



PGA

Southern Ohio Section

Tournament Handbook

2023 Edition

Southern Ohio PGA Tournament

Mission Statement

As an Association of Members, the Southern Ohio PGA tournament program exists as a member benefit and is not intended to be a primary source of income for our professionals. All events are considered Southern Ohio PGA events. However, the schedule will be broken down into "Championships" & "Pro-Ams".

"Championship" events are primarily those of superior competition and quality.

The list of "Championship" events shall include, but are not limited to the following: The Southern Ohio PGA Professional Championship, Senior SOPGA Professional Championship, SOPGA Lady Professional Championship, SOPGA Assistants' Championship, SOPGA Individual Match Play, SOPGA Senior Individual Match Play, Spring, Summer & Fall Pro-Pro Championships, Legacy Championship, Gem City Classic, Capital City Classic, Queen City Classic, New Albany Classic, SOPGA Classic, Pro-Assistant, The SOPGA Tour Championship, & Ohio Cup.

"Pro-Am" events are primarily local, fraternal competitions providing collegial, professional playing opportunities. The "Pro-Am" schedule shall be planned around "Championship" events. The Southern Ohio PGA shall schedule an appropriate mix of "Championship" & "Pro-Am" events to provide maximum opportunities to benefit the entire Membership.

The Section will also support & promote selected tournaments conducted by allied associations and charities that enhance playing opportunities and/or financial benefits for our membership.

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2023 Southern Ohio PGA Tournament Committee

Chairman-	Andy Montgomery, PGA - Kinsale Golf & Fitness Club
Committee Member-	Dave Bahr, PGA- Maketewah C.C.
Committee Member-	Jeff Olson, PGA- The Golf Club of Dublin
Committee Member-	Joe Moore, PGA- Beaver creek G.C.
Committee Member-	Tim Krapfel, PGA- Bel-Wood C.C.
Staff Liaison-	Tim Grieser, PGA- SOPGA Section Office

2022 Player of the Year

Bob Sowards, PGA- Kinsale Golf & Fitness Club

2022 Senior Player of the Year

Bob Sowards, PGA- Kinsale Golf & Fitness Club

2022 Women's Player of the Year

Melissa Yeazell, PGA- Tri County Golf Ranch

2022 Associate Player of the Year

Taylor Holt- The Lakes Golf & Country Club

2022 Professional Championship

Sam Arnold, PGA- Vineyard Golf Course

2022 Senior Professional Championship

Bob Sowards, PGA- Kinsale Golf & Fitness Club

2022 Women's Professional Championship

Melissa Yeazell, PGA- Tri County Golf Ranch

2022 Assistant Professional Championship

Chris Rossi - Heritage Club

TOURNAMENT POLICIES

General

Play is governed by the current USGA Rules of Golf, the SOPGA Local Rules & Conditions of Competition Card, and, where applicable, by the Local Rules and Definitions as outlined herein, subject to change for particular tournaments by the Tournament Committee.

Players Fee

The Players Fee is to be paid in full (\$175) by the time of registration in order to participate in SOPGA Section events with the following exceptions.

Exceptions: The following events do not require the Player's Fee to be paid to participate:

- SOPGA Pro-Am Series (additional fee applies)
- SOPGA Spring Meeting
- SOPGA Fall Meeting
- SOPGA Reach Pro-Am
- SOPGA Pro-Assistant
- SOPGA Professional Championship
- SOPGA Senior Professional Championship
- SOPG Assistant and Women's Professional Championship.
- PGA Professionals hosting a SOPGA Section event.

All fees collected will only be used for Tournament administrative costs.

Eligibility

In General, PGA Members & Associates of the Southern Ohio Section in good standing shall be eligible to compete in all Section Tournaments unless noted on application or below (ex. Southern Ohio PGA Professional Championship). Associates must be eligibly employed. PGM Students may play in Associate Division events and Pro-Am Series events provided they have met the additional requirements provided below.

NOTE 1: The SOPGA Players Fee must be paid before registering for Section tournaments. Please note exceptions in the Player's Fee Section.

