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GOLF SA PENNANT COMPETITION – 2017 SEASON



References

The references listed including the most updated version/s are the basis of the Competition Conditions.

- a. The Rules of Golf and the Rules of Amateur Status Effective January 2016
- **b.** Decisions on the Rules of Golf 2016-2017
- c. Decisions on the Rules of Amateur Status Effective January 2016
- d. Competition Administration & Competitions Conditions Golf Australia Recommendations 2014
- e. Course Management, Marking the Course & Course Set-up Procedures Golf Australia Recommendations 2014
- f. Singles Competitions played from Multiple Tees & Mixed Gender Singles Competitions Golf Australia 2013
- g. Conditions of Competition & Local Rules for Golf Australia Amateur Championships 2017
- h. Golf SA Policies
 - Golf Australia Member Protection Policy
 - i. Codes of Conduct
 - ii. Complaint Handling Procedure
 - 2. Golf SA Extreme Weather & Heat Policy

History

In 2009 the Golf SA Men's, Women's & Junior Pennant Competition was consolidated under one set of competition conditions. This consolidation was aimed at reducing the call on time and facilities and at the same time providing the best competitive environment for club golfers. The Golf SA Pennant Competition can now be justifiably called a significant event in the golf schedule.

Men's Pennant: The Simpson Cup, named after Mr Fred N Simpson, was inaugurated in 1927 '...For the annual competition between several city clubs...' Fred Simpson was a member of the family that established the Simpson white goods industry in South Australia.

The Simpson Cup was originally for competition between Kooyonga & Royal Adelaide from 1927 to 1938. Post World War 2 the Grange & Glenelg joined in the fray with the competition being modified and altered from time to time with finals and additional club teams. In 2008 Southern District and Mid-North District entered teams in the competition.

Women's Pennant: The start of Women's Pennant has a less certain history dating back to 1929 when '...three wooden shields, black with silver lettering, were purchased for A, B & C Grade – cost not to exceed £2/2/- each...'

Current Competition

The Golf SA Pennant Competition continues to evolve and expand in its effort to provide competition golf between clubs at the highest level. Adaption of technology such as on-line competition management and scoring has simplified administration of the Competition for all concerned.

The highlight of the current Competition is no doubt the Final where Simpson Cup & Women's A1 are played at one of the 'sand-belt' golf Clubs drawing five hundred and more spectators each year.

DEFINITIONS

- **a.** 'Club' means an affiliated club or district (per Schedule 1 & 2 of the Golf SA Constitution) competing in the Golf SA Pennant Competition
- **b.** 'Contest' means the competition between two Clubs
- **c. 'Golf SA Match Committee'** means the Match Committee of Golf SA established by the Board of Golf SA responsible for the conduct of the Competition.
- d. 'Golf SA' means the parent body governing amateur golf in South Australia
- **e. 'Host Club Match Committee'** means the Match Committee of the Host Club established to run a minor round of the Competition
- f. 'Host Club' means the Club nominated by Golf SA to host the Contest, whether at that Club or another venue
- g. 'Match' means the contest between individual players of opposing teams
- h. 'Rules of Golf' means the Rules of Golf and Amateur Status (current at the time of the event)

