

Pennant Rules 2026. Open, Senior and Handicap Pennants.

1. The Rules of Golf and Local Rules of the home club must be enforced. This includes any Health Regulations pertaining to the club where the match is to be played.
2. Clubs participating in Pennants must be financial members of the Darling Downs Golf Association prior to the commencement of the season.

Exception: Clubs from outside the DDGA which are invited to participate in the Pennants competition. Such club must be affiliated with Golf Qld. **Penalty:** Loss of match points.

3. Players competing must be financial members of the club they represent. Players may only represent one club during the season. **Penalty:** Loss of game points for each match a player breaches the rule.
4. Only players who have the qualification of 'Amateur' as required by the rules of golf may take part. **Penalty:** Loss of game points for each match a player breaches the rule.
5. Matches should be played on the dates allotted in the fixture draw. In the event of a course being unplayable the host club is to notify the visiting club/clubs on the day before the match is scheduled.
6. Clubs may if agreement between both clubs is reached play a match on a day and time preceding the scheduled match in the fixture draw.
7. In the event of a match being cancelled due to a course being unplayable, or a team is unable to travel to the venue, opposing teams may agree to play the match on a day preceding the final week of the regular pennant fixture season. If this is not possible the DDGA has scheduled an extra weekend at the end of the pennant fixture season for matches to be played. If this is not possible the DDGA Pennant Committee will rule on the unplayed match.
8. Weather intervention during a match. Bad weather is not a reason to discontinue play, however play must be suspended for lightning. Clubs should play the match on the day if at all possible. If only part of the course is playable, then the match committee should name a stipulated round of 18 holes out of what is available. (That means that some holes could be played twice) It is suggested that the minimum number of holes that can be used in such a situation is nine. If there is a possibility of play, a short postponement after the normal start time may be considered.
9. **NO social or competition play** is permitted within 45 minutes of the first hit off on the tees scheduled for pennants. **Penalty:** The host club will lose 4 games for 7-man teams and 3 games for 5-man teams for each match played at the host club.
10. Practice prior to hit off on the course proper is a matter for the host club and approval is required.
11. All matches shall be in pairs unless both clubs agree to play in fours.
12. Pennant play should commence at 7.30 am, and each team shall be ready to hit off at the appointed time. There should be a minimum of 6 minutes between each game with a block allocation for each team of 45 minutes. *See General Section. **Penalty:** See Rules of Golf. 5.3. Pennant matches should commence at 7.30 am, however agreement between the participating clubs on an alternate time is allowed due to more than one match being played at the course on the day. Where

clubs are hosting more than one division on the day it would be advisable to let opposing clubs know approximate tee times.

13. Division 1 and 2, Senior A: At least 10 minutes prior to the starting time of the match, the captain of the home and away teams shall prepare a list of players in numerical order from 1 to 7 for Division 1 and 2 and 1 to 5 for Senior A. The games will then be completed on a match sheet and displayed on the board prior to the commencement of the match.

14. Individual games are to be played in reverse order to the numerical list on which their respective names appear unless the opposing Captains agree otherwise, but in no case shall the individual games be played outside the block time allowed for the match. If after the names appear, a named player is not able to take his place, a substitute player may take his place and the substitute player must play in the place of the player he is replacing. A player is considered absent if he is not ready to start at the time the last game of the match is due to hit off. If any player fails to comply with this rule a win shall be awarded to his opponent with the score of the highest winning margin of that division on that day.

15. If after the names have been placed on the sheet or board, they are changed for any reason other than to insert the substitute players name it will mean an automatic loss of game for those members whose names have been changed.

16. In the Senior B Division, the first 2 games are to be played off the stick. Games 3-5 are handicap games. All matches are to be played in handicap order with the lowest marker being listed on the team sheet as number 1. Handicap limit is 18.

17. In Handicap and Senior C Division the names must appear in handicap order with the lowest handicap player being player number 1. The maximum handicap allowed is 18 unless the player is a Junior (Under 18 years of age) where the limit is 27. **Penalty:** Loss of game for those playing out of order.

18. A win between teams shall be secured by the team winning the greatest number of individual games and such winning team will secure 2 points. All Round matches shall not be played beyond the 18th hole with halved matches to count. In the event of a tie each team shall receive 1 point.

19. Should any team forfeit a match the recipient of the forfeit is to receive the maximum match points won on the day in that division. Individual games for such forfeit, are to receive the highest winning margin in that division on that day + 1 game. The maximum any team may receive is 7 in 7-man team competition and 5 in 5-man team competition. Teams who forfeit a match receive no points.

