



A. TERMS

- (1) The 154th Open will be decided by stroke play over four rounds of 18 holes in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited and in accordance with the Local Rules approved by R&A Championships Limited (“The R&A”).
- (2) In the event of a tie after four rounds, the winner will be decided by a play-off by stroke play over an amount of holes to be determined by the Open Championships Committee. The player with the lowest aggregate score over the extra holes will be declared the winner. If the players are still tied having played these extra holes, a hole-by-hole play-off will be played immediately over the 18th hole only until a winner emerges. If the play-off involves more than 2 players, those other than the winner will be deemed to have tied for 2nd place regardless of their scores in the play-off.
- (3) The starting field will be 156 players. The 70 lowest scores over the first 36 holes and any tying for 70th place will qualify for the 3rd round on Saturday 18 July 2026 and the 4th round on Sunday 19 July 2026. If a player who has posted a two round total score that will qualify for the 3rd round, withdraws before or after the 3rd round draw is made, the player’s score will still be used to calculate the leading 70 places and ties that will determine the cut mark.
- (4) In the event of play being either delayed or declared null and void for any round of The Open, additional play will be at the discretion of the Open Championships Committee. Additional play will take place on Monday 20 July 2026 and, exceptionally, Tuesday 21 July 2026.
- (5) The R&A arranges publicity before, during and after The Open in the Press and by live and recorded radio and television broadcasting and filming and on the Internet. Each player agrees to make reasonable efforts during The Open to attend press conferences and to co-operate with the media in support of The Open, including appearances for The R&A’s broadcast partners. Each player by entering The Open and thereby agreeing to these Terms assigns to The R&A and its assignees and licensees the right in perpetuity throughout the world to make use, exhibit and reproduce in any way now known or hereafter devised (and to authorise others to do so) for commercial and other purposes from time to time and at their discretion, motion pictures, still pictures, live taped or filmed television, sound recordings and any other reproductions of any description of the player and/or their caddie made during or in connection with The Open (including, without limitation, during practice and play) without compensation for the player or caddie or the heirs, successors, executors, administrators or assignees of the player or caddie. The player also irrevocably assigns to The R&A the right to use and reproduce, and to permit others to use and reproduce, the player’s and/or their caddie’s names, images, voices, likeness, signatures, and biographical materials in any way now known or hereafter devised without compensation for the player or their caddie or the heirs, successors, executors, administrators or assignees of the player or caddie including in circumstances where the player’s and/or their caddie’s name, voice, likeness, signature, and biographical material: (i) is used to promote the official merchandise of The Open, (ii) is incorporated into any content or promotional material produced by The R&A or its sponsors or official suppliers which may include the logo of a third party or of a sponsor or official supplier of The Open or any subsequent Open Championship, or (iii) is used in relation to any other activities undertaken by The R&A. Players will be responsible for ensuring that they hold all the necessary rights to grant the above assignments, including appropriate agreements with their caddies. The player and their caddie shall release and discharge The R&A, its group companies,

licensees, successors and assignees from any claims arising from use of their name, voice, likeness, signature, and biographical material, including claims for misrepresentation of their character, or their person by any means. By agreeing to these Terms, the player and their caddie hereby waive all privacy, publicity, and proprietary rights. Notwithstanding the foregoing grant of rights, The R&A and its assignees and licensees agree that, other than as permitted above, they will not authorise any company contractually associated with The R&A to use the player’s or their caddie’s name, image, voice, likeness, signature, and biographical material in a way which constitutes the endorsement by the player of a product or service, without requiring such associated company to first obtain the player’s authorisation. Also, to comply with certain contractual limitations relating to advertising on television, players assent that they or their caddies may not, without the prior approval of The R&A, display any commercial identification on clothing or equipment other than that customarily affixed to and of the normal size and in the normal position on any such clothing or equipment.