1 COMPETITION

- 1.1 Competition Format: The Golf SA Pennant Competition (Competition) will be conducted as three (3) separate competitions Women's Pennant Competition, Men's Pennant Competition and Junior Pennant Competition. Each Competition comprises of divisions. Each division is divided into grades. Each grade will be made up of up to eight (8) teams that will play a minor round of up to seven (7) contests and finals.
 - **Finals:** Finals will be played in each grade between the 1st and 2nd placed teams at the end of the minor round competition.
 - b. 'Off the Stick': Women's A, Men's A & B and Junior (Sharp Cup) are to be played 'off the stick.'
 - **c. Handicap Match Play:** Women's Cleek and Junior (Division 2) are to be played off the player's <u>Daily</u> handicap.
- **1.2 Multiple Teams in a Grade:** A Club will be permitted only one team per grade in Women's A1 (Sanderson Cup) Pennant, Men's A1 (Simpson Cup) Pennant and Men's B1 (Bonnar Cup) Pennant. However, multiple teams from a club may be permitted particularly in the lower divisions/grades including juniors to ensure a viable competition.
- **1.3** Women's Pennant Competition: Women's Pennant will comprise of two divisions being A Pennant & Cleek.
 - **a. Women's A Pennant:** Will comprise of four grades: Sanderson Cup (A1) & Pike Cup (A2) to be played on Sunday and Women's A3 & A4 to be played on Monday.
 - **b.** Cleek: Will comprise of two grades Cleek 1 & Cleek 2 and will be played on Monday. The handicap range is GA 16.0 25.4. If a player breaks her GA handicap such that she would be ineligible to play in that division, but has played at least three matches in that division, she may remain in that division, playing off her Daily Handicap. If a player falls outside the GA Handicap limit for a division, she may play in that division, on a Daily Handicap calculated on the maximum GA Handicap limit for that division.
- **1.4** Men's Pennant Competition: Men's Pennant will comprise of two divisions being A Pennant & B Pennant.
 - **a.** Men's A Pennant: Will comprise of two grades Simpson Cup (A1) & A2 and will be played on Sunday.
 - b. Men's B Pennant: Will comprise of two grades Bonnar Cup (B1) & B2 and will play on Sunday.
- **1.5 Junior Pennant Competition:** Junior Pennant will comprise of two divisions being:
 - a. Sharp Cup (Division 1) and will be played on Sunday.
 - **b.** Division 2 and will be played on Sunday.

2 TEAM COMPOSITION

- **2.1 Women's Pennant:** Women's Pennant Teams (Women's A & Cleek) will consist of five (5) eligible players. A reserve player may be nominated.
- **2.2 Men's Pennant:** Men's Pennant Teams (Men's A & B) will consist of seven (7) eligible players. A reserve player may be nominated.
- **2.3 Junior Pennant:** Junior Pennant Teams (Division 1 & 2) will consist of five (5) eligible players who may be either a male or a female and who is under the age of eighteen (18) as at the first day of the Junior Competition. A reserve player may be nominated. In Division 2 only, teams must play in <u>Daily Handicap</u> order; ie: player with highest handicap to be No. 5 and player with lowest handicap to be No. 1.

Refer to Appendix B; Guidelines for Junior Divisions

3 ELIGIBILITY & QUALIFICATION

- **3.1** Player Eligibility: A player is eligible to play in the Golf SA Pennant Competition if he/she is an *Amateur Golfer* whose *Club* that he/she represents is affiliated to Golf SA and meets the following criteria:
 - **a.** Has been a financial member of that golf club for at least three (3) months prior to the first day of the competition.

<u>and</u>

- **b.** Who has playing rights allowing that player to compete in the club championship.
- **3.2 Junior Players:** In exceptional circumstances a junior player may be granted an exemption by Match Committee if he/she does not meet the Player Eligibility criteria in 3.1.
- **3.3 Represents Only One Club:** A player may only represent one Club in any one pennant season in the Golf SA Pennant Competition.
- **3.4 Club May Appeal on Behalf of Player:** A club may appeal to the Golf SA Match Committee on behalf of a player in exceptional circumstances if that player falls outside the stated Player Eligibility criteria in 3.1. An exemption to play may be granted in exceptional circumstances and then only with the support of the player's 'previous' club.
- **3.5 Player Qualification to Play Minor Rounds:** A player is not eligible to play in a lower grade if that player has played more than half of the stipulated minor round contests in a higher grade.

Note:

- a. A player who plays in Women's A1 & A2 (Sunday) may not play in Women's A3 or Cleek 1 and 2 on the following Monday.
- b. A junior player who plays more than half the stipulated minor round contests in the Men's or Women's competition is not eligible to play in the Junior competition.
- **3.6** Player Qualification to Play Finals: A player <u>must</u> have played at least one (1) match in the Competition (Women's Pennant, Men's Pennant, Junior Pennant) to qualify to play in any Finals in that specific Competition. A player who qualifies to play Finals may play in any grade above that in which he/she has qualified.
 - Except: A club participating in multiple Men/Women Finals may play a qualified player in a lower grade.
- **3.7 Junior Player Qualification to Play Women's & Men's Finals:** A junior player who has played at least one (1) match in the Junior Competition is qualified automatically to play either Women's Pennant or Men's Pennant Finals with his/her respective club.
- **3.8** Playing an Ineligible Player-Minor Round: A Club that plays an ineligible player during a minor round will result in that team losing the individual match involving the ineligible player. A score of 10 & 8 will be recorded for that match.

