



Victorian Golf League

By-Laws

BY-LAW No 1: MEMBERSHIP

There are two categories of membership – Full Member Club and Restricted Member Club.

1.1 Application for membership.

An application for membership of the League by a club shall be made in writing to the Executive Manager and shall be accompanied by:

- The names of the office bearers of the applicant club.
- A statement setting out the number of members at the close of the club's last financial year. This number must exceed twenty members.
- A copy of the incorporated rules of the club.
- Particulars of the course on which its members will play, including location, ownership, tenure, green fees, a copy of the scorecard and local rules.
- Such other information as the Board may require.
- A club which applies to the VGL for membership, and which proposes to play on a course which is already used by a member, may also be admitted as a member, provided that the applicant club undertakes to comply with such conditions relating to multiple use of the course, as the League may from time to time require.
- When an application is received by the Executive Manager from a club, he shall refer the matter to the Board. The Board may cause to be made such inquiries as it deems to be necessary to formulate a recommendation to the council about the application.
- An applicant club shall only be admitted to full membership if the council in a general meeting, approves its admission, by special resolution.
- Membership of the applicant shall commence from the date of the council meeting at which it was admitted. The executive manager shall inform the applicant of the result as soon as practicable after the council has made its decision.
- A club which, for any reason, has ceased to be a member of the League may, at any time, apply to the Executive Manager for reinstatement of its membership. Such an application shall be dealt with in the same manner as if the club were an applicant for the first time.

1.2 Full Members of the League;

- Have voting rights as stipulated in the Victorian Golf League constitution.
- Are bound by the by-laws, event & pennant rules.
- Cannot be granted Restricted Membership without Board approval and based on extenuating and substantiated circumstances

1.3 Restricted Members of the League;

- Do not have voting rights
- Are exempt from By-laws 13-18, 21
- By invitation from the Committee, or by writing to the League, may apply for full membership of the League, in accordance with by-law 1.1

BY-LAW No 2: ENTRANCE FEE AND ANNUAL FEES

2.1 Entrance Fee

- \$ 0.00

2.2 Affiliation Fee

- Full Member Club \$11.00 (inc GST) per adult member and \$5.50 (inc GST) per junior (under 18) member plus any and all affiliation fees and charges levied by Golf Australia.
- Restricted Member Club \$11.00 (inc GST) per adult member and \$5.50 (inc GST) per junior (under 18) member plus any and all affiliation fees and charges levied by Golf Australia, magazine subscription, and insurances.
- A minimum charge of \$500.00 per club is required as an affiliation fee.

The classification of a member where affiliation fees are payable is in accordance with Golf Victoria By-Laws.

2.3 If affiliation fee is not received by the due date, and without an accepted reason being received, the club will immediately have their Golf Link access suspended and will not have access until 30 days AFTER receipt of fees.

2.4 A Club will be disaffiliated if its fees are not paid within 30 days of the due date. A payment extension may be approved by the Board, in special circumstances, but cannot be approved on components due to Golf Victoria, Golf Australia or Insurance firms.

BY-LAW No.3: MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

- 3.1 At the end of each calendar year, the Member Club must complete the form provided by the League and forward it to the League with any other associated material no later than date notified.
- 3.2 If member number declaration form and/or associated material is not returned by the due date, and without an accepted reason being received, the club will immediately have their Golf Link access suspended and will not have access until 30 days AFTER receipt of declaration.

BY-LAW No. 4: BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board is responsible for, but not limited to, Finance, Marketing, Budgets, Policies, Planning, Constitution, By-Laws, the First T Motel, Sub-Committees and External/Golf Victoria/Golf Australia Relations.

BY-LAW No. 5: GOLF COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Women's and Men's Golf Committees report to the Board and are responsible for the formation and running of golf events and pennant, golf rules, course rating and handicaps. By-Laws for rules and conditions for pennant and events will be created and submitted to the Board for ratification. The pennant and event rules will be published and from time to time will be updated.

