

# Yarra Courses Senior Pennant — 2010

## COMPETITION CONDITIONS

### 1. Definitions

- 1.1 The Yarra Courses Senior Pennant Competition is a competition for the Yarra Courses Senior Pennant Trophy between clubs from the Yarra Valley.  
The competing clubs are:  
Croydon Golf Club  
The Eastern Golf Club  
Green Acres Golf Club  
Heidelberg Golf Club  
The Heritage Golf and Country Club  
The Kew Golf Club  
Latrobe Golf Club  
Rosanna Golf Club  
Yarra Valley Country Club.
- 1.2 The competition is under the control of an Executive appointed annually by the Yarra Courses Senior Pennant Managers group. Normally, the Executive will comprise a minimum of 3 people, including at least one serving Yarra Courses club captain or president, selected from people involved with the Yarra Courses Senior Pennant Competition, together with a Secretary.
- 1.3 The competition between two teams is a Contest.
- 1.4 The competition between two players is a Match, played over 18 holes, and shall be played under the Rules of Golf, Match Play (Rule 2).
- 1.5 All matches will be played off scratch; ie, handicaps will not be considered in determining the result of a hole.
- 1.6 A contest comprises 8 individual matches.
- 1.7 Possible match results are Won/Lost, Halved, or No Result. Matches all square after 18 holes will be considered halved.
- 1.8 Possible contest results are Won/Lost, Tied, or No Result. A contest is Won when one team has won more matches than the other and the results of any unfinished matches cannot affect whether that team has won the majority of matches played.
- 1.9 A contest is Decided when the results of any unfinished matches cannot affect whether one team has Won, or all matches have been completed.
- 1.10 A Round is completed when all contests between teams drawn to play each other for that round have been decided, or all matches between competing teams have been completed.

## **2. Format, Eligibility, Representation and Contest Points**

- 2.1 The Yarra Courses Senior Pennant Competition comprises rounds of home and away contests, in which each club is drawn to play the other clubs once. The top two teams after the home and away rounds compete in a Final to decide the winner of the Yarra Courses Senior Pennant Trophy.
- 2.2 All contests for a given round will be drawn to be played at the same venue, unless in exceptional circumstances for a specific round the Executive decide otherwise. In the case of an odd number of teams in the competition, the draw will normally be made so that the host club has a bye.
- 2.3 Each club team is to comprise eight male amateur golfers who are in golfing categories of membership within their respective clubs.
- 2.4 Players must be 55 years or over by the date of the scheduled Round 1 in a given season's competition. Specifically, if a player turns 55 years of age on or before the day of the scheduled Round 1 of that year's competition, he is eligible to play in that season.
- 2.5 No player may represent more than one club in the Yarra Courses Senior Pennant Competition in the same season.
- 2.6 Each club must be represented in a season by at least 12 players. No player may play more than 5 matches in any season, excluding the Final. Each player in a Final team must have played a minimum of 2 matches in that season. In the case of a contest being cancelled following commencement of play in that contest, the players selected for teams in that contest will be deemed to have played their matches for the purposes of determining number of matches played in a season.
- 2.7 Winning teams in each contest will be awarded 2 points; teams which tie their contest will be awarded 1 point each. No points will be awarded for a Bye, or for a No Result.

## **3. Championship Committee**

- 3.1 Each round at a given venue will be under the control of a Championship Committee. The Championship Committee will comprise a representative of the host club, such as the Manager or Team Captain of that club's Senior Pennant Team, and at least one member of the Executive. Where possible, membership of the Championship Committee will be determined before the beginning of scheduled play for that venue.
- 3.2 The Championship Committee will be responsible for administering the competition at each venue. In particular, the Championship Committee will determine whether play is possible or not, and will determine whether to suspend or abandon play in the case of extreme weather or other unusual circumstances. It will also determine whether play should recommence in the case of suspension of play.
- 3.3 The Championship Committee will determine whether a substitution is approved or not in the circumstances noted in 8.2 below.
- 3.4 The Championship Committee will adjudicate and determine on the most suitable course of action in the case of any dispute between teams or players brought to its notice.

- 3.5 If the Championship Committee is required to determine on any of the matters noted in 3.3 or 3.4 which involves a team of one of the Championship Committee, or any other situation directly affecting a team of one of the Championship Committee, that member will not be involved in the Committee's deliberations, even if the Committee's membership is reduced to 1.
- 3.6 Except where otherwise indicated, the Championship Committee does not have the authority to alter or vary any of these Conditions.

## **4. Practice**

- 4.1 A host club has no obligation to provide practice times for team members of competing clubs prior to the day of competition at its venue.
- 4.2 Players are not permitted to practise on the competition course on the day of competition prior to the commencement of their matches. However, they may practise in designated practice areas.
- 4.3 Following the commencement of their matches, players may practise in accordance with Rule of Golf 7-2. However, players should note that they will still be subject to Rule of Golf 6-7 (Undue Delay; Slow Play).