NOTE 2: SOPGA Members and Associates must not have played in more than **eight (8) combined Adams Pro Tour (APT), Asian Tour, Dakotas Tour, DP World Tour (formerly the European Tour), Epson Tour (formerly the Symetra Tour - LPGA), European Challenge Tour, European Legends Senior Tour (formerly the European Senior Tour), GPro Tour, JPGA Senior Tour, JPGA Tour, Korn Ferry Tour, Ladies European Tour (LET), LPGA Tour, Mackenzie TOUR-Canada, PGA Australia Tours, PGA New Zealand Tours, PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions, PGA TOUR-China, PGA TOUR LatinoAmerica, The Safari Tour and The Sunshine Tour tournaments. The U.S. Open, U.S. Senior Open, U.S. Women's Open, PGA Championship, KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship and KPMG Women's PGA Championship are not included in the *8-tournament count.

****NOTICE for 2023 Section PPC Championships leading into the 2024 PGA Professional Championship, the number of "Professional Tours" that a PGA Member may participate in, and still remain eligible to**

compete in PGA Member Championships, will be reduced from eight (8) to four (4). This 4-tournament rule will be applied to all Championships & Player of the Year eligibility beginning in 2024 (EXCEPTION: The current year's PGA Professional Champion will still be allowed a maximum number of eight (8) tournaments, applicable only for the year they won). (Board Approval - June 2022)

NOTE 3: SOPGA Match Play Competitions – Individuals who become ineligible (suspensions, non-payment of dues, etc.) at any point during a match play event shall be suspended from playing until such time as they return to active status. If they are unable to regain active status before a scheduled deadline for competition of a match, they will have to forfeit to their opponent. Note: Playing partners in a team match play competition have the option to continue on alone until their playing partner rejoins them (provided the format allows). They will still be responsible for completing their match before the deadline for each round. Substitutions or replacement of a team member will not be permitted.

NOTE 4: Greater Cincinnati Championship Eligibility – Championships (Stroke Play, Senior Stroke Play, and Match Play) will be sheltered to only members from the Greater Cincinnati area.

NOTE 5: Any Section Hall of Fame Member shall be granted Section Member eligibility for all Section events, even if they are no longer affiliated with Southern Ohio Section provided, they have paid their Players Fee.

NOTE 6: Class A-3, Reserve, Inactive & Suspended Members/Associates are not eligible to play in any Section events.

The SOPGA Tournament Committee may set policies for eligibility with Board approval.

SOPGA Tournament Entry Procedures

Please note the same entry procedures will be utilized for all SOPGA Section tournaments.

1. Register Online at thesouthernohiopga.com
2. Online registrations will shut down at midnight Wednesday in the week prior to the event.
3. All eligible SOPGA Members & Associates can register at any time prior to the deadline for Section events.
4. Friday - Pairing Sheet(s) will be posted online & emailed to the field and host facility.
5. Tee time request will be awarded based on order of registration (First Come First Serve-will be given a tee time within 30 minutes of request)

Special requests & tee time preferences will be honored, but not guaranteed.

Note 1: Tournament Committee retains the right to alter or modify any event registration procedure.

Entry Fees

Entry fees must be collected at time of registration.

Section Event Standard Entry Fees

\$135 per Person (increase of \$15 in 2020)

Deductions from Section Entry Fee:

- 1) Standard Course Fee - \$40 (increase of \$15 in (2020)
 - All Course Fees Included
 - A \$5 Administration Fee
- 2) Any additional items must have Tournament Chairman approval.

Section Pro-Am Standard Entry Fees

\$100 per person per entry (players fee paid)

\$125 per person per entry (players fee not paid)

Deductions from Pro-Am Entry Fee:

1) Standard Course Fee - \$40

-All Course Fees Included

-A \$5 Administration Fee per team

3) Any additional items must have Tournament Chairman approval.

*Standard fee for box lunches is \$20 per lunch.

Pairings & Starting Times

Pairings and starting times for SOPGA Section events will be assigned no less than 3 days prior to any event.

Pairings will be available on BlueGolf and emailed out to all participants.

