



Sunday Pennant Conditions 2026

Singles Stroke Matchplay

GCV Pennant Committee

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**Golf Central Victoria
SundayPennant - 2026
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**Golf Central Victoria
Pennant - 2026
COMPETITION CONDITIONS**

1. Definitions

- i. "GCV" means Golf Central Victoria, the parent body for the golf clubs and amateur golf in the Central Victorian geographical region.
- ii. "Golf Aust" means the Golf Australia, the parent body for all amateur golf in Australia.
- iii. The Pennant competition is under the control of the GCV Executive Committee.
- iv. A pennant player must be a financial member of an affiliated Club of Golf Central Victoria.
- v. The competition between two teams will be known as a Contest.
- vi. In GCV Sunday Singles Pennant, a Contest consists of 5 individual Matches.

2. Format

2.1. General

- GCV Pennant is a club teams match play competition made available to the member Clubs of GCV. The participating clubs are separated into divisions in accordance with the requests of the clubs and the player's approximate handicap ranges. The GCV Pennant Season consists of "round robin" contests between respective clubs in each Division.
- Prior to the pennant draw, all GCV Clubs will be requested to provide a list of dates that their club can make their course available for play. Venues will then be selected at the discretion of the GCV Pennant Committee and participating Club's will be notified once the draw is complete or should any amendments be required thereafter. Host clubs must give pennant play priority over all other golf at their course during play.
- Failure to provide venue dates to GCV or to give priority to pennant play may put at risk that clubs availability to play pennant in the current season.

2.2. Representation

- Each Club is represented by a team of 5 players eligible in accordance with the eligibility criteria set out in condition 2.3.
- Each team participating in the Pennant competition must be financial in accordance with the Golf Aust & GCV Constitution and By-Laws at the time of play. Any Club that does not satisfy this clause may be precluded from participating in any given Pennant Season.

2.3 Eligibility

- i. A player taking part in the GCV Pennant Competition **must be an amateur golfer and a financial member of the Club they represent; or a member of another GCV club who are not participating in this year's Pennant competition.**
- ii. If a player represents a Club during the current season, they are ineligible to represent a different Club in the same season.
- iii. Players eligible to play in both Golf Aust Victorian Pennant are also permitted to compete in GCV Pennant

An ineligible player competing in a contest is penalised by loss of the specific individual match (5/4).

2.4 Contests

The competitions between two teams will be known as a Contest. Contests will be played upon the course of the club named in the draw and in accordance with the Rules of Golf together with any such local rules as are in force over the course on which the competition takes place.

In GCV Pennant, a Contest consists of 5 individual matches. In GCV Pennant, a Contest is defined as decided once the individual matches are completed.

2.5 Divisions

Pennant will be conducted in Divisions according to the following handicap ranges:

- Division 1 - Scratch
 - No shots given between Pennant Players (PP's)
- Division 2 – Handicap range 5 –9
 - Shots given between PP's as follows:
 - Handicaps between 5 to 9 no shots given
 - Handicap less than 5 shots given up to a Handicap of 5
 - Example 1: Handicap 3 vs Handicap 7 2 shots given
 - Example 2: Handicap 2 vs Handicap 4 2 shots given
 - Players with greater than 9 handicap can play in this division but no extra shots will be given.
- Division 3 - Handicap range 10 - 14
 - Shots given between PP's as follows:
 - Handicaps between 10 to 14 no shots given
 - Handicap less than 10 shots given up to a Handicap of 10
 - Example 1: Handicap 7 vs Handicap 12 3 shots given
 - Example 2: Handicap 6 vs Handicap 9 3 shots given
 - Players with greater than 14 handicap can play in this division but no extra shots will be given.
- Open Division – No handicap range (shots given to daily handicap). Players to be ordered in GA handicap order (highest GA @ number 5, lowest GA @ number 1).

In Open Division competitors will give and receive shots according to their true **daily handicap**. Teams in all divisions can be made up of male and female golfers, on occasion there will be holes that have a different 'par' for men to that of women. The net score against par should be used.

Other than in Division 1 (where the team can be in any order), all contests will be played in handicap order with the highest **GA handicapped** competitor playing 5th position and therefore being the first contest of the day and the lowest handicapped competitor playing in 1st position and being the last contest of the day. Note that the applicable handicap under this condition is the "GA handicap".

Mens competitors are to play from the teeing ground considered the “Mens Championship Markers” at the course of play (Eg Black / Blue or similar). Women competitors are to play from the “Womens Championships markers” (Eg. Red tee markers).

Matches shall be played under the Rules of Golf and the Local Rules of the host Club.

