



# AUCKLAND GOLF INCORPORATED

## Overview of InterClub Feedback

To the Clubs of the Auckland Golf District,

We are pleased to present the voting discussion paper for your consideration regarding the upcoming Pennants and Interclub seasons. The decisions made through this voting process will shape the future of our Interclub program for the next three years and beyond. Your participation in this survey has provided invaluable insights into the preferences and needs of our golfing community.

The feedback we received covered a wide range of key aspects, including club team entries, composite teams, eligibility criteria, handicap limits, and other vital elements that contribute to the success of our Interclub competitions. These responses have highlighted areas where we can make adjustments, and we are committed to using this information to ensure that the upcoming season aligns with both player and club expectations.

This document paper provides an overview of the survey responses and offers draft options for the draw, developed by the Men's and Women's committees. These options are designed to future-proof our tournaments by ensuring we have enough teams and players while catering to the evolving demands on golf clubs. Where possible, the committees have also undertaken consideration to align rules from mens and womens competitions as closely as possible.

We encourage all clubs to consult with their pennant members and broader membership before submitting your vote. It is important that your club's vote reflects a consensus decision achieved through a thorough consultation process with your golfing community.

Thank you once again for your time and contribution. We look forward to implementing the changes and improvements that will enhance the Interclub experience for everyone.

Kind regards,

Jacob Cameron

AGI

CEO



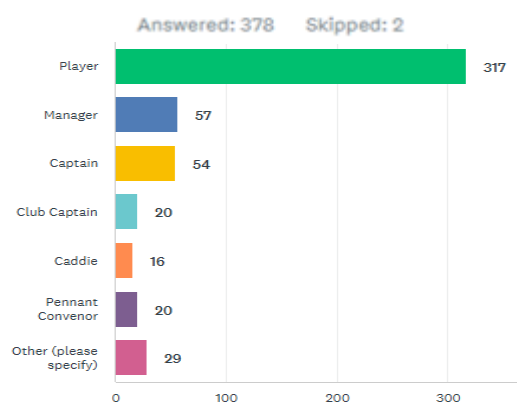
# Survey Demographics

Club	#	Gender*	
		Female	Male
Akarana	48	Female	37
		Male	11
Clarks Beach	7	Female	2
		Male	5
Formosa	23	Female	3
		Male	20
Howick	2	Male	2
Maramarua	6	Female	1
		Male	5
Maungakiekie	12	Female	2
		Male	10
Onewhero	26	Female	16
		Male	10
Pakuranga	13	Female	2
		Male	11
Pukekohe	22	Female	10
		Male	12
RAGGC	27	Female	12
		Male	19
Remuera	29	Female	14
		Male	14
Titirangi	51	Female	25
		Male	25
Waiuku	10	Female	1
		Male	9
Wattle Downs	2	Female	2
Whitford Park	29	Female	9
		Male	20
Windross Farm	24	Female	7
		Male	17

\* note some respondents did not identify their gender

Age Range	TOTAL	Men	Women
U19	10	9	1
20 - 29	14	13	1
30 - 39	36	36	0
40 - 49	52	42	10
50 - 59	82	52	30
60+	151	44	107

## Role in Pennants



## Ethnicity

NZ European	273
Māori	21
Pacifica	20
Chinese	13
SE Asian	11
South Asia	13
Other	5

# PART I: Format

## **MENS - Match Play format.**

Each men's grade is made up of 8 teams (with possible exceptions for Championship 2 and Interclub III). Teams are split into 2 even conferences according to the placings from the previous year's placings. Each team plays a home-and-away round against every other team in the conference to find seedings for the play-offs (semi-finals, 3rd vs 3rd and (if necessary) relegation match). Do you support the current home-and-away format?

The match committees have proposed two options for the upcoming Pennants and Interclub seasons:

Option 1: Status Quo - This option continues with the current format of a home-and-away program, culminating in semi-finals and a finals day.

