



THE HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

BY-LAWS

Revised 26th April 2026

COMMITTEE.

1. No member Club shall have a greater representation than three (3) members of the Committee or such larger number as may be desired by the Association.

ANNUAL AFFILIATION FEE.

2. (a) The annual affiliation fee, as prescribed in Rule 13 and subject to clause 4(e) below, shall be calculated by reference to a fixed amount for each member of each Member Club as at 30 June of each year, as submitted to GNSW, who under the Rules of that Club has the right or privilege to play Golf on the Course, no matter how restricted that right or privilege may be.

(b) The affiliation fee, for a playing member of a Member Club referred to in paragraph (a) above, who is under the age of 18 years shall be such reduced amount as may be determined by the Committee from time to time.

(c) Club Affiliation and Pennant Fees to be invoiced by 15th October of the previous year payable before January 1st. Clubs who have not paid all fees in full by January 1st will not be considered for the Pennant season and will not be eligible to enter District events until all fees are paid in full.

DELEGATES.

3. The Delegates, to attend meetings of Golf NSW, shall be the President of the Association and or three members of the Committee or such other persons elected by the Committee from time to time.

CONDITIONS OF PLAY IN ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS.

DISTRICT EVENTS

- 4.
- (a) In Association Competitions Competitors must be financial members of his or her Club with Golf playing rights not under suspension and hold a current Golf Australia handicap.
The Association may at any time check the handicap record of a player.
 - (b) Players in all Association events, except the Junior Championships and Junior Pennant Series, will be permitted to ride, in or on any form of automatic locomotion, during the play of a hole. Permission to bring locomotion, for an event, should be sought from the host Club.
 - (c) Players may use an artificial device to measure distances, in District events, in accordance with the Rules of Golf.
 - (d) The Committee shall have the power to reject any nomination for entry without assigning a reason therefore and may order such rejection at its discretion.
 - (e) For the purposes of the By-laws an affiliated player is one whose Club has paid dues to the Association for that player and is eligible therefore to compete in HRDGA Pennant Team's, closed events at HRDGA District Tournaments (with a limited additional exception for the HRDGA Mixed Ambrose Championship and HRDGA Mixed Pennant) and HRDGA Representative Teams. An Affiliated Club is one whose dues to the Association have been paid.

ASSOCIATION EVENTS

- 5.
- (a) The Association Championships shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf, these By-Laws and Club Local Rules.
 - (b) The Programme of Events shall be fixed by the Committee.
 - (c) The Championships and Pennants shall be played in handicap Divisions, based on the Golf Australia handicap as follows:
 - Men**
 - "A" Grade: +10 to 9.4;
 - "B" Grade: 9.5 to 17.4;
 - "C" Grade: 17.5 to 36;
 - Including "Senior's" and "Junior's".

Ladies

"A" Grade: +10 to 20.0

"B" Grade: 20.1 to 29.0

"C" Grade: 29.1 to 54.0

- (d) Eligibility for a grade will be based on a player's exact GA handicap as at the closing date of entries.
- (e) The two (2) Person Ambrose Championships shall be played in Divisions as are decided by the Committee from time to time.
- (f) The Ambrose Championship and Mixed Ambrose Championship shall be played as decided by the Committee from time to time.
- (g) Ties, in all Scratch & Handicap events, shall be decided by count back, as laid down by Golf Australia.
- (h) Entries on either the prescribed form or via the website must reach the Secretary, or his nominee, by the advertised closing day.
- (i) The entry fee for each event shall be fixed by the Committee, and shall be paid as determined by the Committee.
- (j) All handicap events shall be played off the current GA handicap, adjusted to the slope rating of the course being played.
- (k) The Association shall receive all entry fees and supply the trophies.
- (l) The Captain of the Club upon whose course the event is being played, or his nominee, may be required to assist in running an event.
- (m) The Committee, or its appointees, shall have full control of the events and its decision upon any matter concerned therewith shall be final.
- (n) To be eligible for Senior events a player must have attained the age of fifty (50) years before the date of the event.
- (o) To be eligible to enter Junior events a player must be under eighteen (18) years of age on the day of the event.

MEDIA.

6. By entering any competition a player (and their parent or guardian if they are under 18) automatically endorses the use of their results and images for media and promotion purposes by HRDGA unless specifically requested by the player (parent or guardian) in writing to the District Committee for such not to be used.

