

Seasonal Variation in Tee Time Capacity

Why tee access changes through the year

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Chinderah / Tweed  Golfers

Competition times at Chinderah / Tweed Golfers are built around a morning playing window. The timesheet starts from the first practical tee time (i.e. as light permits) and runs through to 11:30 am NSW time.

Because daylight changes through the year, the number of groups we can start before 11:30 am also changes. This is why the tee can feel more spacious in some parts of the year and more squeezed in others.

In short

Tee time capacity is not the same every week. As first light moves later or earlier, and as daylight saving changes the clock, the morning competition window widens or narrows. When the window narrows, players may have fewer options for their preferred tee time.

1. How the morning window is counted

For this calculation, the first usable tee time has been estimated as civil dawn plus 15 minutes. This matches the practical pattern seen on historical timesheets.

1	2	3	4
First practical tee time	Morning cut-off	Tee intervals	Capacity basis
Civil dawn + 15 minutes	Tee times counted to 11:30 am	7 minutes before 9:00 am; 8 minutes after	Four players per tee time

2. First tee times move through the year

The first chart shows how the earliest tee time changes across the year. The overall pattern is seasonal: earlier starts are available when mornings are brighter throughout summer, while later starts occur during winter.

The sharp jumps occur when daylight saving time changes; the clock has moved by one hour.

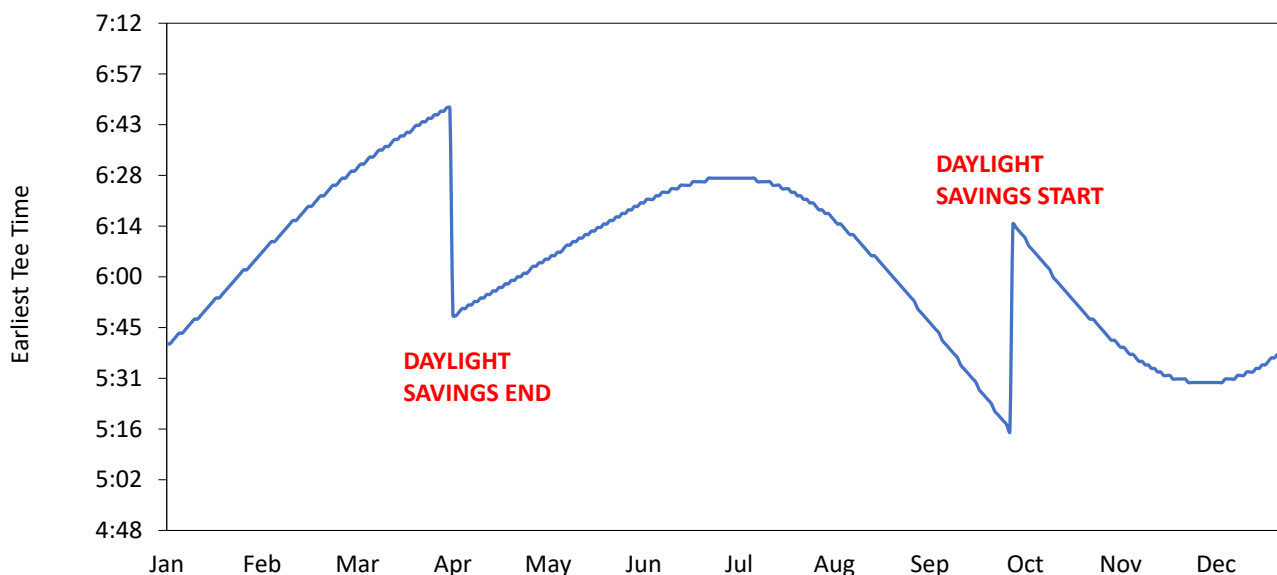


Figure 1. Earliest practical tee times at Chinderah Golf Course

Reading the chart

The earliest tee time ranges from about 05:16 at the earliest point of the year to about 06:48 at the latest point. These changes directly affect how many players can start before 11:30 am.

3. Capacity rises and falls with the daylight window

The second chart converts the available morning window into player capacity. The numbers are shown as player positions, assuming each tee time is filled by four players.

This is the key point for players: even if demand stays exactly the same, the number of places available before 11:30 am does not stay exactly the same.

