

SOUTHERN GOLF GROUP INC

MEN'S PENNANT COMPETITION 2021

RULES OF COMPETITION

- 1** The inter-club Southern Golf Group (SGG) Pennant competition is played annually by teams from SGG Member Clubs. Teams from clubs outside the SGG Boundaries as set by Golf SA from time to time are permitted to participate provided that their entry is approved by the SGG Board. The winner of each Grade shall receive a plaque which can be retained by the winning club and a perpetual shield which shall be passed on each year. The SGG Board will arrange the plaques and shields and their presentation at the conclusion of the finals matches.
- 2** The Pennant Competition is conducted by the by the SGG Board in conjunction with the Pennant Co-ordinator. The season program showing the draw, dates and venues will be provided to each competing Club.
- 3 TEAM PLAYERS**
 - (a) To be eligible to compete in a pennant match, a player must be a financial male member of the club he represents, meet eligibility requirements to participate in their Club Championships and meet the requirements of an amateur (in accordance with the Rules of Amateur Status).
 - (b) No player shall be eligible to play for more than one affiliated SGG Club in any one season not counting games played in Golf Australia (SA) pennants representing SGG.
 - (c) No player (subject to clause 3 (d)) who has played 3 games in a higher grade or grades shall be eligible for a lower grade in any one season. Games played representing SGG in Golf SA pennant competitions count as played in his home club's highest grade.
 - (d) If/when a Golf SA Simpson Cup SGG player returns to his home Club's SGG top pennant side and causes another player to be relegated to the next lower team and that relegated player has already played 3 or more matches in the higher grade (including Golf SA Pennant), a prior request must be made to the SGG Pennant Co-ordinator for approval for that relegated player to play in the lower grade. Such requests must be received by the SGG Pennant Co-ordinator a minimum of two (2) days prior to the first match in the lower grade. If approval is given then that relegated player cannot play in a higher grade for the rest of the season without prior approval from the SGG Pennant Co-ordinator.
 - (e) If a Club has more than one team in a Division within any overall Grade (eg 2 teams in Grade A1), then a player may only play in one (1) of these teams. The Player may not play in both or be interchanged; however, he can play in higher or lower grades subject to clauses 3 (c) & (d).

4 MATCH REFEREES

The host club **must** provide a Match Referee. This person will act as rules official, be responsible for administering the competition at each pennant venue and determine any disputes that may arise on the day. This person should not be a competitor on the day in that grade.

5 STARTING TIME Exceptional Circumstances Exist for season 2021

All matches must commence between 8:30 & 9:30am unless exceptional circumstances exist and/or on 9 Hole Courses where the Host Club Captain may determine that some matches must commence after 9:30am.

6 PLAYING ORDER OF MATCHES

- (a) Ideally, all games should be played in pairs. However, if the host club deems it necessary because of the number of teams playing on the course on the same day, the games may be played in groups of four.
- (b) Team Captains should toss a coin for the honour on the first tee played. Remaining clubs listed first in the draw shall be deemed to be a "host" team for the purposes of reporting results to the SGG Pennant Co-Ordinator.
- (c) The order of play shall be that the No 7 player hits off first followed by No. 6 and so on subject to sub-para 6(e).
- (d) All players in C Grade must play in handicap order, ie the lowest handicap player must play at No 1 position and so on until the highest handicap player is played at No 7.
- (e) If the player is not ready to begin play in turn, his name, with that of his opponent, shall be placed at the end of the list and if he is not then ready, his game shall be forfeited.

7 SCORING SHEETS

Scoring sheets showing the playing position of each player shall be swapped between the two captains before starting the first match. Once the team sheets have been swapped no alteration shall be permitted unless it is to correct the playing order of a player to comply with Rule 6 (d) or (e).

8 HOME and AWAY MATCHES - All grades

- (a) All matches shall be decided by match play over eighteen holes. If the game is square at the eighteenth hole then the game is drawn and half of a win shall be awarded to each team.
- (b) The winning team shall be that team which wins the greatest number of matches. In the event of both teams winning 3½ matches each then the match will be drawn with equal points awarded. Match points awarded are 2 to the winning team or 1 each in the event of a draw.

- (c) A Club must be financial with the Southern Golf Group to participate in the SGG Pennant Competition. Should a Club fail to pay it's SGG Fees by the date stipulated then that Club shall be deemed to be unfinancial until all outstanding fees are paid. During the period in which the Club is deemed to be unfinancial any points earned by all of that Club's teams in an SGG Pennant match shall be cancelled. The matches shall not be awarded to the opposing teams; however, the opposing teams shall retain any points earned in these matches.

