

**2025**

**Pennant**

**Conditions of Play**  
(COP)  
V3 (2 Feb 25)



# NEWCASTLE HUNTER DISTRICT LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION INC

## Pennant Conditions of Play 2025

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.

“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.

“Finals Contest”- a match between two clubs in the Finals of a Pennant.

### 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 two (2) competitions available for club entry:  
Scratch Pennant in (2) Divisions,  
Handicap Pennant – Bronze North and South and Weekend Pennants.
- 1.3. Unless approved by the District Captain, Clubs may enter only one team in each of the following: Scratch Pennant, Bronze Handicap Pennant Competitions and Weekend Handicap Pennant.

### 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 into the competition.
- 2.3. Provide a Starter/Official who is responsible for starting the field, advising the players of any local rules and informing the players of the name & mobile number of the Official who will deal with all matters at their club and advise players accordingly. The Official is the person that players should refer to when they need advice on rules or adverse weather conditions leading to deterioration of the course or any other matters that may arise.
- 2.4. Official Role of the Host Club  
The Host Club must provide a person who has the authority to assist players and who will monitor wet weather situations. This person must be available and able to deal with any issue that arises during the day of the match played at their club. The Official must have the authority to make a course assessment as to whether play should continue, be delayed or be cancelled. If prior to the day of the match, the course condition is deemed dangerous or unsuitable for play the Host Club should inform the District and all Clubs by 10am Sunday for Monday Matches or 10am Saturday for Weekend Matches. They must also inform Clubs if Carts are not allowed. Once Clubs have been notified regardless of changes by the Host Club carts will still not be allowed for matches on that day. At the completion of play or after cancellation of matches, the official of the Host Club must fill in a Result Sheet, which must be signed by representatives of the daily competing teams. The official does not have the authority to make decisions on the results of the matches or whether the matches will be replayed as this will be carried out by the NHDLGA Committee after results are received. We also encourage Host Clubs to provide Marshalls on the day to avoid slow play.

- 2.5. It is the responsibility of the Host Club to forward the Result Sheet to the NHDLGA Captain by email 6.00pm 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 two (2) divisions. All teams shall consist of seven players - playing in the following order  
Pair 1 & 2 Match 1  
Pair 3 & 4 Match 2  
Pair 5 & 6 Match 3  
Pair 7 SOLO Match 4
- 4.2. The competition is Individual Match Play without the benefit of handicap.
- 4.3. Promotion and Relegation of Divisions 1 & 2 shall be decided by the NHDLGA Committee.
- 4.4. Unless approved by the District Captain, Clubs may only enter one team in the Scratch Pennant competition. If a Club has been approved for more than 1 team in the Scratch Pennant Competition, Clubs must allocate their players in exact GA handicap order across the squad. Division 1 containing players with the lowest GA handicaps. The No 7 Player in the Div 1 team will have a GA handicap lower or equal to the No 1 Player in the Div 2 team.
- 4.5. Captains select their Player/s in all divisions within the Squad according to their GA handicaps at 6.00pm on the Thursday prior to the match/s. Any change to a player's GA handicap after this time will not require a change to their position in the team/s unless a player already named is unable to play in their upcoming match & is replaced.
- 4.6. 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 Pennant competition and will be demoted on the point score. 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.
- 4.7. A player who has played in their Club's Scratch Pennant competition may play in their Club's Weekend Pennant competition (when applicable) but may not substitute into the Bronze Pennant competition. **Note** - exception to this – see section 5.7.
- 4.8. 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.
- 4.9. The NHDLGA will be awarding an "Undeclared Player Award" for 2025. This is awarded to any Player who has played all rounds during the season & has won or squared all their matches.

