



PGA

Midwest Section

TOURNAMENT RULES, REGULATIONS & POLICIES (updated January 2018)

GENERAL

The Section Tournament Committee member(s), in performing his/her duties attending the general affairs of Section tournament activity, works in reference to and is guided by those factors of the PGA of America's tournament regulations and the Midwest Section, PGA of America Tournament Committee. These regulations are currently recognized as a part of the mandatory provisions of the government of the Association in the conduct of tournament activity. **No Section can act in any way at variance with the Association in these respects.**

The tournament activity of the Section is conducted primarily to serve the interest and welfare of the members of the Midwest Section of the Professional Golfer's Association of America. The Midwest Section tournament activities consist of a schedule of officially sponsored, co-sponsored and sanctioned events, unless the Section's Tournament Committee authorizes special designation for a given event. Each of these events is played under the established rules and regulations that are applicable to the character of the event.

RESPONSIBILITY

1. Competitions sponsored, co-sponsored and sanctioned by the Midwest Section are governed by the most recently published USGA Rules of Golf. All Professionals are responsible for knowing the Rules of Golf and the conditions of the competition in which they are entered including the provisions stated herein.
2. Every effort shall be made to avoid pairing together professionals employed at the same facility in an event scheduled by the Midwest Section, unless the event format and/or rules specifically permit otherwise.
3. A player is responsible for all personal charges incurred at the host facility and **entry fee** paid to enter an event. If payment of the outstanding obligation is not made within 10 days after the event, eligibility for all Midwest Section events will be suspended until the outstanding debt(s) to the Section have been paid.
4. All players are asked to register for events by the posted deadline date on BlueGolf. Any player registering for an event after the posted deadline will be subject to a \$25 fee for 1 day late and \$40 for 2 days late. Beyond 2 days, the player will not be allowed to register for event.

ELIGIBILITY

Professionals eligible to compete in Midwest Section sponsored / co-sponsored and/or sanctioned events, must be a Member, or approved player in good standing of the Midwest Section.

It is a privilege rather than a right to play in golf tournaments and participate in Midwest Section tournaments. Therefore, the Section may impose reasonable restrictions on certain classes of membership regarding participation in sectional events so long as such restrictions are not unduly discriminatory.

Additionally, eligibility is limited to PGA members who meet all of the following criteria:

Must be classified in one of the following membership classifications at the time of entry due date.

A-1	Head Professional at a PGA recognized golf course
A-2	Head Professional at a PGA recognized golf range
A-4	Golf Director at a PGA recognized golf course
A-6	Self-employed teaching professional
A-7	Golf Director or Head Professional at a recognized golf facility under construction
A-8	Assistant Professional
A-9	Executives or Managers of golf properties
A-10	Golf Clinicians
A-11	Employees of Golf Associations
A-12	College Golf Coaches
A-13	General Managers/Directors of Club Operations
A-14	Director of Instruction at a PGA recognized facility
A-15	Retail
A-16	Golf Course Architect/Builder
A-17	Golf Course Superintendents
A-18	Media
A-19	Golf Manufacturer Management
A-20	Golf Manufacturer Representative
A-21	Tournament Director
A-22	Rules Officials
A-23	Golf Club Fitting/Golf Club Repair
A-24	PGA members primarily employed within the golf industry, not eligible for another classification
LMA	Life Member Active
LMMA	Life Member Master Professional Active
RM	Retired Member
IN	Inactive but in good standing

The Midwest Section Tournament Committee reserves the right to determine whether or not any player is so employed and to reject any player who does not meet these requirements.

A PGA member will not be eligible to participate if:

- a) the member is serving a suspension from membership
- b) the member is suspended from tournament participation for National tournaments; or
- c) the member is classified as Class F, A-3, or Honorary

ASSOCIATE

The PGA Professional Golf Management Program is a training and certification program for aspiring Golf Professionals. Registrants in the program shall be referred to as Associates.