Times as assigned are final, and subject only to changes by the Tournament Committee or Tournament Director.

Pairing Policy

All Section Events will use the following procedure to create pairings:

1) Randomize

2) Make Changes Based on Special Requests

NOTE 1: You may request an individual during registration. Requests to be paired with specific individuals will be honored once per season in the "Classic" events. There is no guarantee you will be paired with your request.

NOTE 2: Professionals from the same facility will NOT be paired together
(Exception: SOPGA Professional Championship).

NOTE 3: The SOPGA Professional Championship pairings will include the top 18 players in the current Rolex Player of the Year that will be paired together in order. The six pairings will be randomly distributed in the field with the first 3 pairings on the front and the next 3 pairings on the back.

NOTE 4: No two Professionals should compete together more than once. No same facility professionals may be paired together.

Entry Deadline and Full Field

Section Events

A full field in a Section event shall be defined by the number of participants entered into an event at the close of entry (i.e. Posted Deadline). Participants who attempt to enter after the deadline will be placed on a waitlist and will be entered into the tournament only in the event of a cancellation or in order to complete a pairing.

Pro-Am Series Events

A full field in a Pro-Am Series event is defined by the number of available tee times at a host facility. When the number of registrants/teams has exceeded the number of available tee times, participants will be dropped into the field based on the Tournament Entry procedures. Any participant who is not placed into the field based on the criteria listed in the Tournament Entry procedures or attempts to sign up after the pairings have been sent to the host facility will be added to a waitlist that will be supplied to the host professional. The waitlist will be prioritized as a first come first serve basis.

EXCEPTION: Match Play Competitions – No waitlist will exist once the bracket has been published to the participants.

NOTE: No additional fees will be charged for a late entry.

Purses & Prize List

Prize breakdown shall be available for each competitor for review for all events. Section Events utilize a 28% Breakdown. Prize chart is on page 15 of this handbook.

Provisions for deviating from suggested 28% must be approved by a vote of the Tournament Committee.

There will be a separate purse for professionals and amateurs.

Sponsor monies will be allocated in the following percentages:

3 Divisions (Main, Senior, Lady)

Main Division: 80%

Senior Division: 15%

Women's Division: 5%

2 Divisions (Main, Senior)

Main Division: 85%

Senior Division: 15%

Cancellation Policy & Refunds

No refunds for cancellations or withdrawals after the tournament deadline (Friday at noon or 3 days prior to the event) unless authorized by the Section Tournament Committee.

Professionals failing to notify the SOPGA Section Office of a withdrawal before the deadline shall be responsible for the entry fee.

The Section Tournament Committee must review all requests for a refund received after the 12:00 pm cancellation deadline. Such a request must be in writing and received no later than on the day of the event. The Section Tournament Committee shall render a decision in writing within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the request and submit a final report to the Section Executive Director. Please note: The Tournament Committee's decision is final. Any appeals received after the day of the event will not be considered.

Failure to file an appeal as stated shall be deemed to be an admission of the charges specified in the notification.

Senior, Super Senior & Ladies Divisions

Qualifications for (Super) Senior Divisions

- 1) Seniors professionals are defined as an individual 50 years of age or older on the day of the event.
- 2) Super Senior professionals who are 65 years of age and older on the day of the event.
- 3) Senior amateurs are defined as an individual 50 years of age or older on the day of the event.
- 4) Seniors MUST play from the tee at which they register. ABSOLUTELY NO changes day of event.

Note Regarding Pro-Am Events: There will only be one Team division (gross and net), i.e. no separate team division for Seniors or Ladies Divisions

There will be a Main Division winner (Overall Champion) and a Senior Division winner with a playoff only taking place in the Main Division.

Senior Divisions

(50-64 years of age)

- 1) Senior Division participants may receive Player of the Year and Ohio Cup points competing from the Senior tee or the Main tee.
- 2) Senior tees will be set at approximately 95% of the main teeing Ground.
- 3) Seniors may compete in the Main Division and Senior Division, provided they pay the additional entry fee and play from the Main Division tee (can win in both divisions).

