



2014 Tour Player Handbook

“Only one life, twill soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last.”

Table of Contents

TOUR POLICIES	1
1. About the USCGA.....	1
1. About the USCGA (<i>cont.</i>)	2
2. Devotional Program.....	2
3. Membership Qualifications.....	2
4. Code of Conduct	3
5. Dress Code / Soft Spike Shoes	3
6. Cell Phones & Pagers	3
7. Miscellaneous.....	3
8. Assumption of Risk and Release from Liability	3
TOURNAMENT POLICIES.....	4
1. Tournament Registration	4
2. Cancellations.....	4
3. Rules of Play	4
4. Tournament Format.....	5
5. Tournament Flights.....	5
6. Prizes – Tournament Payout.....	5
7. Shotgun / Tee Times / Pairings.....	5
8. Check-In and Starting.....	5
9. Scorekeeping and Scorecards.....	6
10. Results.....	6
11. Determination of Tied Scores.....	7
12. Pace of Play.....	7
13. Distance Measuring Devices (DMD)	8
14. Inclement Weather	8
15. Spectator(s) and Caddies.....	8
16. Guest Policy.....	8
17. USCGA Majors.....	9
18. Tour Championship	9
19. Season Long Competitions	9
20. Player of Year (POY) Awards.....	10
20. Player of Year (POY) Awards (<i>cont.</i>).....	11
21. Player of Year Points (POYP).....	12
22. USCGA Cup.....	13
APPENDICES.....	14
Tour Index Calculations	14
POY Example	15
Notice to Players	16
Pace of Play Policy Tee Times	17
Pace of Play Policy Tee Times (<i>cont.</i>).....	18
How to Avoid Slow Play.....	19
2014 Tour Schedule Info.....	20
Road Trip Hotel Accommodations	21
Notes.....	22

TOUR POLICIES

1. About the USCGA

The USCGA is an inter-denominational golf ministry that promotes fellowship among Christian golfers, provides relationship-building opportunities to encourage and strengthen the believer, and provides an environment for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with unbelieving golfers.

USCGA History Many churches in America include golf in their recreation programs. Trinity Baptist Church in Southaven, Mississippi was no different. Prior to 1999, the format evolved from playing as a group to a rather informal foursome scramble format that required its teams to complete their rounds by a certain date.

In 1999, the Trinity Baptist Golf League was organized to promote more fellowship by scheduling the entire group to play together on Saturdays. It was a successful church golf league promoting fellowship among its golfing members. In 2002, a new vision for the golf ministry emerged that, not only could provide Christian fellowship, but also could include devotionals and evangelistic messages to encourage its members and foster an atmosphere conducive to bringing others to hear the gospel. In 2003, that vision became a reality when the Trinity Baptist Golf League moved from the local church to become an interdenominational ministry to promote Christian fellowship and evangelism through the game of golf. A new name was required to reflect the new vision and geographical scope of the ministry, and we became the United States Christian Golf Association. Our primary outreach has been to the local churches in the metropolitan area of Memphis, Tennessee, including DeSoto County, Mississippi, but the vision is to establish chapters throughout the United States.

USCGA Organization The USCGA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation governed and led by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is comprised of godly men and women who have dynamic faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and a commitment to the effectiveness and growth of this ministry.

The current Board of Directors is comprised of the following members:

- President & Golf Director—[Carlton Chambers](#)
- Vice Pres & Co-Program Director—[John Tilmon](#)
- Secretary & Treasurer —[Scott Young](#)
- Communications Director—[Bob Young](#)
- Co-Program Director—[Jerry Vinzetta](#)
- Admin Director—[Sherrie Chambers](#)
- [Tom Perry](#)

The Board is assisted by equally dedicated Christ followers who serve as committee members:
Webmaster— [Lindy Long](#)

Our current contact info is:

United States Christian Golf Association
384 E. Goodman Road #211
Southaven, MS 38671
Phone: 901.849.3021
uscga.org

The most current version of the handbook can be found on the USCGA website. **The electronic version online shall override and supersede any printed form of the document.**

1. About the USCGA (cont.)

USCGA Statement of Faith We believe that the Holy Scriptures, consisting of Old and New Testaments, were originally and inherently communicated by God and; therefore, are verbally inspired, and constitute the infallible authority in all matters of faith, life and conduct. We believe that there is one true God, subsisting in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the same in essence and equal in wisdom, goodness, power and glory. We believe in the essential deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His inerrant teaching, in His substitutionary and expiatory death, by which we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins; in His bodily resurrection from among the dead, in His ascension to Heaven, in His present priestly session, in His personal return at the end of the age to raise the dead, glorify the church, judge the earth, and to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. We believe that man was created innocent and in the spiritual image of God; that he was tempted by Satan and fell, and that through his sin, his posterity thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God. We believe that the salvation of lost and sinful man comes only through the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit as man repents toward God and exercises faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and to indwell and enable the Christian to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present age. We believe that the church on earth consists of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ who are dedicated to the worship and service of God through the proclamation of the Word, the observance of the sacraments, and the administration of discipline. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust-the just to everlasting life and bliss, and unjust to everlasting shame and perdition.

USCGA Statement on Family and Sexual Purity God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. God desires His people to lead pure lives of holiness. The Bible is clear in teaching on sexual sin including sex outside of marriage and homosexual acts. Neither heterosexual sex outside of marriage nor any homosexual act constitutes an alternate lifestyle acceptable to God. While upholding God's standard of holiness, the USCGA strongly affirms God's love and redemptive power in the individual who chooses to follow Him. The USCGA's desire is to encourage individuals to trust in Jesus and turn away from any impure lifestyle.

2. Devotional Program

Every Tour event will include a scheduled program that includes devotionals and evangelistic messages to encourage its members and provides an environment for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with unbelieving golfers. Guest speakers as well as USCGA members may also share their testimony. We encourage everyone to attend the Devotional Programs. **The USCGA is "more than just golf,"** and the meeting before the round is a vital part of the ministry's mission. All meeting and devotional times will be scheduled 1:15 minutes before our shotgun start. The meetings should last between 20–25 minutes.

Range will be closed to USCGA tournament participants during our devotional meetings. For events with tee times, we will hold a foursome group devotional 45 minutes before each group's tee time. Tee time events are Glen Eagle, Galloway, and Mirimichi.

3. Membership Qualifications

Membership is open to all amateur golfers (men & women) of all playing ability ages 18 or older. Junior golfers age 16–17 that are either a family member or relative of a USCGA member are allowed to join the USCGA. He/she must also play and ride with USCGA family member or relative at each USCGA golf event he/she plays. Age requirement date is by 3/22/14. Annual Membership is \$75.
(See [POY Awards](#) page 10).

4. Code of Conduct

To continue making USCGA tournaments enjoyable for everyone, all members must adhere to a set of guidelines known as the **Code of Conduct**. We expect all members to represent the USCGA with the highest respect, integrity and dignity. We have an incredible opportunity to be a witness to those around us on the golf course. We are Christ's ambassadors. Our attitude and actions should be Christ-like. Any misconduct or unbecoming behavior may result in the immediate disqualification of the player from an event, and could result in the loss of USCGA playing privileges.

Examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- Unsportsmanlike conduct, including abusive, vulgar or obscene language, cheating, club throwing, disrespect to fellow competitors, or abuse of golf course property
- Not adhering to Dress Code of the host course
- **The use of alcoholic beverages at any USCGA event is prohibited.** While the use of tobacco products is discouraged, it is not prohibited. Please obey the rules of the hosting facility in regard to the use of tobacco products and be considerate of your cart partner and other Tour players.
- Conduct not becoming of a USCGA player such as acting in anger or creating other distractions
- Dress Code / Soft Spike Shoes

Most golf courses we play have dress codes, e.g., collared shirts/mock turtlenecks are required, and, no blue jeans, denims, jogging outfits, or sweat pants are permitted. Most prohibit the use of steel spiked shoes. To be consistent and avoid non-compliance of dress codes at any course, the USCGA will comply with these dress codes and use only soft spiked shoes.

5. Cell Phones & Pagers

Cell phones and pagers should be placed on silent or vibrate mode during the program meetings and golf rounds. Please do not allow your cell phone or conversations to be a distraction or slow the pace of play.

6. Miscellaneous

The policies and regulations of the USCGA Tour are subject to revision. All participants in USCGA tournaments are deemed to be familiar with these policies and regulations, as well as the USGA Rules of Golf and agree to abide by them. Failure to comply with the USCGA policies and regulations could result in suspension or expulsion from the Tour or a tournament.

7. Assumption of Risk and Release from Liability

By signing or electronically submitting a member application and entering and playing in a USCGA tournament, the participant understands and agrees that there are certain dangers involved with the participation in a golf tournament, including but not limited to being struck by lightning, getting hit by a golf club, suffering from heat exhaustion, heart attack or injury from uneven terrain, all of for which risks participant assumes and solely accepts, and waives all claims of injury to body or property against USCGA. Further, the participant agrees that while on the premises of a USCGA Tour tournament, the participant, and any guest, relative or anyone else affiliated with participant, shall be present at their own risk and that USCGA shall not be liable for any claims for injuries or damages whatsoever to person or property of the participant or related person arising out of or in connection with the participation in the tournament or presence at the tournament. Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless USCGA from all claims by or liability to participant or affiliated person.

TOURNAMENT POLICIES

1. Tournament Registration

Tour Players can register for any USCGA Tour event by:

- Paying by MasterCard or Visa on the USCGA website (preferred). Players Club Account
- Paying by MasterCard or Visa on either USCGA iPhone / Android App. Players Club Account
- Mailing payment to the USCGA, 384 E. Goodman Rd. #211, Southaven, MS 38671
- Paying for a future round the day of the current round

Entry fees include all green fees, taxes, cart fees, range balls, box lunch (when provided), scoring, prize fund, trophies, and tournament administrative costs.

Golf courses require us to commit to a number of players typically ten days prior to tournament. **USCGA tournament entry deadline: Please be prepared to pay by 5 pm the Wednesday 10 days prior to scheduled tournament.**

Tour Players are encouraged not to wait until the entry deadline, as any event may sell-out well in advance of the entry deadline. It is the responsibility of the Tour Player to submit the required entry fee for each tournament prior to the entry deadline as payment will secure a position in the tournament field. It will be assumed that a Tour Player is not participating in a Tournament if the entry fee is not submitted on time.

2. Cancellations

Withdrawal from any tournament must be done prior to the entry deadline otherwise, there may be no refund. In lieu of a refund, payment minus a \$5 processing fee will be transferred to another round of choice. Player must pay any difference in cost of the round being transferred to. After the entry deadline, a player will only be refunded if we are not required by the golf course to pay for the late cancellation. It is the player's responsibility to properly withdraw from an event in which they cannot participate. Please email text, or call Carlton to withdraw. *Any Tour Player that has registered for an event and does not show will forfeit his/her registration fee and may have his/her player privileges revoked for future events.*

3. Rules of Play

The USCGA stands by our commitment to the tradition, integrity, and sportsmanship of the game. All play will be governed by the current USGA Rules of Golf as set forth by the United States Golf Association and modified by the Rules or Notice to Players sheet prepared by the USCGA Tour. This includes playing the ball down or as it lies and putting all putts out (no gimmes).

For speed of play, we will make the following modifications:

- **Maximum Score per Hole is triple bogey.** Player must pick up when that maximum is reached.
- **Play Ready Golf:** We challenge all USCGA members to play "ready golf" and be conscious of the need to avoid slow play and keep up with the group in front.
- It is the player's responsibility to learn and apply both USGA and USCGA (specific modified rules of play) at all times. Anyone violating the rules is subject to penalties set forth by the USGA Rules of Golf. Rules infractions should be challenged immediately when they occur. If there is any question or disagreement, a second ball should be played and the matter referred to the committee at the end of the round. Rulings: All group members must be present before requesting a ruling. Questions concerning Rules infractions and or the calling of same must be done at the time of the infraction or prior to the completion of round at the scoring area. Any dispute or doubtful point called after the completion of the round will not be considered with the exception to those as defined in Rule 34-1(b).

Repeat offenders, who knowingly violate or ignore the rules, may be subject to suspension or termination from the USCGA with **NO** refund of fees paid.

2014 Tour

4. Tournament Format

The Tour format is 18-holes stroke play, gross competition within one's assigned flight. USCGA Tour Officials will be on site at every tournament to handle player registration/check-in, provide assistance, handle scoring, monitor pace of play and make rulings. Any USCGA Tour Official may assess penalty strokes for rules infractions or slow play subject to review by the USCGA Tour Committee. All decisions made by the USCGA Tour Committee shall be final.

5. Tournament Flights

Index ranges per flight and number of flights may vary per tournament based on player participation. In order to present a competitive field in terms of competition and prize distribution, a flight must consist of at least six players. **To achieve this goal flights may be combined (Open with Masters).**

Note: This is not the same as POY Flights. POY Flights are season long competition awards based on SET index ranges. Tournament Flight index ranges are not set. Example: An Open player with a 15.0 Index may play as an O3 tournament flight participant, but for POY Flight purposes is considered as an O4. His/her points earned for POY flights are based against only players in the O4 Index range (15.0-19.9).

6. Prizes – Tournament Payout

A gift card from either a retail shop or the host golf course will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place finishers per flight at all non-major events. All major events will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place flight finishers. Gift card amounts will vary from event to event based on player participation. A percentage of each entry fee is put into a prize pool and then distributed between the flights. Closest to Pin (CTP) prizes on par threes also awarded by division at each Tour event. In order to adhere to the USGA Rules of Amateur Status, no single prize awarded will exceed \$750 in value. Under no circumstances will cash awards be distributed.

