



# DEAF POKER AUSTRALIA

## TOURNAMENT RULES

First Edition

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

About Deaf Poker Australia	3
Core Values & Mission Statement	3
DPA Board of Directors	4
Further Information	4
DPA Championship: History	5
Rule 1: General	6
Rule 2: DPA-Sanctioned Events & Affiliated Leagues	7
Rule 3: Conditions of Entry & Eligibility Criteria	10
Rule 4: Terminology, Gestures & Communication	12

## ABOUT DEAF POKER AUSTRALIA

Established in 2008, **Deaf Poker Australia (DPA)** is a **non-profit organisation** with a common interest in developing and promoting poker catering specifically to **Deaf and hard-of-hearing players**. As the game's **de facto governing body** in the Australian Deaf community, DPA collaborates with Deaf poker groups in **New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia** and **Victoria**.

DPA has also assisted in the development of Deaf poker in **New Zealand** and has worked closely with major casinos on both sides of the Tasman since 2011, including the **Adelaide Casino, Treasury Hotel & Casino** (Brisbane), **The Star** (Sydney), **Crown Perth, Crown Melbourne** and **SKYCITY Auckland**.

DPA is also one of seven founding member organisations of the **International Deaf Poker Federation (IDPF)**, having led a campaign to establish the **IDPF World Championship** with our partners from New Zealand, USA, Canada, the UK, Ireland and Sweden.

The unique feature of all DPA live tournaments is the ability for players to **communicate in Auslan** (Australian Sign Language) at the tables. As this document will show you, with just a few modifications of existing tournament rules, **Deaf players are easily accommodated** without affecting the way the game is played, dealt or adjudicated.

## CORE VALUES & MISSION STATEMENT

Commissioned by 2018 Australian and IDPF World Champion **Alisha Wormald**, the DPA logo was chosen for its fresh, dynamic and modern design, whilst embodying our mission statement and core values.

The **diamond** in the 'D' stands for **development** and the ongoing commitment that DPA has to spreading the game of poker throughout the Australian Deaf community, via its network of home games, online and live tournaments.

The **club** found in the 'P' represents our **community** and the DPA's aspiration to not only strengthen the bond between its own players and other members of the Deaf community both at home and abroad, but to break down social barriers and unite Deaf and hearing people through a common interest.

The **spade** within the 'A' highlights our **ambition**. DPA prides itself on giving Deaf people the courage to step up to the challenge in a safe, social and competitive environment, whilst nurturing and supporting the burgeoning talent pool of players who have consistently yielded results both within and outside our events.

One will notice, however, that the **heart** is the only suit that is not represented in our logo. The 'heart' of DPA lies within everyone that is, or has ever been, involved with us. It is also shown through the love and **respect** that all involved have not only for each other, but for the game of poker.

## DPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Title	Mobile	Email
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## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on Deaf Poker Australia, including a comprehensive **archive of results, images and video footage**, please visit our website or follow us on our social media channels.

[www.deafpoker.com.au](http://www.deafpoker.com.au)



## DPA CHAMPIONSHIP: HISTORY

Throughout the year, each Deaf poker state will host their own series of local games and provincial championship tournaments, culminating in the **DPA Championship**, held traditionally in the month of October.

From humble beginnings in 2009, the DPA Championship is now arguably one of the most popular annual Deaf sporting or cultural events in the country, attracting players from all across the nation and the globe.

The two marquee tournaments that feature as part of this series are the **DPA State of Origin**, a unique team format that encapsulates the fierce but friendly interstate rivalry amongst the Deaf community, followed by the **DPA Championship Main Event**, the richest and most prestigious tournament of its kind held in the Southern Hemisphere.

Year	Host City	DPA State of Origin Champions	DPA Main Event Champion
2009	Sydney	-	<b>Ashley Thornton</b> (NSW)
2010	Melbourne	-	<b>Daniel Bachi</b> (NSW)
2011	Adelaide	-	<b>Stacey Reilly</b> (SA)
2012	Brisbane	-	<b>Con Eglezos</b> (QLD)
2013	Sydney	-	<b>Michelle Rowlands</b> (VIC)
2014	Perth	<b>DPA All-Stars</b>	<b>Rhonda Quinn</b> (VIC)
2015	Melbourne	<b>DPA All-Stars</b>	<b>Khari Sou</b> (VIC)
2016	Adelaide	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Michael Maggs</b> (SA)
2017	Tweed Heads	<b>Northern Rivers</b>	<b>Zisimos Jordan</b> (NSW)
2018	Melbourne	<b>Auckland</b> (NZL)	<b>Alisha Wormald</b> (VIC)

## 1. GENERAL

### 1.1. Supplement to TDA Rules

The **Deaf Poker Australia (DPA) Tournament Rules** (hitherto referred as the “**DPA Rules**”) are designed to supplement the **Poker Tournament Directors Association Rules (“TDA Rules”)**. The complete TDA Rules, Recommended Procedures and Illustrated Addendums are available via their website: [www.pokertda.com](http://www.pokertda.com) and may be accompanied with any hard copy of the DPA Rules where possible.

