

2021 Pennant Conditions of Play



NEWCASTLE HUNTER DISTRICT LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION INC

Pennant Conditions of Play 2021

These Conditions are to be read in conjunction with the NHDLGA Standard Conditions of Play which are available on the NHDLGA website.

Definitions:

In these Conditions unless the context indicates otherwise:

“Club” means a club competing in the NHDLGA Pennant Competitions

“Contest” means the competition between two Clubs consisting of Individual Matches.

“NHDLGA Committee” means the Match Committee of NHDLGA.

Authority may be delegated by the NHDLGA Committee to the Committee of the Host Club.

“Host Club” means the Club nominated in the Draw to host the contest, whether at that Club or another venue.

“Pennant contacts” means the Pennant Captains.

“The Squad”, for each participating Club, means the members who are participating in any Scratch Pennant Competition.

“Walkover” means awarding a victory to a team, without playing any matches, by the opposition, because the opposing team has forfeited.

1. Entry

- 1.1. NHDLGA Pennant competitions are open to all golf clubs in the District who are financially affiliated members of NHDLGA.
- 1.2. There will be three (3) competitions available for club entry: Scratch Pennant in 4 Divisions, Handicap Pennant & Weekend Handicap Pennant.
- 1.3. Clubs may enter only one team per Division in the Scratch Pennant, Handicap Pennant and Weekend Handicap Pennant competitions.

2. Host Club Responsibilities

As a condition of entry, all competing clubs must agree that:

- 2.1. Inclusion in the Draw will confirm that a participating club agrees with and will comply with the conditions laid down by the NHDLGA Committee.
- 2.2. Host a round for each team entered so that the field commences play in 4's on Sundays and in 2's on Mondays.
- 2.3. Provide a Starter.
- 2.4. At the completion of play, an official of the Host Club must fill in a Result Sheet, which must be signed by representatives of the daily competing teams.
- 2.5. It is the responsibility of the Host Club to forward the Result Sheet to the NHDLGA Captain promptly by email asap on the day after the last match is completed.

3. Eligibility

- 3.1. All players must be amateur, financial members (in any playing category) of the club they represent and must hold a current Golf Australia handicap. Players on club only handicaps are not eligible.
- 3.2. A player may represent only one club in the District in any one year.

4. Scratch Pennant

All Contests and Individual matches will be played under the Rules of Golf and the Local Rules at the Host Club and in accordance with these Conditions.

- 4.1. Matches shall be played in four (4) divisions. All teams shall consist of:
 - 4.1.1. Division 1, 2 & 3: seven players, and
 - 4.1.2. Division 4 : five players.
- 4.2. The competition is Individual Match Play without the benefit of handicap.
- 4.3. Promotion and relegation between Divisions shall be decided by the NHDLGA Match Committee based on overall results.
- 4.4. The NHDLGA allows Clubs to enter more than one team in the Scratch Pennant competition, but only one team in each Division. This competition covers Divisions 1 to 4 with Division 1 containing players with the lowest handicaps. Clubs with more than one team in the Scratch Pennant must allocate their players in exact GA handicap order across the Squad for all divisions in each round. The highest marker in the best team will have a GA handicap lower or equal to the lowest marker in the second team.

- 4.5 Players may change their place/divisions within the Squad according to their GA handicaps at 6.00pm on the Thursday prior to the match.
- 4.6 Clubs with more than one team in the Scratch Pennant will be required to submit the player's names and GA handicaps of their team if that team is having a bye when the results are submitted.
- 4.7 A player that is named in a bye team MUST play at least one round during the season. If it is discovered that a player named does not play any Pennant rounds, all teams from that club will not be eligible to win that particular Pennant competition and will be demoted on the pointscore. Exceptional circumstances will be considered & will be required in writing to the District Captain within 24 hours of the final round being completed. The Match Committee's decision shall be final.
This condition will only apply to the Scratch Pennant competition.
- 4.8 A player who has played in their Club's Scratch Pennant competition may play in their Club's Weekend Handicap Pennant competition but may not substitute into the Handicap team.
- 4.9 If a player who is ineligible to play has played, or a player is placed in an incorrect position in the team, that player shall be disqualified for that match.