3.9 Playing an Unqualified Player – Finals: A Club that plays an unqualified player in a Final will result in the team being disqualified.

4 PLAYER REGISTRATION

- **4.1 Club to Register Player List:** Each Club is required to register a list of eligible players through the online pennant management software prior to the commencement of the Competition.
- **4.2** Adding Player/s to the List: Eligible players may be added throughout the season through the *online* pennant management software prior to that player playing a minor round match.

Penalty: Condition 3.8

4.3 Player Audit: From time-to-time Golf SA may conduct a player eligibility audit. Clubs may be requested to provide proof of eligibility in the form of a copy of relevant clauses of their constitution and by-laws, membership applications and payments as substantiation.

5 CONDUCT OF COMPETITION

- **5.1 Host Club Match Committee:** The Host Club Match Committee will comprise of three (3) members nominated by the Host Club. One of these members **must** be an accredited Rules Official. The Host Club Match Committee is responsible for the conduct of the Competition at that venue.
 - **a. Host Club to Advise Team Managers:** A Host Club is to advise Team Managers of the appointed Host Club Match Committee (including contact details) prior to commencement.
 - **b. Decisions on Rules:** Any decisions on the Rules required during play will be given by the appointed Host Club Match Committee in accordance with the Rules of Golf.

5.2 Golf Course:

- **Course Set-Up:** The Host Club is requested to set up the course from the championship tees. For Monday Women's Pennant and Junior Pennant clubs may use their discretion for appropriate course set-up.
- **b.** Tees & Times: Matches will commence from the designated tees and at the appointed times in the order listed in the Golf SA Competition Draw unless otherwise advised by Golf SA.
- **c. Tee Closure:** The Host Club is requested to ensure that tees are closed at the appropriate time prior to the start of the first match to ensure the first matches are not delayed or held up.

5.3 Teams:

a. Team Lists: Team Lists are to be provided to either the Pro-Shop or the Host Club Match Committee representative on the prescribed form at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the first match.

Penalty: The penalty for late or non-submission of Team lists is:

Team List not Submitted	Penalty
By 30 minutes prior to scheduled tee-off time.	No. 7 Player (7 Person Team) or No. 5 Player (5 Person Team) will lose the first hole of his/her match. Play in that match to start on
scrieduled tee-off tillie.	the 2nd hole.
By 15 minutes prior to	No. 7 Player (7 Person Team) or No. 5 Player (5 Person Team) will lose
scheduled tee-off time.	his/her match.
Prior to scheduled tee-off time.	Team will lose the contest.

b. The Honour: The honour on the 1st tee will be decided by a toss of the coin between representatives of the competing Clubs.

- c. Order of Play: In keeping with the Spirit of the Competition clubs are requested to play their players in order of merit. Players will hit off in reverse order of the Team List ie No. 7 player or No. 5 player first through to the No. 1 player last.
- **d. Reserve Player:** The nominated reserve player may be substituted for a player who does not arrive on time. The reserve player is to play in the same designated position on the Team List as the listed player.
- **e. Reporting to Starter:** The first player from each Team (No. 7 or No. 5) must report to the Starter at least ten (10) minutes before the scheduled hit-off time. Subsequent players are to report to the starter immediately after the preceding match leaves the tee.
- **f. Player Arrives Late:** (Rule 6.3a) If a player arrives late at his/her starting point, ready to play, within five (5) minutes after his/her starting time, in the absence of circumstances that warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification as provided in Rules 33-7, the following Penalties will apply:
 - i. **Penalty:** Failure to start on time: Loss of first hole. Play to start from the next tee.
 - ii. **Penalty:** Lateness beyond five (5) minutes: Disqualification.
- **g. Player Withdraws during Match:** Where a player withdraws from a match for any reason after it has commenced, the remaining holes will be forfeited to the point where a result is achieved.
- **h. Practice:** A player is not permitted to practice on any part of the course except for the designated practice areas for the day of a pennant contest, as determined by the Host Club.

Penalty: Disqualification

Note: The Host Club is to advise the manager/captain (in writing) of all competing teams of the designated practice areas and conditions.

