



Lower North Coast Golf

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Conditions of Competition for Pennants-Master Pennants

2024

Committee

1. The LNCDGA Match Committee is responsible for all matters relating to the conduct of district pennant competition within the Lower North Coast District Golf Association.
2. The members of the LNCDGA Match Committee, and those members of the Host Club Match Committee so authorised by the LNCDGA Match Committee, who are present during the playing of an event may exercise all functions of the LNCDGA Match Committee in relation to that event and shall constitute the Committee within the meaning of the Rules of Golf for the purposes of the conduct of the event.

Definitions

"Contest" means the competition between two Clubs.

"Individual Match" means the individual competition between two players.

Divisions for Pennants and Master Pennants

3. Pennant's competition shall be in four divisions by GA are as follows:
Division 1 Open
Division 2 - 7.0 and above
Division 3 - 12.0 and above
Division 4 - 17.0 and above

The measure of what division each player is eligible to play in is determined by the player's lowest GA achieved between 1st September and 30th November 2022.

4. Daily handicap limits will apply
 - a. Division 3 – 18
 - b. Division 4 - 25
5. Breach of this condition

- a. 1st breach will result in 1 full individual match point being deducted from that team's result and 1 full individual match point being granted to the opposition team
- b. 2nd breach will result in loss of contest 6 games to nil

6. Master Pennants - An individual players Daily Handicap is to be limited to 15 on the day of a match.

Format of Play

7. All *individual matches* shall be played over 18-holes of match play
8. Division 1 & 2 will be played off scratch,
9. Division 3 & 4 all matches will played with benefit of handicap. In Division 4 an individual player's daily handicap limit of 36
10. Master Pennants *individual matches* #1 to #3 will be played off scratch whilst *individual matches* #4 to #6 players will be played with benefit of handicap
11. Handicap matchplay - All matches are played off the Daily Handicap, must be played in ascending order of their daily handicap on the day of the contest, with difference between the players host course daily handicap to determine shots given to their opponent on the standard match play holes index; failure to do so will result in a loss of individual match points.
12. standard match play holes index;

Match Play index			
Hole	Index	Hole	Index
1	18	10	5
2	8	11	11
3	12	12	2
4	3	13	15
5	14	14	7
6	6	15	13
7	10	16	4
8	1	17	17
9	16	18	9

13. Honour on the 1st tee shall be decided by toss of a coin between representatives of the competing clubs. The Club winning the toss has an option to take the honour at the starting tee for all *individual matches*.
14. Teams shall hit off in groups beginning with the #6 & #5 players and concluding with the #2 & #1 players hitting off last.
15. The player winning the most holes in an *individual match* will be awarded 1 match point.
16. A squared *individual match* counts as a halved match with ½ a match point awarded to each player.
17. A *Contest* win will be awarded 2 *contest* points.
18. If a *Contest* is squared, ie 3 match points each, 1 *contest* point will be awarded to each team.

19. The winning team in each division is the team with the greater number of *contest* points. Should more than one team finish with the same number of *contest* points, then the team with the most matches won during the season will be declared the winner. If the teams are still equal, joint winners will be declared.

Daily Tees to be used

20. All Division 1 *individual matches* will be played from the championship plates. All other *individual matches* are to be played off forward tees.

Rules of Golf

21. Play shall be in accordance with the Rules of Golf and the Local Rules of the affiliated host club holding the event on behalf of the LNC-DGA.
22. Lost Ball and Ball out of Bounds – Rule 18 is to be applied only. A local rule for an Alternative to Stroke and Distance is NOT to be used in all Pennant Matches

Advice

23. As per section 10.2 of the Rules of Golf, a player must not give advice to anyone or ask anyone for advice during their round, other than their own caddie.

Eligibility

24. A player is eligible to play in the Pennants or Master Pennants if he is a male golfer and a current financial member of good standing at the Club he represents on the date of play, and is a member of
25. a player is ineligible to play if their handicap in GolfLink has been marked at “provisional status”
26. No player who had had an upward [club] adjustment of handicap shall be eligible to play in pennants and masters pennants unless that adjustment has been followed by at least ten (10) rounds of golf registered on GolfLink
27. All Masters pennants players must over 50 years of age on the day of the event.

Club Suspension

28. In the event of a player being suspended by a club affiliated with Golf NSW on a golf related matter the player shall not be eligible to enter or play in any open event held on behalf of the LNC-DGA during the period of suspension. This condition will prevent any such player from entering or playing in any LNC-DGA event even if they nominate another club for their handicap.

Protests

29. Any protests must be made to a member of the host club Match Committee within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the *individual match* concerned.
30. A Club must formalise that protest in writing to the LNCDGA Match Committee within a further 48 hours of lodging of any such the verbal protest.

