



Version 0

05 December 2025

## MASTERS LEAGUE TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

By confirming entry for the 2026 Masters League, the Club, its Committee, Club Manager, League Co-ordinator and players agree to the terms of the competition given below:

(This document can be found on WPG's website on the relevant 'Leagues' page at [www.westernprovincégolf.co.za](http://www.westernprovincégolf.co.za).)

- 1 GENERAL:** The following are the Rules and Terms of Competition governing the Masters League run under the control of the Executive of Western Province Golf (WPG) that shall commence on 17 January 2026 and concluding on 8 March 2026.
- 2 TROPHY:** Teams shall compete for the Masters League Trophy. Teams representing competing Clubs shall compete for the Trophy annually. The name of the Club winning the respective League shall be engraved on the Trophy. The Club will be the holder of the Trophy until the end of the following year's competition, and a shield will be awarded to the winning Club at the WPG Awards Ceremony at the end of the year.
- 3 COMPOSITION OF THE LEAGUE:** For 2026, the league will consist of 12 teams made up of 2 sections (pools).

During the section phase, each team will play 5 matches, against each team in their section on a 'home' and 'away' basis. On conclusion of the final round of section fixtures, the teams will be classified in terms of points. In the event of a tie, the classification shall be the team with the highest "games for" count. Should there still be a tie, the classification shall be the result of the "head-to-head" section fixture of the teams. If the "head-to-head" result was a "half" (as per **Cl. 24**), the winner shall be determined by the holes count of the "head-to-head" match. If there is still a tie, the teams will be classified as tied.

In the case of semi-final qualification, if there is still a tie, then a playoff match shall be arranged by WP Golf on a date to be confirmed. The play-off match shall be played in the same format as per **Cl. 8** and **24**.

The top 2 teams in each section will play in a seeded cross section semi-final matches on a 'home' and 'away' basis. In the event of a tie the winner of the semi-final shall be determined by the holes count on the day. Should there still be a tie, the higher seeded team shall be declared the winner.

The final shall be played at a neutral venue arranged by WPG. In the event of a tie the winner shall be determined by the holes count on the day. Should there still be a tie, the league shall be shared.

- 4 CLUB TEAM ELIGIBILITY:** Only Clubs affiliated to WPG or invited by WPG may compete in the league.

**5 COMPOSITION OF THE TEAM:** Each team shall consist of 8 players, 2 pairs to play at 'Home' and 2 pairs to play 'Away'.

**6 TEAM MANAGERS:** Team managers are not permitted. All team co-ordinators or club officials are spectators as per **Cl. 35**.

Penalty for Breach of **Cl. 6**: 1 point deduction from the Club's accumulated points total on the log.

**7 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:** Players must be registered affiliated members with full golfing status of the competing Club and handicapped at that Club.

A player, who has represented his Club in any other league during a calendar year, cannot play for any other Club in any league during the same calendar year. Consideration may be given to bona fide interim-year membership transfers because of the non-calendar year financial year-end of the transferring club with a limit of one such concession in a consecutive 3-year cycle.

Should a player have represented his Club twice in the Mid-Amateur League, he is ineligible to play in the Masters League, unless there are unforeseen circumstances, in which case, the club must request permission from WPG for such dispensation. Such dispensation is at the sole discretion of the Tournament Committee appointed by WP Golf.

Any player suspended from a Club or suspended from the Leagues in terms of the Constitution of WPG or League Terms of Competition is not eligible to represent any Club during his period of suspension.

Only players who have turned 50 (Fifty) on the date of a fixture are eligible to compete in this League.

**8 FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION:** The format of the League is pairs Better Ball Stableford played off scratch. Stableford is played under the rules of Stroke Play, as such, no putts may be conceded. The competition will be played over 18 holes on a home and away basis with 2 games being played at home and 2 games away.

**9 WINNER OF THE LEAGUE:** The team that wins the "FINAL" tie.

**10 PROMOTION & RELEGATION:** Not applicable to the Masters League.

**11 RULES OF THE COMPETITION:** Play shall be strictly in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by the R&A Rules Ltd.

