**NORTHERN DISTRICTS PENNANT**

**COMPETITION**

**CONDITIONS OF PLAY 2016**

**(AS AMENDED JANUARY 2016)**

(13.1.2016)

1. A player may only represent one Club for the duration of a pennant competition. All players must be financial members (in any playing category) of the Club they represent and must hold a current Golf Australia Handicap. A player’s Golf Australia Handicap shall apply in all Northern Districts Pennant Competitions.
2. A Match consists of 5 individual games between two competing Clubs. The winner of each individual game is awarded one game point. For a halved game each player receives half a game point. The Match is won by the Club with the most game points or halved if each Club has the same number of game points. The Club who is the outright winner of a Match, receives 2 match points. Clubs who halve matches, receive one match point each.
3. Matches will be played on the course according to the draw. One or more tees may be used. The Club named first in the draw has the honour on the first tee. The use of motorised transport is not permitted except where a player has a disability which prevents that person participating in a pennant competition without the assistance of motorised transport. A medical certificate to this effect must be presented to the Host Captain, or her representative, before the start of play. Penalty: Disqualification

**4. TEAM LISTS**

1. Before the Match the Captains shall simultaneously exchange lists of players, plus up to two (2) reserves. As a matter of courtesy, the list of players must be handed to the Host Captain, or her representative, no later than 10 minutes before the start of play for scratch competitions and no later than 20 minutes before the start of play for handicapped competitions. After the lists have been exchanged, they may only be altered to substitute the reserve/s as named, in place of any player who becomes unavailable prior to her starting time. Where matches have been cancelled due to wet weather, team lists must still be given to the Host captain, or her representative, in person or by email. See Condition 7 d under "Wet Weather".

b. Players shall play in strict order of their Golf Australia handicaps – lowest Golf Australia handicap to play first. Handicap used is the current Golf Australia Handicap as at 6pm on the Tuesday preceding the Friday Match.

c. If a player who is not eligible is played or if a player is placed in an incorrect position in a team, that player shall be disqualified for the match or matches so affected.

 (If a change of handicap after exchange does not affect the correct position in the team, there is no penalty)

Procedure when a player is disqualified after the team lists have been exchanged: To illustrate a situation where players are out of order on the team list before play starts, an example is included:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Team A | GA Handicap | Team B | GA Handicap |
| Player 1 | 15.3 | Player 1 | 14.7 |
| Player 2 | 16.2 | Player 2 | 15.9 |
| Player 3 | 17.1 | Player 3 | 17.4 |
| Player 4 | 17.5 | Player 4 | 18.0 |
| Player 5 | 19.6 | Player 5 | 18.8 |

Before hitting off and after the team lists have been exchanged, player 3 in Team A realizes her handicap is now 17.9. What happens?

Player 3 from Team A is disqualified. Player 4 from Team A must play in position 3. Game 4 is won by Team B because of Player 3 from Team A’s disqualification. In other words, as player 3 from Team A should have been playing in game 4, that is the game that is forfeited.

If both players agree, game 4 can continue at the end of the field so both players get a practice game.

1. **LATE ARRIVALS:**
2. Players shall start at the time laid down by the Northern Districts Match Committee (as per Rule 6-3. a. of the R & A Rules Book). The penalty for a breach of Rule 6-3. a. is disqualification. However, 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.
3. There are circumstances which warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification (as provided in Rule 33-7) and which are outlined in the Guidelines at the end of these Conditions of Play. The Ladies’ Captain of the Host Club, or her nominated representative, shall decide whether or not there are circumstances which warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification.
4. If a player is late and is subsequently disqualified, that game is forfeited to the opposing team. The players do not change their order of play as a result of the disqualification.

