

GOLF NSW WOMEN'S METROPOLITAN GRADE

2011 CONDITIONS

1. ENTRY

- 1.1 The Golf NSW Women's Metropolitan Grade Competition is open to all golf clubs in the Sydney Metropolitan area which are affiliated with Golf NSW. Each Club shall be represented by only one Team or Composite Team (see Condition 1.2).
- 1.2 **Composite Teams** comprising 2 clubs, neither of which is able to field a complete team, will be permitted. Clubs wishing to field a Composite Team must apply to the Golf NSW Women's Match Committee. Any approved Composite Team will be placed initially in Grade 6. Thereafter, the process of relegation and promotion will apply as in the case of any other Team, provided the Composite Team remains as approved. If the Composite Team is disbanded, one or both clubs comprising the Team may separately enter the Competition in the following year. Their entry will be regarded as a new entry, subject to Conditions 1.3 and 1.4.
- 1.3 **Entry into the Competition:** Clubs which wish to enter the Golf NSW Women's Metropolitan Grade Competition and have not participated in Grade the previous year, will be requested to supply handicap information on players likely to participate, to indicate playing strength.
- 1.4 The Golf NSW Women's Match Committee retains the right to exercise discretion in the areas of promotion, relegation, entry into the Grade Competition and allocation of new entries to a Grade.
- 1.5 **Hosting a Round:** As a Condition of entry, all competing clubs agree to host a Round.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 All players must be Amateur, Financial Members (in any playing category) of the Club they represent and must hold a current Australian Women's Handicap. Players on Club-only Handicaps are not eligible.
- 2.1 A player may represent only one Club for the duration of the Grade Competition in any year.
- 2.3 If a player represents a Club in Grade in one season, she is ineligible to represent a different Club in the next season until or unless she has been a financial member of the new Club, with playing rights, for a minimum period of 3 months prior to the date of the first programmed round of the Metropolitan Grade Competition.

3. CONDITIONS OF THE COMPETITION/THE COMMITTEE

- 3.1 Except as varied by these Conditions, the current Golf NSW Standard Conditions of Play and Code of Conduct shall apply. Inclusion in the Draw will confirm that a participating Club agrees with and will comply with the Conditions laid down by the Golf NSW Women's Match Committee.
- 3.2 The Golf NSW Women's Match Committee shall make all arrangements and shall have full power to alter or make any variations to the Conditions or Programme. This may include altering the number of players in Teams in each Grade, or the number of clubs in Grades 5 and 6, in order to optimise participation.
- 3.3 The Captain and Match Committee of the Host Club shall represent the Golf NSW Women's Match Committee and provide decisions on the Conditions of Play and the Rules of Golf on its behalf.

4. FORMAT

- 4.1 Matches shall be played as scratch match play, in six (6) Grades.
- 4.2 **Grades 1- 4:** Teams to consist of 7 players. **Grades 5- 6:** Teams to consist of 5 players.
- 4.3 In all Grades no Individual Match shall go beyond the 18th Hole.

5. ALLOCATION OF POINTS FOR TEAM CONTESTS

- 5.1 The winner of each Contest in a Round is the Team which has won the greater proportion of Individual Matches.
- 5.2 Points will be allocated as follows: 2 points for a Contest won; 1 point for a Contest halved.
- 5.3 The Winner of each Grade will be the Team with the greatest number of points at the end of the final Round.

6. DECIDING TIES

- 6.1 In the event of a tie in total points gained in Team Contests, the number of Individual Matches won by each of the tied Teams during the Competition shall be used. If the tied Teams have won an equal number of Individual Matches, the result of the Contest played between those tied Teams will be used. If that Contest was drawn, the result of the first players' Individual Match will be used. If that Individual Match is squared, the result of the second players' Individual Match will be used and so on.

7. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

- 7.1 **Promotion:** the winning Team in Grades 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall be promoted to the higher Grade for the following year's competition.
- 7.2 **Relegation:** In Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 the Team with the lowest number of points shall be relegated to the next lower Grade for the following year's competition.
- 7.3 **Ties for relegation:** If there is a tie on points for relegation, the number of Individual Matches won shall be used. If the result is still a tie, the result of the Contest played between those teams will be used. If that Contest was drawn the result of the first player's Individual Match will be used. If that Individual Match is squared, the result of the second player's Individual Match will be used and so on.

