

Australian Hickory Open Championship
Approved Clubs
March 2026

The following are the conditions for conforming clubs as determined by the Australian Hickory Shaft Open Championship Committee (AHSOCC)

Antique (Original) Clubs

Wooden Headed Golf Clubs, with plain wooden shafts:

- Must have heads manufactured before 1935.
- Shafts may be repaired or replaced with an old or new shaft.
- Grips as per Notes 1.
- Weight may be added to the head.
- **RETROFITTED CLUBS.** – This category was created for clubs that were made PRIOR to Dec. 31, 1934. Any wood headed club offered for sale prior to 1935, regardless of shaft material originally installed at time of manufacture may be retrofitted with a wooden shaft and be permitted for play in AGHS sanctioned events.

Players may be required to establish – independently or through the retrofitter or seller of these clubs – that the heads were indeed offered before 1935. No golf club made after Jan. 1, 1935 will be allowed in this category. It should be noted that no irons (iron headed clubs) have been approved to be retrofitted with a wood shaft for play.

Iron Headed Golf Clubs, with plain wooden shafts:

- Must have heads manufactured before 1935.
- Heads may be fitted using modern glue.
- Shafts may be repaired or replaced with an old or new shaft
- Grips as per Notes 1.
- Weight may be added to the head.

Putters, with plain wooden shafts:

- Must have heads manufactured before 1935.
- Heads may be fitted using modern glue.
- Shafts may be repaired or replaced with an old or new shaft
- Grips as per Notes 1.
- Weight may be added to the head.

Replica/Reproduction

- The clubs must be made to replicate, as nearly as possible, clubs that were manufactured before 1935.
- All replica clubs should conform to the SoHG list of approved clubs as detailed on their website www.hickorygolfers.com/hickory-golf-equipment-guidelines/equipment-guidelines-modern-era-events/
- Hickory clubs made in Australia by Ross Baker Golf may be considered as conforming.
- Clubs approved by ASHOCC
- Shafts must be of a wooden material.
- Grips as per Notes 1.
- Weight may be added to the head.

Distance Measuring Devices

- These devices are not permitted.

Motorised Carts

- Permitted

Golf Balls

- Any ball currently approved by the R&A or USGA may be used. It is recommended that the 'softer' compression types be used to minimise wooden head damage.
- There may be events where specific balls must be used. This requirement will be detailed in the event's entry form.

Notes

1. Grips.
 - a. The following are allowed;
 - i. Original grips or those salvaged from another original club.
 - ii. New replacement grips replicating pre 1935 grips... ie leather wrap.
 - iii. Temporary "wraps" (typical of tennis) of any material, including rubber. It is expected they are of a colour in keeping with colours available in grips pre 1935.
 - b. The following are NOT allowed;
 - i. "Slip-on" rubber or similar type grip regardless of design of grip surface are NOT allowed.
2. Long Shaft Putters.
 - a. Are allowed, as long as they are not anchored. The heads should meet the above guidelines for Antique or Replica clubs
3. Oaty Crisman Putters.
 - a. Models that generally replicate pre 1935 putters are allowed.

Further Explanatory Information

1. It is understood that golf clubs manufactured prior to 1935 may not be in very good condition and need different levels of repair and maintenance.
2. The above guidelines make it possible for the owner of these clubs to do his/her own repairs and maintenance, if he/she wishes to do so, without further expenditure.
3. Generally, any repair or renovation that would have been performed prior to 1935 is acceptable.