TROPHIES.

7. (a) In all Association events a player may only win one (1) trophy on any one (1) day and one (1) trophy in a thirty-six (36) holes event played over two (2) days.

Novelty events are excluded.

(b) The order for the allocation of trophies shall be:

- 36 Holes Scratch
- 36 Holes Handicap
- 36 Holes Scratch Runner-up
- 36 Holes Handicap Runner-up
- 18 Holes Scratch
- 18 Holes Handicap
- 18 Holes Scratch Runner-up
- 18 Holes Handicap Runner-up

or such other order, or additional trophies as decided by the Committee.

OPEN EVENTS.

8. (a) An Open Event shall be any Event held by a Club, or on the course of a Club, for which invitation, by poster or otherwise, has been extended to players from other Clubs to compete.

(b) The Committee shall have the power to allocate one day per year to Member Clubs for their Open Event.

(c) No entry shall be accepted if the proposed entrant is a member of a Club which is under suspension or is indebted to its Association for dues.

GENERAL PENNANT RULES AND CONDITIONS

9.(a) The Teams matches will be controlled by the Committee of the Association, or its appointees.

(b) There shall be seven (7) Pennant Series as follows:-

- A Grade - The Bettington Cup.
- B Grade - The Pogonoski Cup.
- C Grade - The Bercini Cup.
- Juniors - The Hancock Shield.
- Seniors - The Frame Cup.
- Ladies - Rosella Shield
- Mixed Pennant.

(c) **DEFINITIONS**

“match” – a contest between teams from two clubs.

“game” – a contest between the members of teams from two Clubs.

“draw” – a schedule of matches arranged by the Association.

(d) **COURSE AVAILABILITY**

It is a condition of entry into the Pennant Series that any Club entering in a pennant series, make their course available for one of the rounds of each grade entered, at a date & time as requested.

- (e) Each Affiliated Club is entitled to enter one (1) team in each Pennant. At the Committee's discretion, a club may be invited to enter a second team to balance entries in a pennant. If a club is invited to enter a second team, a player can only play for one (1) of the two club teams in that series.

By request two or more clubs may enter a composite team, with the approval of the Committee. Only players of clubs NOT represented in the current Pennant competition are eligible to play in a composite team.

- (f) If 10 or more teams nominate in any one series, then that series will be played in two divisions. The top two teams from each division play semi-finals on a neutral course. The winning team from one division will play the second placed team from the other division and vice versa. The winners of the semi-finals will play a final on a neutral course to decide the winner.

- (g) In any series a player may not play HRDGA Pennants for more than one (1) Club in same division even if a "member" of two or more affiliated HRDGA Clubs.

(h) **TEAM NOMINATIONS & HANDICAPS**

Players nominated to play in any division on the date of a match **MUST** have a GA handicap within the limits shown in By-Law 5 (c) as at 6.00am on the Thursday prior to the start of the relevant Pennant Series being played. A Players handicap on Thursday before FIRST match enables eligibility to play the full series of that Pennant in that grade. If handicap is reduced throughout the Pennant series the player must play off the reduced handicap for player position in the team.

(i) **SCHEDULE OF MATCHES**

Matches between Clubs will be played at venues, on dates and times as fixed by the Association. The draw may be altered at the discretion of the Association.

(j) **TEAM FORFEITS**

All Clubs entering teams do so on the 'undertaking' that they will play all scheduled matches, as a forfeit breaches the spirit of the Pennant Competition. If a Club forfeits a round, they will be removed from the

competition. Teams who have played or are due to play any club removed under this rule, shall be granted a bye for each rostered match.

(k) **FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS.**

Clubs Failing to pay Pennant Entry Fees or annual Affiliation Fees by the due date will not be eligible to compete and rule (k), above will apply. Clubs or teams who are not financial at time of any Pennant round will be penalized 50% of Match points until fees are paid.

(l) **PRACTICE**

In accordance with the Rules of Golf, on the day of play, players may practice on the course prior to the start of a match, with permission of the Host Club.

(m) **ATTIRE AND GENERAL APPEARANCE**

Players are required to dress in a manner that will reflect credit on themselves and their Club, and they **MUST** comply with the dress regulations of the Host Club, both on the course and in the Club House.

