend the PGA National School held in April/May annually. National School is a four (4) day residential school held at Sanctuary Cove, Queensland. Program fees cover travel to the location, accommodation and meals for the week. The PGA Academy books all accommodation and travel requirements.

#### 3. June/July Training School

PGA Bridging Program Trainees must attend all Year 2 Trainee sessions at one of the June/July Training Schools held in each Division of the PGA. The 3-day Training Schools are held in the capital city of each state (excluding Adelaide and Hobart).

These schools are not residential and students are to arrange their own travel and accommodation. Upon successful entry into the program, the PGA Academy will advise Bridging students of the dates and times of these sessions.

***Please note: each of the three (3) Training Schools must be completed prior to being eligible for graduation. There are no exceptions to this requirement. Please ensure you can attend all schools prior to applying for entry into the program.***



### **c. Vocational Work Placement**

All Bridging Program Trainees must complete the program's workplace requirement prior to being eligible for Full Vocational Membership of the PGA. Students have twenty-four (24) months to complete all the vocational work placement requirements.

The vocational work placement requirements must be completed as follows (unless otherwise approved by the PGA Academy):

1. **Coaching placement** – minimum of 150 hours under the supervision of a suitably qualified PGA Member working who is working as a Teaching Professional in the area of coaching and coaching programs.
2. **Game Development placement** – minimum of 150 hours under the supervision of a suitably qualified PGA Member who is working as a Head Professional or Director of Golf in the area of junior programs, corporate days, club competitions, events or similar.
3. **Small Business placement** – minimum of 150 hours under the supervision of a suitably qualified PGA Member who is working as a Head Professional or Director of Golf managing the retail component of an on-course or off-course golf shop.
4. **Management placement** – minimum of 150 hours under the supervision of a golf-club General Manager (not required to be a PGA Member).

### **Additional Bridging Program Information:**

#### **1. Vocational Work Placement**

- a) Prior to being eligible for Vocational Membership of the PGA, all Bridging Students must accumulate the minimum of 150 hours in each of the vocational work placement areas (600 hours total).
- b) The four (4) workplace requirements may be completed at the same golf-club.
- c) It is the responsibility of the Bridging Student to source and meet work experience requirements prior to being eligible for graduation from program
- d) Both paid or volunteer based placements can count towards each Vocational Work Placement requirement.
- e) A specific training and assessment task (report) will be aligned to each workplace requirement.
- f) Vocational Work Placement requirements must be completed within twenty-four (24) months from commencement of the program.
- g) Bridging Program Trainees may be required to access a suitable workplace requirement at various times throughout the program in order to complete specific training and assessment tasks.
- h) Relevant PGA Members and General Managers will be required to sign Vocational Work Placement declaration forms for Bridging Program Trainees at the completion of each placement.
- i) The Vocational Work Placement will complement assessments in the areas of study listed below. It will provide students with the skills and expertise to better understand the working environment of the golf club and should extend beyond golf shop operations.

#### **2. Membership**

- a) Members of the Bridging Program will be considered Trainee Members of the PGA while completing the relevant course components.
- b) Bridging Program Trainees cannot compete in PGA Trainee-specific tournaments.
- c) Entry into the Bridging Program does not provide any playing eligibility for Tier 1, Tier 2 or Pro-Am tournaments

#### **3. Coaching Rights**

- a) Bridging Program Trainees can coach golf unsupervised as per the conditions outlined in the Policy For Trainees Coaching Golf Unsupervised.



### 3. Bridging Program Eligibility

A specific credit system (approved by the Board of the PGA) is in place to determine eligibility for entry/application into the PGA Bridging Program. Bridging Program applicants must obtain a minimum total of five (5) credits to be considered for entry into the program. Credits for Bridging Program are obtained as follows;

- 1 credit for each year an applicant retains Full Member (Tournament) of the PGA of Australia.
- 1 credit for each year an applicant retains full playing rights/membership of a *recognised worldwide professional golf tour*.