- (6) The R&A requires players and their teams to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful of The Open and the sport of golf. Players and their teams shall at all times act in the best interests of the sport and The Open, and shall not conduct themselves in an unlawful or improper manner or so as to bring The Open, The R&A, the sport of golf or its governing bodies into disrepute and shall not use any one of or a combination of violent conduct, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour. Players and their teams shall comply with any Code of Conduct set by the Open Championships Committee from time to time. For the purposes of this condition, a player’s team includes their caddies as well as any agents, coaches or other support team (including family members) present at The Open or in the environs of The Open venue or otherwise acting in relation to The Open.
- (7) Players will at all times be liable for the actions of their caddies and will ensure that their caddies comply with the Terms as they apply to the players. Players will ensure that their caddies wear clothing of a type appropriate to The Open and, in particular, caddies will be required to wear The Open over-garment or bib of a type and design as will be supplied by the Open Championships Committee. Caddies will be required to wear such an over-garment or bib during The Open (including practice rounds), Last-Chance Qualifier and Final Qualifying. Caddies shall not, at any time, wear an overgarment or bib which has not been supplied or expressly approved by the Open Championships Committee. Caddies shall wear smooth, rubber-sole (preferably tennis or basketball) shoes. Footwear with a closed toe is required. Flip flops, open-toed sandals and other similar shoes are not permitted. Golf spikes are prohibited.
- (8) All players gaining entry to The Open (and Qualifiers) are subject to the provisions of the European Tour Group Anti-Doping Policy in force at the date of The Open. Details of such Policy, and the Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods, are available from The R&A. Players who are taking medication and are in doubt as to their clinical status should seek advice from The R&A not later than 21 days before the start of The Open (and Qualifiers).
- (9) Any players gaining entry into The Open (and Qualifiers) that hold Russian and/or Belarussian nationalities and/or passports are subject to any Neutral Athlete Criteria set by the Open Championships Committee from time to time.
- (10) All players gaining entry into The Open (and Qualifiers) and their caddies are subject to the provisions of The Open’s Anti-Corruption and Betting Policy in force at the date of The Open.



1 SPAIN - Open de Espana presented by Madrid

2 JAPAN - Japan Open & Mizuno Open

3 HONG KONG - Link Hong Kong Open

4 AUSTRALIA - Crown Australian Open

5 NEW ZEALAND - 105th New Zealand Open presented by Millbrook Resort

6 SOUTH AFRICA - Investec South African Open

7 ARGENTINA - 119 Visa Argentina Open presented by Maoro

8 USA - Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard & Memorial Tournament presented by Workday

9 SINGAPORE - Singapore Open

10 KOREA - KOLON Korea Open

11 CANADA - RBC Canadian Open

12 ITALY - Open d'Italia

13 SCOTLAND - Genesis Scottish Open



- (11) All players gaining entry into The Open (and Qualifiers) and their caddies are subject to the provisions of The R&A's Logos and Marks Policy in force at the date of The Open.
- (12) All players and their caddies shall be subject to the provisions of The R&A's Content Filming Policy in force at each qualifying event.
- (13) All players gaining entry into The Open are responsible for the conformity of the equipment they use and may be required to demonstrate this conformity via participation in testing. Those players randomly selected will be notified directly as part of the registration process at The Open. In addition, an information service for players will be available throughout The Open to answer any outstanding questions on the conformity of their equipment.
- (14) A copy of the full pace of play policy will be posted at The Open and qualifying events and will be available on request.
- (15) The Model Local Rules in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf are in effect for G-1 Conforming Driver Heads, G-2 Groove and Punch Mark Specifications, G-3 Conforming Golf Balls, and G-10 Prohibiting Use of Clubs Longer than 46 inches.
- (16) Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect. A player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorised transportation except as authorised or later approved by the Open Championships Committee. The R&A will only consider requests for use of motorised transportation where (i) the player making the request has a qualifying medical impairment and (ii) the player can demonstrate that there is a medical need for transportation that results from that qualifying medical impairment. Any requests by a player to use any form of transportation must be made on entry. All requests must be submitted by email to The R&A entries department at: entries@randa.org and made in accordance with the procedures outlined in The R&A's Transportation Policy, available on request from The R&A.
- (17) Any player who believes they are eligible to use the Modifications for Players with Disabilities (Rule 25) should contact entries@randa.org on the date of entry to confirm their eligibility to use the specific modifications in Rule 25.
- (18) The wearing of jeans of any colour is not permitted whilst practising or competing during any stage of The Open. Shorts may be worn at RQ, FQ and LCQ and whilst practising at The Open. The Open Championships Committee will consider

varying the policy regarding shorts in light of extreme weather conditions.

- (19) Any amateur or player awaiting reinstatement who comes through qualifying that wishes to play as a professional at the next stage (whether that be FQ, LCQ or The Open) must declare that intention in writing to the Open Championships Committee prior to close of Registration. If they do so, they will play as a professional for the remainder of the championship. Any amateur or player awaiting reinstatement who enters at RQ but wishes to play as a professional must declare that intention in writing to the Open Championships Committee before teeing off on the date of RQ.
- (20) The Open Championships Committee reserves the right to amend these Terms and the decision of the Committee will, in all matters, be final.
- (21) These Terms will be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of Scotland.