(n) **PLAY**

- (i) The host Club will be responsible to provide a starter, if an Association Official is not available.
- (ii) Team Sheets must be submitted to the controlling Match Committee on the Official Team Sheet 10 minutes prior to play. Only if all players are present from both teams in a contest can team sheets be exchanged earlier than 10 minutes. It is the Team Captain's responsibility to check his player's exact GA handicap on the morning of the match and the Daily Handicap for the Course and tee being played.
- (iii) In the event of a team not being able to field a full number of players, the team must forfeit games in descending order from the highest position. In the Frame Cup, those players in attendance must be apportioned so as to play the maximum number of individual games possible so as to avoid a forfeit of any game.
- (iv) Mens Games will be played in the reverse order. Play will be in fours (4's), where possible, and the hit off order will be as per the official draw. Women's games will be played as noted in the Draw.
- (v) In the round robin series, if a game is square at the eighteenth (18) hole the game will finish and each team will be credited with one half (1/2) a win.

- (vi) A winning team will receive three (3) points for a match win. If the number of games won, are equal, each team will receive one (1) point. A losing team will receive no (0) points for a loss. No points will be allocated for a bye.
- (vii) After the end of the round robin series the two (2) leading teams will play a final, on a neutral course to decide a winner. In a grade which has been split into two divisions the finals will be played as per By-Law 9 (f). The Ladies Pennant series does not require a Final to be played.
- (viii) In the event of two or more teams finishing on equal points at the end of the series, games won will decide the placings. If there is a tie in both points and games won, by more than two (2) teams, there will be a full team sudden death play-off, between the teams that have tied as and when decided by the Committee.
- (ix) To be eligible to play in a **semi-final or a final** a player must have participated in a minimum of two (2) games. In the instance of a split division of only 5 teams in each division, or 5 or less teams have nominated, a player must have played one (1) game only. If adverse conditions occur and any round is not played or cancelled for any reason, team captains must submit a team sheet for that round by email or text to the District Captain or Secretary no later than two (2) days after the cancelled event.
The committee may then decide to count the cancelled round as having participated in a game or the committee may reduce the minimum participation to one (1) game.
- (x) In the **semi-final or final**, if a game is square at the eighteenth (18) hole, play must continue until the game is decided, unless the result has been decided from the results of other completed games.
- (xi) In the event of a dispute a Match Committee will be formed, consisting of a neutral representative, from a minimum of two clubs, who are present. A member of the Association Committee, if present, will act as Chairperson of that Match Committee, whose decision, on any dispute will be final.
- (xii) The Association will provide trophies to maximum of 10 players of the winning men's team and up to 12 for the womens team.
- (xiii) Balanced Match Play Index to be used in all pennant series.
- (xiv) The Association may check the handicap record of any player at any time.
- (xv) Play must cease as soon as match is decided.

(xvi) In handicapped match play games if a player plays using a handicap which is higher than their daily handicap or the adjusted handicap in 4B match play Pennant, the player is disqualified and the game is awarded to the other player. If both players play off the wrong daily handicaps, then both players are disqualified and there are no points allocated for this game.

(xvii) If a player is disqualified under the Rules of Golf, then the game is awarded to the other player. If both players are disqualified, then there are no points allocated for this game.

BETTINGTON CUP RULES

Play will be individual scratch match play, in teams of five (5), in accordance with By-Laws.

POGONOSKI CUP RULES

- Play will be individual scratch match play, in teams of five (5), in accordance with By-Laws

BERCINI CUP RULES

- Play will be individual match play, in teams of five (5), in accordance with By-Law 8 (h)
- Play will be individual scratch match play for the number one (1) and Number two (2) players and individual handicap match play for the number three (3), four (4) and five (5) players. Players MUST play in Handicap order, slope adjusted for the course being played.

HANCOCK SHIELD RULES

- A player must be under eighteen (18) years of age, at the date of the first round.
- Play will be individual scratch match play for the number one (1) player and individual handicap match play for the number two (2) three (3), four (4) and five (5) players. Players MUST play in Handicap order.

