



2023

**Golf Australia
Victorian Junior
Pennant**

2023 Victorian Junior Pennant – Terms of Competition

1. Definitions

- (i) “Golf Australia” is the governing body for golf clubs and amateur golf in Australia.
- (ii) The Junior Pennant competition is under the control of Golf Australia.
- (iii) A “club” means a member club or an affiliated club as defined in the Golf Victoria Constitution.
- (iv) The competition between two teams will be known as a “contest”.
- (v) In Junior Pennant, a contest consists of six individual matches.
- (vi) In Junior Pennant, a contest is decided once the six individual matches are completed or when one club has won a minimum of three and a half individual matches.

2. Format

2.1 General

Golf Australia Victorian Junior Pennant commenced in 2001 as an optional competition for junior golfers aged under 18 years of age. The competition originated out of both the former City Zone and Mini-Minor Pennant competitions played prior to this time. The clubs electing to participate are separated into general regions on an annual basis. The 2023 Junior Pennant season consists of “round robin” contests between clubs in each region followed by a finals series.

All team(s) representing affiliated member clubs in Junior Pennant will be allocated (wherever possible) to the closest geographical region or newly created region by Golf Australia for the season.

2.2 Representation

Each member club (and other clubs or district golf associations as approved by Golf Australia) may be represented by up to two teams. However, a club may enter additional teams in the competition subject to the approval of Golf Australia. Each team is to consist of six male and/or female players under 18 years of age as at 1/1/2023 and otherwise eligible in accordance with condition 2.3. A joint team fielded by two or more clubs is permitted to compete in the competition (as approved by Golf Australia).

2.3 Eligibility

- (i) A player taking part in the Junior Pennant competition must be a male or female amateur golfer and a member or cadet member with playing rights of the club they represent.
- (ii) No player may represent more than one club during the competition in any one year.
- (iii) A player taking part in the Junior Pennant competition must hold a current Golf Australia handicap.
- (iv) Where a club is fielding multiple teams in the Junior Pennant competition, a player cannot play for a team in another region once they have played three matches for a team in a different region.

The penalty for an ineligible player competing in a Junior Pennant match is loss of the specific individual match.

2.4 Contests

Within each region, clubs will play a round-robin series with each club playing each other club once. The competition between two teams will be known as a contest consisting of six individual matches. A contest is decided once the six individual matches are completed or when one club has won a minimum of three and a half individual matches.

For the round-robin series, contests should be played at the club as stated in the draw. The host club shall establish the starting time for the contest and advise the opposing club a minimum of one week prior to the contest date. If the contest is played prior to the scheduled date, the alternate date and starting time must be by mutual agreement between the two clubs concerned.

Contests will be played in accordance with the rules of golf together with any such local rules as are in force over the course on which the competition takes place. The honour for the contest shall be decided by the toss of a coin between representatives of the competing clubs.

Male and female players shall play from their respective tees.

Please note: For safety reasons, players hitting off the back tees will be required to tee off first.

Matches between two players shall be played using the **Match Play Index**. This method provides for an even distribution throughout the round. It also disregards hole difficulties (acknowledging that a 30-marker receives 5 strokes from a 25-marker, which is also what a 5-marker receives from a scratch marker, but that there can be clear differences in the holes a 5-marker and scratch marker will find the most challenging). It is fair to players on all handicap levels, and it has proved satisfactory in use. It avoids allocating low-numbered strokes to the last two holes so players receiving few strokes will have the opportunity to use these before a match is decided. It also avoids allocating low-numbered strokes to the first three holes in case a match goes to extra holes.

(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.)

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

Matches between one male and one female player shall also be played with adjusted scores to apply when the par of a hole varies for the men's and women's tees.

E.g. A match between a male and a female player has reached a hole where the two pars are different (Par 5 – Women, Par 4 – Men). At the completion of the hole the male player has taken 4 strokes and the female player has taken 5 strokes. After the scores have been adjusted to their relevant pars the hole would be declared a half, as both players have made par.

3. Championship Committee

The championship committee at each Junior Pennant venue shall consist of one representative of each competing team and one additional representative of the host club. The championship committee shall be responsible for administering the contest at each Junior Pennant venue and determining any rules of golf dispute which may arise or is referred to it.

In the absence of the full championship committee, a minimum quorum of two 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.

