



TOURNAMENT RULES

Third Edition

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ABOUT DEAF POKER AUSTRALIA

Founded in 2008 by **Sokong Kim**, **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 (HOH) players. As the game's de facto governing body in the Australian Deaf community, DPA regularly collaborates with Deaf poker organisations 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 since 2011 has worked closely with major casinos on both sides of the Tasman, including **SkyCity Adelaide**, **Treasury Hotel & Casino Brisbane**, **The Star Sydney**, **Crown Perth**, **SkyCity Auckland** and **Crown Melbourne**.

The unique feature of all DPA live tournaments is the ability for players to communicate in **Auslan** (Australian Sign Language), as well as English, at the tables; other than that, there are very few modifications to the way the game is played, dealt, adjudicated or administered.

CORE VALUES & MISSION STATEMENT

As well as being chosen for its fresh, dynamic and modern design, DPA's logo (designed by 2018 Australian Deaf Poker Champion **Alisha Wormald**) reflects our mission statement and core values – **Community, Ambition, Respect and Development (CARD)**.

COMMUNITY

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

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.

RESPECT

Although it is the only suit not found within our logo, this is no mistake. The 'heart' of DPA lies within everyone that is, or has ever been, involved with us and hence why our logos are always placed on the left side of the chest ('closest to the heart'). It is also shown through the unwavering love and support that we have for the game of poker and each other.

DEVELOPMENT

Finally, the diamond in the 'D' reflects the ongoing commitment that DPA has in spreading the game of poker throughout the Australian Deaf community via its network of home games and major live events, culminating in our marquee national carnival, the **DPA Championship**, traditionally held in the month of October.

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
Alisha Wormald	Director of Marketing	+61 430 218 299	alisha.wormald@gmail.com

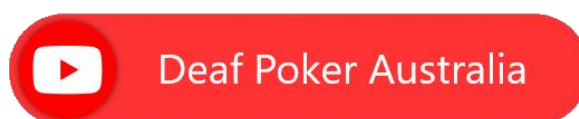
CONSULTING MEMBERS

Name	Title	Phone	Email
Sokong Kim	Founder	+61 418 434 763	sokong@tpg.com.au
Landon Blackhall	Live Events Specialist	+61 411 739 817	hello@landonblackhall.com

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.

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	-	-	-
2021	-	-	-

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	-
2021	-	Michael Kan	Joe Wall	John Girvan	-
2022	Uwe Fecht	Bacel Dennaoui	Damon Barrett	Damon Jessiman	-

NEW ZEALAND DEAF POKER HONOUR ROLL

Whilst 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.

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	-	-
2021	-	-
2022	Doug Croskery	Jared Flitcroft

APPENDIX I – SUMMARY OF RULE CHANGES

The Third Edition of the DPA Tournament Rules have been updated based on the 2019 edition of the TDA Rules, as well as thorough revision and expansion after the DPA Championship in Perth that same year.

Most notably, the rules regarding conditions of entry and player eligibility were 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 working with us 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 “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 will 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. DPA-Sanctioned Event – 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 (+ other side events)		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
Victorian Deaf Poker Championship	Melbourne Kings Deaf Poker	Exclusive	Justin May	Via Facebook
WA Deaf Poker Championship	Western Deaf Poker League	Exclusive	Rick Oteri	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.

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 signed language.

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 tournaments that only permit **entry 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 of added value** in Exclusive Events (i.e. additional monetary contributions to the prize pool and/or material or non-material goods 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. Player Management

Whilst DPA and The House will endeavour to maintain Exclusive entry into DPA-Sanctioned events, ultimately, these Rules, as well as House Rules, are subject to state and federal anti-discrimination law; as such, it may not be possible to deny entry on legal grounds, unlike other Deaf sporting or cultural events (refer DPA Rule 1.2).

Players who do not meet the Hearing Loss Criteria 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 (refer DPA Rule 3.2).

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, 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. DPA and The House will clearly post and announce acceptable language(s) at the table.

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.

Ring tones, music, images, video etc. should be inaudible and non-disturbing 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, delay the game or create competitive advantage 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** (Community, Ambition, Respect, Development).

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 14 days after** a DPA-Sanctioned Event. Should there be any form of misconduct substantiated against an offending patron (or patrons), DPA may take appropriate action, up to a maximum penalty of a lifetime ban from all DPA-Sanctioned Events.