Super Senior Divisions

(65 years of age and older)

- 1) Super Senior Division Participants who are 65 years old and older may play from a shorter tee than the Main Division Tee Markers (approx. 90% of the Main Division yardage)
- 2) Individuals who compete in this division are not eligible to compete in the Main Division but are eligible to compete in the Senior Division for purse only. No points are awarded for this division.

Ladies Divisions

- 1) Ladies will always play from a Forward Tee (84%– 86% of Main Division yardage)
- 2) Ladies may compete in the Main Division Only, a Ladies Only Division, or in both the Ladies and Main Division
- 3) Ladies may compete in the Main Division and Ladies Division, provided they pay the additional entry fee (can win in both divisions).

Outstanding Fees

Anyone that is 30 days delinquent on fees owed to the Section (entry fees, fines, returned checks, uniforms, etc.) shall have their playing privileges revoked until said payment is processed in full. The 30 days shall be based from the date of the tournament or program, except in the case of appeals, in which case the 30 days shall be based on the date the appeal was decided.

Amateurs

The Southern Ohio PGA (SOPGA) reserves the right to adjust the handicaps of any amateurs if warranted by previous performance. Two (2) rounds of exceptional tournament performance can trigger a handicap adjustment for an amateur competing in SOPGA events for the remainder of the season. Professionals are responsible for their amateurs' handicap; any flagrant violation will be cause for disciplinary action. Amateurs must have a current handicap established at a USGA Authorized Golf Club or World Golf Handicap.

Amateur Handicaps in Pro-Am events cannot be less than zero. An individual with a plus handicap will play to a zero in said event. If an amateur has two or more handicaps, they shall play with the lower of the two.

Amateurs must have an active handicap at the time of registration or play as scratch for said event.

Amateur Prize Limitations: While no cumulative prize limits are in place, individuals will be required to follow USGA guidelines for maximum allowable single event prizes (currently set at \$1,000.00). The prize will be awarded in merchandise credit to the host club regardless of a scratch or handicap event.

Amateur entry fees in "Classic" events will include \$40 going to the main purse for professionals and a \$5 administrative fee. Amateurs will play for a separate purse based on the number of amateur entries.

Amateur Certificates: Host Clubs will be responsible for maintaining all records/certificates of amateurs winning merchandise credit at their event. The Section Office shall post on the website the results informing the team-winning Professionals of their amateur's credit at the host facility.

Gratuities and Use of Facilities

Professionals and any amateur partners competing in a SOPGA event are expected to use the facilities made available at the host club. Also, they must meet their obligations for the gratuities of such personnel.

Dress Code

Male Professionals:

Proper dress code is required at all SOPGA events. Denim of any style, cut-offs and tank tops are not permitted. Proper attire can include collared shirts, mock turtlenecks, slacks and golf-styled Bermuda shorts (see note #2) in any Section event.

Female Professionals:

Proper dress code is required at all SOPGA events. Denim of any style, cut-offs and tank tops are not permitted. Proper attire can include skirts, culottes, dresses, slacks and golf styled Bermuda shorts (see note #2) in any Section event.

Amateurs:

Male & Female Amateur participants are required to adhere to the same dress code policy as Male & Female Professionals. Amateurs in any Section event may wear golf-styled Bermuda shorts.

Clarifications:

- 1) Contestants not wearing proper attire shall not be permitted to compete.
- 2) An announcement detailing acceptable dress code will be made prior to each Section Event.
- 3) Dress code policies are in effect for any and all activities associated with an SOPGA Event, to include practice rounds and social functions.
- 4) If the appearance of any participant or caddie is deemed to be injurious to the Section's program, it will be within the power of the Tournament Committee/Director to take any necessary action, which may include prohibiting play or participant expulsion from the site.

Cell Phone Policy

Voice phone calls are not permitted at any time during tournament rounds. Participants must keep their phone on silent/vibrate mode. Functions such as texting, internet usage, etc. are permitted provided they are not a distraction to fellow competitors and don't violate any rules set forth by the host facility.

Rain, Inclement Weather, Course Unplayable

The Rules Committee for that specific event shall have the right to postpone or suspend play.