**12 LOCAL RULES:** The Local Rules of the "Home" Club shall be the Local Rules in force on the day of the match.

Penalty for Breach of **Cl. 12**: General Penalty in Stroke Play – 2 penalty strokes unless otherwise stated.

**13 DRESS CODE:** Teams are required to play in full uniform — specifically, matching shirts and pants. Any player who does not comply with the dress code will not be permitted on the course, unless there are extenuating circumstances (e.g., a late replacement as provided for in **Clause 18**).

**14 CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT BRANDING:** Players and caddies must comply with the WP Golf Logo and Marks Policy, regarding branding on clothing and equipment. The relevant document can be viewed on the tournaments page on [www.westernprovincégolf.co.za](http://www.westernprovincégolf.co.za).

Players who are incorrectly dressed will not be allowed to play. To avoid any embarrassment, please direct any queries on this matter to WPG in advance..

**15 DATES & VENUES:** Dates of matches shall be arranged by WPG. All matches are to be played on the date as published in the League Fixtures. Should any venue, be deemed unsuitable for the playing of League matches, the Executive of WPG reserves the right to exclude or remove matches from such a venue.

- **No changes to fixtures will be permitted once the final schedule is published.**

**16 SUBMISSION OF TEAMS:** Clubs shall submit their teams, on the prescribed form, by e-mail, to WPG by 12h00 on the Wednesday prior to the match. The playing pairs shall be submitted in playing order, 2 to 1, (both home and away). Clubs must also indicate the "home" times and tees for the fixture on the submission sheet.

**17 SUBSTITUTION OF PLAYERS:** If a player must be replaced after the draw for a fixture has been published, it must be a direct replacement.

**18 CONCEDED MATCHES:** Out of respect for the opposing team, every effort must be made to fill a full team complement even if having to substitute with weaker players. In exceptional cases where a club is unable to field a full team of 8 players for a particular scheduled fixture, clubs must field as many players as possible by:

- i) Firstly, fill their 'Away' team (4 players).
- ii) Fielding the remaining number of available players to play both 'Home' matches I.E: a minimum of two players must each singly play against the opposing pairs.
- iii) Only in the event of a club being unable to field sufficient players in this manner may matches be conceded.
- iv) WP Golf, in the first instance and the opposing club must be informed as soon as it has been established that a full team cannot be fielded.

Should a Club fail to meet the minimum match requirement of 6 players, for a fixture as described above, they shall be withdrawn from the League and **Clause 34** of the 2026 Masters League Terms Of Competition shall apply.

WP Golf, in the first instance and the opposing club must be informed as soon as it has been established that a full team cannot be fielded.

**19 STARTING TIMES:** In accordance with **Rule 5.3a** of the Rules of Golf, players shall start at the times allocated by the "Home Club", should the starting time be missed, penalty under the rules of golf shall apply. Play shall start at the tee times allocated by the "Home" Club Committee after consultation with the "Away" Club. These tee times may be allocated in either the morning or afternoon field, but both clubs should preferably play at similar times.

**20 TEES:** Play shall be from the stipulated tees identified by the "Home" club.

**21 CADDIES:** Players may use only professional caddies employed by the host Club, unless arranged otherwise with the host club.

**22 TRANSPORTATION:** The use of driven motorised golf carts is permitted with approval of the host Club. The use of motorbikes is prohibited

**23 PLAYER ADVICE:** Assistance in the form of advice to any player can only be gained from the player's own playing partner or their caddie. Should a player be in breach of this condition, **Rule 10.2** of the rules of golf shall be applied, Stroke play – 2 penalty strokes.

**24 SCORING:** at the end of 18 holes the games won, drawn or lost, as well as Stableford points, must be recorded. The winning team of the day will be that team with the most games won. In the event of a draw all games' Stableford points of each team will be added and the team with the higher total will be the winner. If the total number of Stableford points is tied, the match will be deemed as halved.

Log points will be awarded as follows:

- Winning Team (Most games Won): 3 points
- Winning a drawn match (most total Stableford points count-out): 2 points
- Losing a drawn match (lesser total Stableford points count-out): 1 point
- Drawn match (equal total Stableford points count-out): 1 ½ points.