 **6. FORFEITS**:

1. Teams shall not give their opponents a forfeit if they are able to field three players.
2. If a Club is unable to field a full team, the opposing Captain must be notified that the team shall consist of a certain number of players and the team must forfeit the last place or places. The team receiving a forfeit or forfeits must give on the team list the name or names of their players who receive the forfeit.
3. A Club unable to field a team on the fixed date must inform the convener of that pennant competition as soon as possible, and before contacting the host club or their opponent, that it must forfeit. 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. All points gained by the opposing clubs against the said club shall be cancelled. In this situation, if the club giving the walkover can prove to the Match Committee that there were exceptional circumstances, a decision may be made by the Match Committee to allow the Club to remain in the competition. Match points and individual game points received by the Club which was awarded the walkover will remain.
4. A forfeit must be made in writing (fax or email) to the convener of that pennant competition who will notify the host club and opposing team.
5. **A forfeit once officially notified, cannot be recalled.** If a Captain is notified of any forfeit, she may advise the player receiving the forfeit that she is not required to arrive at the course.
6. **WET WEATHER** –

a. The Host Captain or her representative will decide whether the course is playable, and that the match should go ahead. When making this decision, the Host Captain should consider the following guidelines:

* the advice of the Greenkeeper whether the course is playable;
* dangerous conditions prevailing such as high winds or storms;
* weather reports predicting bad weather;
* greens under water or debris on the course;
* heavy rain does not of itself mean the course is unplayable;
* where the use of battery powered and / or pull buggies is banned because of the wet conditions, all matches should be cancelled.

The Host Captain’s, or her representative’s, decision should be made as close as possible to the date of play, or as soon as a decision to close the course has been made by the Greenkeeper or Match Committee of the Club concerned. The Host Captain, or her representative, must inform all other Captains of her decision as soon as possible.

1. Teams must go to the host club unless otherwise advised.
2. In the event of a Club banning the use of carts, a player requiring a cart cannot play and the team must find a replacement player.

1. A match that has been cancelled due to wet weather shall be treated as a completed match for the purposes of allocating points. All players included on team lists for matches cancelled due to wet weather are considered to have played in that match. Consequently team lists must still be given to the host captain in person or by email as a record of who "played" on that day. The host captain must then email the result sheet to all captains involved in that pennant.
2. If a match did not start or if it is not possible for a match to resume after a suspension of play, the result of the match and allocation of points for individual completed games shall be awarded as follows:
3. If a Club has secured sufficient game points from individual completed games to win the match then the following points will be awarded:
	1. two match points for the winning Club;
	2. for completed games – game points to the winners of the respective individual games;
	3. for unfinished games – game points will be divided between the Clubs.

That is half a game point each for each game not completed.

1. If a Club has not secured sufficient game points from individual completed games to win the match then the following points will be awarded:
	1. one match point to each Club;
	2. for completed games – game points to the winners of the respective individual games
	3. for unfinished games – game points will be divided between the Clubs.

That is half a game point each for each game not completed.

1. If a match is cancelled and no individual games are played, each Club receives one match point. Individual game points will be divided between the two Clubs. That is 2 ½ game points each.

Notes:

(i) Where the Host Club is NOT playing in the match, it receives no match points.

(ii) If the Host Club is also taking part in the match that day it receives match and game points according to Condition 7. d (1) , (2) and (3) above.

f. The Northern Suburbs District Pennant Committee reserves the right to make a decision in equity when it is impossible to complete one or more matches in accordance with the Rules of Golf.

 g. To Achieve a Result in the Pennant Competition.

* Where there are 7 teams in a competition, a minimum of four (4) matches must be played to achieve a result.  If this is not possible, no winner of the competition can be declared.
* Where there are 6 teams in a competition, a minimum of three (3) matches must be played to achieve a result. If this is not possible, no winner of the competition can be declared.
* Where there are 5 teams in a competition, three (3) matches must be played to achieve a result. If this is not possible, no winner of the competition can be declared.
* Where there are 4 teams in a competition, a minimum of two (2) matches must be played to achieve a result. If this is not possible, no winner of the competition can be declared.

**8. POINTS** –

The winner of each Pennant Competition will be the Team with the most number of match points. In the event of a tie in match points gained for matches, the number of game points won shall be used. In the event of a tie in game points, joint winners shall be declared. The Captain of the previous winning team shall bring the pennant/engraved cup or plate to the presentation on the final day.

**9. CADDIES/BAG PULLERS –** andoutside advisers are not permitted in thesecompetitions.

**10. MOBILE PHONES –** The audible emission and/or unauthorised use of a mobile phone on a golf course and during play is a serious breach of etiquette and will result in disqualification for any player carrying a phone that is switched on during a match. (Rule 33-7). However, players who have a medical or serious reason to have their mobile phone switched on must inform the starter. Should the starter agree this reason is substantial; the player may have the phone switched on in mute mode. Host Captains, or their representatives, should warn players about mobile phones before the match begins.

