

**GOULBURN VALLEY DISTRICT GOLF  
ASSOCIATION**

**BY-LAWS**

**(COMPLETE WITH AMENDMENTS)**

**GOULBURN VALLEY DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION**

**BY-LAW NO 1**

**OPEN MEETINGS**

1. Before the announcement by a club of its intention to hold their annual open tournament competition and the date thereof must have been approved by the Executive Committee of the G.V.D.G.A. and / or by the G.V.D.G.A. in general meeting.

**BY-LAW NO 2**

**G.V.D.G.A PENNANT**

**GENERAL NOTES**

1. **Competition**
  - 1.1 The inter club Pennant competition is open to all member clubs and shall be divided into divisions.
  - 1.2 The executive has total discretion of placing teams in divisions.
  - 1.3 Each team member must be handicapped by an affiliated G.V.D.G.A club.
2. **Dress Code**
  - 2.1 It is the responsibility of the team captain to ensure that team members observe the dress regulations of the host club.
3. **Etiquette**
  - 3.1 Players are to ensure that they observe the rules and etiquette of the host club. Remember you are representing your club, the G.V.D.G.A and you are a guest of the host club.
4. **Behaviour**
  - 4.1 Golf is a sport of great tradition and characterized by golfer's exemplary behaviour and fair play, this leads to high expectation of golfer's behaviour on and off the course.
  - 4.2 Unsportsmanlike behaviour will not be tolerated and any player reported for a misdemeanour will be dealt with by the G.V.D.G.A executive.
5. **Locomotion**
  - 5.1 In G.V.D.G.A Pennant contests please refer to Locomotion point 9.1.

6. **Practice prior to contests**

- 6.1 Practice is restricted to the practice fairway and practice putting area provided by the host club.
- 6.2 Practicing on the course prior to the contest is not permitted.

**G.V.D.G.A. PENNANT COMPETITION CONDITIONS**

Read in conjunction with by-law No 2 inter club Pennant competition.

1. **Definitions**

- 1.1 G.V.D.G.A means the Goulburn Valley District Golf Association.
- 1.2 The Pennant competition is under control of the G.V.D.G.A match committee.
- 1.3 The competition between two teams will be known as a contest.
- 1.4 In G.V.D.G.A Pennant a contest consists of (5) individual matches.
- 1.5 In G.V.D.G.A Pennant, a contest is defined as being decided when a club has won a minimum of three (3) individual matches.
- 1.6 Host club means the club where Pennant matches are played.

2. **Format**

- 2.1 General:  
G.V.D.G.A Pennant is a club team's match play competition. The G.V.D.G.A Pennant season will consist of contests between respective clubs in divisions as drawn by the G.V.D.G.A match committee.
- 2.2 Representation:  
Each club in the Winter competition is to be represented by a team of five (5) male players while the Summer competition (10) male players in accordance with condition 2.3.
- 2.3 Eligibility:  
A player taking part in the G.V.D.G.A Pennant competition must be an amateur golfer. No player may represent more than one (1) club during the competition of any one year. The penalty for an ineligible player competing in a Pennant match is loss of the specific individual match.

**Handicap Pennant Qualification for Finals**

- 1. That to qualify in a Handicap Division of Winter Pennant a player must play 2 games in that Division where there are 5 or 6 teams.
- 2. Where there are only 4 teams in a Division only 1 game is required to qualify.
- 3. If in the event of unforeseen circumstances that the above qualifications cannot be met then requests for substitute player/s not qualified to play under these rules must be addressed to the Executive of the G.V.D.G.A.

Scratch Pennant Qualification both for Rounds and Finals

1. That to qualify in a Scratch Division of Winter Pennant a player must play 2 games in that Division where there are 5 or 6 teams.
2. Where there are only 4 teams in a Division only 1 game is required to qualify.
3. Players having played in more than 2 contests in a Scratch Division will not be eligible to play in a round or final with a lower Division.
4. Players having played in a lower Division may be elevated to a higher Division.
5. If unforeseen circumstances that the above qualifications cannot be met then any request for a substitute player/s not qualified to play under these rules must be addressed to the Executive of the G.V.D.G.A.