B. THE OPEN QUALIFYING SERIES

For those entrants not exempt into The Open under section F, the qualifying procedure will be as follows:

THE OPEN QUALIFYING SERIES (OQS)

With the exception of ties for first place, which will be determined in accordance with the Terms for the tournament concerned, ties will be decided in favour of the highest ranked player in the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) at the commencement of the tournament. If two or more players have the same OWGR, or two or more players have no OWGR, then ties will be decided by a card countback. The card countback will use the back 9 holes of the course or 6 or 3 or 2 or 1 hole and if a tie still arises, the last 6 or 3 or 2 or 1 hole of the front 9 holes of the course in the final round in OQS. If a tie still arises the same card countback will be used for the 3rd, 2nd and 1st rounds of the tournament.

- (1) SPAIN - The leading player, not already exempt, who makes the cut at the 2025 Open de Espana presented by Madrid.
- (2) JAPAN - The leading player, not already exempt, who makes the cut at the 2025 Japan Open and the leading 3 players, not already exempt, who make the cut at the 2026 Mizuno Open.
- (3) HONG KONG - The leading player, not already exempt, who makes the cut at the 2025 Link Hong Kong Open.
- (4) AUSTRALIA - The leading 3 players, not already exempt, who make the cut at the 2025 Crown Australian Open.



- (5) NEW ZEALAND - The leading player, not already exempt, who makes the cut at the 2026 New Zealand Open presented by Millbrook Resort.
- (6) SOUTH AFRICA - The leading 3 players, not already exempt, who make the cut at the 2026 Investec South African Open.
- (7) ARGENTINA - The leading player, not already exempt, who makes the cut at the 119 Visa Argentina Open presented by Macro.
- (8) USA - The leading player, not already exempt, who makes the cut at the 2026 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard and the leading player, not already exempt, who makes the cut at the 2026 Memorial Tournament presented by Workday.
- (9) SINGAPORE - The leading 2 players, not already exempt, who make the cut at the 2026 Singapore Open.
- (10) KOREA - the leading player, not already exempt, who makes the cut at the 2026 KOLON Korea Open.
- (11) CANADA - the leading 3 players, not already exempt, who make the cut at the 2026 RBC Canadian Open.
- (12) ITALY - the leading player, not already exempt, who makes the cut at the 2026 Open d'Italia.
- (13) SCOTLAND - the leading 3 players, not already exempt, who make the cut at the 2026 Genesis Scottish Open.

Note: if a player competes in an OQS event and becomes exempt under section F between the date The R&A publishes its list of exempt players and the completion of that OQS event, that player shall be added to the list of exempt players under section F prior to declaring the qualifiers of that respective OQS event. If a player qualifies for The Open via OQS and later becomes exempt under section F, their qualifying position will not pass to the next non-exempt player from that OQS event.

LAST CHANCE QUALIFYING (LCQ)

- (14) To determine the last-chance qualifier for The Open, two rounds of 9 holes will be played by stroke play on Monday 13 July at Royal Birkdale. The winner will receive a place in The Open.
- (15) In the event of a tie, the winner will be decided by a hole-by-hole play-off over holes determined by the Open Championships Committee.
- (16) The starting field will be 12 players and entry will be by invitation. The Open Championships Committee reserves the right to invite any player who meets the criteria set out in section E. The Open Championships Committee may rescind invitations and/or amend such criteria at any time without giving a reason for its decision.
- (17) The leading 2 non-exempt players in the OWGR as published on Monday, 6 July shall take up places 1 and 2 on the reserve list for The Open (see section E.(1.1)). Subject to section G, places 3 onwards on the reserve list shall be allocated based on the performance of each player during LCQ. In the event of any tied finishing places, the player with the highest OWGR ranking as published on Monday 13 July will be placed on the reserve list. If there is a play-off to determine the winner of LCQ, the finishing place(s) in the play-off at the point the eventual winner is determined will supersede the OWGR ranking for the purpose of allocating places to players on the reserve list.
- (18) In the event of play being incomplete on Monday, 13 July, the competition will either be: (i) declared over 9 holes (provided all players have completed 9 holes on Monday, 13 July); or (ii) extended to Tuesday, 14 July (provided all players have completed 14 holes on Monday, 13 July). If all players have not completed 9 holes on Monday, 13 July, LCQ will be cancelled and no players will go forward from LCQ to The Open. Final places into The Open and all reserve places would then be determined according to section G.