### 5. Bronze Pennant

- 5.1 The NHDLGA allows Clubs to enter only one team in the Bronze Pennant competition. There is only one Bronze Pennant competition with 7 players per team playing in 4's. in the following order  
Pair 1 & 2 Match 1  
Pair 3 & 4 Match 2  
Pair 5 & 6 Match 3  
Pair 7 SOLO Match 4
- 5.2 The competition is Individual Match Play using the full Daily Handicap difference and the Balanced Match Play Index, see Appendix "D". There is no minimum GA handicap in this division. There is a maximum daily handicap of 36 for all players participating. A player on a higher daily handicap than 36 is permitted to play in the Bronze Pennant but must play off the maximum daily handicap of 36 on the day.

- 5.3 The Bronze Pennant will be made up of two divisions- North & South. Teams placed in each division will primarily be determined based on the location of the club.  
The South Division will consist of the following clubs: Toronto, Maitland, Merewether, Belmont Charlestown and Waratah  
The North Division will consist of the following clubs: Hawks Nest, Nelson Bay, Pacific Dunes Tanilba Bay and Newcastle.
- 5.4 Matches will commence in GA order lowest to highest.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 A player who has already played in a Bronze Pennant round, may play as a substitute twice, in any of their Club's Scratch Pennant Team/s. They will then be able to return to play in their Bronze Team. If a player is required to substitute more than 2 times, permission must be sought from the District Captain, by email, at least 48 hours prior to scheduled round.
- 5.7 **In Round 1**, a player who has played in any of the Scratch pennant team/s, or named in a Scratch Bye team, is permitted to play in the Bronze competition. However, for any further rounds a player named in a scratch team/s is not permitted to play in the Bronze competition.

## 6. Weekend Pennants

- 6.1. The NHDLGA allows Clubs to enter only one team in the Weekend 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 "D." Maximum Daily handicap is 36. Any player with a Daily 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 Bronze Pennant competition, may also play in the Weekend Pennant competition.
- 6.4. If a player is placed in an incorrect position in the team, that player shall be disqualified for that match. Players must play in GA handicap order, lowest to highest.

## 7. Conditions of The Competition/The Match Committee

- 7.1. The NHDLGA 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 to optimise participation.
- 7.2. The Match 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 & Finals Contest 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 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 COP.
- 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 beginning from the Team time slot, with each match following on from the other for the Scratch, Bronze and Weekend Pennant (8 minute intervals)
- 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. Points will be allocated as follows: 1 point for an individual win, and 1/2 point for an individual draw. No additional Team points will be awarded.

- 9.2. 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.

### **Deciding Ties**

- 9.3. If there is a tie for first place, a countback method will be used to determine the winner. In the event of a tie in total points gained in Team Contests after all rounds are completed, the number of team wins shall be used to determine the winner.
- 9.3.1 If the Teams are still tied, the points gained for the Individual wins during the competition shall then be used to determine the winner.
- 9.3.2 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.

## **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 & Bronze Pennant, only 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 squared sufficient to win the contest, that team shall be awarded 1 point for an individual win, or 0.5 point for an individual draw. Any individual matches not completed will be classified as a draw and awarded accordingly.
- 10.3. Where all play is cancelled without any individual matches having been completed, except for rounds already rescheduled, these matches will be regarded as being halved, and each team drawn on the day will receive 3½ points (7 players in team)  
This condition will apply to all Scratch Pennant rounds and Bronze 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 considered when deciding whether to continue, suspend for a time, or cancel play for the day. Generally, the round should be played, if 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 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.

## **11. Order of Play**

- 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 (Bronze 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 GA 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 (18<sup>th</sup>) hole.

11.5. **Scratch Pennant and Bronze 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, the 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).

**12. Starting Time & Absent Players**

All players from the Teams are advised to be present at the tee 5 minutes prior to their Team start time laid down by NHDLGA Committee, to assist the starter to inform all players of any relevant information prior to tee off. Players may then leave the tee off 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 to start (i.e., in 8 minute intervals from Team start time on the draw).

If it is discovered that a player is not present on the tee when the starter gives the go ahead for their individual match to begin, see R&A Rule 5.3a: Time of Starting. Penalty for breach of this is disqualification, except in the following instances:

**Exception 1-** If a player arrives at the starting point, ready to play, within 5 minutes after their individual match starting time, the General Penalty is applied to their first hole. i.e., loss of the first hole.

