



CODE OF CONDUCT WOMEN'S PENNANT 2024

This Code of Conduct applies to amateur golfers and caddies, in all women's events throughout West Gippsland. NB. Parents/Guardians are subject to the Code of Conduct.

Conditions, local rules or by-laws of clubs hosting GWG events must also be adhered to.

Each Player or Caddie in a competition must adhere to commonly accepted standards of golfing etiquette and sportsmanship.

To ensure proper standards of behaviour during a competition, a Player or Caddie who commits an offence under this Code may face disciplinary proceedings.

1 DEFINITIONS

In this Code, unless the context otherwise requires:

Term Definition

Caddie means the definition as per the Rules of Golf; where the context so admits, the word 'player' includes 'caddie'

Code means this Code of Conduct

Competition means a Championship, event, competition, practice session or major activity conducted or sanctioned by GWG

Conduct Officers means two officials of GWG Match & Play Committee appointed at any time to consider, hear and determine a report during or after the conclusion of a competition

GA means Golf Australia Limited

Notice means notice in writing by letter and email

Player means a player or participant in a competition; where the context so admits, the word 'player' and includes 'caddie'

Report means any oral or written statement by any person of an alleged offence by a player or caddie under this Code

GWG means Golf West Gippsland

GWG Match & Play Committee means the Golf West Gippsland Match & Play Committee

An act is deemed to occur "*during a competition*" if it occurs:

- a) when travelling to or from a competition.
- b) on any qualifying or practice day for a competition.
- c) when playing at a specific course for the purpose of practicing for an upcoming competition at that course; or
- d) on any day during which the competition is conducted.

2 OFFENCES

NOTE: The use of any narcotic or other substance may constitute an offence under the Doping Policy of GA.

2.1 A Player or Caddie is guilty of a Category A offence under this Code if the Player or Caddie:

- a) physically attacks or abuses in any way, a player, an official, or person during a competition.
- b) verbally threatens a player, an official, or person during a competition.
- c) racially vilifies a player, an official, or person during a competition.
- d) wrongfully damages the facilities, including the course and the clubhouse, of the competition golf course.
- e) wrongfully removes or damages property belonging to another player, an official, the tournament organiser, or the competition golf club.
- f) deliberately breaks a Rule (as defined in the Rules of Golf);
- g) deliberately returns a false score card.
- h) during a competition, deliberately seeks to manipulate the player's Australian handicap.
- i) fails or refuses to co-operate with, or obstructs, any investigation by the Conduct Officer of the Player or Caddie's conduct or the conduct of another person.
- j) fails or refuses to co-operate with, or obstructs, a hearing by the Conduct Officers
- k) behaves in a manner detrimental to the good name and reputation of GWG
- l) brings the game of golf into disrepute.

2.2 A Player or Caddie is guilty of a Category B offence under this Code if the Player or Caddie:

- a) in relation to a competition, publicly criticises:
 - i. *the competition golf course.*
 - ii. *the competition itself.*
 - iii. *the organisers of the competition.*
 - iv. *the sponsors of the competition; or*
 - v. *any official supervising or organising the competition during a competition.*
- b) throws or deliberately or in anger breaks golf equipment (including golf balls) during a competition.
- c) uses abusive or profane language towards another player, an official, or person during a competition.
- d) utters audible obscenities during a competition.
- e) consumes any alcohol or a prohibited substance under the GA Doping Policy during the course of any round played in a competition.
- f) behaves in a manner detrimental to the performance of other players.

2.3 A Player or Caddie is guilty of a Category C offence if the Player or Caddie:

- a) fails to comply with official directions or instructions, including dress regulations, which have been issued by WGWG or the Host Club for that competition.
- b) fails to comply with the Rules of Golf with respect to Section I – Etiquette. NB Etiquette includes the continual failure to fill in divots or repair pitch marks.
- c) continually fails to play without undue delay.
- d) commits an act to deliberately disqualify the player from a competition or, during the course of a round picks up the player's own ball without playing out a hole.
- e) misses a tee time or withdraws from a competition before the completion of that competition without providing good reason for doing so.
- f) uses a radio (of any kind), recorder or mobile telephone (except in an emergency, or a personal circumstance that agreement with fellow players has

been sought prior to play, to access a distance measuring application or to call for a Referee) during the course of play in a competition or allows the player's caddie to do so.