7. Shotgun / Tee Times / Pairings

Tournaments will typically utilize shotgun starts with occasional tee times. Pairings will be posted on the USCGA website and USCGA Apps prior to the event and emailed/text to all Tour players. Pairings are subject to change any time prior to the event. Guests will be paired with their hosts unless otherwise requested. Please submit all pairing requests to Carlton by phone, text or email. *Pairing requests must be received within seven days of scheduled event.* Tour players may submit a request for a riding cart partner and not an entire foursome. Keep in mind that fellowship is a major objective of the USCGA Tour. Mixing up the pairings allows USCGA members the best opportunity to meet other members.

8. Check-In and Starting

All Tour players must personally check in on site at least 30 minutes prior to their shotgun start or assigned tee times and be at their starting point at least 10 minutes prior to their assigned tee time. Failure to do so may result in a player forfeiting his/her tee time. If a player is not at the assigned starting point, ready to play, at the assigned starting time, that player is in a breach of USGA Rule 6-3a. A player incurs a 2-stroke penalty if they are within five minutes late to their scheduled starting time. A player who is more than five minutes late to his/her scheduled starting time will be disqualified and no points or prizes can be earned, but may still be permitted to participate in the event, depending on availability.

Upon check-in, tournament participants may receive:

- [Notice to Players](#) (See page 16)
- Scorecard
- Meal Ticket

9. Scorekeeping and Scorecards

The following scorekeeping procedures will apply and must be adhered to in all USCGA competitions:

- Players will be provided with an official USCGA scorecard at each event.
- Players will exchange scorecards with opposing cart players in their foursome. Drivers exchange cards, passengers exchange cards.
- You will be keeping both score and stats for another member in your group. You are the MARKER; your fellow competitor is the PLAYER.
- Begin keeping score on the hole where you begin play.
- Keep up with the number of strokes of the player whose score you are keeping, plus your own.
- Verify his/her score verbally at the completion of each hole before you write it down.
- Record his/her score, and your own score, in the proper places on the official USCGA scorecard. Do not use pluses and minuses relative to par and do not annotate scores with circles, squares or triangles. Use only check marks to mark FIR & GIR stats. Record number for putts, no dots.
- In keeping your fellow competitors statistics, it is not necessary for you to pay attention to him/her playing the hole. Obviously, you want to concentrate on your own game. Each member, as they leave the green, should volunteer the appropriate information to their marker. Simply saying "green, two putts" relays the fact that you missed the fairway, hit the green and two-putted or "fairway, three putts" says you hit the fairway, missed the green and had three putts. Don't make your marker chase you down for this information just because you had a bad hole.
- Make sure all scores are correct and the card has been signed by both the player and the scorer. Any disputes should be addressed at this time.
- In an effort to equitably resolve any scoring disputes all players in a pairing should submit their scorecards at the same time to the scorer's area or the person designated to collect them immediately upon completion of play. Each player should be available for a reasonable amount of time afterwards to answer questions by the golf director in the event that a ruling is required. Any protests need to be made to the Tournament Committee as soon as possible after an incident occurs so that a proper ruling can be made in a timely fashion. Competition in each flight is deemed to have closed when the gift cards have been presented to the winners.
- If a player submits a scorecard that has not been signed or submits a signed card with a lower score on a particular hole than the actual score, the player will be disqualified from that tournament. If a player submits a signed card with a higher score on a particular hole than the actual score, the higher score will be posted. Each player is responsible for the correctness of his/her scorecard even though a fellow competitor will be marking the scores on each hole. *Players, though, are only responsible for the score on each hole and not the total score.*
- If a player does not turn in a scorecard ("No-Card"), he/she will be considered a DQ (disqualified) for the tournament. If a player "No-Cards" twice in a season, he/she may be put on probation for the remainder of the season. A third "No-Card" offense in a season may result in suspension from all remaining USCGA events for the season. There will be NO Refund of event fees.

Remember, golf is a game of Personal Honor.

10. Results

All tournament results will be available at every event as well as online after each tournament.

- Scoreboards posted at every tournament.
- Tournament results posted to website & USCGA App within hours after the completion of each tournament.
- Players notified by email/text when tournament results are posted on the Tour website.
- In-depth statistics and rankings by flight and division tracked and posted to the Tour website. Tracked stats include Scoring Average, FIR, GIR, Putts, Skins, and more.
- Track all of your rounds and stats as well as compare to other members.
- Player of the Year Points standings (Division & Flights). Players accumulate POYP based on their order of finish in each tournament throughout the season. POYP will be used for season-ending awards as well as a method of qualifying for the USCGA Cup. (See [POYP](#) page 12)

11. Determination of Tied Scores

All flight competition ties are decided by a scorecard playoff. The following progression will be used: low back nine, back nine last six holes, back nine last three holes. If a tie still exists, then it goes to the #1 handicap hole on the back nine (#10–18) then to the #2 handicap hole on the back nine (#10–18) until a winner is determined. For awarding POY Points in the event of a tie, all points for the tied places will be added and divided by the number of players tied for the spot. The tied players will then be awarded the same number of points. Because a first place winner is always determined with a scorecard playoff, the sole winner of first place will be entitled to first place points. The player that loses the playoff will receive second place points.

12. Pace of Play

The majority of USCGA Tour events are Shotgun starts. By using shotgun starts, we are able to all play together to accomplish our mission of fellowship, encouragement and evangelism. *Shotgun events take longer to play than tee time events. Shotgun events typically take between 5–5.5 hours to complete.*

For speed of play, we will make the following modifications:

- **Maximum Score per Hole is Triple Bogey.** Player must pick up when that maximum is reached.
- **Play Ready Golf:** We challenge all USCGA members to play “ready golf” and be conscious of the need to avoid slow play and keep up with the group in front.
- **Pace of Play Policies–Shotgun Start:** Any group that fails to keep its position on the course will be alerted to the fact and requested to play at a faster pace. The second warning will result in the entire group receiving a one-stroke penalty on their next hole. A third warning will result in a two-stroke penalty to the entire group on their next hole.

To avoid penalty, groups must not fall behind one hole from the group in front of them.

(See [Pace of Play Policy Tee Times](#) page 17)

Concerned Players and Appeals: A player concerned about slow player(s) in a group should first remind that player of the pace of play policy and encourage them to play more efficiently. The concerned player may, before or after penalties are assessed, request an Official to monitor the group. If a player is identified as holding up the pace of the group, penalties may be applied to that player and rescinded from the others. Any competitor in a group out of position who takes more than 45 seconds to play a stroke will be advised to that fact. Appeals for exceptional situations will be considered only in the scoring area after the completion of the round and prior to the return of a player’s scorecard.

A Pace of Play Captain (POPC) will be designated in each foursome to regulate pace of play in their foursome:

- Ensures Ready Golf is being played in his foursome.
- If the group in front of his foursome falls behind one hole, he may report that group to the committee.