8. SUSPENSION AND CANCELLATION OF PLAY: ALLOCATION OF POINTS AND GAMES

- 8.1 Rounds, Contests and Individual Matches which are cancelled, or not completed because of bad weather, will not be re-programmed (no spare dates will be scheduled). Therefore, every effort should be made to play each Round on the scheduled day and time.
- 8.2 Where all play is cancelled without any Individual Match having commenced, all Matches will be regarded as having been halved, and each team drawn to compete on the day will receive one point.
- 8.3 When bad weather results in the cancellation of play after Individual Matches have commenced, the results of any completed Matches will stand. If a Team has won or halved sufficient Matches to win the Contest, that Team shall be awarded two points. Any Individual Matches not completed will be regarded as having been halved. If neither Team in a Contest has won or halved sufficient Individual Matches to win the Contest, the Contest will be halved and each Team awarded one point.
- 8.4 The Host Club will determine whether or not a course is playable and the Host Captain has the discretion to delay the start of play if weather conditions necessitate. Course conditions, remaining time available and, of course, player safety, should be taken into account when deciding whether to continue, suspend for a time, or cancel play for the day. Generally, the round should be played if at all possible, and should not be cancelled unless the course is closed or becomes, and remains, unplayable. It is recommended that the Host Captain consults with the Course Superintendent, as an impartial expert, to assist in making such decisions. Unpleasant course conditions are not a reason for cancelling Grade. A decision by the Host Captain to delay the start of play may be made after 4.00pm on the day before the programmed round and the Captains of the participating teams informed. However, in some cases the decision to delay the start, or to suspend play for a period of time, or to abandon the round, will need to be made on the day of play, and players should be understanding about this.
- 8.5 If the conditions make the cancellation of a round necessary, the Host Captain or her nominee MUST FIRST inform Golf NSW, before contacting participating Teams.

9. ORDER OF PLAY

- 9.1 Players must play in order of **playing** handicap. Should a player be played out of position, her Individual Match, (ie the first match played out of order), will be forfeited, but no subsequent matches will be affected.

- 9.2 Players will be listed 1-7 (or 1– 5 for Grades 5 and 6), from lowest handicap to highest, and will play in that order. The exception to this condition is the case where a player is late and the penalty of disqualification has been waived (see Condition 10). In this case, the player will play at the end of the programmed Individual Matches in her Team's contest. Her opponent will be the player who would have played against her if the Individual Matches has been played in correct order (ie, in a Contest between Team A and Team B, if player 3 in Team A is late, she will play player 3 in Team B as the last of the programmed Individual Matches).
- 9.3 **Ten minutes before the programmed starting time of the first Individual Match**, the Team Captains shall simultaneously exchange lists of players together with each player's handicap, in order of current playing handicap. Any reserve player substituted must, at this point, have been included on the list of players in correct handicap order. At the same time, the Host Captain must be given a copy of the list of players as above. **After the lists have been exchanged, they may not be altered.**
- 9.4 **Advice:** A Team may appoint one person, **not a professional golfer**, who may give advice to members of that Team. Such person shall be named on the lists exchanged with the opposing Team Captain and Host Captain, prior to the start of the Contest. (Refer to Note to Rule 8).
- 9.5 If a player who is ineligible is played, that player only will be disqualified from her Individual Match, but no other Individual Matches will be affected.
- 9.6 Once a result has been reached in any Individual Match, players and their caddies must immediately walk in, and must not continue play on the course.

10. PLAYERS ABSENT AT PROGRAMMED STARTING TIME: (5 MINUTE RULE)

- 10.1 Rule 6-3 applies, together with the Note to Rule 6.3. Players shall start at the time laid down by the Golf NSW Women's Match Committee. The penalty for a breach of Rule 6-3a is disqualification. However, it is a Condition of the event that, in the absence of circumstances which warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification (as provided in Rule 33-7) if the player arrives at her starting point ready to play, within five minutes of her starting time, the penalty for failing to start on time is loss of the first hole in match play instead of disqualification.
- 10.2 The Women's Captain of the Host Club, or her nominated representative, shall decide whether or not there are circumstances which warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification, following the guidelines set down by the Golf NSW Women's Match Committee. (See below).

