

## V. G. L. PENNANT RULES

1. (a) The Pennant competition shall be conducted in the following Grades:  
Scratch: Open scratch match - play, not seeded  
Handicap: Handicap match - play with seeded draw. [Handicap range 0 – 27]  
Seniors: Handicap match - play with seeded draw. [Handicap range 0 - 27]  
Junior: Handicap match - play with seeded draw. (Handicap range 0 - 27)
- (b) The Committee of the League, subject to the League's Rules shall control the pennant competitions in all respects.
- (c) Each club affiliated with the League must field at least one (1) Senior team in pennant competition, (handicap must be 1st choice) and the League's Committee reserves the right to allocate teams to Grades as it sees fit. A Club may enter in all Grades if it wishes,
- (d) The number of teams to make up each grade shall be determined by the League's Committee, and each Grade shall be composed of Divisions.
- (e) The competition between teams will be known as a contest. Contests will be played upon the course first named in the draw issued by the League.
- (f) The General penalty for a breach of the Pennant Rules is Disqualification.
- (g) If a player is disqualified under these rules, then the win points for that match shall be awarded to the opposing player.

### ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

2. (a) A player in Senior Scratch, Handicap and Seniors Pennant must be a bona-fide member of the Club that he represents by the 1st January in the current year. He must also hold a current Australian Handicap prior to the first round of pennant.  
**As of the 1st October in the preceding year until the first round of pennant each player must return at least four cards in singles competition played at the club they represent.** (Junior pennant is exempt from this clause)  
A player competing in Seniors pennant must have attained the age of 50 years prior to the first round of the season.  
A player in Junior Pennant MUST be under the age of 21 (twenty One) years of age on the date of the Premiership final of the Junior Pennant competition. In Junior Pennant, Clubs will be able to invite members from another Club to form a Team, however once a player represents any team, he cannot participate for any other team/Club during the current season of Junior Pennant.
- (b) A player must be an amateur golfer as defined under the Rules of Golf at the commencement of the Pennant competition, not have played in Pennant competition for any other Victorian Golf League club or in any other Pennant competition during the current Victorian Golf League pennant season. (Junior and Senior's Pennant is exempt from this rule)
- (c) Once a player has played two (2) games in scratch pennant, he becomes ineligible to play in the handicap pennant team for the remainder of the current season.  
Note: **Matches played as emergency are included under this rule.**
- (d) To qualify to play in finals matches, a player must compete in at least two matches in the grade in which he qualifies in either a scoring or an emergency position. (Where a three team competition creates a bye then only one match is required to qualify for finals,
- (e) For the purposes of handicap match play, the Australian handicap that applies on the day and date the match takes place shall be the handicap that is utilized for the purposes of the match.

NOTE: **All handicaps MUST BE adjusted in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Golfers Handbook, especially as it applies to the reduction of a handicap. Under section 3 "Alteration of Handicap" it is stated: "Reductions shall be made forthwith on the day the score becomes known to the Home Club. For the Pennant competition, each club must submit the registration form at least 14 days prior to the first round. The Golf Link number, or for those not on GolfLink, handicap sheets of any player not on the registration form must accompany the result sheet for the first match in which they compete.**

### COMPOSITION OF TEAMS.

3. (a) Teams shall consist of:
- |           |                                |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Scratch:  | (7) Players and (1) emergency. |
| Handicap: | (7) Players and (1) emergency. |
| Seniors:  | (5) Players and (1) emergency. |
| Junior:   | (5) Players and (1) emergency. |
- (b) The Captain/team manager of any Pennant team need not be a player, but shall be an amateur under the Rules of Golf and a Member of the Club for which he represents.
- (c) The Captain/Team Manager shall be notified to the opposing team at the commencement of the match.
- (d) The Pennant competition shall be a team competition and a non-playing Captain or team manager may act within the scope of the Rules of Golf as allowed in the Note to Rule 8.
- (e) The Pennant Captain/Team Manager's are responsible to ensure all Pennant Rules and Rules of Golf are enforced. They cannot agree to waive any of these rules.
- Penalty for Breach - Disqualification of both teams.**

