 **GMGA PENNANT CONDITIONS**

**1. Entry to Pennant**

(a) Clubs will enter pennant teams via the entry form on which Clubs Captains will certify to all conditions of player eligibility and play and each Pennant Team shall pay an Entry Fee of $25.00 with registration, or forfeit any points scored.

1. In addition, all players will be levied by the team Captain for the cost (as set at the AGM) of venue, afternoon tea / lunch. ($15 as at November 2018). The Team Captain must pay the total team fee to the Duty Officer at the host club when submitting the Team Sheet. Clubs, which have facilities where players can easily purchase their own food, reserve the right to waive this fee in lieu of not providing lunch. Clubs should advise the GMGA should they choose this option.
2. **Eligibility**
3. Players taking part in Pennant Matches must have a current Golf Australia handicap and be bonafide members of the GMGA Club for which they play and must have played a minimum of six individual handicapped competitions (three individual handicapped competitions for sandscrape clubs) in the twelve month period prior to the start of Round One of the Pennant Season, at the club for whom the player will represent. Clubs may apply to the GMGA Executive for special consideration from this rule if they consider there are exceptional circumstances in relation to a particular player (e.g. Illness)

(b) Clubs may play Country Members *(home handicap club not in GMGA*) on the condition that the Club Captain, of the Club within the GMGA, certifies that the player has played in a minimum of six individual handicapped competitions (three individual handicapped competitions for sandscrape clubs) in the twelve month period prior to the start of Round One of the Pennant Season, at the club for whom the player will represent

(c) A player from one GMGA club may play for another GMGA club *(for example a player may seek to play in Division One but the player’s home club may not have a team in that Division)* Such a player must have played the minimum six (or three sandscrape) individual handicapped competitions at their GMGA Club

(d) A player may not play Pennant for more than one GMGA Club.

(e) Teams may be made up of players from two or more GMGA Clubs. Teams comprising of players of composite clubs will have the names of clubs acknowledged as the team name.

1. **Playing Conditions**
2. All matches to be played under the 2019 Rules of Golf, Rules of Match Play Competition, according to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and the Local Rules of the course, on which each match is played.
3. The maximum playing handicap for men is 36. The maximum playing handicap for women is 45.
4. For individual handicap pennant the team must be listed in Handicap Order with the highest handicappers to hit off first and so on in handicap order. A Golf Australia Full Handicap is to be used to determine the position in the team. Should a player play in an incorrect position in a team, or should an ineligible player be included in a team, that player will be disqualified and the opposing team given a walkover in that match which will be scored as a forfeit as outlined in Clause 10 below.
5. For scratch division(s) pennant, handicap is irrelevant and players may play in any order as decided by the Team Captain
6. In **Individual** pennant matches all “home and away” games must be played to a result (no squared matches). In fourball pennant “home and away games” if square are to remain square at the 18th. In the final, games will be played to a result. However, the Captains of both teams may agree that a match shall terminate without result, if the contest has been decided.
7. As agreed at the GMGA Delegates meeting of August 2018, for Handicap Pennant; strokes given and taken will be in accordance with the **hole stroke index** as printed in the *stroke index column* of the host club card.
8. To be eligible for the final, in a Handicap Division with 5 or more teams, a player must have played two (2) Pennant games with the team, for the season. In a Handicap Division with 4 or less teams a player must have played one (1) Pennant game with the team for the season.
9. To be eligible for the final in a Scratch Division a player must have played one (1) Pennant game with the team for the season. Once a player has played two (2) games with a team that player cannot move down to any other division
10. For Clubs which field two or more teams, once a player has played two (2) matches in a team that player cannot move “across” into another Club team in the same Division or “down” into a lower Division
11. For Clubs which field two or more Teams; players who have played in a lower Division team may move up to a higher Division (*by definition Division One is the highest division*) but after having played two (2) matches in a particular division cannot move “down” into a lower division.
12. Members of the PGA who are also members of a GMGA Member Club and have a club handicap may NOT play in Individual Pennant games, and are not permitted to caddy*.* Members of the PGA who are also members of a GMGA Member Club and have a club handicap are permitted to play in Four Ball Handicapped Pennant games, but are not permitted to caddy
13. Players are **not** permitted to practice on the course on the day of the competition. Practice is only permitted on the designated practice areas of the host club
14. **Dress Code, Etiquette, Behaviour:** It is the responsibility of the team captain to ensure that team members including caddies observe the dress regulations of the host club. Players are to ensure that they observe the rules and etiquette of the host club. Remember you are representing your club, the GMGA and you are a guest of the host club. All players must abide by the “Code of Conduct” if one exists at the host club, or by the GMGA Code of Conduct.

