



2025 Junior Pennant

Terms of the Competition

1. Matches will be conducted in divisions of six teams where possible.
2. The divisions will be determined by the number of teams.
3. Each club entering the competition must be prepared to make their course available for matches if required.
4. Teams to consist of six players per match (a reserve player may be named if necessary).
5. Each player must be a member of a Ballarat District Golf affiliated club.
6. Each player must have a current Golf Australia handicap. The maximum handicap is 36 for boys and 45 for girls.
7. Players must be aged 17 or younger as at the first day of the competition to be eligible to play.
8. A player who has played three matches in a higher division may not subsequently play in a lower division during the competition.
9. A player who is nominated as a member of a team must remain a member of that team for the duration of the competition. In extraordinary circumstances Ballarat District Golf officials reserve the right to grant a member of one team permission to play for another team.
10. All players must observe the dress regulations in force at the host club. Players are also reminded of any special requirements of the club, to carry sand buckets, to repair divots, to repair pitch marks and to rake bunkers. Players are also reminded to check for any local rules.
11. Play will be under handicap match play conditions and rules:
 - Boys will play from the blue or white tees and girls will play from the red tees
 - The lowest handicap player of each opposing pair will go back to scratch and the strokes taken by his/her opponent determined by the Match Play Index. This method provides for an even distribution throughout the round. It also disregards hole difficulties (acknowledging that a 30-marker receives 5 strokes from a 25-marker, which is also what a 5-marker receives from a scratch-marker, but that there can be clear differences in the holes a 5-marker and scratch-marker will find the most challenging). It is fair to players on all handicap levels, and it has proved satisfactory in use. It avoids allocating low-numbered strokes to the last two holes so players receiving few strokes will have the opportunity to use these before a match is decided. It also avoids allocating low-numbered strokes to the first three holes in case a match goes to extra holes.
 - Matches between a boy and a girl shall also be played with adjusted scores to apply when par for the hole varies. EG. A match between a boy and a girl has reached a hole where the two pars are different (Par 4 – Boys, Par 5 – Girls). At the completion of the hole the boy has taken 4 strokes, and the girl has taken 5 strokes. After the scores have been adjusted to their relevant pars the hole would be declared a half, as both players have made par.

- When using the match play index in match play competitions, the index should be adapted when a match commences at any other hole on the course other than the first. Hole 1 in the recommendation should apply to the first hole to be played, Hole 2 to the second hole to be played, etc.

Match Play Index			
Hole	Index	Hole	Index
1	18	10	5
2	8	11	11
3	12	12	2
4	3	13	15
5	14	14	7
6	6	15	13
7	10	16	4
8	1	17	17
9	16	18	9

- The Team Manager of each team shall fill out their team sheet showing his/her team listed from number one to number six. All matches are played in handicap order with the number one player being the lowest marker and the number six being the highest marker. **Note:** The player's handicap is their daily handicap as at the commencement of the match. If two or more players have been allocated the same daily handicap, Golf Australia handicap will be used to determine the order of these players. If players can still not be separated, the Team Manager can select the order of such players.
- The team sheet must be handed to Ballarat District Golf officials by the Team Manager not later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of play and all players must be present at that time.
- Should a team be aware prior to filling out the team sheet that they will have less than six players for a match, they must list their team in daily handicap order from number one position and forfeit the lowest position/s.
- Practice prior to play: Players may use practice facilities made available by the host club but shall not practice on any part of the course to be used for the competition unless the host club has designated a specific green or part as a practice area.
- The honour of hitting off first will be decided by the draw.
- Preliminary matches will be played in fours, off tees as decided by Ballarat District Golf officials, in order of the team placement. Number one players hit off first followed by number two players and so on. In case of more than four teams, Ballarat District Golf officials shall determine the order of play.
- Players must be ready to commence play when called upon unless prior arrangements have been made with the starter.
- All clubs participating are requested to give assistance to Ballarat District Golf officials to ensure the competition is run smoothly and fairly.
- All matches shall be played in accordance with the rules of golf as adopted by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Scotland, together with such local rules that are in force on the course at which the matches take place. If a dispute should arise on the day, Ballarat District Golf officials will address it, and their decision will be final. If in doubt, Ballarat District Golf

officials reserve the right to refer any such dispute to the Ballarat District Golf – Junior Development Committee for a ruling.

21. Persons other than authorised officials must not interfere in any way in voicing their opinion, judgement or objection to any player, or aid in club selection. This would be considered advice and would disqualify the player.
22. Caddies – Players aged 11 and under may have a caddie to pull their buggy, however coaching in any form is not acceptable. Players aged 12 and over must pull their own buggy unless special arrangements have been made with the Ballarat District Golf – Junior Development Committee.
23. During preliminary matches, two points will be awarded to the winning team, and one point awarded to each team if scored are tied (3 wins each).
24. After completion of the preliminary matches, the top two teams in each division will play a final, with total aggregate points at the end of the series determining the teams eligible to play finals. If teams are equal on points, the number of individual games won will be the next determinate (forfeited matches will be recorded as 10/8 wins). Should teams be equal after the above has been applied, the size of the wins in individual matches will be considered.
25. To qualify for the final, a player must play a minimum of two preliminary matches. If a player that has qualified for the final is unavailable due to extraordinary circumstances and the team does not have another player that has qualified, Ballarat District Golf officials reserve the right to grant a member of a Ballarat District Golf affiliated club permission to play.
26. The final will be played in reverse order, with the number six players in the first group and the number one players in the last group.
27. If the final remains tied after all six individual matches, each Team Manager will select one player from their respective teams to compete in a sudden-death playoff. Ballarat District Golf officials will determine the hole(s) to be used for the playoff.
28. The winning team will have their name inscribed on the Junior Pennant trophy. Ballarat District Golf policy is to conduct finals and should a team forfeit its right to play in a final, the next eligible team will take their place.