## **5. Team Lists**

- 5.1 Team lists, indicating playing order and rounded whole-number handicaps of each player, should be handed in to the host club's designated official/office at least 30 minutes prior to the stated hit-off time for that team's contest, but no later than 15 minutes prior to the stated hit-off time. Team lists must also indicate the team Captain and/or team Manager.
- 5.2 Team lists for the Final must indicate the player nominated by the club to represent the team in any 'sudden death' play-off, in the event of a tied contest — see 11.3 below.

## **6. Draw, Playing Order, Groupings and Advice**

- 6.1 Contests will commence from designated starting tees at the times and in the order listed on the draw, unless otherwise determined by the Championship Committee.
- 6.2 Players must play in handicap order; that is, the player with the lowest handicap in a team will play at No 1, the second lowest at No 2, and so on. (However, note the exceptional circumstances in Section 8.) Where players in the same team have the same rounded handicap, their playing order is at the option of the team.
- 6.3 Matches will be played in groups of 4, and in the following groupings: No 1 and No 8 matches together in the one group; No 2 and No 7 matches together; No 3 and No 6 matches together; and No 4 and No 5 matches together. However, in the event of exceptional circumstances, the Championship Committee may vary these groupings for a specific contest, or all contests at the one venue.
- 6.4 Although team members are playing together in a group, under the Rules of Golf they are not members of the same side. Therefore, members of the same team may not give or seek advice from their fellow team-member, or their fellow team-member's caddie.

However, in accordance with the Note to Rule of Golf 8, advice may be given by a team's non-playing captain or manager, as noted on the team list.

## **7. Honour, Hit-off Order, Tee Markers and Match Completion**

- 7.1 The honour for each contest will be decided by the toss of a coin between representatives of competing clubs before the first match commences. The team that wins the toss will have the honour at the starting tee for all matches in that contest.
- 7.2 The No 1 and No 8 matches group will hit off first, followed by the No 2 and No 7 matches group, then the No 3 and No 6 matches group, then the No 4 and No 5 matches group. However, in the event of exceptional circumstances, the Championship Committee may vary this playing order for a specific contest, or all contests at the one venue.
- 7.3 Play from all tees will be from the tees designated by the host club. The tees should be indicated by the same colour markers, and markers should normally be between 0 and 5 metres (preferably closer to 5 than 0) from the permanent back markers for the course being played.
- 7.4 If a match is completed prior to reaching the 18th hole, players must not play on over any unplayed holes.

## **8. Temporary Unavailability, Player Substitution and Late Arrival**

- 8.1 Every endeavour should be made to enable matches to be played between the listed players on the team lists. In the event that a player or players is/are temporarily unavailable at the designated hit-off time, and the Championship Committee is satisfied there is a valid reason, and both teams' captains/managers agree, and the player/s are expected to be available before all matches in the contest have hit off, the playing order may be varied. This may be by adjusting groupings or by varying the hit-off order of groups.
- 8.2 If a player whose name is on the submitted team list is subsequently determined to be unavailable for his match, and this determination is made before the designated hit-off time for that player's match, the team captain/manager may substitute for the unavailable player a player whose name is not on the team list. This substitution must be approved by the Championship Committee (that is, the Championship Committee must be satisfied there is an acceptable reason for the substitution), but it is not necessary for the substitution to be approved by the opposing team's captain/manager.
- 8.3 Any substitute must comply with the eligibility requirements noted in 2 above. In particular, no player who has already played 5 matches in a season may play as a substitute in a match prior to the Final.
- 8.4 A substitute player may have a handicap different from that of the unavailable player, even if this means the substitute would be playing in a position different from the one he would have played in if he had been in the original team. Once the team list has been handed in, all players must play in their listed order; that is, the substitute can only play in the position originally listed for the unavailable player.
- 8.5 If a player (either an originally-listed team member or a substituted player) arrives at his starting tee, ready to play, within 5 minutes after his starting time, whether this is the original starting time in the case of no adjustment to starting times, or the agreed adjusted

starting time after following the procedures in 8.1, in the absence of circumstances which warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification (Rule of Golf 6-3), under Rule of Golf 33-7 the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole instead of disqualification. Play will commence from the second hole. The penalty for lateness beyond 5 minutes is disqualification.

## **9. Locomotion, Distance Measuring Devices and Mobile Telephones**

- 9.1 A player may use a motorised buggy only with the approval of the host club. Only players who have a medical certificate stipulating they require the use of a motorised buggy, and who normally use such a buggy at their home club, should be permitted to use a motorised buggy.
- 9.2 Providing the host club has such a local rule, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only.
- 9.3 Other than to seek a ruling in relation to the Senior Pennant Competition or in an emergency, the use of mobile telephones by players or caddies is prohibited during the course of play.

