

Confirmed – 14 November 2024

**CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION INC.**  
**(CCDGA)**



**RULES OF THE COMPETITION**

**2025 PENNANT SERIES**

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NB. These rules of the competition may be altered at any time at the discretion of CCDGA Inc.

These rules of the competition do not apply to the Junior Pennant in respect of which specific rules of the competition will be issued prior to commencement of the Junior series.

## **1. The Committee**

- CCDGA Pennant Matches are governed by the CCDGA Pennant Match Committee, a sub-committee of the CCDGA Match Committee comprising the District Captain, District Vice Captain and Club Captains nominated by the CCDGA Match Committee.
- The 2025 Pennant Match Committee is Mr. Steve Fallon, Mr. Peter Sliwinski and Mr. Ian Elliott. Mr. John Witten will act as substitute should any one of the nominated Committee be unavailable.
- The Match Committee of the host club(s) shall represent the CCDGA Pennant Match Committee and provide decisions on the rules of the competition or the Rules of Golf during play of the series.

If a member of the CCDGA Pennant Match Committee is present when decisions are required he may be enlisted by the Match Committee of the host club(s) to provide advice and assistance in formulating a decision.

- No member of the host club who is playing or acting as Team Manager shall make or take part in making such decision.

### **NOTE:**

- There is no right of appeal / protest in respect of any decision on the Rules of Golf by a rules official or individual member of the relevant Match Committee.
- Clubs may appeal to the Pennant Match Committee in relation to the CCDGA Pennant rules of the competition. Details of any appeal / protest relative to the rules of the competition must be communicated, in writing, to the District Captain within seven (7) days of completion of the contest to which the appeal / protest applies. The decision of the Pennant Match Committee shall be final.

## **2. Sterland Shield and Grade Shields**

**The Sterland Shield** is decided:

- By the number of team wins over the three (3) grades.
- If clubs are tied on team wins the Sterland Shield will be decided by the number of individual wins over the three (3) grades. If still tied the clubs will be declared joint winners.

**Grade Shields** are:

- Won by the the Club with the most Contest points at the completion of the Round Robin series. If two (2) or more Clubs are tied a countback as provided in 3(vi) shall determine the winner of the Pennant.

### **3. Procedures for Pennant matches.**

Definitions – to assist in the interpretation of these conditions reference to:

- a contest relates to a round in which a team from one club plays against a team from another club. The result of the contest becomes final when all match scores have been recorded on the result sheet and attested by the Team Captain or Manager.
- a match relates to a round in which one player plays against another player. The result of the match becomes final when the match score is recorded on the result sheet.

#### **(i) Format:**

The series will be conducted in three (3) sections, “A” grade, “B” grade and “C” grade. Play in each grade will be at such date and times as are determined by CCDGA.

#### **Team Nominations:**

Each Club is eligible to nominate teams in each of the three (3) sections.

“A” grade teams shall consist of 6 players.

“B” and “C” grade teams shall consist of 4 players per team.

A composite team comprising players from one or more Clubs may be entered in any grade if a Club is not able to otherwise field a team. Only players nominated in the team or squad one week prior to the first round of the series shall be eligible to play in contests unless the approval of CCDGA is obtained to add players to the squad during play of the series. Such approval shall only be given if it is necessary to add players to enable the team to continue to field a full team.

#### **“A” Grade Pennant:**

- Is a contest between two Clubs consisting of six (6) individual matches played over 18 holes of match play without the benefit of handicap. A match square after 18 holes shall be declared halved.
- Individual matches are to be played from the tee markers as directed by the Host Club but should be in Medal positions where possible.

Usually conducted annually in the first six (6) months of the year.

#### **“B” & “C” Grade Pennant:**

- Is a contest between two Clubs consisting of four (4) individual matches played over 18 holes of match play without the benefit of handicap. A match square after 18 holes shall be declared halved.
- Individual matches are to be played from the tee markers as directed by the Host Club but should be in members positions for the day where possible.