In Pro-Am's, if 50% of the field has completed play, the tournament shall be deemed official and prizes will be paid out in the usual manner. Those amateurs, who did not complete play due to suspension or cancellation, shall be entitled to a refund. Every effort shall be made to assure the host club or professional does not lose money.

When darkness prevents completion of a round, play will be suspended and resumed the next day (with the approval of the host club). Those amateurs who are unable to complete play due to darkness shall be entitled to a refund.

Carts

Carts may be used for any events at the discretion of the host club and/or the Tournament Committee.

Sanctioned Events / Conflicting Events Policy

The Conflicting Event Policy prohibits SOPGA Professionals and Associates from participating in Unsanctioned Events. Violators of this policy are subject to a fine up to \$500, and possible suspension of playing privileges for one year from the date of the infraction.

Unsanctioned Events are any golf tournaments or programs held within Section Boundaries that pays a professional purse and is not a Sanctioned Event. SOPGA Professionals and Associates are prohibited from playing in an Unsanctioned Event. By participating in such an event, SOPGA Professionals and Associates would be in violation of the Conflicting Event Policy.

NOTE: PGA Host Professionals and PGA Affiliated Tournament Organizers are required to submit a waiver. All events must submit a SOPGA Event Waiver no later than a month prior to their event. If an event does not receive documentation granting approval, the Host Professional, PGA Affiliated Organizers and/or PGA Participants could be subject to fines and possible playing suspensions. The Tournament Committee's decision will be made with the best interests of the Section in mind. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to deny tournament waiver requests for any reason at any time. The Tournament Committee also reserves the right to revoke any approved tournament waivers for any reason at any time.

NOTE: In specific situations where there is not a PGA Professional hosting or affiliated with organizing the event, each SOPGA Participant will be responsible for acquiring a waiver.

Minimum Standards for Third Parties Wishing to Use SOPGA Professionals

The following minimum standards must be satisfied by event organizers hoping to solicit or use SOPGA Professionals to compete in their tournament/event/outing:

- 1) SOPGA Professionals are not required to bring or solicit a team for the event.
- 2) If required, the max SOPGA Professional entry fee for an event/outing/tournament will be \$100.
- 3) A minimum of \$100 per-professional must be contributed to the Professional purse by the prospective outing/charity. Note: This in addition to any added monies from actual professional entry fee. Paid professional course fees (i.e. carts, green fees, lunch, etc.) do not count towards minimum.
- 4) Outing/Tournament Organizers will collect all entries and pay out the professional purse (within 30 days of the event) in full consultation with the Section Office.
- 5) The minimum number of professionals in the field should be no less than (20).
- 6) All PGA Professionals participating (regardless of soliciting body) in the event must be in good standing with the PGA of America.
- 7) Event cannot conflict with an already scheduled SOPGA Championship.

All requirements listed above must be met in order for a third party to be considered further for an SOPGA tournament waiver.

Section Tournament Policy 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.

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.

Rules of Golf

Any Participant in a Section tournament who breaches the Rules of Golf of the United States Golf Association 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.

Any appeal of a penalty must be referred to the onsite Tournament Official immediately upon completion of a player's round. The Tournament Director's decision shall be final.

Any and all discussion regarding rule violations are to be put in writing by the Rules Officials and handed or emailed to the Tournament Administrator to be put on file.

Conduct Unbecoming a PGA 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. 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.

Examples of unbecoming conduct includes but not limited to the following:

- Club throwing/club breaking
- Damage to course equipment or property
- Profanity directed at rules officials, other competitors, spectators, sponsors, tournament staff, volunteers or others
- Excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages or any use of illegal substances while participating and/or attending an event
- Improper cart etiquette (i.e. parking in restricted areas)

- NOT USING the restroom facilities provided on the course
- Receiving/making voice phone calls during tournament rounds
- Any other conduct deemed by the Tournament Committee to be unbecoming a PGA Golf Professional

NOTE: Alcoholic beverages will be permitted in all SOPGA events except the following:

- SOPGA Professional Championship
- SOPGA Senior Professional Championship
- SOPGA Women's and Assistant's Championship

Classes of Penalties for Section Tournament Offenses

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.

