



2024
**Player Handbook &
Tournament Regulations**

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE 2024 GProTour TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Five Strike Rule: GProTour is a developmental tour, our goal is to prepare you for the next level without punishing players excessively due to the financial restraints at this level. As such the tour has created the FIVE (5) strike rule, the aim of the rule is to make the players more aware of their slow play, allow our officials to be more decisive in dealing with slow play, yet not instantly punishing a player. A player that has been found to violate the Pace of Play Policy shall receive one strike. A player will have 5 strikes throughout the season, on their fifth and final strike a player will incur the Minor Infraction Penalty under the Conduct Unbecoming of a Professional section within these regulations. A player's strike tally will reset at this point and the process begins. Strikes will carry over from event to event.

Tee Time Request / Carpooling: Players cannot request any tee time or a tee time wave they would like to be in. Players may request to be grouped close to another player for transportation purposes. Requests must be texted between 12:00pm – 5:00pm (to the tournament director) the Friday before each event. Texts received outside this window may not be honored.

2024 Hardcard / Season Long Rules: Have been updated to reflect more closely the world ranking tours. Players should review this document prior to play.

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GProTour Staff

Administration:

Gary Haugh _____ **Owner / Tournament Director**

On-Site Staff:

Bob Beasley - USGA Certified Rules Official

Bruce Campbell - CGA Certified Rules Official

Janet Haugh - Tournament Administrator

Jay Hardwick - USGA Certified Rules Official

Jim McDaniel - USGA Certified Rules Official

Joe Boyd - USGA Certified Rules Official

John Maguire - USGA Certified Rules Official

Larry McWane - USGA Certified Rules Official

Mark Durishan - USGA Certified Rules Official

GOLF COURSE PREPARATION AND SET-UP PHILOSOPHY

GENERAL

Golf course quality, conditions and set-up are paramount to GProTour. As a tour responsible for developing your career we have the responsibility to provide each of you the best golf courses and conditions possible that mimic what you will experience at the next level.

For each tournament, the objective of tour staff is to evaluate weather, course conditions and length to provide each of you a challenge that is both tough and fair. As a general rule, courses that are shorter will have tougher pin locations, and courses that are longer can expect to see more generous pins. The same goes for narrow courses and wider courses, good weather vs bad weather. As we season gets closer to Q school players can expect the difficulty to increase to best prepare you.

In the lead up to each event, Tour staff will typically have a site visit to make sure the course is on schedule to host an event. As the weeks count down, we are in contact with the host club's agronomy staff, making sure that all targets are met.

Course set-up and conditions are subjective, situations will occur where tour staff cannot meet our objectives. Constructive criticism and observations and should be directed towards the tour operations team.

Preparation

The tour aims to provide the following conditions for each of our tournaments, adverse weather patterns and host capabilities can sometimes limit our goals.

Greens:

Double cut and roll each morning with projected speeds 11+. Greens should be as firm as host site can provide.

Fairways:

Dew will be removed from each fairway, depending on time of year, or staffing; this will be accomplished either by cutting fairways or using a buffalo blower.

Bunkers:

Will be prepared each morning to a tournament standard, either using sand pro's or hand raking.

Rough:

Rough will vary in length due to time of year and grass types.

Tee Boxes:

Will be cleaned or cut each morning this will be accomplished either by cutting or using a buffalo blower.

SET-UP

Hole locations and tee placements will consider:

- Hole length.
- Hole width.
- Design features.
- Course conditions
- Type of approach shot.
- Predicted weather.
- Pace of play for the field

The tour aims to utilize the whole host facility in hopes of creating more shot types throughout the tournament, players can expect tee boxes to be moved daily and will not always be on the longest box.

Hole locations will be of varying difficulty throughout the event, taking into consideration features of the greens, approach shot length and green speeds. As a general rule, players will have 270 degrees of accessible putting on a given hole location. The aim of our set-up is to educate players, on where to hit their approach shots, learning "no-go zones" testing their ability to make notes during practice rounds and avoid situations where players can "throw darts" without having to think of the consequences.