Option 2: Hosting teams from each competition at one venue each week - This option reverts to the previous format, where teams are hosted at one venue each week. The top two teams from this format will advance directly to the finals day.

### - Hosting Responsibilities:

A key consideration under Option 2 is that each club must provide their course for a half-day for each team entered. The draft draw, found in Appendices 1 and 2, outlines the hosting responsibilities. The draw will be adjusted to ensure that clubs are not overburdened with hosting multiple grades on the same day.

### - Top and Bottom Teams Hosting:

There is a proposal for the top team to host a match (currently, the top team does not host nor play any team at their home club). Conversely, the 8th placed team would neither host nor play a match at their home ground.

### - Team Size:

There will be an option to vote on increasing team sizes from 8 to 10 players. If Option 2 is selected, this change would allow for better course time allocation when hosting a grade. It may also enable clubs to reduce the number of teams entered into Pennants.

### - Finals Day and Reserve Day:

Finals day is scheduled for April 6th at Howick Golf Course. A reserve day is set for the weekend of March 30th.

### - Holiday Considerations:

Although Waitangi Day falls on a Thursday in 2025, no games have been scheduled for that weekend.

### - Additional Hosting Responsibilities:

Clubs should also consider their hosting responsibilities for the Betty Faesen Trophy and Women's Weekend Interclub.

## **WOMENS**

All matches are played at one venue, Depending on the number of entrants per grade; Even # of teams - previous year's winner doesn't host and doesn't play any home teams through the season.

Odd # teams – host team doesn't play in that round

### Comments and Discussion

Overwhelming response to keeping the status quo format of one-venue hosting all clubs for mid-week pennants. A potential change under consideration is aligning the Betty Faesen Trophy competition with a home-and-away draw, particularly if the men's programme continues with the status quo.

Possible Voting options FORMAT:

1	Status Quo MEN - Home and Away	or	One club host per round
<i>Should one venue be implemented</i>			
2	Previous year's winner doesn't host and doesn't play any home teams	or	Last placed club in the grade doesn't host and doesn't play any home teams
3	Status Quo – # of players per team is 8		# of players per team is 10
4	Status Quo – (MEN) Match Play format	or	Introduce 4BBB as well as match play
5	Betty Faesen Status Quo - One club host per round	or	Betty Faesen - Home and Away
<i>Should one venue be implemented</i>			
6	Previous year's winner doesn't host and doesn't play any home teams	or	Last placed club in the grade doesn't host and doesn't play any home teams

**Scoring**

MEN – (aggregated match points) One point shall be recorded for an individual win and 1/2 point for an individual halved match... If the result of the round robin match was also a tie, the tie shall be broken the higher seeded team at the beginning of the year.

Yes – 140 no – 16

**WOMEN**

Betty Faesen – *not clearly defined*

A Pennants -- Two points shall be awarded to the winner of a match, one point each if the match is halved, a total of 12 points available, 8 points for singles matches and 4 points for four - ball matches.

Midweek/weekend/ 9-hole - One point shall be awarded for winning a hole, half a point for halving a hole. Points will aggregate over the season.

**Comments and discussion**

A proposal has been made to introduce a bonus point system, awarding an extra point for a team win or half a point each for a tie. This change aims to better separate teams at the end of the season, further avoiding the need for play-off holes.

Possible Voting options:

1	Status Quo (A pennants) – Two points shall be awarded to the winner of a match, one point each if the match is halved, a total of 12 points available - 8 points for singles matches and 4 points for four - ball matches	or	As status quo and include a point for a combined team win
2	Status Quo (Betty Faesen) – In a competition between two teams, the winner of each individual match shall be awarded two points. A draw in a match shall be worth 1 point to each team.	or	As status quo and include a point for a combined team win
3	Status Quo (Men) – aggregated match point; One point shall be recorded for an individual win and 1/2 point for an individual halved match	or	As status quo and include a point for a combined team win

## Part II: General Rules

### Composite teams

A team made up of players from two or more clubs may be entered into any grade. There must be at least one player from each club playing in every match.

