



# SA Public Courses Pennant Golf Association

## Conditions of Competition

### 1. General Conditions

1. The Rules of Golf as published by the R&A and USGA, the Golf Australia Code of Conduct, and these Conditions of Competition will apply to all competitions administered by the SA Public Courses Pennant Golf Association (SAPCPGA).

### 2. Definitions

1. A Season (normally scheduled on an annual basis) shall consist of a series of Minor rounds followed by one or more Finals as determined by the SAPCPGA committee.
2. The contest between two teams shall be known as a Match.
3. The contest between two players playing in a Match shall be known as a Game.
4. A Match between two teams shall consist of 8 Games.

### 3. Divisions

1. There shall be 3 divisions. Clubs may nominate teams for the competition; teams will be assigned to divisions based on performance in previous competitions and at the discretion of the SAPCPGA committee.
2. A club may only field one team in any single Division.
3. A team that wins the final in Divisions 2 and 3 may choose to be promoted to the next higher Division for the following Season, provided that this does not result in more than one team from an individual club within a Division.
4. The team that is ranked last in Divisions 1 and 2 at the conclusion of the minor rounds may be relegated to the next lower Division for the following season (at the SAPCPGA committee's discretion), provided that this does not result in more than one team from an individual club within a Division.

### 4. Player Eligibility

1. A player taking part in the competition must be:
  - (a) a *bona fide* member of the club he or she represents;
  - (b) an amateur golfer in accordance with the rules of amateur status as published by the R&A.
2. A player may not represent more than one club during a Season. A player found to have represented more than one club shall be penalised as follows:
  - (a) All Games played by the player for a second (and any subsequent) club shall be recorded as a loss, with a 5/4 result awarded to the opponent(s).
  - (b) Match results shall be recalculated if necessary, and division standings adjusted accordingly.
3. A player may only represent a club in Division 3 if their GA handicap is 13.0 or greater on the day they play their first match of the Season in Division 3.
4. A player that has represented a club in any division other than Division 3 during a season whilst their GA handicap is less than 13.0 is ineligible to play in Division 3 for that Season.
5. A player is ineligible to play in a lower Division once they have played (including being nominated to play in a cancelled match) three or more games in higher Division(s).
6. For finals, a player must have played (including being nominated to play in a cancelled match) a minimum of three games in a Division to be eligible to contest the finals in that Division or a higher Division.
7. Players are always eligible (minor rounds and finals) to play in a Division higher than the one in which they have qualified.



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8. Penalty for breach of rules 4.1, 4.3, 4.4 or 4.5 is loss of Game with a 5/4 result awarded to the opponent. Match results shall be recalculated if necessary and division standings adjusted accordingly.

### 5. Matches

1. The Fixtures Program shall be published by the SA Public Courses Pennant Committee prior to the commencement of each Season.
2. Matches (except finals) shall be played on the course of the club named first in the Fixtures Program (the Home club).
3. Matches shall commence at the time listed in the Fixtures Program.
4. Players may be played in any order for all Divisions.
5. Team Managers shall exchange completed team sheets 15 minutes prior to the start of the Match.
6. Division 3 players must have their Golflink number and playing handicap recorded on the team sheet. If a player is listed on the team sheet with a higher handicap, the Game will be awarded to their opponent with the score recorded as 5/4.  
If the handicap recorded is lower than the player's playing handicap, the player must play using the handicap recorded on the team sheet.
7. A player may be substituted up to 5 minutes before the scheduled tee-time for their Game with a penalty of the loss of the first hole. The replacement player shall play in the position that the substituted player was nominated.  
No substitution is allowed after this time; if the player is unable to play the Game is awarded to the opponent with the score recorded as 5/4.
8. The Home club shall supply a starter who will call players to the starting tee at the required time for their Game.
9. The Home club shall supply (to the Away Team Manager) score cards and copies of all local rules for all players prior to the commencement of the Match.
10. The Home club shall supply lunch for the players at the conclusion of the Match.
11. The Home club shall email all Match results to the SAPCPGA Secretary (and any other nominated recipient as determined by the SAPCPGA committee) by 7pm on the day of the Match, or as soon as the results have been finalised should the Match be delayed for any reason.