13. Distance Measuring Devices (DMD)

For speed of play, the USCGA will allow the use of all USGA-conforming distance-measuring devices at all USCGA Tour events. Range finders with slope edition are not allowed. We encourage all Tour players to use some type of DMD.

14. Inclement Weather

Bad weather is not of itself good reason for discontinuing play. The delaying or canceling of a tournament due to inclement weather will be determined by the host golf course. In the event of rain/wind or inclement weather, play will continue unless the golf course is deemed unplayable and closed by the golf course. Wind is not considered a condition of inclement weather. In the event of lightning, play may be suspended until threat of lightning has passed.

In the event of a cancellation, the Tour will try to re-schedule the tournament date within the seasonal timeframe. Any partial cancellation refunds or credits will be determined based on the policies of the host facility where Tour players may then apply the credit towards a future scheduled event.

Tour players will be notified by phone, text, or email if a USCGA Tour tournament is canceled due to inclement weather. Come prepared to play no matter what the weather conditions if you have not been notified a tournament has been canceled.

Tour Championship qualification issues resulting from rainouts will be considered by the board on a case-by-case basis.

15. Spectator(s) and Caddies

Spectator(s) are welcome at all USCGA Tour tournaments provided the course allows spectator(s) to walk or ride the course and the spectator(s) do not interfere with pace of play. Spectator(s) are the responsibility of the player they are watching and must remain out of play and practice proper golf etiquette at all times. Spectator(s) are not permitted to ride with a player. Use of carts is for the sole use of the players. Spectator(s) may follow in a separate cart provided the golf course has additional carts to rent for spectator(s). The use of caddies is not permitted in a USCGA Tour tournament.

16. Guest Policy

Outreach is a core value of the USCGA. You are encouraged to bring your friends and introduce them to the USCGA. Those who are unchurched or just checking out Christianity are particularly welcome. Part of our vision is to provide an environment for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with unbelieving golfers.

First time guests may be included in the tournament flights for prizes. Guests will be required to produce a current verifiable handicap index or average 18 holes score at time of registration. If guests scores four or more strokes below his/her USGA Index Target score, he/she will be moved into the appropriate higher flight.

Guest players do not accumulate POYP and are not entered in POY Standings. A guest may decide to join the Tour and receive points toward POY standings for the tournament played. He/she must decide to do so immediately after the tournament by informing Golf Director and paying membership fees.

2014 Tour

17. USCGA Majors

The four USCGA 2014 Majors are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stonebridge – May 17 2. RTJ Fighting Joe – June 14 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Ole Miss GC – July 12 4. The Dogwoods – August 9 |
|--|--|

Highlights:

- POYP distribution at each USCGA major will count 200% relative to regular season points.
- All flight winners awarded USCGA Major Winner Certificate.
- Grand Slam Award to any Division player that wins all four Majors.
 - Free 2015 USCGA Membership

18. Tour Championship

The Tour Championship is played as Tournament Flights format. The Tour Championship will be more dramatic and exciting because it will decide POY Awards (2 Division and 12 Flight Champions). POYP will be tripled at The Tour Championship relative to Regular Season tournaments. Division and flight winners receive 800 points making possible big moves to the top of the standings. Winning POY Honors will be a significant achievement. To win, POY Honors, a player must build on an excellent Regular Season and play well in the Tour Championship.

19. Season Long Competitions

Our goal is to offer various competitions that will be fair and competitive to players of all skill levels. Following is the list of Season Long Competitions:

- **Skins**: The top three skin leaders / division awarded following Gift Card breakdown:
1st place = \$50, 2nd place = \$30, 3rd place = \$20
- **Ironman Award**: The player(s) that plays in the most tournaments awarded: \$25 Gift Card. If a player does not turn in a scorecard ("No-Card"), he/she will be considered a DQ (disqualified) for the tournament. The tournament will not count as played.
- **Most Improved Player for 2014**: The player / division that has the most improved USCGA custom handicap from the end of 2013 Tour to the end of 2014 Tour awarded \$50 Gift Card
- **Stats Competitions**: *Open to anyone that wants to participate (Optional)*. Stats based on average per round and a minimum of six rounds to participate. This is an average for all your rounds; not a best six average. Separate Stats contest per Division (Open & Masters). Stats must be turned in for each event played. Any player failing to turn in their stats for any event will be dropped from the contests. A \$25 Gift Card awarded per three stat winners / division.
 - **Fairways in Regulation (FIR)**: Fairways hit from the tee on par fours and fives. Only first tee shots that finish in the fairway are counted. There is no FIR on par threes.
 - **Greens in Regulation (GIR)**: Greens hit in the regulation number of shots (or less) with the ball originally put into play are counted. Par 3 (In one) Par 4 (2 or less) Par 5 (3 or less).
 - **Total Putts**: Combined total putts on 18 holes. This is any putt on the putting surface. A putt from off the green is not considered a putt. A holed out shot from off the green would be counted as zero putts. *If a player reaches maximum allowed score (triple bogey) on a hole before holing out, he must mark two putts for his stats on that hole. If he holes out on his triple bogey stroke then it would be zero putts, or one putts then he would mark one putt.*

Click on Season Statistics on website to view 2014 Competition Results.

We wish you all great success in the competitions!

2014 Tour

20. Player of Year (POY) Awards

Twelve POY Flight Champions (6 Open and 6 Masters) and 2 POY Division Champions will be crowned at the conclusion of the 2014 Tour Championship. The POY awards are season-long competitions in which players accumulate points based on their order of finish at each 15 Tour events. **Tour players must compete in a minimum of 6 tournaments to be eligible for POY competitions; however, up to 7 tournaments will count.** (See [POYP](#) page 12)

POY Flight Placement: The USCGA Tour is divided into 2 divisions (Open & Masters) & 6 flights per division. A Tour player's USCGA Tour Index will determine placement into POY flights. The Tour Index is intended to group players into flights of similar ability to promote equitable competition.

OPEN (Age 18+)			MASTERS (Men Age 55+) (Ladies 18+)		
POY Flight	USCGA Tour Index	Tees	POY Flight	USCGA Tour Index	Tees
O1	0–4.9	Middle	M1	0–4.9	Forward / Ladies
O2	5.0–9.9	Middle	M2	5.0–9.9	Forward / Ladies
O3	10.0–14.9	Middle	M3	10.0–14.9	Forward / Ladies
O4	15.0–19.9	Middle	M4	15.0–19.9	Forward / Ladies
O5	20.0–24.9	Middle	M5	20.0–24.9	Forward / Ladies
O6	25.0+	Middle	M6	25.0+	Forward / Ladies

The USCGA Tour Indexes are based solely on USCGA Tournament results. The USCGA Tour Index formula is set up to closely emulate the USGA handicap system. The USCGA formula differs from the USGA system in that it uses only USCGA tournament scores and substitutes the maximum triple bogey rule in place of Equitable Stroke Control. The Tour Index is based on the 20 most recent USCGA scores, carried over from year to year. A minimum of three USCGA tournament scores are required to determine a USCGA Tour Index. (See [Tour Index Calculations](#) page 14).