5. Handicap Pennant

- 5.1 The NHDLGA allows Clubs to enter only one team in the Handicap Pennant competition. There is only one Handicap competition with 5 players per team playing in 2's.
- 5.2 The competition is Individual Match Play using the full Daily Handicap difference and the Balanced Match Play Index, see Appendix "C". The minimum GA handicap in this division is 23.0. Players on a GA below 23.0 at 6.00pm on the Thursday prior to the match, even if they have played previous rounds, will not be eligible to play in the upcoming round.
- 5.3 If a player who is ineligible to play has played or a player is placed in an incorrect position in the team that player shall be disqualified for that match.
- 5.4 A player who has already played in a Handicap Pennant round may play as a substitute in any of their Club's Scratch Pennant Team/s. They will then be permitted to return to play in the Handicap Team, as long as they qualify under the above requirements for GA.
- 5.5 If a player qualifies to play in the Handicap Pennant competition in round 1 & onwards, and at any stage they then reduce their handicap to be below 23.0 GA, she will not be permitted to play any further rounds unless her GA reaches the minimum requirement again.

6. Weekend Handicap Pennant

- 6.1. The NHDLGA allows Clubs to enter only one team in the Weekend Handicap Pennant competition. This competition covers only 1 Division with 4 players per team playing in 4's.
- 6.2. The competition is Individual Match Play using the full Daily Handicap difference and the Balanced Match Play Index, see Appendix "C." Maximum GA handicap is 36. Any player with a GA handicap over 36 may play but their handicap will be reduced to 36 for this event.
- 6.3. A player who has played in their Club's Scratch Pennant or the Handicap Pennant competition may also play in the Weekend Handicap Pennant competition.
- 6.4. If a player who is placed in an incorrect position in the team, that player shall be disqualified for that match. Players must play in GA handicap order, highest to lowest.

7. Conditions of The Competition/The Match Committee

- 7.1. The NHDLGA Match Committee shall make all arrangements and shall have full power to alter or make any variations to the Conditions of Play or programme. This may include altering the number of players in teams, or the number of clubs in any Pennant competition in order to optimise participation.
- 7.2. The Match Committee of the NHDLGA is responsible for the running of the Pennant competitions. The format of the Pennants and all matters pertaining to the management of the Pennants shall be the absolute responsibility of the NHDLGA Match Committee.
- 7.3. Except as varied by these conditions the NHDLGA Standard Conditions of Play shall apply.
- 7.4. The NHDLGA Match Committee shall constitute the Committee within the meaning of the Rules of Golf for the purpose of the conduct of the competitions.

8. Format

- 8.1. All Contests and Individual Matches will be played under the Rules of Golf, the Local Rules in operation at the Host Club and in accordance with these Conditions.
- 8.2. All individual matches are to be played from the tee markers as directed by the Host Club, but it is recommended that the tee markers be positioned as they would be for a Championship or Medal round.
- 8.3. Individual matches must be played as one match per time slot for the Scratch Pennant and Handicap Pennant and two matches per time slot for the Weekend Handicap Pennant.
- 8.4. **The Honour:** on the tee shall be decided by the toss of a coin between representatives of the competing Clubs. The Club that wins the toss shall have the option to take the honour at the starting tee for all Individual Matches in that Contest.

9. Allocation of Points for Team Contests

- 9.1. The winner of each contest in a Round is the Team that has won the greater proportion of Individual Matches.
- 9.2. Team points will be allocated as follows: 2 points for a Team win; 1 point for a Team draw, 1 point for an Individual win, and 0.5 points for an Individual draw.
- 9.3. The winner in the Scratch Pennant, Handicap Pennant and Weekend Handicap Pennant will be the team with the greatest number of points at the end of the final round.

Deciding Ties

- 9.3.1. In the event of a tie in total points gained in Team Contests, the points gained for the Team wins and draws during the competition shall be used to determine the winner.
- 9.3.2. If the tied Teams still have equal points, the points gained in the Individual Matches of the tied Teams during the Competition shall be used to determine the winner.
- 9.3.3. If the Teams are still tied, the result of the Contest played between those tied Teams will be used. If the Contest was drawn, the result of the first player's Individual Match shall be used. If that Individual Match is squared, the result of the second player's Individual Match will be used and so on.
- 9.4. If a Club withdraws from the Pennant competition after the commencement of the competition, that club and any opponent, past or future receives no points for those Rounds.