**25 CODE OF CONDUCT: Player Conduct and Spirit of The Game:** It is one of the central principles of the game of golf that all players are expected to play by the Rules and in the spirit of the game. Under **Rule 1.2a**, WPG reserves the right to disqualify a player for serious misconduct for acting contrary to the spirit of the game during a League game as per the Rules of Golf, and a player guilty of any serious breach of etiquette shall be severely dealt with in terms of the Constitution of WP Golf.

**26 SLOW PLAY:** Team Captains are responsible for their players' pace of play. Players must be made aware of **Rule 5.6** and in particular, **Rule 5.6b:** Prompt Pace of Play. Matches must keep up with the match ahead and get back into position after a ball search. A Group is considered to be 'out of position' when they are more than their starting interval behind the group in front of them. Any Group that remains "out of position" for more than three (3) holes must be reported to the host club's rules official, who shall enforce any penalties in terms of the rules or the host club's Pace of Play Policy.

**27 ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS:** A match shall be played, unless:

- i) The Greenkeeper or Club Manager (person duly authorized) closes the course before play is due to start.
- ii) WPG, after consultation, deems the forecasted (on day prior or day of play) weather conditions to be dangerous. In such events, WPG shall, if possible, notify the Clubs accordingly.
- iii) If the course becomes unplayable or the weather becomes dangerous, players may agree to discontinue play as per **Rule 5.7a**.
- iv) If play is suspended, or the course is closed by the respective club or WPG, and no further play is possible on the day of the league fixture, then **Cl.28** of these League Terms of Competition shall apply.

**28 ABANDONED PLAY:** In the event of play for the day being abandoned, the results of the match shall be determined as follows:

- If any match has not completed nine holes, the match shall be declared a half.
- The result of matches, where more than nine holes have been completed, shall be determined by the state of the match when play is discontinued.

**29 SUBMISSION OF RESULTS:** All clubs must submit results via email to WPG on the official results sheet by 12h00 on the Monday following the match. Should a club be late in submitting the result, they shall receive a 'Yellow Card' for the first instance. Should this happen again, WPG shall penalise the team by deducting 1 point from their accumulated points total on the log during the league stages.

The results of matches are final once declared to the home/away team captains, unless a request for a ruling has been made as set out in **Cl.38**.

The results at a venue should be provided to the Club Captain for announcement at prize giving. If the results are not readily available from the host club, the responsibility for determining the overall result rests with the Team Captains.

**30 SCORECARDS & HANDICAPPING:** In accordance with the World Handicapping System and as per the "Rules of Handicapping" published by R&A Rules Limited, for handicapping purposes rounds are to be opened for all Masters League Games and all scores are to be captured. All match scores are to be captured before 24h00 on the day after the match was played as per the GolfRSA rules and explanations for South Africa. Effective January 2024. The Clubs are responsible for ensuring their players enter scores timeously after each league fixture.

All open rounds must be closed on the day prior to fixture/matches being played.

**31 PLAYING FEES:** There are no playing fees.

**32 SNACKS & DRINKS:** It is at the sole discretion of the clubs to provide halfway and drinks after the round. A recommendation of halfway and a drink after the round would be adequate. It is required, barring exceptional circumstances that the visiting team stays for 2 drinks after the game with the host club.

**33 REIMBURSEMENT:** Not Applicable to the Masters League.

**34 WITHDRAWAL:** Should a team withdraw for any reason or be suspended during a league season, all their matches in their section shall be null and voided. In the event of a club withdrawing a team or being suspended during the league season, such a club will be liable for a fine of R10 000 (1st offence) or R15 000 (subsequent offence) per team. Depending on the nature of such withdrawals and/or repeat offenders, further sanction in terms of **Section 8.4** of the Constitution of the Western Province Golf Union shall apply.

Semi-final qualification:

If a qualifying team is unable to field a team on the published date as set out in **Cl. 18**, the next highest-placed qualifying team shall advance to the next round.

Final:

If a Club is unable to field a team for the Final on the published date as set out in **Cl. 18**, the opposing team shall be declared the winners.

