



## NORTH-EASTERN DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION

### PENNANT RULES 2023

Application for participation shall be made to the District Secretary and should be made prior to the Annual General Meeting in the year prior to the competition. Eligibility to compete is restricted to Member Clubs and Associate Member Clubs of the Association.

#### **PENNANTS TO BE PLAYED FOR**

- Division 1 Scratch (Play for the **Bernie Bell Cup**)
- Division 2 Scratch (Play for the **R & V Cowan Shield**)
- Handicap Section 1
- Handicap Section 2
- Handicap Section 3
- Junior Handicap
- Ladies Handicap

#### **COMPETITION AND TEAM SIZES**

- No division or section shall have more than six (6) teams
- All teams shall consist of five (5) players

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

- A player must be a financial member of the Club they wish to represent. (NB. See special conditions for Junior Handicap)
- The player must have an official Australian handicap and Golfink number.
- Participating Clubs must have paid the relevant affiliation to NEDGA and Golf Victoria (Except MDGA Clubs). Associate Member Clubs must have paid their relevant NEDGA fees.
- A player may only represent one Club in the NEDGA pennant in any one year.
- The third match played in a higher Division debars a player from moving back to a lower Division in that year. (Exception: See Finals Eligibility)
- The order of Pennant Competition is deemed to be Division 1 followed by Division 2. There are no ranking orders in Handicap Pennant.



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- If a Club has more than one team in Division 2, players from either team may be promoted to the Division 1 team but may only return to their original Division 2 team. A player starting in Division 1 may be demoted to either Division 2 team initially.
- If a Club has more than one team in any Division or Section, a player having played a match in any one of those teams is tied to that team for the remainder of the season and may not play in any other team.
- Any member of an NEDGA Club, Associate NEDGA Club or MDGA Club shall not be able to play for another Club in the competition once the pennant season has commenced (i.e. once the first match has been played in any Division or Section)
- Clubs with more than one team in Division 2 must submit the squad of players for each team to the Executive by the Friday preceding the first round.
- Additional players may be added to each squad.
- A player, having played a game in a Handicap Section, may not play for another team in either the same or different Section this includes being named in an abandoned round. The player may be promoted to a Scratch Division representing the same Club.

### RULES OF PLAY

- All matches will be played under the Rules of Golf, Rules of Match Play competition and the Local Rules of the Hosting Club.
- In Handicap Pennant for Men and Juniors strokes are to be taken according to the Stableford Index and Women according to the International Index of the Hosting Club.
- The Hosting Club shall determine which tee markers are to be used, with a preference for the Blue markers if possible.

### GOLF CARTS

- **Scratch Pennant:** Golf carts are permitted in pennant matches provided a statement from a doctor or appropriate medical person can be produced on demand, or it is agreed to by the player's opponent's captain.
- **Handicap Pennant:** Golf carts are permitted in pennant matches with no certificate or medical statement requirements.



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### **COMMENCEMENT TIME**

- The recommended starting time for all pennant matches is 10.00am. Variations to this time, if known prior to the commencement of the competition, will be recorded on the official pennant draw and course allocation document.
- Host Clubs may alter the starting time by arrangement with all other teams providing they give seven (7) days' notice to all teams involved. Clubs need a valid reason to alter the starting time and are obliged to be present at the conclusion of play each week for the announcement to be made.
- Play will usually commence from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> tees. However, Clubs are at liberty to use extra tees to get as many players back to the clubhouse at a similar time.
- On 9-Hole courses, the Host Club may determine extra starting holes.
- In the event of a player arriving late, that player shall be penalized as follows:
  1. 6 minutes, loss of 1<sup>st</sup> hole
  2. 12 minutes, loss of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> holes
  3. 18 minutes, loss of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> holes
  4. 24 minutes, loss of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> holes
  5. 30 minutes, loss of match 10/8
- In the event of the whole team being 30 minutes late without an acceptable excuse, the contest shall be forfeited.
- In the event of a Club not being able to field a full team, that team shall forfeit the last place or places, which shall be recorded as 10/8 loss or losses. In all Divisions and Sections, the first match lost is the No 5 match.
- A team must have at least three (3) players to compete.
- The Host Club shall be the sole decision maker in these matters.