**The penalty for an ineligible player competing in a Pennant match, both Scratch and Handicap is loss of the specific individual match.**

2.4 Contests:

The competition between two (2) 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 such local rules as are in force over the course on which the competition takes place. The honour for the contest shall be decided by the toss of a coin between representatives of the competing clubs. In G.V.D.G.A Pennant, a contest consists of five (5) individual matches. In G.V.D.G.A Pennant, a contest is defined as decided when one club has won a minimum of three (3) individual matches.

**3. Practice**

- 3.1 Players are not permitted to practice on the course on the day of the competition. Breach of this condition will be disqualification of the player or players involved. Prior to commencement of play, practice is permitted on the designated practice areas of the host club and in accordance with the exemption to Rule of Golf 7.1. During play practice is permitted in accordance with rule 7.2.

**4. Team Lists**

- 4.1 The Captain, manager or designated representative of each team shall hand into the office of the host club official, the list of team members in hit off order no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the schedule hit off time. **Failure to do so will result in Player No. 5 losing the 1<sup>st</sup> hole of the match.**

**5. Player, Caddie-Dress, Footwear & Course requirements**

- 5.1 Players & caddies are required to wear footwear in accordance with host club policy. Penalty for breach: Disqualification of player.

- 5.2 Caddies must be attired in accordance with the host club dress standards and any caddie not attired in this manner will be withdrawn.
- 5.3 Players and caddies who fail to adhere to the hosts club's dress and course requirements EG; failure to carry or use sand buckets, slicks on buggies etc, will be subject to sanction in accordance with the Association's code of conduct.

## 6. Draw & Honour

- 6.1 Contests shall commence from designated starting tees at the times and in order listed on the draw unless otherwise advise by the G.V.D.G.A.
- 6.2 The honour for each contest shall be decided by the toss of a coin by representatives of the competing clubs.

## 7. Match Duration, hit off order & and teeing area

- 7.1 All matches of Scratch Winter Pennant shall be played over Eighteen (18) holes match play. If a match is square after the completion of eighteen (18) holes (Winter Pennant), the match shall continue until one player secures the advantage. A player in Scratch Division may play in any order of play at the discretion of the team captain as long as long as the number 5 player listed on the team sheet hits off 1<sup>st</sup> with the following players hitting off in order as of the team sheet.  
In Scratch Divisions as advised per the issued draws from the Executive, players must hit off in nominated order. **Failure to do so will be Disqualification as per condition 7.5 below.**  
If a match in Summer Fourball Pennant is square after the completion of 18 holes the match shall remain square.
- 7.2 In a division final contest, if a match is square after the completion of eighteen (18) holes, play shall continue until one secures the advantage. However, the captains of both teams may agree that the match shall terminate without a decision, if the divisional final contest is decided.
- 7.3 Individual matches are to be played from the tee markers as directed by the host club and in order of the team list.
- 7.4 In all matches of Handicap Winter Divisions as advised per the issued draws from the Executive, players must hit off in Playing Handicap order, with the highest hitting off 1<sup>st</sup> and the lowest hitting off last. If a match is square after (18) holes the match shall continue until one player secures the advantage. Any strokes given/received shall continue. **Failure to do so will be Disqualification as per condition 7.5 below.**
- 7.5 **Once play has commenced in any match, the penalty for a player playing in the incorrect team position will be Disqualification (Loss of Match).**

## 8. Suspension of play & abandonment of contests

- 8.1 In the event of heavy rain, lighting, unplayable course conditions or for any other reason the host club will be responsible for deciding whether

to suspend play. The procedure when play is suspended is outlined under rule 6.8b.

- 8.2 When the course is ready to play, players will be advised to return to their various locations.
- 8.3 Every effort should be made to complete all contests on the schedule day.
- 8.4 If contests cannot be completed on the day then the G.V.D.G.A. executive shall decide on an outcome.