10. Suspension and Cancellation of Play: Allocation of Points and Games

- 10.1. If a team result has not been achieved due to bad weather in the Scratch Pennant, one date will be provided for the rescheduling of the round, contests and individual matches. Should this occur, the Host Club Captain or Delegate must then immediately negotiate with their club the rescheduling of the contest on the date listed & in consultation with the District Captain.

Regardless, every effort should be made to play each Round on the scheduled day and time.

No other Pennant matches will be rescheduled.

- 10.2. When bad weather results in the cancellation of play after individual matches have commenced, the results of any completed matches will stand. If a team has won or halved sufficient matches to win the contest, that team shall be awarded 2 points for a team win, or 1 point for a team draw, plus points for individual results as per clause 9.2. Any individual matches not completed will be classified as a draw and points awarded accordingly.
- 10.3. Where all play is cancelled without any individual matches having commenced, with the exception of rounds already rescheduled, these matches will be regarded as being halved, and each team drawn on the day will receive 1 point for the drawn match plus 2½ points (5 players in team) or 3½ points (7 players in team) for the halved matches. This condition will apply to all Weekend Handicap Pennant rounds, Handicap Pennant rounds and Scratch Pennant rounds
 - 10.3.1. The Host Club will determine whether or not a course is playable and the Host Club Captain/Starter has the discretion to delay the start of play if weather conditions necessitate. Course conditions, remaining time available and, of course, player safety should be taken into account when deciding whether to continue, suspend for a time, or cancel play for the day. Generally, the round should be played if at all possible, and should not be cancelled unless the course is closed or becomes, and remains, unplayable.

10.3.2. If a course is closed to motorised transport, this in itself is not a reason to cancel the Contest. Club Captains will need to have contingencies in place to adjust their teams if motorised transport is not allowed. Team Captains should contact the Host Club Pro Shop for confirmation and contact the NHDLGA Captain as soon as possible.

10.3.3. On the morning of the scheduled round the Host Captain/Starter will be required to check with their Course Superintendent/Course Personnel at least 2 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the first match to determine if the course will be playable. In the likelihood of a course being unplayable, or if it is considered the course is likely to be unplayable, or that motorised transport will not be allowed, the Host Captain/Starter must notify the NHDLGA Captain, the host Pro shop and all affected Pennant Captains as soon as possible.

11. Order of Play of the Squad

11.1. Fifteen minutes before the programmed starting time of the first individual match, the Team Captains shall simultaneously exchange lists of players, together with their Golf Link numbers, exact GA handicaps, and the player's Daily Handicaps (Weekend Handicap Pennant & Handicap Pennant) that have been calculated after both team captains have consulted the course's Slope Handicap Chart. Any reserve player substituted must, at this point, have been included on the list of players in correct handicap order. After the lists have been exchanged, they may not be altered. Should a player on this list become unavailable to play after the exchange of lists, and circumstances that would warrant the waiving of the penalty of disqualification not being met, that match will be forfeited.

For example, Player 3 fails to arrive on time, her opposition claims a forfeit and subsequent matches continue as per the list.

11.2. Ten minutes before the programmed starting time, the Starter must be given a copy of the list of players as above.

11.3. Once a result has been reached in any individual match, players and their caddies **MUST** cease play.

11.4. No individual match shall go beyond the eighteenth (18th) hole.

11.5. **Scratch Pennant & Handicap Pennant**

Players must play in order of their GA handicap – lowest to highest. The handicap will be their current exact Golf Australia handicap at 6:00pm on the Thursday prior to the match. Should a player be played out of position, her individual match (i.e. the first match played out of order) will be forfeited, but no subsequent matches will be affected.

11.5.1. The exception to this condition is the case where a player is late and the penalty of disqualification has been waived (see condition 12). In this case, the player will play at the end of the programmed individual matches in her Team's contest. Her opponent will be the player who would have played against her if the individual matches had been played in correct order (i.e. in a contest between Team A and Team B, if player 3 in Team A is late, she will play Player 3 in Team B as the last of the programmed individual matches).

11.6. **Weekend Handicap Pennant**

Players will play in reverse GA handicap order, highest to lowest. This handicap will be their current exact Golf Australia handicap at 6:00pm on the Thursday prior to the match.