### **PRACTICE ON COURSE & ETTIQUITE**

- No practice is allowed on the course prior to play, except where part of the course is designated as a practice area.
- All players must observe the Host Club's local rules and protocols.
- The Host Club's stipulation to play in twos or fours must be adhered to and requests to carry sand buckets and do course repairs must be observed.
- Refusal to observe Host Club requests entitles the Host Club to refuse the offending player the right to play on their course.
- Disputes shall be the province of the Host Club Match Committee who may also



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refer to the District President on matters of concern.

- Players must observe the Association's "Code of Conduct" (Posted on Team App)

### ORDER OF PLAY

- Captains shall hand lists of players to the controlling Match Committee at least ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of play for the day.
- The list shall be in the following order:
  1. In Scratch, this shall be in the order of merit from numbered 1 to 5
  2. In Handicap, this shall be in order of increasing handicap, and GA handicap is to be used for this order. Where 2 or more players have the same GA handicap, they may be listed in order at the Captain's discretion.
- The preferred order of play is in twos and should be from the No.5 match through to No.1 match.
- At Clubs where play is to be in groups of four. The draw shall be as follows:

Team A v. Team B  
Team C v. Team D  
Team E v. Team F  
Team A v. Team B No.5 match  
Team A v. Team B Nos 4 & 3 matches  
Team A v. Team B Nos 2 & 1 matches  
Team C v. Team D Nos 5 & 4 matches  
Team C v. Team D Nos 3 & 2 matches  
Team C v. Team D & Team E v. Team F No 1 matches  
Team E v. Team F Nos 5 & 4 matches  
Team E v. Team F Nos 3 & 2 matches

### FORFEITS

- In the event of a forfeit, the winning team shall record one (1) win plus the number of matches relating to the number of players in each team, but no countback points.
- If the team receiving the forfeit has tied for a position in the final on games won (but not with the forfeiting team) then the individual and countback points scored by both teams against the forfeiting team SHALL NOT be used in determining the team to go through to the final.
- NB: Forfeiting teams must notify both the team they are forfeiting to AND the



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Hosting Club

### **SUSPENSION OF PLAY AND ABANDONMENT OF CONTESTS**

- In the event of heavy rain, lightning, fog, extreme heat, unplayable course conditions or any other reason the Host Club will be responsible for deciding whether to suspend or resume play.
- The signal for the suspension of play shall be three (3) short siren blasts. The NEDGA strongly recommends that all Clubs have a siren for this purpose. (A rechargeable Air Horn is available from The Big Safety Company)
- The procedure when play is suspended is outlined in the Rules of Golf, Rule 5.7 and Host Clubs are guided by the “Official Guide to the Rules of Golf” in Section 6E of Committee Procedures.
- When the course is ready for play, players will be advised to return to their various positions and the signal for the resumption of play is one long siren blast.
- Every effort should be made to complete all contests on the scheduled day.
- If the Host Club determines that the completion of pennant is not possible on the scheduled day and less than half the matches have been decided, the round will be abandoned.
- If the Host Club determines that the completion of pennant is not possible on the scheduled day and at least half the matches have been decided, play in all the unfinished matches should be resumed on a day or days determined by the NEDGA Executive in consultation with the Host Club, prior to the set date for the finals. Matches will resume according to the Rules of Golf and decided matches will stand.
- If resumption of play is not possible on the determined day or days or no alternative day or days are possible, the NEDGA Executive will determine the action to be taken.

### **RESULTS**

- No matches in Scratch or Junior Handicap pennant are to continue past the 18<sup>th</sup> hole. A tied match is a result. Matches in finals shall be played to a conclusion if necessary.
- Matches in Handicap Sections, except Ladies Handicap, are to be played to a conclusion.
- All results are to be recorded on the official match result sheet provided by the Association.
- Both Captains must sign the result sheet. This signifies that the result is correct and that handicaps, where applicable, are correct on the day of play.