#### **Recognised Worldwide Professional Golf Tours - males**

For male professionals, a *recognised worldwide professional golf tour* incorporates professional golf tours listed in the PGA policy for recognition of professionals from overseas PGA's.

#### **Recognised Worldwide Professional Golf Tours - females**

For female professionals, a *recognised worldwide professional golf tour* incorporates the following:

- LPGA Tour
- LET Tour
- Symetra Ladies Tour
- Japanese Ladies Tour
- Korean Ladies Tour

#### **Please Note:**

- PGA of New Zealand Full Tournament Membership is not eligible for credit.
- To be eligible for credit, One Asia Tour Membership must be the applicable category or higher.
- ALPG Membership alone is not eligible for credit. ALPG Membership will be assessed on a case by case basis.
- There is a one (1) credit maximum available per calendar year.
- Vocational Memberships of international PGAs do not constitute recognised worldwide tours and are not eligible for credits.
- Years of membership of a *recognised worldwide professional golf tour* must have occurred within the last ten (10) years.
- Senior Tournament Members of the PGA of Australia may apply however their application is assessed on a case by case basis and must be supported with full playing history for consideration by the Vocational Members Council.

#### **What if I do not have the five (5) credits?**

Should the appropriate number of credits not be obtained, candidates will be required to apply for the PGA Trainee Program.



#### **4. Bridging Program Applications**

To apply for the PGA Bridging Program, applicants are required to complete and provide the following:

1. PGA Bridging Program application form, including details relating to intended vocational work placement/s.
2. Evidence of a minimum of five (5) credits relating to full playing rights/membership of a recognised worldwide professional golf tour.
3. Minimum of two (2) letters of recommendation from PGA of Australia Full Vocational Members.
4. Resume relating to education, playing, professional and workplace experience.

Upon submission of the required application form and supporting documents, the application review process will be as follows:

1. Application is received by the *PGA Academy* and confirms eligibility for the program.
2. Applicant attends a state based interview with the relevant *State Vocational Divisional Committee*.
3. Pending approval/support of application from the relevant State Vocational Divisional Committee application is forward to *Vocational Members Council* for approval and acceptance into the Bridging Program.

#### **5. PGA Bridging Program Fees**

Overall fees to complete all components of the PGA Bridging Program are \$6,725.00. If accepted into the Bridging Program fees can be paid in one lump sum or by installments (\$1500 due at the time of enrolment with the remaining paid via 10 equal monthly installments thereafter)

Please note with regards to fees:

- Allow a maximum of 24 months to complete the PGA Bridging Program, should you exceed this time limit a re-enrolment fee will be payable based on the amount of outstanding course components left to complete
- Should a student completing the PGA Bridging Program be eligible to hold Full Tournament Membership with the PGA of Australia, fees for such Tournament Membership will be payable after the first 12 months (or part thereof). Ongoing Tournament Membership fees will be payable on calendar year
- Upon completion of the PGA Bridging Program Full Member (Vocational) fees will apply

#### **6. Further Information and Application Form**

To request an application or for additional information, please contact PGA Training Manager, Stephanie Jamieson (03) 8320 1937 or [sjamieson@pga.org.au](mailto:sjamieson@pga.org.au)

***Please Note: PGA Academy reserves the right to vary program requirements or eligibility criteria. Any variations must be approved by the National Training and Education Manager.***

## Appendix 1 :



**PGA AUSTRALIA**  
ACADEMY

PGA Bridging Program

**Course Work A:**  
12 assessment tasks to complete  
Recommend maximum of 6 months

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**Course Work B:**  
Only available after completion of Course Work A  
25 assessment tasks to complete  
recommended maximum of 12 months

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**Open Course Requirements:**  
2 x state based Training Schools  
1 x National Training School  
1 Day of continuing education studies  
PGA Vocational Work Placements  
Maximum 24 months to complete

