



# 2025 SECTION ENTRY INFORMATION

**REFER TO THE SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP DATES, DEADLINE DATES, SITES & ENTRY FEES DOCUMENT FOR YOUR SECTION'S SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

Every applicant (except exempt applicants) must go through a **two-stage process** as follows to compete in the PGA Professional Championship:

1. Enter and compete in your Section PGA Professional Championship. See "Section Championship Dates, Deadline Dates, Sites & Entry Fees" document for your Section's specific information.
2. A predetermined number of top finishers from each Section, plus exempt players, will then advance to the 2026 PGA Professional Championship scheduled to be played April 26-29, 2026, (Sunday through Wednesday) at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort at Bandon, Oregon. An additional \$100 entry fee will be required to enter the 2026 PGA Professional Championship and a separate eligibility deadline must also be met. For players advancing into the 2026 PGA Professional Championship, entry information will be emailed in February 2026.

All members who wish to play in the 2026 PGA Professional Championship, and/or the 2026 PGA Championship (both of which will have an eligibility deadline that must be met) must first enter their respective 2025 Section PGA Professional Championship (unless exempt status applies).

Provided all eligibility requirements are met and maintained, exemptions for the 2026 PGA Professional Championship are as follows:

- Former Champions through 1996 have a lifetime exemption. Former Champions beginning in 1997 forward are exempt into the national Championship until he/she reaches the age of 60 or for a minimum of 10 years from such victory, whichever is the later;
- Top 20 plus ties in the 2025 PGA Professional Championship;
- PGA Professionals making the cut in the 2025 PGA Championship;
- 2025 Senior PGA Professional Champion;
- 2025 Assistant PGA Professional Champion, provided they are a member prior to winning the Championship;
- 2025 Rolex PGA Professional Players of the Year (Regular, Senior, Women's);
- Top 2 finishers in the 2026 PGA Winter Championship's Stroke Play Championship (not otherwise in the field).

Exempt players have the option, but are not required, to play in their Section PGA Professional Championship provided entries are made prior to the deadline and eligibility is met.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Eligibility is limited to PGA of America Members who meet all of the following criteria:

1. Must be eligibly employed and in good standing (in one of the following classifications) as of the first round of their 2025 Section PGA Professional Championship. PGA of America membership records must reflect this status on the date of the first round (unless special exception criteria are met).

*MP	Master Professional	A-14	Director of Instruction at a PGA Recognized Facility
A-1	Head Professional at a PGA Recognized Golf Course	A-15	Ownership or Management of a Retail Golf Facility
A-2	Head Professional at a PGA Recognized Golf Range	A-16	Golf Course Architect
A-4	Director of Golf at PGA Recognized Golf Facilities	A-17	Golf Course Superintendent
*A-5	Past Presidents of the Association	A-18	Golf Media
A-6	Golf Instructor at a PGA Recognized Facility	A-19	Golf Manufacturer Management
A-7	Head Professional at a PGA Recognized Facility Under Construction	A-20	Golf Manufacturer Sales Representative
A-8	Assistant Golf Professional at a PGA Recognized Facility	A-21	Tournament Coordinator/Director for Organizations, Businesses or Associations
A-9	Employed in Professional Positions in Management, Development, Ownership Operation and/or Financing of Facilities	A-22	Rules Official
A-10	Golf Clinician	A-23	Club Fitting/Club Repair
A-11	Golf Administrator	A-24	Employed within the golf industry and not eligible for another Active classification
A-12	College or University Golf Coach	A-25	
A-13	General Manager		

\*Must be eligibly employed in one of the other mentioned active membership classifications to be eligible.

