



BALLARAT DISTRICT GOLF INCORPORATED – 2026 PENNANT CONDITIONS

1. Definitions:

- i. The Pennant competition is under the control of the BDGI Match Committee.
- ii. The number of competing Clubs in any Division will be determined by the Match Committee.
- iii. The competition between two Member Clubs' teams is known as a 'contest'.
- iv. A contest consists of five, six or seven match play matches between each Club's individual players.
- v. The contests grouped together in the draw generally played at the same venue on the same day is a 'round'.
- vi. A contest is 'decided' when all matches have been completed.

2. Format

2.1 General:

- i. Pennant is a Club teams scratch, or handicap match play competition played between Member Clubs of BDGI.
- ii. The competitions are separated into Divisions according to team entry numbers.
- iii. A pennant season consists of 'Round Robin' rounds of contests between Clubs in each Division, followed by a Final.
- iv. Individual match play matches will be played under the current R&A & USGA *Rules of Golf*. Any local rules/temporary local rules determined by the Host Club, Match Committee and/or Championship Committee will be applicable.

2.2 Divisions:

- i. Women - Refer to Appendix A for additional rules.
- ii. Weekend Pennant - Refer to Appendix B for additional rules.
- iii. The Match Committee will determine the most equitable and practical solution to the Division allocation for all teams.

2.3. Draw:

- i. The draw for each competition will be determined by the Match Committee.
- ii. Unless determined otherwise by the Match Committee or the Championship Committee, each contest will be played at the venue and at times and from the tees allocated.
- iii. A shot gun or multi-tee start will be organised where applicable.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Clubs:

- i. Each Member Club may enter teams into the Pennant competition according to the 'Entry Conditions'.
- ii. Each Member Club entering teams must make their course available as a venue when required and are responsible for the course set up on the day of competition.
- iii. Each Member Club participating in any Pennant competition must be financial in accordance with the BDGI Constitution and By-Laws prior to the first round of the season. Any Club that does not satisfy this requirement may be precluded from participating in that season's competition(s) or forfeit contests played during the period it was unfinancial.

3.2 Players:

- i. A player is eligible for Pennant if they are an amateur paid financial member with playing rights of the Club they represent as at the date of the contest for which they are selected.
- ii. No player may represent more than one Member Club in any one season of BDGI Pennant.
- iii. No player may represent more than one team in the same Division if their Member Club enters two teams.
- iv. If a Club is in a position of not having enough eligible players to compete in a final, they may make written application to the BDGI Match Committee for special consideration for another player to substitute.
- v. The penalty for an ineligible player competing in a Pennant match is loss of the specific individual match.
- vi. Women - Refer to Appendix A for additional rules.
- vii. Weekend Pennant - Refer to Appendix B for additional rules.

Note: A player is eligible to compete in Women's Pennant if she complies with Golf Australia's trans-gender policy.

4. Contest conditions

4.1 Team Lists:

- i. Women - Refer to Appendix A for additional rules.
- ii. Weekend Pennant - Refer to Appendix B for additional rules.
- iii. The penalties for late or no submission of a team list are as follows:

Team list not submitted: Penalty:

By 15 minutes prior to scheduled hit-off time.	The team's No. 5/7 player will lose the 1 st hole of their match. Play will commence from the 2 nd hole to be played.
By 10 minutes prior to scheduled hit-off time.	The team's No. 5/7 player will lose their match.
Prior to scheduled hit-off time.	The team will lose the contest.

4.2 Handicap Match Play:

- i. Women - Refer to Appendix A for additional rules.
- ii. Weekend Pennant - Refer to Appendix B for additional rules.

