

# GOLD COAST DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION RULES

## 2025 INTERCLUB MATCH PLAY PENNANT

### A. Teams:

- 1) All teams will consist of A & B Grade players;
- 2) Each grade will comprise of 6 players, Groups of Four
- 3) A Grade and B Grade will play off Handicap & in any Handicap order.
- 4) GA handicap limits for A & B Grade will be frozen.
- 5) A Grade : 11.4 & B Grade : 11.5+ (set 2 days prior to the first round)

### B. 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 2 days prior to the first round; (Breach: Player Disqualification)
- d Any player found to have played off the incorrect handicap will be disqualified and a 10 and 8 result recorded against him;
- e In the event of a match being forfeited the result will be recorded as a loss and a 10/8 result awarded
- f 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".
- g Any player who has played two or more matches in the GCDGA OPEN MEN'S PENNANT COMPETITION DURING 2025/26 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.

- h 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

## (ii) Handicaps used during the competition:

- a. All players handicaps are frozen at a point 2 days prior to the first round;
- b. Each player will then show their Golflink Number and their frozen GA handicap on the team sheet
- c. Both A Grade and B Grade will play 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;

## (iii) 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. Players playing in A & B Grade can play in any handicap order.
4. Team selections must be fully completed and submitted at least 10 minutes prior to tee off time;
5. 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 first player tees off.
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 list will need to be adjusted accordingly so players appear in handicap order;
9. The Team Managers or Captains will be responsible for submitting team sheets to [secretary@gcdga.com.au](mailto:secretary@gcdga.com.au) or sending it to 0407147944 straight after the match is completed so that all scores and leaderboard can be uploaded without delay.
10. Players must not continue to play once their individual match has been completed. Penalties: one match suspension for the player/players involved which is to served the following week.

11. 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; Players must follow the rules of the club that is hosting the event.
12. Players are advised that the GCDGA will allow the use of artificial devices that measure or gauge distances only in this competition. Mobile phone apps and other technologies which provide assistance with club selection, wind and elevation are prohibited. Players/managers need to check Rule 4.3(a) Interpretations. If a breach occurs the match will be awarded to the opponent 10/8.
13. 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. If a match cannot be completed on the scheduled day due to poor or insufficient light, and no further access to the course is available within the competition time frame, the result of the match will be determined by the match status at the time play is suspended by the Committee. The player or side with the lead at the suspension of play will be declared the winner. If the match is tied at suspension, the match will be deemed halved.

### **Host Club Responsibilities and GCDGA Matters**

11. Clubs are responsible for ensuring any GCDGA event. Breach: Disqualification
- a. Host clubs are not compelled to supply free food/hospitality to visiting teams
  15. 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.
  - b. 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;
  - c. 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.
  - d. 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;
  - e. 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;
  - f. 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.

- g If in a final when competed the result is tied at 3 ½ / 3 ½ the number 1 players will play extra holes “sudden death” as decided by the GCDGA match committee until a winner is determined, BUT if this is not possible due to course being unavailable or time of day, a countback will finalize the eventual winner. This will **decided** before the start of the final depending on the Course. If teams are still Tied after the countback of the for & against at the final the winner will be determined by the individual wins starting from player then player 2 and so on until we have a winner.
- h **SPEED OF PLAY** :The pace of play is an essential aspect that requires due emphasis during the Pennants matches. All competitors are expected to be aware of their position on the course and be considerate of the groups that follow them. In case a group falls behind, they should endeavour to catch up with the group in front of them. Failure to do so will be supervised by the GCDGA official or Course Marshall, and if no attempt is perceived to breach the gap, the team will be ordered to skip a hole to keep up with the pace. The GCDGA official on-site will convey a warning before putting this rule into effect. It is of utmost significance to esteem the fellow golfers who have bookings after the Pennants event and ensure that the speed of play is upheld throughout the tournament.
- i The team Manager/Captain is responsible for the speed of play and conduct of their team & supporters; A copy of the Players & spectators Code of Conduct can be Found Below.
- j [GCDGA PLAYERS & SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT](#)

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