

Sheffield Golf Club Secretary

From: Golf Australia <clubsupport@golf.org.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2026 2:01 PM
To: secretary@sheffieldgolfclub.net.au
Subject: ***SPAM*** New Golf Insights Hub: 9-Hole Participation Report for Clubs and Venues

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Golf.com.au - New Golf Insights Hub



NEW GOLF INSIGHTS HUB: 9-HOLE PARTICIPATION REPORT FOR CLUBS AND VENUES

Golf Australia has launched a new [GOLF.com.au Insights Hub](#), designed to provide ongoing visibility of how handicap golfers are playing the game, with a focus on participation trends, formats and evolving golfer behaviour.

The inaugural release focuses on 9-hole golf and draws on more than 20 million rounds submitted through the GA Handicap system over four years.

This first report is [powered by Capital.com](#), as part of its title partnership of the GA Handicap and the Men's Australian Open, supporting the launch of enhanced national insights into how the game is being played.

Importantly, 18-hole golf remains the clear foundation of the game in Australia, with around four in five handicap golfers playing only 18-hole rounds. The growth of 9-hole golf sits alongside this, reflecting increased flexibility in how golfers choose to engage with the game, rather than a shift away from traditional formats.

Key insights for clubs and venues

YEAR-ON-YEAR

+11.4%

TOTAL 9-HOLE ROUNDS

734,756

over 12 months to May 2026

The **4th consecutive year of growth**, continuing a multi-year upward trend (+4.8% in May 2025, +14.9% in May 2024).

ROLLING 12-MONTH NATIONAL TOTAL



- 9-hole rounds represent 5.86% of all handicap rounds nationally
- Around 1 in 5 golfers play both 9 and 18 holes
- Women are 3.1x more likely than men to submit 9-hole rounds
- Under-18s show the highest participation share at 8.1%
- 9-hole dominant golfers average 30.4 handicap vs 17.9 for 18-hole dominant players

Access the full report

Explore national trends, state breakdowns and participation insights in full.

[VIEW THE 9-HOLE INSIGHTS REPORT](#)

What this means for clubs and venues

The data highlights 9-hole golf as a growing **format within the broader game**, supporting accessibility, flexibility and participation growth alongside traditional 18-hole play.

For clubs and venues, this reinforces opportunities to:

- Enhance scheduling flexibility and course utilisation

- - Support participation across different time availability patterns
- - Strengthen junior, beginner and returning golfer engagement
- - Provide additional entry and retention pathways into club golf
- - Optimise programming without displacing core 18-hole participation

Winter Solstice: a timely opportunity for 9-hole golf

With the winter solstice falling on Sunday June 21, the shortest day of the year of daylight hours, clubs and venues are uniquely placed to make the most of limited playing time by prioritising 9-hole golf and shorter-format competitions.

As daylight hours contract, 9-hole rounds provide a practical way to maintain participation, optimise course access, and keep golfers active during a period when capacity and scheduling can be more constrained.

Golf Australia is encouraging clubs to consider programming more 9-hole rounds and competitions around the solstice period, helping ensure golfers can continue to play, compete and stay connected to the game despite reduced daylight windows.

A new ongoing Insights Hub

This report marks the first release of the Golf Insights Hub, an ongoing Golf Australia initiative providing regular insights into how Australians are playing the game — including participation trends, player behaviour, format usage, and seasonal patterns.



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Our mailing address is:

Golf Australia, Australian Golf Centre, Sandy Golf Links, Cheltenham Road, Victoria 3192 Australia

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