

## **GENERAL**

The tournament regulations of the PGA of America and the South Florida Section PGA Executive Board guide and govern the conduct of all members. These regulations are recognized as part of the mandatory provisions of the government of the Association in the conduct of tournament activity. United States Golf Association (USGA) Rules of Golf shall govern all play except as modified by Local Rules.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

1. All Professionals are responsible for knowing the **Rules of Golf**. It is advisable for them to carry a current Rule Book in their bag.
2. All Professionals are held responsible for knowing their starting times in South Florida Section sponsored, co-sponsored or sanctioned events. Groupings and starting times are generated by random draw. They will be made available by calling the host club or Section office during regular business hours, and they will be emailed to participants at least one day prior to the event (using the email provided during registration). In addition, tee times will be posted online at [www.sfggagolf.com/schedule/](http://www.sfggagolf.com/schedule/) and can also be found by using the SFPGA Tournament App.
3. Entries will close between 72 and 48 hours prior to the event unless otherwise stated on the official entry form, tournament information page or when a stipulated field is filled. Weekend deadlines revert back to the preceding Friday at 4:30 PM. Players may enter a tournament after a deadline and prior to the event date for an additional purse-enhancing fee of \$75.00, provided that space is available and without existing individual or field tee time alteration. Players already entered into an event may not enter a special event (skins game etc.) on the date of the event.
4. No Professional entries will be accepted unless accompanied by payment in the full amount. Should an event sell out more than 14 days in advance of the deadline, PGA members would be put into the field in place of apprentices up until that 14 day window.
5. **Refund Policy:** All refunds will be subject to a \$10 administrative fee. No refunds will be issued after the deadline and if pairings have been made, usually within 24-hours after the deadline date, unless a previously paid alternate can fill the spot. NOTE: This only applies to the entry fee of the tournament. Players will be refunded for the bonus pool and the skins game if they entered that portion of the competition. To receive a full refund (minus administrative fee), withdrawals must be submitted in written form and sent to the Section office via email to ([twolford@pgahq.com](mailto:twolford@pgahq.com)) or by regular mail.
6. **Withdraw, No Card, Did Not Show, Disqualified:** A player will be considered to have withdrawn from an event any time he/she takes themselves out of the event before or between a stipulated round(s). Any player failing to notify a tournament official of withdrawing from an event prior to the start of the stipulated round will be considered a no show or DNS which will result in a \$50 fine. A player will be considered to have no carded or NC any time he/she starts a stipulated round and does not complete the round or returns a card to the scoring table which is designated NC. Failure to notify a tournament official of a NC prior to the conclusion of the stipulated round will result in a \$50 fine. Once a player has started a stipulated round, failure to complete that stipulated round without due cause (illness, injury or emergency) will result in a \$50 fine. A fine of \$100 will be issued for a second offense and any subsequent offense of the above within current tournament activity season. EXCEPTION: Player will be allowed to withdraw during a weather delay without cause while not being subject to fines, but not after play has resumed. A player will be disqualified anytime he breaches a rule of golf where the penalty is disqualification.
7. A player is responsible for all personal charges incurred at the host club.
8. **Rain Policy:** All one-day championship events postponed due to inclement weather will be completed the following day if at all possible. Otherwise, the event will be rescheduled or cancelled. Championship events refer to professional-only competitions. (i.e. Tournament Series, etc.)