**11. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES**

 As outlined in the R&A Rules of Golf, Appendix IV, 5. Distance-Measuring Devices Rule 14-3):

 “During a *stipulated round*, the use of any distance-measuring device is not permitted unless the Committee has introduced a Local Rule to that effect (see Note to Rule 14-3 and Appendix 1; Part A; Section 7).

 Even when the Local Rule is in effect the device must not be used for any purposes that are prohibited by Rule 14-3.

 Features that would render use of the device contrary to the Local Rule are included in Appendix IV 5. Distance-Measuring Devices (Rules 14-3).

 A multi-functional device, such as a smartphone or PDA, may be used as a distance-measuring device, but it must not be used to gauge or measure other conditions where doing so would be a breach of Rule 14-3.

The penalty for the first breach of Rule-14-3 is loss of hole in Match play, with disqualification for subsequent offences.

 A Host Captain, or her representative, should advise players of any such Local Rule regarding the use of Distance Measuring Devices at their Club before matches commence.

**12. PACE OF PLAY -** Players in each individual game must keep up with the group in front and maintain their position in the field. The Host Captain, or her representative, has the right to ask players who have lost their position in the field to improve their pace of play. If the players continue to lose time the Host Captain, or her representative, can ask them to pick their balls up and continue to the next hole with the previous hole to be halved.

**13.** a. Players must walk in on completion of their individual games, i.e. as soon as a result is reached.

b. At all levels all individual games are played over 18 holes. No games shall go beyond the stipulated round of 18 holes.

c. Players and/or teams must not agree to “halve” a game. Players who walk in before their game is completed will both be disqualified and no points awarded.

**14.** Disputes will be settled by the Host Captain or her representative. If a dispute cannot be resolved a Club must advise a member of the Match Committee **in writing by either post or email no later than 5pm of the following Monday.**

**15.** The Captain of the host club or her representative should ensure that the results of the day are given or faxed to each field Captain and phoned through to AAP – 9322 8000.

**16.** The convening club is to host the final day.

A light luncheon (eg sandwiches and cake) will be provided by the host club for the players only. The Lady Captain of each participating club (or her representative) is automatically invited to the host club for lunch at 12.30pm on the final day. Invitations will not be sent to Captains, but as a matter of courtesy, they are requested to advise the host club if they are attending. Provision of tea and coffee prior to tee-off is at the discretion of the host club.

**17. SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

1. Two Clubs may combine to form one Pennant Team which must consist of a minimum of two players from each Club at all times.
2. The host Club for the ensuing year must be nominated and the Northern Districts Pennant Coordinator advised in October, before all notices are circulated and draws done.
3. Silver – Bronze 3 Divisions – Reduced handicap. Any player who has played 2 or more matches can remain in the team for that year if she reduces her handicap by no more than 1 stroke, below the Division limit.
4. Bronze 4 –

i) Reduced handicap - Any player who has played 2 or more matches can remain in the team for that year if she reduces her handicap below the Division limit;

ii) Short Course - The Hosting Club’s Short Course is to be used, if available.

1. North West Pennant - If a player has played one match on an eligible handicap and increases her handicap during the competition she may still remain in the team. Any player who has played 2 or more matches can remain in the team for that year if she reduces her handicap below the Division limit.

**The Match Committee for 2016**

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**GUIDELINES**

Listed below are circumstances, which in the opinion of Golf NSW, after guidance from the R&A, warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification under Rules 4 & 5.

**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. Flat battery and flat tyre.

The above may only be accepted with validation from attending mechanic or NRMA serviceman.

**General:**

In all cases, if a player is delayed and her explanation accepted, she must be at the course ready to play within 6 minutes of **the last game of her team** having hit off. No additional 5 minutes applies.

For the information of Club Captains, the R&A has advised the following are not valid reasons for waiving the penalty under rules 4 & 5:

Getting lost

Heavy traffic

It is considered players should leave in sufficient time to allow for any of the above contingencies and that Club Captains give all team members a copy of the **current official pennant draw.**