USGA Formula		USCGA Formula	
Handicap Percent % figure96		Handicap Percent % figure96	
# of scores handicap based on20		# of scores handicap based on20	
Minimum # scores needed5		Minimum # scores needed3	
# of Scores Available	Best Differentials Used	# of Scores Available	Best Differentials Used
5–6	1	3–6	3
7–8	2	7–8	4
9–10	3	9–10	5
11–12	4	11–12	6
13–14	5	13–14	7
15–16	6	15–16	8
17	7	17	9
18	8	18	9
19	9	19	10
20	10	20	10

The USCGA Tour will revise Tour Indexes four times during the 2014 Tour schedule. Tour players will be subject to re-fighting based on the revision dates as follows:
May 1, June 1, July 1, and August 1

2014 Tour

20. Player of Year (POY) Awards (cont.)

POY Flight Movement: The following guidelines will be used when a Tour player's index changes to correspond with a different flight index bracket. (Re-fighting)

Player's Tour Index drops to a higher flight bracket. **(Promotion)**

- If a Player's Tour Index drops to correspond with a higher flight, he/she will be notified and automatically promoted and re-flighted for his/her next event following the Tour's Index revision/promotion dates which occur on the 1st day of the month.
 - Example: If player A is in the O3 Flight (10.0-14.9 Index) and his/her index drops to 9.7 as of the revision date, he/she will be promoted to the O2 Flight (5.0-9.9 Index).
- Any player who is promoted to a new flight will have points deducted so they are placed into a tie for 3rd in the new flight if their points total is equal to or greater than 3rd place in the new flight.
 - Example: Player A is in the O3 Flight with 500 points and is promoted to the O2 Flight. Player B is 3rd in the O2 Flight with 400 points. Player A will be placed in a tie with player B at 400 points.

Player's Tour Index rises to a lower flight bracket.

- A player who is promoted to a higher flight based on their Tour Index will only be considered for re-fighting to their former flight if their Tour Index reaches one full point higher than the lowest threshold of the former flight.
 - Example: A player is promoted from the O3 flight to the O2 flight based off his Tour Index of 9.7. Player would not be eligible to move back to the O3 flight until his Tour Index is 11.0 or higher. The lowest threshold of O3 flight (10.0-14.9) is 10.0. Therefore, one full point higher is 11.0.
- No deduction will be made to points earned in a higher flight when moved to a lower flight.
- If a Player's Tour Index rises to correspond with a lower flight, it is the sole responsibility of the Player to request a flight change. This request must be made to the Tour Golf Director prior to one's next registered event to be considered for re-fighting. *One thing to consider before moving to a lower flight. A low round scored in the lower flight may cause player to move back to their original higher flight with a reduction in points.*

For New Members that have not established a USCGA Tour Index (3 USCGA Tour Scores):

New Member Flight Placement

- New members with a current verifiable USGA Index flighted accordingly.
- New members without a USGA Index flighted based on their average 18 holes score.

New Member Flight Movement

If a new member scores four or more strokes below Target score, he/she will be instantly promoted to the appropriate higher flight. Downward flight movement is restricted until at least five USCGA Tour rounds have been posted.

Please note the USCGA Tour reserves the right to re-flight a player at any time.

2014 Tour

21. Player of Year Points (POYP)

The POY awards are season-long competitions in which players accumulate points based on their order of finish at each 15 Tour events. Order of finish is determined by players' scores in both their respective POY Division and assigned POY Flight. Tour players must compete in a minimum of six tournaments to be eligible for POY competitions; however, up to seven tournaments will count. A player's best seven accrued total points plus Tour Championship points determines POY Champions.

- Regular Season events are worth 200 points to the winner.
- Road Trip events are worth 300 points to the winner. (150% relative to Regular Season events)
- Major events are worth 400 points to the winner. (200% relative to Regular Season events)
- Tour Championship is worth *800 points to the winner (400%). Remaining field (300%)

🏆 The players with the highest POY points per two divisions & twelve flights (Six Open and Six Masters) crowned 2014 POY Champions.

🏆 At the Conclusion of the Regular Season, the top 24 points-earners in each POY Divisions (Open & Masters) qualify to play in the USCGA Cup. (48 total qualifiers). Tour Championship points not included.

Points are awarded per divisions and flights based on order of finish. Points awarded as follows:

Pos.	Reg.	RT 150%	Majors 200%	TC 300%	Pos.	Reg.	RT 150%	Majors 200%	TC 300%
1	200	300	400	*800	21	24	36	48	72
2	150	225	300	450	22	23	35	46	69
3	125	188	250	375	23	22	33	44	66
4	110	165	220	330	24	21	32	42	63
5	100	150	200	300	25	20	30	40	60
6	95	143	190	285	26	19	29	38	57
7	90	135	180	270	27	18	27	36	54
8	85	128	170	255	28	17	26	34	51
9	80	120	160	240	29	16	24	32	48
10	75	113	150	225	30	15	23	30	45
11	70	105	140	210	31	14	21	28	42
12	65	98	130	195	32	13	20	26	39
13	60	90	120	180	33	12	18	24	36
14	55	83	110	165	34	11	17	22	33
15	50	75	100	150	35	10	15	20	30
16	45	68	90	135	36	9	14	18	27
17	40	60	80	120	37	8	12	16	24
18	35	53	70	105	38	7	11	14	21
19	30	45	60	90	39	6	9	12	18
20	25	38	50	75	40+	5	8	10	15

(See [POY Example](#) page 15)

22. USCGA Cup

Our first post-season event is the USCGA Cup. The USCGA Cup is a Ryder Cup format event. The 2014 Cup is scheduled October 3-4 at The Dogwoods.



- Eligibility based on POY Division Standings
 - The POY awards are season-long competitions in which players accumulate points based on their order of finish at each 15 Tour events. Order of finish is determined by players' scores in his/her POY division contest.
 - Tour Players must compete in a minimum of six tournaments to be eligible. However, a player's best seven accrued total points will be used to identify the Top 48 Cup Qualifiers.
- Qualifiers
 - Top 24 points-earners in each POY Awards (Open & Masters) 48 Total Qualifiers
 - For any top 48 qualifiers that cannot play, then the closest multiple of four players (40, 36, 32) will determine teams.
 - *Captain's picks will be used to fill any multiple of four players' shortage. A Captain's pick may be any player.*
 - ▶ **Example:** 38 of the 48 qualifiers will play. The closest multiple of four players would be 40 players. Both captains get one captain's pick each to bring the total to 40 players.
- Teams: Red and Blue
- Format: Ryder Cup format
 - Fourball (Team Best Ball)
 - Foursomes (Team Alternate Shot)
 - Singles (Individual Matches)
- Three day schedule
 - Thursday
 - ▶ Practice Rounds
 - ▶ Cup meeting (Teams announced. Rules and format review)
 - Friday: 36 holes (Tee Times)
 - ▶ 18 holes - Fourball matches (Morning)
 - ▶ 18 holes - Foursomes matches (Afternoon)
 - ▶ Group Dinner and Devotional
 - Saturday: (Shotgun Start)
 - ▶ 18 holes Singles matches (Morning)
 - ▶ Luncheon awards after matches
- Non Qualifiers – Any non-qualifier may play Saturday in a special format.
 - Players divided between Blue and Red Teams
 - Scoring results count as a group effort.
 - ▶ **Example:** There are 20 non-qualifiers divided (10 Red, 10 Blue players). Playing a team format that would be 10 two-man teams – 5 Matches. The non-qualifier team winning the most of the 5 matches would win 1 point for the Overall team. Let's say Blue won 3 matches to Red 2 matches. The Blue Team non-qualifiers would contribute one point to the Overall Blue Team result for winning the most matches. Team Red non-qualifiers would receive no point.