11.6.1. The exception to this condition is the case where a player is late and the penalty of disqualification has been waived (see Condition 12). In this case, the player will play at the end of the programmed individual matches in her Team's contest, playing as a pair. Her opponent will be the player who would have played against her if the individual matches had been played in correct order (i.e. in a contest between Team A and Team B, if player 3 in Team A is late, she will play Player 3 in Team B as the last of the programmed individual matches). The remaining players will play in groups of four.

12. Starting Time & Absent Players

All players from the Teams are requested to be present at the tee for **their Team start time** laid down by NHDLGA Match Committee. This is also to assist the Starter in being able to inform all players of any relevant information prior to tee off. Players may then leave the teeing area & continue to get themselves ready e.g practice putting, warm up in nets, bathroom break etc. before the starter calls them to the tee for their individual match. Due to there not being exact individual match tee times, it is up to the Starter to determine when to start each match &

all players are responsible to be present & ready for their match to begin. If it is determined that a player is not present on the tee when the Starter requests the match to begin, see R&A Rule 5.3a: When to Start Round. Penalty for breach of this rule is disqualification, except in the following instances;

Exception 1- If a player arrives at the starting point, ready to play, no more than 5 minutes late, the player gets the general penalty applied to their first hole. .i.e loss of the first hole.

Exception 2- Player starts no more than 5 minutes early: The player gets the general penalty applied to their first hole.

Exception 3- Committee decides that exceptional circumstances prevented a player from starting on time; There is no breach of this Rule & there is no penalty. See Appendix A.

- 12.1. If there is a dispute about a player not being present at the tee for the start of her match, as determined by the Starter, & if there is doubt as to the correct procedure, players are to continue with their match & then see section 15 in the COP.

13. Walkovers

- 13.1. 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 that division of the Pennant Competition for that year. All points gained by the opposing clubs against the said club shall be cancelled.
- 13.2. Teams shall not give their opponents a walkover if they are able to field at least more than half the number of players required.
- 13.3. Clubs with more than one team in the Scratch Pennant must ensure that the team in the higher Division is fielded first. If they are then unable to field the minimum number of players in their lower Division team, the walkover will affect the lower Division team.
- 13.4. A club unable to field a minimum number, as in Condition 13.2, on the fixed date, must first inform the NHDLGA Captain by phone as soon as possible and before contacting the Host Club or their opponent, that it must give a walkover.
- 13.5. Once confirmed by phone with the NHDLGA Captain, official notification of a walkover must be made in writing (email) to the NHDLGA Captain who will notify the Host Club and opposing Team. Once officially notified in writing, a walkover cannot be withdrawn.

14. Forfeits by Individual Players

- 14.1. If a Club is unable to field a full team, the NHDLGA Captain and the opposing Captain must be notified as soon as possible that the number of players in the Team is reduced. The Team must forfeit the last place or places. The Team receiving a forfeit or forfeits must give on the list the name or names of the players who receive the forfeit.
- 14.2. A forfeit, once officially notified, cannot be recalled. If the Captain of an opposing team is notified of any forfeit, she may advise the player receiving the forfeit that she is not required to arrive at the course.

15. Disputes and Claims

- 15.1. Players and Captains are strongly advised to acquaint themselves with R&A Rule 20.1b of the Rules of Golf regarding Rules Issues in Match Play.
- 15.2. Claims by players under Rule 20.1b must be made to the Captain/Starter of the Host Club immediately upon the conclusion of the individual match. If the Captain/Starter is unwilling or unable to decide the claim, she must refer the matter to the NHDLGA Captain/Committee.
- 15.3. The Captain of any team may protest any breach of the NHDLGA Pennant Conditions made by any other team. All such protests must be made in writing (email) to the NHDLGA Captain and may be lodged only by the Club Captain or her Deputy as soon as possible, and not later than 48 hours after 5:00pm of the day of the match. The Team Captain or her Deputy must also inform the opposing Captain or official of that Club, no later than 48 hours after 5.00pm of the day of the match, of her intention to appeal and her grounds for doing so.
- 15.4. All disputes shall be settled by the NHDLGA Match Committee, whose decision shall be final.

16. Results.

At the completion of play, an official of the Host Club must fill in a Result Sheet, which must be signed by the Captains and/or Team Captains of the Teams involved. It is the responsibility of the Host Club to forward the Result Sheet to the NHDLGA Captain asap by email on the day.