### **Eligibility:**

The Pennant competition is for male amateur members of CCDGA golf clubs which are members of Golf NSW:

- A player is eligible for pennant matches if he is a male amateur golfer and a current financial member of the club he represents on the date of play. If playing in a composite team he must be a current financial member of his home club and meet all other eligibility criteria. He must also be in a category of membership which allows him to compete in competitions on a Sunday. "Scholarships" are not recognised within the CCDGA and the holders of such class of membership shall be deemed to be unfinancial even though the Articles of the member Club might recognise and provide for "Scholarships".
- A player is only eligible to play for one (1) club during the series. Exception: a Junior may play in Juniors for one Club and in another grade for another Club provided all other requirements re eligibility are met.
- Any player who, at the time of the contest, has his golf playing membership or handicap suspended by Golf NSW or any club or DGA which is a member of Golf NSW is not eligible to participate.
- Any player with a provisional handicap twenty eight (28) days (i.e. midnight on 15 December 2024) before the first scheduled game of the series is not eligible to participate. Any player whose handicap becomes provisional throughout the competition is not eligible to compete while his GA handicap has this status.
- A player may play in a higher grade (i.e. from "B" grade to "A" grade or from "C" grade to "B" grade) but having done so is ineligible to return to the lower grade if the series of the previous grade has commenced. Juniors may play in both the Junior and Senior series in any grade.
- **"A" grade** – any eligible player who is a member of the participating club.

**"B" grade** – any eligible player who is a member of the participating club on a GA handicap of 12.5 or more twenty eight (28) days (i.e. midnight on 15 December 2024) before the first scheduled game of the series.

**"C" grade** - any eligible player who is a member of the participating club on a GA handicap of 18.5 or more twenty eight (28) days (i.e. midnight on 15 December 2024) before the first scheduled game of the series.

All Clubs **MUST** supply a list of all selected players in "B" & "C" grade together with their Golfink number to the District Captain or his representative one week prior to the commencement of the first round of the Pennant series. Failure to submit the required information will result in disqualification of the team until such time as the requisite data is supplied to CCDGA.

### **Penalty – ineligible player.**

The penalty for an ineligible player competing in a contest is forfeit of the specific individual match to the opposing Club.

### **(i) Dates and time of play:**

- Contests **MUST** be played on the dates and times fixed by CCDGA Match Committee however;

- the CCDGA Match Committee may alter the date of a round at its sole and absolute discretion.
- any proposed changes by a host Club to the dates or times shown in the draw must have the prior approval of the CCDGA Match Committee or its nominee.
- any Club failing to play on the date and at the time fixed by the CCDGA Match Committee will forfeit the contest to the Club drawn against it in “A” grade 6 - 0, “B” & “C” grade 4 - 0.

#### **Dates of Play**

- The dates for Pennant matches will be set out when the final draw is published. The draw will be titled – final draw and dated.
- All contests will be played on Sundays unless prior permission has been granted by the CCDGA Match Committee to play on a Saturday. Clubs granted permission to play on Saturdays will be noted as such in the draw.

#### **Withdrawal of Club after draw completed.**

A Club must not withdraw, or fail to field a team, from/in the Pennant series after the draw has been compiled and circulated.

- In the event that a Club does not participate for the entire season all contest points and individual match points received in contests against that Club shall be disregarded. The CCDGA Match Committee shall determine an appropriate count back procedure should this situation arise.
- Any Club that withdraws from the major Pennant after the final draw has been compiled and circulated may be penalised at the discretion of the CCDGA Match Committee.

#### **Time of Play.**

- The starting times for each contest shall be THE TIME PUBLISHED in the final draw as nominated by each Club..
- Starting times of individual matches must be strictly adhered to. All individual matches are to start at the published time with the first individual match to commence at the advertised starting time for the contest and each subsequent match to commence at the prescribed interval of the host club.
- Failure to commence matches at the stipulated time for reasons unacceptable to CCDGA could render the host Club liable to such penalties as may be determined by CCDGA.
- Every effort should be made to play the contest on the scheduled day and time. If it is necessary to delay the commencement of play or suspend play because of weather conditions play should not be suspended for the day until such time as it would not be possible for the last match to be concluded on the day. The decision on this rests with the Match Committee of the Host Club. Contests / Matches unable to be completed due to inclement weather or course conditions shall be deemed halved.

#### **(ii) Order of Play.**

- Contests will be played in the order of “A” grade followed by “B” grade followed by “C” grade.