ALCOHOL POLICY

Any player that has been found in violation of this policy shall be considered to have engaged in behavior unbecoming of a professional and will be subject under USGA Rule 1.2b and may be subject to either the general penalty or disqualification.

- Players may not drink any alcohol during any official practice round or tournament round.

- Players may not drink any alcohol on the practice facilities prior to an official practice round or tournament round.

PACE OF PLAY

GProTour has created the following pace of play policy in the hopes of creating a faster paced and more aware player. At each tournament our rules officials will be applying the policy to the entirety of the field.

Definition of "Out of Position"

FIRST THREE GROUPS:

Regardless of tee time style (double tee, single-tee or double-tee double-wave) the first three groups will be monitored through the first three (3) holes. Groups #1, #2 and #3 in each wave and tee will be deemed OUT OF POSITION if they EXCEED the allotted time to play, established by the pace of play committee or event staff. Available to players on their first tee.

GROUPS #4 ONWARDS:

Groups will be OUT OF POSITION based on their position in relation to the group in front. Groups will be OUT OF POSITION if:

- Reaching a par-3 fully open and free of play (no players on tee or green)
- Reaching a par-4 or and have not made a stroke from the teeing ground before the hole is open and free of play
- Reach a par-5 and ALL players have not made a stroke from the teeing ground before the hole is open and free of play

TIMING NOTE:

The Committee reserves the right to time a group at any time. Further, if a player is determined by the Committee to be unreasonably slow, he may be individually timed at the Committee's discretion regardless of whether his group is out of position. When a group or individual is to be timed, all players in the group or the specific individual will be informed.

TIMING

RIGHT TO BE TIMED:

A player may request his group or player within his group to be time at any point during a round.

INDIVIDUAL TIMING

Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is his turn and he can play without interference and/or distraction. Time spent determining yardage counts in the time taken for the next stroke. On the putting green, timing begins after a player is allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean, and replace his ball, repair his ball mark and other ball marks on his line of putt and remove loose impediments on his line of putt.

OUT OF POSITION:

A player in a group which is out of position may be penalized for any unreasonable delay if:

- The player takes more than sixty (60) seconds to play one stroke, including putts and/or
- The player exceeds the average allotted time for the TOTAL strokes taken on a given hole by more than 20 seconds.

Exclusion to Strokes: Tap ins, a putt where a player does not mark their ball will NOT have that stroke count towards their stroke total for a hole.

Example

Average time expected per stroke: 40 seconds

<u>Strokes on Hole</u>	<u>Average Time</u>	<u>Penalty Time</u>
2	80 seconds	100 Seconds
3	120 Seconds	140 Seconds
4	160 Seconds	180 Seconds
5	200 seconds	220 Seconds
6	240 seconds	260 Seconds

TIMING NOTE:

The Committee reserves the right to time a group. If a player is determined by the Committee to be unreasonably slow, he may be individually timed at the Committee's discretion regardless of whether his group is out of position. When a group or individual is to be timed, all players in the group will be informed.

SCHEDULE OF PENALTIES - FIVE STRIKE RULE

GProTour is a developmental tour, our goal is to prepare you for the next level without punishing players excessively due to the financial restraints at this level. As such the tour has created the FIVE (5) strike rule, the aim of the rule is to make the players more aware of their slow play, allow our officials to be more decisive in dealing with slow play, yet not instantly punishing a player.

FIVE STRIKE RULE: A player that has been found to violate the Pace of Play Policy shall receive one strike. A player will have 5 strikes throughout the season, on their fifth and final strike a player will be handed the general penalty (two strokes) applied to the hole they are currently on. A player's strike tally will reset at this point and the process begins. Strikes will carry over from event to event.

Pre-offense stage (*bad time for one hole observed*) – rules official has observed you and asked you to pick up the pace.