## Appendix 2:

Course Work A		
	Assessment Item	Unit of Competency
1.	Foundations of Coaching	SISSSCO101- Develop and update knowledge of coaching practices
2.	MyGolf Club	NA
3.	Drugs in Sport	SISSSCO306 – Provide drugs in sport information
4.	Nutrition for Golf	SISSSCO307 – Provide nutrition information to athletes
5.	Sports Psychology	SISSSCO308 – Support athletes to adopt principles of sport psychology
6.	Working with Support Personnel	SISSSCO409 – Work collaboratively with support personnel
7.	Advanced Skills of Golf	SISSGLF314 - Perform the Advanced Skills of Golf
8.	Tactics, Strategies & Rules of Golf	SISSGLF315 - Apply the advanced tactics and strategies of golf
		SISSGLF316 – Interpret and apply the rules of golf
		SISSSCO411- Apply Self- Management to intermediate level coaching
9.	Coaching Practical One	SISSSCO303 - Plan and deliver coaching programs
10.	Coaching Logbook One	SISSSCO411- Apply Self- Management to intermediate level coaching
		SISSSCO303 - Plan and deliver coaching programs
11.	Club Repair One	NA
12.	Coaching Unsupervised Requirements	HLTAID003 – Provide First Aid
		Working with children check

## Course Work B

Assessment Item		Unit of Competency
1.	Women in Golf	NA
2.	Selection Policies	SISSSCO305 - Implement selection policies
3.	Fit and Alter Golf Equipment	SISSGLF510 - Fit and alter golf equipment
4.	Talent Identification Program	SISSSCO410 - Implement a talent identification program
5.	Inclusive clubs	SISXCCS403A - Determine needs of client populations
6.	Skills, tactics and strategies of professional golf	SISSGLF517 - Apply advanced skills, tactics and strategies of golf in high performance competition
7.	High Performance Training and Recovery Programs	SISSSCO513 - Plan and implement high performance training and recovery programs
8.	Club Repair two	NA
9.	Coaching Practical Two	NA
10.	Merchandising, Product Knowledge and Sales	NA
11.	Coaching Logbook Two	SISXIND408 - Select and use technology for sport, fitness and recreation work
		SISSGLF519 - Teach the advanced tactics and strategies of golf
		SISSGLF518 - Teach the advanced skills of golf
12.	Innovative Work Environment	BSBINN502A - Build and sustain an innovative work environment
13.	Lead and Manage People	SITXHRM402 - Lead and manage people
14.	Finances within a Budget	SITXFIN402 -Manage finances within a budget
15.	Club Fitting	SISSGLF510 - Fit and alter golf equipment
16.	Prevent and Manage injuries	SISSSCO512 - Assist athletes to prevent and manage injury and illness
17.	Manage Projects	SISXIND406A -Manage projects
18.	Organisational risk Management	SISXIND404A - Promote compliance with laws and legal principles
		SISXRSK502A - Manage organisational risks
19.	Coaching Practical Three	NA
20.	Coaching Logbook Three	SISSSCO304-Customise coaching for athletes with specific needs
21.	Junior Golf Event	SISSGLF520 - Design and implement strategies to increase junior participation in golf
22.	Golf Operations	SISSGLF521 - Manage on course golf operations
23.	Manage Meetings	BSBADM502B - Manage meetings
24.	Pro Am Tournament Planning	SISSGLF512 - Manage the structure and facilitation of golf competitions and tournaments
25.	Coaching Programs	SISXCAI305A - Conduct individualised long-term training programs

**\*Maximum eighteen (18) months for academic components**

## Open Course Requirements

Task	
1.	Training School 1
2.	Training School 2
3.	National School
4.	National School Assessment
5.	Continuing Education
6.	PGA Vocational Work placement Forms

**\*Maximum twenty-four (24) months for Open Course Requirements**