BY-LAW No.6: BUDGET

The Treasurer shall prepare a Budget for discussion at the September Committee meeting of the League. The Committee of the League must then submit the Budget to all clubs for consideration at the last Council meeting before the Annual General Meeting. The Budget will act as a guide to setting the Affiliation Fees and Bulk Entry Fees for the ensuing year.

BY-LAW No 7: RE-IMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

The Board and Committees shall be reimbursed expenses for approved League business for the following items upon application; Approved League business including Council meetings, Club forums, Meetings on behalf of the League, V.G.L. Events & Pennant finals, Mirboo North 1st T Motel business.

(Note: members are not entitled to expenses when they play golf at an event)

- Travel costs when using private car – based on RACV medium car kilometre rate, rounding up to nearest ten cents.
- Travelling to Committee meetings is calculated at half this rate.
- Entertainment expenses – pre-approved by the Treasurer.
- Telephone calls, Toll charges, Parking expenses on League business.
- Entry fee to V.G.L. Events
- Green fees & Comp fees at courses attended on behalf of the V.G.L.

BY-LAW No. 8: APPEALS

An Appeal to the Board against a decision by the Board or Committees may be made by an Member Club in writing to the Executive Manager of the League within seven (7) days of being informed of the decision giving rise to the appeal. The appellant will be required to lodge a \$400 bond with their appeal, to cover costs associated with the appeal, such bond to be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

BY-LAW No. 9: LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Each year, the Board should consider recommendations to confer life membership for distinguished service to the League upon any person.

Following Board approval, a motion should be made by a special resolution at the Annual General Meeting.

BY LAW No. 10: RULES OF GOLF

The Rules of Golf as approved from time to time by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, and adopted by Golf Australia shall be the Rules of Golf of the League and Member Clubs.

BY LAW No. 11: HANDICAPPING AND COURSE RATING

The Australian Course Rating system as approved from time to time by Golf Australia, and adopted by Golf Victoria, shall be the system used by the League for rating courses on which Members conduct competitions.

The Australian Handicapping system as approved from time to time by Golf Australia and adopted by the Golf Victoria shall be the method used by the Members of the League to determine the golf handicap of each affiliate.

The maximum GA handicap for all V.G.L. competitions is GA 36.4 (excluding pennant – see pennant rules for handicap limits).

BY LAW No. 12: MAJOR CLUB EVENTS

Any Member Club who wishes to conduct a Major Event or Charity event on its course shall inform the Executive Manager of the League in writing of the proposal.

The Executive Manager of the League shall examine the proposal to determine whether the proposed date of competition conflicts with any other League event.

All clubs must submit their syllabus for the ensuing year by 31st January in each year.

BY-LAW No.13 : BULK ENTRY FEES

Each Member Club with more than 20 male members shall at the time of paying Affiliation Fees, pay to the League, an amount set annually by the committee as a Bulk Entry Fee.

The Bulk Entry Fee will cover the costs of one **compulsory** entry from each club for each of the following events:- Men's Foursomes Championship (2 players), Mixed Foursomes (2 players), Men's Open Championship (A.R. Martin 1 player), Men's President's Trophy (1 player), Men's Champion of Champions (1 player), Men's Medalist of Medalists (1 player) and Team event (4 players). This equates to 12 green fees and catering at most events.

Notes:

*The Men's Senior's/Veteran's Championship, Men's Senior's 4BBB Championship, and the Junior Championship entry fees are **not** included in the Bulk Entry Fees.*

BY LAW No.14: VGL MEN'S EVENTS

The League shall conduct a number of men's events throughout each year.

The League's Committee shall determine the conditions on which the competition shall be conducted and the League shall publish the conditions and distribute the conditions to each Member.

Where entry to a Men's event is declared **compulsory**, each Member will be required to enter a specified number of players in that event. Events are open to current male affiliated players in conjunction with any eligibility requirements as set in conditions of entry. The number of players to be entered shall be set by the League's Committee.