FINAL QUALIFYING (FQ)

- (19) Separate FQ competitions of 36 holes each will be played by stroke play on Tuesday 30 June at Burnham & Berrow, Dundonald Links, Royal Cinque Ports and West Lancashire.
- (20) Entrants must intimate on the online entry form their preferred (1-4) FQ courses they wish to play. Allocation of FQ courses will be at the sole discretion of The R&A.
- (21) For FQ, the field will be divided between the designated courses.
- (22) Ties for last qualifying places in each competition will be decided by a hole by hole play-off as soon as practicable after the last players finish their round. The Open Championships Committee will announce a start time of the play-off and all eligible players must report to the teeing area of the first play-off hole at this time to confirm their place in the play-off. Any player who is not present in this location at the time specified by the Open Championships Committee will not be included in the play-off.
- (23) The play-off start time will apply to all play-off competitors for the purposes of Rule 5.3 irrespective of which group the player has been drawn to play in.
- (24) In the event of play being either delayed or declared null and void for either round of any FQ event, additional play will be at the discretion of the Open Championships Committee.

REGIONAL QUALIFYING (RQ)

- (25) To determine qualifiers to FQ, separate RQ competitions of 18 holes each will be played by stroke play on Monday 22 June 2026 at Bearwood Lakes, Caldy, Craighielaw, Enville (Highgate Course), Ferndown (Old Course), Fulford, Gog Magog (Old Course), Hesketh, Kilmarnock (Barassie) – Barassie Links, Lindrick, Minchinhampton (Composite Course), Moor Park (High Course), North Hants, Rochester & Cobham Park and The Island. If the number of entrants exceeds the number of players that can be accommodated at these courses, additional courses may be added. It may not be possible to allocate all entrants to their preferred courses.
- (26) Entrants must intimate on the online entry form which RQ courses they wish to play. If the field of any of these competitions does not exceed 40 players, that particular competition may be cancelled and the entrants for that cancelled event may be required to play in another RQ event. After allowing for players who fulfil the conditions under section D to enter into FQ, the number of qualifying places available for FQ will be determined by the size of each field. Allocation of RQ courses will be at the sole discretion of The R&A.
- (27) Ties for last qualifying places in each competition will be decided by a hole by hole play-off as soon as practicable after the last players finish their round. The Open Championships Committee will announce a start time of the play-off and all eligible players must report to the teeing area of the first play-off hole at this time to confirm their place in the play-off. Any player who is not present in this location at the time specified by the Open Championships Committee will not be included in the play-off.
- (28) The play-off start time will apply to all play-off competitors for the purposes of Rule 5.3 irrespective of which group the player has been drawn to play in.

Note: In the event insufficient players turn up for the play-off, to break specific tied positions, places and reserves will be decided by a card countback. The card countback will use the back 9 holes of the course or 6 or 3 or 2 or 1 hole and if a tie still arises, the last 6 or 3 or 2 or 1 hole of the front 9 holes of the course.
- (29) Irrespective of play-off places and performance according to section B.(27), reserve places in case of subsequent withdrawals from FQ will be decided by a card countback, if necessary, from each RQ competition. The card countback



will use the back 9 holes or 6 or 3 or 2 or 1 hole and, if a tie still arises, the last 6 or 3 or 2 or 1 hole of the front 9 holes and, if a tie still arises, by the drawing of lots.

- (30) In the event of play being incomplete or declared null and void on Monday 22 June 2026, the competition will continue or take place on Tuesday 23 June 2026 at the same venue. In the event of play being declared null and void on Tuesday 23 June 2026, the competition will be cancelled and entrance fees refunded in full. No players will go forward from that competition to FQ.

C. ENTRIES

- (1) Entry into RQ will be accepted from any:
- (i) professional golfer who is a certified member of a recognised professional association;
 - (ii) professional golfer who is an active certified playing member of any Professional Tour listed on the online entry form;
 - (iii) golfer (amateur, applicant for reinstatement or professional) who holds a current Handicap Index® based on (a) ratings for men of not more than 0.4 at date of entry or (b) a current Handicap Index® based on ratings for women that would demonstrate an equivalent playing ability as determined by The R&A in its sole discretion, in each case 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 0.4 at date of entry;
 - (iv) amateur golfer who has been within men's WAGR listing 1-2,000 (see www.WAGR.com) during the period WAGR week 2026/01 to date of entry.
- (2) Entry into FQ or The Open will be accepted from any golfer who fulfils conditions in section **D**, or section **F** respectively, subject to section **G**.
- (3) Entry into LCQ may be accepted from any golfer who fulfils conditions in section E subject to section G.
- (4) Amateur entrants from Great Britain & Ireland will be accepted under the WHS handicapping scheme or, from outside Great Britain & Ireland, under the handicapping scheme adopted by the recognised authority controlling golf in the country from which they enter.
- (5) Entries must be received by the Entries Department no later than 11:59pm (UK time) on 21 May 2026.
- (6) Entries will be accepted by the Entries Department only if the following details are provided:
- i. Payment of Entry Fee
 - ii. CDH or equivalent Number (only applicable for those entering under section C.1(i)(iii))
- For the purposes of this section, "Entry Fee" shall mean a single payment of: (a) £300 from exempt players; (b) £250 from players that enter at FQ, and (c) £200 from players that enter at RQ.
- (7) Entrance fees will not be refunded unless written intimation of withdrawal is received before the closing date for entries. An administrative charge of £20 (inclusive of VAT) will be deducted from all refunds.
- (8) The Open Championships Committee may require independent certified evidence of the playing ability of entrants and it reserves the right to contact an entrant's current or previous golf club, National Golf Association or Federation to

