

STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR GOLF VICTORIA EVENTS

(Version as of 22/05/2017)

Introduction

Standard Conditions for Golf Victoria Events (including the Golf Victoria Transportation Policy) and the Golf Australia Codes of Behaviour and Heat Policy apply to State and Championship events where indicated.

Where there is any inconsistency between these Standard Conditions for Golf Victoria events and those set out in a State or Championship event entry form, the conditions of the State or Championship entry form will prevail.

A copy of the Standard Conditions for Golf Victoria events (including the Golf Victoria Transportation Policy) and Golf Australia Codes of Behaviour will also be available from the Golf Victoria website at www.golfvic.org.au

Within these Standard Conditions, unless the context indicates otherwise:

- *Match Committee* means the Golf Victoria Match Committee.
- *Championship Committee* means the appointed Committee at each specific event that is responsible for the conduct of that event.
- *Recognised Golf Club* means a golf club affiliated with Golf Victoria, a District Golf Association, Victorian Golf League, the governing bodies in other States of Australia or in overseas countries.
- *Rules of Golf* means the current Rules of Golf and Rules of Amateur Status (2016 – 2020) published and approved by R&A Rules Limited and the United States Golf Association (effective 1 January 2016).

PART A – Administration and Entry Conditions

1. Championship Committee

- 1.1 The members of the Championship Committee present may exercise all functions of the Committee in relation to the event and shall constitute the Committee within the meaning of the Rules of Golf for the purpose of the conduct of the event.
- 1.2 In the absence of the full Championship Committee, such members thereof as may be present at any time may give a decision and any decision shall be deemed the decision of the full Championship Committee. The Championship Committee reserves the right to vary any condition of the event.
- 1.3 In the event of bad weather, or for any other reason, the Championship Committee may shorten the competition, appoint another day or days for completion of, or may transfer play to another course.
- 1.4 A competitor or caddie may not be a member of the Committee for the event unless prior approval has been granted by the Match Committee.
- 1.5 Protests must be made to the Championship Committee not later than 15 minutes after the conclusion of each round.
- 1.6 The decision of the Championship Committee will be final in all matters relating to the Tournament.

2. Entries & Eligibility

- 2.1 Unless otherwise stated, Entries will be restricted to amateurs, who are members of clubs affiliated with Golf Victoria, or of golf clubs registered with such State or Overseas Associations as are affiliated with or recognised by this Association, or of clubs affiliated with the Victorian Golf League and Registered Golfers.

- 2.2 The Match Committee shall have the right to refuse the entry of any person without being required to give any reason for such refusal. Entrance fees must be paid at the time of entry. Any entrant may withdraw and have their entry fee refunded providing notification is received within **three working days** prior to the commencement of the event. Under no circumstances will entry fees be refunded after this date unless players can provide Golf Victoria supporting documents regarding their withdrawal from the event (ie. Medical Certificate). All entries must contain the GolfLink number or a verified handicap record for each player.
- 2.3 In the event of a player being suspended by an affiliated club, a club affiliated with a District Golf Association, a District Golf Association or any related body on a golf related matter, the player is not eligible to enter or play in any Golf Victoria event during the period of suspension. This Condition applies even if the player nominates another club as the player's home club for handicap purposes.

3. Draw

The Match Committee reserves the right to fix and/or alter starting times when determining the draw for a Golf Victoria event.

4. Practice Rounds Prior to the Event

Practice rounds, prior to Golf Victoria events, are at the discretion of the Host Club. Permission must be sought from the General Manager or an official club representative of the Host Club.

5. By-Laws, Rules and Dress Regulations

The By-laws, rules and dress regulations of the Host Club shall apply. The penalty for non-compliance would be no start or disciplinary sanctions at the discretion of Golf Victoria Match Committee in accordance with the Golf Australia Codes of Behaviour.

6. Cancellation

Players who are unable to compete for any reason, should cancel by contacting the Golf Victoria on the phone number detailed on the Entry Form or Player Information/Draw for the event. This advice should be communicated as soon as possible. Refer to 2.2 regarding the Golf Victoria refund policy.