#### ORDER OF PLAY

4. (a) Individual matches are to be played from the tee markers as directed by the host club and in order of the team list. [i.e. emergency first, No #1 player last.] Honour for the contest shall be decided by the toss of a coin between the two competing clubs. All matches are to be played over eighteen holes of match play. If a match is square at the completion of 18 holes, the match shall be treated as a halved match.  
[See Pennant rule for procedure on halved matches in final.]  
**Penalty for Breach:- Disqualification of any player playing out of order.**
- (b) The captain, manager or a designated representative of each team shall exchange the list of team members in hit off order and a copy of any temporary local rules 10 minutes prior to the stated hit off time. [Note 1. the team list should include the emergency and the team manager.]  
[Note 2. Once the team sheet is exchanged by both teams it must not be altered, and any player not ready to play when called to the first tee will forfeit the match].  
**Penalty for breach. A team not exchanging the team list on time will automatically lose the emergency match.**
- (c) If the team captain/ manager is not part of a match in the contest, he is to be treated as an outside agency. A player receiving advice from any person other than his caddie or team manager, shall be subject to penalties described in Rule 8. (Rules of Golf)

#### RESULTS OF MATCHES

5. (a) In Scratch, Handicap and Junior pennant the Captain of the WINNING TEAM must POST, FAX or DELIVER the RESULT SHEET to reach the Executive Manager of the League no later than WEDNESDAY following the contest. In Seniors pennant the Captain of the Winning team must post, fax, or deliver the result sheet to reach the Executive Manager of the League no later than the Monday following the contest.  
**Penalty for Breach: Being the winning team's sole responsibility that the results arrive by the prescribed time, that team shall lose all points gained in the contest**
- (b) **In HANDICAP, SENIORS AND JUNIOR PENNANT**, the current Australian Handicap of each player must be entered beside their name on the result sheet of each match in which the Player takes part.  
Penalty for Breach. Any player that has his handicap not recorded or recorded incorrectly shall be DISQUALIFIED.
- (c) Result sheets that are incomplete or incorrect will result in the offending teams losing all points gained in the contest
- (d) Following the FINAL home and away pennant contest of each team, clubs not on GolfLink shall forward the CURRENT HANDICAP SHEETS of all players who have taken part in Handicap, Seniors or Junior Pennant competition during the current season, The handicap sheets submitted must cover a period of twelve months or be from the commencement of the players membership, whichever period is shorter. These handicap sheets MUST be posted, faxed or delivered as described in RULE (5/a) - or as advised by the League,  
Penalty for Breach: DISQUALIFICATION from COMPETITION.  
Note: Unless the handicap sheets submitted includes all of the required information then the player or players will be disqualified and no further correspondence will be accepted.

#### LOCAL RULES

6. (a) All clubs must submit a card and copy of their current Local Rules to be used for pennant to the VGL 14 days prior to the first round of pennant in which the club competes.
- (b) The Captain of the Home Team shall supply to the Captain of the Visiting Team a copy of all local rules adopted by the Club upon whose Course the Pennant Match is to be played. The Visiting Team should also be advised of any temporary local rules in force on the day of the Match.
- (c) Players are not permitted to practice on the course on the day of competition.
- (d) Prior to the commencement of play. Practice is permitted only in the designated practice areas of the host club.  
**Penalty for Breach of (b) or (c) - DISQUALIFICATION of player or players involved.**
- Note: It is the responsibility of all players to observe their obligations as guests when playing away from their home club. Many host clubs have special requirements concerning sand buckets, shoes and buggies. Host clubs are required to notify visiting teams in writing of these requirements when confirming tee times.