Draw

31. The LNCDGA Match Committee shall publish on the LNC-DGA's website a draw for season of pennants play that includes teams, venues and times for each division. Club captains shall be notified by email of the publication of the draw.
32. It is the team captain's and-or team manager's responsibility to ensure that all team members allocated to play on any one day have been fully informed of the draw and that all players are ready to start at the time and in the order arranged by the LNCDGA Match Committee. Rule **5-3a** provides that "the player shall start at the time established by the Committee" and the penalty for breach of this Rule is loss of the first hole if the player arrives ready to play within five minutes of their start time; outside of the five minutes the penalty is disqualification except when the Committee determines that exceptional circumstances have prevented the player from starting on time in which case there is no penalty. Note that the Decisions on the Rules of Golf severely restrict the ambit of "exceptional circumstances" in this context.
33. The LNCDGA Match Committee reserves the right to alter the starting time for any or all *individual matches* to be played.

Team Responsibilities

34. At least fifteen (15) minutes before the nominated starting time, each team captain or team manager should advise the representative of the host club Match Committee present of the names of the players in playing order. The team nomination sheet must identify the team captain or manager.
35. The playing position of each player shall be determined by their team captain or manager, however all *individual matches* for handicap matchplay must be played in ascending order of their daily handicap on the day of the *contest*; failure to do so will result in a loss of Match points.
36. If a full team of six players is not submitted, the opposing team captain or manager and the relevant host club Match Committee representative must be notified that the team shall comprise a reduced number of players who must then play in descending order. The Team will forfeit in the following order: 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 forfeiting the last place and any other places not represented.
37. It is the team captain's responsibility to inform the LNCDGA Match Committee of the results of the day's *Contest* on the form provided by the LNCDGA Match Committee.

Absent Players

38. If after the names of team members have been presented to the host club Match Committee at the commencement of play, a player fails to appear or is unfit or otherwise unable to play, another player who is qualified to play in that Division may take their place but they must play in the same team position of the player for whom they are substituting. If a player is substituting for another player named in the team, a notation must be made on the result sheet.
39. A player will be considered absent, if he is not ready to start at the time that his *individual match* is due to start and **Rule 5.3** applies. Note: If an entire team does not arrive at the stipulated start time ready to play within the Rules, their *individual matches* are forfeit.

40. Should another player in the *individual match* be required to take the place of an absent team member they must be ready and able to play at the time scheduled for the absent player's *individual match*. If this other player is not ready to play as a substitute player within 5 minutes of the appointed time, the penalty is forfeiture, ie the loss of the *individual match*.
41. Where a player is not present to play at the appointed time with consequent requirement that an *individual match* be forfeited, it is the highest numbers *individual match* that shall the first *individual match* forfeited.

Substitute Players

42. The substitute player must be eligible to play for the team; see above.

Suspension and Postponement of Play

43. Every effort should be made to play the *Contest* on the scheduled day and time. If at the appointed hit off time the course is deemed unplayable then start of the *Contest* can be delayed by up to 45 minutes at which time if the course is still not fit to play the *Contest* can be postponed to another day. The decision on this matter rests with the responsible host club Match Committee. If practicable the host club Match Committee should consult with the LNCDGA Match Committee.
44. Course conditions, remaining time available and of course player safety should all be taken into account when considering whether to continue, suspend or cancel play for the day. The following Guidelines should be followed in deciding if the course is playable based on the notion that it is imperative that *individual matches* should be completed and results obtained on the day.
 - a. Provided a minimum of nine holes are available for play, in accordance with the Rules of Golf, play should proceed. *Individual Matches* are still to be played over 18 holes, although a hole or holes can be played more than once.
 - b. It is acceptable for a composite course to be used
 - c. Preferred lies can be in place even through the green
 - d. Should bunkers be unplayable due to "abnormal course conditions" they may be declared a "no play zone"

Prompt Pace of Play

45. **Rule 5.6** (Prompt Pace of Play) will be strictly enforced. Each group must maintain its position on the course with respect to the group in front. To assist speed on play, One *individual match* should attempt to finish the hole first, then those 2 players should move immediately to the next tee, whilst the 2nd match in the group finishes the hole. Any group with a clear hole in front of it will be regarded as "out of position". Penalties will be issued to individuals in such groups who by their pace of play contribute to such delay. Penalties under Rule 5.6 are as follows: First offence - Loss of Hole; Second Offence - Loss of Hole; Subsequent Offence - Disqualification. Warnings may not be issued prior to a pace of play penalty.

Dress Standards

46. All players must comply with the conditions relating to standards of dress and on-course behaviour set by the host club.

Distance Measuring Devices

47. Distance Measuring Devices are permitted under the Rules of Golf. A player may use a distance measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that affect their play (eg. Gradient/wind speed, etc) provided that they only use that device for measuring distance. If a player uses any such device during a stipulated round for measuring anything other than distance the player is in breach of **Rule 4-3** for which the penalty is the General Penalty for the first breach and disqualification for any subsequent breach.

Other Conditions

48. Matters not covered in these Conditions of Competition shall be determined by reference to any relevant Conditions of Competition published by Golf NSW.

LNCDGA Match Committee

49. The LNCDGA Match Committee is appointed by the LNCDGA Committee and is chaired by the Captain; it may comprise Committee Members and-or golfers in good standing at the Member Golf Clubs who are deemed to be of value in the role.

Match Committee

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