PART B - Conditions of Competition

The following Conditions, in addition to those contained in the specific event Entry Form and any other additions or amendments as published, will apply under Rule 33-1.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Condition is: Match Play Loss of Hole Stroke Play - Two Strokes

1. Rules of Golf

All Golf Victoria competitions shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as adopted by R&A Rules Limited, together with such local rules as are in force on the course over which the competition rounds are being played. If any dispute arises on any point, it shall be decided by the relevant Championship Committee whose decision shall be final.

In addition, all players are required to adhere to Golf Australia's Code of Behaviour for the duration of the Championship. It should be noted that players will be subject to disqualification for a breach of etiquette in accordance with Rule of Golf 33-7.

Notes: The below local rules as recommended by R&A Rules Limited shall apply to all Golf Victoria events as of 1 January 2017.

(i) Accidental Movement of a Ball on a Putting Green

Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 are modified as follows:

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment.

The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1.

This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced.

(ii) Embedded Ball Through the Green

"Through the green, a ball that is embedded may be lifted, cleaned and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green.

Note: A ball is "embedded" when it is in its own pitch-mark and part of the ball is below the level of the ground. A ball does not necessarily have to touch the soil to be embedded (e.g., grass, loose impediments and the like may intervene between the ball and the soil).

Exceptions:

1. A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if the ball is embedded in sand in an area that is not closely-mown.
2. A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if interference by anything other than the condition covered by this Local Rule makes the stroke clearly impracticable.

2. Conforming Golf Balls (Note to Rule 5-1)

The specimen condition on page 138 of the Rules of Golf 2016-2020 is in effect. All competitors must play with a golf ball which is named on the current R&A Approved List of Conforming Golf Balls. An updated List of Conforming Golf Balls is available via the Golf Australia website at www.golf.org.au

3. Driving Clubs

The specimen condition on page 137-138 of the Rules of Golf 2016-2020 is in effect. The driver the player carries must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft that is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by R&A Rules Limited. Penalty: Disqualification.

Exception: A driver with a clubhead that was manufactured prior to 1999 is exempt from this condition.

Note: The list may be viewed via the Golf Australia website (www.golf.org.au)

4. Draw & Time of Starting

A draw for each day's play will be made and published. Players shall start at the time and in the order arranged by the Committee in accordance to Rule 6-3a. The Committee has the power to amend the draw or substitute another player for any competitor who is not at the tee at the time appointed to play. It may also alter the starting time for any player.

The Championship Committee reserves the right to fix and/or alter starting times. In the event of bad weather, or for any other reason, the Championship Committee may either shorten the tournament or appoint another day or days for completion of the Championships.

5. Pace of Play (Note 2 to Rule 6-7)

In the absence of mitigating circumstances, a group is liable to be timed if it is in excess of the time allowed and in the case of second or subsequent groups, out of position. From the commencement of timing, if any player exceeds 50 seconds on a 'first to play approach shot (including Par 3 tee shot), chip or putt', or 40 seconds if it is a tee shot or 'second or third to play shot', they shall be deemed to have had a bad time.

The time allowed will be determined by the Match Committee and will be available prior to play. Out of position is defined as being more than the starting interval behind the group in front.

A player whose group is timed will have a bad time carried forward in the round even if the group subsequently arrives back in position or within time.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:

1st bad time: Player will be warned by the official and told that if they have a further bad time they will be penalised.

	Stroke Play	Match Play
2nd bad time:	One-stroke penalty	Loss of Hole
3rd bad time:	Additional two-stroke penalty	Final Warning
4th bad time:	Disqualification	Disqualification

When Timing Commences:

Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is their turn to play and they can play without interference or distraction. Reasonable time spent by the first player to play in determining their yardage will not count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace their ball, repair ball marks and remove loose impediments on their line of putt. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

6. Practice (Rule 7)

Prior to a stipulated round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 7-1b applies to other practice in stroke play, and Rule 7-1a covers practice before the round in match play competitions with the exception of Golf Victoria Pennant competitions.

