



MEN'S PENNANT RULEBOOK 2021

Results: pennant@golfwestgippsland.org.au
0408 800 711

Post: The Secretary Golf West Gippsland
PO Box 1601
Traralgon. 3844

Email: president@golfwestgippsland.org.au

Phone: GWG President 0427 748 378

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1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. 'Golf Victoria' (GV) is the parent body for golf clubs and amateur golf in Victoria.
- 1.2. 'Golf West Gippsland (GWG) is the parent body for Member Clubs and amateur golf in West Gippsland.
- 1.3. A 'Member Club' refers to a Member Club as defined in the GWG Constitution.
- 1.4. The Pennant competition is under the control of the 'GWG Match & Play Committee' (M&P) whose decisions shall be final.
- 1.5. The title of the competition between competing Member Clubs is Men's Pennant.
- 1.6. Men's Pennant will consist of separate scratch (off the stick) and handicap (shots given in accordance with Card Stroke Index) format competitions.
- 1.7. Where the number of competing clubs in GWG Men's Pennant exceeds a minimum number, as determined by the GWG M&P, the scratch and handicap competitions will be divided into Divisions.
- 1.8. The competition between two Member Clubs' teams is known as a 'Contest'.
- 1.9. In Men's Pennant, a Contest consists of match play matches between each club's individual players (referred to as a 'Match') for:
 - 1.9.1. Seven (7) match play matches in Scratch, Handicap 1 & Handicap 2 competitions
- 1.10. The group of contests for a competition played, either at the same venue or at different venues, generally on the same day, is defined as a 'Round'.
- 1.11. In Men's Pennant, a contest is 'decided' when:
 - 1.11.1. In qualifying rounds - all matches have been completed (ie: Matches can't be declared by Captains).
 - 1.11.2. In finals - one Club has won more than half of the contests.

2. FORMAT

2.1. General

- 2.1.1. GWG Men's Pennant is a team match play competition played between Member Clubs of West Gippsland. G W G Men's Pennant contains two separate versions of competition being a scratch and a handicap format.
- 2.1.2. Individual match play matches will be played under the current R&A Rules of Golf, these conditions and such local rules and temporary local rules determined by the host club and GWG M&P to be applicable.

2.2. Divisions

When it is determined that a Pennant Competition requires separate divisions, Member Clubs of GWG nominate teams to the given Divisions offered by Match & Play.

2.3. Draw

- 2.3.1. The draw for the competition will be determined by GWG M&P.
- 2.3.2. Unless determined otherwise by GWG M&P, each contest will be played at the venue and at times and from the tees specified in the draw. Clubs with more than one course must indicate to GWG M&P which course is to be used and, where possible, this will be published in the draw.

2.4. Handicap competition – shots given

- 2.4.1. Shots are to be given as per the card stroke index (i.e. If Player A receives 4 shots, they will be given on the 4 most difficult holes per the Card stroke index, irrespective of what hole in the match they fall) OR by using an alternative index as provided by the Championship Committee.

3. ELIGIBILITY & ENTRIES

3.1. Clubs

- 3.1.1. Each Member Club may enter more than one team in both scratch and handicap formats of the Men's Pennant Competition.
- 3.1.2. Member Clubs must submit entries for Men's Pennant teams in writing by no later than October of the previous year.
- 3.1.3. Each Member Club participating in Men's Pennant must be financial in accordance with the GWG Constitution 28 days prior to the first round of the season. Any Club that does not satisfy this requirement may be excluded from participating in that season's competition or forfeit matches played during the period it was un-financial.

3.2. Players

- 3.2.1. No player may represent more than one Member Club in any one season of Men's Pennant.
- 3.2.2. A player is eligible for Men's Pennant if he is a male amateur golfer and a bona-fide member of the club he represents. A bona-fide member is one who is eligible to participate in the men's club championship of the club he is representing. This player must have been a bona-fide member of the Club for a period of not less than three (3) months prior to his first match. (For exceptions to the clause, see 3.3.1)
- 3.2.3. A player, who is a bona-fide member, and has been a member of that Member Club for at least **3** years, however their "home club" is no longer the GWG Club, will be eligible to play Pennant for that Member Club.