## 2018 TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

9. **Host Facility Entry:** For services rendered, host Professionals for all South Florida Section PGA-sanctioned events will receive a complimentary entry into the event that he or she is hosting, which can be utilized by anyone on staff. Host Professionals must file an official entry with the Section.
10. **Female Tees:** Female tees will be set up specifically for female Professionals in all South Florida Section PGA events where female Professionals have entered. The female yardage would be up to a maximum of 85% of the men's yardage. Females participating from the female's tees shall not be eligible to earn playing privileges in the PGA Championship, the PGA Cup and tournament co-sponsored or approved by the PGA Tour, Champions Tour or the Web.com Tour. Prior to starting, a female must declare which tees she will be playing from.
11. **Amateur Status:** Amateurs awaiting reinstatement are eligible to participate in individual events, but must forfeit all winnings. Amateurs awaiting reinstatement are NOT eligible to participate in any team events.
12. **Event Score Posting:** Players must post a full event score in order to receive any winnings (i.e. players who make a cut may not voluntarily WD and still receive last place money.)
13. **Slow Play Inquires:** Please see the SFPGA Rules of Play Card, item #25 and #26. Participants who receive a penalty for violation of slow play are not allowed to discuss or approach field staff. All inquiries must be made through the tournament committee.
14. **Pro-Am Participation:** In consideration of sponsor needs and requirements, some Section events require mandatory participation in Pro-Am activities in order to maintain tournament proper eligibility. Participation would only be mandatory if the Pro-Am and Championship were to be played on consecutive days. Section officials must notify potential Pro-Am Professionals at least seven (7) days prior to an event or the Professional is not subject to rejection from the tournament proper. The order for contacting Professionals to participate in these Pro-Ams will be: (a) Professionals from the Player of the Year Points List #1 - #10; (b) Any Associate winning the previous year's Fort Lauderdale Open; (c) Any Associate winning the previous year's South Florida PGA Open; (d) the Top 3 Associate finishers from the previous year's Section Assistant Championship; (e) then the remainder of the necessary field will consist of players on the Player of the Year Points List #11 and so on.
15. **Purse Break Down:** As a standard rule of thumb, the Section purse should be paid out to 40% of the field (up to a maximum of 70 players & ties) per the standard purse breakdown formula. The bonus pool payout will be based on paying 40% of those entered in the bonus pool competition up to a maximum of 20 spots. The skins payout will be based on paying those individuals that have entered the skins game competition and have earned a skin. If there is not one skin earned, the payout will be awarded to the holes with the least amount of winning scores. Exception: If skins are not awarded during round one of any multi day event, the skin monies for that round will roll over into the next round. The 2018 Global Golf Sales Cup will follow a separate purse breakdown formula that will be posted on the Tournament Information Page when it becomes available.
16. **Non-Scheduled Tour Event:** Should a non-scheduled Web.com or PGA Tour event move within the Section boundaries, a member qualifying event will be utilized to determine: the exempt spot into the PGA Tour event, and spots #2 and #3 for the Web.com event.
17. **Declined Exemptions:** Should the awarded recipient of a PGA Tour exemption decline said exemption, the Section will conduct a member only qualifier to determine whom the exemption will be awarded.
18. **Host Facility Gratuities:** Five dollars per player/round will be set aside from each event entry and returned to the outside staff of the host facility for gratuities.

### ***ELIGIBILITY***

To be eligible to compete in South Florida Section sponsored, co-sponsored, or sanctioned events, a professional must be a member or registered associate in good standing (active classification) with the South Florida Section PGA, primarily employed under Section and National guidelines (Life Members excluded), and have paid all applicable fees. **EXCEPTION:** Members (not associates) who have been actively employed under Section guidelines for full-time employment within the South Florida Section who resign or lose their jobs will be entitled to a playing privilege grace period. This grace period is offered to those members who have been employed for the immediate six months preceding their resignation or termination. If such member becomes unemployed, the grace period shall be for three (3) months from the date of termination. The member must remain in an active classification during this period to keep tournament eligibility. Members will automatically lose eligibility for the grace period if they participate in (2) two or more SFPGA Recognized Tour and/or mini-tour events while not meeting Section Employment Eligibility Guidelines. **NOTE:** Once a member has exhausted the three (3) month grace period he/she can appeal to the Section Board of Inquiry for an additional nine (9) months.

South Florida PGA members and associates will be subject to the same (10) ten tournament rule currently being utilized for PGA of America member championships which states: Must not have played in more than ten (10) combined Adams Pro Tour, Asian Tour, Australia/New Zealand Tour, Dakotas Tour, European Challenge Tour, European Senior Tour, European Tour, JPGA Senior Tour, JPGA Tour, Ladies European Tour (LET), LPGA Futures Tour (Symetra Tour), LPGA Tour, Mackenzie Tour Canada, OnCore Gateway Tour (eGolf Gateway Tour), PGA Tour, PGA Tour Champions, PGA Tour China, PGA Tour LatinoAmerica, SwingThought.com Tour (eGolf Tour), The Safari Tour, The Sunshine Tour and/or Web.com Tour tournaments. The U.S. Open, U.S. Senior Open, PGA Championship and Senior PGA Championship are not included in the 10-tournament count.

A-3 members have no playing privileges unless meeting the following criteria:

- Accumulation of the minimum 36 hours of experience credits necessary for election to PGA membership.
- Employed full-time under National and Section guidelines at a PGA recognized facility in a capacity that would make them eligible for Head Professional (A-1 / A-2) or Director of Golf (A-4) status. Such employment shall have been continuous for the preceding 6-month period.
- A-3 members eligible for PGA of America grace periods will automatically lost Section eligibility once these individuals' grace period expires or fails to gain A-1 / A-2 or A-4 status within two (2) years from the date they become Section eligible.
- A-3 members losing or resigning from these jobs will not be eligible for the Section's playing privilege grace period.