Should any Junior Pennant condition or competition administration dispute arise at a Junior Pennant venue, prior to determining any such dispute, the championship committee is required to ascertain relevant details (either verbally or in writing) from one representative of the club or clubs involved and any other relevant party. Following consideration of this dispute, the committee decision must be conveyed to one representative from the club or clubs involved.

Unless otherwise indicated, the championship committee does not have the authority to alter or vary any Junior Pennant term.

4. Practice

Rule 5.2a is modified in this way: unless permitted by the host club, players are not permitted to practice on the course on the day of competition. The penalty for breach of this term will be disqualification of the player or players involved. Prior to the commencement of play, practice is permitted on the designated practice areas of the host club. Note: Host clubs should advise competing teams whether practice is permitted prior to the round.

5. Team Lists

The captain, manager or designated representative of each team shall prepare the list of team members in GA handicap order (No. 1 player (lowest handicap) listed first to the No. 6 player (highest handicap)), plus emergency and team manager. Such lists should then be exchanged between team managers no later than 15 minutes before the start of play.

- ◆ **Please note:** Any club that is late in exchanging its team list will result in automatic loss of the 1st Hole in the No 6 match in Junior Pennant.

Note: -Team lists can be amended up to 15 minutes before hit-off time. Therefore, where clubs submit their team lists the evening before a Junior Pennant Day, and subsequently arrive at the course and discover a sick, injured or absent player, it is permissible to amend the team list in any manner prior to 15 minutes before hit-off.

6. Team Manager

- (i) Each team may appoint a team manager. The team manager must be identified on the team list submitted prior to the start of the contest and identify themselves to the opposing team manager.
- (ii) In accordance with rule 24.4, a team manager is defined as an 'advice giver' and is authorised to give advice and other help as allowed under rule 10.2b(2) to members of their team. A team manager is not part of a match and is considered to be an outside influence. Clubs appointing a team manager ineligible under term 6.1 (i) will be subject to penalty as determined by the match committee.
 - (ii) A player accepting advice from persons other than their team manager or their caddie will be subject to penalty in accordance with rule 10.2.

7. **Player/Caddie – Dress, Footwear & Course Requirements**

- (i) Players & Caddies must be attired in accordance with host club dress standards.
- (ii) Players/caddies who fail to adhere to the host club's dress and course requirements (eg: failure to carry/use sand buckets, slicks on buggies etc.) will be subject to sanction in accordance with the Golf Australia Code of Conduct.

8. **Draw**

Contests shall commence from designated starting tees at the time specified by the host club and in the order listed on the draw unless otherwise advised by Golf Australia. The honour for each contest shall be decided by the toss of a coin by representatives of the competing clubs.

It is a term of the competition that if the player arrives at their starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after their starting time, in the absence of circumstances which warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification as provided in rule 5.3a, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole in match play instead of disqualification. Play will commence from the second hole.

If a nominated player is not in attendance or is otherwise unable to play when required to do so, the emergency as named may be immediately substituted for the nominated player, but only in that player's team position. If not required, emergencies shall not play on the day of the contest.

Note: - An emergency player can only be substituted up to and including the hit-off time of the listed player who has failed to appear.

9. **Distance Measuring Devices**

In accordance with Rule of Golf 4.3a(1), a player may obtain distance and direction information by use of a distance-measuring device. The provisions of Rule 4.3 apply in relation to Use of Equipment.

10. **Match Duration/ Hit Off Order**

All matches shall be played over eighteen holes handicap match play. Play should be in fours (unless agreed otherwise). If a match is square after the completion of eighteen holes, the match is halved.

For the home and away season, individual matches are to be played from the tee markers as directed by the host club and in the order of the team list ie. no.1 player hitting-off first and no.6 player last. All finals matches will be played in reverse order of the team list ie. no.6 player hitting-off first and no.1 player last.

All matches are played in handicap order with the no.1 player being the lowest marker and the no.6 being the highest marker. **Note:** The player's handicap is their daily handicap as at the commencement of the contest. If two or more players have been allocated the same daily handicap, GA handicap will be used to determine the order of these players. If players can still not be separated, the team manager can select the order of such players.

Once play has commenced, the penalty for any player playing in the incorrect team position will be disqualification (loss of match). Exception: Emergency player substituting for a listed player.

11. Suspension of Play/Abandonment of Contests

In the event of heavy rain, lightning, fog, heat, unplayable course conditions or for any other reason, the championship committee will be responsible for deciding whether to suspend play. The signal for suspending play will be three short siren blasts. The procedure when play is suspended is outlined under rule 5.7b.

