



TOURNAMENT RULES

Second Edition

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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 from DPA in spreading the game of poker throughout the Australian Deaf community, via its network of home games and live tournaments.

The club found in the 'P' represents our **COMMUNITY** and 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 | Phone | Email |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Nikolas Schlie | Chief Executive Officer | +61 432 239 124 | dpa@deafpoker.com.au |
| James Hale | Chief Financial Officer | +61 419 873 767 | treasurer@deafpoker.com.au |
| Landon Blackhall | Director of Poker Operations | +61 411 739 817 | hello@landonblackhall.com |
| Alisha Wormald | Director of Marketing | +61 430 218 299 | alisha.wormald@gmail.com |

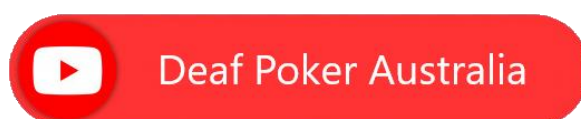
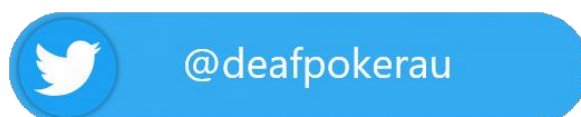
DPA CONSULTING MEMBERS

| Name | Title | Phone | Email |
|-------------------|---------|-----------------|--|
| Sokong Kim | Founder | +61 418 434 763 | sokong@tpg.com.au |

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



DPA TOURNAMENTS: HISTORY

Throughout the year, each Deaf poker state hosts 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 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.

Sadly, except for the Queensland Deaf Poker Championship, all DPA major events in 2020 were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

DPA CHAMPIONSHIP HONOUR ROLL

| Year | Host City | DPA State of Origin Champions | DPAC Main Event Champion |
|------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2009 | Sydney | - | Ashley Thornton (NSW) |
| 2010 | Melbourne | - | Daniel Bachi (NSW) |
| 2011 | Adelaide | - | Stacey Reilly (SA) |
| 2012 | Brisbane | - | Con Eglezos (QLD) |
| 2013 | Sydney | - | Michelle Rowlands (VIC) |
| 2014 | Perth | DPA All-Stars | Rhonda Quinn (VIC) |
| 2015 | Melbourne | DPA All-Stars | Khari Sou (VIC) |
| 2016 | Adelaide | Victoria | Michael Maggs (SA) |
| 2017 | Tweed Heads | Northern Rivers | Zisimos Jordan (NSW) |
| 2018 | Melbourne | Auckland (NZL) | Alisha Wormald (VIC) |
| 2019 | Perth | Auckland (NZL) | Chris Smitton (WA) |
| 2020 | - | - | - |

AUSTRALIAN DEAF STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS HONOUR ROLL

| Year | NSW Champion | VIC Champion | WA Champion | QLD Champion | SA Champion |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 2010 | Christine Bible | Michael Kan | - | - | - |
| 2011 | Daryl Jordan | Bacel Dennaoui | - | - | - |
| 2012 | Adrick Martin | Darren Roberts | William Jahn | - | - |
| 2013 | Daryl Jordan | Steven Cardamone | Ben Breuseker | Sokong Kim | Stacey Reilly |
| 2014 | Adrick Martin | Michael Kan | Jason Fergusson-Stewart | Adrick Martin | Ewen Maggs |
| 2015 | Emanuel Finos | Blake Pendlebury | Marie Ware | Anthony Shing | Benjamin Lowrie |
| 2016 | Carlos Navarro | Justin May | Robert Rattray | Nikolas Schlie | Joe Reed |
| 2017 | Nicholas Steer | Stacey Reilly | Clint Fuller | James Muscat | Daryl Rankine |
| 2018 | Pai Pirika | Matthew Phillips | Clint Fuller | Brittany Shing | Rebecca Petraccaro |
| 2019 | Stacey Reilly | Steve Quinn | Dylan Malden | Hayley Pickup | Ben Hatchard |
| 2020 | - | - | - | James Muscat | - |

NEW ZEALAND DEAF POKER HONOUR ROLL

Whilst these events are not considered DPA-Sanctioned Events, DPA recognises and welcomes our friends' achievements from New Zealand, who have actively engaged with us since 2012. Where possible, players will travel regularly to participate in tournaments on both sides of the Tasman.