First offense (*bad time for two holes observed*) – Strike One

Second offense (*bad time for three holes observed*) – Strike Two

Third offense (*bad time for four holes observed*) – Strike Three

Fourth offense (*bad time for five holes observed*) – Strike Four

Fifth offense (*bad time for six holes observed*) – Strike Five and player will incur the Minor Infraction Penalty under the Conduct Unbecoming of a Professional section within these regulations.

..... Strikes reset.

Pre-offense stage – rules official has asked you to pick up the pace.

First offense – Strike One

And so on...

APPEALS

Any appeal must be referred to the on-site Tournament Director immediately upon completion of the player in question's round. The Tournament Director's decision shall be final. To be considered, the appeal must be made before the end of the current tournament.

PRACTICE ROUNDS

Each tournament on the GProTour schedule will have an official practice round. Practice rounds are included in your entry fee and no additional fees are to be paid to the course in respect to course use.

The tour will publish the date and time and format of the official practice round, players can find this information on the tournament's webpage.

PACE OF PLAY – the tour takes a very relaxed approach to practice rounds. Because there are no formal tee times players can play in group sizes they wish, with a **MAXIMUM** of five (5) per group.

Should at any point during your practice round the following be true, the group in question MUST let the group(s) behind thru.

- There is more than half a hole open for play in front.
- The group behind as a lesser number of players than your group
- You have exceeded more than 13-minutes per hole for the total of holes played (4-hour pace of play)

The tour will continue to take a relaxed approach so long as each of you do not abuse the policy.

CADDY INFORMATION / POLICY

Should a player wish to utilize a caddy throughout a tournament, they must follow all applicable USGA rules and the following:

- Caddies will be provided a caddy bib on their assigned first round tee box.
- Caddies must wear bibs, unless temperatures are to exceed "feels like" index of 100 degrees.
- Caddies and players are responsible for returning bibs after the second round. Failure to do so will result in a \$50 fine to the player, to be taken from that week's earnings or applied as a fine at their next event.
- All caddies must walk.
- Caddies must wear flat rubber soled shoes, such as tennis shoes. Caddies are NOT PERMITTED to wear golf shoes
- Dress Code: Male caddies should wear golf pants/shorts and collared shirt. Female caddies should wear leggings/golf shorts/pants and collared shirt/golf shirt. Standard t-shirts will not be permitted for any caddy.
- Caddies are expected to adhere to the tour alcohol policy, failure to do so will result in removal from the course.
- Caddies may use push carts
- Caddies WILL NOT be permitted to use a golf cart in walking events under any circumstances, regardless of age or physical ability.

MOBILE DEVICE POLICY

Digital Scoring

The Tour utilizes digital scoring for all events. Players are expected to have their phones charged prior to a round and the GProTour app downloaded. Login in codes will be provided the morning of the first round (code will be the same all week)

Digital Yardage Book

The tour utilizes a digital yardage book for all tournaments, within the GProTour app. Players are permitted to use additional apps such as: 18 birdies.

USE DURING COMPETITION

During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device. Local Model G8 in effect.

USE DURING PRO-AMS and PRACTICE ROUNDS

Players may use all functions of their devices; we ask that you are respectful of players in your group.

THERAPY DEVICE POLICY

Players are permitted under the rules of golf to use electronic therapy devices such as; theraguns and hyper-ice. However the use of these devices should not delay play and be used solely for medical and stretching purposes. These devices can only be used for their intended purpose.

PURSE PRIZE CHART and AWARDS

The total event purse at each tournament is compiled from professional entry fees (approx. 90% of member rate) along with any sponsorship funds added.

Regular Season Events

Purse based on 85 professionals. This should be used as a rough guide; numbers will change from tournament to tournament.