request their full handicap record for this purpose. An entry may be refused if, in the opinion of the Open Championships Committee, an entrant's Handicap Index® is not reflective of their playing ability.

- (9) All entries will be subject to the approval of the Open Championships Committee which reserves the right to accept or refuse, or having accepted, subsequently reject any entry without giving reason for a decision.
- (10) The Open Championships Committee reserves the right to refuse any existing or future entry based on a player's score and/or performance in any previous competitive golf tournament, including RQ, or where a player has not played in a competitive golf tournament in the 12-month period prior to the date of entry. If a player fails to return a score within 12 strokes of the Course Rating at RQ or who withdraws before completion of their round, their existing or future entries into The Open may be declined unless documentation is provided which demonstrates recent competitive performance of the appropriate standard. The Open Championships Committee reserves the right to determine what the appropriate standard is.
- (11) Players who are deemed by the Open Championships Committee not to be playing to the appropriate standard may be withdrawn at any time during the round.
- (12) The Open Championships Committee reserves the right to disqualify any player making a false statement on their entry form.

D. ENTRY AT FINAL QUALIFYING is open to:

- (1) Past Champions of The Open.
- (2) Any player with an OWGR ranking in the top 800 and ties on the date of entry. Note: if a player subsequently becomes exempt under section **D.(2)** after entering RQ the player must contact the Entries Department before the closing date. A reserve list may be required if there are too many entries through this exemption. The list will be taken from all OWGR entrants in descending order from the closing date. Any reserve list will be published on www.TheOpen.com. All reserves will be reallocated to RQ. If they do not wish to play at this level they will receive a refund.
- (3) Any player who had multiple finishes in the top 200 of the year-end OWGR in the last six calendar years (2020-2025).
- (4) Past Champions of The Masters Tournament, The US Open Championship and The PGA Championship.
- (5) Anyone who played in The 153rd Open at Royal Portrush in 2025.
- (6) First 10 players (ties determined by The PGA) in the 2025 PGA Professional Championship.
- (7) First 10 players (ties determined by The PGA of America) in the 2025 PGA of America Professional Championship.
- (8) Past playing members in the last 6 Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup Teams.
- (9) Playing members of the 2025 St Andrews Trophy teams.
- (10) Playing members of the 2025 Walker Cup teams.
- (11) The Amateur Champions 2021-2025.
- (12) The US Amateur Champions 2020-2024.
- (13) The European Amateur Champions 2021-2025.
- (14) The 2025 English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh Amateur Champions, from the respective closed Amateur Championships.
- (15) The quarter finalists in the 2026 Amateur Championship and the top 4 in the 2026 European Amateur Championship, for



whom blank entries will be made and the runner-up in the 2025 US Amateur Championship. With the exception of ties for first place, which will be determined in accordance with the Terms for the tournament concerned, ties will be decided in favour of the highest ranked competitor in WAGR at the commencement of the tournament.

- (16) The leading 8 WAGR® ranked players in the top 200, not otherwise exempt who have entered RQ, as at WAGR Week 2026/21.
- (17) The Boys Amateur Champion 2025.
- (18) The 2026 Latin America Amateur runner(s)-up.
- (19) The 2025 Asia-Pacific Amateur runners(s)-up.
- (20) The 2026 Africa Amateur runner(s)-up.

Sections D.(9) to D.(20) are only applicable if the entrant concerned is still an amateur on 30 June 2026.

E. ENTRY AT LAST CHANCE QUALIFYING

- (1) The 12 invited players and reserves for LCQ will be determined using the following criteria (such criteria to apply in descending order of precedence):

1.1 The leading 2 non-exempt players in the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) as published on Monday 6 July 2026 and who are not exempt before play has started at LCQ. Subject to Section E.(4), if either player becomes exempt before play starts at LCQ the Open Championships Committee may, where considered practicable, invite the next best placed non-exempt player who has confirmed that they can play in LCQ.

