

**SOUTH GIPPSLAND
GOLF Inc**

BY LAW 7

2026

PENNANT RULES

&

CONDITIONS

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SOUTH GIPPSLAND GOLF Inc

PENNANT COMPETITION CONDITIONS

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of the South Gippsland Golf Inc, Pennant Rules & Conditions, the following 'DEFINITIONS' shall apply

CONTEST	"A contest between (2) two clubs as part of the pennant competition in any year.
MATCH	"A match between (2) two players representing their respective clubs as part of the pennant competition in any year.
PLAYER	"A male member who holds a class of membership with playing rights of a South Gippsland D.G.A. affiliated Member Club, and who represents that club as part of the pennant competition in any year.
BONA-FIDE MEMBER	A bona-fide member is one who holds amateur status and is eligible to participate in the Club Championship of the Club he is representing.
FINAL	"A contest between (2) two clubs where the winner of a Division is to be decided as part of the pennant competition in any year.
G.A. HANDICAP	"An individual player's current Golf Australia handicap, either calculated in accordance with the World Golf handicapping system.
DAILY HANDICAP	"A Daily Handicap shall be calculated using the approved formula as laid down by Golf Australia.
DIVISION means:	"The clubs which make up the composition of the divisional competition which forms a part of the pennant competition in any year.
PRESSING NECESSITY means:	"A matter of an urgent nature which arises immediately prior to the contest."

1. DIVISIONAL COMPOSITION

The pennant competition shall consist of **3 Divisions**. Divisions 1 shall be scratch divisions. Divisions 2 & 3 shall be handicap divisions. There shall be no restriction on handicaps in divisions 2 & 3, the maximum handicap allowed is in accordance with the World Handicapping System. Each Division will have a maximum of Eight (8) teams.

2. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

Teams in all Divisions shall consist of **7 players**.

3. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- (a) Each player competing in the South Gippsland Golf Inc pennant competition must be a 'bona-fide member' of a South Gippsland Golf Inc, affiliated club, which he is representing.
- (b) A player competing in the pennant competition must be financial and hold a class of membership, which allows him 'playing rights' at the club he represents.
- (c) A Player must have 5 handicapped Golf ID Rounds at the club they are representing in the previous 12 months
- (d) Players from reciprocal Clubs are not eligible to compete.
- (e) A player may represent only (1) one South Gippsland Golf Inc affiliated Club during the pennant season.

NOTE: A player who is a bona-fide member of a South Gippsland Golf Inc club, and who meets the criteria stated in the definition of bona fide member, but who is currently serving a period of suspension, (either at his 'home club' or another golf club where he holds a membership with playing rights) and where his handicap has been suspended is ineligible to compete in the South Gippsland Golf Inc, pennant competition whilst such suspension is being served.

Penalty for breach of condition - Disqualification & loss of individual match or matches 10/8

4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- (a) A player **must** play in at least
 - i. **(3) three contests** in any Division if that Division plays 6 or 7 contests to be eligible to play in a final.
 - ii. **(2) two contests** in any Division if that Division plays 5 or less contests to be eligible to play in a final.
- (b) Once a player has played in 3 contests in a higher Division, he shall not be permitted to play in a lower divisional final.

Penalty for breach of condition - Disqualification & loss of individual match or matches 10/8

5. CONTESTS

- (a) The competition between (2) two teams will be known as a **CONTEST**, and shall be played on Sundays, and shall be played at the courses and at the time nominated on the pennant draw.
- (b) All contests **MUST** commence from the tee nominated on the pennant draw.
- (c) Each **CONTEST** shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf, together with such local rules as are in force over the course on which the **CONTEST** takes place.

Penalty for breach of condition (a & b) - Disqualification & loss of individual match or matches 10/8

6. TEAM LISTS

- (a) In both the scratch & handicap divisions, team captains are to submit their team lists to the Starter or opposing Captain at least **(15) fifteen minutes** prior to the commencement time of the Contest.
- (b) In the handicap divisions, handicaps & Golf ID numbers are to be submitted along with the team lists.
- (c) In the Scratch Divisions Golf ID numbers **MUST** be submitted along with the team lists.

NOTE: Any Club, which is late in submitting their team list, shall incur the following penalty:

10 minutes prior to hit off time -

The Club's No 7 player shall lose the 1st hole of his match.
(Match to commence at 2nd tee).

5 minutes prior to hit off time -

The Club's No 7 player shall lose the 1st & 2nd holes of his match.
(Match to commence at 3rd tee).

By the nominated hit off time - The club's No 7 player shall lose his match 10/8.