## 9 Locomotion

- 9.1 Players and caddies are not permitted to ride in or on any form of mechanical locomotion during the playing of a hole, except where a club has received written dispensation from the G.V.D.G.A for a particular player or caddie and the approval of the host club concerned. **This condition will only apply to Scratch Matches and does not affect Handicap Matches. The penalty for breach of this condition by a player or caddie is disqualification of player or players involved.**

## 10 Measuring Devices

- 10.1 Players may obtain distance information by using a device (multi-functional devices, such as a mobile phone with a distance-measuring application) that measures distance only. The important thing to remember is that the device must only be used to access permitted information. However, if during a Pennant match, a player uses a distance measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. slope, club recommendation features, gradient, wind speed etc), the player is in breach of Rule of Golf 14.3, for which the penalty is Disqualification.

## 11 Walkovers

- 11.1 If a team fields less than 5 players, walkovers shall be given from the 5<sup>th</sup> position. If a club intends to give a walkover in an individual match or a team contest, the Captain of the opposing team shall be notified prior to the match or contest. If a walkover has been given, the opposing player or team need not be present on the day of the match or contest.

## 12 Results & Ladders

- 12.1 Ties – If in the event that 2 or more teams finish Preliminary contests tied with equal points, a result shall be decided by a team with the most individual wins. If a tie still exists then the team that has won against another team in a preliminary contest shall be considered to be higher on the ladder. All matches are too played out to a result as per Rule 7.1.
- 12.2 On the day of the competition the home club is required to:
  1. Collect the result sheets from the host club office.

2. Coordinate team managers/captains to complete and sign the results sheet.
3. Compile and fax both team sheets and result sheets to the Captain (Ross Campbell on 03 5833 2551) immediately after all contests are completed and results known. All Pennant results and ladders can be found on the G.V.D.G.A website at [www.gvdga.org.au](http://www.gvdga.org.au) when competed.

## **BY-LAW NO 2**

### **INTER CLUB PENNANT COMPETITION**

(a) The inter club Pennant competition shall be open to all member clubs and shall be divided into divisions and shall be called:

Division 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 for Winter Pennant.

Division A & B for Summer Pennant.

Division 1, 2 & 3 shall be Scratch unless advised in the issued draw/s.

Division 4, 5, 6, A & B shall be Handicap unless advised in the issued draw/s.

Division 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 shall consist of five (5) players.

Division A & B shall consist of ten (10) players.

Each team member must be handicapped by an affiliated G.V.D.G.A Club.

Each team member must have an official GA handicap.

In the event of excess or insufficient teams to meet the requirement of the above the G.V.D.G.A executive shall have total discretion to place teams in appropriate divisions.

(b) Each member club shall nominate a number of teams they wish to enter with the G.V.D.G.A secretary by the date on the entry form.

(c) The executive committee shall prepare a draw for the ensuing year's competition, allocating venues and times of play, a copy of such draw shall be circulated to all member clubs. Such draw shall endeavour to be arranged to allow finals of all divisions to be played at the one venue.

(d) Play in divisions 1, 2, 3 shall be Scratch match play or as advised. Play in 4, 5, 6 shall be Handicap match play or as advised.

All matches must be played out to a result.

Play in divisions A & B of Summer Fourball Pennant shall be match play over 18 holes, halved matches to count.

(e) A player who has played more than two (2) matches in division 1 or 2 may not play in a lower division of match play Pennant. This clause does not apply to Handicap match play Pennant. A player who has played more than two (2) matches in Summer Fourball Pennant in one division may not play in another division.

(f) A player having played for a club during the current Pennant competition shall be ineligible to play for any other club during the series.

(g) The winning team in each division shall be presented with a Pennant by the G.V.D.G.A.

(h) Each team captain shall lodge a list of names in hit off order five (5) first to play, to one (1) last to play with the host club official prior to the schedule starting time. All players will be levied by the team captain for the cost of afternoon tea as set at the A.G.M.

(i) Order of play shall be from five (5) to one (1). Handicap divisions are to hit off in handicap order. Example (highest handicap at 5, lowest handicap at 1). All matches shall be played over eighteen (18) holes match play. If a match is square after the completion of eighteen holes, the match shall continue until one player secures the advantage. In Summer Fourball Pennant halved matches count.