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.

Appeals – Minor Penalties

Appeals from Minor Penalties must be received by the Section Tournament Committee within 30 days of the event. Such a request must be in writing. The Section Tournament Committee shall render a 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 a 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.

Appeals – 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.

Slow Play Provision

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to position at the back of the field an individual who has been placed on the clock two (2) or more times during a tournament season. This individual would also be subject to receiving a letter of reprimand as a result of their slow play.

The Tournament Committee will receive a list of individuals who were placed on the clock after each Section Event.

Southern Ohio PGA Associate Tour

Philosophy

To motivate, activate, and educate Associates working at facilities throughout the Southern Ohio Section, and to provide each of them with increased opportunities for professional and personal growth.

What is It?

The Associate Tour is a series of tournaments conducted by the Southern Ohio PGA for professionals aspiring to become PGA Members. They are usually held in conjunction with a Section Classic event.

Eligibility

Registered eligibly employed Associates in good standing who have paid their Player's Fee.
Suspended Associates are not eligible to participate in Associate Tour Tournaments.

SOUTHERN OHIO PGA POINT STRUCTURE

SOUTHERN OHIO PGA EVENTS

Place	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
1	300	250	200	250
2	225	180	130	180
3	205	160	120	155
4	185	150	110	155
5	175	140	100	125
6	165	130	90	125
7	155	120	80	125
8	145	110	75	125
9	135	100	70	60
10	130	90	65	60
11	125	80	60	60
12	120	75	55	60
13	115	70	50	60
14	110	65	45	60
15	105	60	40	60
16	100	55	38	60
17	95	50	36	
18	90	45	34	
19	85	42	32	
20	80	40	30	
21	75	38	28	
22	70	36	26	
23	65	34	24	
24	60	32	22	
25	55	30	20	
26	50	28	18	
27	45	26	16	
28	40	24	14	
29	35	22	12	
30	30	20	10	
31	28	18		
32	26	16		
33	24	14		
34	22	12		
35	20	10		

OUTSIDE EVENTS

Place	Class E	Class F	Class G
1	300	250	150
2	225	175	125
3	205	160	115
4	185	140	110
5	175	120	105
6	170	100	100
7	165	90	90
8	160	80	80
9	155	70	70
10	150	60	60
11	145	50	50
12	140	45	45
13	135	40	40
14	130	35	35
15	125	30	30
16	120	29	29
17	115	28	28
18	110	27	27
19	105	26	26
20	95	25	25

Additional Points

- Playing in US Open Final Qualifying
+50 points
- Playing in US (Senior) Open
+100 points
- US Open (Senior)
Making the cut- +50 points
- Playing in PGA (Senior) Championship
+100 points
- PGA (Senior) Professional Championship
Making the first cut- +25 points
Making the second cut- +50 points (total)
- Ohio Open (Senior)
Making the cut- +25 points

Class A SOPGA Events:

SOPGA Professional Championship
SOPGA Senior Professional Championship
SOPGA Women's Professional Championship

Class B SOPGA Events:

SOPGA Tour Championship

Class C SOPGA Events:

SOPGA Stableford
Legacy Championship
Springfield Classic
Queen City Classic
SOPGA Classic
Capital City Classic
Section Pro-1 Am at Columbus C.C.
New Albany Classic

Class D SOPGA Events:

Senior Match Play
Individual Match Play

Class E Outside Events:

US Open
US Senior Open
PGA Championship
Senior PGA Championship
US Women's Open
KPMG Women's PGA Championship

Class F Outside Events:

PGA Professional National Championship
Senior PGA Professional National Championship
LPGA Club Professional National Championship

Class G Outside Events:

Ohio Open
Ohio Senior Open

*Ohio Cup team will be decided September 1st or the last Section event leading up to this date

**Points are based on overall finish including amateurs in any field

***Must have a cut to award points to players that would have made a cut

****Must make Match Play bracket to receive points

PURSE DISTRIBUTION CHART

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SOPGA Pace of Play Guidelines

The pace of play will be established using the suggestions of the USGA and, if necessary, adjustments by the Tournament Administrator and the Host Professional. The pace of play for the event will be posted at the starting location and scoring location and will be located on each scorecard.