### 1.2. Application of DPA Rules

The DPA Rules are to be **used in conjunction** with both the **TDA Rules and the “House Rules”** (i.e. the rules of the poker league, card club or casino), however, should there be any conflict between these rule sets, **the House Rules shall take precedence**. Further modifications of these rules may also be required due local, state and federal **government regulation**; it is strongly recommended that all league administrators **check with their relevant gaming authority** to ensure compliance.

### 1.3. General Definitions

Where applicable, the use of the abbreviation “DPA” may refer to **a singular or multiple representative/s** of the organisation. This is also the case for such references to “the House”, in that it may represent a singular or multiple person/s employed by a casino, card club or poker league (affiliated with DPA or otherwise).

### 1.4. Acceptance of Rules

By entering into (i.e. purchasing a buy-in) or being engaged in an official capacity for any DPA-Sanctioned Event (see Rule 2.1 below), **all players, interpreters and officials automatically and unconditionally accept** and are expected to abide by these rules, as well as any applicable Terms & Conditions of Entry from the House, such as dress code.

### 1.5. Access to Rules

All players will be able to access the DPA Rules either via our website: [www.deafpoker.com.au](http://www.deafpoker.com.au) or view a physical copy upon request.

### 1.6. Subject to Change

The DPA Rules are **subject to change at any time**, at the discretion of the DPA Board of Directors, without notice.

## 2. DPA-SANCTIONED EVENTS & AFFILIATE LEAGUES

### 2.1. Definition

A **DPA-Sanctioned Event** is any poker tournament **hosted by our organisation**, whether independently or with support from a casino, card club or poker league, or a tournament hosted by one of our **Affiliate Leagues** (i.e. an officially recognised State Deaf Poker group), listed as follows:

Tournament	Affiliate League	Venue
<b>DPA Championship Main Event</b>	<b>Deaf Poker Australia</b>	Casino, card club or poker league venue as advertised, shared annually between the following cities:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Melbourne (VIC)</li> <li>- Perth (WA)</li> <li>- Sydney (NSW)</li> <li>- Adelaide (SA)</li> <li>- Brisbane/Gold Coast/Tweed Heads (QLD)</li> </ul>
<b>DPA State of Origin</b>	<b>Deaf Poker Australia</b>	<i>As above</i>
<b>NSW Deaf Poker Championship</b>	<b>Sydney Deaf Poker League</b>	<b>Tollgate Hotel, Parramatta</b>
<b>Victorian Deaf Poker Championship</b>	<b>Melbourne Kings Deaf Poker</b>	<b>MDCC Pavilion, Hays Paddock, Kew East</b>
<b>WA Deaf Poker Championship</b>	<b>Western Deaf Poker League</b>	<b>Crown Perth</b>
<b>Queensland Deaf Poker Championship</b>	<b>Deaf Poker Queensland</b>	<b>Chermside Bowls Club</b>
<b>SA Deaf Poker Championship</b>	<b>RAdelaide Deaf Poker</b>	<i>Venue as advertised</i>

## 2.2. Other Advertised Events

From time to time, DPA may also engage in advertising and promoting of **other poker tournaments** (Deaf or otherwise) that are not listed above, however, unless otherwise stated, these are not deemed DPA-Sanctioned Events and as such are **subject to their own rules, terms and conditions** that may differ in whole or in part from DPA Rules. It is **the player's responsibility** to be aware of and abide by these rules.

## 2.3. Advertising Requirements

All DPA-Sanctioned Events are to **include the following information when being advertised** and promoted through all media:

- (a) The **title** of the event;
- (b) The **date** of the event;
- (c) **Venue information**, including address;
- (d) **Buy-in and entry fee** ("rake") breakdown (e.g. \$50 buy-in [\$40 + \$10]);
- (e) **Registration and start times**;
- (f) A brief outline of the **tournament format** (e.g. No Limit Hold'em, 20,000 starting stack, 20-minute levels), and;
- (g) Any **other relevant information** (e.g. bonus prizes, "shot clock", antes, etc.).

It is also recommended that a copy of the **blinds structure** be made available for players to view online and/or posted throughout the poker room.

## 2.4. Media Coverage, Marketing & Promotion

Players who enter into any DPA-Sanctioned Event **automatically and unconditionally grant consent** and **waive any rights for compensation** (monetary or otherwise) to DPA, the House and/or any external media outlets for their name, image and likeness being used for the purposes of **media coverage, marketing and promotion**. This also applies to players wearing patches or clothing adorned with the DPA logo.

Forms of media coverage, marketing and promotion will include, but not limited to:

- (a) **Still image photography**;
- (b) **Video** (pre-recorded and/or live broadcasts, whether on television or online);
- (c) **Written word** (print media and/or online), spoken word (radio/podcast) and;
- (d) **Social media** (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, etc.).

A player may request that their images are not used during coverage of tournaments, however such requests are rendered **null and void should they reach the final table**.