9 ABANDONMENT / CANCELLATION OF MATCH

- (a) Should a match be abandoned by decision of the Match Referee in attendance, the result will be a tie i.e. 3 ½ matches to 3 ½ matches. However, should one team already have established a winning position - i.e. a minimum of 4 matches won – that result shall stand and any remaining matches abandoned shall be shared equally.
- (b) In the event that a Final is abandoned for any reason, the match is to be played on the following Sunday at the same programmed course, unless circumstances do not permit. The SGG Board will arbitrate in this instance and its decision will be final.

10 BYES

- (a) Players who would normally play in the team that has a Bye shall not be permitted to play for a team in a Lower Grade in that round. However, a player can play for a team in a higher grade.
- (b) No player can be considered as having played a match or achieve qualification for a final as a result of a bye. Match points will not be awarded as a result of a bye.

11 FORFEITS

In the event of a team withdrawing at any time during the competition the SGG Men's Sub-Committee shall have the power to determine the eligibility of opposing team players both before and after the withdrawal to compete in the finals.

- (a) Players registered in a team that receives a forfeit will be counted as the match played for eligibility to play in finals.
- (b) The team that receives a forfeit will be deemed to have won the match 7 nil.

12 RESULTS

At the end of the match it shall be the responsibility of the "Home" Captain(s) **Who must:**

- (a) Notify the result by E-mail or Phone text to the SGG Pennant Co-ordinator by no later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the final match.
- (b) If the results are phoned, then the result sheets **must** be Posted, Faxed or E-mailed to the SGG Pennant-Co-ordinator so that they will be received no later than the following Tuesday.

13 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- (a) A player must have played at least two Pennant matches for the Club during the current Pennant season. This may include one Golf SA pennant game representing SGG played on the same day as a SGG pennant match (e.g. Simpson Cup).
- (b) A player cannot play for a grade lower than they normally played for during the minor rounds.
- (c) Clubs participating in a finals match to email/fax the player squad (list of players from which final team of 7 to be selected) for each team playing in a final to the SGG Pennant Co-ordinator as soon as possible but no later than the Monday after the last qualifying round. The SGG Pennant Co-ordinator will verify that the players listed are eligible to compete in the finals.

14 FINALS MATCHES - All Grades

- (a) The SGG Board shall determine the dates and venues.
- (b) The top two teams in each grade as determined by rule 14 (c) shall play in that grade's final.
- (c) The two teams to play finals will be decided by the number of matches won, lost or drawn, ie highest number of points awarded. In the event that the number of points scored is equal, then the number of individual games won will decide. In the event that the number of individual games won is equal, then the total net holes up for the season will decide.
- (d) The team honour for finals will be decided by toss of a coin.
- (e) All matches shall be decided by match play over eighteen holes. If the match is square at the eighteenth hole then the match shall continue from the tee from which the match commenced until a result is achieved. In the case of Handicap Grades the handicap difference shall be taken into consideration and applied as per the Match Index.

15 GRADES

- (a) Unless approved by the SGG Board no Club shall be permitted to have more than one team in any Division of any Grade.
- (b) Due to the fact the number of nominations for teams to compete may vary from one year to another the SGG Pennant Co-Ordinator shall, on receipt of all nominations, determine the grading for ALL teams taking into consideration the results from the previous year.
- (c) In the event that a vacancy occurs in a division of any Grade after they have been determined by the SGG Board and circulated to all Clubs, the SGG Board has the right to nominate a team to fill that vacancy without the necessity of doing a complete revision of the grades for the whole competition.

(d) **C (Handicap) Grade.** The following specific rules apply:

- (i) Maximum playing handicap permitted shall be 27.
- (ii) Players must use their current Golf Australia (GA) handicap then adjust this handicap using the Daily Handicap Look-up Chart for the course to determine their playing handicap.
- (iii) Should the adjusted playing handicap be more than 27, the handicap is to be reduced to 27.
- (iv) The International Handicap Match Play Index as per the Golf Australia guidelines (see the schedule below) shall be used for all Handicap Match Play games with the **NUMBER ONE HOLE BEING THE FIRST HOLE ON WHICH THE COMPETITION COMMENCES**. The difference in handicap shall be taken as per this Handicap Match Play Index:

HANDICAP 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

All GA handicaps must be current at time of the match.

16 PROMOTION / RELEGATION BETWEEN GRADES

- (a) There shall be a guiding principal for full promotion or relegation within and between Grades A and B (eg the winner of Grade B1 will be promoted to A2 and the bottom team in A2 will be relegated to B1), but where this will result in two teams from the same club being in the same Division (see Rule 15(a)), the SGG Men's Sub Committee is empowered to either:
 - (i) retain those teams in the same Grade as the previous year, or
 - (ii) balance the competition across the grades from its knowledge of the strengths of the various teams.
- (b) All C Grades are at the same level therefore there shall be no formal Promotion or Relegation. However, the SGG Pennant Co-Ordinator shall take into consideration when determining this Grade's divisions, which clubs played against each other in the previous year.

