

2025 GOLF WA PUBLIC COURSE PENNANT RULES

ALL PENNANT MATCHES WILL BE PLAYED FROM THE FOLLOWING MARKERS:

- A. Men's Markers – Back (Longest available tees for the host club) Tees
- B. Ladies Markers - Red Tees.

HANDICAPS FOR ALL CATEGORIES ARE THOSE OBTAINED THROUGH GOLFLINK ONLY.

ALL PENNANT TEAMS, INCLUDING OPEN CATEGORY, ARE TO BE PLAYED IN HANDICAP ORDER, WITH THE LOWEST HANDICAPPED PLAYER IN THE NUMBER ONE POSITION.

WHILE THE MATCHES ARE AN INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION BETWEEN TWO PLAYERS IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PLAYERS FORM A GROUP OF FOUR PLAYERS (EG. NUMBER 6 AND NUMBER 5 MATCHES FORM A GROUP OF FOUR). NOTE FOR THE FINALS THE FORMAT WILL BE GROUPS OF FOUR.

Definitions

Contest is the fixture between two Member Clubs' teams.

Match is the individual competition between two players.

Team is the players selected by a Member Club to represent it in a Contest.

Back Tees is the longest tee played for Men of the respective course if available for use.

1. PLAYERS

- 1.1. It is the player's responsibility to know the rules of the competition.
- 1.2. All players are subject to the GolfWA Player Code of Conduct. A full copy of which can be found on the GolfWA website at www.golfwa.org.au
- 1.3. Where there is no specific penalty, a general penalty of loss of half a competition point will be imposed for any breach of a Pennant Rule.
- 1.4. Players not conforming to the club or the courses dress requirements may be prevented from participating in their Contest and will forfeit their match. The score of each forfeited match will be 10-8.
- 1.5. Players may only be selected from full financial members of the club they represent and that have a normal GolfLink handicap.
- 1.6. Clubs playing a non-financial player shall forfeit that match 10-8 and be penalised one competition point.
- 1.7. Players shall only represent one (1) club during a season.
- 1.8. Where clubs have multiple teams in the same category or different categories e.g. Handicap A1, A2 etc, players may represent more than one team in that category(s). Note the below exception 1.10. An additional note is that in the spirit of the game and competition the movement of players should be kept to a minimum throughout the season.
- 1.9. Players shall play at least one (1) qualifying match in a category to qualify to play in the final in that category.
- 1.10. Players having played in Open Category cannot then transfer to a Handicap Category i.e. players can transfer anytime from Handicap Category to Open Category but cannot thereafter go back to Handicap Category. Penalty: 10-8 loss.

2. CAPTAIN

- 2.1. The home team Captain shall notify the opposing captain of **PENNANT tee off times (not club tee off time)** and the slope rating of the intended course at least 48 hours prior to tee off time. The visiting club is responsible for the green fees of its players.
- 2.2. Where a club has to pay green fees in advance, if opponents forfeit then the opposing team is liable for the prepaid green fees.

- 2.3. The home team Captain must inform the opposing team of Local Rules. Such rules must not breach a Rule of Golf or penalty imposed under the Rules of Golf. Agreement to waive a rule will result in the disqualification of both sides.
- 2.4. Both captains will hand each other written lists showing their teams, with first and surnames and Golflink numbers listed in Golflink Daily Handicap Order from one to six.
- 2.5. In the case of a preliminary final or a final, both teams are to nominate their representative in any individual playoff (if required) prior to any Contest commencing. If no player(s) are nominated then it will be assumed that the player in position one will be that player.
- 2.6. The Home Team Captain is to keep a record of the players' names, Golflink numbers, Golflink Daily Handicaps and results on the score sheet provided attached to these rules.
- 2.7. The Captain of the winning team must forward to GolfWA the results of their Contest using the system provided by GolfWA. The results must be entered by close of business on the next weekday day.
- 2.8. **The Captain of the winning team (or home Captain in the event of a half) is responsible for retaining the score sheet until the conclusion of the qualifying rounds of the competition.** These records will be used in the event of a tie between teams on competition points at the end of the qualifying rounds.
- 2.9. Captains will ensure the score sheet is completed **using Surname, Initial, Golflink daily handicap and Golflink number of all players.**
- 2.10. If the Contest is halved the home club is responsible for forwarding/entering the Contest result.
- 2.11. If the result is not received by due date, the team responsible will forfeit any points allotted for the Contest.
- 2.12. Team Captains must show opposition Captain Golflink cards and Golflink Handicap for each player nominated to play on the day when requested. Any player failing to produce Golflink card or electronic record of their Golflink details will forfeit the match 10-8.

3. TEAMS

- 3.1. Teams will consist of –
 - 3.1.1. Open Category - 6 players (affiliated and financial as of the date of the first round).
 - 3.1.2. Handicap Category – 6 players (affiliated and financial as of the date of the first round).
 - 3.1.3. Ladies Category – minimum of 3 players (affiliated and financial as of the date of the first round).
- 3.2. The number of categories will be subject to the number of nominated teams.
- 3.3. There will be a maximum of four teams in each Division – unless more teams in each division are required by the organisers.
- 3.4. The organisers may request a club re-compose and re-submit a team and has the right to refuse entry of any team. The organisers may also move a team between categories where it is determined that the team would be inappropriate in a certain category.
- 3.5. The organisers reserve the right to ballot out a team in the event of too many entries.

