



R&A  
**AFRICA AMATEUR**  
CHAMPIONSHIP

**PLAYER  
HANDBOOK**

5-8 February 2025  
Leopard Creek Country Club  
South Africa



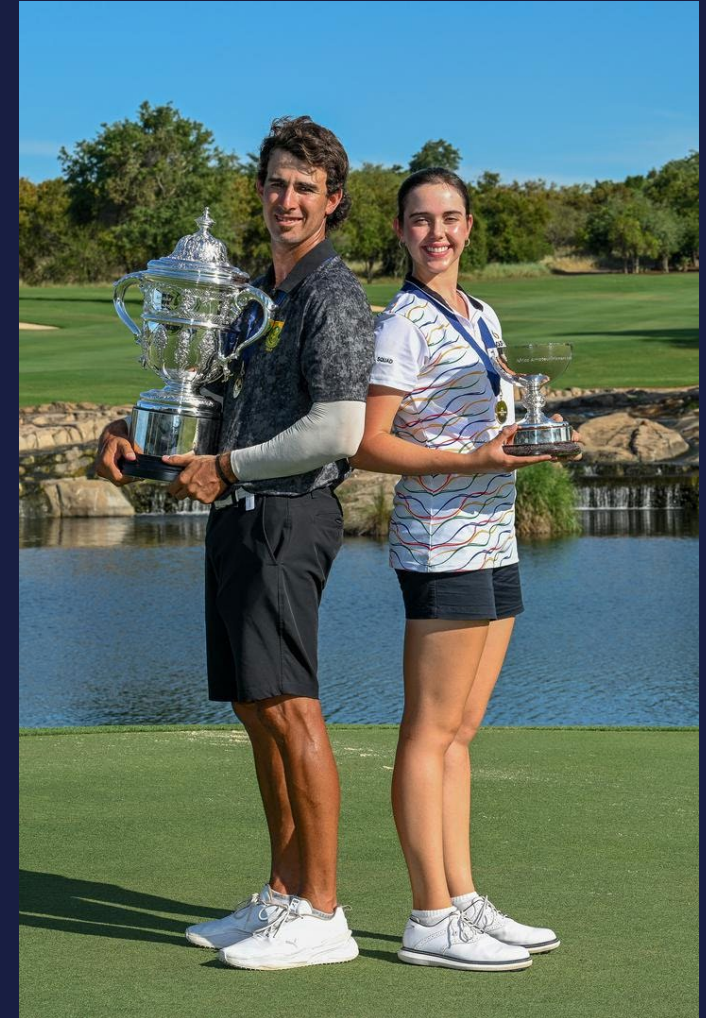
# THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

The championship will feature 72 men from the region of Africa competing in a 72-hole stroke play format with the winner receiving an exemption in The 153rd Open at Royal Portrush and several other premium events.

In only its second year, this championship complements existing amateur championships jointly organised by The R&A in Asia-Pacific and Latin America. It enables players from Africa to play at the highest level, as well as creating a pathway for African golfers to develop and become an inspiration for others to follow.

The championship also builds on the Africa High Performance Programme established two years ago by The R&A. This programme is delivered to players and coaches in African countries as part of a wider effort to develop golf and provide support to players aspiring to reach elite levels of the sport.

To help establish the Championship it has been agreed by WAGR Committee that the Power will be protected to a level of 500.





# ENTRIES.

## Eligibility

To be eligible to compete in the Africa Amateur Championship players must be from countries in Africa affiliated to The R&A who:

- (i) are members of a golf club affiliated to an R&A Affiliate;
- (ii) have Amateur Status in accordance with the current Rules of Amateur Status as published by R&A Rules Limited and the USGA, and who are also either (a) ranked within WAGR® men's listing (see [wagr.com](http://wagr.com)) at date of entry, or (b) hold a current Handicap Index® based on ratings for men of not more than 5.4 at date of entry, as issued by an Authorised Handicapping Body. Entrants that are relying on the handicap criteria set out above but who do not hold a Handicap Index® must hold a current equivalent exact handicap, as issued by a recognised Handicap Authority, that would demonstrate an equivalent playing ability to a Handicap Index® based on ratings for men of not more than 5.4 at date of entry; and.
- (iii) are eligible to represent their national team.

ENTER HERE

**DECEMBER**

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

**ENTRIES CLOSE** (on Dec 11)

**1 MONTH TO GO!** (on Dec 5)

**2024**

# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.