#### DRESS

- 7 (a) The following DRESS standards will apply to all Pennant Matches:  
SHIRTS: MUST have a COLLAR attached.  
No TEE SHIRTS or TANK TOPS are PERMITTED.  
TROUSERS: Appropriate Slacks, Plus Fours or Plus Twos ONLY. (No Denim)  
SHORTS: May be worn with the appropriate SPORT SOCKS  
SHORTS resembling football shorts in appearance or colour are not permitted.  
SHOES: Correct Golf Shoes are to be worn on the Golf Course suitable to course rules.  
In the Clubhouse: RUNNERS, JOGGERS, or similar FOOTWEAR will not be PERMITTED.
- (b) Any PLAYER or CADDIE who reports to the tee in dress that does not comply with the standards as set out in (a) shall be DISQUALIFIED.

SPONSORSHIP LOGO'S ON CLOTHING.

8. (a) It is permissible for a Pennant Team to carry a sponsor's Logo on shirts or other items of clothing In accordance with the guidelines set down by the Victorian Golf Association. It must be clearly understood that Sponsorship applies to the ENTIRE TEAM or TEAMS, and not to individuals within a Team. For Sponsorship of a Pennant Team to be permissible, the following conditions must be adhered to. Failure to adhere to the guidelines as set out may result- in a BREACH of the PLAYER'S AMATEUR STATUS.
- (b) All Members of the Pennant Team should wear all the Sponsored Clothing.
- (c) The Logo or Badge, which appears on the Clothing, must not exceed 220mm perimeter measurement, that is measurement around the outside of the Logo or Badge.
- (d) Only ONE Sponsors Logo can appear on each item of clothing, although the Sponsor's names may vary between items, e.g. one Sponsors name on a shirt and another on a visor.  
Should there be any queries on the suitability of any Sponsor's Logo to be used on clothing during Pennant Matches, these should be referred to the League's Committee for their consideration.
- Penalty for Breach . DISQUALIFICATION for each player in breach of this rule.**

PERSONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY & MOTORIZED RIDE-ON CARTS

9. (a) Some courses can be physically taxing on players physical abilities to complete a round. It is the players responsibility to take into account his personal health when competing on some courses.
- (b) In circumstances of hot weather and humidity, play may be suspended or cancelled at the discretion of the respective VGL committee or representatives thereof present at the host venue.
- (c) The use of Motorised Ride-On Golf Carts in Pennant is permitted, provided that permission has been granted in accordance with the Leagues policy on the use of Motorized Golf Carts and that permission has been granted by the Course Management concerned.  
**Penalty for Breach (9c): Player or Players using cart shall be DISQUALIFIED.**  
Exception: Visiting players who are competing at Olinda Golf Course may use a motorized ride- on Golf cart if they consider that they could be physically affected by the severe inclines.

ARTIFICIAL DEVICES

10. Distance measuring devices are not permitted in pennant or any League competition.  
**Penalty for Breach - Player is Disqualified.**

MOBILE PHONES

11. Mobile phones may be carried during a contest but must be switched off during the contest unless to use in the event of an emergency to summon assistance or to obtain a rules decision.  
**Penalty for Breach of this rule by a player or his caddie is - Loss of Hole**

LIQUOR

12. The consumption or carrying of any alcoholic beverages during a pennant match by a Player, caddie or nominated official is absolutely prohibited.  
**Breach by Player or Caddie: Player is DISQUALIFIED**  
**Breach by any nominated Official: Team is DISQUALIFIED.**

ADVERSE WEATHER

13. (a) Abandoning Contests: In all cases of inclement weather or bad course conditions, every effort should be made to complete all matches on the scheduled day. If completion is not possible, play is to be suspended [see rules 33-2 and 6-8b]. If play cannot be resumed, then the match is abandoned and each team shall be awarded two premiership points and seven individual points.
- (b) Should any player consider that there is danger from a threat of lightning in the area he should discontinue play until he considers it safe to resume. The player is the sole judge as to the discontinuance of play due to danger from the threat of lightning.