Associates are eligible to compete in Midwest Section sponsored, co-sponsored and/or sanctioned events as long as the following requirements are met, and eligibility determined:

- a) Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- b) Eligibly employed (Reference Article IV, Section 2(a)(b))
- c) Pay all required fees (i.e. Associate Assistant Association)
- d) Be endorsed by the member by whom employed
- e) Passed the 36-hole – Players Ability Test, refer to guidelines

An Associate will not be eligible to participate if:

1. the associate is serving a suspension / PGA PGM progress
2. the associate fails to meet any of the eligibility requirements

NON-EXEMPT EVENTS POLICY

Any Midwest Section member who participates in a (Professional Only) event outside the Section boundaries (non-exempt event) from (March 15 – October 31) which is not included on the exempt tournament list must report such participation to the Midwest Section office.

1. All tournaments must be approved and scheduled with/by the Section Tournament Committee in which Midwest Section members, or approved players are to participate. In being processed by this route, a tournament shall become “part of” the officially sanctioned Midwest Section schedule of events, and thus, qualify for inclusion on the yearly schedule and may also carry the important designation of being a Midwest Section sponsored, co-sponsored or sanctioned event.
2. During the play of a Midwest Section sponsored, co-sponsored, and/or sanctioned event, another tournament not scheduled or sanctioned by the Section – that an approved player is eligible for – may not be participated in by Midwest Section members, or approved players unless such non-Midwest Section event is being played on a course outside the boundaries of the Section.
3. Any Midwest Section member or approved player, finding himself/herself in any of the above situations should make every effort to contact the Tournament Committee to avoid a penalty.

Note: Special permission or permitting play in such an unscheduled event may be granted by the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

Note: Any Tournament appearing on the Official MPGA Tournament Calendar is considered a sanctioned event, unless specifically noted. For example: * Tom Watson Challenge / Lake Team Event.

Note: Class A-3 Members are not eligible to participate in any Section member, and/or team event unless the entry form of the event(s) specify otherwise.

The following individuals represent the Tournament Committee:

- ~ Tournament Chairpersons – Chris Mabry
- ~ Designated Members – J.D. Brake, Robert Russell, John Richman and Jeff Sedorcek

The following individuals represent the Rules Committee:

- ~ Tournament Chairpersons
- ~ Host Professional
- ~ Executive Director

CONDUCT POLICY

The Tournament Committee shall carefully observe the behavior of all Professional contestants at Midwest Section and/or PGA of America tournaments. Any /All grievances must be in writing and forwarded, mailed, or faxed to a Tournament Committee member within five days of the close of a/the tournament. Additionally, the author must sign the grievance. The Tournament Committee will review reports of inappropriate behavior and, if necessary – file a grievance with the Section Board of Directors' in accordance with the PGA of America Code of Ethics procedures.

The following acts specifically will not be tolerated:

1. Malicious damage to a golf course, whether intentional or accidental; or any damage to any other part of the facility's course or equipment.
2. Blatant profanity or any profanity directed at rules officials, other competitors, sponsors, facility staff, section staff, volunteers, and/or others.
3. Excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages before, during, and after competition.
4. Dishonored checks and non-payment of outstanding obligations.
5. Purposely throwing or breaking golf clubs, or any acts unbecoming to a professional golfer.
6. Personal complaints, criticisms, and/or complaints after the fact.

DRESS CODE POLICY

The Midwest Section has adopted the dress code policies of the PGA Tour and LPGA Tour for male and female contestants respectively in all Section sponsored, co-sponsored and sanctioned events.

- ~ Male participants must wear slacks
- ~ Female participants may wear culottes, appropriate length shorts or slacks

The Host Professional may when deemed appropriate, modify the dress code policy for an event, round or part thereof. **If the Host Professional modifies the dress code, he or she must notify the Section at least three (3) days before the event.**

It is the responsibility of the competitors to know the details of and comply with this condition of the competition.

A competitor who plays a stroke during a stipulated round in breach of this policy will have a two-stroke penalty added to their score for the first offense and will be disqualified from an event for any further offense.

During team events in which an amateur is part of the professionals' "side" or team, the amateurs are to comply with the dress code of the host facility. It is the responsibility of the professionals competing in the event to be aware of the facility's policy and inform their amateur teammate(s).