2. **Four (4) Tournament Policy** - The maximum number of combined tournaments on "Professional Tours" that a PGA Member may participate in, and still remain eligible to compete in PGA Member Championships, is a total of four (4) tournaments\*. This Four (4) Tournament Rule will be applied to all respective Championships & Player of the Year eligibility date ranges, provided the member does not transfer into an A-3 classification and/or accept any temporary membership that a respective tour may offer. The PGA of America Member has not played in more than \*\*\*four (4) combined All Pro Tour (APT), ANNIKA Women's All Pro Tour, Advocates Professional Golf Association Tour (APGA), Asian Tour, Dakotas Tour, DP World Tour, Epson Tour (LPGA), European Challenge Tour, European Legends Tour, GPro Tour, JPGA Senior Tour, JPGA Tour, Korn Ferry Tour, Ladies European Tour (LET), LIV GOLF Tour, LPGA Tour, Outlaw Tour, PGA TOUR Americas (Formerly MacKenzie Tour and PGA Tour Latin America), PGA Australia Tours, PGA New Zealand Tours, PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions, The Safari Tour and The Sunshine Tour tournaments. Note: The PGA Championship, Senior PGA Championship, KPMG Women's PGA Championship, U.S. Open, U.S. Senior Open, U.S. Women's Open, and the U.S Senior Women's Open are not included in the tournament count.

**\*Eight (8) Tournament Exceptions:** The current year's PGA Professional Championship champion will be allowed a total maximum of eight (8) tournaments, provided the member does not transfer into an A-3 classification and/or accept any temporary membership that a respective tour may offer. The applicability period shall start on the day after the tournament in which the exemption is achieved (i.e. winning the PGA Professional Championship) and lasts for eighteen (18) months beyond the beginning of the PGA TOUR season in which the PPC Champion is exempt (e.g. Jan 30th, 2025 is the first PGA TOUR event of the year the 2024 PPC Champion is invited to play and the 18 months begins on that date).

Reason: The PPC Champion earns exemptions into six (6) PGA TOUR open tournaments the following year with their win, which leaves room for them to qualify for two (2) additional tournaments.

Additionally, any PGA Member finishing in the Top 15 of the PGA Championship, Top 15 of the Senior PGA Championship and/or the Top 10 of the KPMG Women's PGA Championship, that would exempt them into the following year's Championship, also allowing that member a maximum of eight (8) tournaments instead of four (4), provided the the member does not transfer into an A-3 classification and/or accept any temporary membership that a respective tour may offer.

These additional opportunities increase the spotlight on PGA Members and their playing accomplishments, and have a resulting positive impact on our membership overall. The applicability period is eighteen (18) months and shall start on the day after the tournament in which the exemption is achieved (i.e. PGA Championship, Senior PGA Championship or Women's PGA Championship).

Reason: Such a strong finish in these Major Championships may provide additional playing opportunities which could result in exceeding the Four (4) Tournament Rule.

For players that have earned the Eight (8) Tournament Exception:

For each tournament/award where eligibility is conditioned on compliance with the standard Four (4) Tournament Rule, each exempted individual's eligibility will be conditioned on compliance with the Eight (8) Tournament Rule, which will be applied by reviewing the number of counted tournaments the applicable individual competed in during the twelve (12) months leading up to the date when eligibility is finalized for the applicable tournament/award. This application of the rule will result in a twelve (12) month, rolling look-back for the applicable tournaments/awards during the eighteen (18) month applicability period.

Immediately upon expiration of the eighteen (18) month applicability period, the individual's eligibility for applicable tournaments/awards will revert to being conditioned on the Four (4) Tournament Rule, which will be applied by reviewing the number of counted tournaments the applicable individual competed in during the 12 month period leading up to the date when eligibility is finalized for the applicable tournament/award.

The application of the Eight (8) Tournament Rule is renewable if the qualifications are achieved again by the individual in a subsequent tournament.

PGA Tournament Corporation, Inc., reserves the right to determine whether any player meets eligibility and to reject any player who does not meet these requirements. The PGA member will not be eligible to participate if:

- a) the PGA of America Member is serving a suspension from Membership;
- b) the PGA of America Member is suspended from tournament participation for National tournaments; or
- c) the PGA of America Member is classified as Class F, Life Member Active (LMA), Life Member Master Professional Active (LMMA), Life Member Retired (LM), Life Member Master Professional Retired (LMM), Life Member Century (LMC), Retired Member (RM), Reserve, A-3, or Honorary (HM).