3. Match Committee

The Match Committee at each pennant venue shall consist of a nominated representative from GCV and a representative of the Host Club wherever possible. The Match Committee shall be responsible for administering the competition at each pennant venue, monitoring slow play and determining any Rules of Golf dispute which may arise or is referred to it. In the absence of the full Match Committee, a minimum quorum of one such member thereof as may be present at any time may give a decision and any decision shall be deemed the decision of the full Match Committee. In the absence of a Match Committee member, a dispute may be decided by two representatives of the host club.

Should any Pennant Condition or competition administration dispute arise at a Pennant venue, prior to determining any such dispute, the Match Committee is required to ascertain relevant details (either verbally or in writing) from a representative of the club or clubs involved and any other relevant party. Following consideration of this dispute, the Committee decision must be conveyed to one representative from the club or clubs involved.

Unless otherwise indicated, the Match Committee does not have the authority to alter or vary any Pennant condition.

4 Rules officials

- i. Rules Officials may be appointed by GCV to each Pennant venue to adjudicate on rules queries between players and pace of play issues as they arise (Including issuing of penalties if required). Rules queries may also be directly answered by a member of the Match Committee.

Note: There is no right of appeal against any decision given by a Rules Official or individual member of the Match Committee.

- ii. At each Pennant Venue, Rules of Golf or Play disputes will only be considered by the Match Committee on the direct referral by a Rules Official or the member of the Match Committee who has directly adjudicated on such a rules/pace of play query. Any decision made by an appointed Rules Official or individual Match Committee member shall be deemed to be final unless such official refers the matter to the Match Committee for consideration.
- iii. Prior to determining any Rules of Golf or Pace of Play dispute, the Match Committee is required to ascertain relevant details (either verbally or in writing) from one representative of the club or clubs involved and any other relevant party. Following consideration of the dispute, the Committee decision must be conveyed to one representative from the club or clubs involved.

5. Practice

In accordance with Rule of Golf 5.2(a) players are permitted to practice on the course on the day of competition prior to the commencement of their matches.

Please check with a Match Committee member or at the pro shop as to where and when practice can take place. Clubs may at their discretion limit the level of practice on course prior to the commencement of any contest.

6. Team Lists & Commencement of Play

6.1 Payment

\$50 per team is to be submitted by the club upon registration of the team in the pennant competition to GCV.

A further payment of \$10 per player per week is required to be paid to the host club representative for each round played. This is to help offset the cost to the host club for the use of their course. Host clubs may waive this fee for their own team(s) at the discretion of the host club's committee. This should be communicated to the starter and GCV match committee representative prior to team submission.

6.2 Team Lists

A representative of each team shall hand into the host club office, the team fee of \$10 per player and the list of team members in numerical order. For Divisions 2, 3 and Open Division, No. 1 (lowest handicapped) player to the No. 5 player, no later than 10 minutes prior to the stated hit-off time (30 minutes for the final). Division 1 teams do not need to be in handicap order. **GA and Daily** handicaps must also be recorded on the team lists (not needed for Division 1 contests, GA only in Division 2)

For Divisions 2, 3 and Open Division, order of Play will be Highest (GA) Handicapper to Lowest Handicapper.

Please note: Any Club that is late in handing in its team list will incur the following penalties:

Team List not submitted by:-	Penalty
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 minutes prior to hit-off	- The No. 5 player will lose the 1 st hole
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 minutes prior to the stated hit off	- The No. 5 player will lose the 1 st and 2 nd holes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0 minutes prior to the stated hit off	- The No. 5 player will lose his match (5/4)

6.3 Starting Times

Starting times for round robin contests will be as stated on the draw, unless otherwise amended by the GCV Pennant Match Committee.

Start times for 2026 have generally been set at 7.30 am, 8.05 am, and 8.40 am, with the exception of Division 2, which will also include a 9.15 am start.

Players arriving late **on the starting tee** will be penalised as follows:

- Up to 5 minutes late - loss of the 1st hole
- Over 10 minutes late - loss of match (5/4)

Play will commence from the second hole. Players are to wait on the starting tee and must not proceed to the amended starting hole without an opponent.

Contests commencing behind a late start, must commence play as if it were a "call through" situation. Late contests commencing on the 2nd hole can take their place in the correct order of play upon arrival at the tee.

Clubs are reminded that teams which fail to present for a contest will incur a fine of \$100. Clubs will also be fined \$20 for each match missed should there be an unavailable player on the day. This payment is to be made by the team whose player is missing to ensure the daily fee of \$50 per team is fully paid to the host club and to avoid unnecessary administration after the fact.