Caddies are to wear a shirt and shoes at all times and must comply with the host facility's rules for guest caddies or, if no such policy exists, the caddies must comply with the facility's dress code for playing guests.

LIMITATION OF COMMUNICATION DEVICES

In all Midwest Section individual and professional-only team events conducted for Section members and apprentices you are encouraged to **limit the use of electronic devices** which can be used for incoming and/or outgoing communications during a stipulated round. **Recommendation** – Outgoing/Incoming communications, please try to accomplish: before the round begins, **at the turn**, or after the stipulated round is completed. Any exception to the recommendation (i.e. – emergencies) should be brought to the attention of the Tournament Committee and/or competitor(s) before a stroke is played in the event.

ELECTRONIC MEASURING DEVICES POLICY

The Midwest Section will allow the use of devices that measure **distance only** in all MPGA sanctioned events. The use of devices that gauge or measure other conditions that might affect a player's play, (e.g., wind, temperature, gradient, etc.) regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used, is not permitted. A player in breach of this policy shall be disqualified.

STARTING/TEE TIME REQUEST POLICY

The following: Tournament Committee, Office Administrator and/or the Executive Director will make starting times for Midwest Section events.

Start times will be posted on the Section website no less than 48 hours prior to the event.

Start times posted are final.

Requests may be made for an a.m. or p.m. start, specific start time, and starting tee (when applicable).

Requests will not be taken for pairings.

All requests must be received at least three (3) days prior to the event.

WITHDRAWAL AND REFUND POLICY

Unless otherwise stated on the entry form, the following refund policy applies to all Midwest Section events:

Withdrawal prior to closing date: \$10.00 administrative fee

Withdrawal after closing date:

~ Partial refund - \$15.00 administrative fee

Withdrawal after competitors' ball is in play: NO REFUND

No Show: NO REFUND

SLOW PLAY POLICY

The first group of an event or tee schedule with three (3) competitors will be expected to play at a pace equivalent to 13 minutes for par 3's, 14 minutes for par 4's and fifteen minutes for par 5's. This translates to an 18-hole pace of four hours and twelve minutes. For each player in excess of three (3) in a group, the time per hole increases by one (1) minute per hole.

A group found to be the equivalent of two full shots and a putting green behind the group in front of them AND which is not on schedule (see above), shall be approached by a tournament official and informed that their group is out of position and that the group is now "ON THE CLOCK". This will serve as the only warning for each **competitor** prior to being penalized for **their** subsequent slow play.

~ First Offense: One (1) - stroke penalty

~ Second Offense: Two (2) – stroke penalty

~ Third offense: Disqualification from the tournament

The start time begins when all competitors in a group leave the starting teeing area.

The ending time will be when the group places the flagstick in the hole at the end of a stipulated round.

ALTERNATIVE SPIKE POLICY

It is the requirement of some host facilities that Spike-less / Nonmetal golf shoes are worn while at these facilities, it is required that all individuals wear Spike-less / Nonmetal golf shoes. This requirement is a policy of the Host Facility and not a policy of the Midwest Section. The use of Spike-less / Nonmetal golf shoes may result in the participant slipping on wet or damp surfaces (inclusive of but not limited to turf areas, wooded areas such as bridges and pathways, etc..) and reduced traction on non-level areas on the course. As evidenced by the participant's entry form into the event, the participant acknowledges that potential dangers relative to the use of Spike-less / Nonmetal golf shoes have been disclosed to the participant and participant agrees to assume the risk of sustaining an injury arising from or attributable to the use of Spike-less / Nonmetal golf shoes at the event site.

The participant here releases the Midwest Section and the Officers, Directors, Members, Employees, Successors and assigns (the "Indemnified Parties") from any and all claims for loss and damage, inclusive of, but not limited to personal injury, whether or not caused by participant's use of Spike-less / Nonmetal shoes at the event(s) premises in connection with the tournament. This release binds not only the participant, but also the participant's spouse, heirs, legal representatives and assigns. If a competitor or his/her caddie is found to be in violation of this policy after making a stroke during his/her round, the competitor will be disqualified from the event.