		%
1	\$10,000	14.71
2	\$6,000	8.82
3	\$5,000	7.35
4	\$4,250	6.25
5	\$3,500	5.15
6	\$3,000	4.41
7	\$2,750	4.04
8	\$2,600	3.82
9	\$2,450	3.60
10	\$2,300	3.38
11	\$2,150	3.16
12	\$2,000	2.94
13	\$1,900	2.79
14	\$1,800	2.65
15	\$1,700	2.50
16	\$1,600	2.35
17	\$1,500	2.21
18	\$1,425	2.10
19	\$1,375	2.02
20	\$1,325	1.95
21	\$1,275	1.88
22	\$1,250	1.84
23	\$1,225	1.80
24	\$1,200	1.76
25	\$1,175	1.73
26	\$1,150	1.69
27	\$1,125	1.65
28	\$1,100	1.62

Championship Events

Tournaments will feature larger purses and first place prize money ranging from \$15,000 to \$20,000. Purses can vary from championship to championship.

Player of the Year - Bonus Structure

The tour is currently putting our finishing touches on this year's player of the year award and bonus structure. In a departure from a tour championship the tour has opted to create a season long points list with a bonus structure. A to be named number of players will earn bonuses for their consistent play throughout the season.

Regular Season Events Points

<u>POS.</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>POS.</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>POS.</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>POS.</u>	<u>Points</u>
1st	500	11	80	21	43	31	29
2	300	12	75	22	41	32	28
3	200	13	70	23	39	33	27
4	150	14	65	24	37	34	26
5	125	15	60	25	35	35	25
6	110	16	55	26	34	36	24
7	100	17	52	27	33	37	23
8	95	18	49	28	32	38	22
9	90	19	47	29	31	39	21
10	85	20	45	30	30	40	20

Championship Season Events Points

<u>POS.</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>POS.</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>POS.</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>POS.</u>	<u>Points</u>
1st	750	11	120	21	65	31	44
2	450	12	112	22	62	32	43
3	300	13	105	23	59	33	42
4	225	14	98	24	56	34	41
5	190	15	90	25	53	35	40
6	165	16	83	26	51	36	39
7	150	17	78	27	49	37	38
8	142	18	74	28	47	38	37
9	135	19	71	29	46	39	36
10	128	20	68	30	45	40	35

Lowest Scoring Average

The player at the end of the regular season with the lowest scoring average with a minimum of 10 events will receive a \$500 bonus and a trophy representing their accomplishment.



TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

ENTRY ELIGIBILITY

Each tournament will have a set field size, which is dictated by daylight and course preparation time. Field sizes will be as low as 84 professionals and as high as 144 professionals. All tournaments are for professional men with the ability to add three (3) tournament exemptions to amateurs provided there is space available.

At each tournament fields will be comprised of the following categories and below are they conditions of entry:

Members

These are professional players that are members of GProTour for the current season, are in good standing with the tour. Members receive priority entry into each tournament providing they register before the early entry deadline always the Wednesday prior to the tournament at midnight.

Guests (non-members)

Can apply to compete in any tournament but will not be admitted into the field until the member field has been set. Should space be available for guests they will be admitted into the field the Thursday prior to each event.

Amateurs

Only three (3) tournament exemptions are available to amateurs which can only be utilized should the professional field not be full as of the final entry deadline, the Friday prior to each event at midnight. Amateurs would be admitted into a given field on the Saturday prior to a tournament.

Entry Deadlines

All tournaments will have the same schedule for deadlines:

Early Entry Deadline – Wednesday prior to event @ 11:59pm – ALL players

Entries Close – Friday prior to event @ 11:59pm – All players

PRO-AM ENTRIES

At select events the tour will host pro-ams that players may sign up to play in. Each pro-am has its own incentive for players to participate, as such each pro-am will have its own registration process and players are advised to seek that on the tournament information page.

CONDUCT OF TOURNAMENT

Starting Times

The tour utilizes several different formats for start times, these are decided by field size, course preparation time and forecasted weather. The tour may use the following formats.

- Single tee start
- Double tee start (#1 and #10)
- Double tee double wave (#1 and #10 morning and afternoon waves)

The tour will release tee times no later than 6:00pm two days prior to the start of the first round. Groupings will be announced for both rounds One and Two.