3.3. Eligibility exceptions

- 3.3.1. A player may appeal directly to GWG M&P for an exemption from the above player eligibility conditions. An exemption may be granted if there are justifiable personal circumstances.
- 3.3.2. Requests must be lodged in writing with the GWG Secretary by email. GWG M&P will notify the player/club with their decision prior to their first match or earlier if possible. The written request should contain the following information:
- Membership records showing the date membership was paid/accepted.
 - The applicant player's Golf Link Number(s).
 - The player's current residential address.
 - Confirmation of the applicants playing and voting rights.
 - Other clubs (if any) where the applicant is a member.
- 3.3.3. The penalty for an ineligible player competing in a pennant match is loss of the ineligible player's match. Repeat offences may generate a greater penalty as determined by GWG M&P.

3.4. Player eligibility – Qualifying Rounds and Finals

- 3.4.1. Once a player has played three (3) contests in a team, they are ineligible to play again in any other teams in a lower competition
- 3.4.1.1. Competitions are ranked as follows: Scratch, Handicap 1, Handicap 2.
- 3.4.1.2. Player ineligibility applies to finals contests

- 3.4.2. In order to be eligible to represent a Club that has a team qualified for a division final, a player must have played either:
- At least two (2) round robin matches for the qualifying team; or
 - At least four (4) round robin matches for the qualifying Club
- 3.4.3. For Club's that have two (2) or more sides in the same division: The Club must nominate a pool of 4 players selected before the start of the Pennant Season being numbers 6 & 7 in team A and numbers 1 & 2 in team B who may change between teams based on form. All other listed players must remain in the nominated team for the entirety of the pennant competition. This selection list must be sent to GWG Secretary by no later than 7 days prior to the first round of the competition.

4. CONTEST CONDITIONS

4.1. Team lists

- 4.1.1. The Captain of each team must hand into the host club starter the list of team members in numerical order from the first position player to the last position, plus emergency and "team manager (if applicable)", no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled hit-off time.
- 4.1.2. The daily player handicap will be used to determine player team position and shots given/received, calculated using the method defined by Golf Australia using the hardest available course rating for each round (nominally the 'Blue' course)
- 4.1.3. Restrictions on the order of players on the team lists apply to each scratch and handicap competitions are as follows:

4.1.3.1. Scratch Competitions/Divisions

- 4.1.3.1.1. Scratch 1: No restrictions

4.1.3.2. Handicap Competitions/Divisions

- 4.1.3.2.1. All matches played from handicap and in handicap order. Please refer to Section 8 penalties – penalty 8.2 Handicap Violation.
- 4.1.3.2.2. There is no handicap limit for divisions. Maximum handicap of 36.
- 4.1.4. Team lists may be amended up to 15 minutes before hit-off time. Clubs are encouraged to submit their team list to the host club the evening before a Men's Pennant round (to enable eligibility & handicap verification etc.). Should a club have a sick, injured or absent player on the day of the contest, the team list may be amended in any manner.

4.2. Starting tees, late arrival, player substitution and walkovers

- 4.2.1. Round robin contests will commence in groups of four (4) via a shot-gun start at 08:00am from the designated starting tees listed on the draw, unless otherwise advised by GWG M&P.
- 4.2.1.1. As a shot-gun start method will be used to start round robin fields, GWG M&P strongly advise all Clubs to have team members at the host course 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time, and ready to play at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- 4.2.2. Final contests will commence from the designated starting tees at the times and in the order listed on the draw, unless otherwise advised by GWG M&P.
- 4.2.3. In any contest, if a player arrives at his starting tee, ready to play, within five (5) minutes after his starting time, in the absence of circumstances which warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification, as provided in Rule of Golf 1.3c, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the 1st hole instead of disqualification. Play will commence from the 2nd hole, however per Rule of Golf 7-1a players can play the first hole as practice. If the player arrives after the 2nd hole has been completed, no consideration