FRAME CUP RULES

- Play will be Fourball handicap match play, by three (3) teams of two (2) players.
- Player's Golf Australia Handicap will be adjusted to the Slope Rating of the Course being played on that day and will then be subject to a 90% handicap allowance and handicap differences calculated.
(R&A – appendix C)

EXAMPLE

Ie. Players Golf Australia Handicap = 23.6

Calculation: Slope adjusted Handicap = 21

90% of 21 = 18.9 Match Play Handicap = 19

- Players must have attained the age of fifty (50) years

ROSELLA SHIELD RULES

- Six (6) players form a team are listed and must play in GA ascending order, ie. with the lowest handicap at number one position, on the team sheets submitted on the day of play.
- The two (2) lowest GA players in each team play off Scratch; players 3 to 6 inclusive play individual handicap match play using the full difference in Daily Handicap as applied at the Course and Tee being played.
- Should a player play out of position, her match and all subsequent matches for that team will be forfeited.
- Caddies are not allowed.
- Play must cease as soon as match is decided.
- Team Captains must sign official result sheet on the day of play.
- Each team must be able to complete more than 50% of their eligible rounds during the Rosella Shield Pennants Season. If teams are unable to complete their eligible rounds there will be no Rosella Shield winner.

MIXED PENNANT RULES

- Play will be Fourball Handicap Matchplay, by three (3) teams of two (2) players.
- Player's Golf Australia Handicap will be adjusted to the Slope Rating of the Course being played on that day, and then will be subject to a 90% handicap allowance and handicap differences calculated.
(R&A – appendix C)

EXAMPLE

Ie. Players Golf Australia Handicap = 23.6

Calculation: Slope adjusted Handicap = 21

90% of 21 = 18.9 Match Play Handicap = 19

- Team composition - 3 men and 3 ladies

WORLD HANDICAPPING SYSTEM

The World Handicap System calculation for a Daily Handicap includes an adjustment for the difference between the Scratch Rating and the Par of the set of tees being played.

This makes playing to par the universal measure of whether a player has played to their handicap, regardless of the course or set of tees.

As a result, in a handicap competition played from two or more sets of tees (such as in mixed-gender or mixed ability events), the appropriate comparison of two players who have played from different sets of tees is their net scores in relation to par. It is not appropriate to use any other comparison (such as just their net scores).

Match Play formats.

The result of each hole should be determined by each side's score in relation to par. As a player's net (or gross) status versus par for the round is compared directly against that of every other player involved in the match, no additional strokes are added to the standard calculation of the Daily Handicap when the par is different between tees. For example, in a handicap match, the 13th hole is a par 5 for women and a par 4 for men. Michelle has a net 6 and David has a net 5. Michelle and David both have a 1 over par for the hole, so the hole is tied. For gross competitions, it is a player's gross score in relation to par should be used. After taking this into consideration, the Committee should set the tee markers in positions that it believes are most likely to achieve equitable outcomes. (ii) Medal play formats. Under the WHS in Australia, all results should be determined by using a player's score.

ADVERSE CONDITIONS

10. **Introduction**

The Hunter River District Golf Association Adverse Conditions Policy has been introduced to reduce the risk of related injury to Players, Caddies and Officials involved in HRDGA golf events or activities. The policy also contains a number of guidelines to assist players, caddies and officials in recognizing and managing heat stress at such events.

An outline of the dangers of playing sport in extremely hot conditions, heat related illnesses and dealing with heat stress is attached as Appendix 1. In addition, further information on fluid and energy replacement during and after exercise can be found by visiting the website www.sportsdietitians.com

A common sense approach is to be taken by all those involved in the play of the day.

Suspension of Play / Cancellation of Play Policy

Prior to the scheduled day of play

Where extreme weather conditions or other conditions are forecast for the scheduled day of a district event and it is reasonable to conclude that the temperature will exceed 38 degrees Celsius or other conditions, affect the course of play, the executive committee may cancel play scheduled for that day. Where possible this decision should be made not less than 24 hours before the event is due to commence and this decision shall be, where possible, conveyed to affected players and member clubs.

Day of Competition

In circumstances of extreme weather, e.g. heat and humidity, play may be suspended or cancelled at the discretion of the respective HRDGA Committee or representatives thereof present at the host venue.

The assessment of extreme weather conditions will be undertaken with reference to temperature and humidity information contained on the Bureau of Meteorology Website (www.bom.gov.au) or using measuring instruments on the day of the event.

Play may be abandoned in Hunter River District Golf Association Events when the temperature reaches 38 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit.)

A thermometer will be situated in a shaded area of the course being played to provide the reading.

The Hunter River Official or his nominee will make the necessary decision and will sound a siren or some other method, to indicate play is abandoned for the day.

In the eventuality of cancellation:

District Events

Every effort will be made to re-schedule the event to another day. Any competitor not able to participate on the rescheduled day or at a comparable alternate event shall be issued a full refund.