- g) smokes cigarettes, cigars or the like during the course of any round played in a competition outside the host Club's smoking policy rules.

2.4 If a Player or Caddie commits two or more Category C offences during competition, the Player or Caddie is deemed to have committed a Category B offence and is subject to penalties prescribed for a Category B offence. If a Player or Caddie commits two or more Category B offences during a competition, the Player or Caddie is deemed to have committed a Category A offence and is subject to penalties prescribed for a Category A offence.

2.5 Subsequent breaches of the Code within a 24-month period will result in a penalty prescribed for the Category one above the highest Category of the previous breach. For sake of clarity, should a Player or Caddie commit a Category B offence originally, and then commit a Category B offence 6 months later, the player is deemed to have committed a Category A offence and is subject to penalties prescribed for a Category A offence. Should the original breach be a Category A offence, the penalty imposed will be as the Conduct Officers see fit.

3 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

3.1 Any report made to GWG Match & Play Committee during a competition or after the conclusion of the competition must be referred to the Conduct Officers in writing.

3.2 Upon receiving a written report under clause 3.1, the Conduct Officers must determine whether:

- a) no further action should be taken; or
- b) if in the course of such investigation it is evident that, in the opinion of the Conduct Officers, a breach has occurred, an appropriate penalty may be imposed, and communicated to the Player or Caddie by GWG (Notice).

4 PENALTIES

4.1 If a Player or Caddie is found guilty of a Category A offence, any of the following penalties, minimum 3 months and not exceeding more than 2 years duration, may be imposed:

- a) the committee in charge of the competition will assess the incident (or series of incidents) on its merits and may determine it appropriate to apply a penalty of Disqualification in accordance with Decision 33-7/8 (2014-2015 R&A Decisions on the Rules of Golf) (NB a penalty of Disqualification must be imposed prior to the close of the competition);
- b) a recommendation to the player's home club that the player's membership be suspended for a set period of time.
- c) a recommendation to the player's State Association that the player is not permitted to enter State Events;
- d) a recommendation to Golf Victoria suspension of the player's Australian Handicap.
- e) such other penalty as determined from time to time.

4.2 If a Player or Caddie is found guilty of a Category B offence, any of the following penalties, minimum 1 month but not more than 3 months for any one offence, may be imposed:

-
- a) the committee in charge of the competition will assess the incident (or series of incidents) on its merits and may determine it appropriate to apply a penalty of Disqualification in accordance with Decision 33-7/8 (2014-2015 R&A Decisions on the Rules of Golf) (NB a penalty of Disqualification must be imposed prior to the close of the competition).
 - b) a recommendation to the player's home club that the player's membership be suspended for a set period of time.
 - c) a recommendation to the player's State Association that the player is not permitted to enter State Events.
 - d) a penalty under the Doping Policy of GA (if applicable)
 - e) suspension of the player's Australian Handicap.
 - f) such other penalty as determined from time to time.

4.3 If a Player or Caddie is found guilty of a Category C offence, any of the following penalties may be imposed

- a) the committee in charge of the competition will assess the incident (or series of incidents) on its merits and may determine it appropriate to apply a penalty of Disqualification in accordance with Decision 4 GA Code of Conduct (Version 26 May 2014) 33-7/8 (2014-2015 R&A Decisions on the Rules of Golf) (NB a penalty of Disqualification must be imposed prior to the close of the competition);
- b) a severe reprimand.
- c) recommend to Golf Victoria suspension of the player's Australian Handicap (recommendation: no more than 1 month);
- d) such other penalty as determined from to time.