Members of the Association will be given priority status over all registered associates for up to 14 days prior to an entry deadline. Beyond that and up to an entry deadline, entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. These eligibility guidelines do not affect Open events, i.e. PGA Tour Open Qualifiers, South Florida Senior Open and Florida State Senior Open.

- **Challenge Cup Matches:** All participants in the Challenge Cup matches must be PGA members in good standing.
- **Senior Challenge Cup Matches:** All participants in the Senior Challenge Cup matches must be PGA members in good standing.
- **Nelson Cup Matches:** All participants in the Nelson Cup matches must be PGA members in good standing.

***CONDUCT (Discipline, Penalties and Appeals)***

Each PGA of America Member or Associate Participant (“Participant”) in a Section golf tournament acknowledges the right and authority of the Section to (i) fine and suspend from tournament play; and/or to (ii) fine and permanently bar the Participant from Section tournaments. Any Participant in a Section event hereby releases the PGA of America Section, the PGA of America, the PGA Tournament Corporation, Inc., rules officials, each director, officer, member, employee, agent or representative of any of the foregoing jointly and severally, individually and in their official capacity, of and from any and all claims, demands, damages and causes of action whatsoever, in law or equity, arising out of or in connection with any such decision or action by the Section, PGA of America or any appellate body.

Fines are due and payable within thirty (30) days unless the Participant has made a written appeal. Should the appeal be denied, the fine will be due and payable within thirty (30) days of such denial of appeal; and the Participant will be ineligible to participate in any Section tournament and any other PGA of America tournaments and the tournaments of any other PGA Section until said fine is paid in full.

**A. Advance Notification of Proposed Disciplinary Action**

Except for penalties under the Rules of Golf and for “Minor Penalties” (as hereafter defined), any Participant subject to disciplinary action or penalty defined as a “Major Penalty” shall first be notified of such proposed action in writing. Such notice may be presented to the Participant by a tournament official. Within thirty (30) days from the receipt of the notice, the Participant shall submit to the Section Tournament Director or the Section Executive Director such facts or evidence of mitigating circumstances as may apply. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of such information from the Participant, the Section Tournament Director or the Section Executive Director shall notify the Participant in writing of the imposition of the proposed disciplinary action or penalty, or that the proposed action has been dismissed. After the imposition of any penalty hereunder, the Participant shall have the right to appeal to the Section Board of Inquiry as set forth in Section E herein.

**B. Rules of Golf**

Any Participant in a Section tournament who breaches the Rules of Golf or Local Rules in effect for the conduct of such event shall be subject to the penalties provided in such Rules as well as any other penalties imposed by the Section consistent with this policy. The decision of the Section Rules Officials/ and/or the Section Tournament Committee with respect to such Rules breach shall be final and conclusive.

**C. Conduct Unbecoming a Professional**

Any Participant deemed guilty of conduct unbecoming a professional while participating in a Section tournament or in activities related thereto (e.g. practice rounds, hospitality events, etc.) shall be subject to fine, suspension and/or permanent disbarment from Section tournament play as provided in this policy. A fine of \$100 shall be levied for the first offense. A fine of \$150 shall be levied for the second offense, and a prohibition from participating in Section events for one year shall be levied for the third offense. Any Participant that is found guilty of more than three offenses for conduct unbecoming a professional charge may, at the sole discretion of the Section, be permanently prohibited from participating in all Section and PGA of America tournaments and also may be subject to PGA of America Code of Ethics charges. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Section reserves the right to pursue Code of Ethics charges against any PGA Member/Associate for conduct charges related to the conduct of any Participant at Section golf tournaments and related events at the sole discretion of the Section in compliance with the procedures for Code of Ethics hearings as set forth in this Article II of the Bylaws.

**D. Classes of Penalties for Section Tournament Offenses**

1. MINOR PENALTIES.

A Minor Penalty is a fine of not more than \$150 and/or suspension from tournament play for two or less tournaments. A Minor Penalty may be imposed by the Section tournament officials responsible for the conduct of the tournament.

2. MAJOR PENALTIES.

A Major Penalty is a fine in excess of \$150, suspension from tournament play for more than three tournaments, and/or permanent disbarment from Section tournament play.