(j) All competition between teams shall be played on Sunday's and shall be known as contests. Teams will play preliminary contests and after all preliminary contests have been played, the winner of the Pennant shall be decided by final contests between the top two teams in each division. Summer Fourball Pennant shall consist of finals in both A & B divisions. Teams competing in preliminary contests shall be awarded 2 points for a win and zero points for a loss. Should the top two teams in a division not be evident using this system then points for individual matches shall be allocated and totalled to obtain a result. In the event of teams still being equal on points the decision shall be reached by using the V.G.A count back system.

(k) The contests shall commence at the allotted time and teams must have their players available to hit off at the scheduled time for their particular contest. Should a team member not be available after the expiry of five (5) minutes from the allotted starting time, the first shall be forfeited and a further contest forfeited after the expiry of each additional five minute period. The honour for order of play shall be decided by the toss of a coin. Should any club forfeit a contest that being all five (5) matches then this will result in that club being removed from the draw. All previous contests/matches that they have competed in, all the results will stand. Future matches will be dealt with as walk-overs and the opposing team will receive 2 points and a 5 nil result in the game count. Further to this any club who forfeits either of the last two (2) contests of a season will not be eligible to enter a team in that division the following year.

(l) There shall be no restriction on the use of caddies other than those listed in the rules of golf definition.



(m) Any protest shall be lodged in writing with the managing official of the host club prior to leaving the course on the day of play and any such protest shall be decided by the G.V.D.G.A executive committee if present or the host club match committee whose decision shall be final. The decision shall be announced before the next round.

(n) Penalty for breach of this by-law shall be loss of match.

(o) The captain or his deputy of the host club shall be responsible for the conduct of the competition on the day and shall forward the results to the person who is nominated to record Pennant scores and compile ladders. Results are to be forwarded at the earliest possible time after the conclusion of play.

(p) Hit off times and tees for the final shall be decided by the G.V.D.G.A executive.

(q) In the event of a club having more than one (1) team within a division of competition, a player having played more than two (2) contests with one such team may not play with the other such team.

(r) To be eligible to compete in final contests a player must have played in a minimum of two (2) preliminary contests for his club. Provision as set out in clauses (e) and (q) also apply. Should circumstances arise where a team of five (5) players cannot be fielded in terms of this clause, permission must be obtained from the G.V.D.G.A executive committee to include a substitute player.

### **BY-LAW NO 3**

#### **SUB COMMITTEES**

Sub- committees elected pursuant to Article 4-Section 6 of the Constitution shall be constituted thus.

(a) **SELECTION COMMITTEE** Such committee shall consist of (3) members to be elected from members of the Association but any one member club shall not be represented by more than one member on the sub-committee, members of the sub committee shall themselves not be eligible for selection.

(b) **AUSTRALIAN COURSE RATING COMMITTEE** The Australian course rating committee shall be responsible for all recommendations to the G.V.D.G.A and to the G.V.D.G.A in relation to all matters concerning Australian course ratings of courses of member clubs.

**BY-LAW NO 4**

**THE GOULBURN VALLEY DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP**

(a) The Goulburn Valley District Golf Association Championship shall be open only to members of an affiliated member club of the Goulburn Valley District Golf Association and shall be of 36 holes stroke play. Such competition shall be held at such time and course allocated by the Executive Committee.

(b) In addition to the Goulburn Valley Championship there shall be such events played con-currently they being:

- (1) The Leighton S Keast Trophy shall be played over 36 holes (B Grade) handicap stroke competition.
- (2) The Max George Trophy shall be played over 36 holes (C Grade) handicap stroke competition.
- (3) In addition to the above events there shall be also played other competitions both scratch and handicap as may be decided by the Executive Committee from time to time.
- (4) Handicaps of all competitors shall be current at the time of play.