7. Distance Measuring Devices

Golf Victoria has adopted the following as a standard event condition for all GV Events including Pennant (but excluding the Championship rounds of the Victorian Open) in relation to Distance Measuring Devices:

Players may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. However, if during a GV event (including Pennant), a player uses a distance measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his/her play (eg, gradient, windspeed, temperature, etc), the player is in breach of Rule of Golf 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used.

Note:

With respect to smart phones and applications on the device, any other applications that could actively gauge or measure non-conforming factors (e.g. an anemometer or thermometer) would render the phone automatically non-conforming, even although the specific distance application does not measure these aspects. These apps or capabilities that gauge or measure would have to be removed from the phone to ensure it conforms for use in a competition – switching them off or not using them does not make the phone conforming.

Where the device contains other applications or features (e.g. a camera, video camera or spirit level), provided these applications or features are not used during a round in such a way that could assist the player in his play (e.g. videoing swing to analyse fault or gauging slope or green contours), the distance-measuring application is permitted.

As the Internet is now available on most mobile phones and multi-functional devices, it is possible to access information through this route at any time. Provided the player, during a round, does not use the Internet to access information or find measurement tools which would, if used, be a breach of Rule 14-3, there is no breach of the Local Rule and the phone may be used as a distance-measuring device.

8. Mobile Phones

The use of a mobile phone or portable phone by a competitor or his caddie, whilst on the golf course during an event is distracting and inconsiderate. If the competitor or caddie is in the possession of a mobile or portable phone it should be turned off. If the phone rings this is deemed to be in use and the committee may take disciplinary action against the offending player in accordance with the concluding paragraph of section 1, Etiquette of the Rules of Golf.

Exception: Players/caddies are permitted to make phone calls from the course to the clubhouse or to event officials for rules/emergency assistance.

Note: In deciding whether a penalty should be applied the Match Committee will consider Decision 33-7/8 "Meaning of "Serious Breach of Etiquette" on page 516 of the R&A Decisions on the Rules of Golf 2016-2020.

9. Golf Footwear

All players are required to wear golf footwear in accordance with host club policy. At all event venues, no player is permitted to wear shoes with metal or traditionally designed spikes. Penalty: disqualification.

10. Suspension of Play Due To A Dangerous Situation (Note To Rule 6-8b)

The specimen condition No. 4 on pages 140-141 of the Rules of Golf 2016-2020 is in effect. All practice areas are closed during suspension due to a dangerous situation until the Championship Committee has declared them open. The following signals will be used:

Discontinue Play Immediately:	One prolonged note of siren.
Discontinue Play:	Three consecutive note of siren, repeated.
Resume Play:	Two short notes of siren, repeated.

11. Returning of Score Card & Hole Indexing

A player must return his card as soon as possible after completion of his round and his score card is deemed officially returned to the Championship Committee when the player has left the designated recording area.

Note: Scorecard Indexes for players with multiple strokes:

For competitions on courses where multiple handicap indexes exist, only the first numbered index on the specific hole shall be used for scoring and handicapping purposes. Example 1 / ~~20~~ (20 is ignored)

12. Results of the Competition - Competition Closed

Match Play: The result of a match is deemed officially announced when it has been officially recorded in the Championship Office. In interclub matches, the result of the match is deemed officially announced when it has been recorded on the official result sheet signed by the team representatives.

Stroke Play: The competition is closed when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Championship Committee.

13. Consumption of Alcohol, Drugs and Smoking

Refer to Golf Australia Codes of Behaviour Attachment B1: Player/Caddie Code of Conduct.

14. Honorary Members

During Golf Victoria events, competitors will be made Honorary Members for the day, of the Club upon whose course the rounds are being played.

15. Database of Competitor's Details

The personal information you provide in the relevant event entry form is collected, used and disclosed in accordance with the Golf Victoria Privacy Policy (available from www.golfvic.org.au). Golf Victoria may use and disclose your personal information for the purposes of conducting the relevant event, administering golfing and other related activities across Victoria, providing you with event-related services or promotional material, complying with legal obligations or otherwise in accordance with the Golf Victoria Privacy Policy.