2014 Tour

APPENDICES

Tour Index Calculations

DATE	COURSE PLAYED	TEE	SCORE	RATING	SLOPE	DIFF	USED
09/07/13	Cherokee Valley	B	82	69.1	122	11.9	
08/24/13	Dogwoods	W	76	70.0	129	5.3	Yes
08/10/13	Tunica National	B	88	69.6	119	17.5	
07/27/13	Wedgewood	B	79	70.3	121	8.1	Yes
07/13/13	Ole Miss	W	80	70.4	123	8.8	Yes
06/29/13	Galloway	B	81	69.2	121	11.0	Yes
06/22/13	Fair Oaks	B	81	69.5	121	10.7	Yes
06/15/13	RTJ – Fighting Joe	O	85	71.5	130	11.7	
06/14/13	RTJ- Schoolmaster	O	80	72.2	128	6.9	Yes
06/08/13	Glen Eagle	B	84	71.1	128	11.4	Yes
05/18/13	The Ridges N/W	G	89	72.7	138	13.3	
05/17/13	The Ridges W/E	G	89	73.8	135	12.7	
04/20/13	Plantation	B	83	69.7	121	12.4	
04/06/13	North Creek	S	82	68.4	125	12.3	
03/23/13	Cherokee Valley	B	80	69.1	122	10.1	Yes
10/06/12	Stonebridge	B	85	70.4	123	13.4	
09/22/12	Mirimichi	G	83	71.4	131	10.0	Yes
09/08/12	Cherokee Valley	B	77	69.1	122	7.3	Yes
08/25/12	Tunica National	B	83	69.6	119	12.7	
08/11/12	Dogwoods	W	85	70.0	129	13.1	

The steps for calculating a Handicap Index are:

- Convert gross scores to Adjusted Gross Scores (AGS). USCGA substitutes the maximum triple bogey rule in place of Equitable Stroke Control, therefore all USCGA scores are AGS
- Calculate Handicap Differential for each score = (Score – Course Rating) X (113 / Slope Rating)
- Select lowest Handicap Differentials
- Average lowest Handicap Differentials
- Multiply the average Handicap Differential by 96%
- Arrive at Handicap Index by truncating - deleting - the number(s) to the right of tenths

Example: The above player's most recent 20 USCGA tournament scores from 2012–2013. Based on the table, the best 10 differentials are used to convert to an Index.

- The avg. differentials are determined:
(5.3+8.1+8.8+11.0+10.7+6.9+11.4+10.1+10.0+7.3)= 89.6/10 = 8.96
- Multiply the average Handicap Differential by 96% and round to nearest tenth:
(8.96 X 96%) = 8.60
- This player's Index = 8.6

The custom USCGA Tour Index is not a USGA handicap and cannot be used as such. Players may subscribe for an official USGA Handicap Service through the USCGA. The 2014 cost is \$25.

2014 Tour

POY Example

Player A plays in the Open Division. His USCGA Tour Index is a 6.5. Based on the POY Flight Placement table, he is flighted in the O2 Flight.

He plays in 11 tournaments (5 Non-Majors, 4 Majors, 1 Road Trip, & Tour Champ).

POY Awards (Division & Flights) = Players Best 7 Accrued Total Pts. + Tour Championship Pts.

USCGA Cup Qualifications = Top 24 pts. earners per division (Best 7 Accrued Total Pts.)

Player A (POY Division)

- Finishes 2014 season in 11th place with 810 pts. **Qualifies to play in the Cup** (Top 24 pts. earner)
- At the Tour Championship he finishes 7th place earning 270 pts. for a Total 1080 pts.
- For the 2014 Tour, he finishes 9th place in the POY Open Division.

Player A (POY O2 Flight)

- Finishes 2014 season in 5th place with 1373 pts. He needs a 1st place finish in the Tour Championship to win POY O2. He is within 200 pts. of 2nd-4th place, and 300 pts. behind 1st place. The difference between 1st place and 2nd place finish at Tour Championship is 350 pts.
- At the Tour Championship, he finishes 1st place earning 800 pts. for a Total 2173 pts.
- For the 2014 Tour, he finishes 1st place in the POY O2 Flight.

Player A	POY Open Division		POY O2 Flight	
Tournaments	Pos.	Pts.	Pos.	Pts.
T1 Cherokee (Non Major)	17	40	11	70
T3 North Creek (Non Major)	15	50	9	80
T5 Stonebridge (Major)	18	*70	12	*130
T7 RTJ Schoolmaster (Road Trip)	9	*120	3	*188
T8 RTJ Fighting Joe (Major)	11	*140	5	*200
T10 Ole Miss (Major)	9	*160	3	*250
T11 Mirimichi (Non Major)	10	*75	4	*110
T13 The Dogwoods (Major)	7	*180	1	*400
T14 Tunica National (Non Major)	15	50	9	80
T15 Wedgewood (Non Major)	12	*65	6	*95
*Best 7 Accrued Total	11	810	5	1373
Tour Championship Pts.	7	270	1	800
Total Pts	9	1080	1	2173

NOTE: Player A with a 6.5 Index may during the season play as an O1 Tournament Flight participant based on tournament player participation. For POY Flight purposes, he is considered as an O2. His/her points earned for POY flights are based against only players in the POY O2 Index range (5.0-9.9). (See [Tournament Flights](#) page 5)

2014 Tour

Notice to Players

The USGA Rules of Golf shall govern this competition. The following Local Rules & Definitions shall also be in effect:

Conduct Unbecoming: Every member and/or their guest(s) shall conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times. Any excessive display of anger, vulgar language, club throwing, lack of golfing etiquette (See USGA Rules of Golf) or disrespect to a fellow member or any other individual shall be grounds for disqualification from any tournament. The USCGA reserves the right to revoke the membership, without a refund, of any individual at any time for conduct deemed inappropriate or damaging to the Tour. The use of alcoholic beverages at any USCGA event is prohibited. While the use of tobacco products is discouraged, it is not prohibited. Please obey the rules of the hosting facility in regard to the use of tobacco products and be considerate of your cart partner and other Tour players.