Note: the players in this exemption category must register and compete in LCQ to retain their reserve status for The Open (see section B.(17)). Failure to do so by either player will result in that player's place on The Open reserve list and/or entry into LCQ being forfeited or reallocated. The Open Championships Committee may waive this condition to allow a reserve for The Open to retain their reserve status without registering and playing in the LCQ in exceptional circumstances. If a player turns down the opportunity to be a reserve for The Open, then they are automatically removed from this category.

1.2 The runner-up in The Amateur Championship, provided that player is still an amateur on Monday 13 July 2026.

1.3 Players who did not secure a place in The Open having been in a play-off at FQ.

Note: If the number of players exceeds the starting field limit for LCQ, the order in which this exemption category is taken will be determined by sections E.1.3(i) & (ii).

(i) a player will be taken from each FQ venue in strength of field order as determined by The R&A. One player will be taken from each venue before returning to the strongest field to take a second player and so on.

(ii) The order by which players are taken from each FQ venue will be decided based on each player's finishing place in their respective play-off until the eventual qualifier was determined. In the event of tied finishing places in the play-off, the player with the highest OWGR ranking as published on Monday 29 June 2026 will be awarded the place.

1.4 Players that finished one position behind competitors who secured a place in The Open at FQ.

Note: if the number of players exceeds the starting field limit for LCQ, the order in which this exemption is taken will be determined by sections E.(1.4)(i)&(ii).

(i) a player will be taken from each FQ venue in strength of field order as determined by The R&A. One player will be

taken from each venue before returning to the strongest field to take a second player and so on.

(ii) in the event of a tied score at each FQ venue, the player with the highest OWGR ranking as published on Monday 29 June 2026 will be awarded the place.

1.5 Players who were tied for a qualifying place in OQS events (excluding OQS Scotland) but did not qualify due to a lower position in the OWGR, or by losing in the play-off for 1st place in the OQS event.

Note: The order in which this exemption category is taken will be determined by sections E.1.5(i) & (ii)

(i) a player will be taken from each OQS event in strength of field order (as published by the OWGR). One player will be taken from each OQS event based on section E.(1.5)(ii) before returning to the next strongest field to take a second player and so on.

(ii) the order of priority will be determined by the player's OWGR rankings published Monday 29 June.

If two or more players have the same OWGR, or two or more players have no OWGR, then ties will be decided by a card countback. The card countback will use the back 9 holes of the course or 6 or 3 or 2 or 1 hole and if a tie still arises, the last 6 or 3 or 2 or 1 hole of the front 9 holes of the course.

- (2) The reserve list for the LCQ will be determined in order of exemption category until each exemption is exhausted, at which point it will move to the next category. Once all exemption categories are exhausted the Open Championships Committee may, in exceptional circumstances and at its sole discretion, invite players to compete in LCQ who are not listed in the criteria or permit LCQ to be played with a smaller starting field.
- (3) If the Open Championships Committee invites a player to compete in LCQ on or before Wednesday 1 July 2026, the player (or their agent) must accept that invitation within 7 days from the date the invitation is received. If a player receives an invitation after Wednesday 1 July 2026, the player (or their agent) must accept the invitation within 48 hours of receipt. If a player receives an invitation less than 48 hours before the start of LCQ, the Open Championships Committee will communicate an appropriate deadline for accepting the invite at the time the invitation is issued. Any player that does not accept their invitation by the applicable deadline will be deemed to have declined the invitation and will be withdrawn from LCQ. The Open Championships Committee reserves the right to amend acceptance deadlines at any time at its sole discretion.
- (4) If a player becomes exempt under section F, withdraws or fails to accept their invitation into LCQ before the applicable deadline, the Open Championships Committee shall rescind that player's invitation and may invite a reserve to compete in LCQ. The Open Championships Committee shall not be obliged to replace any player and reserves the right to invite players not listed in section E without giving a reason for its decision.
- (5) In the event an exempt player withdraws from The Open after play has started at LCQ, that withdrawal will not be processed until the conclusion of LCQ.

F. PLAYERS EXEMPT FROM ALL QUALIFYING

- (1) The Open Champions aged 60 or under on 19 July 2026 (for all Champions up until 2024).
- (2) The Open Champions aged 55 or under on 19 July 2026 (for all Champions from 2024).