5.4 Results:

- **a. Game All Square:** Where a match is '...all-square...' after 18 holes, a square will be recorded for the match result.
- b. Match Abandoned: If a contest is abandoned by the decision of the Host Club Match Committee, the result will be a tie with the score recorded as three and a half (3 ½) matches to each team in Men's Pennant and two and a half (2 ½) matches to each team in Junior Pennant and Women's Pennant.

 Except: If a Team has established a winning position when the contest is abandoned, ie: a minimum of four (4) matches won out of seven (7) or three (3) matches won out of five (5), that result will stand with any remaining matches being halved.
- **c. Protests:** (See Condition 9).

6 FINALS

6.1 Venues:

- **a.** Women's A1 (Pauline Sanderson Cup), Men's A1 (Simpson Cup) Finals: The two significant finals will be played at a sand-belt club in annual rotation.
- Other Finals: All other finals will be played at appropriate venues as directed by Golf SA.

6.2 Conduct of Finals:

- a. Matches to be Played Out to Result: All finals matches are to be played out to a result.

 Except: When a team has established a winning position, ie a minimum of four (4) matches won in seven match contest or three matches (3) won in a five match contest then the contest is considered won and any remaining matches in progress will be halved irrespective of their match score at that time.
- **b. Abandoned Finals:** In the event that a Final is abandoned for any reason the Final will be played out on the following week at the same venue or a venue as directed by Golf SA Match Committee.

- **6.3 Trophies:** The following perpetual trophies will be awarded:
 - a. Men's A1: The Simpson Cup
 - b. Men's A2: A2 Shield
 - c. Men's B1: Bonnar Cup
 - d. Men's B2: B2 Shield
 - e. Women's A1: Pauline Sanderson Cup
 - f. Women's A2: Fiona Pike Cup
 - g. Women's A3: A3 Plate
 - h. Women's A4: A4 Shield
 - i. Junior Division 1: Sharp Cup
 - j. Junior Division 2: Division 2 Cup

7 PROMOTION, RELEGATION ENTRY INTO COMPETITION

7.1 Promotion & Relegation:

- **a. Women's A1 & A2 Pennant:** The team finishing last at the completion of the minor round of Sanderson Cup will be relegated to Pike Cup. The team winning the Pike Cup final will be promoted to Sanderson Cup (Note Condition 1.2)
- **b. Women's A3 & A4 Pennant:** The team finishing last at the completion of the minor round of Women's A3 will be relegated to Women's A4. The team winning the Women's A4 final will be promoted to Women's A3.
- **c. Women's Cleek:** The team finishing last at the completion of the minor round in Women's Cleek 1 will be relegated to Women's Cleek 2. The team winning Women's Cleek 2 will be promoted to Women's Cleek 1.
- **d. Men's A Pennant (including Simpson Cup):** The team finishing last in Men's A1 (Simpson Cup) will be relegated to A2. The team winning the Men's A2 final will be promoted to A1 (Simpson Cup).
- **e. Men's B Pennant (including Bonnar Cup):** The team finishing last in Men's B1 (Bonnar Cup) will be relegated to B2. The team winning the Men's B2 final will be promoted to B1 (Bonnar Cup).
- **f. Junior Pennant:** There is no enforced promotion/relegation in Junior Pennant.
- **7.2 Entry into Competition:** Any Club or Country District per Schedule 1 & 2 of the Golf SA Constitution may apply to enter a team/s into the Golf SA Pennant Competition. Golf SA Match Committee will determine the application at its discretion.

8 PROTESTS & DISPUTES

- **8.1 Lodgement:** The Team Manager is responsible for lodging a protest with the Host Club Match Committee and informing the opposing Team Manager within 15 minutes of the completion of the final match.
 - Full details of any protest must be lodged in writing with the Golf SA Office by 5.00pm Tuesday (Sunday Competition) or 5.00pm Wednesday (Monday Competition) by the protesting club.
- **8.2 Determination of Protest:** Golf SA Match Committee will determine any protest under the:
 - **a.** Golf SA Pennant Competition Conditions
 - b. Rules of Golf & Amateur Status
 - **c.** Golf SA Policies (As appropriate)
 - **d.** Golf Australia Member Protection Policy (Codes of Conduct & Complaint Handling Procedures)
 - **e.** Golf SA Constitution & Regulations

- **8.3 Match Committee May Delegate:** Depending on the nature of the protest Golf SA may delegate its power to a duly formed sub-committee for the purpose.
- **8.4 Decision Final:** A decision given by the Golf SA Match Committee or its appointed delegate/s on any protest by any competing club will be considered final and binding on all competing clubs.