DAY	EVENT	TIME
Monday 3 February	Official Practice Day Player Registration Welcome Reception	7.30am – 2.00pm 6.00am – 5.00pm 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Tuesday 4 February	Official Practice Day	7.30am – 2.00pm
Wednesday 5 February	Round 1 – Men (72 players – one tee start) Round 1 – Women (20 players – one tee start)	7.30am – 1.00pm
Thursday 6 February	Round 2 – Men (one tee start) Round 2 – Women (one tee start)	7.30am – 1.00pm
Friday 7 February	Round 3 – Men (40 players & ties – one tee start) Round 3 – Women (20 players – one tee start)	7.30am – 11.30am
Saturday 8 February	Round 4 – Men (two tee start) TV Prize Presentation (Men & Women) Championship Gala Function	7.30am – 8.40am 1.15pm approx. 4.00pm – 8.00pm

# HOST VENUE.



## 2025 HOST VENUE LEOPARD CREEK COUNTRY CLUB

Innovative architectural and landscaping techniques ensure that the Leopard Creek golf course and living areas are naturally protected from animals, while lakes and small streams have been diverted through the development to create scenic vistas and interesting golf strategies.

Golfing hazards take on a new dimension at Leopard Creek, for much of the water is home to the magnificent creatures for which the river is named, crocodile. Sightings of crocodile, hippo, antelope, buffalo and elephant are commonplace, on the course or in the Kruger Park bordering the course.

# 2024 CHAMPION.

Altin van der Merwe emerged victorious from a three-way play-off against Christiaan Maas and Ivan Verster to win the inaugural Africa Amateur Championship at Leopard Creek.

The three South Africans finished deadlocked on 13-under-par after the regulation 72 holes, with van der Merwe seeing an eagle chance at the last slip agonisingly by the hole, but he held his nerve in sudden death to seal the championship with a birdie on the par-5 18<sup>th</sup> hole.

“It’s awesome to be the new Africa Amateur Champion. It’s an unbelievable feeling but I don’t think it’ll kick in until later,” said van der Merwe, who shot a final round 70.

The 27-year-old earned exemptions into The 152nd Open at Royal Troon, The Amateur Championship, the Alfred Dunhill Championship and the Waterfall City Tournament of Champions powered by Attacq.



# 2025 CHAMPION.

The winner will become the Africa Amateur Champion and will be awarded the Championship Trophy and medal. The runner up will receive a medal and those in third place(s) will each receive a memento.

The Champion will receive exemptions to;

- Investec South African Open Championship 2025
- Waterfall City Tournament of Champions powered by Attacq 2025
- The Amateur Championship 2025
- The Open 2025 – Royal Portrush
- The Alfred Dunhill Championship 2025

The player(s) finishing in second place will receive an exemption to Final Qualifying for The Open 2025.



# OFFICIAL AIRPORT.

Please be aware that there are two airports in the Nelspruit area. Transfers will only run from Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (MQP).

Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (MQP) is approximately (70km) from the Official Hotel.

[www.kmiaairport.co.za](http://www.kmiaairport.co.za)

In conjunction with your flight booking, the travel agent will organise your transfer from the MQP airport to the Official Hotel





# TRAVEL.

For those not flying the R&A will cover mileage at a rate of ZAR5 per km for direct routes using your own vehicle. No car hire costs, or private transfers will be covered by the R&A.

Note that any additional costs incurred for changes to agreed travel and accommodation arrangements for players, regardless of reason, will be the sole responsibility of the player or their association. The R&A will not be responsible for arranging and/or paying for amendments to bookings.

Any accompanying officials are welcome to utilise the services of the travel agent, but they must pay any costs directly to the travel agent. Unless acting in a chaperone role for a minor (aged under 18), accompanying officials will not be able to stay in the official hotel.



# IMMIGRATION.

Players and/or their affiliated National Association or Federation are responsible for the organisation of, and any expenses incurred in, securing a travel visa.

The R&A will be happy to provide you with a letter detailing your Championship participation and accommodation in the official hotel should it be required to support your application for a visa.

Please contact [amateurentries@randa.org](mailto:amateurentries@randa.org)

The travel agent will be able to provide you with proof of your airline ticket if it is required to obtain your visa.

Please ensure that you apply for your visa / permit as early as possible.



# OFFICIAL HOTEL.



You will be accommodated free of charge in a twin room at the Pestana Kruger Lodge. You will be allocated a room share with another player. The Lodge is located 5 minutes from the first tee of Leopard Creek Country Club and a shuttle will operate.

You must not leave this hotel unless you have obtained the express permission of the R&A Officials or are travelling as part of an organised trip.

Further details about the hotel can be found by clicking the button below

[Click Here](#)



# CATERING.



## Catering

Buffet breakfast and evening meals will be provided for you free of charge at the Official Hotel.

Lunch each day will be provided at the Championship Pavilion located by the practice range.

Drinking water will be provided. Please bring your own flask to reduce waste.

The R&A should be notified as soon as possible of any dietary requirements.



