



GMGA PENNANT CONDITIONS January 2025

These conditions are as agreed by Club representatives at a meeting on 2 March 2022, plus required amendments.

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.
- (b) Entry Forms submitted by Clubs MUST contain the Names and Golf Link Numbers of at least FIVE Players by the due date. If the correct entry form is not submitted by the due date the team entry will not be accepted.
- (c) 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. Some clubs do not have electronic payment. Cash is preferred.

2. Eligibility

- (a) Players taking part in GMGA Pennant 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 combination of any 18 hole or 9 hole individual handicapped competitions to a total of combination of 6 x 18 holes, i.e. 108 holes. (Equivalent total of 3 x 18 holes or combination 9 holes to 54 holes 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 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 the minimum of handicapped competitions as stipulated in (a) above, at the club for whom the player will represent.
- (c) Women are permitted to play in "men's" Scratch Pennant Teams in accordance with the par for men's holes, and play from the women's tee plates. Women may play in Sunday fourball pennant teams.
- (d) 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 rounds as stipulated in (a) above at their GMGA Club. This condition is set in good faith and should not be exploited for a club to "rig up" a team of best players from around the District.
- (e) A player may not play Pennant for more than one GMGA Club.
- (f) Teams for Fourball Pennant 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.

- (g) Allocation of Teams to a Division:- Teams will be allocated to Handicap Divisions based on player handicaps as submitted with their team entry and at the discretion of the GMGA Officials doing the draw in an effort to have, as much as possible, equal teams in each Division. In doing this players will not be moved from teams as submitted. If clubs enter two or more teams effort will be made to separate the teams into different Divisions.

3. Playing Conditions

- (a) All matches to be played under the 2019 Rules of Golf, as Updated 1 January 2023, Rules of Match Play Competition, and the Local Rules of the course, on which each match is played.
- (b) The maximum playing handicap for men is 36. The maximum playing handicap for women is 45.
- (c) 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. Players Golf Australia Handicaps are 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.
- (d) For scratch division(s) pennant, Men: players may play in any order as decided by the Team Captain. Women are to play in handicap order. Fourball pennant can be played in any handicap order.
- (e) In **ALL** pennant matches games that are square after 18 holes will remain square. (this condition was voted in to try to prevent late matches continuing well after other matches have finished). In the final, games will be played to a result. However, the Captains of both teams may agree or the organisers may direct that an individual match shall terminate without result, if the contest has been decided.
- (f) (i) 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** of the host club card. (**Not** the Match Play index)
- (ii) In fourball pennant when women compete against men; the women are to play from the conventional women's tee plates (usually red), use their daily handicap from such plates, and strokes are to be given or taken in accordance with the Men's Stroke Index for each hole.
- (g) To be eligible for the final, in any Division with 5 or more teams, a player must have played two (2) Pennant games with the team, for the season. In any Division with 4 or less teams a player must have played one (1) Pennant game with the team for the season.
- (h) Clubs may apply for special consideration about eligibility (for example, player illness). However, special consideration will only be given if a player has played one game of pennant during the season. A player who has not competed in any previous pennant game in the current season cannot play in a final.
- (i) 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

- (j) 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.
 - (k) 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.
 - (l) When individual pennant matches are played in groups of four, at least two team matches will be scheduled at the same tee time. The first named players on the team sheets will hit off at the same tee time, followed by the second listed players and so on. On reaching a green the pair match with a ball furthest from the hole should putt out and complete the hole, while the other pair mark their balls in play and then complete the hole after the first pair have finished.
- 4. Practice:** 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
- 5. 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.

Team Sheets, Wait times, Forfeits and Scoring

- 6.** The Captain, manager or designated representative of each team shall hand into the office of the host club official, the list of team members and their GolfLink numbers in hit off order no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled hit off time. Failure to do so will result in Team No. 5 losing the 1st hole of the match. **Order of Play for Handicap Divisions:- Top pair,(highest handicap) hit off first** and so on.
- 7.** If a team fields less than a full team, the Walkover shall be given in order from the first to tee off (the number 5 player) 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, if time permits and certainly if before the day of play.
- 8.** 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 the* opposing Captain **MAY** claim a Walkover for that game.
- 9.** 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. Team captains should consider reasons for lateness, with play being seen as more important than claiming matches.

10. Scoring for forfeits:

- (a) For any forfeited individual or pair match, the opposing team will be awarded a winning score of 3 up with 2 to play.
- (b) 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.

11. 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.

12. If a round of pennant is cancelled due to weather or Government restrictions or other lawful controls or medical or pandemic requirements all individual matches will be scored as “halved matches” and teams awarded Two Match points in accordance with condition 10 above

13. In a season of five “home and away rounds” if one round is cancelled finals will proceed as scheduled. If two or more rounds are cancelled the season will be cancelled and finals will not be played.