## **TO ENTER YOUR SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP**

---

To enter your Section PGA Professional Championship, please contact your Section directly or enter through your Section's entry website. See "Section Championship Dates, Deadline Dates, Sites & Entry Fees" for your Section's specific information.

### **SECTION INFORMATION**

---

The PGA Board of Directors has determined that the allocation of the number of players advancing from each Section PGA Professional Championship to the PGA Professional Championship will be based on the average number of players over the last five (5) years (using actual number of eligible players starting their Championship).

Exempt players have the option, but are not required, to play in their Section PGA Professional Championship provided entries are made prior to the deadline and eligibility is met. If the player finishes in a position that would advance to the National Championship, they would be skipped and the next eligible player would advance.

All applicants must compete in the Section within which they are affiliated on their Section's entry deadline date unless they have transferred to a new Section.

Applicants who have transferred into a new Section AFTER their Section's entry deadline have the option of competing in their original Section or in their new Section, but not in **both**. To compete in their new Section, they must inform their new Section of their intention at least seven (7) days prior to that Section's event.

Applicants who have transferred into a new Section PRIOR to their (former) Section's entry deadline, and their new Section's Championship has already taken place, the former Section must make a "special exception" and allow them to compete, even if membership records do not reflect that they are a member in good standing (in that specific Section) on the date of the former Section's deadline.

In the event a PGA of America Member qualifies through a Section but moves to a new Section prior to the championship, he or she will represent the Section where they competed in the qualifier.

Please notify your Section directly if you need to withdraw from the 2025 Section PGA Professional Championship.

### **PRIZE MONEY**

---

Total prize money in each Section PGA Professional Championship will be a minimum of \$10,000.

### **METHOD OF PLAY**

---

The Section PGA Professional Championship is a stroke play event with a minimum of 36 holes. In the event of a tie for the last advancing place or an alternate's place, there should be a play-off as determined by the Section.

If your Section PGA Professional Championship should be "rained-out", the following "rain-out" procedure will apply:

1. Try to complete 36 holes in the two days scheduled.
2. If everyone in the field does not complete at least 18 holes, the entire Championship should be canceled, and all 36 holes should be rescheduled at a later date.
3. If it is impossible to reschedule, 18 holes will be allowed to stand and will therefore constitute the official Championship.

### **CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

---

As a condition of participating in the 2026 PGA Professional Championship, which is scheduled to be played April 26-29, 2026, at Bandon Dunes you agree to the following:

Entries must be received by The PGA of America by the entry deadline which is established and set forth in this entry information. There shall be no waivers of entry deadlines unless approved by The PGA of America in its sole discretion. This entry is subject to acceptance by The PGA of America, and the Player agrees that in the event of acceptance, it may be rejected or revoked at any time thereafter.

Players acknowledge that while PGA of America will take steps to provide for the safety of all participants and attendees, the elimination of all risks associated with conducting the Championship (including the risk of contracting an illness or disease) cannot be guaranteed.

Because playing in events is a privilege, any tournament entrant whose employment status is in question must be declared eligibly employed at the time of entry and as of the entry deadline date to be eligible to participate. The PGA of America Board of Directors or its designee shall render decisions and have final adjudication on any appeal relating to playing privileges. Players who are found to be ineligibly employed subsequent to the start of the event (i.e., ineligible employment not adjudicated prior to the entry date of the event) shall be declared ineligible to advance to any further competition, if applicable, and any prize money earned in the event shall be retained by The PGA of America until the final determination of employment status occurs.

Player's participation in the Championship is subject to the terms herein, all Rules, Regulations, provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of The PGA of America and other conditions applicable to the Championship, as well as to the terms and

conditions of the agreement between The PGA of America and PGA Golf Club, or with agreements made with other parties with respect to same.