DATES and TIMES FOR CONTESTS

14. (a) Once published, the draw can only be varied by the League Committee, or after a teams' written application to the Executive Manager of the League, at least (7) days prior to the date of the fixture and provided such variation is then approved by the Committee.
- (b) The draw for all contests [except Thursday Seniors] is to be played on a Sunday. The League would approve contests being played on the preceding Saturday, by mutual agreement of both teams, otherwise contests to be played on the Sunday as drawn.
- (c) The starting time of pennant contests, shall be fixed between 7.00am and 12.00 noon on the day of the draw. Should circumstances affecting the starting time of the contest, both captains/managers may mutually agree to forfeit their rights to protest the starting time of the contest. Otherwise a protest may be lodged with the League. [Rule 19].

- (d) It is the responsibility of the First Named/Home Club, to make arrangements for starting times with the proprietor of the course, well in advance of the pennant competition. These arrangements must be notified in writing to the visiting Club at least [7] seven days prior to the date on the which the contest is to take place. Should Clubs fail to notify the visiting team of the appropriate arrangements under this rule, it is possible that a protest against the Club could be lodged with the League Committee, and a penalty imposed under rule 19.
- (e) In the case of a team notifying the opposing team that they wish to forfeit a contest, it will not be necessary for the team receiving the forfeit, to attend the venue for the contest.

METHOD OF PLAY

15. (a) Each Division shall play a series of home and away contests, unless otherwise directed by the leagues committee.
- (b) The index to be used for handicap match play shall be the Australian Match-Play Index.
- |       |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Hole  | 1  | 2 | 3  | 4 | 5  | 6 | 7  | 8 | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Index | 18 | 8 | 12 | 3 | 14 | 6 | 10 | 1 | 16 | 5  | 11 | 2  | 15 | 7  | 13 | 4  | 17 | 9  |
- (c) If a match commences at the tenth hole then the index to be applied shall be:-
- |       |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| Hole  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 18 | 17 | 18 | 1 | 2  | 3 | 4  | 5 | 6  | 7 | 8  | 9 |
| Index | 18 | 8  | 12 | 3  | 14 | 6  | 10 | 1  | 16 | 5 | 11 | 2 | 15 | 7 | 13 | 4 | 17 | 9 |
- (d) Should the course management direct that play shall commence at the 10<sup>th</sup> hole then that hole shall become the first hole for the purpose of allocating strokes against the Matchplay Index.
- (e) Play shall be decided by holes and no matches shall proceed beyond the eighteenth hole. In the event of a tied result in a home and away game, the winning emergency player shall be awarded one (1) point for the purpose of breaking the tie. In the event of the match between emergencies being tied at the eighteenth hole, and the score being equal between the scoring matches the contest shall be declared halved and each team shall be awarded two premierships points.
- (f) The Team which gains the greatest number of individual match points shall be the winner of the contest and shall gain FOUR premierships points. In the event of a tie between teams each team shall be awarded two premierships points.
- (g) Points for individual matches shall be two (2) for a win and one (1) point for each match finishing square at the eighteenth hole.

FINALS.

16. (a) The (2) teams gaining the highest number of (1) premierships points then (2) individual points shall play off for the Divisional Pennant. The leading teams in a division will be those teams which have the greatest number of premierships points. In the event that the premierships points are equal, then the leading teams will be those which have the greatest number of individual points. If still tied then the results between the two tied teams will be compared. If still tied then the emergency results between the two tied teams will be compared. If still tied then the VGL will draw lots to determine the leading teams. [Note: for this reason it is important that managers record the result of the emergency match on the result sheet, even if it is not a factor in the contest.]
- (b) In the event of a TIE the emergency Match will count.
- (c) Should the Emergency match result in a tie then only the highest ranked tied match will continue until a result is obtained.
- (d) Should play in the VGL Pennant finals be abandoned in accordance with the Rules of Golf 6-8 then the pennant shall be awarded to the team that finished on top of the division after the home and away series.

PROMOTION & RELEGATION.

