



**2025**

**WOMEN'S PENNANT RULEBOOK**

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### 1. Definitions

- (i) **Golf West Gippsland (GWG)** body governing Women's and Men's Golf within West Gippsland District.
- (ii) **Match Committee** This Pennant competition is under the control of the GWG Women's Match Committee.
- (iii) **Code of Conduct** means the GWG Code of Conduct
- (iv) **Contest** The competition between two Clubs' teams is known as a 'contest'. In Pennant, a contest consists of five match play matches between each club's individual players.
- (v) **Decided Contest** a contest is 'decided' when all matches have been completed or one club has won a minimum of three individual matches.
- (vi) **Division** Where the number of competing clubs in any GWG Women's Pennant competition exceeds a minimum number, as determined by the Match Committee, the competition will be divided into Divisions in accordance with Conditions 2.2 and 6.3 below.
- (vii) **Golf Australia (GA)** is the parent body for golf clubs and amateur golf in Victoria.
- (viii) **Member Club** means a Member Club of GWG.
- (ix) **Out of Position** The first match of a contest will be out of position if at any point in the round the match is taking more than an average of 12 and a half minutes per hole to play. Any following match will be considered out of position if it
  - (a) falls a clear hole behind the preceding match; and
  - (b) is taking more than an average of 12 and a half minutes per hole to play.
- (x) **A Professional Golfer** is one who is not an amateur golfer. Professional Golfers include members of a professional golfers' association and players who have made application to regain amateur status.
- (xi) **Round** The contests grouped together in the draw generally played at the same venue on the same day is a 'round'.

## 2. Format

### 2.1 General

- (i) Pennant is a Club team's match play competition played between Member Clubs of GWG.
- (ii) A pennant season consists of 'round robin' contests between Clubs followed by a Final.
- (iii) There will be 5 players per team. Weekend & Weekday competitions will play one (1) scratch and four (4) handicap matches.
- (iv) Individual match play matches will be played under the current R&A Rules Ltd *Rules of Golf*, these Conditions and any local rules/temporary local rules determined by the host club and/or the Match Committee to be applicable.
- (v) These Rules and Conditions are subject to any alterations deemed necessary by the Match Committee.

#### **In addition:**

The R&A Local Rule for **Accidental Movement of a Ball on the Putting Green** Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 are modified as follows:

*When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1.*

This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

**Note:** If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced."

### 2.2 Divisions

When it is determined that a Pennant competition requires separate divisions, the Match Committee will allocate clubs to those divisions according to the following principles:

- (i) For clubs that enter only one team these teams will be placed into Divisions based on a Nominal Handicap Range. The Nominal Handicap Range of Division 1 will be 0 to 20.0, Division 2 will be 20.1 to 45. These ranges will be reviewed each year by the Match Committee. Nominal Handicap Ranges do not apply to clubs that have a team in each Division.

### 2.3 Draw

- (i) The draw for each competition will be determined by the Match Committee.
- (ii) Unless determined otherwise by the Match Committee, each contest will be played at the venue and at times and from the tees specified in the draw.
- (iii) The host Club's official and/or Referee is to ensure that players are ready to move to the tee 10 minutes prior to the designated hit-off time.

## 3. Eligibility

### 3.1 Clubs

- (i) Each Member Club may enter more than one team in the pennant competitions.
- (ii) Clubs can form alliances to participate in the GWG Pennant competition even if they have other teams entered in the same division. Allied players must remain in the Allied team.
- (iii) Each Club participating in any Pennant competition must be financial in accordance with the Rules of Golf West Gippsland Inc. prior to the first round of the season. Any club that

does not satisfy this requirement may be precluded from participating in that season's competition or forfeit contests played during the period it was unfinancial.

- (iv) Clubs to submit in writing when requested the number of teams they wish to enter to enable course bookings to be made.
- (v) Each Club must submit players names in handicap order and include Golf link numbers of all players, at a time determined by the Match Committee but not later than 2 weeks prior to the proposed start date of the Pennant season listed in the District's Calendar of Events.
- (vi) Access to the host Club's course needs to be restricted during Pennant tee times. Pennant contests are to have right of way.