can be given and he must be disqualified

- 4.2.4. In any contest, if both players arrive at the starting tee, ready to play, within five (5) minutes after the starting time, in the absence of circumstances which warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification, as provided in Rule of Golf 1.3c, play will commence from the 2nd hole with the match all square.
- 4.2.5. In any contest, if a nominated player is not in attendance or is otherwise unable to play when required to do so, the emergency(s) (if named) may be immediately substituted for the nominated player, but only in that player's listed team position. An emergency player can only be substituted up to and including the hit-off time of the listed player who has failed to appear.
- 4.2.6. In any contest, an emergency player not utilized in a particular team is eligible to play in another Team on the same day/round.
- 4.2.7. If a Men's team consists of fewer than 7 players, walkovers will be given from the 7th position. If a club intends to give a walkover in an individual match or a contest, the captain or manager of the opposing team and the host club should be notified prior to the match or contest, if possible on the day prior to the contest. If a walkover has been given, the opposing player or team need not be present on the day of the match or contest.
 - 4.2.7.1. A 10/8 win will be awarded to the team receiving the walkover.
 - 4.2.7.2. The player listed and receiving the walkover is eligible to play in another Team on the same day/round. However, he must be named as an emergency in that team.

4.3. Honour, match duration and hit-off order

- 4.3.1. In round robin matches A toss of coin will determine the honour in all matches.
- 4.3.2. A toss of coin will determine the honour on the 1st tee for final matches.
- 4.3.3. All matches will be played over 18 holes' match play from the tee markers as directed by GWG M&P under advisement from the host club.
 - 4.3.3.1. In round robin matches, if a match is square after the completion of eighteen (18) holes, the match is halved.
 - 4.3.3.2. In final matches, if a match is square after the completion of eighteen (18) holes, the match will continue until one player secures the advantage, however the captains of both teams may agree that a match may terminate without a winner if the contest is decided. In this case, the match is halved.
- 4.3.4. In round robin contests, as matches will be played in groups of 4 (two matches per group) GWG M&P have adopted the following Competition rules:
 - 4.3.4.1. **Order of play from tees, fairways and greens-** "individual match order of play" principles should be adhered to where possible, but GWG M&P direct all players to adopt "ready golf" principles should this be required to maintain pace of play in the field.
 - 4.3.4.2. **Rules of Golf – ball in motion deflected or stopped by outside agency** in GWG Men's Pennant, the other two players in a group shall be defined as being outside agencies. In the event a player's ball in motion is accidentally deflected or stopped by an outside agency, it is a rub of the green and procedures in ROG 11.1a-b should be followed.
- 4.3.5. In final matches, matches will hit off in reverse team sheet order.

4.4. Pace of play

- 4.4.1. All matches are expected to complete 18 holes in a maximum time of 4.5 hours. In exceptional circumstances (such as extreme weather/playing conditions), the GWG M&P has the authority to modify this time requirement.

- 4.4.2. Any match of a contest will be considered to be out of position if at any point in the round the match is more than one hole behind the group in front of them.
- 4.4.3. If a match/group is out of position, loss of hole penalties may be issued by either the GWG M&P members or appointed Rules Officials to an individual who, by his pace of play is responsible for such delay. Officials must issue one (1) warning prior to imposing penalties.
- 4.4.4. If both players in a match/group are equally contributing to an unacceptable pace of play, they may be “walked” a hole(s) until they are considered to be in position. If this occurs, both players may be required to appear before the GWG M&P at the conclusion of play and may be subject to suspension from further Pennant match(es) in the current season.

