



# SA Public Courses Pennant Golf Association

## 2026 Conditions of Competition

### 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).

### 1. 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.

### 2. 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 field more than one team in a division, provided that the teams are allotted to separate conferences within the division.
3. Teams that win the finals in divisions 2 and 3 may be promoted to the next higher division for the following season at the discretion of the SAPCPGA committee, provided that this does not result in more than one team from an individual club playing within a divisional conference.
4. Teams that are 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 discretion of the SAPCPGA committee, provided that this does not result in more than one team from an individual club playing within a divisional conference.
5. The winners of the finals in each division shall have a choice of starting the next Season with a home or an away match.

### 3. Player Eligibility

1. A player taking part in the competition must be:
  - (a) an amateur golfer in accordance with the rules of amateur status as published by the R&A;
  - (b) a *bona fide* member of the club he or she represents; this means:
    - (1) The player's category of club membership must permit the player to compete in general club competitions; and
    - (2) The player must have completed a minimum of 5 handicapping competition rounds within the club during the 12 months prior to their first match of the season.  
These rounds must be validated through the GA handicapping system
2. A player may not represent more than one club during a season.



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3. A player may only represent a club in Division 3 if their GA handicap is 12.0 or greater at the commencement of the Season.
4. A player that has played two matches in higher division(s) during the current season is not eligible to play in a lower division for the remainder of the season (including finals).
5. A club found to have played an ineligible player shall be penalised as follows:
  - (a) All games played by the player whilst ineligible 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.

#### 4. 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 division 1, and handicap order in divisions 2 and 3 (i.e. the lowest handicapper plays at number 1)**
5. Team Managers shall exchange completed team sheets 15 minutes prior to the start of the match.
6. All players must be registered seven days prior to the season commencing using the registration form. Players may be added during the season by emailing the player's name and golf ID number to the Secretary/Treasurer. The player must be registered prior to playing a game.

Division 2 and 3 players must have their daily playing handicap (for the course and tees being played) recorded on the team sheet.

If a Division 2 or 3 player is listed on the team sheet with an incorrect daily playing handicap that is higher than that calculated for the course and tees being played, the game will be awarded to their opponent with the score recorded as 5/4.

If the daily playing handicap recorded for the player is lower than that calculated for the course and tees being played, 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 match start time 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. Prior to the commencement of the Match the home club shall supply (to the Away Team Manager) score cards for all players and a copy of all local rules in play on the day of the Match.



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Players may take electronic (photographic) copies of the local rules for reference during their Game.

10. The home club is encouraged to supply food for the players at the conclusion of the match.
11. The home club shall email all completed match result sheets to the SAPCPGA Secretary (and any other nominated recipient as determined by the SAPCPGA committee) as soon as possible after the match completion.

### 5. 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 (see section 15).
3. Games for divisions 1 shall be individual match play off the stick.
4. Games for division's 2 and 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.  
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.
9. Lady golfers will tee off from the nominated ladies' tees, and all players will play the hole to the par indicated for the male golfer. If the par for the hole is different for ladies and men, ladies tee blocks will be set at 85% of the length of the hole for men.  
In placing the tee blocks, common sense should prevail such that a fair teeing area for the ladies, and a fair comparable playing distance for both players is achieved.
10. All Division's 2 and 3 matches shall use the match play index as recommended by Golf Australia – see Section 19 of this document.

### 6. Forfeits

1. If a club is unable to field a full complement of players for a round, it must forfeit the lowest position(s) in the lowest division first.
2. A club that forfeits one or more game(s) in a higher division and plays games in a lower division will have the game score for the lower division reduced by one for each game forfeited in the higher division(s) (limited to a minimum game score of zero).
3. Should the club believe that there are mitigating circumstances for forfeit(s) in a higher division they must provide explanatory evidence to the SAPCPGA committee within 24



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hours of the completion of the match in which the forfeit(s) occurred. The committee will determine whether equivalent forfeits will apply to the lower division(s).

4. All games completed in lower divisions where a penalty has been applied will still count for the Player of the Year competition, with the score recorded as completed

### 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. The format of the finals shall be determined (and published) by the SAPCPGA committee prior to the commencement of the season.
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 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. A finals match finishing equal will be decided by the number of holes won during the final. If both teams have won the same number of holes, **the number one player from each team will play sudden death from the first tee. In divisions 2 and 3 finals, handicap matchplay index will be used for the sudden death holes.**
6. If the format of the finals includes pre-Grand Final matches (e.g. Semi-Finals, Preliminary Finals, Qualifying Finals etc.) and any of these matches are cancelled, the team which qualified higher or has a better minor round record shall be declared the winner and progress to the next finals round.