20. In finals, to be eligible a player must have played in at least half the games in the division during the season. Should a team qualify for a final and have players who have not played in the required matches to qualify, permission must be sought from the opposing club and DDGA Pennant Sub-Committee. The DDGA pennant Sub-Committee reserves the right to overrule a decision by an opposing club. **Penalty:** Loss of game points in the final.

21. The use of motorised carts is allowed for players and or caddies. Caddies may be used in Pennant matches. Distance measuring devices are acceptable but wind and slope measuring devices are not. **Penalty:** Use of a slope or wind device: Loss of hole.

22. Mobile phones carried by a competitor, club official or caddie must be turned to silent at all times whilst a match is in progress. **Penalty:** Loss of hole.

23. The result sheet is to be completed and countersigned by both team Captains and it is the responsibility of the winning captain to return the result sheet to the DDGA Pennant Match Committee by 5 pm on the day the match is played. **Penalty:** Loss of match points.

24. The Match Committee for the day shall be the match committee of the host club and all matters for dispute shall be referred to the Match Committee in writing within 30 minutes of the finish of the applicable match.

25. Finals: Halves will count and in the event of a tie all halved games will proceed to the 1st hole and be decided by sudden death playoffs.

26. Forfeits. All teams must notify the host club, opposing club and DDGA Secretary of a forfeit by 6 pm on the Thursday prior to the match. Failure to do so may result in the club being penalised by a fine determined by the DDGA Committee to a maximum of \$100.00.

27. Teams must abide by any Health rules that are in force at the club that hosts the match. A club enforcing any health rule must notify the opposing club two days prior to the match. It is up to the captain of all teams to check on entry for their team members prior to the match.

PENNANTS FORMAT

The Darling Downs Golf Association is responsible for the conduct and administration of Pennants competition in the association. A Sub-Committee shall be formed from the Management Committee members to administer the competition.

Pennants Competition is usually but not restricted to a six-week home and away competition or a format decided by the DDGA Pennant Sub-Committee applicable to the number of teams in a competition.

Competition for 2026 and beyond unless changed by the DDGA will consist of the following divisions.

Open Division 1 and 2. Open match play competition, on a home and away basis, off the stick, 7 players per team. Seniors and juniors eligible.

Senior: A: Home and away basis, all games off the stick, 5 players per team.

B: Home and away basis. 2 off the stick games and 3 handicap games.

C: All matches played off handicap. (see Handicap Divisions)

Senior players MUST be over 50 years of age prior to the commencement of the season.

Handicap Divisions: Open match play competition in a format decided by the DDGA Pennant Committee. 5 players per team, all matches played off the daily handicap of the course being played. (Maximum Handicaps: Open Players – 18. Junior Players – 27). The Handicap Divisions will be decided after nominations of interested teams are received by the DDGA. The Handicap divisions will operate on a promotion and relegation system between the divisions following results at the end of the season.

A Final will be held in all divisions to determine the Pennant winner. The final in all divisions will be held at the club which finishes in first position at the end of the fixture season and will be against the team finishing second in the division.

Should weather intervene on the day scheduled for all finals and the match cannot be played the DDGA Pennant Committee will schedule another date for the finals. (This date is programmed in the DDGA Protected Dates list)

In the event of two teams having the same number of points a count-back shall be conducted using the following system.

All Divisions: Number of matches won. Number of games won. Number of matches won away. Number of games won away.

In the event of a draw after the count back system has been applied a decision will be made by the DDGA Pennant Sub Committee to determine the result.

The DDGA Committee reserves the right to invite clubs from other associations to field teams in DDGA conducted pennants.

The DDGA Executive Committee has the right at any time to alter the forgoing rules or add new teams thereto or in substitution thereof and shall have full power to deal with any matters not provided herein.

GENERAL SECTION.

1. Meals may be provided by the host club at the end of Pennant Matches.
2. The travelling club is responsible for notifying the host club and opposition if for any reason they cannot fulfil their commitments.
3. Host clubs are responsible to prepare the course to a standard suitable for pennant play.
4. It may be necessary because of prior commitments for clubs to reach a mutual decision to play fixtures on other than allocated dates. This may occur provided any changes are agreed between the clubs and the DDGA is notified.
5. Where for some reason a Host Club wishes to commence at a time other than 7.30 am, approval must be sought from the visiting club. Where such approval is given all rules applicable to the 7.30 am start time are applicable to the new start time.
6. Host clubs are requested to inform Social or Competition players who hit off in front of the 45-minute time frame that Pennants are being played on the course and to explain the method of "calling through" pennant players.
7. Match: Event between two clubs.
8. Game: Individual games in the match.