Golf Victoria may share your information, including contact details, date of birth, gender, credit card details, qualifications or communication history, with third parties such as Golf Australia, associations and clubs affiliated with Golf Victoria, other State or Territory golf associations, and companies engaged to carry out functions and activities on Golf Victoria's behalf, including sponsors and direct marketing or otherwise in accordance with Golf Victoria's Privacy Policy. In certain circumstances, your information may be disclosed overseas, for example to the International Golf Federation.

The Golf Victoria Privacy Policy contains information about how you may access and request correction of your personal information held by Golf Victoria or make a complaint about the handling of your personal information, and provides information about how a complaint will be dealt with by Golf Victoria. Your relevant event entry may be rejected if the information is not provided. If you do not wish to receive promotional material from Golf Victoria sponsors and third parties you must advise us via email or telephone or via the specific opt-out procedures provided in the relevant communication.

Golf Victoria Transportation Policy:

The provisions of the Golf Victoria Transportation Policy apply to all amateur Championship and State events, except where the event Conditions specifically note otherwise.

During play in Golf Victoria events (unless otherwise stated in the event conditions), it is prohibited for a player or his caddie to ride in or on a motorised vehicle unless specific written permission has been granted by the Match or Championship Committee in accordance with this policy.

Exceptions: -

- (i) Rules Referees or a Championship Committee member may utilise mechanical locomotion to transport a player/caddie in the interests of pace of play where necessary without penalty.
- (ii) Permission to use motorised transport is not required by any player, caddie or official upon reaching 75 years of age. Cart usage during any GV event would still require any individual to comply with any club requirement and/or cart availability.
- (iii) Where a player is granted permission to utilise motorised transport during the GV Pennant season, the player's caddie is permitted to ride with the player for any stipulated Pennant round without separate permission being required.

A permanent or temporary exception to use motorised transport will be made in the case of a player/caddie affected by a disability.

Players/Caddies requiring the use of motorised transport for a particular GV event are required to complete and return the Motorised Transport Request Procedure Form attached as Appendix 1.

As part of this process, applicants are required to complete all details on the form and comply with the following.

- Attach a copy of your medical certificate which specifies the period of time that the exemption has been requested for. For example, 1 week, 1 month, 1 year, or indefinitely;

(Note: Only medical certificates from general practitioners will be accepted. Medical certificates from osteopaths, physiotherapists, podiatrists etc are **NOT** recognised and will consequently not be accepted.)

- The medical certificate must specify the period of time that the exemption has been requested for. (i.e. 1 week, 1 month, 1 year, or indefinitely);

Once the use of motorised transport is approved, an applicant will receive a confirmation letter/email informing of the outcome. The individual's name and expiry date (if applicable) will appear on the list of approved Motorised transport users for Golf Victoria events with the expiration date. This list can be found at www.golfvic.org.au under "Championships & Events" → "Event Resources" → "Motorised Transport". Approved applicants can use Motorised Transport at any GV event.

Note: No specific medical conditions or contact details for the applicant will be on the list. It will be only the applicant name, home club and the expiry date (if not permanent)

Authorised players must book and pay for the golf carts with the Pro Shop at the hosting venues. Cart usage is also subject to each golf club's motorised transport policies.

Golf Victoria accepts no responsibility for the availability of automotive locomotion at Host Clubs, or as to whether or not permission is granted to use automotive locomotion. When an exemption is granted, the use of such locomotion must solely serve the purpose of transportation — the use of mechanical locomotion must not provide the player or caddie with a benefit greater than a walking player or caddie may achieve.

Subject to the approval of the Host Club, where the Match Committee authorises caddies to use transportation, during the stipulated round, the following requirements must be adhered to:

- (a) The player does not accept a ride at any time.
- (b) The player does not accept advice from any other person travelling with the caddie.

The Penalty for breach of this Policy/Competition Condition is as provided for in Appendix I of the Rules of Golf (page 142) – Breach of Transportation Condition. (e.g. Stroke Play: 2 strokes for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – 4 strokes; Match Play: Loss of hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – 2 holes).

Procedure when breach discovered: Use of any unauthorised form or transportation must be discontinued immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. Otherwise the player is disqualified.