4.3 Starting tees, late arrival, player substitution and walkovers:

- i. Contests will commence from the designated starting tees at the times and in the order advised by the Host Club or the Championship Committee.
- ii. If a player/s is/are unduly delayed in transit to the venue and the Host Club is notified, every attempt will be made to accommodate the player/s.
- iii. As specified by Rule of Golf 5-3a; If a player arrives at their starting tee, ready to play, within five minutes after their starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the 1st hole instead of disqualification. Play will commence from the 2nd hole to be played.
- iv. If both players arrive at the starting tee, ready to play, within five minutes after the starting time, play will commence from the 2nd hole with the match all square.
- v. If a nominated player is not in attendance or is otherwise unable to play when required to do so, an emergency may be immediately substituted for the nominated player, but only in that player's listed team position. An emergency player can only be substituted up to and including the hit-off time of the listed player who has failed to appear.
- vi. If a team consists of fewer than 5, 6 or 7 (allocated number of players), walkovers will be given from the 5th, 6th or 7th position accordingly.
- vii. If a Club intends to give a walkover in an individual match or a contest, the captain or manager of the opposing team and the host club should be notified prior to the match or contest; if possible, on the day prior to the contest. If a walkover has been given, the opposing player or team need not be present on the day of the match or contest and cannot be rescinded.

4.4 Honour, match duration and hit-off order:

- i. Round Robin - Players from the first-named team on the draw have the honour on the designated starting tee in all matches.
- ii. Final – Players from the team that finished on top of the ladder have the honour on the designated starting tee in all matches.
- iii. All matches will be played over eighteen holes of match play from the tee markers as directed by the Host Club.
- iv. Individual matches will be played in order beginning with the No. 5, 6 or 7 players and concluding with the No. 1 (best) players if a shot gun start is not used.
- v. It is the responsibility of the Number 1 Player's from each Team to make sure that the players in their team hit off the starting tee in the correct order. Failure to do so may see player/s disqualified.
- vi. Once play has commenced in any match, the penalty for any player playing in the incorrect team position is disqualification (loss of match).
Exception: If an emergency player is substituting for a listed player.

4.5 Pace of play:

- i. All matches are expected to complete 18 holes in a maximum time of 3 hours and 45 minutes if playing in twos, or 4 hours and 30 minutes if playing in fours. In exceptional circumstances (such as extreme weather/playing conditions), the Championship Committee has the authority to modify this time requirement.

4.6 Suspension of play and abandonment of contests:

- i. In the event of heavy rain, lightning, fog, extreme heat, unplayable course conditions or for any other reason, the Host Club or Championship Committee will be responsible for deciding whether to suspend or resume play.
- ii. When the course is ready for play, players will be advised to return to their various locations.
- iii. Every effort should be made to complete all contests on the scheduled day.
- iv. If the Host Club or Championship Committee determines that completion of Pennant is not possible on the scheduled day and less than half the contests have been decided, the round will be abandoned. All teams competing on the day will be allocated one 'Match Point' for a drawn contest.
- v. If the Host Club or Championship Committee determines that completion of Pennant is not possible on the scheduled day and at least half the contests have been decided, results of all unfinished matches will be declared a square.

Note:

In the event of extreme heat, the Host Club or Championship Committee will act in accordance with the GA Heat Policy, as stated on the GA website, www.golf.org.au.

4.7 Practice:

- i. Players are not permitted to practise on the course on the day of competition prior to the commencement of their matches.
- ii. Breach of this condition will be disqualification of the player or players involved.
- iii. Prior to the commencement of their matches, players may practise on the designated practice areas of the Host Club.

4.8 Caddies:

Players are permitted a Caddy, which can be a Professional Golfer.

4.9 Locomotion:

- i. Players are permitted to ride in or on any form of mechanical locomotion during the play of a hole.
- ii. Players are permitted to share ride if agreed with the owner/hirer of the mechanical locomotion. To assist the pace of play, players may utilise mechanical locomotion to transport a player and/or caddie without penalty.

Ballarat District accepts no responsibility for the availability of automotive locomotion at Host Clubs.

The availability and priority of mechanical locomotion should go to those who have a medical certificate.

The use of mechanical locomotion must not provide the player or caddie with a benefit greater than a walking player or caddie may achieve.

4.10 Team Manager:

- i. Each team may appoint a team manager.
- ii. The team manager must be a member or employee of the team's Club.

4.11 Distance Measuring Devices:

- i. Players may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. However, if during a Pennant match, a player uses a distance measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect their play (eg. gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule of Golf 4-3a (1), for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used.