- (3) The Open Champions for 2015-2025.
- (4) First 10 and anyone tying for 10th place in The 153rd Open at Royal Portrush in 2025.
- (5) The first 50 players on the OWGR for Week 21, 2026. Blank entries will be made on behalf of all players.
- (6) First 25 players in the Final Race to Dubai Ranking for 2025.
- (7) The BMW PGA Championship winners for 2023-2025.
- (8) First 5 DP World Tour members and any DP World Tour members tying for 5th place, not otherwise exempt, in the top 20 of the DP World Tour Rankings on completion of the 2026 BMW International Open.
- (9) The Masters Tournament Champions for 2022-2026.
- (10) The PGA Champions for 2022-2026.
- (11) The US Open Champions for 2022-2026. Blank entry will be made on behalf of the 2026 Champion.
- (12) Top 30 players from the Final 2025 FedExCup Points List.
- (13) THE PLAYERS Champions for 2024-2026.
- (14) First 5 PGA TOUR members and any PGA TOUR members tying for 5th place, not exempt in the top 20 of the PGA TOUR FedExCup Points List for 2026 on completion of the 2026 Rocket Mortgage Classic.
- (15) The first player and anyone tying for that place, not otherwise exempt, in the 2026 LIV Golf Individual Season Standings on completion of LIV Golf Andalucia. Blank entry will be made on behalf of the player.
- (16) The first 5 players on the 2026 Federation Ranking List as of The 2026 Open entry closing date. Places 1-4 on this List may be determined before The Open closing date, as each season-ending Included Order of Merit is published.
- (17) The Senior Open Champion for 2025.
- (18) The US Amateur Champion for 2025.
- (19) The Mark H McCormack Medal (Men's WORLD AMATEUR GOLF RANKING) winner for 2025.
- (20) The Asia-Pacific Amateur Champion 2025.
- (21) The Latin America Amateur Champion 2026.
- (22) The Africa Amateur Champion 2026.
- (23) The Amateur Champion for 2026. Blank entry will be made on behalf of the Champion.
- (24) The European Amateur Champion for 2026. Blank entry will be made on behalf of the Champion.
- (25) The 2026 Open Amateur Series winner. Blank entry will be made on behalf of the winner.

Sections F.(18) to F.(25) are only applicable if the entrant concerned is still an amateur on 19 July 2026.

G. THE STARTING FIELD

In the event of an exempt player withdrawing from The Open or further places becoming available in the starting field after close of entries, the Open Championships Committee may at its discretion allocate these places to FQ players and/or in ranking order of entrants from OWGR at the time that such places become available. Any withdrawals following issue of OWGR Week 27 will be taken in ranking order from OWGR Week 27.

Players 1 and 2 on the reserve list for The Open shall retain their reserve status subject to satisfying the criteria in section E.(1.1). If either reserve qualifies for The Open from LCQ, their reserve place will be reallocated subject to section B.(17). As of Monday 13 July, places 3 and 4 onwards on The Open reserve list will be awarded to the LCQ field according to section B.(17).

If a player, having entered, withdraws or otherwise fails to play in any round of any qualifying event, without providing a satisfactory explanation to the

Championship Office, the Open Championships Committee reserves the right to reject an entry into The Open (including RQ, FQ and LCQ) from that player notwithstanding any exemptions that player may have earned for that year and in any subsequent year or years. Any player who fails to return a score and fails to notify the relevant committee in person in the Championship Office will have any FQ exemptions they may have earned for that year and/or in any subsequent year or years rescinded.

H. REGISTRATION

FQ

Players must register at the course where they are playing by 2pm BST on the day prior to the start of the competition. If unable to register in person, players may indicate their time of arrival to The R&A at the venue at which they are playing by telephone or e-mail to be received before 2pm BST on the day prior to the start of the competition. The R&A must receive telephone calls personally. A player's place may be forfeited if contact has not been made by the stipulated time. The Open Championships Committee may adjust or waive this deadline at its sole discretion.

LCQ

Players must register in person at Royal Birkdale by 1pm BST on Sunday 12 July. If unable to register in person, a player may indicate their time of arrival by telephone or e-mail before 1pm BST on Sunday 12 July. A player's place may be forfeited if contact has not been made by the stipulated time.

THE OPEN

Players must register at Royal Birkdale between 7am BST on Sunday 12 July and 6pm BST on Tuesday 14 July 2026. If unable to register in person, a player may indicate their time of arrival and address for the duration of The Open by telephone or e-mail to be received before 6pm BST on Tuesday 14 July. Telephone calls must be received at the Championship Office. A player's place may be forfeited if contact has not been made by the stipulated time.