4.5. Suspension of play and abandonment of contests

- 4.5.1. In the event of heavy rain, lightning, fog, extreme heat, unplayable course conditions or for any other reason, the GWG M&P will be responsible for deciding whether to suspend or resume play. The signal for suspended play will be three short siren blasts. The procedure when play is suspended is outlined under Rule of Golf 5.7.
- 4.5.2. When the course is ready for play, players will be advised to return to their various locations. The signal for the resumption of play will be one long siren blast. Every effort should be made to complete all contests on the scheduled day.
- 4.5.3. If the GWG M&P determine that completion is not possible on the scheduled day and less than half of the contests have been decided, the round will be abandoned.
- 4.5.4. If GWG M&P determine that completion is not possible on the scheduled day and at least half of the contests have been decided, play in all unfinished matches should be resumed on a day or days to be determined by GWG M&P in consultation with the host club. Matches will resume from the last completed hole. In exceptional circumstances, GWG M&P may appoint an alternative venue for the conclusion of unfinished matches. The result of any decided matches will stand in this instance.
- 4.5.5. If resumption of play is not possible on the determined day or days, GWG M&P will determine the action to be taken.
- 4.5.6. In the event of extreme heat, GWG M&P will act in accordance with the GV Heat Policy, as stated on the GV website:
<https://assets.ctfassets.net/3urhge2ecl20/60lZdsl6EgUKcryb9EkeCB/8012824f80e585ab9650d131d0fb692b/00016506-source.pdf>

4.6. Practice

- 4.6.1. Players are not permitted to practice on the course on the day of competition prior to the commencement of their matches. Breach of this condition will be disqualification of the player or players involved. Prior to the commencement of their matches, players may practice on the designated practice areas of the host club and in accordance with the exception to Rule of Golf 5.2.
- 4.6.2. Following the commencement of their matches, players may practice in accordance with Rule of Golf 5.2. However, players should note that penalties may still be applied in accordance with Rule of Golf 5.2 to any player who delays play by such actions.

4.7. Locomotion

- 4.7.1. Players and caddies in the Scratch division are only permitted to use a cart during the play of a hole if they are holding a current medical certificate and produce it on request
- 4.7.2. Players and caddies in all Handicap divisions are permitted to ride in or on any form of mechanical locomotion during the play of a hole if this is their normal method of

transportation.

- 4.7.3. The use of locomotion by a Pennant player must solely serve the purpose of transportation – the use of mechanical locomotion must not provide the player or caddie with a greater benefit than a walking player or caddie may achieve. Penalty for improper use of locomotion by a player or caddie will be disqualification of the player or players involved.

4.8. Team manager & caddies

- 4.8.1. Each team may appoint a team manager. The team manager must be a member or employee of the team's club. The Team manager must be identified on the team list submitted prior to the start of the contest.
- 4.8.2. In accordance Rule of Golf 24.4, team managers are authorized to give advice to members of their team. Team managers are not part of a match and are considered to be outside agencies.
- 4.8.3. A player accepting advice from persons other than his team manager or his caddie will be subject to penalty in accordance with Rule of Golf 24.4.
- 4.8.4. No player whose match has ended shall act as a caddie for another player during a round. A person, who has caddied for a player in the contest, may not caddie for another player in the same round.

4.9. Distance measuring devices

- 4.9.1. 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 (eg. Gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.) the player is in breach of Rule of Golf 4.3a, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used.
- 4.9.2. **The use of a distance measuring device that has a compass as one of its features, such as a "Smart Phone", is specifically precluded.**

4.10. Dress, footwear and Conduct

- 4.10.1. Players and caddies are required to wear footwear in accordance with host club policy. Penalty for breach: Disqualification of player = loss of match 10/8.
- 4.10.2. Caddies must be attired in accordance with host club dress standards and any caddie not attired in this manner will be withdrawn.
- 4.10.3. Clubs are strongly encouraged to ensure that their supporters are attired in accordance with the host club's dress standard.
- 4.10.4. Breaches of Host Club Liquor Licensing Policy.
Players & Clubs shall consider the issuing of this handbook as their first warning regarding bringing BYO alcohol to hosting clubs against the liquor laws of that club. See Section 8 Penalties.
- 4.10.5. Abuse towards GWG or Club Officials.
GWG holds zero-tolerance approach to bullying, harassment or threats made to GWG or club. See Section 8 Penalties

