

GOLD COAST DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION

RULES

2024 INTERCLUB MATCH PLAY PENNANT

NEW SERIES

All play in this Pennant Series will be under the official R & A/USGA Rules of Golf (Effective January 2021) and the Local Rules of the host club which shall be in accordance and consistent with the compendium set forth in Section 8 of "Official Guide to the Rules of Golf – Effective January 2021".

Interclub Match Play for 2024 is divided into two "series" such that all teams will play on a neutral course. Finals will be played as shown in the draw. There is no promotion or relegation of clubs going forward at this stage.

A. Teams:

- 1) All teams will consist of A & B Grade players;
- 2) Each grade will comprise of 6 players
- 3) All players will play stroke match play in 4's;
- 4) GA handicap limits for each grade will be frozen:
 - A Grade: 0 – 11.9 (set 21 days prior to the first round)
 - B Grade: 12+ (set 21 days prior to the first round)

i. Team Composition:

- a All players must possess a GA handicap from within the Gold Coast District Golf Association, and or, be a financial playing member of the club he is representing; (Breach: Player Disqualification)
- b A player with dual memberships may only represent one club for the duration of the competition; (Breach: Player Disqualification)
- c All players must play off their GA (frozen) as of 21 days prior to the first round; (Breach: Player Disqualification)
- d A team will play in handicap order with the player in each Grade possessing the lowest GA handicap playing as No 1 (Breach: Player Disqualification)
- e Players may join a team in a higher grade, however, they must then play off the maximum handicap for that higher grade e.g. Should a player move from B Grade into A Grade, his new GA handicap for that round would be 11.9;
- f Any player found to have played off the incorrect handicap will be disqualified and a 10 and 8 result recorded against him;
- g In the event of a match being forfeited the result will be recorded as a loss and a 10/8 result awarded
- h All play will be in fours. Players in this competition, must adhere to Match Play rules so that the player (in the pair) furthest from the hole always hits first. The player who won the last hole always has the "honour".
- i Any player who has played two or more matches in the GCDGA OPEN MEN'S PENNANT COMPETITION DURING 2024 is ineligible to play in this competition with the exception of Tamborine Mountain GC , who must apply to the Association and present their case before any exemption is granted.

- j To be eligible to play in a final, a player must play in at least one preliminary round during the season. The GCDGA may, under special circumstances, waive this rule if requested
- k Players/caddies and team officials must conform to the dress regulations and behavior standards of the host club. The team manager is responsible for the speed of play and conduct of their team;
- l **To combat slow play, all matches will cease after 4hs 30 minutes of play** from the tee off time for that match. The players need to record this time and finish out the hole they are on if the 4.5hrs has lapsed. The result stands at the end of 4.5hrs or that hole. (If a player is 3 up with 5 holes left, record the result as “ 3 up”.

(ii) **Handicaps used during the competition:**

- a. All players handicaps are frozen at a point 21 days prior to the first round;
- b. Each player will then show their Golfink Number and their frozen GA handicap on the team sheet
- c. In A and B Grade stroke match play, the player on the higher of the two handicaps will receive any difference between the two
- d. The maximum number of strokes to be awarded in any match is set at 9; However should a player have a handicap higher than 21.0, then he MUST play off 21 and any stroke difference is calculated accordingly.
- e. These strokes will be taken in accordance with Golf Australia's *Balanced Distribution Index*, available from the GCDGA web site;

B. The Team Sheet and Protocols:

1. The **Match Committee of the host club** will be the ruling body on the day and any decision made by this committee will be final.
2. All matches will play from the Blue or Black tee (Members Competition Tee)
3. All players will play in strict handicap order with the lowest handicapped player listed as player one, and, the highest handicapped player six listed at the top;
4. Team sheets must be fully completed and submitted to the host club official at least 10 minutes prior to tee off time;
5. If any team fails to submit a team sheet within 30 minutes after the first player is due to hit off, then that team will be forced to forfeit all scheduled matches. If the host club starter receives advice from any club that for reasons beyond their control an entire team will be late, then the starter has the option to reschedule matches without penalty;
6. If any team for any reason forfeits all matches entirely, then that team will be disqualified from the competition completely, removed from the playing ladder and all results and subsequent matches readjusted;
7. The playing order may not be changed once the team sheet has been submitted;
8. The first individual match of the pennant fixture will be ready to hit off at the designated time. A player will be considered absent if he is not ready to hit off at that time. A reserve player can then substitute for the missing player, but the reserve player cannot have a handicap which is lower than the player to tee off next from that team. If that is the case, the team sheet will need to be adjusted accordingly so players appear in handicap order;