**E. Appeals**

1. MINOR PENALTIES.

Appeals from Minor Penalties shall be to the Tournament Committee Chairperson (or his/her designee). Such appeal may be in writing or oral. Such appeal shall be received by the Tournament Committee Chair no later than thirty (30) days subsequent to the infraction. The Tournament Committee Chair shall render the decision on appeal in writing within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the appeal and submit a final report to the Section Executive Director. The Section Executive Director shall submit this final report to the Association General Counsel. Such decision shall be final. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that the Section determines that it would prefer that a Minor Penalty shall be submitted to the Board of Control for a hearing in lieu of action by the Section, then the Section Board of Inquiry will follow the same procedures set forth herein for all matters submitted to the Board of Control for Code of Ethics procedures.

2. MAJOR PENALTIES.

Within thirty days from the date of notification of a Major Penalty, the Participant may submit a written appeal to the Section Board of Inquiry. Failure to file such an appeal shall be deemed conclusively to be an admission of the charges specified in the notification.

Thereafter, the Section Board of Inquiry will prepare a report of the matter to the Board of Control and the matter will be set for a hearing before the Board of Control in accordance with all applicable procedures set forth herein for ethics appeals heard by the Board of Control. The Board of Control shall hear the appeal either at the next regularly scheduled Board of Control hearing or at an expedited meeting that may be held in person or via conference call at the discretion of the Chair of the Board of Control. The decision of the Board of Control shall be final. An appeal shall operate to stay the effective date of any penalty, except suspension from a Section tournament then in progress or scheduled for the calendar week in which the alleged violation occurred, until after a final decision on the appeal.

All fines must be paid within thirty (30) days from the imposition of the fine, or in the event of an appeal, within (30) days from the decision rendered by the Board of Control in the event the Board of Control upholds the findings of the Tournament Committee Chair.

**GENERAL SECTION RULES & REGULATIONS**

**Tee Times / Shotgun Event Start:** The SFPGA will designate prior to each event the conditions of starting for the competition. This information will appear on the event entry form/online tournament information page and at the SFPGA website. Either a tee time or shotgun start may be utilized. A morning shotgun start will be utilized in all SFPGA partner-style events where the field is less than 129 players per course unless otherwise stated.

## 2018 TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

**Non-Metal Spike Policy:** It is a requirement for Professionals to wear non-metal spikes at all Section events regardless of the host site policies.

**Grooves, Condition of Competition:** The SFPGA will not adopt the grooves condition of competition for Section events.

**Practice Rounds:** An official practice round shall be defined as any round of golf played at a facility hosting a section event 30 days prior to the scheduled event. This will apply to all golf professionals that will be playing in the event whether or not they have registered for the event at the time of the practice round. If a participant of this event is a staff member at the host facility, then the official practice round will be the day before the scheduled event for those staff members. This applies if the round of golf was complimentary or paid.

**Dress Code – Tournaments & Practice Rounds:** The following dress code will be enforced at all South Florida PGA sanctioned events including Open competitions and designated practice rounds. PGA affiliates shall present a neat appearance in both clothing and personal grooming. Clothing worn by a player preceding, during and post round shall be consistent with currently accepted facility attire. Pants must be worn by males at all Section events except those (Professional only) events between June 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> when shorts may be worn with the following stipulations:

1. The host facility/professional must approve the wearing of shorts.
2. Shorts will be a Bermuda style with solid traditional colors (no cargo, board, tennis or denim) at a length no shorter than slightly above the knee.
3. Shorts may be worn at Professional only events except the Section Championship.
4. Professionals may wear shorts at the South Florida Open, Assistant Professional Championship, Senior Section Professional Championship, Pro-Scratch, Pro-Junior and Pro-Superintendent.

Female contestants may wear slacks, culottes, walking shorts or golf skirts, which constitute acceptable clothing worn by women in connection with participation in professional golf tournaments. Preceding and post round; tee-shirts, flip flops/sandals and jeans are unacceptable. Dress code is subject to change as per host facility restrictions. The Tournament Director shall interpret this regulation, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. Failure to adhere to the dress code will result in a \$50.00 fine.

**Dress Code – General Gatherings:** The following dress code will be enforced at all South Florida Section PGA general gatherings. Business dress (jackets for men, equivalent style business attire for women) required. If meeting/gathering is held in conjunction with a Section tournament, those competing in the event will be allowed to wear his/her golf attire to said meeting.

**Alcohol Policy:** Alcohol is not permitted at any point during any round(s) of play for the South Florida Open as well as all Professional only events conducted by the Section (“during any round(s) of play” includes any suspension of play). The penalty for a first offense violation of this policy would be a \$50.00 fine. The second offense would be a \$100.00 fine. Any third time offender of this policy will be suspended from all section and chapter activities for thirty days.

