SOUTH WESTERN GOLF ASSOCIATION
STANDARD EVENT CONDITIONS. V.25.8.2026

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Introduction

This document outlines the Standard Conditions for all South Western Golf Association events, including Heat Policy and behaviour requirements. In addition, the SWGA Player Code of Conduct will apply to all players and caddies in all SWGA events.

Where there is any inconsistency between these Standard Conditions for SWGA events and those set out on an event entry form, the conditions of the event entry form will prevail and/or Pennant Conditions.

A copy of these Standard Conditions for SWGA events and the SWGA Player Code of Conduct is available on the SWGA website at www.swga.com.au

Within these Standard Conditions, unless the context indicates otherwise:

- Committee means either the SWGA Men's and/or Women's Golf Operations Committee that is responsible for the event.
- Recognised Golf Club means a golf club affiliated with South Western Golf Association.
- Rules of Golf means the current Rules of Golf and Rules of Amateur Status (2019) published and approved by R&A Rules Limited and the United States Golf Association (effective 1 January 2019).

PART A – Administration and Entry Conditions

1. Committee

1.1 The members of the Committee present may exercise all functions in relation to the event and constitute the Committee within the meaning of the Rules of Golf for the purpose of the conduct of the event.

1.2 In the absence of the full Committee, such members thereof as may be present at any time may give a decision and any decision shall be deemed the decision of the full Committee. The Committee reserves the right to vary any condition of the event.

1.3 In the event of bad weather, or for any other reason, the Committee may shorten the competition, appoint another day or days for completion of, or transfer play to another course.

1.4 Protests must be made to the Committee not later than 15 minutes after the conclusion of each round.

1.5 The decision of the Committee will be final in all matters relating to the Tournament.

2. Eligibility & Entry

2.1 Amateur financial members of South West Golf Association affiliated clubs who have an official GA handicap are eligible to compete in SWGA competitions consistent with individual entry requirements. SWGA has the right to refuse entry to any person without being required to give a reason for refusal.

2.2 A maximum daily handicap of 45 will apply to all SWGA events.

2.3 In men's, women's and junior events Major/Perpetual Trophies can only be won by a financial member with playing rights of an SWGA affiliated club. Daily prizes in these events will be open to all event participants.

2.4 Entrants are only eligible to be awarded one major trophy per event unless otherwise stated on the entry form.

2.5 Entrance fees must be paid at the time of entry.

2.6 Any entrant may withdraw and have their entry fee refunded providing notification is received prior to publication of the draw.
Exception: Entry fees may be refunded after this date under exceptional circumstances and approved by the Committee.

2.7 All entrants in Junior Events, must be 17 or under on the day of the event.

3. Draw

The Committee reserves the right to fix and/or alter starting times when determining the draw for an event.

4. Practice Rounds Prior to the Event

Practice rounds, prior to SWGA events, are at the discretion of the Host Club. Permission must be sought from the General Manager or an official club representative of the Host Club.

5. By-Laws, Rules and Dress Regulations

The By-laws, rules and dress regulations of the Host Club shall apply.

6. Working with Children Check

All persons 18 years and over actively involved in any Junior Event must have a Working with Children Check registered with the SWGA. Active involvement includes, organisers, volunteer assistants, rules officials, caddies, etc.

Exception: Parents of children competing in the event are not required to provide a Working with Children Check.

7. Cancellation

Players who are unable to compete for any reason, should cancel by contacting the Tournament Secretary on the phone number or email listed on the Entry Form, SWGA Website or Draw for the event. This advice should be communicated as soon as possible. Refer to 2.6 regarding the SWGA refund policy.

PART B - Conditions of Competition

1. Rules of Golf

All SWGA competitions shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as adopted by R&A Rules Limited, together with such local rules as are in force on the course over which the competition rounds are being played. If any dispute arises on any point, it shall be decided by the relevant Committee whose decision shall be final.

In addition, all players are required to adhere to SWGA's Player Code of Conduct for the duration of the Event. It should be noted that players will be subject to disqualification for a serious breach of player conduct in accordance with Rule of Golf 1.2a.

2. Draw & Time of Starting

A draw will be made and published at least 3 days prior to the event. Players shall start at the time and in the order arranged by the Committee in accordance to Rule 5.3. The Committee has the power to amend the draw or substitute another player for any competitor who is not at the tee at the time appointed to play. It may also alter the starting time for any player.

The Committee reserves the right to fix and/or alter starting times. In the event of bad weather, or for any other reason, the Committee may either shorten the Event or appoint another day or days for completion of the Event.

3. Pace of Play (Rule 5.6b)

In the absence of mitigating circumstances, a group is liable to be timed if it is in excess of the time allowed and in the case of second or subsequent groups, out of position. From the commencement of timing, if any player exceeds 50 seconds on a 'first to play approach shot (including Par 3 tee shot), chip or putt', or 40 seconds if it is a tee shot or 'second or third to play shot', they shall be deemed to have had a bad time.