7. PRACTICE

- (a) A player **MAY** practice on the competition course prior to the commencement of their Match.
- (b) If a player practices on the course, he shall be limited to playing a maximum of (2) two golf balls.

Penalty for breach of Condition (b) - loss of 1st hole.

NOTE: If a player receives a penalty under clause (b), play shall commence from the 2nd tee

8. CADDIES

- (a) A player, or his caddie **MAY** caddie for another player after completion of his match.
- (b) A Professional Golfer or Golf Professional is **NOT** permitted to participate as a caddie.

Penalty for breach of condition (b) - Loss of hole for each hole condition (b) is breached.

9. ORDER OF PLAY

- (a) **Scratch Divisions.**
Team need not play in order of handicap
- (b) **Handicap Divisions.**
Teams are required to play in order of their 'Daily' handicap with the highest handicapped player being placed at the No 7 position on the result sheet progressing through to the lowest handicapped player being placed at the No 1 position on the result sheet.

The player listed at No 7 on the team sheet shall hit off first, progressing in order to number 1, who shall hit off last.

- NOTE 1: Players with the same Daily Handicap may play in the order written on the sheet by the captain of the team
- NOTE 2: In the case of a 'pressing necessity' the order of play may be varied by mutual agreement between the team captains concerned.
- NOTE 2: Where a matter of 'Pressing Necessity' arises this does not extend to the naming of players out of handicap order in the Handicap Divisions.
- NOTE 3: In the handicap divisions, for the purposes of shots given or taken, players shall use their 'Daily Handicap', as per the Golf Australia Handicapping System. Players shall utilize their Golf Australia handicap as shown on the Golf.com.au website and the Slope Rating of the course to be played to determine their respective Daily Handicap.

SLOPE RATINGS FOR SOUTH GIPPSLAND COURSES (BACK TEES)

- NOTE: Scratch & Slope Ratings for all South Gippsland Courses (Back Tees) can be found on the District website www.southgippslandgolf.org.au. By clicking on the PENNANT link.

To calculate a players 'Daily Handicap' the following formula shall be used:
Players G.A. Handicap x Slope Rating for the course being played divided by Neutral Slope Rating = Daily Handicap.

Example: Playing at Wonthaggi Golf Club (Back Tees)

17.7 (G.A. Handicap) x 126 (Slope Rating) divided by 113 (Neutral Rating) = 19.7

Penalty for breach of condition 9 (b) - Loss of individual match or matches 10/8 to all players down to where player named out of order should have been placed.

10. **STARTER**

Host Clubs for all pennant contests held at their club shall be required to provide a **STARTER**. The '**STARTER**' along with starting each match, shall be responsible for the collation of team lists and preparation of results sheets. In the event of inclement weather, the starter is also responsible for deciding when a course has become unplayable and the subsequent re-starting of contests. See Rule 18.

11. **COMMENCEMENT OF PLAY (INDIVIDUAL HOLE/S)**

All contests shall commence from the **scratch markers (back tees)** unless **otherwise advised by the host club**.

12. **DRAW, HONOUR & LATE ARRIVAL**

- (a) Contests shall commence from designated starting tees at the times, and in the order listed on the draw. The honor for each contest shall be decided by the toss of a coin, by representatives of the competing clubs. The team that wins the toss shall have the honor at the starting tee for all matches in that contest.

If a player arrives at his starting tee, ready to play, within (5) five minutes after his starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole in match play instead of disqualification. Play will commence from the 2nd tee. If the player arrives over 5 minutes late, the player is disqualified and results in loss of match 10/8. (Rule 5.3a)

- (b) For the purposes of calculating hit off times once the No 7 player has hit off, it will be assumed that hit off times will follow in (6) six minute intervals.

e.g. No 7 player hits off at 09.00 am No 7 player hits off at 09.45 am
 No 6 player hits off at 09.06 am No 6 player hits off at 09.51 am
 No 5 player hits off at 09.12 am No 5 player hits off at 09.57 am
 No 4 player hits off at 09.18 am No 4 player hits off at 10.03 am
 No 3 player hits off at 09.24 am No 3 player hits off at 10.09 am
 No 2 player hits off at 09.30 am No 2 player hits off at 10.15 am
 No 1 player hits off at 09.36 am No 1 player hits off at 10.21 am

13. **HANDICAP INDEX**

Handicap indexes are provided by the South Gippsland Golf Inc in accordance with the Golf Australia method of taking strokes in match play. The Handicap Index **MUST** be used for all South Gippsland Golf Inc handicap pennant matches. Handicap indexes provided for the 1st & 10th tees.

NOTE: A COPY OF ALL INDEXES MAY BE FOUND ON THE DISTRICT'S WEBSITE

14. SAND BUCKETS

Players who fail to adhere to the host club's requirement to carry a sand bucket, will be subject to sanction with the Associations 'Code of Conduct'.