All team forfeits should be notified to the GCV Match Committee by the **Club Pennant Coordinator**, not by the team Captain of the day. If it is certain that a team will forfeit the day before a contest, it is requested that the club Pennant Coordinator notifies a GCV Match Committee member.

6.4 Playing Out of Order

Any player playing out of order, i.e., Handicap Divisions Highest to Lowest, (except Division 1 and Division 2) will result in a loss of that match (5/4).

6.5 Match Index

For handicapping purposes, shots are to be given in accordance with the rules of golf match play index. That is:

Hole	Index	Hole	Index
1 st	18	10 th	05
2 nd	08	11 th	11
3 rd	12	12 th	02
4 th	03	13 th	15
5 th	14	14 th	07
6 th	06	15 th	13
7 th	10	16 th	04
8 th	01	17 th	17
9 th	16	18 th	09

The index table above pertains to the order of holes in a match - **(always starting with the 1st hole you play)** therefore if a match starts on the 5th hole of any given golf course then the index commences as if it was the 1st hole. Clubs will need to issue amended score cards on the day with this match play index included and adjusted for the tees where the commencement of matches will be.

6.6 General

Contests shall commence from designated starting tees at the times and in the order listed on the draw unless otherwise advised by the GCV Match Committee.

A toss of a coin between captains will determine the honour for all matches.

- A player playing two or more contests in a division is not eligible to play in a lower division.
- Handicaps will be based on the Daily handicap at the course where the contest is being played.
- If a team is playing with less than the required numbers then the forfeit will be given to the 1st match away or the number 5 player, then 4 player etc.
- Teams receiving a forfeit are to submit their team list for finals eligibility.
- No player of the year / undefeated player awards are to be made during the 2026 season. GCV encourages member clubs individually to recognise any significant achievements during this season.

7. At the conclusion of play

- Captains must complete and sign the result card within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the match. Once signed the result can not be altered except for a breach of rules found out subsequent to play.
- Result cards must be handed to the nominated representative.

8. Host Club Responsibilities

- Will provide an official to act as the captain of the day and “starters’ for the number of tees used at the start of play.
- **Provide a Daily Handicap Chart for the tees on which the contests are to be played.**
- Where possible will provide a “club level’ accredited rules official to be present to adjudicate if required.
- Where possible set the course up from the ‘true markers’ for all Divisions. .
- Will receive \$10 per player, paid prior to play and with the team lists provided from the competing club’s captains.
- Will ensure results are recorded and that team captains sign result cards. Failure to observe these instructions will cause the club to be liable to a penalty to be determined by GCV.

9. Measuring Devices

A player may obtain distance information by using a device that, measures distance only. However, if during a Pennant match, a player uses a distance measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (eg, gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc), the player is in breach of Rule of Golf 4.3 for which the penalty for the first breach is loss of hole, and the second breach disqualification.

10. Players and Caddies - Dress, Footwear & Course Requirements.

- Players and Caddies are required to wear footwear in accordance with host club policy.
- Caddies must be attired in accordance with Host Club Dress Standards and any caddie not attired in this manner will be withdrawn.
- Caddies must be nominated before commencement of any match and no other person shall caddie or offer advice to the player other than the nominated caddie.

11. Match Duration

All Matches shall be played over 18 holes match play, if a match is square after the completion of 18 holes, no further play shall take place. The captains are to record such outcome as ALL SQUARE (A/S) on the result sheet.

In a Division Final contest, if a match is square after the completion of 18 holes, play shall continue until one player secures the advantage however, the Captains of both teams may agree that a match shall terminate without a decision, if the Division Final contest is decided.

12. Suspension of Play and Abandonment of Contests

In the event of heavy rain, lightning, unplayable course conditions or for any other reason, the Match Committee or club representative on the day 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 5.7(b).

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 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. Should play NOT be able to be re-commenced within 90 minutes of the initial suspension, play will be deemed unable to resume.

If the Match Committee declares that completion is not possible on the scheduled day and less than three matches have been decided; the round shall be abandoned. If three or more matches are decided, any uncompleted matches will be deemed to be tied and 0.5 pts awarded to each player.

The following heat policy relates to all GCV Sunday Pennant matches:

If at 6.00pm on the day BEFORE play the BOM indicates the temperature for BENDIGO is forecast to REACH OR EXCEED 40 degrees at 12 noon the following day, ALL play for that day MUST be abandoned.

Should a day of CODE RED (Catastrophic) fire danger be declared in ANY fire district within the boundaries of GCV member clubs, all play will be abandoned regardless, of the forecast temperature.