11a. WALKOVERS

- 11.1 **In the event of one Club giving another Club a walkover, the former shall forfeit all points gained and is no longer permitted to play in the Competition for that year. All points gained by the opposing Clubs against the said Club shall be cancelled.**
- 11.2 Teams shall not give their opponents a walkover if they are able to field four (4) players in Grades 1-4 and three (3) players in Grades 5 and 6.
- 11.3 A Club unable to field the minimum number, as in Condition 11.2, on the fixed date, **MUST FIRST INFORM Golf NSW by phone** as soon as possible, and **before contacting the host club or their opponent**, that it must give a walkover.
- 11.4 **Once confirmed by phone with Golf NSW, official notification of a walkover must be made in writing (letter, fax or e-mail) to Golf NSW, who will notify the host club and opposing team. Once officially notified in writing, a walkover cannot be withdrawn.**

11b. FORFEITS BY INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS

- 11.5 If a Club is unable to field a full team, Golf NSW and the opposing Captain must be notified (by phone, fax or email) as soon as possible that the number of players in the Team is reduced. The Team must forfeit the last place or places. The Team receiving a forfeit or forfeits must give on the list the name or names of their players who receive the forfeit.
- 11.6 **A forfeit, once officially notified, cannot be recalled.** If the Captain of an opposing Team is notified of any forfeit, she may advise the player receiving the forfeit that she is not required to arrive at the course.

12. DISPUTES AND CLAIMS

- 12.1 **Players and Captains are strongly advised to acquaint themselves with the Rules of Golf: Matchplay, Rule 2.5, regarding a player's responsibilities in making a claim.**
- 12.2 Claims by players under Rule 2.5 must be made to the Captain of the Host Club immediately upon the conclusion of the Individual Match. If the Captain is unwilling or unable to decide the claim, she may refer the matter to Golf NSW.
- 12.3 The Captain of any Team may protest against any breach of the Conditions made by any other Team. All such protests must be made in writing (fax or e-mail) to Golf NSW and may be lodged only by the Club Captain or her Deputy as soon as possible, and not later than 5pm on the Monday after the Contest. The Captain or Deputy must acquaint the opposing Captain or official of that Club before 5pm on Monday, of her intention to appeal and her grounds for doing so. All disputes shall be settled by the Golf NSW Women's Match Committee, whose decision shall be final.

13. RESULTS

- 13.1 **At the completion of play, an official of the Host Club must fill in a Result Sheet, which must be signed by the Captains and/or Team Captains of the Teams involved. It is the responsibility of the Host Club to forward the Result Sheet to the Golf NSW Office and AAP promptly by fax on the day of play.**

14. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 14.1 **Motorised Transport** is not permitted except for players who have a medical certificate, issued within the previous 12 months, which confirms the need for the player to use motorised transport. Note: a player's caddie may use motorised transport. Golf NSW accepts no responsibility for the availability of motorised transport, or for whether or not permission is granted to use motorised transport at venue Clubs.
- 14.2 **Mobile phones:** The audible emission and/or unauthorised use of a mobile phone by a player or her caddie on a golf course and during play is distracting and inconsiderate and is prohibited. **Penalty:** One warning for unauthorised use, then disqualification. In Match Play the warning may be given by the opponent, who may then make a claim in the event of subsequent use. Players or caddies who have a medical or other serious reason to have a mobile phone switched on may obtain permission from the starter for the phone to be turned on in mute mode and used in such emergency. Where such permission is given, the opponent must be informed. If a mobile phone has a distance measuring facility, it may be used, provided the device has the facility to measure distance only, as in Condition 14.3. In such cases, the opponent must be informed that the facility is being used, and the "phone communication" facility of the phone must be turned off.
- 14.3 **Distance Measuring Devices:** In the Metropolitan Grade Competition, a player may obtain distance information using a device that measures distance only. (See Golf NSW Standard Conditions of Play).
- 14.4 **Lunch:** Clubs are asked to provide a simple meal for players and caddies only. Alcohol should not be provided by the club as part of the meal. Drinks, including alcohol, should be at players/caddies own expense.

Player Late for Starting Time: Guidelines for waiving the Penalty of Disqualification (Rule 33-7):

The following are circumstances which may warrant the waiving of the penalty of disqualification:

- **Major accident:** A major accident is one which involves multiple collisions and/or closures of major traffic routes.
- **First on Scene at Accident to provide medical assistance or act as Witness for Police.**
- **Unforeseen mechanical problems requiring assistance:**
e.g. Car will not start because of flat battery or flat tyre. Validation from mechanic or NRMA must be produced.

The following are NOT valid reasons for waiving the penalty of disqualification under Rule 6-3a:

- **Getting lost; heavy traffic; misreading the Draw or starting times;**
- **In all cases,** if a player is delayed and her explanation accepted so that disqualification is waived, she must be at the course ready to play, **within 6 minutes of the last match of her team having hit off.** No additional 5 minutes applies.

Players should leave sufficient time to allow for any of the above contingencies. It is suggested that Club Captains give all Team Members a copy of the current official Golf NSW Women's Grade Draw.