As the country's largest tournament of its kind, the **Auckland Deaf Poker Championship** is considered by DPA as its national championship by default, although a smaller tournament has been regularly held in the capital city of Wellington since 2011.

| Year | Auckland (NZL) Champion | Wellington Champion |
|------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 2011 | - | Renee Turipa |
| 2012 | Hagen Cooper | Darryl Alexander |
| 2013 | Whitu Moraghan | Jared Flitcroft |
| 2014 | John Girvan (AUS) | Jared Flitcroft |
| 2015 | Robert Cairns | Jared Flitcroft |
| 2016 | Robert Cairns | Amber Shaw |
| 2017 | Caleb Thorn | - |
| 2018 | Michael Granger | Ben Webb |
| 2019 | Henry Clark | Tony Walton |
| 2020 | - | - |

APPENDIX I – SUMMARY OF RULE CHANGES

Based on the considerable amount of player feedback received after the 2019 DPA Championship, the DPA Tournament Rules have undergone a major overhaul.

Most notably, the rules regarding conditions of entry and player eligibility have been expanded, refined and divided into three categories: **Exclusive**, **Open** and **General**.

As their titles would suggest, 'Exclusive' tournaments limit entry to those considered Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing (HOH) under certain Hearing Loss Criteria, whereas 'Open' tournaments allow all players, regardless of whether they are deaf or hearing, to participate.

The General category of rules apply to both Exclusive and Open Events, as does the **DPA Code of Conduct**, which outlines the behavioural expectations of anyone that participates in our events, as well as the course of action to be taken by the DPA Board of Directors in the event an offence needs to be investigated.

Ultimately, as is the case with the TDA Rules, the DPA Rules are designed to interlace with the existing rules of the casino, card room or poker league that is working to support our events, which is why these Rules are written in generally broad terms.

It should be understood, however, that under current state and federal legislation, there is **no capacity for "positive discrimination"** for the purposes of entry into a poker tournament, unlike in other Deaf sports and games such as cricket, netball or football.

DPA has consulted with poker industry and legal experts to determine that players that may not necessarily meet certain criteria for Exclusive Events can still be limited in terms of which prizes they are eligible for under existing consumer law.

Procedures have also been codified in dealing with players that are considered 'ineligible', however, an exception to non-Deaf players with special needs has been made (i.e. any person with a visual, physical or intellectual disability), which allows them to enter our tournaments as 'Honorary Deaf players' and therefore receive full eligibility for all cash and prizes on offer.

Whilst not considered compulsory, members of Affiliate Leagues (especially those who are appointed as Tournament Directors), are strongly encouraged to implement the DPA Rules into their tournaments, as well as complete the Level 1 Poker TDA Certification exam online so that they are able to confidently demonstrate their ability and understanding.

In any case, all players and league representatives are encouraged to read these Rules and forward their queries in writing to the DPA Board of Directors.

Thank you for your continued support – and may the flop be with you!

1. APPLICATION OF DPA RULES

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 and may be accompanied with a 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 casino or card room, or the rules set utilised by the prevailing poker league hosting any DPA-Sanctioned Event), 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 to **local, state and federal government regulations**; it is strongly recommended that all league administrators check with their relevant gaming authority to ensure compliance.

1.3. Use of Abbreviations & Alternate Terms

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 room or poker league (affiliated with DPA or otherwise).