**35 SPECTATORS:** Spectators include any person (family, friends, Club members) and any Club officials as per **CI 6**. who watches or follows play. It is the responsibility of the players to safeguard fair play for all by ensuring that spectators:

- Stay on cart paths or in the rough, a distance away from players
- Keep off tees, fairways and greens at all times.
- Do not give advice
- Do not interfere with play

When allowed carts, with approval of the host Club

- carts will only be permitted when the Club has sufficient capacity - members/players have preference,
- no pre booking allowed - it is on a first come first served basis
- must observe all Club cart rules.
- no sharing with players allowed.

Failure to adhere to these rules may lead to spectators being asked to leave the golf course.

Players who have completed their match are considered spectators.

Penalty for Breach of **CI. 35**: 1 point deduction from the Club's accumulated points total on the log.

**36 POPI ACT POLICY:** By players participating in leagues, run under the auspices of WPG they are consenting to Western Province Golf collecting and storing certain personal player information (the minimum needed to conduct the administration of the respective leagues). Clubs / Players are assured that Western Province Golf is fully compliant with the Protection of Personal Information Act ("POPIA") regarding how we collect personal information, why we collect it, what it is used for and how it is stored. This personal information may be used to provide further details of the respective leagues and may be stored by Western Province Golf for purposes of further such events. Your personal information shall not be shared with any third party whatsoever, save for the publication of league results. If a player is a minor, by accepting the League Conditions, Western Province Golf accepts that players parent or guardian has given his/her consent to the above and for the club to have provided the player's personal information.

**37 DRUG FREE SPORT (ANTI DOPING POLICY):** All players are subject to the provisions of the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport's Anti-Doping (SAIDS) Rules. Details of the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules, and the current List of Prohibited Substances and Methods, are available from the SAIDS website ([www.drugfreesport.org.za](http://www.drugfreesport.org.za)). Players can do a medication or supplement check on-line. Players who have illnesses or conditions that require them to take particular medications or undergo procedures may have to apply for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE). If the medication or method a player requires to treat an illness or condition falls under the Prohibited List, a TUE may give that athlete the authorisation to use the required medicine or method. Random testing may take place. This shall include alcohol consumption during play. Breach of condition is disqualification. (Match where Breach occurs).

**38 DISPUTES:** WPG shall appoint a Tournament Rulings Committee, and this Committee, whose decision shall be final, shall settle all disputes concerning the Masters League Terms of Competition.

For match related rules issues Clubs / Team Captains should draw the attention of their players to **Rule 20.1a** and **20.1b**, which clearly sets out the procedure to be followed if a rules issue arises on the course. If a ruling request was correctly made, the players must report the matter to their team captains on completion of their match, following which:

- a. The League Result Sheet when submitted as per **Cl. 29** should be clearly marked "Ruling requested" and the matter brought to the attention of WPG and accompanied by the submission of a written report setting out the nature and details of the ruling request. If this procedure is not followed, no ruling shall be given, and the results of the match shall stand.
- b. In the event of the above procedure (**Rule 20.1a and b**) having been followed and no resolution obtained, the results of the match shall be determined by WPG using the League Results Sheet and any other information gathered by the Committee.

For any disputes regarding the contravention of the Masters League Terms of Competition, a claim must be lodged with WPG:

- a. When the League Result Sheet is submitted as per **Cl. 29** it should be clearly marked "DISPUTE" and accompanied by the submission of a written report setting out the nature and details of the "Dispute". If this procedure is not followed, no ruling shall be made, and the results of the match shall stand.
- b. The Committee will make a ruling on the dispute based on the written report received and any additional information they gather.

**39 PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF LEAGUE TERMS OF THE COMPETITION:** Any Club team found guilty of a breach of these League Terms of the Competition, where not specified, shall vary depending on the significance of the contravention but could include warnings, player bans, point/s deduction from the accumulated points total on the log during the league stage or team disqualification.

**40 CHANGES:** WPG shall have the right to amend, alter, delete, or add to the above League Terms of Competition at any time.

**41 VERSION:** This version of the Masters League Terms of Competition supersedes all previous versions and is effective from 05 December 2025