Note: The use of a distance measuring device that has a compass as one of its features, such as a 'Smart Phone', is specifically precluded.

4.12 Dress, footwear and course requirements:

- i. Players and caddies are required to wear footwear and adhere to dress codes in accordance with the Host Club policy.
- ii. Penalty for breach: Disqualification of player.

5. Adjudication

5.1 Host Club:

- i. The Host Club is responsible for administering the competition at the venue, monitoring slow play (and issuing penalties if required) and determining any Rules of Golf dispute which may arise or is referred to it.
- ii. The Host Club/BDGI Match Committee is responsible for the allocation of tees and sending out the field.
- iii. The Host Club is responsible for the return of results to the BDGI Pennant Secretary.
- iv. All 'Team Sheets' must be returned with the 'Results Sheet'.
- v. Sheets must be delivered, text, emailed or posted if absolutely necessary.
- vi. Women - Refer to Appendix A for additional rules.

5.2 Individual complaint:

- i. Women - Refer to Appendix A for additional rules.
- ii. Weekend Pennant - Refer to Appendix B for additional rules.
- iii. All complaints will be dealt with at a meeting of the BDGI Match Committee.

6. Results

6.1 Individual player's results:

- i. Individual players will play Scratch/Handicap Match Play for 18 holes, or until a result is decided.
- ii. The result will be recorded as the number of holes up against number of holes left to play. (Eg. 4/3)
- iii. Women - Refer to Appendix A for additional rules.
- iv. Men - Refer to Appendix B for additional rules.

6.2 Contest results:

- i. The result of the contest between two teams will be calculated by adding up the number of individual matches won.
- ii. The team with the highest number of individual matches wins the contest. If the number of wins is even, then a draw will be declared.
- iii. All walkovers will be recorded as 10 & 8 loses and will be taken in to account should two teams tie for a finals birth.

6.3 Ladders:

- i. Teams will be awarded 2 points for a contest win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss of contest.
- ii. Each team's individual wins and losses will also be recorded for percentage purposes.
- iii. Prior to the final round, Division ladders will be calculated as follows:
 - a. teams are positioned on their ladder in descending order of points for contests won.
 - b. teams tied on contests won are ordered by number of individual matches won.
 - c. teams still tied are ordered by the result of the most recent contest in the current season between the two teams.
 - d. if the contest was undecided or the teams have not played each other in the current season, teams still tied are ordered alphabetically.
- iv. At the conclusion of the last round of a season, teams still tied after 6.3 iii. (c) above and who are being considered for playing in a Final, will be ordered by the following method:
 1. The number of matches won by the player or players who played in the number 1 position during the current season.
 2. In the event of teams still being tied, the number of matches won by the player or players who played in the number 2 position during the current season.
 3. In the event of teams still being tied, the number of matches won by the player or players who played in the number 3 position during the current season.
 4. In the event of teams still being tied, the number of matches won by the player or players who played in the number 4 position during the current season.
 5. In the event of teams still being tied, the number of matches won by the player or players who played in the number 5 position during the current season.
 6. In the event of teams still being tied, the number of matches won by the player or players who played in the number 6 position during the current season.
 7. In the event of teams still being tied, the number of matches won by the player or players who played in the number 7 position during the current season.

8. If teams are still tied after completing this process, the matter will be referred to the Match Committee for a decision.
- v. No contest or match wins will be awarded to any team receiving a bye.

6.4 Finals and Divisional Winners:

- i. Women - Refer to Appendix A for additional rules.
- ii. Weekend Pennant - Refer to Appendix B for additional rules.
- iii. A player must have played a minimum of two games in that team to be eligible to play in finals including any semi-finals.
- iv. Players are allowed to move between divisions but not allowed to move within the same Division.
- v. If for unusual conditions or circumstances a player who qualified to play in finals cannot play, the Match Committee can approve the use of a substitute player even though that player may not have played the minimum of two games.
- vi. In the Finals, all individual matches must continue until a result is determined.
- vii. In the Finals, if the result of a contest has already been determined, individual matches may be declared a square.
- viii. The winner of each Division will be the team winning the Final.
- ix. If in a Final the contest is not decided and play is suspended, and is unable to be resumed on that day, play will be resumed on a day and at a time to be determined by Match Committee in consultation with the Host Club.
- x. In the event of a Final not being decided and not being able to be resumed, the higher-placed team on the ladder at the conclusion of the round robin contests will be declared the winner.
- xi. Divisional winning teams will be presented with a plaque and medals in recognition of this achievement.
- xii. Members of the winning teams will be presented with mementos in recognition of their achievement.