**3.2 Players**

- (i) A player is eligible for Pennant if she is a financial member with playing rights of a GWG Club for a period of not less than 3 months prior to the first match.
- (ii) No player may represent more than one Club in any one season of Pennant.
- (iii) Players from Clubs who do not enter a team in a pennant competition in either Weekday or Weekend are eligible to join another Club as an "honorary member" for the duration of the pennant season.
- (iv) The penalty for an ineligible player competing in a pennant match is loss of the specific individual match.
- (v) It is the captain's/manager's responsibility to ensure that G.A. and Daily Handicaps of all players are correct on the day of play.

**4. Contest Conditions**

**4.1 Movement of players between Teams**

For clubs that have more than one team entered in the competition the following rules apply to the movement of players between teams:

- (i) For Club's that have two (2) or more sides in the same competition: The Club must nominate a pool of 4 players selected before the start of the Pennant Season being numbers 4 & 5 in team A and numbers 1 & 2 in team B who may change between teams. 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 Captain by no later than 7 days prior to the first round of the competition.
- (ii) Players must play in handicap order.
- (iii) A player must play one (1) game in a team to qualify to play Finals.

**4.2 Team Lists**

- (i) The captain/manager of each team must provide the opposing team with a list of team members in Daily Handicap order from the No. 1 (best) player to the No. 5 player, no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled hit-off time for the first match of the team's contest.
- (ii) Each host Club will provide guidance on whether there is a match play index to determine the daily player handicap or if players will use the Stableford card index. This will vary across the venues and is the responsibility of the captain/manager to check.
- (iii) The penalties for late or no submission of a team list in Pennant are as follows:

| <b>Team list not submitted:</b>                  | <b>Penalty:</b>                             |
|--|---|
| After 15 minutes prior to scheduled hit-off time | The team's No.5 player will lose her match. |
| prior to scheduled hit-off time                  | The team will lose the contest.             |

**4.3 Starting tees, late arrival, player substitution and walkovers**

- (i) Contests will commence from the designated starting tees at the times and in the order listed on the draw unless otherwise advised by the Match Committee.
- (ii) It is a Condition of the Competition that a player will be at her starting tee, ready to play at their starting time. The starting time for the No 5 player, is the time listed in the draw, unless there has been a suspension of play, in which case the starting time is when play is resumed. The starting time for subsequent players is when the starter calls them to the tee. The penalty for breach of this condition is as specified in *Rules of Golf* - Rule 6-3a.
- (iii) Should a club's team have a sick, injured or absent player on the day of the contest and the player has informed officials of the special circumstances causing delay (refer Rules of Golf Rule 6.3a), the team list may be amended if a substitute is available, in any manner, prior to 10 minutes before the scheduled hit-off time for the first match of the team's contest. If officials have received satisfactory notice of when the player will arrive her match may be delayed but must be played within the teams allocated time slot. If the player has not informed officials then her opponent shall receive a walkover.
- (iv) No club is permitted to intentionally give a walkover in an individual game or a match unless with the approval of the Match Committee. Any club whose entire team forfeits a match for the benefit of an opposing team and without the approval of the Match Committee will lose 2 match points.

**4.4 Honour, match duration and hit-off order**

- (i) The order of play shall be determined by the toss of a coin. It is mandatory that the team winning the toss hit-off first. Players from the winning team have the honour on the designated starting tee in all matches.
- (ii) All matches will be played over eighteen holes match play from the tee markers as directed by the host Club. If a match is square after the completion of eighteen holes, the match will continue until one player secures the advantage. In a Pennant Final 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.
- (iii) Individual matches will be played in daily handicap order beginning with the No. 5 players and concluding with the No. 1 (best) players.
- (iv) Once play has commenced in any match, the penalty for any player playing in the incorrect team position is disqualification (loss of match).

