

Murray District Golf Association
Pennant Rules and Conditions of Play 2025
To be Read in Conjunction with the MDGA Code of Conduct



1. Divisions

There shall be 3 Divisions: Scratch, Handicap and Masters.

2. Teams

Teams consist of 5 players each Scratch and Handicap.

Teams consist of 6 players each for Masters.

The MDGA will pay \$15.00 per player to the host club for green fees.

3. Season

3.1 **Scratch.** Teams, playing each other in a home and away draw, with the 2 teams at the top of the ladder after those home and away matches to play off in a Grand Final at a neutral venue to be decided by the MDGA Match Committee. Whichever team wins the season MAY NOT HOST the following season (general conditions applying).

3.2 **Handicap.** Teams will be divided into 2 pools. All teams within a pool will play each other once. The team at the top of each respective pool ladder after those matches will play each other in the Grand Final at a neutral venue to be decided by the MDGA Match Committee. Whichever team wins the season MAY NOT HOST the following season (general conditions applying).

3.2.1 Order of player ranking shall be strictly in order of Golf Australia (GA) Handicap from highest to lowest (match 5 to match 1), regardless of adjusted course handicap. (i.e. Player A off 6.1 plays above Player B off 6.2, despite both having an adjusted course handicap of 7).

3.2.2 Players will play off handicaps as per Golf Australia on the day of play, adjusted for the course slope ratings for handicap pennant.

3.3 **Masters** All teams will play each other once. The 2 teams at the top of the ladder after those matches will play in the Grand Final at a neutral venue to be decided by the MDGA Match Committee.

3.3.1 Competition is a 4BBB Handicap match using the International Match play index.

3.3.2 Players will play off handicaps as per Golf Australia on the day of play, adjusted for the course slope ratings for handicap pennant.

4. Disputes

Team Captains/Managers will sort out any disputes on the day. Unresolved disputes will be referred to the MDGA Match Committee, whose decision shall be final.

5. Host Club Responsibilities

5.1. 15 minutes prior to the contest being commenced, the Captains of the teams playing will toss for the honour during the contest.

5.2 All team members must be present no later than 15 minutes prior to the first tee time. If a player in any position is not present at this time it will be deemed that

his match is forfeited. There will be no movement in the order of players at this point.

- 5.3 The Host Club's Match Committee or its nominee(s) are responsible for calling each individual match to the tee as nominated on the team sheet.
- 5.4 All results are also to be announced in a hospitable manner by the host club after each Match has finished. The result sheet should then be forwarded (email) OR handed in person to the relevant MDGA SCRATCH or HANDICAP PENNANT COORDINATOR by end of day SUNDAY after round has occurred.
- 5.5 To supply food for ALL PLAYERS to the value of \$15.00

6. Player Eligibility

- 6.1 A player must be a financial member of the club they represent. They may represent only one club in the competition in any one year.
- 6.2 The player may move between Divisions (Scratch, Handicap and Masters).
- 6.3 To be eligible to play in the Grand Final of either Division, the player must have played in at least 50% of the available matches in that Division. Rounds cancelled due to inclement weather do not count as available matches.
- 6.4 Players must present themselves dressed in their club pennant team uniform, consisting of a neat/tidy collar shirt with appropriate golf shoes.
- 6.5 Masters Players to be 55 years of age, or older.

7. Match Duration

All matches in the Qualifying series shall be played to the 18th green. All matches in the Grand Final shall be played to a conclusion, if required.

8. Match Practice

No practice to be allowed on the course prior to matches. An exception is allowable if a local rule allows chipping and putting to a green in proximity to the clubhouse or 1st tee. Host clubs will confirm the practice green eg 18th green if there is no specific designated practice green available, when the coordinator confirms the venue. Coordinator to advise Team Captains of designated practice green when sending out tee times.

9. Individual Forfeits

An individual Match shall be deemed forfeit if the player designated to play does not present themselves to the tee within 5 minutes of their allocated tee time. For this rule allow 7 minutes between each hit off time per match. This period of time may be extended under exceptional circumstances by mutual agreement between the Team Captains of the competing clubs.

10. Team Forfeits

- 10.1 An Inter-Club Match shall be deemed forfeit by a competing team if it can field no more than 3 players. If a Club knows that this situation will arise, it should notify the Host club and its opposition Club of this fact as soon as possible.
- 10.2 In the case of individual forfeits, the winning margin will be deemed to be 5/4.
- 10.3 If a Team is not present at the appointed time, that Team shall be forfeit, however

the time allowed for that team to show up may be extended under exceptional circumstances by mutual agreement between the Team Captains of the competing clubs.

- 10.4 In the case of a team forfeiting a match, all games will be deemed to be a 5/4 margin. The team allocated the points for a forfeit cannot use those points against another team that have tied with them for finals eligibility but may use the points against the team that forfeited.