The GCV Pennant Match Committee will advise all participating clubs in the event of heat, fire danger or other predicted or actual weather event(s) preventing or discontinuing play as soon as possible.

13. Pace of Play

Each match must maintain its position on the course with respect to the match preceding it and maintain the time requirement specified below or as occasionally amended by the Match Committee at a host venue.

Any match with a clear hole in front of it and/or not playing in accordance within the Pennant time requirement (specified below) will be considered out of position. Loss of hole penalties will be issued by either the GCV member(s) of the Match Committee or appointed Rules Officials to individuals in such matches who by their pace of play contribute to such delay. Officials are not required to issue warnings prior to imposing penalties.

All matches are expected to complete 18 holes in a maximum time of 3 hours and 50 minutes (approximately 12 and a half minutes per hole). The first nine holes of each match is expected to be competed in a maximum time of one hour and 55 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 therefore would be considered to be out of position if at any point in the round the match is taking more than an average of 12 and a half minutes per hole to play. Any following match will be considered out of position if it:

- (a) Falls a clear hole behind; and
- (b) Is taking more than 12 and a half minutes per hole to play.

14. Locomotion

GCV allows the use of any form of mechanical locomotion by players or caddies during the pennant season. In exceptional circumstances, such as to protect a course in adverse conditions, some forms of motorised transport may not be allowed. These exceptional circumstances will be subject to the Match Committee of the day.

15. Pennant Finals

15.1 Team Qualification

At the conclusion of the 'round robin' contests, the leading two teams in all Divisions will qualify to compete in Division Final.

The leading teams in all Divisions will be those teams which have the greatest number of Contest wins. In the event of the number of contests won being equal, the leading teams in a Division will be those teams which have the greatest number of wins in individual matches. In the event of the number of individual matches won being equal, the decision shall be reached by count back based on the results of the contest between the tied teams during the season. In the event of teams still being unable to be separated, a count back on the basis of the difference between holes won and holes lost in all individual matches during the season shall decide the finishing position of each team. In the event of teams still being unable to be separated the matter shall be referred to the GCV Match Committee for decision.

The winner of each Division shall be the team winning the final, which will be played on a designated course between the two leading teams at the conclusion of the season.

15.2 Individual Player Qualification

To be eligible for finals a player must have played at least two matches in that division during the season. The GCV Match Committee reserves the right to allow a substituted player in exceptional circumstances.

A player playing two or more matches in any one division is not eligible to play in a lower division in finals play. Where a club has more than one team in any one division a player is only eligible to play finals for the team he first played two contests for.

15.3 Play Day Procedure

Pennant finals will be played on the nominated course commencing at times nominated by the GCV Pennant Match Committee.

Pennant flags for the winning teams will be made available for the purpose of taking team photos on the day of the final. Individual and club momentos will be awarded to the winning teams at the discretion of the GCV Board of Management.

15.4 Suspension of Play

In the event of heavy rain, lightning, unplayable course conditions or for any other reason, the Match Committee or the host club officials in consultation with any Match Committee member, 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 5.7(b).

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 GCV Pennant Final Contests on the scheduled day. If resumption of play is not possible on the stated day of any Division final, play shall be resumed on a day and at a time to be determined by the GCV Match Committee in consultation with the host club. In the event of the final not being decided and not being able to be resumed, the higher-placed team on the Divisional ladder at the conclusion of the round robin contests shall be declared the winner.

16. Course Regulations & Care

It is the responsibility of all players to observe their obligations as guests when playing away from their own club during both lead up practice rounds, regular season play and finals.

GCV is greatly appreciative of all Clubs that host pennant and additionally provide players with practice opportunities on the course. In return, it is expected that players would appreciate this opportunity and behave in a respectful manner when enjoying such access.

All players are expected to play in the spirit of the game as outlined in Rule of Golf 1.2. Players should give particular attention to the following etiquette issues during Pennant:-

- The carrying of sand buckets and use of sand to repair all divots.
- The repair of pitch marks on greens.
- The placement of litter in rubbish bins.
- The raking of all bunkers after playing from them.
- Behavior that distracts the attention of fellow-competitors including the use of audible obscene language and club throwing.
- Non-emergency use of Mobile Phones.

Players who are observed to display serious breaches of etiquette may be disqualified. In addition, after completion of each round all sand buckets must be returned to sand bucket dispenser units. Under no circumstances must sand buckets be left scattered in the club car park.

Additional Notes:

- i. Clubs having any further or special course requirements such as golf shoe requirements are asked to provide such details to visiting clubs with adequate notice.
- ii. GCV representatives will be in attendance at the finals venue to ensure that players/officials adhere to host club requirements.