### 9. Finals Eligibility

1. Teams that are unfinancial on the day of the first round of the season will not be eligible to contest finals.
2. A player that has played three matches for the club in a lower division(s) may play for the club in the finals in a higher division, even if they have played no minor round matches in that division.
3. Players must play a minimum of three matches for a club to be eligible to represent the club in finals. In general, the eligibility is straightforward - a player will have played three matches in a division and can play finals in that division, however, there are a few combinations that need clarification as follows:



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- Two matches in a lower division and one in a higher division – may play finals in the higher division only.
- One match in a lower division and two in a higher division – may play finals in the higher division only.
- Three (or more matches) in a lower division and two in a higher division – may play finals in the higher division only.
- Three (or more matches) in a lower division and one in a higher division – may play finals either the lower or higher division.
- A player that has played three matches for the club in a lower division(s) may play for the club in the finals in a higher division, even if they have played no minor round matches in that division.

### 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, with a maximum deduction of two holes.

### 12. Motorised Vehicles

1. Players **55** years of age and over may use a ride-on motorised vehicle provided they supply proof of age to the match referee if requested to do so.
2. Players under **55** years of age requiring to use a ride-on motorised vehicle, must provide a valid medical certificate to the SAPCPGA Secretary prior to the commencement of the season.  
The SAPCPGA Secretary will maintain a register of players and certificates for the purposes of validation following each match.
3. Players that have not provided a valid medical certificate to the SAPCPGA Secretary prior to the commencement of a match may use a ride-on motorised vehicle during a match provided they show their medical certificate to the match referee prior to the commencement of the match.  
The medical certificate must be provided to the SAPCPGA Secretary as soon as possible following the completion of the match.



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4. Team Managers must clearly indicate on the team/results sheet all players that use a ride-on motorised vehicle during any match.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. A caddie may use a ride-on motorised vehicle to carry a player's clubs and equipment 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, with a maximum deduction of two holes.

### 13. Course Closure

1. If a course is closed due to bad weather or any other condition, all matches that day are cancelled.  
No points will be awarded for the division tables and player of the year.

### 14. Hot Weather

1. If the forecast Adelaide maximum temperature for a match day as published on the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website at 6pm on the day prior to the match is 40°C or greater, all matches for that day will be cancelled. If the forecast Adelaide maximum temperature for a match day as published on the BOM website at 6pm 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.  
The SAPCPGA Secretary will SMS all delegates as soon as possible after 6pm to advise of any cancellations or hole reduced games due to hot weather.
2. If hot weather is forecast for a finals day, the committee may determine to play a match with a reduced number of holes for all games.
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.

### 15. Player of the Year

1. The player of the year for each division shall be the player that has won the greater number of points in that division. Points will be awarded as per the divisions, three points for a win and one point for a halved match.
2. If two or more players have won the same number of games, the player that has won the greater number of holes will be ranked higher.



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### 16. 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 player's actions.
2. Should a player physically attack, abuse, verbally threaten or racially vilify in any way 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. Alcohol during the game is permitted. Players should show restraint in their amount of consumption.**
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

### 17. Appendix – Penalty Summary

Offence	Penalty
Club playing ineligible player.	5/4 loss for all games played by the player whilst ineligible
Higher incorrect daily playing handicap listed for player in Division's 2 and 3.	5/4 loss of Game.
Player substituted up to 5 minutes prior to start of match.	Loss of first hole.
Player substituted after 5 minutes prior to start of match.	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.
Forfeit in a higher division	Game score in lower division(s) reduced by one for each game forfeited in the higher division(s) (limited to a minimum game score of zero).
Playing team member acting as caddie.	One hole deducted for each hole at which the breach occurred - maximum deduction of two holes.



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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 – maximum deduction of two holes.
Physical attack, abuse, verbal threats or racial vilification 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.

### 18. Appendix – Division 3 Match Play Index

<b>Hole</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>Index</b>	18	8	12	3	14	6	10	1	16	5	11	2	15	7	13	4	17	9

Note that where a match begins on a hole other than the first hole of the course, the match play index will be applied according to the order of the holes played. For example, if the match begins on the 15<sup>th</sup> hole, the match play index for hole 1 (18), is used for the 15<sup>th</sup> hole, for hole 2 (8) on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole, and so forth.