Shortest window	Widest window	Seasonal difference
~38 tee times	~51 tee times	~13 tee times
152 player positions	204 player positions	52 player positions

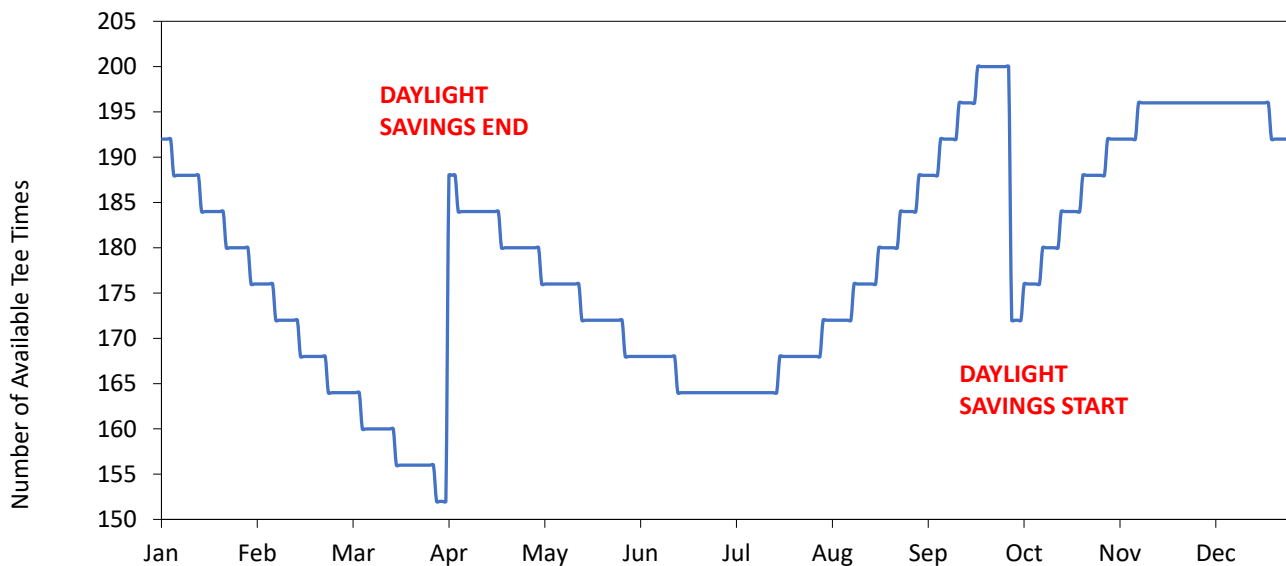


Figure 2. Estimated morning player capacity before 11:30 am assuming four players per tee time.

Important point

A difference of 52 player positions is not a small change. It is the equivalent of 13 full tee times. When the window is shorter, the same number of players may be competing for fewer available places before 11:30 am.

4. Why access to preferred tee times can change

Players often focus on the booking process itself, but the size of the available morning window also matters. In wider parts of the year there are more tee times available before 11:30 am. In narrower parts of the year, the tee gets squeezed.

- Early morning tee times are usually the highest demand times.
- When first tee time is later, fewer groups can start before the 11:30 am cut-off.
- Group bookings need several positions in the same tee time, so they may feel the squeeze more than single-player bookings.
- A player may have good booking access in one part of the year and fewer options in another, even if the booking system is working normally.
- Daylight saving can create sudden changes because the clock changes by one hour overnight.

5. Practical expectations for players

The seasonal effect does not mean anything is wrong with the timesheet. It simply reflects the physical limit of how many groups can start between first practical light and 11:30 am.

- Expect tee access to feel tighter when the first practical tee time moves later.
- Be flexible with preferred times, especially near seasonal low-capacity periods.
- Have backup tee times in mind if booking a group.
- Remember that high demand for early times may exceed supply on some days.
- Understand that daylight saving can cause sudden jumps in apparent capacity from one week to the next.

6. Summary

Morning tee capacity changes through the year because the first practical tee time changes. The booking system can only offer the tee times that physically fit between first light and 11:30 am.

When the morning window narrows, demand is concentrated into fewer available tee times. This is why access to a preferred time can vary by season, even when the booking rules have not changed.

Calculation note: Figures are based on 2027 daily first practical tee times for Chinderah Golf Course, using AEDT time, civil dawn plus 15 minutes, 7-minute tee intervals before 9:00 am, 8-minute tee intervals from 9:00 am, and a final counting window up to 11:30 am.