4. DIVISIONS

- 4.1. Category Handicaps are:
 - 4.1.1. **Open Category (Upper limit GA Hcp 36)** played without handicap or 'off the stick' from the back tees.
 - 4.1.2. **Handicap Category(s) (Upper limit GA Hcp 36)** handicap Contest play using daily handicaps from the back tees for Men and Red tees for Women. This category is open to any combination of men and women. Note in the case between a male and female in this division as club match play indexes and/or club stroke index for Men and Women will invariably be different players will effectively play nett stroke to par and as per the WHS Operational Guide (page 11) (refer link: <https://archive.golf.org.au/2020/11/16/00046428-source/?fromPage=search&search=00046428>) players will determine their nett score to par on any hole and this will be compared to ascertain the winner of each respective hole.
 - 4.1.3. **Ladies Category (Upper limit GA Hcp 45)** handicap Contest play using daily handicaps from the **Red/Ladies** tees.

- 4.2. Current Golfink Handicaps as at the date of each round determine eligibility.
- 4.3. A player with a handicap higher than GA 36.0 for Men or GA 45.0 must play off limit for the category.

5. CONTEST MATCHPLAY INDEX, ORDER OF PLAY AND HONOUR

- 5.1. For Men's and Ladies Handicap Categories the Contest Matchplay Index will be as per the host club.
- 5.2. **Players in ALL categories MUST play in Golfink daily handicap order (note if 2 or more players have the same Daily handicap they can play in any order determined) so that players of similar ability play against each other, with the lowest handicapper playing in position one and the highest handicapper playing in position six (or one to three in ladies pennants)**
Teams not playing in handicap order will be disqualified and all Contests recorded as a loss of 10-8.
- 5.3. The honour will be decided by the toss of a coin by the home Captain with the away Captain calling.
- 5.4. Tee off procedure in all divisions will be position one as shown on the score sheet followed in numerical order down to six (or one to three in ladies pennants).

6. QUALIFYING MATCHES

- 6.1. Each qualifying Contest shall consist of six individual matches (or minimum of three in the case of ladies pennants). Each individual match won shall be worth one (1) point, each individual match halved shall be worth ½ a point. Each team can therefore score between zero (0) and six (6) match points in any Men's Contest (or between zero (0) and three (3) or up to six (6) for Ladies pennants). The team with the highest match points in a Contest shall receive Two (2) competition points. Contests that finish 3-3 (or 1.5 to 1.5 in ladies' pennants) will result in both teams receiving one (1) competition point.
Where two or more teams have an equal number of Contest Points, their relative positions on the table shall be decided:
 - 6.1.1. Firstly, by the total number of matches won in all contests;
 - 6.1.2. If still equal, then by the total number of matches won in Contest/s between the tied Teams;
 - 6.1.3. If still equal, then by the number of matches won by the player or players who played in the number one position in all contests throughout the season.
 - 6.1.4. If still equal, then by the number of matches won by the player or players who played in the number two position in all contests throughout the season and so on;
 - 6.1.5. If still equal, the matter will be referred to the GolfWA for a decision.
- 6.2. A team must field at least three players (except for the ladies pennants teams who must field at least two players) to avoid a forfeit. Forfeiting teams will lose six-nil (or three-nil in the case of ladies pennants) with all matches scored 10-8.
- 6.3. If, after the Teams have been handed in, a player(s) fails to report to the commencement of their Contest, then:
 - 6.3.1. A reserve player may be substituted; and
 - 6.3.2. The reserve player will play in the position of the missing player regardless of handicap order.
- 6.4. If a reserve player is not available, any late player failing to start their Contest on time will lose the first hole. Players who fail to join their opponent BEFORE their opponent tees off the second hole are disqualified and loses the Contest 10-8.
- 6.5. All qualifying matches shall be played over a maximum of 18 holes.
- 6.6. If a Team withdraws after the start of the Competition all points won or lost will be cancelled.
- 6.7. Where possible, each team shall play 50% of qualifying Contests on their home course. The draw shall only be varied by the organisers. It is intended that each team plays home and away against all other teams where this is possible.
- 6.8. All qualifying Contests will be played on the day and time of the home club's normal fixture. Where a Club has more than one playing day (i.e. Both Saturday and Sunday) they must nominate which day they will be playing their Pennant Contests. Once nominated this day may not be changed.
- 6.9. Where play has been abandoned due to lightning or course being declared unplayable by Course Controller, results of any completed individual matches will stand, unfinished individual matches will be considered halved and Contest results recorded appropriately.

- 6.10. If a course has been deemed unplayable, by the course Controller, the Captains may elect to wait one hour after play has ceased before declaring the Contest or individual matches abandoned.

7. FINAL – TBC SUBJECT TO COURSE AVAILABILITY

- 7.1 The top two teams in each Category/Division will qualify for the final. All individual matches shall finish on the 18th with halved matches to count. Should a 3-3 draw (or draw in the ladies pennants subject to the number of players in the team) result, a pre-determined pairing (as selected prior to play) shall play a sudden death play-off with normal handicap procedure applying to the Handicap or Ladies Category. In the absence of a player nominated the number 1 position player from each team will play a sudden death play-off.
- 7.2 If there is no final scheduled for a division the team on top of the table following all home and away contests will be the winner of the relevant pennant.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

- 8.1. In order to maintain the fellowship of the Contest, Clubs are asked to announce the results of the day's play soon after the completion of the fixture and where possible provide a light snack for all players and officials at their presentations or 19th hole.
- 8.2. In the event that there is dispute regarding the identity or authenticity of the player nominated on the Pennants score sheet, common sense should prevail and the opposing Captain may seek, in good faith, additional identification prior to the player in question teeing off.
- 8.3. Note GolfWA reserves the right to alter any of the regulations at any time without notice.

9. MATCHPLAY INDEX

As per in 5.1 match play indexes will be advised based on the clubs and courses that nominate for the Pennant Competition. Note if a course has a match play index then the stroke index will be used.

Note: Relevant match play index MUST be used for the Ladies and Men's Handicap competitions. If there is no applicable index available at the golf course please use stroke index.