10. Any player whose handicap and/or Golfink number has been omitted from the team sheet, will be disqualified from the match;
11. A "W" (for a win), an "L" (for a loss) or an "S" for a squared result will be recorded beside each player on the team sheet with the result space showing the margin in the match
 - i. e.g. 3/2.
 - ii. It is the responsibility of each team captain whose name is shown on the top of the sheet, to have the team sheet signed off and submitted to the host club officials so the sheet can be sent to GCDGA on the day the match was completed
12. **The Team Managers will be responsible for the collection and return of the completed result sheets to the secretary of the GCDGA on the day of the match. This should be sent as a photo or email to the secretary within 30 minutes of the match being completed.**
13. When playing in 4's it's expected that when all players are on the green and about to putt, that the player who's furthest from the hole putts first; this match should then putt out, and then the other match in the 4, furthest putting first.
14. A player whose match is already finished is not permitted to caddy for any other player. Penalty – loss of hole where the breach occurred.
15. Players in all grades must not continue to play once their individual match has been completed;
16. Practice before a match shall be limited to the practice putting green, practice fairway or nets. Range balls are to be purchased at the players' expense;
17. All players and or club officials are advised that the use of mobile phones is restricted to clubhouse/car park areas and are only to be used in emergency situations. All phones must be turned off or on silent. Breach: Loss of hole;
18. In the event of a match being cancelled due to a course being unplayable, all individual matches completed, partially completed or not started at all on that course will be cancelled. Teams will receive 1 point and 3 games each and any team that may have a bye will not receive any points or games.
19. Alcohol must not be consumed on the course during any GCDGA event. Breach: Disqualification
20. Any player found to have played off an incorrect handicap or out of handicap order will have his game result converted to a loss and recorded as 10 & 8.

Host Club Responsibilities and GCDGA Matters:

- a No social or club competition play is permitted within 20 minutes of the start of any interclub matches;
- b Host clubs are not compelled to supply free food/hospitality to visiting teams members;

c The course is to be prepared to the satisfaction of the GCDGA Match Committee. The competition
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will be played on Sunday with a tee off time not earlier than 7.00am with a Blue or members tee being used for all matches

- d The **host club** must provide a starter to whom the captain/manager for each team will submit their team in playing order, 10 minutes prior to the tee off time for the match. Failure to do so will result in the no. 6 player of the offending team to be deemed to have lost the first hole;
- e All clubs which play matches at Sanctuary Cove or Hope Island are required to use motorized carts. A nominal charge for the use of these carts will be made. **Visiting clubs' Captains or Golf Ops managers** should contact the proshop at either Hope Island or Sanctuary Cove prior to play to ascertain a reasonable cost for golf carts.
- f Motorized carts are permitted, but it is the player or teams' **Captains or Golf Ops managers** who are responsible for the prior booking and the payment (on the day) for these;
- g As all venues for this competition are booked 12 months in advance, GCDGA Match Committee reserves the right to transfer finals to a neutral venue where possible to avoid clubs having an "at home": advantage;
- h The event of two or more teams being equal on points after the completion of the preliminary rounds the two finalists will be decided by the team with the greater number of individual matches won or halved. If a tie still exists, then the teams with the greater net winning margins during the series shall be declared the finalists with the provision that if there is a forfeit in any individual match then the team receiving the forfeit will be allocated a 3/0 win. If a tie still exists the teams shall play off on a date and course set by the GCDGA Match Committee.
- i In all finals no individual match is to proceed beyond the 18th hole. If any final when completed is tied 3 all, or similar, the No.1 players will be required to play "sudden death" down no 1 (or another hole as determined by GCDGA or club official), until such times as a "win" is recorded, thereby confirming the overall result of the final. This result will be FINAL.
- j There is no promotion and or relegation rule for this series.
- k The grouping of all clubs participating in the series for the following year will be determined by the GCDGA Match committee.
- l Any club that does not abide by the Rules and Conditions herein may have their nomination for next season rejected by GCDGA;

Note : Any decision made by the GCGDA Executive Committee is final and no correspondence is required.