**BY -LAW NO 5**

**THE GOULBURN VALLEY MIXED PINEHURST SCRATCH CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

**THE GOULBURN VALLEY MIXED PINEHURST HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

- (a) The Goulburn Valley District Golf Association's Mixed Pinehurst Scratch Championship shall be open to members of an affiliated member club of the Goulburn Valley District Golf Association and The Goulburn Valley District Ladies Golf Association and shall be of a stroke event played over 18 holes at a time and course allocated by the Executive Committee.
- (b) The Goulburn Valley District Golf Association's Mixed Pinehurst handicap Championship shall be open to members of an affiliated member club of the Goulburn Valley District Golf Association and the Goulburn Valley District Ladies Golf Association and shall be of a stroke event played over 18 holes at a time and course allocated by the Executive Committee.
- (c) In addition to the above events there shall be also played other competitions both scratch and handicap as may be decided by the Executive Committee from time to time.
- (d) A trophy shall be provided for the winning scratch pair known as the G.V.D.G.A Trophy.
- (e) A trophy shall be provided to the winning handicap pair known as the George Cronyn Memorial Trophy.

- (f) Handicaps of all competitors shall be current at time of play.

### **BY-LAW NO 6**

#### **THE GRAY BARTON TEAMS TROPHY (HANDICAP) EVENT**

- (a) The Gray Barton Teams Trophy Handicap Event shall be open to only members of affiliated member clubs of the Goulburn Valley District Golf Association and shall be of a Stableford competition over 18 holes. Any such competition shall be played at such time and course allocated by the Executive Committee.
- (b) Each member club shall have the right to enter at least one team consisting of our players and further teams based on individual club membership at the discretion of the G.V.D.G.A Executive Committee.
- (c) Teams consisting of more than one member club shall abide by rules of the competition.
- (d) The team with the highest aggregate Stableford points shall be the winner. The Gray Barton Teams Trophy shall be held for twelve months by the club, or Club's of the winning team.
- (e) The Association shall provide individual trophies for each member of the winning team.
- (f) Handicaps of all competitors shall be current at the time of play.

### **BY- LAW NO 7**

#### **GOULBURN VALLEY SAND SCRAPE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

- (a) The Goulburn Valley Sand Scrape Championship Event shall only be open to members of affiliated member clubs of the Goulburn Valley District Golf Association and will be played over 18 holes at a time and course allocated by the Executive Committee.
- (b) In addition to the Goulburn Valley Sand Scrape Championship, there shall be played other competitions both scratch and handicap as may be decided by the Executive Committee.
- (c) A trophy shall be provided, known as the G.V.D.G.A scratch trophy and shall be presented to the winner.
- (d) Handicaps of all competitors are to be current at the time of play.

**BY-LAW NO 8**

**GOULBURN VALLEY FOURBALL PAR CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

- (a) The Goulburn Valley Fourball Par Championship shall be open to members of affiliated member clubs of the Goulburn Valley District Golf Association and shall be played over 18 holes at such time and course allocated by the Executive Committee.
- (b) A trophy shall be provided known as the “G.V.D.G.A Scratch Trophy” to be presented to the winning pair who shall hold the trophy for a period of one year.
- (c) A trophy shall be provided known as the “G.V.D.G.A Handicap Trophy” to be presented to the winning pair who shall hold the trophy for a period of one year.
- (d) In addition to the above Championships (b) and (c) there shall be such other competitions both Scratch and Handicap as may be decided by the Executive Committee.
- (e) A team representing two member clubs of the Association shall adhere to rules (a), (b), (c), (d) and (f) of these by-laws.
- (f) Handicaps of all competitors are to be current at time of play.

**BY-LAW NO 9**

**GOULBURN VALLEY CHAMPION OF CHAMPION’S TROPHY EVENT**

- (a) The Goulburn Valley Champion of Champions event shall be open to all club Champions of affiliated member clubs of the Goulburn Valley District Golf Association and Goulburn Valley Ladies Golf Association and shall be played over 18 holes held at a time and course allocated by the Executive Committee.
- (b) A trophy shall be provided by the Goulburn Valley District Golf Association for the scratch event winner to be known as the G.V.D.G.A Champion of Champions Trophy while the winner of the Woman’s Champion of Champions event shall be presented with a trophy known as the Edna O’Brien Trophy.
- (c) A team’s event consisting of the two club champions and two guests (male and female) shall play for a trophy known as the Kevin Bourke trophy with the net scores of the team to be counted.  
In addition to the above events there shall be played such other competitions both Scratch and Handicaps as may be decided by the Executive Committee.
- (d) Handicaps are to be current at time of play.

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