The time allowed will be determined by the Committee and will be available prior to play. Out of position is defined as being more than the starting interval behind the group in front.

A player whose group is timed will have a bad time carried forward in the round even if the group subsequently arrives back in position or within time.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:
1st bad time: Player will be warned by the official and told that if they have a further bad time they will be penalised.

	Stroke Play	**Match Play**
2nd bad time:	One-stroke penalty	Loss of Hole
3rd bad time:	Additional two-stroke penalty	Final Warning
4th bad time:	Disqualification	Disqualification

When Timing Commences:
Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is their turn to play and they can play without interference or distraction. Reasonable time spent by the first player to play in determining their yardage will not count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace their ball, repair ball marks and remove loose impediments on their line of putt. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

4. Mobile Phones
Mobile phones carried by competitors or their caddies must be on silent during play. Calls should only be made in the case of an emergency or to contact a SWGA official.

Phones may be used as a Golf GPS in accordance with Rule 4.3a(1). See 5. Distance Measuring Devices.

Note: In deciding whether a penalty should be applied the Committee will consider if it is a breach of player conduct. Rule 1.2 will apply in this instance.

5. Distance Measuring Devices
For all SWGA events, players may obtain distance information by use of a distance measuring device in accordance with Golf Rule 4.3a(1).

6. Caddies
Professional golfers are permitted to caddy unless stated on individual entry forms.

7. Returning of Score Card & Hole Indexing
A player must return their scorecard as soon as possible after completion of the round, the score is deemed officially returned to the Committee when the player has digitally submitted the scores or submitted their score card at the nominated location.

8. Results of the Competition - Competition Closed
Match Play (other than pennant): The result of a match is deemed officially announced when it has been officially recorded by the Committee.

Stroke Play: The competition is closed when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.

9. Ties

The following events are decided by Sudden Death playoff;

Men's Championship, Boys & Girls Championship, Men's & Women's Foursomes Championships & Victorian Junior Sand Greens Championship.

All other SWGA Events are decided by the recommended GA Countback system.

10. Extreme Weather

There are several circumstances that can be considered extreme weather including Heat, Wind, Rain, Lightning, Course Playability.

Pennant Conditions, may alter some conditions below.

Committee Source: Bureau of Meteorology Website - www.bom.gov.au & My Lightning Tracker and Alerts App

10.1 Heat

Events will be cancelled or postponed by the Committee if the forecast temperature at 5pm the day prior to the event for the town/suburb in which it is to be staged exceeds the maximum temperature of 35 degrees.

10.2 Weather Warnings

Events will be cancelled or postponed by the Committee if there is an active State-wide Extreme Weather Alert at 5pm the day prior to the event.

10.3 Lightning

Lightning will be monitored using the My Lightning Tracker Weather App and the BOM website. If lightning is in the immediate (within 15 km) radius of the golf course it will be considered dangerous and in the interests of health and safety play will be suspended until it's determined safe to resume.

10.4 Course Playability

The above weather conditions along with excessive wind and driving rain/ hail, submerged greens, sodden fairways, fog, threat of broken branches or general player safety can render the course unplayable. If the Committee in consultation with the host club deems the course to be unplayable, play will be suspended immediately until such time as it is considered safe to resume play. If play is unable to resume, the event will be cancelled or postponed.

11. Consumption of Alcohol

Consumption of alcohol, on course, is not permitted by players or caddies during SWGA Events whilst competition is still in progress. Further restrictions may apply to individual events.

On or off the course, consumption of alcohol is not permitted by players, spectators or caddies during a Junior SWGA Event whilst competition is still in progress.

12. Database of Competitor's Details

The personal information you provide in the relevant event entry forms is collected and recorded by the SWGA.

Personal information will not be shared by any third party and will only be used to promote SWGA events and events run by SWGA affiliated Golf Clubs.

13. Motorised Transport

The provisions of this condition apply to SWGA Men's and Junior events.

In all other events conducted by the SWGA Motorised Transport is permitted.

Players requiring the use of motorised transport due to a disability, recovering from illness or injury are required to provide a Medical Certificate from a General Practitioner to the relevant Committee. The certificate must state the length of time the exemption is required, i.e., the dates of the event/s or other.

Exceptions: -

(i) Rules Referees or Committee members may utilise motorised transport to transport a player/caddie in the interests of pace of play where necessary without penalty.

(ii) Permission to use motorised transport is not required by any player, upon reaching 75 years of age.

(iii) Cart usage during any SWGA event would still require any individual to comply with any club requirement and/or cart availability.

14. Adjudication

The Penalty for breach of this Policy/Competition Condition is the *general penalty* for each hole there is a breach. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole. Rules of Golf Committee procedures 8G-6.

Any disputes or protests will be decided by the SWGA Match Committee.

15. Event Cancellation Policy

If any event is cancelled due to weather, reimbursement to hosting member clubs for food preparation and lost green fees will be determined by mutual agreement between the host member club and the South Western Golf Association. Any contract conditions agreed with the host club must be followed.