Each Member will be required to complete an entry form for each League event and such entry form shall be returned to the League by the date specified. Conditions of Entry on entry form must be read in conjunction with the Leagues Pennant & Event Rules.

A Member who has paid entry fees in advance shall be required to submit an entry form for League events. An entry will be deemed not to have been received unless the entry form is returned to the League on or before the due date specified.

Any Member who has entered in any League Competition, and is not represented on the day, may incur a \$50.00 penalty.

In the case of ties, all Scratch events, will be decided by a sudden death playoff on holes determined by the League Match Committee on the day. All Nett events will be decided by the count-back method as recommended by Golf Australia.

Perpetual trophies for events will be given to clubs to display in their clubrooms. The trophy must always be in the possession of the club. While in the club's possession the club will be responsible for the security, safety and condition of the trophy. Any damaged trophy will be repaired or replaced with the cost to be borne by the club. Any trophy returned unclean or tarnished will incur a cleaning cost of \$50.00. The trophy must be returned to the V.G.L. within 12 months or before the next holding of the event, whichever occurs first.

Local Rule - Preferred Lies – (See Model Local Rule E3)

If the VGL adopt "Preferred Lies" prior to the start of any of its competitions, the following applies.

- A ball on the (closely mown area) or (through the green) – whichever relief option is announced by the Committee on the day – may be lifted and cleaned.
- Before lifting the ball, the player must mark the position of the ball.
- The player can then (place the ball within 6 inches) or (drop the ball within one club length) of the position marked. – Whichever relief option is announced by the Committee on the day.
- A player must place the ball only once, and it is in play when it is placed. (Rule 14.2b)
- If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot on which it was placed, Rule 14.2e applies
- If the ball does come to rest on the spot it was placed, but then subsequently moves, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies.

PENALTY FOR FAILING TO MARK THE POSITION OF THE BALL–

1 stroke penalty –

ANY other BREACH OF THIS LOCAL RULE –

Match Play: Loss of Hole; Stroke Play: 2 strokes.

BY LAW No. 15: V.G.L. MEN'S MEDAL COMPETITION

The conditions of competition of the "V.G.L. Monthly Medal" shall be set from time to time by the League. Each Member Club with more than 20 male members shall conduct a handicap stroke competition using Australian handicaps to be known as the Men's "V.G.L. Monthly Medal".

EXCEPTION: Clubs have the option to play their winter month Medals as a stableford competition i.e. June, July and August ONLY.

At least eight (8) "V.G.L. Monthly Medals" shall be conducted by each Member Club in each year. Trophies shall be purchased from the League and awarded to each Monthly Medalist.

Ties in "V.G.L. Monthly Medals" must be decided by the count-back method as recommended by Golf Australia.

BY LAW No. 16: V.G.L. MEN'S MEDALLIST OF MEDALLISTS COMPETITION

Each Member Club with more than 20 male members shall conduct an event prior to the 1st November of each year in which the monthly Medalists shall compete in a handicap stroke play competition. The winner of this event shall be known as the Men's "Club Medalist of Medalists".

*****To be eligible to win the Club Medalist of Medalists the player must be available to represent his Club in the V.G.L. Medalist of Medalists on the date as advised in the V.G.L. Program of Events for that year.

In November of each year, the League shall invite the "Club Medalist of Medalists" to take part in a handicap stroke competition to determine the winner of the title "V.G.L. Medalist of Medalists". No substitutes will be allowed.

Ties in "V.G.L. Medalist of Medalists:" will be decided by the count-back method as recommended by Golf Australia.

The conditions of the competition shall be determined from time to time by the League.

If a Club is not represented in this event, it shall incur a penalty of \$50.00. A club who is found to have substituted a player shall incur a penalty of \$100.00

BY LAW No. 17: MOTORIZED RIDE-ON TRANSPORT

Players having obtained the age of 70 may use ride-on motorized transport for League events without the need of applying for League approval.