When the course is ready for play, players will be advised to return to their various locations. The signal for the resumption of play will be two short notes of siren, repeated.

During any round of Junior Pennant, if not one individual match in any Junior Pennant contest has commenced within four hours of the stated sunset time, the contest shall be abandoned. The result of such match(s) is defined as halved with each team being awarded half a contest win in their individual matches

Note: In the event of extreme heat, the championship committee will act in accordance with the heat policy of the host club. Should the host club not have a heat policy, the committee will act in accordance with the [Golf Australia Heat Policy](#).

12. Pace of Play

Each group of players must maintain its position on the course with respect to the preceding match.

Any group with a clear hole in front of it will be considered out of position. Loss of hole penalties will be issued by the championship committee to individuals in such matches who by their pace of play contribute to such delay. Warnings may not be issued prior to penalties.

13. Motorised Transport

Players and caddies are not permitted to ride in or on any form of mechanical locomotion during the play of a hole, except where a club has received written dispensation from Golf Australia for a particular player and caddie and the approval of the host club concerned.

To assist with the monitoring of play, team managers may ride in or on any form of mechanical locomotion during the play of a hole.

The penalty for breach of Term 13 by a player or caddie is: The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which there is a breach of this Local Rule. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.

Use of any unauthorised form of transportation must be discontinued immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred.

Exception: Championship committee members may utilise mechanical locomotion to transport a player/caddie in the interests of pace of play where necessary without penalty.

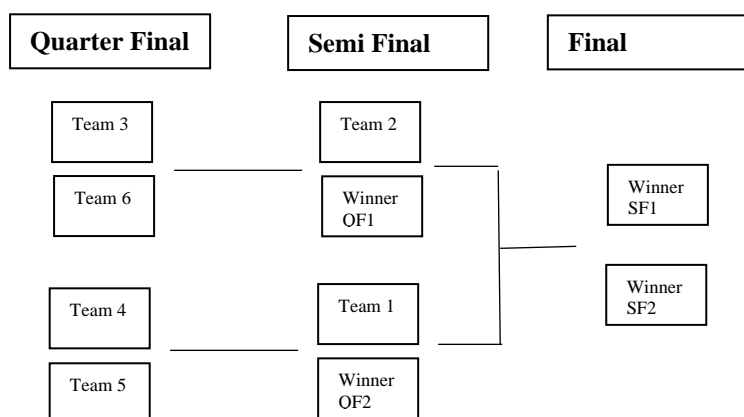
14. Junior Pennant - Regional Winners and Finals Series

The winning team in all regions will be the team that has the greatest number of contest wins including draws. In the event of teams being level on the number of contests won, the leading team in a region will be that team that has the greatest number of wins in individual matches. In the event of teams being level on the number of individual matches won, the decision shall be reached by countback based on the result of the contest between the tied teams during the season. In the event of teams still being unable to be separated, the winner will be determined by the result of the number 1 match between the tied teams played during the season. If that match was halved, the number 2 match will be considered, and so on. In the event of teams still being unable to be separated, the matter shall be referred to Golf Australia for decision.

- The leading team in each region will be awarded a small regional flag and will qualify for the finals.
- Teams will be seeded based on winning percentage of home and away contests won (including draws) then a percentage of matches won. If still tied the seeding will be determined by lot.
- The top 2 seeded teams will qualify directly to the Semi Finals.
- The remaining teams will play-off in quarterfinals with the winners progressing to the semi-finals.
- The semi-final winners will then contest the Golf Australia Junior Pennant Final. The team that wins the final will be awarded a full-size Pennant flag.

The above format may be modified depending on the number of regions competing.

Finals Structure



Please note, by entering the 2023 Junior Pennant competition all clubs must be willing to host the quarter, semi or final round if required.

15. Tied Matches in the Finals

All individual matches at the quarterfinals, semi-finals and final that are square after 18-holes shall continue until one player secures the advantage (wins). However, the managers of both teams may agree that a match shall terminate without a decision, if any final has already been decided.

If a final is tied at three matches apiece, each team shall select one player to participate in a sudden death play-off (on behalf of each team) to determine the winning team.

16. Code of Conduct

Breaches of the [Golf Australia Code of Conduct](#) reported during Junior Pennant shall be subject to action by Golf Australia's Disciplinary Tribunal.