9 ADMINISTRATION

9.1 Team Manager/s

- **a. Appoint a Team Manager:** Each team is to appoint a Team Manager who is to be identified on the Team List submitted prior to the start of the contest.
- **b. Duties:** The duties of the Team Manager include:
 - i. Monitor the conduct of the players in his/her Team in accordance with the appropriate Codes of
 - ii. Lodge any protest/dispute (in accordance with Condition 9) if necessary
 - iii. Reporting any incident in writing to Golf SA that occurs during the contest that may potentially lead to a breach of Codes of Conduct
- c. Score Sheets: Ensure that the score-sheets are correct and signed/counter-signed.

9.2 Host Club:

- **a. Provide Starters:** The Host Club is required to provide a Starter for each tee as per the Scheduled Draw. Starters must be provided with Team Lists & Local Rules.
- **b. Results Board:** The Host Club is asked to provide a suitable space (on a Notice Board or similar) where the day's results sheets can be posted for fellow players, spectators and club members.
- **c. Local Rules:** The Host Club is to provide 'Local Rules' sheet to each Team Manager for handing to players/officials prior to the start of each match. (Refer 9.2 e. Envelopes).
- **d. Carts for Rules Officials/Managers:** Carts for Rules Officials and/or Managers (to share) should be provided at the discretion of the Host Club.
- **Envelopes':** The Host Club is to provide 'envelopes' to be collected by visiting Managers at either the Pro-Shop or with the Host Club Match Committee representative containing:
 - i. Results Sheets
 - ii. Local Rules
 - iii. Daily 'Look-Up' Charts (Handicap Match Play)
- f. Post-Match Catering: There is no requirement for the Host Club to provide post match catering.
 - i. Visiting Clubs are encouraged to attend the Host Club facilities with their playing partners at the conclusion of the day's play.
 - **Except:** Catering for Junior competitions will be dealt with separately.

10 RULES OF GOLF & ETIQUETTE

10.1 Advice: Other than a player's caddie, the Team Manager or Non-Playing Captain, who is appointed prior to the start of the contest, is the only person who may give advice (including pointing out a line for putting) to members of the team.

Penalty: Loss of hole

10.2 Transportation: A player or player's caddie is not permitted to ride on any form of transportation during a match unless authorised by the Match Committee.

Penalty: Loss of the hole at which the breach occurs - maximum penalty two (2) holes. **Except that:** A player affected by a disability that precludes him/her from competing without the assistance of automotive locomotion may be granted an exemption on application to Golf SA Match Committee. Applications must be received by Golf SA no later than Tuesday prior to that rounds match.

10.3 Caddies:

- **a.** There are no restrictions as to who may act as a caddie.
- b. A player who had been nominated to play in a particular contest may, whilst that contest is in progress and after his/her own match has been decided, act as caddie for another member of his/her Team playing in the same contest.
- c. Caddies are not allowed to use carts. <u>Except that</u>: A caddie affected by a disability that precludes him/her from caddying without the assistance of automotive locomotion may be granted an exemption on application to Golf SA Match Committee. Applications must be received by Golf SA no later than Tuesday prior to that rounds contest.
- **10.4 Mobile telephones:** Except in case of emergency or to call for a ruling, mobile phones must not to be used to make or receive calls or messages during a stipulated match.

Penalty: Refer Golf SA Code of Conduct

10.5 Alcohol: The consumption of alcohol by a player or a caddie during a match is strictly prohibited.

Penalty: Refer Golf SA Code of Conduct

- **10.6 Smoking:** Players and caddies are NOT permitted to smoke cigarettes or the like during their stipulated match. *Penalty:* Refer Golf SA Code of Conduct
- **10.7 Measuring Devices:** A player may obtain **distance** information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a stipulated match, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect their play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3.
- 10.8 Dress Code: Players and caddies must adhere to the dress code of the Host Club.
- **10.9 Conforming Golf Balls & Conforming Driver Heads:** The specimen conditions in the Rules of Golf are in effect as regards to Conforming Golf Balls and Conforming Driver Heads.
- **10.10 Code of Conduct:** The Golf Australia Code of Conduct (adopted by Golf SA) applies to players, caddies, managers, and other club officials at the pennant venue.
- **10.11** The Golf SA Match Committee has full power at any time to alter or vary any one of the Conditions in fairness to the competition.