11. Suspension of Play and Abandonment of Contests

Each individual match shall be known as a contest. In the event of heavy rain, lightning, unplayable course conditions or for any other reason, the relevant home club official will be responsible for deciding whether to suspend play. The signal for suspending play will be three short siren blasts. The procedure when play is suspended is outlined under Rule of Golf 5.7b. When the course is ready for play, players will be advised to return to their various locations. The signal for the resumption of play will be one long siren blast. Every effort should be made to complete all contests on the scheduled day.

If the home club official declares that completion is not possible on the scheduled day and less than three contests in each Division have been decided; the round shall be abandoned.

However, if the home club official declares that completion is not possible on the scheduled day and a minimum of three contests in each division have been decided, play in all unfinished matches should be resumed on a day or days to be determined by the MDGA Match Committee in consultation with the host club (prior to the set date of the Pennant Finals) from where they were discontinued (see Rules of Golf 5.7c and 5.7b). In exceptional circumstances, the MDGA Match Committee may appoint an alternate venue for the conclusion of unfinished contests. The result of any decided contests will stand in this instance. If resumption of play is not possible on the determined day or days, the MDGA Match Committee will determine the action to be taken.

12. Team manager

- 12.1 Each team may appoint a team manager. The team manager must be a member or employee of the team's club. An employee may include a club manager, professional or member of staff. The team manager must be identified on the team list submitted prior to the start of the contest.
- 12.2 In accordance with the Rules of Golf 24.4a, team managers are authorised to give advice to members of his/her team. Only the person nominated as the Team Manager can give advice. Team-mates and spectators are not permitted to give advice to a player during their individual match.
- 12.3 A player accepting advice from persons other than his/her team manager or his/her caddie will be subject to penalty in accordance with Rules of Golf 10.2a.

13. Team Captain

- 13.1 Must collect and pay \$15.00 per player of their team to the host club.
- 13.2 **SCRATCH and HANDICAP PENNANT CAPTAINS** must email the team (player names) each FRIDAY BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS (5:00PM) to the relevant pennant coordinator.
- 13.3 Late teams may incur a PENALTY to be decided jointly by relevant pennant coordinator and by the MDGA Match Committee, whose decision shall be final.

- 13.4 Any player substitution to a team can be made on the day up to 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the first match under exceptional circumstances.

14. Handicap Matches Rules

- 14.1 Matches to be played in groups of 4.
14.2 First tee times matches to be played in groups of 4's in the following order in roundrobin stages:

Playing order					
Matches	Number 5s	Number 4s	Number 3s	Number 2s	Number 1s

- 14.3 Semi or Grand Final tee time matches to be played in groups of 2 (pair) in the following order:

Playing Order in Pairs	
Semi or Grand Final Match	Sequential order commencing with 5s

15. Masters Matches Rules

- 15.1 Teams will consist of 6 players, and they must play in handicap order.
15.2 In normal matches Group 1- the 2 lowest handicap players, Group 2- the next 2 lowest, Group 3- the 2 highest handicap players.
15.3 Matches to be played in 4BBB.

16. Finals Venue

The top team in each pool of Handicap Pennant will play a Semi-Final at a neutral venue, decided by the coordinator. The Grand Final of both Handicap and Scratch Pennant will be played at a neutral venue to be decided by the MDGA Match Committee as soon as possible after the qualifying series of matches has been decided.

17. Finals Participation

- 17.1 The team who wins their match shall receive 1 win.
17.2 A draw will result in 0.5 win for each team.
17.3 If two or more teams tie on overall match wins, the team with the highest number of individual games won shall be deemed to finish higher on the ladder.
17.4 In the event of teams tying with individual games as well as team wins, the points system (see section 14 below) will be used to separate the teams. The team with the higher number of points will be deemed to finish higher on the ladder.
17.5 Finals in both divisions will be contested by the 2 teams who, at the end of the qualifying season, has the most wins, then the most individual matches and if required, by the most points. For the points, see below.

18. Points Table

The following points score table will operate for the count-back system.

Result:	Points	Result:	Points
Loss:	0	5/4	10
Square:	1	6/4	11
1-up	2	6/5	12
2-up	3	7/5	13
2/1	4	7/6	14
3/1	5	8/6	15
3/2	6	8/7	16
4/2	7	9/7	17
4/3	8	9/8	18
5/3	9	10/8	19

19. Match play Index

The following is the International Match play index to be used for Handicap, Masters and Juniormatches in the season.

Regardless of starting hole Match Index refers to Tee Off on Hole.

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	18	8	12	3	14	6	10	1	16

Hole	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	5	11	2	15	7	13	4	17	9

20. Code of Conduct

All players and club representatives (including member spectators) will be subject to the guidelines for etiquette and behaviour as outlined in the MDGA and Golf NSW Codes of Conduct. Breaches of these guidelines may result in penalty and / or disciplinary action.

21. LOCOMOTION

There are no restrictions on use of motorized locomotion (including carts) in Handicap or Master Pennant. A Scratch Pennant player, however, will require a medical certificate unless the use of motorised locomotion is agreed to by the opposing team captain. The MDGA takes no responsibility for the provision or availability of any motorized locomotion devices.

Updated February 2025