Yes 49% No 51%

### Comments and discussion

Given the close voting results, this issue requires careful consideration. Allowing composite teams may increase the number of teams and players participating in InterClub.

However, clubs will not be permitted to enter a composite team in any grade where they already have a team entered. This option is intended only for clubs that are struggling with player numbers to participate in InterClub grades

Possible Voting options:

1	Status Quo – No composite teams may enter a competition	or	A team made up of players from two or more clubs may be entered into any grade, provide there are no teams from either club already entered into that grade. The team must have at least one player from each club play in each round.
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### Length and Timing of Season

The season currently runs from the end of January. Many factors are considered when designing the draw and length of the season for each Interclub grade including (but not limited to);

best playing conditions,  
other national and international tournaments and events,  
clashes with other mens and womens interclub competitions,  
number grades being hosted by a club on any one day,  
fair distribution of matches to relieve pressure on clubs,  
reserve day options.

### Comments and discussion

A primary concern raised by respondents was the scheduling clash between the Betty Faesen Trophy and Women's Weekend Pennants. While AGI will make every effort to minimise these conflicts, some overlaps are still likely throughout the season.

To address this, two options are under consideration:

#### 1. Separate Seasons:

Running the two grades at different times of the year to avoid any clashes.

#### 2. Integrated Competition:

Treating both grades as part of the same competition, allowing players to participate in a limited number of matches in the higher Betty Faesen grade before losing eligibility to play in the Women's Weekend Pennants

Possible Voting options:

1	Status Quo – Betty Faesen and Weekend Womens Pennants run concurrently	or	Betty Faesen is run alongside the mens pennants season in the first term and Women's Weekend pennants is run after.
2	Status Quo - The winner will be the team with the highest number of points at the end of the competition	or	A finals between the top two placings after the round robin match will play a finals match (to be played in conjunction with the mens finals day)

### Caddies and Team Advisors

A team may have a Team Advisor. All Team Advisors must be identified to the Match Committee on the day prior to the commencement of the match. A playing Captain cannot give advice to players.

#### Comments:

There was overwhelming support for allowing caddies. In the previous women's referendum, an advisory notice was voted in requesting that caddies refrain from going on the greens, primarily to maintain the pace of play. It is important to note that this is not an official rule but a request that we encourage all participants to follow.

Additionally, there was significant confusion surrounding the roles of team advisor, playing captain, and team manager. A clearer definition of the role of a team advisor has been recommended to avoid any misunderstandings.

Possible Voting options:

1	Status Quo – Advisory notice remains only in the womens interclub requesting the caddies are restricted from going on the green	or	Advisory notice across ALL mens and womens interclub requesting the caddies are restricted from going on the green	or	Remove – Advisory notice and caddies
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2	Status Quo – <b><u>M) Team Advisors</u></b> A team may have a Team Advisor. All Team Advisors must be identified to the Match Committee on the day prior to the commencement of the match. A playing Captain cannot give advice to players.	or	A TEAM ADVICE GIVER: Before the start of play, each team shall notify the host club of one person who may act as the Team Advice Giver (e.g.) team manager, team captain, professional golfer, or coach. This person may give advice (including pointing out a line for putting) to members of their team. The person appointed Team Advice Giver shall not be entitled to act in that capacity whilst playing in the competition but may act in that capacity only once his round is finished.
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## Part III: Player Eligibility and H/C Limits

### Eligibility to play

Currently, a player is eligible to play for their Club, within the Auckland District, where their handicap records are kept and have paid a full levy to Auckland Golf Inc.