### **Nomination of teams to opposition and Host Club.**

- The Captain or Manager of each Club shall advise the official representative of the Host Club the names of the players in playing order at least ten (10) minutes before the nominated starting time. The team nomination sheet must also name the Team Manager (if applicable).
- The playing position of each player shall be determined by the Captain or Manager of each Club. (i.e. there is no requirement for players in the team to play in the order of current GA handicaps.)
- If a Club fails to provide the Team Nomination Sheet within ten (10) minutes of the nominated starting time the penalty shall be the loss of individual match No 6 ("A" grade), No. 4 ("B" & "C" grades).
- If a Club is unable to submit a full team, the opposing Captain or Manager and the relevant Match Committee must be notified that the team shall consist of a certain number of players who must play in descending order. The team will forfeit the last position and any other places not represented.

### **Absence of player(s) and/or reserves.**

- If, after the names of teams have been handed in a player fails to appear or is unfit or otherwise unable to play, a substitute player, who meets all eligibility requirements herein stated may take his place but he must play in the same team position of the player for whom he is substituting. If a substitute player is substituting for another player named in the team a notation must be made on the result sheet.
- A player will be considered absent if he is not ready to start at the time his individual match is due to hit off. Rule 5.3a applies.
- Should a substitute player in an individual match be required to take the place of an absent team member he must be ready and able to play at the time scheduled for the absent player's match. If the substitute player is not ready to play within five (5) minutes of the appointed time then the penalty is loss of the individual match.
- The honour on the tee shall be decided by the toss of a coin between representatives of the competing clubs. The Club that wins the toss shall have the honour at the starting tee for all matches in that contest.
- Teams will hit off in order as follows:

"A" grade – No 6 players concluding with the No 1 players hitting off last. Each group will consist of two (2) matches. (6 & 5, 4 & 3, 2 & 1)

"B" & "C" grade – No 4 players concluding with the No 1 players hitting off last. Each group will consist of two (2) matches. (4 & 3, 2 & 1)

Once play has commenced the penalty for any player playing in an incorrect team position shall be disqualification of the individual match. Exception: substitute player substituting for a listed player.

### **(iii) Winner of the contest.**

- The Club that secures the greater number of individual match points is the winner of the contest. Refer to "Contest Points and Individual Match Points" below for further details.

- The host Club is responsible for submission of all result sheets for the day play. Completed result sheets are to be emailed to the District Captain (Steve Fallon at erinaembroidery@hotmail.com) immediately following conclusion of the days play.
- **Contest Points and Individual Match Points.**

The following allocation of contest points and individual match points will apply:

**Contest Points** – The Club that secures the greater number of individual match points is the winner of the contest. Two (2) contest points are awarded to the winner of the contest. In the event the contest is drawn each Club shall receive one (i) contest point.

**Individual Match Points** – Individual match points are awarded for each individual match as follows:

- One (1) individual match point is awarded to the Club for each individual match win.
- One half (½) individual match point is awarded to each Club for each drawn individual match win.

**(iv) Count Back procedures.**

In the event that two (2) or more Clubs have an equal number of contest points the higher placed Club will be the Club with the most Match points.

**Other conditions of Play and Procedures.**

- Caddies (as defined in the Rules of Golf and including the driver of motorised transport) are permitted in any grade.
- Pace of Play. (Guide only. Match officials should use a common sense approach to administering the pace of play).

In the interest of maintaining an acceptable pace of play ready golf is encouraged. The Managers / Captains of the teams in the contest shall determine before commencement of play whether ready golf is to apply. If the decision is taken to play ready golf it is binding on all matches in all grades of that contest.

Each match must maintain its position on the course with respect to the match preceding it. The following time schedule for the completion of each hole applies:

Par 3 holes – 11 minutes

Par 4 holes – 13 minutes

Par 5 holes – 15 minutes

In exceptional circumstances (such as extreme weather/playing conditions) the Match Committee has the authority to extend this time requirement.

The first match to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, the group

- has lost contact with any group that started their round immediately in front of the first match.
  - behind the cumulative time prescribed by the above time schedule. Any following match will be considered out of position if it;
- reaches the tee of a par 3 hole and the preceding group has cleared the next tee; reaches the tee of a par 4 hole and the putting green is clear; or

(b) reaches the tee of a par 5 hole when the preceding group is on the putting green.