17. General Conditions

- 17.1. **Caddies:** are allowed. See R&A Rule 10.3a & 10.3c- Players are responsible for their Caddie's actions & breach of Rules. Players are only allowed one Caddy at any time.

- 17.2. **Advice:** only a player's caddy may give advice. Team mates and spectators are not permitted to give advice to a player during her individual match.
- 17.3. **Motorised transport:** motorised transport is permitted.
17.3.1. The NHDLGA Match Committee will not accept responsibility for the availability of motorised transport or whether or not permission is granted to use motorised transport at venue Clubs.
- 17.4. **Pace of Play:** each match needs to maintain its position on the course with respect to the match preceding it.
- 17.5.1 **Mobile Phones:** the audible emission and/or unauthorised use of a mobile phone (including texting) by a player or her caddy on a Golf course and during play is distracting, inconsiderate and is prohibited. The penalty for a breach of this Condition is:
17.5.1. Accidental ringing of phone or texting: a warning for first offence.
- 17.5.2. A second offence is considered a Serious Breach of Etiquette and the player will incur the General Penalty- (loss of hole).
- 17.6. If a player requires to have a mobile phone for communication during their Match, it should only be done for emergencies. She should also inform her opponent at the beginning of their Match.
- 17.7. **Distance Measuring Devices:** a player may obtain distance information using a device that measures distance only. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that has non-conforming features (e.g. gradient, wind speed, etc.), they are not in breach of R&A Rule 4.3a(1) & (2) provided they do not use the non-conforming features. The penalty for a Player's first breach of R&A Rule 4.3a(1) & (2) is loss of hole. The penalty for any subsequent breach is disqualification. This condition applies irrespective of any Local Rule that may or may not be in effect at the Host Club.
- 17.8. **Practice:** visiting or home teams may practice on the course prior to the nominated starting time.

18. NHDLGA Pennant Conditions of Play.

It is the responsibility of each Club Captain to ensure that each team member has received, read and understood the 2021 NHDLGA Pennant Conditions of Play prior to play for the 2021 Pennant Season. Where a Rule is mentioned, e.g: Condition 17.7 mentions R&A Rule 4.3a(1) & (2), the full explanation of that or any other Rule can be found in the current issue of the R&A Rules of Golf.

APPENDIX A: Player Late for Starting Time: Guidelines for Waiving the Penalty of Disqualification (Rule 5.3a)

1. The following are circumstances which may warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification:
 - 1.1. Major Accident: a major accident is one that involves multiple collisions and/or closures of major traffic routes.
 - 1.2. First on Scene at Accident to provide medical assistance or act as Witness for Police.
 - 1.3. Unforeseen mechanical problems requiring assistance e.g. car will not start because of flat battery or flat tyre. Validation of a mechanic or NRMA must be produced.
2. Players should leave sufficient time to allow for unforeseen circumstances while travelling to matches. The following are not valid reasons for waiving the penalty for disqualification under R&A Rule 5.3a: getting lost; heavy traffic; misreading the draw or starting times.
3. In all cases, if a player is delayed and her explanation is accepted so disqualification is waived, she must be at the course ready to play within 5 minutes of the last match of her team having hit off.
No additional 5 minutes applies.

APPENDIX B: Hot Weather Conditions

These conditions apply in the event of abnormally high temperatures expected for a Pennant Round.

1. The predicted temperature from the Bureau of Meteorology for the location of the round to be played will be checked by the Match Committee at 5pm the day before play.
2. If the predicted temperature is expected to equal or exceed 38° C, the round will be cancelled and the matches halved between the teams. Each team drawn will receive 1 point for the drawn match plus 2 points (4 players in a team), 2½ points (5 players in a team), or 3½ points (7 players in a team).
3. The Pennant contacts will be advised by email as soon as possible after 5:00pm on the day before play of the Match Committee's decision.

4. It is the responsibility of the Pennant Contacts to ensure that all their players are aware of the Match Committee's decision prior to the start of play.
5. At all times during hot weather, the Hot Weather Guidelines (see Appendix B: 2 above) for dealing with heat and recognising heat related illnesses, should be adopted.

APPENDIX C: Balanced Match play Index with matches starting on 1st Hole:

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

Balanced Match play Index with matches starting on 10th Hole:

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