- A player may only represent one Club in a season.
- A player who changes their Home Club within the Auckland District, may not represent their new Club for two months from the time the change has been ratified on the Dot Golf System (this is in the women's pennants rules only).
- If a player's Home Club is outside the Auckland District, they may change their Home Club status to an Auckland Club effective from the time the change has been ratified on the Dot Golf System.
- Special Circumstances may be considered by the AGI match committee, if a player applies in writing.
- A player may be permitted to play for their secondary Auckland club, but may only represent one club in a season.
- Players may only participate in a grade that corresponds to their gender.

### Comments and Discussion

The primary point of discussion is whether players should be allowed to represent their secondary club(s) instead of their primary club. While players are restricted to representing only one club per season, there was a split opinion on whether players with a primary club in Auckland should be permitted to play for their secondary club instead.

Another consideration is whether the rule in the womens competition, that a two-month stand-down period for players changing (Auckland) clubs should be implemented in the men's competition as well.

Additionally, there was a recurring suggestion that women should have the option to participate in men's Pennants, with the condition that they play off the same tees. This suggestion was not included by the match committees as a voting option

Possible Voting options:

1	Status Quo – Players may only play for the club that holds their primary membership #	or	Players may play for their secondary club, but still only represent one club per season, provided their primary club is also an Auckland club.
2	A 2-month stand down for players changing clubs (within the Auckland district) across all interclub competitions	or	No stand down period for players changing clubs (within the Auckland district) across all interclub competitions provided they only represent one club per season

### Handicap limits

Any player may play in any grade if they meet the eligibility criteria, however some grades have handicap limits.

- Betty Faesen players must have a handicap index range of + to 12.9  
agree 77 /disagree 7/ no comment 29

- 'A' Pennant grade must have handicap index range + to 18.4  
agree 85 / disagree 6 /no comment 22

- Midweek and Weekend Pennants players must have a handicap index range of + to 32.4  
agree 95 /disagree 11 / no comment

- 9 Hole players must have a Golf NZ handicap up to 54, and be a bona fide 9 Hole member of their Club  
agree 78 / disagree 13 / no comment 28

- If a player is above the handicap threshold, they must have their handicap reduced down to the limit range.

agree 108 / disagree 8 / no comment 6

- MENS - The accumulated total of the handicap indices of a team shall not exceed 95.5. To ensure that the team total is under 95.5, each player (starting from #8), will have their course h/c rating reduced by 1 per player and repeated until the total is under 95.5, with the final player's handicap being reduce by the decimal point necessary.

### Comments

#### Betty Faesen Trophy:

There is a consideration for all Betty Faesen players to play off-the-stick.

#### Men's Handicap Competition:

The total accumulated handicap could be reduced to a maximum of 90.5

#### 9-hole Competition:

There was feedback from the survey that the h/c limit was too high.

Possible Voting options:

1	Status Quo – Betty Faesen teams are currently made up of 4 players per team. The top two players play off-the-stick and the next two players play handicap matches All players are entered on the team sheet in strict handicap order.	or	All Betty Faesen players should play off-the-stick and in strict handicap order	or	All Betty Faesen players should play off-the-stick and in order of merit
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2	Status Quo (women 'A' pennants) – One player in the team can have a handicap index exceeding 18.4 but must play off 18.4	or	(Across all grades) Any player in the team can have a handicap index exceeding the grade limit but must reduce their handicap and play off the limit
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3	Status Quo (women 9-hole) – 9 Hole players must have a Golf NZ handicap up to 54,	or	9 Hole players must have a Golf NZ handicap up to 45.5
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4	Status Quo (MEN) – The accumulated total of the handicap indices of a team shall not exceed 95.5	or	The accumulated total of the handicap indices of a team shall not exceed 90.5
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## Part IV: Team Lists and Substitutions

**Team lists** – Order Men's Handicap competition grades and placed in strict handicap order when the teams are submitted. The order stays that same as the day the teams were submitted. For mens off-the-stick competition players are placed in Strict Order of Merit.

Yes – 128 no – 48

Comments and discussion

The definition of Strict Order of Merit is difficult to administer and causes consternation between teams. The recommendation is that managers/teams should have the opportunity to place players in positions that they deem will get enough wins to win the overall match.