14. 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.

15. Finals

(a) In individual pennant the top two teams in each Division will play off for each Division Pennant on finals/flag day.

(b) In Fourball Summer Sunday Pennant IF there are two divisions, a finals system will be used in which in semi-finals the second placed team in a Division will play the first placed team of the other Division and vice versa. The two winning teams of the semi-finals will play off for the pennant in the final. IF there is only one Division the top two teams will play off in the final.

16. Disputes: Any dispute that cannot be resolved by the Captains of the teams involved, shall be notified by phone and submitted in writing to the GMGA Organisers. Any such disputes, will be discussed at a properly constituted GMGA Committee Meeting.

17. **Motorised transport:** Players and caddies **can** use motorised transport during the playing of a hole, number of holes or total round in all GMGA Pennant competitions.

18. The “Golf Australia Conditions of Competition,” which includes accidents, drugs and personal risk shall apply.

19. Suspension of play & abandonment of contests

- (i) 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).
- (ii) If play is suspended; when the course is ready to play, players will be advised to return to their various locations.
- (iii) 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.

- (iv) **HEAT Policy:** Summer Sunday 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.

20. Host Club responsibilities. *This should be read in conjunction with the Appendix to these conditions 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.

21. Mobile Phones: - The use of a mobile phone for a phone call 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 or put on silent mode. 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. Players may send silent text messages or use an App in silent mode to communicate 'state of play' between team members

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.

22. 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.

Appendix Guide for Hosting Clubs (this has existed as a separate document but now included here to reduce risk of it not been read)

See following pages



Guide for Hosting Pennant

A club hosting pennant is responsible for five major things

- (i) Set up of the course (see below)
- (ii) Starting of play
- (iii) Provision of food for the players (see below)
- (iv) Making decisions about abandonment of play as a result of inclement weather
- (v) Recording of results of individual and team matches

The current *Conditions of Play GMGA Pennant* contain several conditions relevant to host clubs and provide guidance about what to do. See Conditions 9 and 10 (page 3 above) about Walkover of matches and players arriving late.

In addition Conditions 16 outlines requirement of clubs; listed as A below

A. On the day of the competition the home club is required to:

1. *Collect the team sheets and competition fee result sheets from the team Captains.*
2. *Coordinate team managers/captains to complete and sign the results sheet.*
3. *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 GMGA Official as indicated on the team sheet.. 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.*
4. *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.*

Condition 17 of the Conditions of Play provides guidance for decision making about severe weather events. This is repeated below as B

B.. Suspension of play & abandonment of contests

- (i) *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).*
- (ii) *If play is suspended when the course is ready to play, players will be advised to return to their various locations.*
- (iii) *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.

Set up of Course

- a. **Holes/pins:** The GMGA does NOT expect holes/pin placements to be changed especially for a pennant competition. Pin placement can remain as they were for the last club completion at the host club.
- b. **Tee Markers:**
- (i) The ideal set up is for daily tee markers to be on the back plates (for most clubs the “blue/red plates” from which the major course is measured, [not “tiger tees” if a club has them]).
 - (ii) There is the option to tell players to ignore the day markers and play from the plates; however, there are many examples of players getting confused or forgetting to play off plates and “automatically walking” to the day markers on a few holes. The best recommendation is to have the day markers on the plates if possible and tell players to hit from day markers = because that is what they are used to.
 - (iii) However GMGA is well aware that plate tee locations may be cut up and need protection and so day tee markers need to be in another but close position as desired by your Course Superintendent. In this case Players need to be told to play from Day Markers. In this sort of situation you may have, for example, the day markers on the plates on 13 holes and a bit in front on 5 holes. Or some other combination.
 - (iv) Or another example if you have the course set up easily with day markers well in front of the plates and the day markers cannot be moved back to the plates (no staff or volunteers) then you need to tell players to play from the plates.
 - (v) Be very clear to the players/team captains as to where you want them to play from.

Feeding the players

The following is a copy of part of a letter sent to clubs on 30 December 2018, in preparation for summer pennant, about the \$15 fee and provision of food.

As per the delegates motion of the Annual General Meeting, the daily cost for pennant is \$15 for each player. This is for the Host Club not for GMGA. Players will and should expect lunch to value of \$15 (up from \$10 previous). GMGA understands that larger clubs may use food vouchers for each player and that is fine. At other clubs the caterers need to be informed. GMGA cannot instruct clubs on what food to provide but a two piece lunch would seem appropriate (e.g. salad roll plus cake, schnitzel roll plus fruit salad, or ??) Given the different start times and number of teams at each venue lunch will be required over a long period of time = between the first and last finished.

Recording Results

All clubs have the sheet and requirements for recording results and sending results to the organisers.