## **10. Suspension of Play, Abandonment and Transfer of Contests**

- 10.1 In the event of heavy rain, lightning, excessive heat, unplayable course conditions or for any other reason, the Championship Committee is responsible for determining whether to suspend play. The signal for suspending play will be three short siren blasts and/or a direct notification to players. (The procedure when play is suspended is described in Rule of Golf 6-8b.)
- 10.2 If play is determined by the Championship Committee to be resumed, players will be advised to return to their various locations. The signal for resumption of play will be one long siren blast and/or a direct notification to players. Every effort should be made to complete all contests on the scheduled day.
- 10.3 If the Championship Committee declares that completion of a round is not possible on the scheduled day and fewer than three contests have been decided, the whole round will be abandoned, and No Result will be recorded for all contests and matches. If three contests have been decided, but it is not possible to complete the fourth contest on that day, the Championship Committee, in consultation with the host club and the captains/managers of the competing teams, will determine if it is practicable to complete the unfinished contest on a subsequent day. If this is practicable, the unfinished contest will be completed on a mutually agreed date. Any unfinished matches in the decided contests may also be completed at the same time, if this is agreed by the Championship Committee, the host club and the captains/managers of the competing teams. In the event that completion of the undecided contest is not practicable, or the contest is not decided for any other reason, No Result will be recorded as the result of that contest, and No Result will be recorded as the result of all matches in the contest. No Result will also be recorded for any non-completed matches in the decided contests.
- 10.4 In the event that a club cannot host its scheduled event (due to flooding, course unavailability, etc), the Executive will make every attempt to transfer that round to another club.

## 11. Pace of Play

- 11.1 Each group must maintain its position on the course with respect to the group preceding it, and maintain the time requirement specified below or as occasionally amended by the Championship Committee at a venue.
- 11.2 Any group, other than the first for a contest, will be considered out of position if there is a clear hole between it and the preceding group, and the group has taken longer than the specified average time (see 11.3 and 11.4 below) to complete the number of holes it has played. The first group in a contest will be considered out of position if it has taken longer than the specified average time to complete the number of holes it has played.
- 11.3 All groups of four players are expected to complete 18 holes in a maximum time of 4 hours and 12 minutes (approximately 14 minutes per hole). (This time should be seen as a maximum — players are strongly encouraged to take less than this.) In exceptional circumstances, such as extreme weather/playing conditions, the Championship Committee may vary this time requirement.
- 11.4 The following table shows the expected time taken to play the number of holes indicated, using an average of 14 minutes per hole. Allowance should be made for shorter times to play Par 3 holes and longer times to play Par 5 holes.

<b>Hole</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>Time (m)</b>	14	28	42	56	70	84	98	112	126	140	154	168	182	196	210	224	238	252

## 12. Final

- 12.1 The two teams with the greatest number of points at the end of the home and away season will contest the Final. In the event that two or more teams have the same number of points, the order of teams will be determined by number of matches won. (A halved match will be considered as half a win.) In the event that the number of individual matches won is equal, the order will be determined by the result of the contest between the two teams in the home and away season. In the event of teams still being unable to be separated, a countback on the basis of the difference between holes won and holes lost in all individual matches during the season will decide the order. In the event of teams still being unable to be separated, the matter will be referred to the Executive for decision.
- 12.2 The Final will be played at a venue determined as part of the pre-season draw. Unless it is necessary to transfer the Final for some other reason, if the venue for the Final is that of one of the competing clubs, the Final will still be played at that venue.
- 12.3 The Final will comprise eight 18 hole scratch Match Play matches. Matches all square after 18 holes will be considered halved. In the event of the contest being tied after all matches are completed, a nominated player from each team will play a 'sudden-death' Match Play play-off to determine the winning team.
- 12.4 If an ineligible player plays for a team in the Final, the team will forfeit that match but not the contest.
- 12.5 The host club is required to provide a Rules Official for the Final.

## **13. Yarra Courses Senior Pennant Plate and Final Dinner**

- 13.1 Players from teams not in the Final but who have competed in at least one match through the season, and non-playing captains/managers of teams, will be invited to play in an individual Stableford event for the Yarra Courses Senior Pennant Plate. The Plate will be awarded to the club that has the best combined four Stableford scores. Individual trophies will also be presented.
- 13.2 A season-ending dinner will be held on the day of the Final at the club hosting the Final. All players who have represented their clubs during the season are urged to attend this dinner.

## **14. Code of Conduct**

- 14.1 All players are expected to abide by the Victorian Golf Association's Code of Conduct. Any reported breaches of this Code of Conduct may be considered by the Executive.

## **15. Other**

- 15.1 Except for the Final, when the host club will provide a dinner, host clubs for home and away rounds are requested to provide soft drinks for players during the course of play, and light snacks and drinks at the end of play, to be made available during presentation of results of contests.
- 15.2 The host club will provide a marshal to monitor and assist in pace-of-play issues.