

Rules of Competition (v1.0)

GDVGA Inc. Pennant 2026

Pennant Conditions

1. All matches to be played under the rules of golf, rules of match play and the local rules of the course on which the match is played. The competition is a mixed gender competition.
2. Affiliation fee for pennant teams has been waived for 2026
3. Participating clubs must provide their course at no charge to the GDVGA Inc or its participants for one competition round per team entered. No catering is required for 2026 Pennant Season.
4. Clubs may enter one team unless approved by the committee to enter two teams. When a club enters more than one team, players may not be switched between teams. No player may represent more than one club during the competition.
5. There will be 2 divisions. The season will consist of "round robin" contests between all teams in each division. After the completion of these round robin contests the leading team in each division will play the second team in the other division (Semi-Final) the two winning teams to play in the Final to determine the winner of the GDVGA Pennant Competition.
6. To be eligible to play in the 2026 Pennant Competition players must –
 - Be a financial member of the GDVGA prior to 31st January 2026
 - Has played a minimum of 3 regular events during 2025
 - To be eligible to play in the final series a player must have played in at least two pennant matches in the current season.
7. It shall be the responsibility of the home club to supply a referee and tee stewards. The referee shall rule on any disputes or protests arising at the venue on that day. These disputes or protests must be lodged with the referee within 30 minutes of the completion of the match in question. The decision of the referee shall be final. Any other disputes or protests shall be lodged in writing with the Chairman of the GDVGA Pennant Committee (Harvey Otter) before the next round. The pennant committee's decision will be final.
8. All results sheets are to be emailed by the referee to the Pennant Chairman on the evening of the match. Results sheets must contain both Christian and Surnames for all players, includes all Golf Australia handicaps and correctly adjusted for the Daily Handicap of the course being played.
9. **Abandoned Matches** All abandoned matches not commenced will not be rescheduled, halved points awarded to both teams. All abandoned contests in progress will be deemed to be drawn.

Pennant Rules

1. Competition between teams will be known as "contests" A contest consists of five individual matches. All matches shall be played over a maximum of 18 holes or until a result is obtained. Upon a result players should cease play.
2. If a match is squared after the completion of 18 holes the match is halved.
3. Contests to be played according to the website draw with the first named team to have the honour. Time of play as provided in the fixture on the website. It is the responsibility of the host club to inform the GDVGA Captain of any change to the starting time 5 days prior to the event. It is then the responsibility of the GDVGA Captain to advise the nominated representatives of each club affected by the change via email
4. Other than in designated practice areas players are not permitted to practice on the course on the day of competition. Breach of this rule will be the disqualification of player or players involved.
5. Matches will be handicap single match play, with strokes to be given as GA Match play index. Strokes to be given according to handicap differentials except that no player shall receive more than eighteen strokes. The maximum handicap for any player will be 36.
6. Designated Tee colour for matches to be played from will be nominated by Pennant Committee.
7. In mixed gender matches, handicap differential will be based on the DH according to the respective male and female course DH chart. Strokes will be received on the relevant holes based on the stroke index of the receiver of the stroke e.g., if female receives 3 strokes from male opponent, then those shots are received on the 3 hardest holes according to the GA match play index on the ladies score card.

Note that par for a hole is based on the Par according to the respective male / female score card e.g., Hole 13 is a par 5 for women and a par 4 for men. Michelle has a 6 and David has a 5. Michelle and David both have 1-over par for the hole, so the hole is tied (unless a stroke is received on that hole).

Pennant Rules (continued)

- 8.** A player's handicap will be determined by the player's GA handicap (on the day of the contest) adjusted to the WHS Daily Handicap of the golf course being used. It is the responsibility of the Captain or Team Manager to make sure all handicaps are correct before the commencement of play. Disqualified if handicap greater than correct; result stand if played off less than correct
- 9.** Before each contest the Captains or Team Managers will exchange lists of team members in hit off order. The No 5 player (with the highest Daily handicap) is to be listed first, and the No 1 player (with the lowest Daily handicap) to be listed last. Where two or more players have the same Daily handicap then GA will be used to determine the order. The list is to show current GA and Daily handicaps against each name and the team manager/captain shall be identified. A duplicate list is to be handed to the tee steward prior to the hit off time. Any alterations to the hit off order must be made with the agreement between the opposing team captains.
- 10.** As per Rules of Golf – Rule 5.3
If you arrive at the starting point, ready to play, no more than 5 minutes late – the general penalty is applied. (General penalty for match play is loss of first hole)
If you arrive at the starting point, more than 5 minutes late the penalty is disqualification, and therefore loss of match.
- 11.** If a team does not have 5 players, the Number 5 player from the opposing team is awarded a walkover, then the Number 4 player etc.
- 12.** At the end of the season the leading team in each division will be the team with the greatest number of contests wins. In the event of the number of contests being equal the leading team or teams in a division will be the team or teams which have the greatest number of wins in individual matches. In the event of the individual matches won being equal, the decision will be reached by a countback based on the results of the contests between the tied teams during the season. In the event of the teams still being unable to be separated a countback on the basis on the difference between holes won and holes lost in all individual matches during the season shall decide the finishing position of each team. If the teams cannot be separated the matter will be referred to the GDVGA Pennant Committee
- 13.** In the final if a match is squared after the completion of 18 holes play shall continue until one player secures the advantage, however the team captains may agree that a match shall terminate without a result if the contest is already decided.

Other

- 1.** In the event of a course becoming unplayable prior to the day of competition the GDVGA Captain is to be notified by the host club administration as soon as possible. He will then advise effected Team Managers that all matches to be played at that club has been called off and halved points awarded. On the day of competition any decision on unplayable conditions prior to and after the commencement of play is the responsibility of the referee in charge on that day. In the event of a course becoming unplayable after the commencement of play, all finalized matches will stand. Players in partly played matches must mark the position of their balls. Play shall resume from those positions when weather conditions allow. If weather conditions do not allow play to resume, partly played matches will be abandoned and deemed a draw as per Pennant Conditions No 9.
- 2. Extreme Heat Policy** Should the Bureau of Meteorology forecast be at 1:00pm on the day prior to competition for a temperature of 34°C or above for the following day at the venue of play, then the round will be cancelled. In this event the committee will notify the host club administration and all club delegates as soon as possible. In circumstances when after the commencement of the competition the Bureau of Meteorology forecast temperature has been exceeded and has reached 34°C the match referee should abandon all matches.