

Professional Golfer interview questions

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What to expect

Professional golfer interviews blend playing credentials, coaching ability and how you handle the business side of the sport. Clubs and academies want to know you can represent them well, teach safely and manage your own schedule.

- **Technical and data analysis:** Questions on swing mechanics, ball flight laws, and how you use TrackMan, GCQuad or Arccos to diagnose and improve performance.
- **Scenario and course management:** Questions that put you on the course or in a qualifying event, testing decision-making, routine and composure under pressure.
- **Behavioural and coaching:** Questions about past coaching relationships, difficult clients, junior development and how you build trust with members.
- **Process and scheduling:** Questions about how you plan a season, balance tournament play with lessons, and manage travel, sponsorship and admin.
- **Integrity, rules and safety:** Questions on the Rules of Golf, anti-doping, Sports Integrity Australia requirements, and working with children checks for junior programs.
- **Client-facing and commercial:** Questions about club fitting, retail, pricing your services and maintaining sponsor or member relationships.

The interview usually starts with a screening call or meeting with the head professional or club manager, covering your playing background, PGA of Australia status and coaching experience. Shortlisted candidates then complete a practical assessment, such as a swing analysis session, a simulated playing lesson or nine holes with a committee member. A final panel with the club committee or academy director may follow, sometimes including questions on scheduling, sponsorship and member engagement.

1. Walk me through how you use TrackMan or GCQuad data to diagnose a player's ball flight and build a practice plan.

Why they ask

This question tests your technical process and whether you can translate data into simple instruction for members.

How to structure your answer

Use a step-by-step walk-through: capture baseline, identify the biggest miss, set one or two priorities, design the practice block, and review.

Example answer

"First I capture baseline data on club path, face angle and attack angle. Then I compare that to the player's intended shot shape and find the biggest dispersion pattern. I pick one or two priority changes, explain them in plain language, and build a practice block that uses variable targets so the change holds under pressure. After two weeks I review the numbers and the player's on-course results, and we adjust if the ball flight has not improved."

2. Tell me about a time you had to manage a difficult coaching client or a slow round in a tournament.

Why they ask

This is a behavioural question about composure, empathy and problem solving with people who are frustrated or under pressure.

How to structure your answer

Use STAR: Situation, Task, Action, Result.

Example answer

"Last year I coached a member who was frustrated after a run of poor competition rounds. I listened to their concerns, reviewed their stats in Arccos, and found their short game was losing strokes. We set a simple chipping and putting routine for 20 minutes before each round, and I checked in weekly. Over six weeks they dropped three strokes in competition and started enjoying the game again. I learnt that clear, small steps work better than a full swing overhaul."

3. You are playing a qualifying event and your swing feels off on the range. How do you handle the first three holes?

Why they ask

This is a scenario question about judgement under pressure and course management when your technique is not cooperating.

How to structure your answer

Walk through a decision-making process under pressure: accept the feeling, choose a reliable shot, manage your misses, and protect your score.

Example answer

"I would accept the feeling, pick a reliable shot shape and aim for the widest part of the fairway. On the first few holes I would club up, swing at a controlled pace and focus on tempo and contact. I would avoid chasing a perfect swing and instead manage my misses, keeping the ball in play and giving myself a chance to score. If the feeling persists, I would use my pre-shot routine and lean on my short game."

4. How do you balance tournament play, coaching commitments, travel and sponsorship obligations across a season?

Why they ask

This question tests your process and time management, which matter because the role mixes competition, lessons and commercial duties.

How to structure your answer

Walk through your scheduling process: yearly calendar, weekly blocks, admin and travel, shared booking system, and review.

Example answer

"I start with a yearly calendar, blocking tournament weeks, coaching days and travel. I set Mondays for recovery and admin, Tuesdays and Wednesdays for practice and sponsor commitments, and Thursdays to Sundays for events or lessons. I use a shared calendar with my club and clients so they can book around my tournaments. I review the plan monthly and protect rest days, because burnout hurts my game and my coaching."

5. A junior player's parent asks you to guarantee their child will get a scholarship. How do you respond?

Why they ask

This is a client-facing and ethical question about managing expectations, giving honest advice and staying within your role.

How to structure your answer

Respond with empathy, then clarify what you can control, outline realistic pathways, and offer an independent referral.

Example answer

"I thank the parent for their trust and explain that I can control the coaching, practice plan and feedback, but I cannot guarantee selection or scholarships. I would outline the player's current strengths, the areas we can improve, and the realistic pathways such as state squads, national rankings and college recruitment. I would offer a term-by-term development plan and suggest they speak to Golf Australia or a recruitment adviser for independent guidance."

6. Give an example of how you apply the Rules of Golf and Sports Integrity Australia requirements in your own play or coaching.

Why they ask

This question tests your integrity, knowledge of the rules and willingness to model good practice for members and juniors.

How to structure your answer

Use a specific example from play or coaching, then explain how you teach the same standards to others.

Example answer

"In a recent pro-am, my ball moved slightly as I addressed it in the rough. I called a rules official, took the penalty and played from the correct spot, even though it cost me a stroke. When coaching, I teach juniors to play by the rules and to check equipment and anti-doping requirements through Sports Integrity Australia. I also hold a current Working with Children Check for junior programs. I would rather lose a shot than compromise integrity."