# HOW TO BOOK.

Only after the closing date, and your place in the Championship field has been confirmed, you may book your travel by emailing or calling the Championship's official travel agent;

## AdP Travel Management

+27 (0) 82 857 2806

[amanda@adptravel.co.za](mailto:amanda@adptravel.co.za)

Please note that The R&A will only cover the cost of one return economy class flight for the player only\* using the most economical route / time. Should you wish to have a different route / day / time you will be liable for any cost difference. This difference must be paid in advance of any reservation being processed.

Any flight bookings costing in excess of £1000 must be authorised by The R&A in advance of the booking being made. Any flights not made through the travel agent, will be at your own cost and The R&A will not reimburse this travel. Transfers will be provided for those who have booked through the travel agent.

\*If you are under 18 years of age, The R&A will manage this appropriately.

# EXPENSES.

We hope the following information and arrangements assist you when planning your trip.

The R&A will provide you with travel options, accommodation in the Official Hotel and catering. You will be allocated a twin room sharing with another player. For those under 18 years of age a separate arrangement will be made.

You may if you wish, choose to stay in different accommodation, however, please note that you are responsible for all costs and you must organise the travel to and from Leopard Creek. The R&A will not cover the cost of this accommodation or co-ordinate travel to the golf club each day from other accommodation.

The following sundry expenses incurred during your stay are for your own account and must be settled prior to departure

- Catering & snacks not provided by the Championship
- Room service catering
- Club repairs
- Pro Shop items
- Laundry

# PLAYER SERVICES.

## Water

The R&A supports sustainable practices which go hand in hand with protecting the future of our planet. On course water stations will be available for all players to use throughout the Championship. Please bring a reusable water bottle.

## Championship Pavilion

The Player Lounge is located adjacent to the practice range. It will be open all day for the exclusive use of the players. Lunch and snacks will be provided in this facility each day.

Should you have any allergies please contact [amateurentries@randa.org](mailto:amateurentries@randa.org)

## Practice

### Official Practice Days

Monday 3 February

Tuesday 4 February

Practice times will be allocated by The R&A and you will be notified of your time when you arrive onsite.

## Practice Range

Full practice range and short game facilities will be available at the venue. Balls will be provided.

## Player Information

All information, including pin positions and course length can be found [HERE](#)



# PLAYER SERVICES.

## Physiotherapy

A complimentary physiotherapist service will be provided and can be booked on arrival. This service may be used for injury, recovery and therapeutic reasons.

## Caddies & Trolleys

No caddies are permitted during the Championship.

A complimentary pull trolley will be available should you require one. Due to the extreme heat, you are advised not to consider carrying your golf bag.

## Gym

There will be an onsite gym for competitors only. The gym is located in the Championship Pavilion by the range.

## Strength and Conditioning

Strength and conditioning advice will be available to competitors and there will be experts onsite to assist with any questions or help you with a programme to improve your performance.

## Doctor and Medical Services

During the Championship, a Doctor and First Aid services will be available onsite.





# TV & MEDIA.

## TV Coverage

The championship will be shown live by broadcasters around the globe.

Outside of Africa, the events will be broadcast in the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Canada and Asia.

The [R&A TV Channel](#) will be providing a live stream of championship

Please check with your local provider for live broadcast and replay times.

## Media Accreditation

For media accreditation please contact: [amateurchampionships@randa.org](mailto:amateurchampionships@randa.org)



# OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS AND GUESTS.

Each player may invite a maximum of two named Player Guests to the Championship.

## Official Functions

The R&A Welcome Reception will be held on Monday 3 February at Leopard Creek Country Club. You are required to wear your formal national uniform to this function.

The Closing Gala Function will be held on Saturday 8 February at Leopard Creek Recreation Centre. There will be live music and the dress code for this function is smart / casual. There is no requirement for a shirt and tie or national uniform. Guests will not be permitted to join this function.

## Official Photo

Prior to the R&A Welcome Reception, a group photo will be taken in front of the clubhouse. Please arrive promptly and follow instructions to join this photo.



# PRECAUTIONS.

## Extreme Heat

February is one of the hottest months in the Kruger National Park. Afternoon temperatures are usually around 32°C/90°F but can soar up to 40°C/104°F.

Golfers who spend several hours out on the course on a hot day put themselves at higher risk of an elevated body temperature, dehydration and heat illness, which can essentially impair not only performance, but also overall health. You can take action to reduce these risks by staying hydrated and seeking shade where possible.

## Wild Animals

When entering Leopard Creek, you will be in an unrestricted wildlife area where you may encounter wild animals and/or reptiles.

Do not approach any animal / reptile.

Should you encounter any challenging situation on the course please contact a Rules Official or call the Championship Office using the phone number which will be provided when you arrive onsite.

You will be issued with further guidance on arrival at the Championship.



# MALARIA.

The Mpumalanga area is an area of Malaria transmission.

You should consider checking in with a health professional prior to travel to obtain medication to prevent malaria.