I. PRIZES

The winner will be the Champion Golfer of the Year and will receive The Claret Jug, which will be held for that year, and the Championship Gold Medal. The winner will also receive a replica for retention. Conditions applicable to The Claret Jug, the Championship Gold Medal and the provision of the replica trophy will be intimated to the winner by The R&A. The winner will be entitled to use The Claret Jug for promotional purposes with commercial partners, provided always that the winner notifies The R&A in advance and such use will not be excessive, and will be in good taste and respectful of the tradition and prestige of The Open. In addition, the winner agrees to keep The R&A informed of any other proposed public use of The Claret Jug. As the owner of all intellectual property rights in and to The Claret Jug, The R&A may, at its sole discretion, deem any commercial use of The Claret Jug to be unsuitable, and in such event the winner will ensure that such use is discontinued. The winner will return The Claret Jug in person to the Chief Executive Officer of The R&A at a date, time and place required by The R&A. The runner(s)-up will receive a Silver Salver. The leading amateur(s) in The Open, unless the winner, will receive a Silver Medal on completion of 72 holes. Other amateurs who complete 72 holes will each receive a Bronze Medal.

Prize money will be allocated to professional golfers. If an amateur golfer or applicant for reinstatement wins The Open, the 1st place prize money will be allocated, proportionately, to the professional golfers who make the cut. Players who are disqualified or withdraw from The Open at any stage or for any reason will forfeit all prize money. The Open Championships Committee, at its discretion, may waive or otherwise amend this term.

If more than 70 professional golfers qualify for the final two rounds, additional prize money will be added.



MARK DARBON Chief Executive Officer
JOHN CLARK Chairman,
 Open Championships Committee



THE OPEN QUALIFYING SERIES - REGIONAL QUALIFYING

BEARWOOD LAKES

Bearwood Road
Sindlesham
Wokingham
Berkshire, RG41 4SJ
Tel: 0118 3048200
www.bearwoodlakes.co.uk

CALDY

Links Hey Road
Caldy
Wirral
CH48 1NB
Tel: 0151 625 5660
www.caldygolfclub.co.uk

CRAIGIELAW

Aberlady
East Lothian
EH32 0PY
Tel 01875 870800
www.craigielawgolfclub.com

ENVILLE (HIGHGATE COURSE)

Highgate Common
Enville, Stourbridge
West Midlands
DY7 5BN
Tel 01384 872074
www.envillegolfclub.co.uk

FERNDOWN (OLD COURSE)

119 Golf Links Road
Ferndown
BH22 8BU
Tel: 01202 653963
www.ferndowngolfclub.co.uk

FULFORD

Heslington Lane
York
Yorkshire
YO10 5DY
Tel: 01904 413579
www.fulfordgolfclub.co.uk

GOG MAGOG (OLD COURSE)

Shelford Bottom
Cambridge
CB22 3AB
Tel 01223 247626
www.gogmagog.co.uk

HESKETH

Cockle Dick's Lane
Southport
PR9 9QQ
Tel: 01704 536897
www.heskethgolfclub.co.uk

KILMARNOCK (BARASSIE)

29 Hillhouse Road
Barassie, Troon
Ayrshire KA10 6SY
Tel: 01292 313920
www.kbgc.co.uk

LINDRICK

Deep Carrs Lane
Lindrick Common
Rotherham
South Yorkshire
Tel 01909 475282
www.lindrickgolfclub.co.uk

MINCHINHAMPTON

Minchinhampton Golf Club
New Courses
Minchinhampton
Stroud, Glos. GL6 9BE
Tel: 01453 833866,
www.minchinhamptongolfclub.co.uk

MOOR PARK (HIGH COURSE)

Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire
WD3 1QN
Tel: 01923 721663
www.moorparkgc.co.uk

NORTH HANTS

Minley Road, Fleet
Hampshire
GU51 1RF
Tel: 01252 616443
www.northhantsgolf.co.uk

ROCHESTER & COBHAM PARK

Park Pale
Rochester
Kent
ME2 3UL
Tel: 01474 823411
www.rochesterandcobhamgc.co.uk

THE ISLAND

Donabate
Dublin
Ireland
Tel 00 353 1 843 6205
www.theislandgolfclub.com

THE OPEN QUALIFYING SERIES - FINAL QUALIFYING

BURNHAM & BERROW

St Christopher's Way
Burnham on Sea
Somerset
TA8 2PE
Tel: 01278 785760
www.burnhamandberrowgolfclub.co.uk

DUNDONALD LINKS

Ayr Road
Gailes
Ayrshire
KA11 5BF
Tel: 01294 314000
www.dundonaldlinks.com

ROYAL CINQUE PORTS

Golf Road
Deal
Kent
CT14 6RF
Tel: 01304 374007
www.royalcinqueports.com

WEST LANCASHIRE

Hall Road West
Blundellsands
Liverpool
L23 8SZ
Tel: 0151 924 1076
www.westlancashiregolf.co.uk



QUALIFYING
SERIES