Marking Golf Balls: Each player should put an identification mark on his ball and alert his fellow competitors of such. The one ball rule is **NOT** in effect.

Pace Of Play: Shotgun Start: Any group that fails to keep its position on the course will be alerted to the fact and requested to play at a faster pace. The second warning will result in the entire group receiving a **one stroke penalty** on their next hole. A third warning will result in a **two stroke penalty** to the entire group on their next hole. To avoid penalty, groups must not fall behind one hole from the group in front of them.

Distance Measuring Devices: For speed of play, the USCGA will allow the use of all USGA-conforming distance measuring devices at all USCGA Tour events. Range finders with slope edition are not allowed.

Practice Between Holes Prohibited: A player must not play any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole last played. If a practice stroke is played on or near the putting green of the hole last played, the player shall incur a **penalty of two strokes** at the next hole, except in the case of the last hole of the round, he incurs the penalty on that hole.

See USGA Rules of Golf: Local Rules/Conditions of the Competition/Practice.

Obstructions: *Relief without penalty* shall be given for the following immovable obstructions: (1) artificial cart paths, (2) buildings, (3) fans, (4) crosstie steps and (5) crosstie walkways.

See Rule 24 USGA Rules of Golf.

Lateral Water Hazards: Defined by red stakes and/or lines. When both stakes and lines are present, the stakes identify the hazard and the lines define the hazard margin. **One Stroke Penalty.**

See Rule 26 USGA Rules of Golf.

Water Hazards: Defined by yellow stakes and/or lines. When both stakes and lines are present, the stakes identify the hazard and the lines define the hazard margin. **One Stroke Penalty.**

See Rule 26 USGA Rules of Golf.

Out Of Bounds (OB): Defined by inside points, at ground level, of white stakes, lines, boundary fences and/or roads. Rule 27-1. Both OB & Loss Ball, play **penalty Stroke and Distance.**

See Rule 27 USGA Rules of Golf.

Returning Scorecards: Each player must turn in his scorecard WITH HIS ENTIRE GROUP IMMEDIATELY after completing his final hole. If a player does not turn in a scorecard ("No-Card"), he/she will be considered a DQ (disqualified) for the tournament.

Ground Under Repair (GUR): Defined by white lines. *Relief without penalty.*

See Rule 25 USGA Rules of Golf.

How to Decide Ties: Ties are decided by a scorecard playoff. The following progression will be used: low back nine, back nine last six holes, back nine last three holes. If a tie still exists, then it goes to the #1 handicap hole on the back nine (#10–18) then to the #2 handicap hole on the back nine (#10–18) until a winner is determined.

Close of Competition: The competition in each flight is deemed to have closed when the top finishers have been awarded their Gift Card Prize.

Local Rules: The Committee may establish Local Rules for local abnormal conditions.

Pace of Play Policy Tee Times

We want each USCGA Tour event to be a pleasant experience for everyone. Our goal is to play a tee time event in 4:30. It should not take 5–6 hours to play.

To reach our goal we need to play **Ready Golf**. Ready Golf is simply defined as **Hit When Ready**. If you reach your ball and are ready to hit, when other members of your group are not yet prepared, then go ahead and hit. We are not playing Honors from the tee. Players should hit when ready. *In stroke play competition, there are no penalties for playing out of turn.*

Additional Pace of Play Modifications/Guidelines to speed up play.

- Maximum Score per Hole is triple bogey. Players **must** pick up when that maximum is reached.
- Hit a Provisional Ball when in doubt. If you are not certain whether the shot you just hit may be OB or lost, hit a provisional ball.

Pace of Play Captain designated in each foursome to regulate pace of play in their foursome.
(See [How to Avoid Slow Play](#) page 19)

The USCGA Tour has instituted a Pace of Play Policy in accordance with Rule 6-7 of the USGA Rules of Golf, Undue Delay, which leaves the responsibility for maintaining the pace of play where it belongs, with the player. The players in the first group of the field must play in 2 hours 15 minutes or less per nine holes. All subsequent groups must finish the checkpoints within the parameters listed below. Scorecards will have the expected time each group is to complete each hole. If the group falls behind, it is expected to play efficient golf and get back into position. This means playing ready golf and/ or continuous putting which are both allowed in stroke play.

The Pace of Play Policy utilizes a two-checkpoint system. There are two things to keep in mind:

- Players will not receive warnings.
- Each group is responsible for monitoring its own pace.

To avoid penalty, groups must complete each checkpoint hole:

- Under the allotted time on the scorecard, OR
- Within 15 minutes of the group ahead.

Checkpoints will be on holes #9 and #18, unless otherwise indicated. All players in a group in breach of the pace of play policy at any checkpoint are subject to penalty.

Penalties

First Breach in Round = 1 stroke penalty to each player in the group.

Second Breach in Round = additional 2 stroke penalty to each player in the group.

Notification

Any group that completes a checkpoint hole in breach of the pace of play policy will be verbally notified by an Official. **Officials at checkpoints should never be confronted.** It is the players' responsibility to recognize when a breach has occurred at each checkpoint and penalties must be recorded on their scorecards. Penalties are to be added to the checkpoint hole in which the group was notified of the breach (holes #9 or #18). If a triple bogey was made on either checkpoint hole, player will record penalty stroke on the next previous hole in that nine holes, not scored a triple bogey. (Ex. hole #8, or #17)

Pace of Play Policy Tee Times (cont.)

Position

First Group(s) off either Tee: If the lead group is behind its expected time after completing one checkpoint (holes #9 or #18) players will be notified and each player in the group shall add a ONE-STROKE PENALTY to his/her score for that hole. If they also pass the second checkpoint behind their expected time, each player shall add an additional TWO-STROKE PENALTY to his/her score for that hole. A group may appeal the penalty in the scoring area before surrendering their scorecards.

Subsequent Groups

If any subsequent group passes one checkpoint (holes #9 or #18) behind its expected time OR more than 15 minutes behind the preceding group, players will be notified and each player in the group shall add a ONE-STROKE PENALTY to his/her score for that hole. If they pass the second checkpoint behind their expected time OR more than 15 minutes behind the preceding group, each player shall add an additional TWO-STROKE PENALTY to his/her score for that hole. A group may appeal the penalty in the scoring area before surrendering their scorecards.

Pace Of Play Captains (POPC)

A POPC will be designated in each foursome to regulate pace of play.

- Ensures **Ready Golf** is being played in his foursome.
- Monitors foursome POP using the scorecard POP row which lists expected time foursome is to complete each hole. Maintain foursome to stay within 15 minutes of group ahead.
- Consults with USCGA officials in regard to any player/s in his foursome that may be cause of group's breach of POP policy. Participates in appeal decision process.

Concerned Players and Appeals

A player concerned about slow player(s) in a group should first remind that player of the pace of play policy and encourage them to play more efficiently. The concerned player may, before or after penalties are assessed, request and Official to monitor the group. If a player is identified as holding up the pace of the group, penalties may be applied to that player and rescinded from the others. Appeals for exceptional situations will be considered only in the scoring area after the completion of the round and prior to the return of a player's scorecard.