**Team Sheets, Wait times, Forfeits and Scoring**

1. The Captain, manager or designated representative of each team shall hand into the office of the host club official, the list of team members in hit off order no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the schedule hit off time. Failure to do so will result in Team No. 5 losing the 1st hole of the match. **Order of Play :- Top pair, hit off first**
2. If a team fields less than a full team, the Walkover shall be given in order from the last place. If a Club intends to give a Walkover, either as a team, or in an individual game, the Association, Captain of the opposing Club and Host Club, must be notified prior to the match.
3. Once Team Sheets are exchanged, if a player is late, matches can proceed out of order, to prevent delay. However, should a player or pair*, fail to be at the tee by within fifteen minutes of the last pairs to hit off th*e opposing Captain **MAY** claim a Walkover for that game.
4. If players are late, and the Matches cannot proceed out of order as above, otherwise the wait period will be a half an hour. If all players of a team have not arrived within half an hour of their allocated hit off time then the team will forfeit the team match. For example, Match scheduled between Team A and Team B to commence at 10 am and no players from Team A are present at 10.30am then Team A is deemed to have forfeited and Team B is the winner**.** If any members of the team arrive within the wait period those matches may proceed.
5. **Any club who fails to have a team compete in two or more rounds (two whole team forfeits) will be suspended from the rest of the season, and fined $100.**
6. **Scoring for forfeits:**
7. For any forfeited individual or pair match, the opposing team will be awarded a winning score of 3 up with 2 to play.
8. When a team forfeits all the matches, the Opposing Team will receive a winning score of 3 up with 2 to play for every individual/pair match in the team contest.
9. Four Match Points will be scored for each team win. Two Match Point will be scored by each team, in a halved match. One point shall be scored for each individual game win or Walkover. A squared game, shall score as a half.

In the final, games will be played to a result. However in the final the Captains of both teams may agree that the match shall terminate without result, if the final contest is decided.

1. In the event of two or more teams finishing *with the same number of Match Points, a result will be decided by the team with the most individual wins and then by winning margins as calculated by the Golf Box ladder system.* If the results are still tied, the order for the ladder will be decided by the last time the team/s involved played each other. If still tied, then the winning margins of that match will be used to calculate the ladder order. If there is still a tie a toss of the coin will be used as last resort to separate the teams.
2. (a)Any dispute that cannot be resolved by the Captains of the teams involved, shall be notified by phone and submitted in writing to either of the GMGA Captains. Any such disputes, will be discussed at a properly constituted Match Committee Meeting.
3. ***Motorised transport****:* Players and caddies **are** able to use motorised transport during the playing of a hole, number of holes or total round in all Four Ball Divisions, and handicap sections of Individual Pennant (Medical Certificate is not required). But not in scratch divisions. Clubs may apply to the GMGA Executive for special consideration from this rule if they consider there are exceptional circumstances in relation to a particular player (e.g. Illness/injury)
4. The “Golf Australia Conditions of Competition,” which includes accidents, drugs and personal risk shall apply.
5. **Suspension of play & abandonment of contests**
6. In the event of heavy rain, lighting, unplayable course conditions or for any other reason the host club will be responsible for deciding whether to suspend or abandon play. The procedure when play is suspended is outlined under Rule 5.7b (*2019 Rules*).
7. If play is suspended; when the course is ready to play, players will be advised to return to their various locations.
8. Every effort should be made to complete all contests on the schedule day.

If contests cannot be completed on the day then the GMGA Executive shall decide on an outcome. As a general rule of thumb, depending when play is abandoned games points will be shared equally between teams.

1. **HEAT Policy**: Summer Pennant will be scheduled to start at 8-15am **or earlier** to avoid high temperatures. However, as **consideration of last resort** If the weather forecast for the city of Shepparton (central to region); as predicted by the Bureau of Meteorology at 6pm Saturday evening, **is going to be, what is considered by the GMGA Executive to be extreme conditions (heat, wind)**, an official of the GMGA will notify clubs that play of the following days round of matches will be cancelled and the matches considered halved, and points equally distributed between the competing clubs. This for the safety and welfare off all players. All players are required to read the Golf Australia hydration notes on the Golf Australia/Golf Vic Website.
2. **Host Club responsibilities**. On the day of the competition the home club is required to:

a. Collect the team/result sheets and competition fees from the team Captains.

b. Coordinate team managers/captains to complete and sign the results sheet.

c. Compile and scan/fill out/photograph **all the team sheets and result sheets** immediately after all contests are completed and results known, and send to the nominated official. OR after training enter results into the golf box system. All Pennant results and ladders can be found on the GMGA website at www.gmga.org.au in the Pennant Golfbox menu tab when competed.

d. Keep the team sheets and results sheets until after the completion of the Pennant FINAL just in case some record or result needs to be checked.

1. Mobile Phones: - The use of a mobile phone by a competitor or caddie, whilst on the golf course during an event is distracting and inconsiderate. If the competitor or caddie is in the possession of a mobile or portable phone it should be turned off. If the phone rings this is deemed to be in use and the committee may take disciplinary action against the offending player in accordance with the concluding paragraph of section 1, Etiquette of the Rules of Golf.

Exception: Players/caddies are permitted to make phone calls from the course to the clubhouse or to event officials for rules/emergency assistance.

However, mobile phones with GPS system applications may be used to determine distance only. If they are used to measure any other condition such as slope, the player will be disqualified.

Phones must otherwise be switched off or on silent if not used for the GPS application..

1. Players may obtain **distance information** by using a device that measures distance only. However, if during a Pennant match, a player uses a distance measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. gradient, wind speed etc), the player is in breach of *2019 Rule of Golf 4.3***,** for which the penalty is Disqualification regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used. **Note:** the use of a distance device that has a compass as one of its features, such as a “Smart Phone” is specifically prohibited.