Maximum Allowable Time

The maximum allowable time is the maximum time considered necessary by the Committee for a group to complete its round. This is expressed in a per-hole and aggregate time format and includes all time associated with playing the game including time for rulings and time between holes.

Definition of "Out of Position"

The first group to start will be considered "out of position" if, at any time during the round, the group's cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes played.

Any following group will be considered out of position if there is a par-3 or par-4 hole open or when the preceding group is on the putting green of a par-5 hole when the group in question is on the teeing ground and has exceeded the time allowed for the number of holes played.

Procedure When Group is Out of Position

1. Referees will monitor pace of play and decide whether a group that is "out of position" should be timed. An assessment of whether there are any recent mitigating circumstances, e.g. a lengthy ruling, lost ball, unplayable ball, etc. will be made.

If a decision is made to time the players, each player in the group will be subject to individual timing and a referee will advise each player that they are "out of position" and they are being timed.

2. The maximum time allocated per stroke is 40 seconds. (10 extra seconds are allowed for the first player to play: a) a tee shot; b) an approach shot to the green; and c) a chip or putt).

The timing will start when a player has had sufficient time to reach the ball, it is his or her turn to play and he or she is able to play without interference or distraction. Time taken to determine distance and select a club will count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, timing will start when the player has had a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace the ball, repair damage that interferes with the line of play and move loose impediments on the line of play. Time spent looking at the line of play from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

Timings will be taken from the moment it is decided by the referee that it is the player's turn to play and he or she is able to play without interference or distraction. The group will be

timed until back in position or until the rules committee has determined the timing is no longer needed.

Penalty for Breach of Pace of Play Local Rule:

Penalty for first breach:

One-stroke penalty

Penalty for second breach:

General Penalty applied in addition to the penalty for the first breach.

Penalty for third breach:

Disqualification

Until a player has been advised of a bad time, he or she cannot incur a further bad time.

Checkpoints

There will be 3 checkpoints on the golf course with clocks to indicate if the group is on pace. One located on the front nine, one at the turn, and one located on the back nine. If a group is off pace at one of these checkpoints, the group will be made aware they are off pace and an official will be notified to monitor each players pace as specified within this local rule.

Procedure When Again Out of Position During Same Round

If a group is "out of position" more than once during a round, the above procedure will apply on each occasion. Bad times and the application of penalties in the same round will be carried forward until the round is completed. A player will not be penalized if he or she has a second bad time before being advised of the earlier bad time.

Note 1: Any and all discussion regarding rules violations are to be put in writing by the Rules Officials and handed to the Tournament Administer to be put on file.

Note 2: Notations of any penalties assessed should be put in writing and follow the same procedures as above.

Note 3: Any appeal of a penalty must be referred to the onsite Tournament Official immediately upon completion of a player's round. The Tournament Director's decision shall be final.

Note 4: In the administration of these Pace of Play guidelines, a member of the Rules Committee shall not tolerate abuse, oral or otherwise, by a player. Such abuse may constitute conduct unbecoming a professional.

Note 5: A pace of play summary will be sent with the thank you email at the conclusion of the event to every participant.



Southern Ohio PGA



Local Rules & Conditions of Competition

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf effective January 2019, and where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Committee Procedures refers to the Committee Procedures section in the current Official Guide to the Rules of Golf. The Committee refers to the SOPGA Rules Committee.

Unless otherwise provided, penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the General Penalty:

Match Play – Loss of Hole; Stroke Play – Two Strokes

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

1. **SUSPENSION OF PLAY DUE TO A DANGEROUS SITUATION:** When play is suspended for a dangerous situation, if the players in a match or group are between the play of two holes, they must not resume play until the Committee has ordered the resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they must discontinue play immediately and must not continue until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play.