NON-CONFORMING GOLF BALL / GOLF CLUB POLICY

The Midwest Section recognizes the USGA as the governing body of the Rules of Golf. In accordance with the USGA, the MPGA will not allow any participant in MPGA events to use a non-conforming golf ball or a non-conforming golf club. Should the use of non-conforming equipment take place in an MPGA event, the participant shall be disqualified from the event.

A current list of conforming golf balls and golf clubs can be viewed online at – www.usga.org.

SUSPENSION OF PLAY / RESUMPTION OF PLAY POLICY

Procedures shall be taken in accordance with Rule 6-8 (b), (c), and (d) for normal suspension of play (not dangerous situation / lightning). The Tournament/Rules Committee or Host Facility has the right to suspend play due to dangerous weather situation (such as lightning), if the competitors in a group are between the play of two holes, you must not resume play until the Tournament/Rules Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If you are in the process of playing a hole, you must discontinue play immediately and must not resume play until the Tournament/Rules Committee has ordered a resumption of play. Penalty for breach of this condition: DISQUALIFICATION

Lightning Delays: Field is to be held at least 20 minutes from last bolt/ flash to restart

Suspension for dangerous situation: One prolonged note of siren

Resumption of play: Several consecutive short notes of siren

WEATHER GUIDELINES:

The following are guidelines for governing the suspension or cancellation of a round in tournament play:

SINGLE DAY EVENT

A total of 70% of the field must complete the round.

All efforts will be made to complete the round on the scheduled day.

The remainder of the field will complete the round the following day if arrangements can be made with the facility. If this is not possible, the event is cancelled and shall be rescheduled.

The event purse will be adjusted to reflect the reduction or increase in the overall field size.

MULTI-DAY EVENT

A total of 60% of the field must complete the round for the event to be suspended.

Any amount less than 60% of the field will cancel a round.

Upon suspension the committee will determine, depending upon conditions, whether they can complete the suspended round the following day and then have ample time to play a subsequent round. If this is not possible, the round is cancelled.

Any cancellation of first round or subsequent rounds drops the tournament to either an 18 for a 36-hole event or 36 for a 54-hole event.

GOLF COURSE PREPARATION AND SET-UP

The length of the competition course for Midwest Section events is to be established keeping in mind the nature of the event, the skill of the field, the predicted weather conditions, and the condition of the golf course itself. In general, golf courses should be set to a length consistent with that which the better player who frequents the facility would typically play.

Women competitors are to play as near as possible to a length **85%** that of the championship / men on hole-by-hole basis (not total course). In setting the women's tees, the tee selection on a given hole is to be made first for the championship / men, then the 85% adjustment is to be applied to that length. If no such tees exist at that length, the nearest point available for the tee location (forward or backwards) is to be used so long as the nature of the shot to be played is preserved (i.e. forced carry, angle of approach, etc.). In selecting the women's tee locations, the preservation of the shot-making characteristics are to take precedent over the 85% length provision.

Super senior competitors (**Age 65+**) are to play as near as possible to a length 90% that of the championship / men on hole-by-hole basis (not total course). In setting the super senior tees, the tee selection on a given hole is to be made first for the championship / men, then the 90% adjustment is to be applied to that length. If no such tees exist at that length, the nearest point available for the tee location (forward or backwards) is to be used so long as the nature of the shot to be played is preserved (i.e. forced carry, angle of approach, etc.). In selecting the super senior tee locations, the preservation of the shot-making characteristics is to take precedent over the 90% length provision

Senior competitors (**Age 50+**) are to play as near as possible to a length **94%** that of the championship / men on hole-by-hole basis (not total course). In setting the senior tees, the tee selection on a given hole is to be made first for the championship / men, then the 94% adjustment is to be applied to that length. If no such tees exist at that length, the nearest point available for the tee location (forward or backwards) is to be used so long as the nature of the shot to be played is preserved (i.e. forced carry, angle of approach, etc.). In selecting the senior tee locations, the preservation of the shot-making characteristics is to take precedent over the 94% length provision.