### 6. Games

1. Games shall be played in foursomes from the tees as directed by the home club. The order of play shall be the reverse order on the team sheet i.e. numbers 8 and 7 play in the first group, followed by 6 and 5 in the second group and so on.
2. Games shall consist of 18 holes unless high temperatures have been forecast in which case games shall be reduced to 12 holes.
3. Games for Divisions 1 and 2 shall be individual match play.
4. Games for Division 3 shall be handicap match play. Playing handicaps will be calculated prior to the commencement of play based on the tees nominated for play by the home club.
5. The visiting team shall have the "honour" for all Games except for finals Matches.
6. Games which are "all square" after the stipulated maximum number of holes (except for finals) shall be "halved".
7. All players should carry the current "Player's Edition of the Rules of Golf".
8. If the player is not ready to play when called, but arrives at their starting tee and is ready to play within five minutes of being called to the tee the player shall be penalised with loss of first hole.



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If the player is not ready to play within five minutes of being called the Game shall be awarded to their opponent with the score recorded as 5/4.

### 7. Division Tables

1. Division tables will be published after each minor round. Teams shall be awarded 3 points for each Match won, and one point for each Match halved, and will be ranked within their Division by points.
2. If two or more teams have the same number of points, the team which has won the greater number of Matches will be ranked higher.
3. If two or more teams have the same number of points and have won the same number of Matches, the team which has won the greater number of Games will be ranked higher.
4. If two or more teams have the same number of points, the same number of Matches won and the same number of Games won, the team which has won the greater number of holes will be ranked higher.

### 8. Finals

1. At the conclusion of all minor rounds, the two teams ranked highest in each division shall contest the final.
2. The finals shall be played at the best possible neutral course available as determined by the SAPCPGA committee.
3. The "honour" for all Games in a finals Match shall be decided by a single toss of a coin.
4. Finals Games which are "all square" after the stipulated maximum number of holes shall continue on a "hole by hole" basis until a winner is determined unless the result of the Match is already determined, in which case the Game shall be "halved".
5. Finals Matches finishing equal will be decided by the number of holes won during the final. If both teams have won the same number of holes, each team captain will nominate one player from their team to contest a 'sudden death' play-off commencing at the first hole.

### 9. Finals Team Eligibility

1. Teams that are unfinancial on the day of the first round of the Season will not be eligible to contest finals.

### 10. Referees

1. The home club shall appoint a referee for the purpose of settling any dispute which may arise in relation to the Rules of Golf and the Conditions of Competition.
2. The referee shall carry the current 'Full Edition of the Rules of Golf', or have access to the Rules of Golf app.
3. The captain of each team shall be advised of the referee appointment and be provided with the referee's contact details.
4. The referee shall be available on the course at all times whilst Matches are in progress.

### 11. Caddies

1. Caddies are allowed as defined in Section 10.3 of the Rules of Golf.
2. A player is prohibited from having a playing team member serve as a caddie. A playing team member is one that has played in the Match in which the player is participating.  
Penalty for breach of this condition: At the end of the hole at which a breach is discovered (or immediately if the breach is discovered between holes), the Game score is revised by deducting one hole for each hole where a breach happened.



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### 12. Motorised Vehicles

1. Players 65 years of age and over may use a ride-on motorised vehicle provided they have supplied proof of age (Driver's Licence, Birth Certificate or Passport) to the secretary of the SAPCPGA prior to the commencement of the Season. The SAPCPGA secretary shall maintain a register of players that have supplied proof of age.  
Players may also provide proof of age to the referee prior to commencement of play on the day of the Match.
2. Players under 65 year of age requiring to use a ride-on motorised vehicle, must supply a valid medical certificate to the referee prior to the commencement of the Match.
3. A player that is injured during the Season may use a ride-on motorised vehicle, provided they present a medical certificate to the referee prior to the commencement of the Match.
4. Any player commencing a Game using a ride-on motorised vehicle without having supplied appropriate documentation in the prescribed manner shall be penalised with loss of Game. A 5/4 result will be awarded to their opponent.
5. A player that is injured during a match and requires a ride-on motorised vehicle to continue, may do so provided there is a clearly demonstrated need for the vehicle and permission has been obtained from the Referee.  
Penalty for breach of this condition is loss of Game. A 5/4 result will be awarded to the opponent.
6. A caddie may use a ride-on motorised vehicle) to carry a player's clubs during a Game. The player may remove or replace any items in their golf bag that assists in the playing of the game but may not sit in or ride on the buggy either prior to or during the Game.  
Penalty for breach of this condition: If the breach occurred before the start of the Game, loss of first hole. If a breach occurred during a Game, at the end of the hole at which the breach is discovered (or immediately if the breach is discovered between holes), the Game score is revised by deducting one hole for each hole where a breach happened.