## 2.5. Use of DPA Logo

Further to Rule 2.4, the use of the DPA logo on clothing and other promotional/marketing materials (e.g. flyers, signage, etc.) by Affiliate Leagues and/or the House is **subject to approval from the DPA Director of Marketing** and must adhere to **the relevant guidelines**, available on the DPA website.



## 3. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### 3.1. Entry Exclusive to Deaf/HOH Players

Unless otherwise stated, all DPA-sanctioned events are **exclusive to Deaf/HOH players aged 18 years and over**. Players must demonstrate a minimum of **moderate hearing loss** (i.e. at least 40dB pure tone average in the better ear – three-tone PTA at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hz, air conduction, ISO 1969 standard).

### 3.2. Proof of Eligibility

At the request of DPA and/or the House, players must produce either one or both of the following:

- (a) **Proof of age**, e.g. passport, driver's licence or another form of photo identification that is not out of date, and;
- (b) **Proof of hearing loss**, e.g. audiogram or medical certificate no more than 12 months old from the scheduled date of the tournament.

Failure to provide this information **may result in refusal of entry**.

### 3.3. Additional Special Needs

Accommodations for Deaf/HOH players with **additional special needs** (e.g. low vision/blindness, physical/intellectual disability, etc.) **will be made when possible**. Players with special needs but do not have hearing loss will be considered for entry into DPA-Sanctioned events at the discretion of the Tournament Director and/or The House.

### 3.4. Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants

The use of hearing aids and cochlear implants is permitted. Players are **free to fit or remove** hearing aids or cochlear implants at any time.

### 3.5. Interpreters

In the event of a dispute and a ruling is required, or if there is any doubt or confusion over what a player is trying to communicate, dealers and floor staff may **request an interpreter** to assist. A player **cannot call time on an opponent** that is being interpreted. Unless they are appropriately accredited and approved by DPA and/or the House, interpreters are **not to make rulings on disputes** in the absence of dealers and/or floor staff.

### 3.6. Responsible Consumption of Alcohol

Players and officials are expected to **conduct themselves in an orderly manner** at any DPA-sanctioned event; this includes the responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages. DPA and The House must adhere to **Responsible Service of Alcohol** practices and take appropriate action if a player is deemed to be inebriated. Should DPA and/or The House determine that the inebriated player must leave the premises, this **decision is final** with no course of redress or protest through DPA. Under no circumstances are tournament officials or interpreters to consume alcohol whilst on duty.

### 3.7. Responsible Gaming

As per Rule 3.6 above, players and officials are expected to adhere to **Responsible Gaming** practices. DPA and the House must always ensure that **buy-in price points are set in line with the “Deaf economy”** and that players are not wagering beyond their means. DPA and the House are encouraged to refer any players experiencing difficulties to their respective gambling counselling service. Tournament officials and interpreters are prohibited from gambling/wagering whilst on duty.



## 4. TERMINOLOGY, GESTURES & COMMUNICATION

### 4.1. Official Terminology and Gestures

In addition to the TDA Rule regarding Official Terminology and Gestures, a **standardised set of hand signals** has been compiled through extensive consultation with members of the Deaf community and the poker industry. These hand signals are intended to create a **universal lexicon specific to poker** that all players, dealers and staff are able to **instantly recognise and understand, whilst upholding game integrity and security**. Players and staff are encouraged to use these signals at all times. Please refer to the DPA website for more information.

### 4.2. Official Languages (DPA-Sanctioned Events)

The official languages of DPA-Sanctioned Events and all tournaments and cash games hosted by Affiliated Leagues are **spoken English** and **Auslan (Australian Sign Language)**. Where possible, players are encouraged to **speak and sign** at the same time so that everyone at the table is aware of the action.

### 4.3. “English Only” in Other Games (Open Events)

In other tournaments and cash games that are **open to all players** (both deaf and hearing), the **standard “English Only” rule will apply**, irrespective of whether or not the game is hosted by DPA, an Affiliate League or the House. In such cases, Auslan is considered in the **same context as any other spoken foreign language** (e.g. French or Chinese) and **cannot be deemed grounds for discrimination** as the need for upholding game security and integrity is paramount, however in the **spirit of inclusiveness and fair play**, hearing players are encouraged to speak and sign action in open games, particularly those hosted by DPA.

### 4.4. “Verbal” Declarations

For the sake of clarification, **any reference to verbal declarations** in the TDA/House Rules will be **interpreted as signed declarations, or verbal and signed declarations**, as the case may be (see Rule 4.2 above).

### 4.5. Electronic Devices and Communication

Players **must not talk or make video calls on a phone** at the table. The use of **Internet, social media and text messages (SMS)** on phones and tablets is **permitted between hands** and in instances where players are **communicating with staff** (e.g. typing written messages in order to ask questions or place food and beverage orders). **Ring tones, music, etc. should be inaudible** to others. Betting apps and charts should not be used by players with live hands. Other devices, tools, photography, videography and communication must not create a nuisance and are **subject to House and gaming regulations**.