**4.5 Pace of play**

- (i) All matches are expected to complete 18 holes in a maximum time of 3 hours and 45 minutes (12 and a half minutes per hole). In exceptional circumstances (such as extreme weather/playing conditions), the Match Committee has the authority to modify this time requirement.
- (ii) The first match of a contest will be considered to be out of position if at any point in the round the match is taking more than an average of 12 and a half minutes per hole to play.
- (iii) Any following match will be considered out of position if it
  - (a) falls a clear hole behind the preceding match; and
  - (b) is taking more than an average of 12 and a half minutes per hole to play.
- (iv) If a match is out of position, loss of hole penalties may be issued by either the host Club's official and/or referee or the Match Committee to an individual who, by their pace of play is responsible for such delay. Officials are not required to issue warnings prior to imposing penalties. If this occurs, the player may be required to appear before the Match Committee

before the next round of Pennant and may be subject to suspension from further match(es) in the current season.

**Note:** As part of implementing this condition and in the absence of mitigating circumstances, any match may be timed if it is out of position. From the commencement of timing, if any player exceeds 50 seconds on a 'first to play approach shot (including Par 3 tee shot), chip or putt', or 40 seconds if it is a tee shot or 'second or third to play shot', they shall be deemed to have had a bad time.

When Timing Commences: Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is their turn to play and they can play without interference or distraction. Reasonable time spent by the first player to play in determining their yardage will not count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace their ball, repair ball marks and remove loose impediments on their line of putt. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

If both players in a match 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 Match Committee before the next Pennant round and may be subject to suspension from further Pennant match(es) in the current season.

- (v) Repeated infringements of the Pennant pace of play requirements in the current season may be referred to the Match Committee and may see a player subject to further action in accordance with the GWG's Code of Conduct (Women's pennant)

#### **4.6 Suspension of play and abandonment of contests**

- (i) In the event of heavy rain, lightning, fog, extreme heat, unplayable course conditions, extreme wind making play dangerous or for any other reason, the Match & Play Committee of the host club will be responsible for deciding whether to suspend or resume play.
- (ii) If or when a course is declared playable by the host Club then play must proceed. Any team not wishing to proceed when the course has been pronounced playable will forfeit the contest and match points will be awarded to the opposing team.
- (iii) Where games have not commenced:
  - (a) If the course is declared unplayable by the host club then play will be suspended for up to 1 hour, during which time the conditions will be reassessed. If at the end of 1 hour the course is still unplayable then all matches will be cancelled. If matches are cancelled then points will be split and 1 point awarded to each participating team. No points will be awarded to a team who has a bye.
- (iv) Where games have commenced:-
  - (a) The signal for suspending play will be three short siren blasts or other such warning as specified by the host Club. The procedure when play is suspended is outlined under *Rules of Golf* Rule 6-8b.
  - (b) The host Club will suspended play for up to 1 hour, during which time the conditions will be reassessed. If at the end of 1 hour the course is still unplayable then all matches will be cancelled. If matches are cancelled then points will be split with 1

point awarded to each participating team. No points will be awarded to a team who has a bye.

- (c) 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 or other such notification as specified by the host club. Every effort should be made to complete all contests on the scheduled day. If the Match & Play Committee of the host Club determines that completion of Pennant is not possible on the scheduled day the round will be abandoned and the points will be split with 1 point awarded to each participating team. No points will be awarded to a team who has a bye.
- (v) In the event of a forecast temperature of 30 degrees Celsius or over at 7pm on the evening immediately prior to the scheduled day of play the Match Committee has the authority to start the competition up to 1 hour earlier than the designated start time. If by 7pm on the evening immediately prior to the scheduled day of play the forecast temperature is 35 degrees Celsius or higher the Match Committee has the authority to cancel the competition. Points for this round will be split with 1 point awarded to each team scheduled to play. No points will be awarded to a team who has a bye.

#### **4.7 Practice**

- (i) Players are permitted to practise on the course on the day of competition prior to the commencement of their matches.
- (ii) Following the commencement of their matches, players may practise in accordance with *Rules of Golf* Rule 7-2.
- (iii) However, players should note that penalties may still be applied in accordance with *Rules of Golf* Rule 6-7 to any player who delays play by such actions.