\* If a player arrives later than 5 minutes after their individual match starting time, the player is disqualified & the match is forfeited. (See Appendix B for proposed individual match tee times)

**Exception 2-** You start no more than 5 minutes early: The General Penalty is applied to your 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 their start time, & 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 that intends to forfeit, must forfeit the last place or places. The rest of the team shall move up to play the rest of the matches in GA order. The Team receiving a forfeit or forfeits must indicate on the list the name or names of the players who are to 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, they may advise the player/s receiving the forfeit that they are 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 R&A 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, they must refer the matter to the NHDLGA 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 their intention to appeal and the grounds for doing so.
- 15.4. All disputes shall be settled by the NHDLGA Committee, whose decision shall be final.

## 16. General Conditions

- 16.1. **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.
- 16.2. **Advice:** only a player's caddy may give advice. Teammates and spectators are not permitted to give advice to a player during an individual match.
- 16.3. **Motorised transport:** motorised transport is permitted.
  - 17.3.1. The NHDLGA Committee will not accept responsibility for the availability of motorised transport or whether permission is granted to use motorised transport at venue Clubs.
- 16.4. **Pace of Play:** each match needs to maintain it's position on the golf course with respect to the match preceding it.
- 16.5. **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).
  - 17.5.3 Any further breaches will result in disqualification.
- 16.6. Mobile phones may be used for GPS only as long as they are on Silent Mode.
- 16.7. **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.
- 16.8. **Practice:** visiting or home teams may practice on the course prior to the nominated starting time. This is at the discretion of the Host club.

## 17. 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 2025 NHDLGA Pennant Conditions of Play prior to play for the 2025 Pennant Season. Where a Rule is mentioned, e.g., Condition 17.7 mentions R&A Rule 4.3a(1) & (2), the full explanation that or any other Rule can be found in the current issue of the R&A Rules of Golf.

**18. Finals**

**Scratch Competition** - The winning team & the second placed team in each division in the Scratch competition will playoff in the Final. To be eligible to play in the final, a player must play (2) matches in the allocated rounds prior to the final (*Excluding the BYE Round*). The individual matches are to be played until a result is achieved & not limited to 18 holes with a point awarded to the match winner.

**Bronze Final** - The winning team from the North division with the highest point score & the winning team with the highest point score from the South Division will playoff in the Final. To be eligible to play in the final, a player must play (1) match in the allocated rounds prior to the final (*Excluding the BYE Round*). The individual matches are to be played until a result is achieved & not limited to 18 holes with a point awarded to the match winner.

- 18.1 When enough matches have been completed to decide THE CONTEST, no further matches will proceed beyond the 18<sup>th</sup> hole. If a match is drawn on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, a ½ point will be awarded to each player.
- 18.2 Play will commence in GA order lowest to highest.

**APPENDIX A: Player Late for Starting Time: Guidelines for Waiving the Penalty of Disqualification (R&A 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: Match Starting Times**

- 1. **Scratch Matches:** The first match is to commence at the time set down by the NHDLGA Committee on the draw. The remaining matches are to commence in 8-minute intervals.  
**Bronze Matches:** The first match is to commence at the time set down by the NHDLGA committee on the draw. The remaining matches are to commence in 8-minute intervals.  
**Weekend Matches:** The first match is to commence at the time set down by the NHDLGA committee on the draw. The remaining matches are to commence in 8-minute intervals.

**APPENDIX C: 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 40° C, the round will be cancelled, and the matches halved between the teams. Each team drawn will receive 2 points (4 players in a team, when applicable), 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 C: 2 above) for dealing with heat and recognising heat related illnesses, should be adopted.

**APPENDIX D:**

**Balanced Match play Index with matches starting on 1<sup>st</sup> Hole:**

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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Match Index	18	8	12	3	14	6	10	1	16	5	11	2	15	7	13	4	17	9
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**Balanced Match play Index with matches starting on 10<sup>th</sup> 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