### **Pace of Play penalties**

An out of position match shall be monitored. Anytime a match is being monitored they will be notified of such monitoring by a Match Committee representative or a Rules Official.

The following are the penalties, in sequence, for any match being monitored and out of position;

1<sup>st</sup> breach – warning

2<sup>nd</sup> breach – group must miss a hole and walk to the next tee. Holes not played considered halved.

3<sup>rd</sup> breach – 2<sup>nd</sup> warning

4<sup>th</sup> breach – disqualification

All matches will stop after 4 hours 45 minutes. Any match not completed will result in the match being squared. If circumstances exist where the delay in play is not the fault of the teams playing (e.g. the golfers playing ahead are slow) this time can be extended.

Any player considered to be purposely playing slowly to take advantage of this condition will be considered in breach of the District's code of conduct in relation to unsportsmanlike conduct and the matter referred to CCDGA for action.

All decisions in regard to pace of play must be made by the Club official or representative of the CCDGA Pennant Match Committee.

### **(iii) Use of Locomotion:**

The use of motorised transport in all grades is permitted.

NB: The CCDGA Inc. accepts no responsibility for the availability of automotive locomotion at venue Clubs or as to whether permission is or is not granted for the use of such automotive locomotion. In the event of course conditions excluding automotive locomotion it is the responsibility of each club to ensure that team members are able to complete the match without the assistance of automotive locomotion.

### **(iv) Mobile Phones**

- The use of a mobile or portable phone by a player whilst on the golf course, other than as a GPS device, is prohibited. The penalty for breach of this condition is loss of hole at which the breach occurs. If the breach occurs between holes then the penalty applies to the next hole. If the breach occurs at halfway then no penalty applies.
- If the player is in possession of a mobile or portable phone it **MUST** be turned off. If the phone rings this will be deemed to be in use and the penalty outlined above will apply.

#### **Exceptions:**

- A player, who due to his profession or civic responsibilities is "on call", may be granted permission to use such devices during the course of the matches. Such use is only permitted on the authority of the District Captain or his nominee and will only apply if the player is "on Call" during the conduct of the event.
- In the interest of fast play a mobile phone may be utilised to summon an official for the purpose of a ruling or to resolve a dispute.



**(v) Code of Conduct:**

The CCDGA's Code of Conduct shall apply to all Championships, major activities, events and competitions (including Pennants) conducted by the CCDGA, in addition to other requirements of players as specified by tournament rules, local rules and the by-laws of Clubs hosting CCDGA events. On entering a CCDGA event, either as an individual or as a member of a team entered by his club, a player agrees to comply with the normal standards of behaviour and conduct and with the specific rules of the competition hereinbefore stated.

Players are under an obligation to avoid acts that are unsportsmanlike and detrimental to the game of golf.

Violation of any of the following provisions is regarded as unacceptable conduct and may render a player subject to action as determined by the CCDGA Inc.

- a. CCDGA Inc. may in its absolute discretion, at any time and without assigning any reason therefore, refuse any entry or declare any entrant ineligible to compete.
- b. Any player who shall, during any CCDGA Championship, approved tournament or activity, within the precincts of the course, clubhouse or in the vicinity of the host venue engage in conduct in such a manner as will bring discredit to the CCDGA or the game of golf.
- c. Any player who shall use profane or abusive language, throw or break clubs, wilfully damage the course in any way, criticise the course, competition, the sponsors or other officials connected with the competition.
- d. Any player guilty of deliberately breaking the Rules of Golf.
- e. Any player who refuses to comply with the host club's dress regulations.

During Pennant competition the consumption of alcohol by a player on the golf course during the course of his match is prohibited. Nothing in these rules prevents the consumption of alcohol at the break between each nine holes. Players found in breach of these rules will be subject to disqualification. Consumption of alcohol on the golf course during the contest by a Manager will result in the deduction of one (1) winning match from the team result.

- vi. Penalties – where a penalty for breach of a Rule of the competition is not stated the penalty shall be determined by the CCDGA Pennant Match Committee.