#### **4.8 Use of Motorised Transportation and Caddies**

- (i) Players and caddies for both Weekend and Weekday competitions 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 or have had a recent injury.
- (ii) A player who has completed her match may caddy for another player. A player or caddy may caddy for more than one player on the day. No professional may caddy.
- (iii) A player can only have one caddy at a time.

#### **4.9 Distance Measuring Devices**

A player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect her play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of *Rules of Golf* Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is loss of hole for the first breach and disqualification for any subsequent breach.

#### **4.10 Mobile Phones**

- (i) Mobile phones in the possession of a player or caddy on the course should be turned off or silent.
- (ii) Players and/or caddies are permitted to make phone calls from the course to the clubhouse or to Pennant officials for rules and/or emergency assistance.
- (iii) If a player is in breach of this rule their opponent must notify the Match Committee as soon as possible after the incident has occurred. The Match Committee will then assess the incident on its merits and take appropriate action in accordance with GWG's Code of Conduct (Women's pennant).

### **5. Adjudication**

**5.1 Round Robin Match Referees**

- (i) The host Club Match & Play is to provide a Referee who is responsible for administering the competition at the venue, monitoring slow play (and issuing penalties if required) and determining any Rules of Golf dispute which may arise or is referred to them.
- (ii) The host Club should make players aware of the person acting as Referee and who should be contacted if a dispute should arise, prior to the commencement of play at the venue.
- (iii) Should any Pennant condition or competition administration dispute arise at a Pennant venue, prior to determining any such dispute, the Captain/Manager must lodge a protest to GWG Match & Play within 24 hours of completion of the round. Following consideration of the matters of the dispute, the GWG Match & Play Committee decision must be conveyed to each representative from the club or clubs involved. GWG Match & Play decisions are final.

**5.2 Finals Referees**

- (i) GWG Match & Play will provide Referees who are responsible for administering the competition at the venue, monitoring slow play (and issuing penalties if required) and determining any Rules of Golf dispute which may arise or is referred to them.
- (ii) The players will be made aware of those people acting as Referees and who should be contacted if a dispute should arise, prior to the commencement of play at the venue.
- (iii) Should any Pennant condition or competition administration dispute arise at the Final the Referee is required to ascertain relevant details (either orally or in writing) from one representative of each club or clubs involved and any other relevant party. Following consideration of the matters of the dispute, the Referees decision must be conveyed to each representative from the club or clubs involved.
- (iv) Unless otherwise indicated, Referee does not have the authority to alter or vary any Pennant condition.

**Note:** Any dispute regarding any of these Conditions shall be referred to the GWG Match Committee. In the event of any decision or interpretations being given which has a bearing on these conditions, all West Gippsland clubs shall be notified.

**6. Results****6.1 General**

- (i) Result sheets are to be signed by both Captains to show agreement with the result of the contest.
- (ii) It is the responsibility of each host Club to submit results for all contests (including individual match results) to the Match Committee as soon as possible after the completion of the round of contests. [womenscaptain@golfwestgippsland.org.au](mailto:womenscaptain@golfwestgippsland.org.au)
- (iii) Results are deemed to be officially announced upon electronic submission to the Match Committee.
- (iv) A Pennant Captain may dispute either a contest result and/or individual match result up until 5pm on the first working day following the day of the contest. All contest and individual match results are deemed to then be final.

**6.2 Ladders**

- (i) Division ladders will be calculated as follows:
  - (a) teams are positioned on their ladder in descending order of contests won - 2 points are awarded for each team win;
  - (b) teams tied on contests won are ordered by numbers of matches won - 1 match point is awarded for each team members individual win;

- (c) teams still tied on matches won are ordered by awarding 1 point for the winning margin of each match i.e. if a match is won 7up with 6 holes to play (7/6) then 7 points will be awarded to the winner of the match, if the match is won 1up then 1 point will be awarded to the winner of the match;
- (d) teams still tied are ordered by the result of the most recent contest in the current season between the two teams.
- (ii) Ladders will be emailed to Captains/managers and results will be posted on GWG website.
- (iii) No contest or match wins will be awarded to any team receiving a bye.

