



## Pennant Survey Appendix

In June 2018, Golf NSW conducted multiple discussions around Sydney relating to Pennant golf. The purpose of this was to ascertain the issues that clubs experience in the various competitions and to provide a survey to all clubs with the purpose of making positive changes, if needed. Below are some observations and additional notes to accompany the survey your club has received.

### Sunday Tee Times

Sunday morning tee times are at a premium, both at clubs where they give up popular member times and at clubs where it is critical to maximise revenue from social clubs. Some suggestions to alleviate these issues were:

- Reduce the number of players in Men's Major Pennant teams to 5 players to reduce the times taken and costs of uniforms, meals etc.
- Allow clubs to have the option to provide Pennant times on Saturdays as they have their busiest days on Sundays and would be better placed to provide times on Saturdays.
- Golf NSW will review the Pace of Play Guidelines in Conditions and communicate to clubs so they are aware of the timing in which a match should play. Golf NSW also offers access to our Referees to assist.

### Women's Sunday Pennant & Friday Grade

- 1) Many clubs have working women and students as part of their membership that would like to be involved in Sunday Pennant but couldn't field a team at the high elite level of Division 1. The introduction of a Division 3 for higher A-Grade golfers could provide for these women (approx. handicaps 8-18).
- 2) Currently, there are stringent conditions around a player only being able to play Friday OR Sunday for their club, not both. This causes issues though for a player who is a member of two clubs that would be eligible to play Friday for one club and Sunday for another club.
- 3) In Friday Grade, some clubs highlighted the traffic and geographical issues in the competition. While Grade is currently in Divisions based purely on strength, there is the possibility to factor in geography. Currently there are 4 divisions, which could be replaced by the following, as an example, should we include geographical considerations. North would play South in Finals.

DIVISION 1				DIVISION 2			
NORTH		SOUTH		NORTH		SOUTH	
Bayview	Pymble	Oatlands	Pennant Hills	Mona Vale	Elanora	Cronulla	Lakeside
Monash	Manly	NSW	Avondale	Castle Hill	North Ryde	Kogarah	Woolooware
Killara	Cromer	The Australian	The Lakes	Long Reef	Massey Park	Muirfield	Carnarvon
Wakehurst		Concord		Asquith	Royal Sydney	Cabramatta	

## Professionals

Some PGA members are now club members and play regularly in club competitions without being full-time players while some amateurs now play schedules that would be considered full-time. If a Professional was to compete, they would still need to fulfil the condition of being in a category of membership that allowed them to play in Club Championships.

## Club Representatives who are not "True Members"

A common concern expressed by Clubs is that there are players who have been paid for by Clubs to play Pennant golf for them and aren't true members of their club. It is believed that this has caused an unfair distribution of elite players among clubs, many from the Country areas. Some suggestions to rectify this issue are:

- A condition be introduced specifying a minimum number of games played at the club the player represents.
- A condition be introduced with a restriction on maximum number of country residents representing their team.
- The option of a "Draft" system being in place for clubs, so that elite players are more evenly distributed.

## Warren & Gibson

This event is currently a fourball best ball match play competition for B and C Grade golfers. Many issues with this event have been raised including costs, pace of play, handicap legitimacy and not providing a competition for enough B and C Grade golfers at clubs.

An alternate option has been well received where the event would be played over 1 or 2 weekend days at a high-quality venue paid for by Golf NSW for the nominated 3 or 4 players in B and C Grade from each club. This would reduce the costs for clubs and would service a wider range of their members rather than the same 6 players in W&G teams each year. This was popular among the clubs currently involved in W&G and clubs that don't currently participate would be interested in an event of this format.

If an alternate option isn't preferred but the length of the competition needs to be minimised, this will be done by changing the "home and away" format and to play on weekends such as Father's Day and Public Holidays.

## Junior Events

There is currently a Tyro Shield (for beginners), Encourage Shield (for newer golfers), Junior Pennant (Handicap competition for under 18's) and Eric Apperly Shield (scratch for 21 years and under). It should be noted that all of these, except Eric Apperly, are administered by JNIG.

It was agreed that there were too many Junior Pennant competitions which resulted in the same players being serviced by a number of these competitions (ie. Some juniors are able to play Junior Pennant, Eric Apperly and Major Pennant). The general consensus was that it could be rationalised to:

- Under 18 Scratch Match Play (possibly under 18, 19, 20 or 21);
- Under 18 Handicap Match Play;
- A Match Play competition for beginners (or those new to pennant golf).