17. With the exception of the winner of the highest division, the winner of each division shall be promoted to the next highest division. With the exception of the lowest division, the lowest team in each division shall be relegated to the next lowest division. This procedure may be modified at the discretion of the league's committee. To determine relegation or promotion, or to separate second from third to determine who will playoff in finals when the number of contests is tied, then a count back system as used in rule 17(a) will apply. Note: Senior's and Junior Pennant are exempt from this rule.

PACE OF PLAY and MONITORING PACE

18. The VGL and many course managements are concerned with the pace of play within golf competitions. It is therefore our intention to make a concerted effort to substantially improve the pace of play in pennant, finals, and other events. The committee consider that it would be reasonable for a group of four players to take an average of 15 minutes per hole. (4 hours & 30 minutes for the round.) **Should a situation exist between the host club and the course management regarding the pace of play in pennant then the host club may appoint a course marshall to dispense penalties in line with the Special Rules and conditions applying to Pennant finals. The opposing team may also appoint a marshall for the match. The appointed marshall's must be non players and may be the team managers.**

Each group must maintain its position in the field with respect to the group in front of them. Any group with a clear hole in front of them will be considered out of position. Any such group found out of position will be monitored and penalties will be issued.  
Note: A complete copy of SPECIAL RULES AND CONDITIONS APPLYING TO PENNANT FINALS will be distributed to all competitors at the finals venues.

DISPUTES and PROTESTS.

19. (a) DISPUTES;

If a dispute between players of teams regarding any particular hole or holes in a contest arises, it must be referred to the nominated Captains of both teams before playing the next hole. If the decision of the Captains is unanimous, their decision shall be binding. If no unanimous decision can be reached, the details of the dispute shall be forwarded in Writing to the League's Committee and MUST be in the hands of the Executive Manager of the League's Committee no later than FORTY EIGHT (48) hours after the date of the match. The decision of the League's Committee on any dispute referred to under this Rule **SHALL BE FINAL**.

Where play has ceased in a match to enable a dispute to be resolved, player in the match should call the following groups through, whether or not they are competition players. The attention of all players is drawn to the Rules of Golf concerning Slow Play and the play of groups following any match in which a dispute arises should not be unduly delayed while a dispute is resolved.

(b) PROTESTS;

Any protest arising from the conduct of a pennant match, apart from a dispute on the play at any hole, MUST be forwarded in WRITING to the League's Committee NOT MORE THAN forty eight (48) hours after the conclusion of the match at which the cause of the Protest arose.

ALL DISPUTES AND PROTESTS ARISING FROM A PENNANT MATCH MUST BE HANDLED THROUGH THE CLUB CAPTAIN'S OF THE CLUBS INVOLVED IN WRITING DIRECT TO THE LEAGUE'S COMMITTEE.

**NOTE:** Any dispute or protest caused by failure to enforce the PENNANT RULES must be rejected by the League's Committee

POWERS OF THE LEAGUE'S COMMITTEE.

20. The League's Committee shall investigate and decide disputes and protests occurring between Players and/or Clubs when such disputes or protests are submitted to it. The Committee may impose such penalties as it may deem desirable on the Pennant Teams or Players for non-observance of the Pennant Rules or Fixtures. The Committee shall have the power to postpone all or any Pennant Matches or ORDER REPLAYS where deemed necessary. The Committee shall award the Pennants for the Season's competition. A large pennant only shall be awarded to the Premier Teams in Division 1 Scratch and Handicap. Premiers in all other Divisions shall be awarded a smaller sized pennant. The League will provide individual medallions for winning team members at cost.

CADDIES

21. (a) No professional golfer or caddie will be permitted to caddie in any form of pennant.

PENNANT ENTRIES. (Senior & Junior)

22. (a) Clubs must notify the League by the 31st July of any changes to the ensuing year.
- (b) Immediately following the Completion of the current Pennant Season the League's Committee will formulate the Draw for the Conducting of Pennant for the ensuing Pennant Season.  
This will in turn be forwarded to Clubs by the 30th of August in each year.  
The draw will then be confirmed as soon as possible following any further action that the League's Committee finds necessary.