Definitions

Timing – A group's completion time at each checkpoint is measured when the flagstick is replaced in the hole once all players in the group have holed out.

Allotted Time – The "allotted time" is the maximum time allowed to complete play of the course or the holes between checkpoints, the allotted time is predetermined by the golf director and may be adjusted between rounds. Time for ball searches, rulings, and walking or travel time between holes is included in the allotted time. The allotted time for each hole and course will be posted on each player's scorecard.

Rule 6-7 of the USGA Rules of Golf, Undue Delay; Slow Play states: "The player must play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines that the Committee may establish. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next teeing ground, the player must not unduly delay play."

Rulings or Other Incidents

If a ruling or some other legitimate delay occurs which causes the group in question to lose its position, that group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.

We sincerely request your cooperation. If all competitors will cooperate, each event will be a more pleasant experience for everyone.

2014 Tour

How to Avoid Slow Play

Below are some tips for all members to observe to help us with our pace of play:

Keep up with the group in front of you. Focus on keeping pace with the group in front of you. Do not be concerned with the group behind you. We will worry about the group behind you!

Play Ready Golf. Simply defined as **HIT WHEN READY**. If you reach your ball and are ready to hit, when other members of your group are not yet prepared, then go ahead and hit. We are not playing Honors from the tee. Players should hit when ready. *In stroke play competition, there are no penalties for playing out of turn.*

Keep an eye on each other's shots. Help look for lost balls AFTER you have hit your shot. If all four members are looking for the ball at the same time, the group has come to a dead, screeching halt.

Hit a provisional ball when in doubt. If you are not certain whether the shot you just hit may be OB or lost, hit a provisional ball. If you don't and find out your ball is either OB or lost, you will have to go back to where you hit the original ball and hit another shot causing delay in play. Always carry an extra ball in your pocket.

As cart driver, drop off your passenger first. Let him choose his club, and immediately go to your ball. Do not wait for him to hit UNLESS you would be in his line of flight.

If you are the passenger and are unsure of which club to hit, take several clubs and send the driver to his ball.

If your next shot is a wedge or short iron to the green. Take your putter with you and tell the driver to go on without you.

Know when it is your turn to putt. How many times do you see all four members reach the green and grow silent? Talk. Somebody call out the order: "Jim, you're away, Tom your next, then Bob ..." Line up your putt BEFORE it is your turn.

Use the continuous putting rule whenever possible. You may choose to putt out to speed up your group's pace of play.

Maximum score per hole is triple bogey. Player must pick up when that maximum is reached. Any player that does not may be disqualified from the tournament.

Never record scores at the green. Do it at the next tee box.

Limit search for lost balls to 5 minutes.

Please do not allow your cell phone or conversations to be a distraction or slow pace of play.

Please putt out when possible and play ready golf!

2014 Tour

2014 Tour Schedule Info

T#	Date	Golf Course	Cost	Sign-Up By	Mtg. Time	Shotgun Tee Time Start
1	3/22	Cherokee Valley	\$72	3/12	10:00	1:30 SG
2	4/05	Plantation	\$72	3/26	12:15	1:30 SG
3	4/19	North Creek	\$67	4/09	12:00	1:15 SG
4	5/03	Glen Eagle	\$58	4/23	4somes	12:30 – 2:30 TT
5	5/17	Stonebridge (M)	\$76	5/7	12:15	1:30 SG
6	5/31	River Bend Links	\$56	5/21	1:15	2:30 SG
7	6/13	RTJ Schoolmaster (RT)	\$79	6/4	Sat.	11:00 – 1:30 TT
8	6/14	RTJ Fighting Joe (M)	\$99	6/4	6:45	8:00 SG
9	6/28	Links at Galloway	\$63	6/18	4somes	9:00 – 12:00 TT
10	7/12	Ole Miss (M)	\$79	7/2	8:45	10:00 SG
11	7/26	Mirimichi	\$80	7/16	4somes	11:30 – 2:30 TT
12	8/2	Olive Branch CC	\$72	7/30	11:45	1:00 SG
13	8/09	The Dogwoods (M)	\$72	7/30	7:45	9:00 SG
14	8/23	Tunica National	\$89	8/13	6:45	8:00 SG
15	9/06	Wedgewood	\$67	8/27	12:00	1:15 SG
16	9/20	Tour Championship Kirkwood National	TBA	9/10	7:00	9:00 SG
17	10/03–04	USCGA Cup The Dogwoods	TBA	9/24	7:00 PM Fri.	8:00/1:00 TT 9:00 SG

- **Road Trips (RT):** RTJ Schoolmaster (POYP = 150%)
- **Majors (M):** Stonebridge, RTJ Fighting Joe, Ole Miss, & The Dogwoods (POYP = 200%)
- All meeting and devotional times will be scheduled an hour and 15 minutes before our shotgun start. The meetings should last around 20–25 minutes allowing everyone at least 45 minutes range time. *Note: Season Opener, Tour Championship, and USCGA Cup times differ.*
- For tournaments with tee times rather than a shotgun start, we will hold a 4somes devotional 45 minutes before each group's tee time. Glen Eagle, Galloway, & Mirimichi
- Lunch will be provided at all tournaments except the following:
Glen Eagle, River Bend Links, RTJ Schoolmaster, Galloway, & Mirimichi

Please remember the sign-up date for each tournament is 10 days before the schedule tournament.

2014 Tour

Road Trip Hotel Accommodations

Road Trip Dates	Reservation Date(s)	Hotel / Phone	Cost	Book By	Check-In Check Out
RTJ Schoolmaster & RTJ Fighting Joe 06/13–14	06/12 & 06/13 (Thurs. & Fri.) Or 06/13 (Fri.)	Microtel Inn (Tuscumbia, AL) 256-248-0055	Single (\$63+Tax) Dbls (\$72+Tax)	06/01	3 PM 11 AM
Ole Miss 07/12	07/11 (Fri.)	Hampton Inn 662-232-2442	Call for rates		3 PM 11 AM
The Dogwoods 08/09	08/08 (Fri.)	Holiday Inn Express 662-229-9595	Call for rates		3 PM 12 PM

Playing the best courses sometimes requires a little travel. These are great opportunities for overnight getaways with some extra fellowship by going out to eat as a group and gathering at the motel for a little fellowship before retiring for the evening. We schedule an optional practice round the day before the tournament and double the opportunity for fellowship.

We have reserved hotel rooms for the RTJ tournaments. When you call to make your reservation, mention you are with the USCGA Golf group, to receive the special rate. Book reservations by 06/01.

The Hampton Inn at Ole Miss & Holiday Inn Express at Dogwoods are recommended hotels. Call for rates.

For two-day road trip tournaments, players may choose a two night accommodations to play a Thursday practice round.

For one-day road trip tournaments, players may choose one-night accommodations to play a Friday practice round.



2014 Tour

Notes