**Transgender Policy:** On or after **Wednesday, December 6, 2017** (the adoption date of this policy), this policy shall set forth the procedures by which a transgendered athlete may participate in a South Florida PGA golf tournament. The policy seeks to assure fair competition for all entrants in South Florida PGA tournaments.

- **Application Process:** For entry into any South Florida PGA golf tournament in which it is required that an athlete is a specific gender (male or female), each athlete must identify himself or herself during the entry application process as a person of that particular gender.

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- In the event that an athlete has had gender reassignment surgery at any point after puberty, that athlete must provide certain documentation to the South Florida PGA in accordance with the procedures set forth below.
- Gender reassignment prior to puberty is not subject to these requirements.
- Failure to provide proof of gender when gender has been reassigned, and to comply with the process and procedures set forth in this policy, may result in disqualification from the applicable tournament.
- Eligibility to play in a South Florida PGA golf tournament will only be evaluated in connection with an athlete who has submitted an entry application to play in that South Florida PGA golf tournament. The specific South Florida PGA golf tournament must be identified in writing with the accompanying documentation specified below.

### Applicant Eligibility Requirements

- **Pre-pubescent** – For purposes of this policy, individuals who have undergone sex reassignment from male to female before puberty are regarded as girls and women (female). This applies as well for female to male reassignment, who should be regarded as boys and men (male).
- **Post pubescent** – Individuals who have undergone sexual reassignment from male to female or female to male after puberty are eligible for participation in South Florida PGA sanctioned golf tournaments if they have:
  - a) Undergone surgical anatomical changes, including external genitalia changes and reassignment changes completed during a gonadectomy (or other equivalent surgical procedure) no less than two (2) years prior to the entry deadline for the applicable South Florida PGA golf tournament;
  - b) Undergone hormonal therapy appropriate for the assigned sex, administered in a verifiable manner, for a sufficient length of time, but no less than one (1) year, to minimize or negate gender-related advantages in sport competitions (i.e. substantial reduction in testosterone); and
  - c) Presented verifiable legal documentation recognizing the athlete's assigned gender (or transitioned gender status) conferred by the appropriate official authorities.

### Eligibility Verification Requirements

Gender reassignment documentation must be submitted in triplicate via overnight or first class mail in an envelope marked "Confidential" and addressed to the South Florida PGA Executive Director. All such documentation must be received at the South Florida PGA office no later than the close of entries for the specific South Florida PGA golf tournament. The documentation, which will be reviewed by the South Florida PGA's medical panel, comprised of specialists reasonably and impartially selected by the South Florida PGA in its sole discretion (at least one (1) panelist shall be chosen by the applicant), must include the following:

1. Hospital records confirming completed surgical gonadectomy; and
2. All office records documenting related follow-up treatment.

In the event that hospital records have been purged or lost, or are otherwise unobtainable, a current physical examination performed by a physician experienced in this type of surgery, a report from that physician, and the documentation referenced in (1) and (2) above, will be considered and reviewed.

All reasonable transitioned status verification processes will be at the expense of the athlete applicant.

The suitability and acceptance of each of the above conditions, and any documentation presented to evidence any of the aforementioned requirements, is subject to the South Florida PGA's sole discretion.

Procedure for Applicants who have been Previously Approved Under this Policy

If eligibility for entry in a South Florida PGA golf tournament has been previously approved under this policy, subsequent South Florida PGA golf tournament entry applications, whether in the initial or subsequent years, will be accepted without resubmission of the documentation required in this policy.

Privacy

The South Florida PGA will maintain such information and documentation in confidence, with only counsel, the South Florida PGA medical panel, the South Florida PGA Executive Director, and limited South Florida PGA staff members having access to such information and documentation.

The results of any transitioned status verification conducted by the South Florida PGA shall be strictly confidential and shall not be made public, but will be reported to the South Florida PGA counsel who shall advise the South Florida PGA Executive Director on all matters related to the athlete applicant's transitioned status verification.

The South Florida PGA expressly disclaims any ability to limit or prevent third party inquiries made directly to the athlete or to others. In the event that a third party, including media representatives, makes an inquiry with respect to a particular athlete's eligibility to play in a particular golf tournament, the South Florida PGA will respond simply that the athlete was deemed eligible to compete in the tournament.

Questions regarding the process & procedures can be addressed to the South Florida PGA Board of Inquiry.