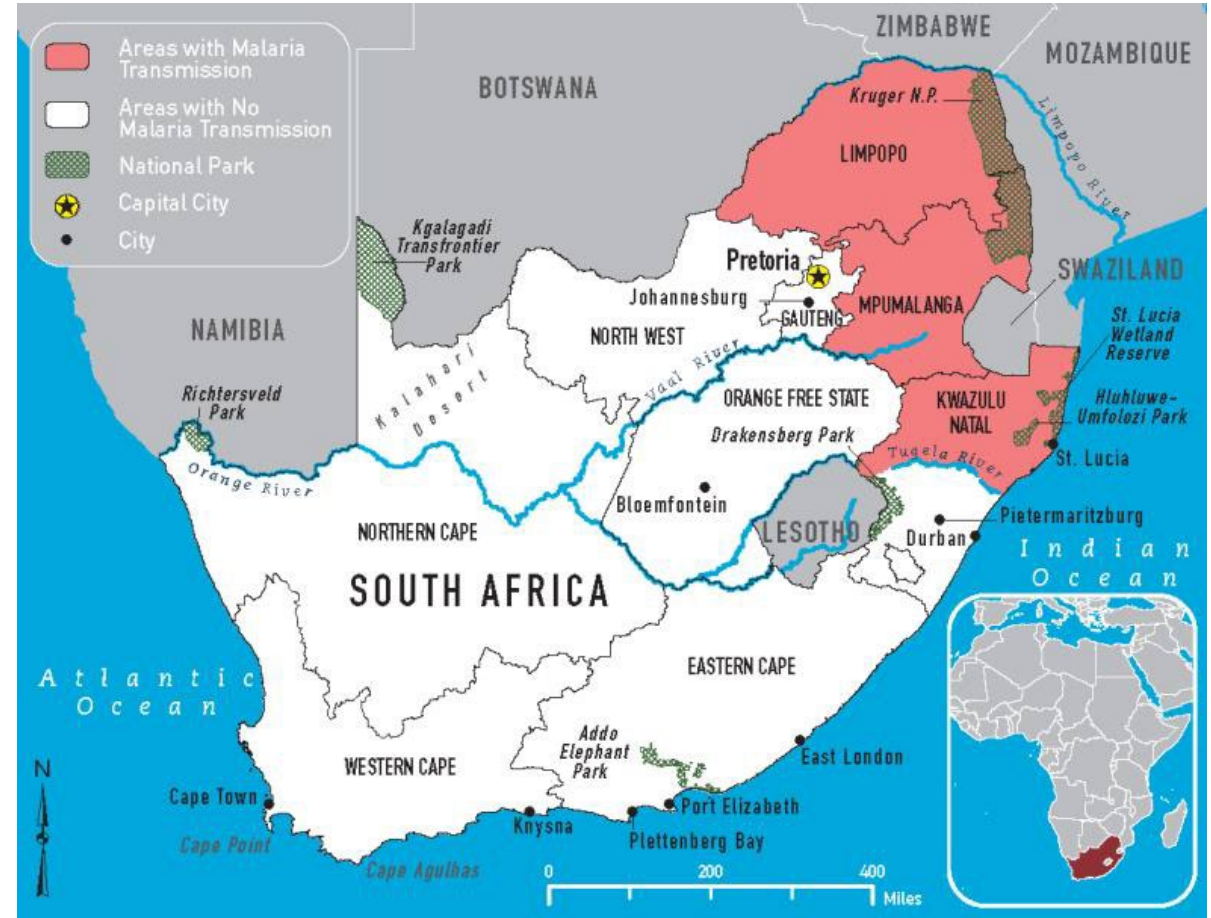
Please try to limit the risk of bites as detailed in the Malaria advisory notice supplied.

If you develop a fever or symptoms during or after the Championship, please visit the Championship Medical centre (onsite) or see a doctor as soon as possible (post event).

PLEASE READ THE SEPARATE MALARIA GUIDANCE DOCUMENT CAREFULLY

## MALARIA RISK AREAS

Risk is high around the Kruger National Park areas shaded in red below.



# KRUGER NATIONAL PARK.

Leopard Creek Country Club borders the Kruger National Park. Truly the flagship of the South African National Parks, this enormous and magnificent park is one of the most popular public-entry game parks in the world.

The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best in Africa. Established in 1898 to protect the wildlife of the South African Lowveld, this national park is unrivalled in the diversity of its life forms and a world leader in advanced environmental management techniques and policies. Kruger is home to an impressive number of species: 336 trees, 49 fish, 34 amphibians, 114 reptiles, 507 birds and 147 mammals.

You will be given the opportunity to join one complimentary game drive and you may book this on arrival at the official hotel.





R&A

# AFRICA AMATEUR

CHAMPIONSHIP

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