4.11. Post contest Clubhouse presentations

- 4.11.1. All players are requested to attend a post contest Clubhouse presentation and meal (Member Clubs have prepaid Host Clubs to provide a minimum standard offering for all players).
- 4.11.2. GWG M&P will announce match results via the GWG website.

5. ADJUDICATION

- 5.1. Clubs may appeal decisions by submitting in writing such appeals to the GWG M&P within 48 hours of the conclusion of the respective pennant round. GWG M&P's decision shall be final.

6. RESULTS

6.1. Points

- 6.1.1. Winning teams in a contest, including walkovers, receive 2 points; in the case of a tie, or a contest being abandoned before it is decided, teams receive one point. For a round in which all contests are abandoned, no teams receive points.
- 6.1.2. In the case of a bye, if all teams have the same number of byes in a season, no points will be awarded to the team with a bye. If in a season some teams have a bye but others do not, 2 points will be awarded to the team with a bye.
- 6.1.3. In the case of an abandoned match, where a result is achieved (i.e. more than half of the individual matches completed/won), the uncompleted matches will be recorded as being halved.
- 6.1.4. Walkovers without team sheets submitted will receive 2 points only. No games or percentage points will be awarded and players from both teams will not be accredited with matches played for finals qualification.

6.2. Ladders

- 6.2.1. Division ladders will be calculated as follows:
- 6.2.1.1. Teams are positioned on their ladder in descending order of points;
- 6.2.1.2. Teams tied on points are then ordered by the greater numbers of matches won;
- 6.2.1.3. Teams still tied are ordered by using the percentage distribution described in Table 2. Percentage points are awarded for each match won or lost. The percentage is derived by the quotient of the Percentage Points won and the Percentage Points lost. In the event of teams still being unable to be separated, the matter will be referred to the GWG M&P for decision.

Result	10/8	9/8	9/7	8/7	8/6	7/6	7/5	6/5	6/4	5/4	5/3	4/3	4/2	3/2	3/1	2/1	2 up	1 up	Halved
Points	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

Table 2 – Distribution of Percentage Points

6.3. Finals and divisional winners

- 6.3.1. At the conclusion of the round robin contests, the leading two teams in divisions will qualify to compete in divisional finals.
- 6.3.2. All finals will be played on courses as determined by the GWG M&P per the Club rotation policy.
- 6.3.3. Divisional winning teams will be presented with commemorative Pennant Flags
- 6.3.4. Members of the winning teams will be presented with badges or medallions.

7. DUTIES OF HOST CLUBS & TEAM CAPTAINS

7.1. Host club

- 7.1.1. Each Pennant Host Club shall make available at least 1 member to assist GWG M&P with the administration of the days competition (including but not limited to collecting team sheets, local rules, meal/drinks vouchers, tee allocation sheet, monitoring slow play, collection and documentation of results and any Rules of Golf Disputes).
- 7.1.2. Shall ensure the Course is in proper condition for the conduct of the competition and that Captains are advised of any local rules in force or the location of the Local Rules Board, and advise which tee markers is preferred for the contest.
- 7.1.3. Shall ensure their course is closed and clear of all players (Green Fees, Non-Comp.) on the day of hosting. Penalty for breach of this rule by Host Club is loss of all Team contests 7/0 and/or 5/0 and individual matches 10/8 played by Host Club for that round.
- 7.1.4. Shall ensure player catering and Clubhouse presentation requirements are met in full on the day of hosting.
- 7.1.5. Shall ensure all completed and signed results are given to a GWG Committee or M & P member on the day of competition or photographed and texted to 0408 800 711.