**6.3 Finals and divisional winners**

- (i) A player must play 1 (one) match in the Pennant competition to be eligible to play in Finals.
- (ii) At the conclusion of the round robin matches, the leading two teams for Weekend and Weekday competitions will qualify to compete in the Finals.
- (iii) The winner of each competition will be the team winning the Final.
- (iv) In the event of the Final not being decided and not being able to be resumed, the higher-placed team on the ladder at the conclusion of the round robin contests will be declared the winner.
- (v) Winning teams will be presented with bannerettes and mementos in recognition of this achievement.

**7. Code of Conduct**

- (i) All players, caddies and club officials are required to abide by the GWG Code of Conduct.
- (ii) If a person is reported for a possible breach of the Code of Conduct, such report will be considered by Match Committee.
- (iii) The GWG Code of Conduct has been provided to all clubs.

**8. Provision of Food and Beverages**

- (i) A light lunch is to be provided by host clubs for competitors and caddies. The cost of the lunch is not to exceed \$10. Lunch is not compulsory but payment for team lunches must be submitted to the host Club prior to hit-off.
- (ii) If the weather is to be hot as specified in Condition 4.6(v) on the day of play, clubs are asked to provide cold water for competitors and caddies.

**APPENDIX 1****Schedule of Updates to Conditions**

| <b>Version No.</b> | <b>Details of amendments</b>   |
|--------------------|--|
| 07/11/2018         | Approved 2019 Women's Golf West Gippsland (WGWG) Pennant Conditions  |
| 13/03/2019         | Update to Conditions to reflect changes in name from WGWG to GWG   |
| 09/03/2020         | Update to Section 4.8(i)(a) Use of Motorised Transportation  |
| 17/3/2022          | Alteration to Section 2.1(iii) Introduction of Scratch pennant matches   |
| 17/3/2022          | Update to Section 2.3(iii) players move to tee 10 minutes prior to hit off   |
| 17/3/2022          | Alteration to Section 3.2(i) player eligibility for pennant competition  |
| 17/3/2022          | Update to Section 4.2(i) Submission of team lists 15 minutes prior to match  |
| 17/3/2022          | Addition to Section 4.2(ii) Match play index and Stableford card index   |
| 17/3/2022          | Alteration to Section 4.8(i) Players and caddies allowed to use carts  |
| 17/3/2022          | Alteration to Section 8(i) Provision of lunch to be \$5.00   |
| 31/1/2023          | Alteration to Section 2.1 (iii) Competitions will play 1 scratch and 4 handicap matches  |
| 31/1/2023          | Section 3.1 (i) removal of restriction on number of teams a Club can have in a competition   |
| 31/1/2023          | Addition to Section 3.1 (ii) Clubs can form alliances in the 2023 pennant comps.   |
| 31/1/2023          | Addition to Section 3.2 (iii) Players are eligible to join another Club for the duration of the pennant season.  |
| 31/1/2023          | Alteration to Section 4.1 Movement of Players between TEAMS  |
| 31/1/2023          | Update to Section 4.1 (i), (ii) & (iii) removed and new rule implemented   |
| 31/1/2023          | Alteration to Section 4.1 (iv) A player must play one (1) game in a team to qualify to play finals.  |
| 31/1/2023          | Section 8 (i) Provision of lunch \$10 per player.  |
| 21/3/2023          | Alteration to Section 6.3 (i) A player must play 1 (one) match in the Pennant competition to be eligible to play in Finals.  |
| 13/1/2025          | Alteration to Section 3.1 (ii) Clubs can form alliances to participate in the GWG Pennant competition even if they have other teams entered in the same division. Allied players must remain in the Allied team  |
| 13/1/2025          | Alteration to Section 4.8 Players and caddies for both Weekend and Weekday competitions 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 or have had a recent injury. |