

Section Tournament Policies and Procedures

Section 01. Responsibilities - Tournament Committee

- (a) Assist the Section Staff in developing the competition schedule.
 - (1) A proposed schedule of dates is submitted to the Board for approval by October 15th of each year, and a final tournament schedule posted to the membership by December 15th of the same year.
 - (2) The Tournament Committee may adjust the tournament schedule as necessary once posted, and must approve any proposed changes as a whole.
- (b) Assist the Section Staff in securing competition venues.
- (c) Assist the Section Staff in securing event sponsors.
- (d) Establish “new tournament” guidelines and “sunsetting” guidelines.
- (e) Annually review the competitions policies, points allocations, formats, venues, and schedule.

Section 02. Events

- (a) **General**
 - (1) Events may be added or deleted from any event category at the discretion of The Tournament Committee, subject to the approval of the Board.
 - (2) When an event is Sanctioned, Endorsed or Allowed, the Georgia Section will publicize the event in its Tournament Calendar.
- (b) **Sanctioned Events** (Shall include, but are not limited to the following, and are subject to a per-entry Administrative Fee)
 - (1) Atlanta Open
 - (2) Georgia PGA Assistants' Championship
 - (3) Georgia Open
 - (4) Georgia Open Qualifiers
 - (5) Georgia Senior Open
 - (6) Georgia PGA Championship
 - (7) Georgia PGA Head Professional Championship
 - (8) Georgia PGA Senior Championship
 - (9) Georgia Women's Open
 - (10) Georgia PGA Professional Championship
 - (11) Georgia PGA Pro-Pro Scramble
 - (12) Georgia PGA Pro-Assistant Championship
 - (13) Georgia PGA Pro-Pro Championship
 - (14) Georgia PGA Pro-President/Superintendent/Club-Official
 - (15) Georgia PGA Match Play Championship
 - (16) Georgia PGA Senior-Junior
 - (17) PGA TOUR Pre & Open Qualifiers (Korn Ferry Tour, PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions) conducted within the Georgia Section.
 - (18) The Championship @ Berkeley Hills CC
 - (19) Milton Martin Honda Classic

- (20) West Pines Classic
- (c) **Endorsed**
 - (1) Sea Island National Pro-Am
 - (2) Sea Island Invitational
 - (3) Hospice LaGrange Pro Am
 - (4) Idle Hour Club Charity Outing
 - (5) Mountain Classic
 - (6) Mariner's Chalice
 - (7) Gene Siller Memorial
- (d) **Allowed**
 - (1) Pot of Gold
- (e) **Protected Events**
 - (1) Atlanta Open
 - (2) Georgia PGA Assistants' Championship (for Assistants and Associates only)
 - (3) Georgia Open
 - (4) Georgia Senior Open (for Seniors only)
 - (5) Georgia PGA Championship
 - (6) Georgia PGA Head Professional Championship
 - (7) Georgia PGA Senior Championship (for Seniors only)
 - (8) Georgia Women's Open (for Women only)
 - (9) Georgia PGA Professional Championship
 - (10) Georgia PGA Pro-Pro Scramble
 - (11) Georgia PGA Pro-Assistant Championship
 - (12) Georgia PGA Pro-Pro Championship
 - (13) Georgia PGA Pro Official
 - (14) Georgia PGA Match Play
 - (15) Georgia PGA Senior-Junior Championship
 - (16) The Championship @ Berkeley Hills CC
 - (17) Reserved
 - (18) Milton Martin Honda Classic
 - (19) West Pines Classic
 - (20) Assistants' Cup
 - (21) Peters Cup
- (f) **Club-Sponsored Events**
 - (1) The Championship @ Berkeley Hills CC
 - (2) Milton Martin Honda Classic
 - (3) West Pines Classic

Section 03. Host Professional Responsibilities

- (a) Per contract with the Georgia PGA.

Section 04. Eligibility

- (a) Georgia PGA Members

- (1) PGA of America members in good standing, assigned to the Georgia Section, and in the following classifications will be eligible as follows:
 - (A) A-1, A-2, A-4 thru A-24, LM, MP, and RM may play in all Georgia PGA events.
 - (B) A-3's may only play in the following events: the Georgia Open, the Georgia Senior Open, and the Georgia Women's Open.
 - (C) Except in (D) below, Class "Reserved" Members are not eligible to participate in GPGA Tournaments either as a regular participant or as a sponsor exemption.
 - (D) Class "RESERVED" Members may participate as a sponsor exemption or as an open qualifier for the Georgia Open.
- (b) Georgia PGA Associates
 - (1) Associates may play in all Georgia PGA events except:
 - (A) Match Play (Associates may enter if the field is not full after the deadline set for those in the Top 64 of the Player of the Year points list or all other Class A Members)
 - (B) Georgia PGA Championship
 - (C) Georgia PGA Professional Championship
 - (D) Georgia PGA Senior Championship
 - (E) Georgia PGA Senior Professional Championship
 - (F) PGA TOUR/Korn Ferry Tour Section Qualifiers
 - (2) Playing privileges will be immediately suspended for any associate who becomes suspended by the PGA of America. However, if an associate is employed, and in good standing as of the entry deadline and subsequently becomes ineligibly employed, or unemployed, they may participate in that event.
- (c) PGA Professionals from other Sections
 - (1) PGA Members and Associates from outside the Georgia Section may participate in Pro-Am events provided they meet all other criteria outlined above. In such cases, the Board determines the number of such entries allowed for the specific event.
- (d) Non-PGA Professionals may participate in the following events pursuant to Article XI, Section 7 of the Section By-Laws:
 - (1) Non PGA Professionals may participate in the following as well as other events as determined by the Tournament Committee:
 - (A) Open qualifiers for PGA TOUR events
 - (B) Open qualifiers for the Korn Ferry Tour events
 - (C) Open qualifiers for PGA TOUR Champions events
 - (D) Georgia Open
 - (E) Georgia Open as a Sponsor Exemption
 - (F) Georgia Open Qualifiers
 - (G) Club Sponsored Events as a Sponsor Exemption
 - (H) Georgia Women's Open
 - (2) Sponsor Exemptions must receive prior approval to participate from the Tournament Committee.