Possible Voting options:

1	Status Quo – Men's off-the-stick players to be placed in <u>strict</u> order of merit	or	Men's off-the-stick players to be placed in order of merit
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### Order of Competition

**MEN** - If a player's handicap index alters between the date of receipt of the Team Entry Sheet and the match, then the player must play on the handicap index ruling on the date of the match and the team order shall not be changed.

Yes – 144 no – 12

**WOMEN** - Currently all women's grades play in strict handicap order. This order may change on the day of competition if the handicap's have changed so that players play in strict handicap order on the day. Yes 107 no 3

Comments

In the womens pennants, the team order on the day is altered if the players' H/C changes from the time being submitted and the match day. The match committee's recommend to align the rules with the mens compeititon and ensure that players play in the original order that they are submitted on the team sheets.

Possible Voting options:

1	Status Quo (women) – Currently all women's grades play in strict handicap order. This order may change on the day of competition if the handicap's have changed so that players play in strict handicap order on the day.	or	If a player's handicap index alters between the date of receipt of the Team Entry Sheet and the match, then the player must play on the handicap index ruling on the date of the match and the team order shall not be changed
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**Substitutions. MEN** - If a player is replaced or withdrawn from any team after the team list has been received at the AGI Office, substitution must take place as follows:  
 Before Friday 12:00 midday...  
 after Friday midday...  
 Yes – 143 no – 17

Comments and discussion

Continue as the rules state, however remove the need to provide a medical certificate.

AGI to look at locking the team sheets so any changes made before the start of the match must be undertaken by AGI with a note from the club communicating the reasons for the changes.

Alignment with GolfNZ would have any replacement player substituted in at #8 and all players moved up.

Possible Voting options:

1	<p>Status Quo (Men) – <b>Senior Pennants and Inter Club Pennants</b> - the substitute(s) shall fill the slot(s) vacated by the player(s) who withdrew. Where two or more substitutes are made in the placement of the substitutes in the vacant slots shall be in merit order</p>	or	<p><b>All grades</b> - the substitute(s) shall be moved into the #8 position and all players moved up a place.</p> <p>Where two or more substitutions are made, the placement of the substitutes in the vacant slots shall be in order of merit for off-the-stick and order of handicap indices on the day for InterClub pennants.</p>	or	<p><b>Prior to midday Friday</b>        If a player is replaced, team lists may be resubmitted with the replacement player entered in the appropriate order of merit (for senior pennants) or handicap (for InterClub) order with the remaining players moving up (or down) one place.  <b>After midday Friday</b>        (status quo)</p>
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## Part V: Qualifying and Finals

### **Qualifying – Mens Competition**

- A player who has played three matches in any higher division may not play in a lower division (during the normal round robin phase of the competition or in a semi-final or final). – agree 154 /disagree 22
- Currently Off-the-Stick pennants and Interclub are considered separate competition, so the above rules do not apply to players paying in between these two competitions – agree 95 /disagree 80
- Dispensation may be granted in special circumstances on application to AGI Match Committee. – agree 117 / disagree 59
- Currently, there is no requirement for teams to name reserves for each match. This could help with the substitution process and eligibility for semi-finals and finals. Do you agree that reserves should be named for each match? – agree 111 / disagree 65
- a player must have played at least two matches in the current regular season and not more than two for a Club team in any higher Division(s) in order to be eligible to play in that team's semi-final and/or final. Any match(es) played in a higher Division as a dispensated player duly approved as such by AGI shall be exempt. In special circumstances, a player may apply to AGI committee for dispensation, this will be considered on a case-by-case basis.  
Yes – 145 no – 34

### **Eligibility Women's Competition**

Representation of more than one team per club.