15. 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 his/her play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule of Golf 4.3a, for which the penalty is loss of hole for the first breach and disqualification for any subsequent breach.

Note: Where the device contains other applications or features (e.g. a camera, video camera or spirit level), provided these applications or features are not used during a round in such a way that could assist the player in his/her play (e.g. videoing swing to analyse fault or gauging slope or green contours), the distance-measuring application is permitted.

As the Internet is now available on most mobile phones and multi-functional devices, it is possible to access information through this route at any time. Provided the player, during a round, does not use the Internet to access information or find measurement tools which would, if used, be a breach of Rule 4.3a, there is no breach of the Local Rule and the phone may be used as a distance-measuring device.

Rules of Golf - Rule 4.3a

Penalty for first breach of condition - loss of hole

Penalty for second breach of condition - loss of individual match 10/8

16. LOCOMOTION

Players are allowed to use any form of transportation allowed by the host club.

17. SLOW PLAY

Attention is drawn to the Rules of Golf, Rule 5.6b. As a guide, an individual match should take no more than **11 1/2 minutes per hole**. For example, a group would be expected to have completed:

- (a) The 6th hole in 1 hour & 9 minutes.
- (b) The 10th hole in 1 hour & 55 minutes.
- (c) The 12th hole in 2 hours & 18 minutes.

Any group in that contest will be considered out of position if the group:

- (i) Falls behind, and
- (ii) Is taking more than 11 1/2 minutes per hole.

Players may be liable to be penalized for **UNDUE DELAY** under this Rule, should they persist in engaging in acts of slow play.

18. INCLEMENT WEATHER & UNPLAYABLE CONDITIONS AFFECTING PENNANT CONTESTS

- (a) If due to inclement weather, including the threat or presence of an electrical storm at the time play is due to commence, the starter may delay play until the weather conditions have passed, or the course is considered fit for play.
- (b) If play has not commenced within 2 hours of the 1st matches scheduled starting time, all games will be abandoned for the day and all scheduled games will be deemed halved.
- (c) In reference to clause (b) the starters decision shall be final.
- (d) Where play has commenced and where a majority of games have been decided and weather becomes a factor in any unfinished games being able to obtain a result to a point that a result is not possible, those unfinished games will be deemed halved.
- (e) Where play has commenced and where a majority of games have not been decided, and weather becomes a factor in any unfinished games being able to obtain a result to a point that a result is not possible, all games will be deemed halved.
- (f) In relation to clauses (d) & (e), an agreement between the captains of the affected teams shall be final. Where the affected captains cannot agree, the starter shall decide.

NOTE: INCLEMENT WEATHER means wind; rain; lightening; fog; excessive temperatures including heat and cold;

NOTE: MAJORITY means more than 50%

19. FINALS

- (a) In all Divisions, at the end of the 'round robin' series, a final shall be played between the top two teams on each respective Divisional ladder.
- (b) Venues, and hit off times for each Divisional final shall be decided by the South Gippsland D.G.A. Inc, Executive Committee

20. FINALS MATCHES - SUSPENSION OF PLAY

The South Gippsland Inc, Match Committee, shall make any decision regarding suspension of play, abandonment or cancellation of a final.

21. REFEREE/ STARTER FOR FINALS

In all finals, the South Gippsland Golf Inc, Match Committee, shall appoint a **REFEREE/ STARTER**

22. **PRACTICE ROUNDS**

Each club entering the South Gippsland Golf Inc pennant competition **SHALL** make its course available for (1) one complimentary round, per player, from the opposing club, in the week immediately prior to each match being played on its course. Players must make contact with the club concerned prior to any practice round played.

For practice rounds played as part of a competition round, the player shall be required to pay the competition fee only.

23. **WET SLIX**

All South Gippsland Golf Inc affiliated Clubs require **WET SLIX** to be fitted to buggies for the pennant season.

24. **SOFT SPIKES**

A club hosting a round of pennant, which has a specific policy relating to the wearing of '**SOFT SPIKES**' the players **MUST** comply with that policy. The club shall be entitled to enforce that policy.

Rules of Golf, Rule 4.3a

Penalty for breach of condition - Disqualification & loss of individual match or matches 10/8

25. **OUT OF BOUNDS AND LOST BALLS**

Rule 18.2 Ball Lost or Out of Bounds: Stroke and Distance Relief Must Be Taken, applies on all courses during the pennant season.

The Alternative Model Local Rule E-5 is **NOT** in effect for any Pennant Contest

26. **RESULTS SHEETS**

The respective team captain/s, or team manager, should satisfy themselves of the accuracy of each result sheet following completion of the contest.