1.4. Acceptance of Rules

By entering (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 or view a **physical or digital 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 room or poker league, or a tournament hosted by one of our **Affiliate Leagues** (i.e. an officially recognised Deaf Poker group), listed as follows:

| DPA-Sanctioned Event | Affiliate League | Eligibility | Primary Contact | Email |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| DPA Championship Main Event | Deaf Poker Australia | Exclusive | Nikolas Schlie | dpa@deafpoker.com.au |
| DPA State of Origin | | Exclusive | | |
| Auslan Poker Open | | Open | | |
| NSW Deaf Poker Championship | Sydney Deaf Poker League | Exclusive | Phillip Debs | phillip.debs@gmail.com |
| Queensland Deaf Poker Championship | Deaf Poker Queensland | Exclusive | Anthony Shing | deafpokerqueensland@gmail.com |
| SA Deaf State Poker Championship | RAdeelaide Deaf Poker | Exclusive | TBA | TBA |
| Victorian Deaf Poker Championship | Melbourne Kings Deaf Poker | Exclusive | TBA | TBA |
| WA Deaf Poker Championship | Western Deaf Poker League | Exclusive | Domenico Ventura | wdpl@wadra.org.au |

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 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);
- (d) **Spoken word** (radio, podcast and/or broadcast commentary) and;
- (e) **Social media** (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, etc.).

Media coverage, marketing and promotion will be conducted primarily in Auslan and English, but may be redistributed, re-broadcast and disseminated with written consent into any form of spoken or sign language.

A player may request that their names and 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 – EXCLUSIVE EVENTS

3.1. Exclusive Events – Definition

Any DPA-Sanctioned Event that is advertised as '**Exclusive**' (e.g. DPA Championship Main Event, DPA State of Origin or any Deaf State Poker Championship) shall be considered as allowing **entry only to Deaf/HOH players** who meet or exceed the Hearing Loss Criteria in Rule 3.2 below and **aged 18 years and over**.

3.2. Hearing Loss Criteria

For the purposes of being considered **eligible for all prizes awarded in Exclusive Events** (i.e. additional monetary or material prizes that are considered 'added value' to the tournament prize pool, such as trophies, medallions, qualification into other tournaments, etc.) players must demonstrate a minimum of **moderate bilateral hearing loss** of at least 40dB pure tone average in the better ear (three-tone PTA at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hz, air conduction, ISO 1969 standard).

3.3. Proof of Eligibility

At the request of DPA and/or the House, players **must produce** the following:

- (a) **Proof of age**, e.g. passport, driver's licence or another form of photo identification that is not out of date;
- (b) **Proof of hearing loss**, e.g. audiogram or medical certificate no more than 12 months old from the scheduled date of the tournament, and;
- (c) If required, a **valid casino or venue membership card**, as per the relevant Terms of Entry for the House.

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

3.4. 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 not necessarily with hearing loss, **will be permitted entry** into DPA-Sanctioned events at the discretion of DPA and/or The House. In such cases, such players with special needs are considered eligible for all prizes under these Rules.

3.5. Management of 'Ineligible' Players

Whilst DPA and the House will endeavour to maintain Exclusive entry into DPA-Sanctioned events, ultimately, these Rules, as well as the House Rules, are subject to state and federal anti-discrimination law; as such, it may not be possible to deny entry to those considered 'ineligible' on legal grounds, unlike other Deaf sporting or cultural events (e.g. players that may not necessarily meet the Hearing Loss Criteria – refer DPA Rule 1.2).

Players who are considered 'ineligible' and ultimately insist upon playing will only be **entitled to the share of the prize pool dividend** earned based on their placing in the tournament; any other prizes of 'added value' will be awarded to the **next best-placed Deaf/HOH player** and results adjusted accordingly.

4. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – OPEN EVENTS

4.1. Open Events – Definition

Any DPA-Sanctioned Event that is advertised as **‘Open’** (e.g. the Auslan Poker Open and other DPA Championship side events) will be considered as allowing entry to **all players aged 18 years and over**. Proof of age and a valid casino or venue membership (if required) will still need to be presented upon request by DPA and/or the House.