Pennants

The round will be abandoned and all matches recorded as a draw.

Player Discretion – player chooses to withdraw

Individual Events

During HRDGA competitions held between November 1st and April 30th of the following year, any competitor may withdraw during the event due to adverse conditions.

Pennants

Singles - Any competitor choosing to withdraw during a game will forfeit the game.

Fourball - Any competitor may choose to withdraw during a game. The competitors partner may continue the game. If both players withdraw the game is forfeited.

LIGHTNING POLICY

11. HRDGA has adopted the lightning policy used by many other golf clubs. Due to the unpredictability of lightning strikes it is not possible to determine when players are at risk. The District will not be liable for death or injury by lightning by attempting to forecast it. Therefore NO alarm/warning will be sounded. The District requests and encourages the players to seek safe shelter in lightning conditions. Each individual has the right to determine the conditions are dangerous and suspend play.

THE DISTRICT OFFERS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS A GUIDE ONLY HOW DOES THE 30/30 RULE WORK?

The rule of thumb is that every three (3) seconds of delay between a lightning flash and the audible thunder associated with the flash equates to a distance of approximately one (1) kilometre. Accordingly, the thirty (30) seconds flash-to-thunder time interval suggests that the lightning activity is approximately ten (10) kilometres away.

WHEN SHOULD ACTIVITY BE SUSPENDED AND SUBSEQUENTLY RESUMED?

All persons should take cover if the flash-to-thunder delay is thirty (30) seconds or less. After the storm has seemingly passed, all persons should remain under cover until thirty (30) minutes after the final flash of lightning or clap of thunder as trailing storm clouds still carry a lingering charge.

LOCATIONS THAT ARE SAFER IN WHICH TO SEEK SHELTER

The following locations would normally be regarded as the most appropriate to seek shelter:

- the safest location is inside a large enclosed structure, preferably with electrical/telephone wiring and plumbing (to provide a safe pathway to the ground for any current) but keeping away from doors, windows, metal fittings and devices connected to the electricity supply;
- an enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, van or bus

WHICH LOCATIONS ARE UNSAFE

The following locations should be avoided:

- buildings with exposed openings
- small structures or sheds
- open fields
- in close proximity to the tallest localised structure (eg surveillance tower, tree, light pole, antenna)
- umbrellas (metal)
- swimming pools, lakes, dams or water generally

Persons should also refrain from contacting metal objects or using the telephone, computers or any other devices connected to electrical phone lines.

AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES

12.

- The Air Quality Index (AQI) is an index for reporting hourly and daily air quality in New South Wales. The AQI outlines:
- Air pollution levels, detailed information for those more sensitive to air pollution and ways to prevent harm to yourself

Below is the chart from the AQI website which outlines the levels of Air Quality and when it is safe to participate in outdoor activities.

AQI - Is it safe?

VERY GOOD 0-33	Enjoy activities
GOOD 34-66	Enjoy activities
FAIR 67-99	People unusually sensitive to air pollution: Plan strenuous outdoor activities when air quality is better
POOR 100-149	AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT Sensitive groups: Cut back or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities
VERY POOR 150-199	AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT Sensitive groups: Avoid strenuous outdoor activities Everyone: Cut back or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities
HAZARDOUS 200+	AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT Sensitive groups: Avoid all outdoor activities Everyone: Significantly cut back on outdoor physical activities

Judging air quality is something that is very difficult to manage, with a sudden change in wind direction turning a perfectly clear day into one covered in smoke (and vice-versa).

The HRDGA recommends the following on days where air quality is a concern:

- Avoid any strenuous exercise before or after your round.
- Consider making changes to your warm-up routine to limit the amount of time you'll be outdoors.
- If you are a diagnosed with asthma or other respiratory conditions, implement your relevant action plan and have your puffer on you at all times.
- If you do suffer from asthma, HRDGA will not allow you to compete without your puffer.

- If at any time a competitor is feeling unwell, they must alert HRDGA Official immediately

In addition to this, on a daily basis, HRDGA will look at changing tournament conditions depending on what the weather is doing.

These changes may include:

- Reducing the number of holes played on a particular day.
- Changing tee times to keep players off the course at certain times of the day.
- Allowing players to have a “Caddy” to help them around the course.
- Cancelling rounds or tournaments.

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