For both men and women, occasions may arise when it will be virtually impossible to reach par 4 greens in two strokes when played into the wind or when fairways are softer than desired. Provided players are not required to carry hazards in such cases, the Midwest Section Tournament Committee believes this fosters additional shot-making ability.

Tee placement on par 3's should be varied in length to encourage a broad shot selection. Cup placement should be selected according to the type and length of shot that is to be played into the green. The greens turf condition, contour(s), and forecasted weather should be taken into consideration. There may well be times when a shot cannot be played towards, or cannot come to rest near a cup placement due to the player's preceding stroke, lie of the ball, weather, course conditions or contour of the green. Again, this places a desirable premium on accuracy and judgment.

There will be times when unpredicted weather conditions or other factors render a hole, or holes set-up unfair. These cases should be considered isolated but nonetheless unavoidable.

EXAMPLE OF GOLF COURSE SET-UP

Yardage

			Sr. x.06%	Sr. 94%	Women's x.15%	Women's 85%
Hole	1	410	-25 yards	385	-61 yards	349
	2	540	-32 yards	508	-81 yards	459
	3	430	-26 yards	404	-64 yards	366
	4	190	-11 yards	179	-28 yards	162
	5	430	-26 yards	404	-64 yards	366
	6	470	-28 yards	442	-70 yards	400
	7	220	-13 yards	207	-33 yards	187
	8	590	-35 yards	555	-88 yards	502
	9	410	-25 yards	385	-61 yards	349
		3690		3469		3140
	10	380	-23 yards	357	-57 yards	323
	11	540	-32 yards	508	-81 yards	459
	12	110	- 7 yards	103	-16 yards	94
	13	460	-28 yards	432	-69 yards	391
	14	380	-23 yards	357	-57 yards	323
	15	470	-28 yards	342	-52 yards	399
	16	150	- 9 yards	141	-22 yards	127
	17	620	-37 yards	583	-91 yards	527
	18	380	-23 yards	357	-57 yards	323
		3490		3280		2966
		7180		6749		6106

Highlighted = Par 5's

Total Yardage	Champ/Under age 50	7180
	Senior/Age 50+	6749
	Women's	6106

Average difference:

Champ Tees vs. Senior Tees

23.9 yards per hole

- ~ Par 3's 10 yards
- ~ Par 4's 25 yards
- ~ Par 5's 34 yards

Champ tees vs. Women's Tees

59.6 yards per hole

- ~ Par 3's 25 yards
- ~ Par 4's 63 yards
- ~ Par 5's 86 yards

Please review the previous page for information (Golf Course Preparation and Set-Up) to answer any questions you might have.

MIDWEST SECTION PRO – PRO AM EVENTS

Women competitors are to play **85%** that of the men on hole-by-hole basis (not total course).
Total yardage for women competitors in PRO – AM events should be between 5500 – 6000 total yards.

All male competitors shall play from the same tees.

Total yardage for men competitors in PRO – AM events should be between 6100 – 6600 total yards.

Professionals and amateurs will play from the same tees (male/female).

PROFESSIONAL PURSE

For Pro Am events, other than the Foundation Pro Am the guaranteed Professional purse will be calculated using the following formula:

- Total # of entries X Entry Fee
- Plus (+) an amount = to .40% of the Professional Fees
- Minus (-) Course Fees for Professionals
- Minus (-) Section Fees for Tournament Expenses

EXAMPLE of: PRO AM PURSE BREAKDOWN

Professional

# of Entries	50
Entry Fee	\$ 110.00
Entry Fee Total	\$ 5500.00
	<u>X .40</u>
Added Monies	\$ 2200.00
Total Income	\$ 7700.00

Expenses (-)

Green Fee	0
Cart Fee	0
Food & Beverage	\$ 530.00
Award(s)	\$ 70.00
Credit Card Fees	\$ 100.00
Total Expenses	\$ 700.00

Income	\$ 7700.00
(-) Expenses	\$ 700.00

PURSE \$ 7000.00

MSR:

Individuals participating in the following tournaments are eligible for Membership Service Requirements:

1. Midwest PGA Professional Championship
2. OMEGA Section Championship