7. Code of Conduct

- i. All players, caddies and club officials are required to abide by GA's Code of Conduct and/or BDGI Code of Conduct
- ii. In the event that a person is reported for a possible breach of the GA Code of Conduct, such report will be considered by BDGI's Match Committee.
- iii. The GA Code of Conduct and Disciplinary procedures can be found on the Golf Australia website, www.golf.org.au.
- iv. Any player suspended from a club will be dealt with on a case by case basis by the BDGI Match committee and maybe allowed to compete at the discretion of the BDGI Match Committee.
- v. If a suspended player is given approval by the BDGI Match committee to compete any member club that the player is suspended from may request that the player be ineligible to be able to compete in a round hosted by that member club.

APPENDIX A – Applicable to WOMEN’S PENNANT ONLY

2.2 Divisions:

- i. When it is determined that a Pennant competition requires separate Divisions, the Match Committee will allocate Clubs to those Divisions according to the handicap range of each team entered.

3.2 Players:

- i. A player is ineligible to compete in a lower Division if she plays two matches in a higher Division in the current Pennant season, with Division One being the highest Division.
- ii. A player is eligible to compete in a final if she has played two or more matches in the current Pennant season. If a Division has five teams or less, then only one match needs to be played.
- iii. Should a Club receive a walkover during the season, their players for that day will be recorded as having competed and won their match 10/8, therefore counting towards Finals eligibility, providing a ‘Team Sheet’ has been submitted on the day. Both Teams MUST notify each other and the Host Club via email and telephone.

4.1 Team Lists:

- i. A representative of each team must hand into the Host Club the list of team members in numerical order from the No. 1 (lowest handicap) player to the No. 5 (highest handicap) player, no later than 20 minutes prior to the scheduled hit-off time for the first match of the team’s contest.
- ii. An identical team list must also be handed to the opposing team/captain.
- iii. Players must use their current handicaps with slope adjustment for the course being played.
- iv. Players must be listed in ‘Daily Handicap’ order on the team list.

4.2 Handicap Match Play:

- i. Individual players must calculate the number of strokes to be given by taking three-quarters of the handicap difference. **Please note:** Daily handicaps for the course being played to be used. (Subtract the lowest handicap from the highest and refer to ‘Handicap Calculation’ Sheet for the number of strokes to be given.)
- ii. Strokes must be given according to the ‘Australian Match Play Index’, which will be available for all players at the Clubs.

5.1 Host Club:

- i. The Host Club is responsible for the organisation of morning tea and lunch for players.

5.2 Individual complaint:

- i. Issues affecting individual players must be lodged verbally with one of the Match Committee Head Pauline Murphy (0411 165 301) on the day of the infringement.
- ii. A written explanation **must** then be sent to Pauline Murphy Women’ Golf Ops paulinetmurphy41@gmail.com within three days.

6.1 Individual player’s results:

- i. During the Round Robin competition, any match that is square after 18 holes will be a squared result.

6.4 Finals and Divisional Winners:

- i. At the conclusion of the round robin contests, the leading two teams will qualify to compete in Divisional Finals.

8. Other relevant information:

- i. All matches to commence at 9:30 am.
- ii. If an individual player intends to use a caddy, please contact the Host Club for catering purposes.

- iii. All results to be returned to the BDGI Women's Pennant Secretary Lyn Wells as soon as possible after play.
Email results to Lyn Wells lyn_wells@fastmail.com.au
- iv. Results and Ladders will be entered on the BDGI website: www.bdga.com.au

APPENDIX B – Applicable to WEEKEND PENNANT ONLY

2.2 Divisions:

- i. When it is determined that a Pennant competition requires separate Divisions, the Match Committee will allocate Clubs to those Divisions according to the location of each team entered.