### 13. Hot Weather

1. If the forecast maximum temperature for a Match day as broadcast by the Channel 9 6pm News program on the day prior to the Match is 40°C or greater all Matches for that day will be cancelled, except for finals where the committee may determine to play a reduced Match with Games consisting of 12 holes. No points will be awarded for the Division Tables and Player of the Year.
2. If the forecast maximum temperature for a Match day as broadcast by the Channel 9 6pm News program on the day prior to the Match is 38°C or greater, but less than 40°C, all Games for that day will be played over 12 holes.
3. If the hot weather conditions apply, the Home club (or, in the case of finals, the SAPCPGA committee) shall supply water as required to all players contesting Games.
4. If matches are cancelled for any reason, all teams will submit team sheets that will count for player eligibility for finals.

### 14. Player of the Year

1. Player of the Year points will be accumulated by players during the minor rounds with each player that wins a Game allocated 3 points, and each player that halves a Game allocated 1 point.
2. The Player of the Year for each Division shall be the player that accumulates most points in that Division.
3. If two or more players have accumulated the same number of points, the player that has won the greater number of holes in that Division will be ranked higher.



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### 15. Code of Conduct

1. Players are responsible for the actions of their caddies; should a caddie breach the code of conduct penalties will be applied to the player as if the actions of the caddie were the players actions.
2. Should a player physically attack, abuse, verbally threaten or racially vilify in anyway a player, an official or any other person during a Match the player will be penalised loss of Game, a 5/4 result being awarded to their opponent.  
The Home club shall forward a report to the SAPCPGA secretary within 5 days of the incident for deliberation by the SAPCPGA committee.
3. The consumption of alcohol by either a player or caddie is prohibited during a Game.  
Penalty is loss of Game with a 5/4 result being awarded to the opponent.
4. Smoking by a player or caddie on or near the tees and greens during a Match is forbidden.  
Penalty: First offence – warning, second offence - loss of hole; third offence – loss of Game with a 5/4 result awarded to the opponent.
5. Any reckless acts or failure to abide by these conditions and the rules of golf could result in individuals being held liable for any personal injury or property damage

### 16. Appendix – Penalty Summary

Offence	Penalty
Player representing more than one club.	5/4 loss for all Games played by the player for the subsequent club(s).
Higher incorrect GA handicap listed for player in Div 3.	5/4 loss of Game.
Player playing in division for which they are ineligible.	5/4 loss of Game.
Player substituted up to 5 minutes prior to tee-time of a Game.	Loss of first hole.
Player substituted after 5 minutes prior to tee-time of a game.	5/4 loss of Game.
Player not ready to play when called.	Arrives within 5 minutes of being called; loss of first hole, otherwise 5/4 loss of Game.
Playing team member acting as caddie.	One hole deducted for each hole at which the breach occurred.
Player using motorised ride-on vehicle without having supplied appropriate documentation.	5/4 loss of Game.
Player sitting or riding on caddies' motorised vehicle.	Before commencement of Game – loss of first hole. During Game; one hole deducted for each hole at which the breach occurred.
Physical attack, abuse, verbal threats or racial vilification by player or caddie.	5/4 loss of Game.
Alcohol consumption during Game by player or caddie.	5/4 loss of Game.
Smoking during Match on or near tees and greens by player or caddie.	First offence – Warning. Second offence – Loss of hole. Third offence – 5/4 loss of Game.