Groupings

SINGLE TEE:

In this format the tour will divide the total field size by two, creating two waves. These waves will stay in tee time group order but will flip in start times, for example

Wave One Round One 8:00am – 10:00am	Round Two 10:00am – 12:00pm
Wave Two Round One 10:00am – 12:00pm	Round Two 8:00am – 10:00am

DOUBLE TEE:

In this format the tour will use both tee boxes and such they will be only one wave. Players will tee off on both #1 and #10 for their respective first holes, with the wave flipping for round two for example.

Wave 8:00am – 10:00am

Player One Round One 8:00am start time on #1 Round Two 10:00am start time on #10

DOUBLE TEE DOUBLE WAVE:

In this format the tour will use both tee boxes for both morning and afternoon play. The waves will flip start times, but the groupings will stay in order.

Morning Wave 8:00am – 10:00am

Afternoon Wave 12:00 – 2:00pm

Player One Round One 8:00am start time on #1 Round Two 12:00pm start time on #10

Tee Time Request / Carpooling

Players cannot request any tee time or a tee time wave they would like to be in.

Players may request to be grouped close to another player for transportation purposes. Requests must be texted between 12:00pm – 5:00pm (to the tournament director) the Friday before each event. Texts received outside this window may not be honored.

Reduction of Field (Cut)

At each tournament the tour will utilize a cut to the low 33% and ties of the professional field after the completion of 36-holes.

Once a reduction of field has been made after 36-holes and the next round groupings have been approved by the rule committee, no withdrawal or disqualification will affect the calculation of the cut line.

Waitlist

Once all players have been admitted into a field under the regulations in this document, should a given field reach its maximum allotment of players a waitlist will be created. The waitlist will not be created prior to the event early entry deadline.

Players are waitlisted in the following order with all entries time stamped:

- Members that enter prior to the early entry deadline
- Guests (non-members) that enter prior to the early entry deadline
- First come first served to all players that entry after the early entry deadline

Members do not receive priority entry after the early entry deadline and are subject to admittance to fields with all other players.

Waitlists are updated as soon as the tour has new information to report and can be found on the tournament information page.

Withdrawals

Players may withdraw from any tournament under the following schedule:

- Prior to early entry deadline - zero penalty
- After early entry deadline - \$200 fee

Players may transfer their entry to another event once, should they then proceed to withdraw from the transferred event, player will incur \$200 fee.

Weather Policy

In the unfortunate event of inclement weather, the tour will issue refunds provided that play for the entire field has not commenced, minus a \$75 merchant fee.

If play is stopped due to inclement weather the tour will do its upmost to complete the schedule of play. The tour does not carry the option to extend the event past its scheduled dates.

54-hole events will be scored over 51, 48, 45, 42, 39, 36, 33, 30, 27 and 18 holes. If 18 holes is unable to be completed players will receive a refund of entrance fee minus a \$75 merchant fee.

If play has been suspended for more than One (1) Hour players will have a 15-minute warm up period before play resumes providing that conditions permit the practice facilities can be open.

Notice of stoppage of play

One long blast – signifies immediate stoppage • Weather is dangerous

Three short blasts – players can complete the hole they are currently on. • Weather expected shortly

Evacuation carts will be staged throughout the property, players that have two-holes or less to walk into the clubhouse should do so reserving carts for those further afield.

Players will need to wait out the stoppage in their cars, no clubhouse access or gatherings will be permitted. Updates will come via text message and postings on thegprotour.com

Playoffs

In the event of a tie for first place at the conclusion of a scheduled tournament, a playoff shall be conducted to determine in the tournament winner. The playoff will be sudden death (one hole at a time) and start as soon as the final group have completed scoring. Playoff holes will be announced on the tee box to competitors. Should darkness or weather stop a playoff and it is not able to be resumed on the same day, all playoff competitors will split both the prize money for all accumulated positions and the title.