4.2. Effective Communication

In DPA-Sanctioned Open Events, all players and staff will be **encouraged to communicate their actions in both English and Auslan** (refer DPA Rule 5.2). In the spirit of inclusiveness and fair play, players must endeavour to keep their native language interactions to a minimum (whether spoken or signed), unless they are being interpreted or are not engaged in a live hand. Common sense will be applied by floor staff when addressing issues regarding communication in these circumstances.

4.3. Other Tournaments & Cash Games – ‘English Only’

In other tournaments and cash games hosted by the House, including those as part of another major championship series schedule (e.g. Aussie Millions, APT or WPT League), the **standard TDA and House Rules will apply, including the ‘English Only’ rule**.

In such cases, Auslan is considered in the **same context as any other spoken foreign language** (e.g. French or Chinese) and cannot be used whilst seated during live play. Players may step away from the table to communicate in Auslan at any time, provided they are not in a hand.

5. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY – GENERAL

5.1. Hearing Aids & 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.

5.2. Official Languages

The official languages of all 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.

5.3. Official Terminology & 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 can instantly recognise and understand, whilst upholding game integrity and security. Players and staff are encouraged to use these signals at every opportunity during all DPA-Sanctioned Events. Please refer to the DPA website for more information.

5.4. “Verbal” Declarations

For the sake of clarification, any reference to verbal declarations in the TDA and/or House Rules will be **interpreted as signed declarations, or verbal and signed declarations**, as the case may be (refer DPA Rule 5.2).

5.5. 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.

5.6. Electronic Devices & 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 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.

6. DPA CODE OF CONDUCT

6.1. Rights & Responsibilities

All patrons involved with DPA in any capacity must conduct themselves in a **professional, yet open and friendly manner that reflects our Core Values** (Development, Community, Ambition, Respect).

Players should be **aware of their rights and responsibilities** (refer TDA Rule 2), as well as tournament staff and dealers, who must ensure they are appropriately accredited and have a good understanding of the game. The best interests of the game and fairness are top priorities in decision-making, however **any decisions made by floor staff are final** (refer TDA Rule 1).

Spectators (including eliminated players) are welcome to observe from beyond the boundaries of the tournament area ('the rail') but **must not disrupt play** or put themselves at risk of cheating or collusion.

The level of professionalism from all DPA staff and interpreters must match, if not exceed, the example set by the House and especially in a casino environment.

6.2. Responsible Service of Alcohol

All patrons have a duty of care to ensure the **responsible service and consumption of alcohol**. DPA and the House must take appropriate action if a player or spectator is deemed to be inebriated. Should DPA and/or House staff determine that the inebriated person must leave the premises, this decision is final with no course of redress or protest. Under no circumstances are tournament officials, staff or interpreters to consume alcohol whilst on duty.

6.3. Responsible Gaming

All patrons 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, staff and interpreters are prohibited from gambling/wagering whilst on duty.

6.4. Maintaining a Safe, Secure & Inclusive Environment

All patrons are of the understanding that while DPA works with the Deaf/HOH community in catering to their needs, we are also a group of people that **welcomes one and all** in supporting our cause, **regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation or ability**.

DPA, the House and our Affiliate Leagues will do their utmost to ensure that everyone who participates in our events is given the best experience possible and in a safe and secure environment.

6.5. DPA Board of Directors: Right to Investigate & Sanction Offending Patrons

The DPA Board of Directors may, depending on the severity of the offence committed, reserve the right to carry out an investigation, **commencing up to seven (7) days after** a DPA-Sanctioned Event. Should there be any form of misconduct substantiated against an offending patron, DPA may take appropriate action, up to a maximum penalty of a lifetime ban from all DPA-Sanctioned Events.