The League's Committee may approve that an individual player may use a motorized transport upon the following procedure being followed:-

An application for the use of a motorized transport is made in writing to the League on the form as supplied by the League.

The application is supported by a certificate from the player's medical practitioner or at the discretion of the Committee of the League.

The League's Committee may request from the player making an application any further information that it requires in order to formulate a decision.

Once permission has been granted by the League, such motorized transport may be used in all League Events.

The final decision to permit the use of motorized transport on any course is a decision for the management of the course, who may require proof of insurance. It is the responsibility of the player to obtain the appropriate permission prior to using the motorized transport on any course.

BY LAW No.18 MEASURING DEVICES & MOBILE PHONES (refer Rules of Golf - Rule 14-3 and decisions 14-3)

Local rule Appendix 1B-9 permits the use of Distance measuring devices in all League competitions.

A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance ONLY. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring devices that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his/her play (e.g. gradient, wind speed, temperature, club selection etc) the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which penalty is DISQUALIFICATION regardless of whether any such function is actually used.

Notes:

If a player wishes to uses a phone to look up weather, it is not considered to be actively measuring or gauging the conditions and is permissible. Reports provided by a weather station, through an app or internet browser, are not a breach of rule 14-3

A phone with a compass feature, can be used as a distance-measuring device, because a compass only provided directional information and does not gauge or measure variable conditions or assist the player in his play.

You can use a phone as a distance-measuring device, that has an inbuilt spirit level as part of the functionality but it is not part of the distance-measuring app., provided that you do not use the spirit level in any manner that might assist you in your play.

The use of mobile phones by a competitor or his caddie whilst on a golf course is distracting and inconsiderate. If the competitor or caddie is in possession of a mobile phone it should be on silent or turned off. A player or caddie cannot receive or make calls during the match - **Penalty - Loss of Hole**. Receiving and viewing Short Message Services (SMS), between the playing of holes, is not considered "receiving or making phone calls" during the match.

Exception: Players/caddies are permitted to make phone calls from the course to the clubhouse or to event officials for rules/emergency assistance.

BY LAW No. 19 VGL HEAT POLICY

In circumstances of hot weather and humidity a VGL Competition, or Pennant Contest, may be suspended or cancelled at the discretion of the VGL Committee.

Should the forecast temperature for Melbourne, at 6.00pm on the evening television news, before the day of competition, be 38 degrees or more, the competition or contest for that day, will be cancelled.

The VGL has a duty of care to its members and seeks to take a reasonable approach to days of extreme heat. The VGL has published advice given by Golf Australia and Sports Medicine Australian below and is concerned for the health and well-being of all its members.

Member clubs are discouraged from playing on days of extreme heat and are reminded that they do so at their own risk. They should take appropriate actions to prevent heat stress. Those Clubs that choose to play in these conditions, should be concerned for any possible litigation arising out of a heat-related situation.

The VGL reminds all players about the appropriate measures to be taken to avoid heat stress, heat stroke, heat cramps and heat exhaustion. Sport and exercise place some people at risk of heat illness, especially in hot weather. If untreated, heat illness can lead to the more serious, and potentially life-threatening condition, of heat stroke.

The VGL advises that some courses can be physically taxing on a player's abilities to compete in an event. It is the players responsibility to consider their personal health and ability to compete on some courses.

By understanding the causes of heat illness health, Committees, players and anyone involved in sport or physical activity can help prevent heat illness by using the advice provided in the Guidelines below to minimise the risks.

Most of the advice involves simple rules of common sense. Listen to your body and stop or slow down if you feel unwell. This is particularly important for children and the elderly. Make sure that you have access to cool drinking water, wear a good hat and take particular care in the hottest parts of the day or year.

Sports Medicine Australia have published the following guidelines called "Hot weather guidelines" and "Beat the Heat". The VGL encourage all club administrations to be familiar with these guidelines.

Vic Sport have also prepared several posters and we would encourage your club to print and place in a prominent place in your club rooms.