7.2. Team Manager/Captains

- 7.2.1. Prepare team sheets in order and hand to Referee at least 30 minutes prior to listed time of play using the attached team submission sheet, if not the day before to assist host club preparation. Team and result sheets must have players listed from No 1 at the top of the space provided to No. 7.
- 7.2.2. Ensure that each player is ready to play when required by the Referee.
- 7.2.3. Sign the result sheet in the presence of the Referee and opposing Captain within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the contest.
- 7.2.4. Bring to notice of the opposing Captain and Referee any points of dispute (including protests) or points of question at the earliest time.
- 7.2.5. Captains of all handicap divisions are to ensure that correct Golf Australia Handicaps as of the Saturday prior to the day of Pennant competition. All handicaps are to be taken from the Golf Link system as at the day of Pennant competition.

8. PENALTIES

- 8.1. **Failure to submit team sheets to Referee prior to listed time of play** = refer to Clause 4.1.4.
- 8.2. **Handicap violation** = loss of individual match 10/8 and loss of any matches deemed to be played out of order 10/8.
- 8.3. **Breach of 4.7.2 or 4.7.1**, use of mechanical locomotion without GWG M&P approval: Loss of match 10/8
- 8.4. **Breaches of Club Liquor Licensing Policy.**
Players & Clubs shall consider the issuing of this handbook as their first warning regarding bringing BYO alcohol to hosting clubs against the liquor laws of that club.

Should any player, team manager, caddy or person affiliated with the team are observed in the breach of the club's liquor laws, in any location of the club's premises (including but not limited to the course, clubhouse, car park, driveway etc) the following actions will be undertaken:

- 1st instance: GWG or Club Official shall direct the person to dispose of the alcohol immediately.
- 2nd instance: (or refusal to comply): Player loses their match 10/8.

This instance is per club. It could be 2 different persons but the penalty for the 2nd instance will stand. The result 10/8 will stand even if the match has started.

Nothing in these rules restricts the host club's ability to eject the person from the premises.

8.5 **Abuse towards GWG or Club Officials.**

GWG holds zero-tolerance approach to bullying, harassment or threats made to GWG or Club Officials. The following actions will be undertaken:

- 1st instance: GWG or Club Official shall direct the person to leave the venue immediately.
- Players loses his match 10/8.
- Club to receive a written warning regarding the future conduct of all their players.

- 8.6 All penalties discussed in 8.4 & 8.5 can be applied retrospectively to a completed match result. Should any of the instances mentioned in 8.4 & 8.5 be a person not directly related to a player (eg: a spectator from the club) then the penalty shall be applied to the club's highest position player, in the highest division playing at that venue. (ie: Player #1 in S1 is the highest position player)



MEN'S PENNANT TEAM SHEET

Team: _____

Division: _____

Venue: _____

Round: _____

Date: / /

Match	First Name	Surname	Golflink No.	GA Hcap	Hcap
1				.	
2				.	
3				.	
4				.	
5				.	
6				.	
7				.	
Emerg.				.	

Manager: _____

MEN'S PENNANT - RESULT SHEET

DIVISION: _____ ROUND: _____ DATE: _____

HOST VENUE: _____ GOLF CLUB

.....GOLF CLUB				VSGOLF CLUB			
No.	PLAYER FULL NAME	H C A P	GOLF LINK NO:	WINNER RESULT ONLY	PLAYER FULL NAME	H C A P	GOLF LINK NO:	WINNER RESULT ONLY
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
Emerg.								
TOTAL MATCHES WON					TOTAL MATCHES WON			
CAPTAIN SIGNATURE:					CAPTAIN SIGNATURE:			
<p>CONTEST WON BY:.....GOLF CLUB</p> <p>CLUB OFFICIAL I REFEREE NAME: DATE:.....</p>								