17 VIOLATION OF RULES

- (a) If a Club or player violates any of these rules the SGG Board will notify that club or player of the alleged breach and invite a response.
- (b) The SGG Board may invite a player or club representative to appear before it or it may appoint a representative or representatives to conduct detailed investigation or hold hearings on alleged violations.
- (c) The SGG Men's Sub-Committee has the right to impose a penalty relevant to SGG pennant play or points on a Club and/or individual as a result of its deliberations on the alleged violation and the Club involved will be informed. Should an individual or Club consider the penalty incorrect or inappropriate then they may appeal in writing to the SGG Board, through the Board Secretary, within three (3) days of being advised. Late appeals will not be considered.

18 PROTEST

Should a team wish to protest the outcome of a match for any reason, the Captain of that team should notify the opposing Captain within 15 minutes of the completion of the final match. A protest or complaint shall be lodged in writing with the SGG Pennant Co-ordinator before 5:00 pm on the Tuesday following the match and the decision by the SGG Men's Sub-Committee shall be final.

19 LOCAL RULES

The Captains of the Host Club shall supply to the Captains of the visiting Teams a copy of all LOCAL and TEMPORARY LOCAL RULES adopted by the Club upon whose Course the Pennant Match is to be played. All teams at the Course are to abide by these rules.

20 GENERAL

- (a) **ADVICE**
In accordance with the 'Rules of Golf' - Rule 10.2 – NO advice is to be accepted or given by any person other than the player's caddy. The Match Referee may give advice on a question on Rules.

- (b) **USE OF DISTANT MEASURING DEVICES (INCLUDING MOBILE PHONE APPS)**

The use of a personal distance measuring device by a competitor or caddy is permitted provided the device is used only to measure distance and no other conditions such as wind speed or direction, temperature, elevation, air moisture etc. as per "Rules of Golf" – Rule 4.3a.

- (a) **USE OF MOTORISED BUGGIES**

(Motorised means an electric or motor driven vehicle on which a player or caddy may sit or ride whilst the appliance is in motion). The use of motorised buggies shall be permitted during Pennant competition except in the following circumstances:

- (i) The host club may refuse permission for the use of motorised buggies if, due to the condition of the course, it is considered unsafe and/or the course could be damaged by the use of a motorised buggy.
- (ii) Clubs are encouraged to give as much warning as possible to visiting clubs that use of motorised buggies will be doubtful for the coming weekend so that clubs have ample time, if required, to adjust their team selection. Notwithstanding, the onus is on the player to check that he may hire or use his personally owned buggy on the course he is about to play.

21 MOBILE PHONES

- (a) The use of a mobile phone for conversation or texting by a player or his caddy whilst on the course during a game is prohibited unless agreed by his opponent; however, the phone must be turned off or set so it does not give an audible sound. Said phone may only be used for reasons considered urgent by both competitors, e.g. contacting Rules Official for a ruling.
- (c) Breach of this rule is “loss of the hole” being played when the phone is used without agreement or the mobile phone gives an audible sound. This includes using the Mobile Phone as a GPS system (refer to rule 20(b)).

22 ALCOHOL

The consumption of alcohol by a player or caddy during a match is strictly prohibited.

PENALTY. Refer Golf Australia Code of Conduct.

23 SMOKING

Players and caddies are NOT permitted to smoke cigarettes or the like (including E-cigarettes) during the stipulated match.

PENALTY. Refer Golf Australia Code of Conduct.

24 CADDIES

A player in a game is permitted to have the use of a caddy (male or female) ‘Rules of Golf’ Rule 10.3 applies.

25 SOFT SPIKES (where a Club has a NO metal spike policy).

All players and caddies shall wear shoes as permitted by the Host Club. Penalty for the offending player - Loss of each hole played whilst wearing shoes with illegal spikes.

26 PRACTICE PRIOR TO MATCH

On the day of the Match, team members from either side shall be permitted to practise only in those area designated by the Host Club. Clubs are encouraged to allow practice on the course as per normal conditions for match play.

26 CATERING

- (a) Host Clubs/Course Management are encouraged to provide a simple, inexpensive meal to an approximate value of \$12 to \$15 for competing team members at the completion of the match. Cost should be borne by individuals unless subsidised or paid for by their own club.
- (b) Although not mandatory, in the spirit of Pennant competition team players and supporters are strongly encouraged to attend the after-match lunch to foster good relations and promote camaraderie among their peers.
- (c) With many clubs using contract catering each visiting Club Captain/Pennant Co-Ordinator is responsible for advising the host club, prior to the start of the match, the number of their players/caddies requiring lunch so that catering staff may preparer the necessary meals.

27 COVID-19

Clubs and teams must comply with any COVID requirements in force at any time, including the requirements of host clubs. Team members should familiarise themselves with the latest directive from Golf Australia regarding COVID-19 golfing requirements. Open the link then select your state for the latest information. [Return to Play](#)