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- If contests are cancelled or abandoned due to inclement weather, the Pennant Team and Score Sheet will be filled out with the names of the players scheduled to compete that day, to enable them to qualify for finals. The sheets are to be submitted in the usual way, just as if the matches had been played.
- All results must be sent to the nominated results person as soon as possible, but no later than 8.00pm on the Sunday of the contest. It may be in either text photo or email form.
- The nominated person is: Phil Conway  
nedgapresident@gmail.com  
0425 757 631

### TEAM QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS

- The top two (2) teams in each Division or Section shall compete in the pennant final.
- In Division 2 Scratch in Season 2020, the team on top of each group will contest the final.
- The positions shall be decided by, in order, contests won, matches won, and points scored as per the official countback system outlined below.
- If two teams are tied after these, then the team which was the winner of the most recent contest between the two shall be deemed to hold the higher position.

Result	Points	Result	Points
10/8	18	5/4	9
9/8	17	5/3	8
9/7	16	4/3	7
8/7	15	4/2	6
8/6	14	3/2	5
7/6	13	3/1	4
6/5	11	2up	2
6/4	10	1up	1

### PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- Individual player qualification for pennant finals shall be two (2) matches where four (4) or more qualifying rounds are played, and one (1) where less than four (4) qualifying rounds are played.
- A player who has competed in the series matches may play in a final of a higher Division than those of the series matches he competed in.



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- If a Club has teams in the finals of both Divisions, then a player may move back to the lower Division regardless of the number of matches played in the higher Division.

### **FINALS VENUES**

- The finals shall be played on courses nominated by the District Pennant Committee. Every attempt will be made to have satisfactory venues for all teams involved but in the event of a dispute, a binding decision will be made by the District President.

### **PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

A promotion and relegation system will operate between Division 1 and Division 2 and will operate under the following guidelines:

- A Club shall not be permitted to have more than one team in Division 1
- The team winning the final in Division 2 shall be promoted to Division 1 provided their Club does not already have a Division 1 team.
- The team finishing last in Division 1 shall be relegated to Division 2 provided the winning team from Division 2 is eligible to be promoted.
- Clubs applying to have a Scratch Division team will have that team placed by the District Pennant Committee. A Club wishing to place a team in Division 2 will have priority over a Club with two teams in that Division provided their application is presented prior to the application closing date.

### **CATERING**

- Host Clubs are expected to provide food for all players in all Divisions and Sections.
- The cost for this is \$10 per player and is to be collected by each team captain to forward to the Host Club
- The Host Club is required to provide a meal that reflects this charge.
- Teams forfeiting or playing one or two players short are still required to pay the full amount of \$50 to the Host Club.
- There is no such fee for teams playing in the final.
- For Junior Handicap, Host Clubs are to provide the same to players and officials without charge.

### **STARTERS**

- The Host Club is to provide starters for all contests



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### TERMS/DEFINITIONS

- **Host Club:** The Club that is hosting the round of pennant matches. On some rare occasions this may not be the Club whose course is being used.
- **Contest:** The competition between two Clubs is known as a contest
- **Match:** The competition between two players within a contest is known as a match.

### SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR JUNIORS

- Juniors may be male or female and must be under the age of 20 at the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the competition.
- Maximum handicaps are: Males 36, Females 45.
- Male and female players play from their respective tees.
- Matches played between two males or two females shall be played using the relevant male or female stableford index respectively.
- Matches between a male and a female player shall be played with strokes given/taken as follows:
  1. If the male player is to receive strokes, they shall be received according to the male index.
  2. If the female player is to receive strokes, they shall be received according to the female index.
- These matches shall also be played with adjusted scores to apply where there is a difference between the men and ladies' par for a particular hole. E.G. If the par for a hole is 4 for men and 5 for ladies, a par 5 for the female will beat a 5 (bogey) for the male.
- When playing in fours, if there are only 4 teams competing on the day, the hit off order shall be to start with the two number 5 matches, followed by both number 4 matches etc.
- Junior players do not need to be a member of the Club they wish to represent but must be a financial member of an NEDGA or Associate member Club. He or she may not play for another member Club if his/her Club has a team in the competition unless he/she is a member of both Clubs and gets special permission from the Executive.