



GOLD COAST DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION

OPEN MEN'S PENNANT 2026

RULES & CONDITIONS OF PLAY

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Rules & Conditions of Play

1. Competition Structure

- Teams will be divided into two sections: Red and Blue.
- Each team shall consist of seven (7) players, all playing off the stick.
- After completion of five (5) preliminary rounds, the top two teams from each section will progress to the semi-finals.

2. Match Format and Order of Play

- The competition shall be played as Stroke Match Play.
- Players may compete in any handicap order.
- Team score sheets must list Player No. 7 first (playing first) and Player No. 1 last (playing last).
- Completed team sheets must be submitted to the GCDGA Executive or appointed Starter no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled tee time.
- Preliminary rounds: First three groups shall be played in fours; final group shall be played in pairs.
- Finals: All finals shall be played in pairs, where possible.

3. Player Eligibility

- A player may represent only one club during any Open Men's Pennant season.
- Players must be financial male members with playing rights at the club they represent and hold a current GolfLink handicap.
- Penalty: Loss of match 7-0.

4. Late Arrival and Forfeits

- Any player arriving late for their scheduled tee time shall forfeit their individual match (10/8).
- If an entire team is late, the match shall be forfeited 7-0.

- Where lateness is due to circumstances beyond a club's control, the GCDGA may reschedule tee times without penalty.
- All decisions under this clause rest solely with the GCDGA.

5. Pace of Play

- Maintaining an acceptable pace of play is essential.
- Groups must remain in position with the group ahead.
- If a group falls behind and makes no visible effort to regain position, a warning may be issued by a GCDGA Official or Course Marshal.
- Failure to comply may result in the group being instructed to skip a hole to regain position.

6. Use of Motorised Carts

- A player may only use a motorised cart if a medical certificate has been submitted to the GCDGA prior to the fixture.
- A caddie may use a motorised cart at any time.
- A player must not ride in a motorised cart during their individual match unless approved by the GCDGA (e.g. between holes or for pace-of-play directives).
- Penalty: Loss of hole where the breach occurs. Repeated or serious breaches may result in disqualification.

7. Completion of Match

- Players must cease play immediately upon completion of their individual match.
- Penalty: One-match suspension to be served the following week.

8. Match Points

- The team winning the greater number of individual matches shall receive two (2) competition points.
- A tied match (3½ – 3½) results in one (1) competition point to each team.

9. Finals Qualification

- After five (5) rounds, the top two teams from each section advance to the semi-finals.

10. Ties After Preliminary Rounds

- If teams are equal on points after the preliminary rounds, placings shall be determined by:
- Greater number of individual matches won; then
- Greater aggregate holes won across the season.

11. Tied Finals

- If a final concludes $3\frac{1}{2}$ – $3\frac{1}{2}$, Player No. 1 from each team shall contest sudden-death holes as directed by the GCDGA.
- If sudden death is not possible (e.g. course unavailable or time of day), the result shall be decided by aggregate holes for and against across all seven matches.
- If still tied, the winner shall be determined by individual match wins commencing with Player No. 1, then Player No. 2, and so on.
- The applicable method shall be confirmed prior to commencement of the final.

12. Abandoned Matches

- If a course is deemed unplayable, all individual matches completed, partially completed, or not started on that course shall be cancelled.
- Each team shall receive one (1) competition point and three and a half ($3\frac{1}{2}$) individual matches.
- Teams with a bye receive no points or matches.

13. Rules and Rulings

- All rulings shall be made in accordance with the R&A Rules of Golf and the local rules of the host club.
- Players are responsible for checking daily local rules and conditions at the host club.
- Any member of the GCDGA Management Committee may assist with rulings.
- GCDGA Rules Official: Darren Condon – 0407 147 944 or Rob Barley – 0400 470 740.

14. Practice on Match Day

- Practice on match day is limited to the practice putting green and the practice fairway.
- All players must comply with the host club's rules.

15. Mobile Phones

- Mobile phone use is restricted to the car park and clubhouse areas only, except in a medical emergency.
- Phones must be turned off or placed on silent mode during any competition round.
- Penalty: Loss of hole where the infringement occurred. Further breaches may result in disqualification.

16. Distance-Measuring Devices

- Distance-measuring devices (distance only) are permitted.
- Mobile phone apps or technologies providing assistance with club selection, wind or elevation are prohibited (refer Rule 4.3(a) Interpretations).
- Penalty: Match awarded to the opponent 10/8.

17. Practice Rounds

- Host clubs are not required to provide practice rounds free of charge.
- Any practice-round arrangements must be organised between clubs.

18. Carts for Team Managers

- Host clubs are requested to provide one (1) cart free of charge to each playing team's manager.
- All other carts for supporters must be booked and paid at normal rates.

19. Post-Match Catering

- The GCDGA will contribute funds toward a light snack for players after their match.
- Players are encouraged to return to the host clubhouse to support the host club.

20. Finals Eligibility

- To be eligible to play in the finals, a player must play in at least one (1) preliminary round during the season.

21. Alcohol

- Alcohol must not be consumed on the golf course during the pennant series.
- Penalty: Players may face immediate disqualification and be asked to leave the course.

22. Caddies

- Caddies must comply with Rules 10.2 and 10.3 (role of the caddie).
- A player who has completed their round on the same day may caddie for another player in the same competition.
- A player may have only one (1) caddie at any one point in time.

23. Responsibility for Behaviour

- All clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, caddies and spectators, both on the course and within the clubhouse.
- Clubs must respect the local rules of each host venue; disruptive behaviour may affect the club's standing in the tournament.
- Each club must submit a signed GCDGA Code of Conduct Form by 1 February 2026. Failure to submit a signed form will render the club ineligible to participate.

Darren Condon

Secretary

GCDGA