BY LAW 20 EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

The VGL has adopted an Extreme Weather Conditions Policy to provide guidance to member clubs in relations to playing conditions which might impact on the health safety or well-being of their players.

This Extreme Conditions Policy addresses issues of Storms, Lightning, Strong Winds or approaching danger. It also applies when greens become unplayable due to heavy rain or other circumstance such as Fog, and suspension of play is necessary.

(a) Lightning

The Rules of Golf acknowledge that lightning on golf courses has caused deaths and injuries and urges golf clubs to take precautions for the protection of golfers against lightning. Rule 5-7 make provision for "Suspension of Play due to a Dangerous Situation". Such provision permits the Committee to suspend play or for players to discontinue play if they believe that there is a danger from lightning.

When play is suspended by the Committee all players should discontinue play immediately. The Committee will determine when play is to resume. Failure to discontinue play on the advice of the Committee will result in disqualification.

Players who discontinue play without specific Committee permission must report to the Committee as soon as practicable. This can include a note left with your score card. No penalty will be applied if the reason is satisfactory. Otherwise the player will be disqualified.

Should lightning be in the immediate vicinity of the golf course the Committee will consider the situation is dangerous and will, in the interests of the health and safety of the players, suspend play.

(b) Strong Winds

Members are advised and reminded of the dangers of limbs falling from trees on days of extreme winds (50 kph or more). Members are advised to be aware of the forecast of strong winds and give consideration to their own personal safety while out on the course.

"Should the forecast at 4.00pm on the day before a competition be for winds likely to exceed 50 kph members will be reminded of the possible dangers of falling limbs or trees. Should a situation arise where the Match Committee considers such strong winds to be a danger to members, play will be suspended."

(c) Approaching Fire Danger

On days of extreme fire danger or other potential threat situations, the VGL will monitor Emergency Services advice and act accordingly

(d) Course Unplayable

If the Committee considers that for any reason such as inclement weather, fog or course conditions, the course is not in a playable condition, or that there are circumstances that render the proper playing of the game impossible it may order a temporary suspension of play or cancel the contest or competition.

On advice from the Committee of a situation which warrants suspension of play players may discontinue play immediately or continue to play out the hole provided they do so without delay. Play must be discontinued after the completion of the hole.

Siren Notification Procedures

Suspension of Play Suspension of play will be signalled by Three (3) blasts (repeated) of the siren. Play may continue to the completion of the current hole, or alternatively balls may be marked if completion is not practicable. Players should return to the Clubhouse until further notice and await advice on resumption.

Emergency Evacuation: One (1) continuous blast of the siren. Players should cease play immediately and return to the Clubhouse.

Resumption of Play: Two (2) short blasts of the siren. Players should return to their positions immediately and resume play.

BY LAW No. 21: VGL MEN'S PENNANT COMPETITION

The League shall conduct an annual match play competition to be known as "Men's & Mixed" V.G.L. Pennant".

The League's Committee shall determine the conditions on which the competition shall be conducted and the League shall publish the conditions and distribute the conditions to each Member.

Unless an exemption is granted each Member Club, with more than 20 male members, shall enter at least one team in the handicap pennant competition each year.

Any Member wishing an exemption from entering a team in the annual pennant competition shall apply to the League setting out in full the grounds on which it applies for exemption from entering a pennant team.

The League's Committee shall consider any application for exemption, and by special resolution grant an exemption to a member if warranted.

BY LAW No. 22: VGL WOMEN'S PENNANT COMPETITION

The League shall conduct an annual match play competition to be known as "Women's V.G.L. Pennant".

The League's Committee shall determine the conditions on which the competition shall be conducted and the League shall publish the conditions and distribute the conditions to each Member.

BY LAW No. 23: VGL WOMEN'S EVENTS

The League shall conduct a number of women's events throughout each year.

The League's Committee shall determine the conditions on which the competition shall be conducted and the League shall publish the conditions and distribute the conditions to each Member.