Distribution of Prize Money

GProTour utilizes ACH direct deposit for all players, with no exceptions. Prize money is distributed under the following schedule:

- Tournaments finishing on Thursday – funds will typically hit account Friday morning
- Tournaments finishing on Friday or Saturday – funds will typically hit account Tuesday morning

Weather Shortened Events

For events completing at least a full field of 18 holes, the full prize purse will be distributed to players.

Tax Forms

USA Residents and Visa holders:

Will need to complete a digital W9 through the GProTour intuit account, if players cannot complete a digital form, players will need to provide a written form. Players are responsible for making sure that the tour has the correct mailing address on file.

Non-USA Residents and Tax Treaty Countries:

Players will need to complete a W-8Ben in person. Depending on the players country of taxation the tour may need to withhold 30% of your earnings.

CONDUCT OF PLAYERS

Best Efforts and Player Conduct

By registering for a GProTour tournament a player obligates himself to attempt to exercise his maximum golf skill and to play in a professional manner. Should it be brought to the rules committees' attention that a player is acting in a way unbecoming of a professional the tour reserves the right to pull the player out of the competition, actions such as but not limited to:

- Profane language
- Club throwing
- Arguing with tour staff
- Lack of competitive effort

- Ability to play at a professional standard (scores exceeding 84 for example)

USGA Rules

Any player who, while participating in any GProTour tournament breaches the Rules of Golf set forth by the USGA or any local rules in effect for the conduct of such tournament, shall be subject to the penalties provided in such rules as well as any other penalties determined by the GProTour Rules Committee. The decision of the Rules Committee for the tournament with respect to such breach shall be final and conclusive.

Practicing

Only contestants, their caddies, their family, instructors, and managers are permitted onto any area designated for practice.

Only contestants, their caddies, their family, instructors, and managers are permitted onto the golf course during an official practice round.

FAMILY MEMBERS: that are not acting as a caddy must stay on the cart paths during a tournament round.

Public Comments and Attacks

The tour has invested a lot of time, generating a favorable reputation with the golf community and with our sponsors. This reputation allows the tour to attract sponsors and host courses creating valuable atmosphere for all. It is an obligation of all players both members and guests (non-members) to refrain from making comments that unreasonably attack or disparage others, including, but not limited to tournaments, tour staff, sponsors, fellow members, and players. Speech that could be reasonably view as hateful, harmful, or abusive is expressly prohibited.

The tour has an expectation of its players, both members and guests that any grievances shall be brought to tour staff in a professional manner.

From time to time, players create rumors, from malice not fact. The tours' goal is to be as transparent with our player base as possible, if you have a question, just ask.

The tour will not tolerate players propagating rumors or unfounded speculation. Players that are found to be harming the reputation of the tour through these means will be disciplined under Conduct Unbecoming of a Professional.

Conduct Unbecoming a Professional

Any player guilty of conduct unbecoming of a professional golfer while participating in GProTour tournaments and sanctioned events (pro-ams, pro-junior etc.), or who otherwise violates the regulations in this handbook shall be subject to disciplinary action under the schedule below.

CLASSES OF PENALTIES

1. WARNING: player has breached this regulation and has been given a verbal warning from Tour staff.
2. MINOR INFRACTION: Player will be suspended for ONE (1) month or TWO (2) Tournaments, whichever comes first.
3. ADVANCED INFRACTION: Player will be suspended for THREE (3) months or FIVE (5) Tournaments, whichever comes first.
4. MAJOR INFRACTION: Player will be suspended for the remainder of the season and the following season.

The tour will evaluate all facts and circumstances around each alleged breach, and if necessary, hand down penalties based on the tour best judgement for “the punishment that fits the crime”.

Where possible the player shall be first notified verbally of any penalty and followed up with a written letter to be delivered by email. The tour reserves the right to hand penalties down at the time of infraction and after the fact.

Appeals

Players may appeal their penalty within 14 days of notification (date of letter) with fact not previously known, such as letters from fellow competitors.