Player unconditionally and irrevocably grants and assigns to The PGA of America, without limitation, the right to use their name, image, voice, and likeness in television, radio, motion picture, photographic, internet, social media, electronic and all other media, whether now in existence or hereafter created, in connection with their participation in the Championship and/or any other event conducted in conjunction/connection with the Championship. For the avoidance of doubt, this grant of rights shall authorize The PGA of America, any of its affiliates, subsidiaries, and assigns, to make any and all use of Player's name, image, voice, and likeness in connection with: (1) advertising, promoting, or publicizing the Championship, any television or electronic broadcasts or radio broadcasts of the Championship, any subsequent Championships The PGA of America, PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions, or any events sponsored or cosponsored by The PGA of America and the game of golf in general and/or the players; (2) live or recorded telecasts, television programs, radio broadcasts, internet broadcasts, or other electronic transmissions or programming during golf tournaments; (3) broadcasts or exhibitions on a recorded basis as part of a program, motion picture, electronic transmission programming or video recording of the Championship, or year-end summaries of sports award programs or any news or sports news programs; provided that in no case shall the rights granted herein be used in any program, motion picture or video recording designed for instructional purposes without the express consent of the player(s) involved; (4) live or taped non-exclusive updates in any form of media; and (5) commemorative coins, official lithographs, commemorative yearbooks, portraits, paintings, posters, or other materials commemorating a player's participation in the Championship. In connection with this grant of rights, Player agrees to complete and/or supply all registration and biographical information, including but not limited to requests for such information by the PGA of America's Public Relations representatives. Player agrees to refrain from any action which will interfere with the orderly recording, production, reproduction, publication and dissemination of such recordings, transmissions, films, tapes, pictures, photographs, or images. Player acknowledges and agrees it is their intent to provide the rights outlined herein and to intentionally forego any rights to review and/or approve any recording or transmission.

In the event Player, or any person or entity with Player, record and/or otherwise capture, via any device and/or manually, whether at the site of the Championship or remotely, any data, content, images, video or statistics, in any form, related to and/or resulting from Player's participation in the Championship ("Player Data"), Player hereby agrees to not use such Player Data for any commercial purpose, as such is defined by The PGA of America, without first obtaining the approval from The PGA of America, such approval is at The PGA of America's sole discretion.

Player will not share any part of the prize money they may win in the Championship with any other player.

Player assumes all risk and danger incidental to participation in the event (both to Player and to third parties as a consequence of Players' actions) and releases The PGA of America, PGA Tournament Corporation, Inc., their affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, employees, members, sponsors and the host site from all liabilities from any such cause.

It is also understood that Player's participation in the Championship is subject to pre-qualification unless Player is among those who are exempt from pre-qualifying.

Except where otherwise noted, time of an entry deadline shall mean Mountain Standard Time.

## **POLICIES**

Although potentially competing from separate tees, men and women professionals shall compete for the same purse. For example, the man or woman professional with the lowest score shall win first place money.

The **condition of competition regarding grooves and punch marks is in effect for ALL stages of the 2026 PGA Professional Championship presented by Club Car, Corebridge Financial, and Rolex.**

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The conditions governing play and purse distribution will be determined by the PGA of America and distributed by the appropriate PGA Section. The Section PGA Professional Championship will be subject to the overall supervision of the Section.

Shorts are allowed during Practice Rounds and the Pro-Sponsor event. Players shall present a neat appearance, appropriate to a Major professional golf championship at all times. Shorts must be hemmed not more than two inches above the knee, and must be professional looking in appearance.

The Championship Committee shall be authorized to impose Minor Penalties consisting of a fine of \$150 for the first offense, a fine of \$250 for the second offense, and a disqualification for a third offense. If a player utilizes a caddie, the player is responsible for Code of Conduct breaches by the caddie under Rule 10.3. Additionally, if behavior is deemed excessively unacceptable the Championship Committee may disqualify a player at any time. Offenses include:

- Club throwing, slamming, or breaking
- Damage to course equipment or property\*

- Abuse, oral (profanity) or otherwise directed at rules officials, other players, spectators, sponsors, championship staff, volunteers, or others
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or marijuana use (unless pre-approved as a treatment for a medical condition) during practice rounds and/or championship rounds
- Listening to music during competition rounds (no headphones)
- Failure to adhere to the dress code of both the host facility and the PGA of America
- More specifically, at PGA of America Championships:
- Hats/visors should be worn with the brim forward
- Tank tops, T-shirts, denim shorts, jeans, gym shorts, sweatpants are prohibited
- Any other conduct unbecoming of a PGA of America Member

Additionally, the Championship Committee shall have the authority to make decisions and/or establish rules in the best interests of The PGA of America and the Championship for any issues not addressed by these Rules and Regulations.