- Players can move between Midweek and Weekend 18 Hole Matchplay teams. – agree 98 /disagree 21
- A Pennant and Betty Faesen players may play in Midweek and/or Weekend 18 Hole Matchplay teams as eligible and vice versa – agree 86 /disagree 29
- An 'A' pennant player can play in the Mid-Week competition up to three times only (current rule) – agree 73 /disagree 38
- If a club enters more than one team in the (same grade of) AGI competitions, a player may play for one team only in [that] competition – agree 103 /disagree 15
- Players can be interchanged between the different competitions as their handicap allows. – agree 88 / disagree 23

### **Discussion an Recommendations:**

- Player Movement Between Grades:

Allow players to move up a grade up to two times. A third instance of moving up would result in the player being unable to play back down a grade.

- Combining Competitions:

To address feedback on player movement between grades, combine 'A' Pennants and Midweek Leagues into a single competition, with 'A' Pennants serving as the top grade for midweek play.

'A' pennants can still be scheduled on Mondays and both competitions will still operate in the format that they are currently undertaking.

Similarly, join the Betty Faesen Trophy and Women's Weekend Pennants into one competition, applying the same eligibility rules to all players.

- Dispensation for Player Participation:

The primary concern is the granting of dispensation for player participation. AGI's priority is to ensure full teams are fielded each round and to avoid defaults.

- Publication of Decisions:

Any decisions made by the AGI match committee should be published or readily accessible to ensure transparency.

- Separate Competitions:

InterClub and Off-the-Stick will continue to be considered separate competitions.

- Minimum Games to Qualify for Finals:

There is overall support for having a minimum number of games required to qualify for the finals, with suggestions ranging from one game (as per the women's format) to three games.

1	Status Quo – a (MENS) player must have played at least two matches in the current regular season and not more than two for a Club team in any higher Division(s) in order to be eligible to play in that team's semi-final and/or final. AND Semi-Finals and Finals eligibility In order to play in a Womens semi-final, final or play off, a player must have played at least 1 match in section play.	or	A player must have played <u>at least one</u> match in the current regular season and not more than two for a Club team in any higher Division(s) in order to be eligible to play in that team's semi-final and/or final. (MENS AND WOMENS)	or	A player must have played <u>at least two matches</u> in the current regular season and not more than two for a Club team in any higher Division(s) in order to be eligible to play in that team's semi-final and/or final. (MENS AND WOMENS)
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2	Status Quo – Players may move between Betty Faesen and Weekend Womens teams	or	A player who has played three matches in Betty Faesen may not play in any further Weekend Womens matches
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2	Status Quo – 'A' Pennant and Betty Faesen players may play in Midweek and/or Weekend 18Hole	or	A player who has played three matches in 'A' pennants may not play in any further Midweek womens matches
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**End of Season placings – in case of a tie**

**'A' Pennants**

- If the overall scores are tied, there will be a sudden death play-off by the No. 1 players on hole(s) chosen by the Match Committee (shots are to be given if applicable).

**MIDWEEK AND WEEKEND 18 HOLE MATCHPLAY**

- In the event of a tie in any one section at the completion of the round robin, a winner shall be determined by the result of the tied teams during the round robin phase of the competition. Note; if the round robin match is a tie, the next separation should be total number of wins, before a play-off hole is considered.

**Betty Faesen**

- If the overall scores are tied, there will be a sudden death play-off by the No. 1 players on hole(s) chosen by the Match Committee

**Men's Pennants and InterClub**

- determined by the aggregate results of the tied teams matches during the round robin phase of the competition. If the result of the round robin match was also a tie, the tie shall be broken with the higher seeded team at the beginning of the year

**Comments**

One rule that brings alignment between all grades.

Possible Voting options:

3	Status Quo as above	or	In the event of a tie at the end of the season, the overall winner is first be determined by the result of the match(es) against the teams that are tied, then by the total number of matches won throughout the season. If it is still a tie, then there will be a sudden death play-off by the No. 1 players on hole(s) chosen by the Match Committee (shots are to be given if applicable).
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