27. **RESULTS OF MATCHES**

All contests, including finals shall be played over 18 holes match play. Individual matches that are tied after 18 holes shall be decided by sudden death match play. Such play shall commence at the hole where the match began, and shall continue in sequence until a result is obtained.

NOTE: Where matches extend beyond the 18th Hole, the 'Handicap Index' (i.e. strokes given & received) applicable to the tee where the match commenced & subsequent holes, shall apply.

28. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

Result sheets are to be submitted by the 'Host Club', to the Pennant Secretary on completion of the contest, and prior to **5.00 pm** on the day of the contest. If results are still in doubt prior to **5.00 pm** the Pennant Secretary must be notified of such matches still in progress.

Note: Results from previous matches and any relevant percentage shall be withheld until receipt of the relevant result sheet.

29. FORWARDING OF PENNANT RESULT SHEETS

The 'Host Club' is responsible for pennant result sheet/s being forwarded to the Pennant Secretary by email to secretary@southgippslandgolf.org.au at the completion of the game. There is no requirement to forward the original copy of a pennant result sheet to the pennant secretary.

30. PROTESTS

Any protest must be sorted by the host club prior to lodging result sheets. If unable to solve, the protest must be lodged with the South Gippsland Golf Inc Match Committee by **9.00am** the Monday morning following the contest. The South Gippsland Golf Inc, Match Committee, shall determine the protest prior to the next round. An aggrieved club, player or their representative shall be allowed to be present during any hearing of a dispute by the South Gippsland Golf Inc Match Committee.

31. LADDER POSITIONS & PERCENTAGES

- (a) Positions on the ladder will be calculated on the number of matches won & lost.
- (b) Percentages shall be calculated on the number of holes played in a contest.
- (c) Percentages will be assessed after each round. In the event of (2) two teams finishing on an equal number of matches & games won, at the end of the round robin matches, the percentages will determine the results in all divisions.

32. **FORFEITURE OF TEAM FROM COMPETITION (PRE-COMPETITION)**

- (a) Prior to the 31st December in any year, a Club which has entered a team in any division, and seeks to withdraw a team from a Division for any reason, can only do so with the approval of the District Match Committee.
- (b) The Club making the application must do so in writing & state the grounds for the application.
- (c) The Match Committee may require the applicant club to appear at any meeting in support of its application.
- (d) Any application for withdrawal of a pennant team following the 31st December will incur a penalty as decided by the Match Committee.

Note: In the case of a Club having more than (1) one pennant team in the forthcoming season and has been given approval to withdraw a pennant team, the team in the highest numbered Division shall be withdrawn.

33. **FORFEITURE OF TEAM FROM COMPETITION (POST COMPETITION)**

In the event of the Match Committee approving a Club's request to withdraw a team from any division following the commencement of the pennant season, the following formula shall be used as a means to equalize the competition:

The team receiving the bye shall be awarded the following result:

After Week 1	1 win & 6 matches
After Week 2	1 win & 5 matches
After Week 3	1 win & 5 matches
After Week 4	1 win & 4 matches
After Week 5	1 win & 4 matches
After Week 6	1 win & 4 matches

NOTE: The team left in the competition for any round shall receive a 'bye'

34. **REFRESHMENTS**

The 'Host Club' shall make tea & coffee available to players and caddies prior to hit off.

The 'Host Club' upon completion of the contests will make **LIGHT REFRESHMENTS** available. All meals shall be at cost to the individual.

For all finals, meals are to be made available by the 'Host Club' at cost to the individual.

35. **PERPETUAL SHIELDS**

A perpetual shield donated by P.J. Carruthers & L.A. Webb will be presented to the winner of Division 1. As well, smaller perpetual shields and pennants will be presented to all divisional winners, at the completion of the respective divisional finals.

36. **NON - PENNANT PLAYERS**

The Home Club **MUST** ensure that all competition, non-competition and green fee players are clear of the 1st & 10th tees, at least **(1) one hour** prior to the commencement of the first contest. Competition, non-competition and green fee players **MUST** give right of way to pennant matches.

37. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

- (a) The South Gippsland Golf Inc, 'Code of Conduct' shall be in force during the pennant season.
- (b) The South Gippsland Golf Inc, 'Discipline Committee', will deal with any complaints of misconduct reported during the pennant season under this procedure.

38. **MATCH COMMITTEE & ALTERATION TO RULES**

The South Gippsland Golf Inc, Match Committee is the Committee in charge of the 2026 pennant competition & reserves the right to make alterations to the competition rules & conditions should it be deemed necessary.