All Code of Conduct offenses carry through the Championship (e.g. First offense during Round 1 could lead to a second offense during Round 2).

In the event the Championship Committee determines that the act(s) warrant a Major Penalty, the Player may be subject to an additional fine amount, suspension, and/or permanent disbarment from tournament play.

\*Along with potential fines, Players may be responsible for covering the costs of any damage they cause to course equipment or property.

Although potentially competing from separate tees, men and women professionals shall compete for the same purse (i.e., the man or woman with the lowest score shall win first place money).

## **ADDITIONAL PLAYING OPPORTUNITIES**

It is anticipated that the following additional playing opportunities may be available to those who play well in the Championship, however these benefits may be subject to change at any time.

Players participating from the forward tees shall not be eligible to earn playing privileges in the PGA Championship and tournaments co-sponsored or approved by the European Tour, PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions, Korn Ferry TOUR or the USGA. Prior to starting at the Section level, women must declare if they will be playing from the forward tees.

### **The 2026 PGA Professional Champion:**

- The PGA Professional Champion is exempt into PGA Professional Championships, until he/she reaches 60 years of age or for a minimum of ten (10) years after victory, whichever is the later, provided eligibility requirements are met and maintained.
- Subject to confirmation, approval of the PGA TOUR and availability of spots in specific tournament fields as determined by the PGA TOUR, the current PGA Professional Champion, if they played from the back tees, is exempt for a maximum of six (6) open tournaments, beginning with the start of the season the following year (e.g. 2025 PPC Champion has opportunity for six (6) open tournaments starting January of 2026), in addition to any sponsor exemptions.
- The PGA Professional Champion is exempt into the 2026 Senior PGA Professional Championship, provided all eligibility requirements are met.

### **Top 5 Finishers playing from the back tees in the 2026 PGA Professional Championship:**

- The top five (5) eligible finishers, including ties to a floor of 10<sup>th</sup> position, will be exempted to the Second Qualifying Stage of the Korn Ferry TOUR, provided an entry is filed by their deadline. (Subject to change)

### **Top 10 Finishers playing from the back tees in the 2026 PGA Professional Championship:**

- The top ten (10) finishers, excluding ties, will be exempted into Final Qualifying Stage of the 2026 (British) Open Championship provided an entry is filed by their deadline. Tie-Breaker: Ties will be broken by comparing Final Round scores. If still tied, the following tie-breakers will be used until the tie is broken: Third Round Score, Second Round Score, First Round Score, and then the USGA Tie-Breaker method for the final round (e.g. holes 10-18, holes 13-18 etc.)

### **Top 20 Finishers playing from the back tees in the 2026 PGA Professional Championship:**

- The top twenty (20) finishers will earn an exemption into the 2026 PGA Championship.
- The top twenty (20) finishers will earn points towards the 2026 PGA Cup Team.

### **Top 20 Finishers in the 2026 PGA Professional Championship, who advance to the 2026 PGA Championship:**

- The top twenty (20) finishers who advance into the 2026 PGA Championship will be exempted into Final Qualifying (only) for the 2026 U.S. Open, provided an entry is filed by their deadline. (subject to change)

**Top 20 Finishers plus ties in the 2026 PGA Professional Championship:**

- The top twenty (20) finishers plus ties will be exempt into the 2026 PGA Professional Championship, if all eligibility requirements are met and maintained.

**All Female Participants making the initial cut in the 2026 PGA Professional Championship:**

- All female participants making the initial cut in the 2026 PGA Professional Championship will earn points towards the 2026 Women's PGA Cup Team.

**All Participants playing from the back tees in the 2026 PGA Professional Championship:**

- All playing participants are exempted into the First Qualifying Stage of the Korn Ferry TOUR, provided an entry is filed by their deadline. (subject to change)

NOTE: A player forfeits the additional benefits earned through the PGA Professional Championship if he/she fails to meet all of the eligibility criteria.