3.2 Players:

- i. A player is eligible to compete in a final if he has played two or more matches in the current Pennant season in that division.
- ii. Should a Club receive a walkover during the season, their players for that day will be recorded as having competed and won their match 10/8, therefore counting towards Finals eligibility, providing a 'Team Sheet' has been submitted on the day. Both Teams MUST notify each other and the Host Club via email and telephone.

4.1 Team Lists:

- i. A representative of each team must complete the Team Sheet with the first and last name of each player, no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled hit-off time for the first match of the team's contest.
- ii. An identical team list must also be handed to the opposing team/captain.
- iii. Players playing Scratch Match Play can be listed in any order on the team list.
- iv. Players playing Handicap Match Play must be listed in 'Daily Handicap' order on the team list. Players must be listed in numerical order from the No. 1 (lowest handicap) player to the No. 5/7 (highest handicap) player.
- v. Players playing Handicap Match Play must use their current handicaps with slope adjustment for the course being played up to **maximum of 27**.
- vi. **Clubs** that fail to attend two contests will be disqualified from the competition and the results table for that Division will be adjusted, reflecting a bye for games played against that Club.

4.2 Handicap Match Play:

- i. Individual players must calculate the number of strokes to be given by calculating the handicap difference. **Please note:** Daily handicaps for the course being played to be used. (Subtract the lowest handicap from the highest and give strokes on the hardest holes.)
- ii. Strokes must be given according to the 'Match Play Index'. If unavailable the 'Stroke Index' is to be used.

5.2 Individual complaint:

- i. Issues affecting individual players must be lodged verbally with one of the Match Committee Head (Robert Rosenow 0408 532 040) on the day of the infringement.
- ii. A written explanation **must** then be sent to (Jeanette Tocchet, secretary@bdga.com.au) within three days.

6.1 Individual player's results:

- i. During the Round Robin competition, any match that is square after 18 holes will be a squared result.

6.4 Finals and Divisional Winners:

- i. **Scratch Pennant-** At the conclusion of the round robin contests, the leading two teams will qualify to compete in Divisional Finals.
- ii. **Division Two -** At the conclusion of the round robin contests, the leading team will qualify to compete in Divisional Finals. Teams ending 2nd and 3rd after the conclusion of the round robin series will play off in a Semi-Final with the winner to compete in the Divisional Final.
- iii. **Handicap Pennant-** At the conclusion of the round robin contests, the leading two teams will qualify to compete in the Divisional Final.
- iv. **Seniors Pennant-** At the conclusion of the round robin contests, the leading two teams will qualify to compete in Divisional Finals.

8. Other relevant information:

Scratch Pennant- Seven players per team playing Scratch Match Play.

Division Two – Five players per team with max GA Handicap of 65. All players will play Handicap Match Play and will be played in handicap order. If there are insufficient teams to make a viable competition the Match Committee may with mutual agreement from the competing teams play all Handicap Match play, but the maximum aggregate GA Handicap will remain at 65 or less.

Handicap Pennant- Five players per team playing Handicap Match Play. (No Handicap Limit)

Depending on the number of teams, the Handicap Pennant Division maybe split into two conferences with the top of the ladder in each conference after normal round robin will play off in the final.

Senior's Pennant- Seven players per team playing Handicap Match play. Three singles matches and two 4BBB matches consisting of two players per team (No Handicap Limit). All players must be 50 years or above.

Depending on the number of teams, the Senior's Pennant Division maybe split into two conferences with the top of the ladder in each conference after normal round robin will play off in the final.

Playing Groups: All Scratch Matches will be played in groups of four during the round robin and then groups of two during the final. All other Matches will be played in groups of four. No. 1 Players from Match 1 will play with No. 1 Players from Match 2, and so on.

- i. All results to be returned to Rob Rosenow treasurer@bdga.com.au or 0408 532 040 or secretary@bdga.com.au as soon as possible after play.
- ii. Results and Ladders will be recorded in GolfBox and added on the BDGI website: www.bdga.com.au and forwarded to Team Managers.

UPDATED FEB 2026