NOTE: A suspension for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged siren or horn blast. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three intermittent siren or horn blasts. Resumption of play will be signaled by two intermittent siren or horn blasts.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF THIS CONDITION: DISQUALIFICATION

All practice areas will be closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open for use.

2. **GOLF BALLS:** The ball the player plays must be named on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the USGA.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF THIS CONDITION: DISQUALIFICATION

3. **DRIVER HEADS:** Any driver the player carries must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, that is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the USGA.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF THIS CONDITION: Penalty for breach is Disqualification

4. **GROOVE & PUNCH MARK SPECIFICATION:** The player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from January 1, 2010.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF THIS CONDITION: Disqualification

5. **ONE -BALL CONDITION:** Is not in effect
6. **PACE OF PLAY:** (RULE 5.6 Unreasonable Delay) A player shall be subject to penalty if he/she unreasonably delays play. The Local Rule for Pace of Play is in effect & posted.
7. **RETURNING SCORECARD:** For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a player's scorecard is treated as returned when the player has first left the scoring area with both feet.
8. **CLOSE OF THE COMPETITION:** When all scores have been posted on the Official Scoreboard and approved by the SOPGA Rules Committee, the results of competition are deemed to have been officially announced.
9. **LIFTING AN EMBEDDED BALL:** The EMBEDDED BALL RULE as written in Rule 16.3 is in effect in the general area.

10. **OUT OF BOUNDS:** Defined by the inside edge of white stakes and/or property fence posts at ground level.

Note: A ball, which crosses a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road, is out of bounds even though it may lie on another part of the course

11. **TREE WRAPPINGS, ELECTRICAL WIRES, AND CABLES:** Closely attached to trees: No relief. Tree wrappings, electrical wires, cables, signs, and lightning rods closely attached to trees are not obstructions. They are integral parts of the course.
12. **RED & YELLOW PENALTY AREA STAKES AND LINES:** Penalty Areas are defined by yellow/red lines and identified by yellow/red stakes. When a red penalty area is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity. When penalty areas are bounded by out of bounds, the penalty area margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line
13. **GROUND UNDER REPAIR:**
 - a) Areas completely encircled with white lines (except ball drops)
 - b) French drains which are trenches filled with stones
 - c) Relief is for the lie of the ball & area of intended swing for the following: (general area only)
 - i) Sod Seams – All seams within the sodded area are considered the same seam
 - ii) Newly trenched areas
14. **RETAINING WALLS AND PILINGS:** When located within penalty areas or within and/or around bunkers, retaining walls and pilings are integral parts of the course.
15. **OBSTRUCTIONS:**
 - a) Asphalt and artificially surfaced roads and paths are obstructions.
 - b) When railroad ties, curbing, and the like adjoin cart paths and roads, they are deemed to be part of the same obstruction.
 - c) White lined areas tying into roads and paths have the same status as the roads and paths, and thus they are obstructions and not ground under repair.
 - d) Landscaped garden areas completely encircled by an obstruction are part of the obstruction
16. **TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS:** Committee Procedure Section 8 is in effect and includes any temporary obstruction installed for the competition. (Model Local Rule F-23)
17. **DAMAGE ON PUTTING GREEN:** On the putting green as written in 13.1c(2), the player may repair damage on the putting green.
18. **PERMANENT ELEVATED POWER LINES & CABLES:** As stated in committee procedures, if a ball strikes a permanent elevated power line or cable, the stroke is canceled, and the player must play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was played. (Making Next Stroke from Where Previous Stroke Made).
19. **ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF A BALL ON PUTTING GREEN:** Rule 13.1d is stated as follows, when a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 13.1d(1). This Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

As stated in Rule 13.1d(2), if it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of natural forces, where the player plays from next depends on whether the ball has been lifted and replaced on its original spot. If the ball has not been lifted and replaced the ball must be played from its new spot. If the ball has been lifted and replaced the ball must be replaced on its original spot which if not known must be estimated.
20. **DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES:** In SOPGA competitions, a player or his/her caddie may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his/her play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4.3a, for which the penalty for the first offense is general penalty and disqualification for any subsequent offense.