End

Appendix:

- A. Team Registration/Results Sheet
- **B.** Guidelines for Junior Divisions



2017 PENNANTS TEAM/RESULTS SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS – HOST CLUB:

1. Results Notification to GOLF SA: Complete & Return results sheet to Golf SA Office NLT Monday Noon (Sunday Events) or Tuesday Noon (Monday Events)by:

• Fax: 8267 1437

• E-mail: admin@golfsa.com.au

2. Media Notification: Results are to be sent to *The Advertiser* **immediately** after the completion of the contest:

• E-mail: editservices@adv.newsltd.com.au

• **Fax:** 02 8719 2770

Date						
Men's Pennant:	☐ A (Simpson Cup)	☐ Men's A2	☐ B (Bonna	r Cup)	☐ Men's B2	
Women's Pennant:	☐ A1 (Sanderson Cup)	☐ A2 (Pike Cup) 🗆 A3	□ A4	☐ Cleek 1	☐ Cleek 2
Junior Pennant:	☐ Sharp Cup	☐ Division 2				
	Managers Nan	ne V			Managers N	lame
	Club	V			Club	
	Note: Please show	v results in columi	of the winnir	ng playe	er	
Pla	yer's Name	Result	Pl	ayer's	Name	Result
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
Res:						
*Both Teams to comple	te and hand to Host Club O	fficial				
WON BY		_	r	MATCH	ES TO	
Club Official Name		Club Official Name				
Club Official Signature		Club Official Signature				



GUIDELINES FOR JUNIOR DIVISIONS

Sharp Cup: Mixed Gender Match Play: Boys to play off the designated Men's tees and Girls to play off the designated Women's tees.

If the pars of a hole are different for Boys and Girls (eg one hole is a Par 5 for Girls and a Par 4 for Boys), the player who completes the hole in the least number of strokes wins the hole irrespective of gender. If there is a hole where the Boy's and Girl's tees are normally closely positioned, but is a Par 5 for Girls and Par 4 for Boys, the Girl's tee must be moved forward and played as a Par 4.

Golf SA recommends an 85% ratio to be used in this instance, that is, the Girls to be 85% in length of the Boys. For example; Girl's 400m and Boy's 470m. (For Par 4 for Girl's and Par 3 for Boy's; Girl's 210m and Boy's 250m).

Golf SA will be in touch with individual clubs hosting to assist and offer recommendations where applicable.

Please note: These course setup adjustments should not be applied to Junior Division 2 as the Handicap Adjustment allows for the difference in the courses. It may be necessary to have multiple tees or temporary tee markers in some instances.

Division 2: Standard Match Play Index to be used by both Boys and Girls on all courses in Junior Division 2 matches.

Hole	Index	Hole	Index
1	18	10	5
2	8	11	11
3	12	12	2
4	3	13	15
5	14	14	7
6	6	15	13
7	10	16	4
8	1	17	17
9	16	18	9

(Note: When using the match play index in match play competitions, the index should be adapted when a match commences at any other hole on the course other than the 1st. Hole 1 in the recommendation should apply to the first hole to be played, Hole 2 to the second hole to be played, etc.)

The number of handicap strokes to be *given* by the lower handicap player is calculated as follows:

- (i) Each player will calculate the Daily Handicap that is appropriate to the Slope Rating of the set of tees they are to play from.
- (ii) The player with the lower Daily Handicap is reduced to a handicap of 0, and the other player's handicap is reduced by the same amount. For example, Player L's Daily Handicap would be 16 and Player M's Daily Handicap would be 28 Player L is reduced to 0 and Player M is reduced to 12.
- (iii) Player M's handicap for the match is then adjusted by the difference between the Scratch Ratings.
- (iv) If the Scratch Rating for Player M's course is higher than the Scratch Rating of Player L's course, the difference between the two Scratch Ratings is added to the handicap that Player M plays off in the match. If the Scratch Rating for Player M's course is lower than the Scratch Rating of Player L's course, the difference between the two Scratch Ratings is subtracted from the handicap that Player M plays off in the match.