(3) Non PGA Professionals in (D), (E), (F) and (G) above must be a current Georgia resident.

(e) Amateurs

(1) Amateurs may participate in the following events pursuant to Article XI, Section 7 of the Section By-Laws:

(A) Open Qualifiers for the PGA TOUR

(B) Open Qualifiers for the Korn Ferry Tour

(C) Open Qualifiers for PGA TOUR Champions

(D) Georgia Open Qualifying

(E) Georgia Open through exemption per Section 17 (b) (3) of this document

(F) Atlanta Open Qualifying

(G) Atlanta Open through exemption per Section 17 (c) (3) of this document

(H) Club Sponsored Events per the handicap restrictions for each event

(I) Club Sponsored Events through a sponsor exemption for that event

(J) Senior Division events as determined by Article VIII, Section 16 of the Section By-Laws

(K) Georgia Women's Open

(2) Amateurs in (D), (E), (F) and (G) above must be a current Georgia resident.

(3) A non Georgia resident may play in a Club Sponsored event if they meet all other eligibility requirements and are a member of the club sponsoring the event.

Section 05. Entries

(a) General

(1) By registering online for a Section Tournament, competitors agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Section, and USGA Rules of Golf.

(b) Entry deadlines

(1) All entry deadlines shall be at 10:00 am the Friday BEFORE the event.

(2) For Section events which require qualifiers, the entry deadline will be 10:00 am the Friday BEFORE the first qualifier.

(3) In cases where circumstances warrant a deadline alteration to (1) or (2) above, the Tournament Committee shall have the power to alter the deadline.

(4) Entry deadlines will NOT be altered to individual registrations.

(5) For any PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions or Korn Ferry Tour Open Qualifiers, as per the PGA TOUR rule, the entry deadline will be 5:00 pm the Wednesday before the qualifier.

(c) Entry procedures

(1) Go to www.georgiapga.com.

(2) Click on "ONLINE EVENT REGISTRATION".

(3) Type in your Member ID and Password.

(4) Review and Accept the Waiver.

(5) Review all the information of the Tournament Registration Form.

(6) Accept or decline to join the GPGA Premium Players Club.

(7) Enter payment information (ALL fields must be entered) and Submit Payment.

- (8) You will then receive an email verifying your acceptance into the event, or an email saying that your entry has not been accepted or that you have been put on the waitlist.

Section 06. Withdrawal Policies and Requirements

(a) General

- (1) Professionals withdrawing from any Section event must notify the Section at least 24 hours prior to the start of the tournament's first scheduled tee time.
- (2) Amateurs who decide to withdraw and fail to notify the Tournament Director or a member of the Events Rules Committee in the proper time frame are subject to forfeiting their privilege to enter future Georgia PGA events.
- (3) Withdrawals before the entry deadline will receive a full refund less a \$10 Administrative Fee.
- (4) Withdrawals after the entry deadline, but before the first group tees off in the tournament, will receive a full refund less an administrative fee of \$100.
- (5) In a multi-round event a player may withdraw by notifying the Tournament Director or a member of the Event Rules Committee within 15 minutes after the final group completes that round. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action per Article XI, Section 6 of the Section By-Laws.
- (6) Before or during any round a person may withdraw because of illness or other physical disability, which requires medical attention, or serious personal emergency. If a competitor decides to withdraw, he must notify a member of the Event Rules Committee. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action per Article XI, Section 6 of the Section By-Laws.

Section 07. Starting Times / Pairings

(a) General

- (1) It is strongly recommended that the guidelines below be followed by the Event Rules Committee. However, said Committee has the discretion to alter the guidelines if circumstances at an event require such alteration.

(b) Starting Times / Pairings

- (1) In 18-hole events pairings and starting times will be assigned by draw.
- (2) In 36-hole events pairings and starting times for the first round will be assigned by draw, except in the case of the Georgia PGA Professional Championship (PC) where the first round pairings will be based on the current and/or prior year's Player of the Year standings, and the pairings and times for the second round shall be determined by score. PC pairings are at the discretion of the Event Rules Committee.
- (3) In the final point event of the year, the first round pairings will be based on the top-9 current year's Player of the Year standings, and the pairings and times for the second round shall be determined by score.
- (4) In 54-hole events, pairings and starting times for the first and second rounds will be assigned by draw, except in the case of the Georgia PGA Championship

where all past Champions shall be paired together. The pairings and times for the third round shall be determined by score.

- (5) In 72-hole events, starting times for the first and second rounds will be assigned by draw, and the pairings and times for the third and fourth round shall be determined by score.
- (6) Pairings and starting times will be available on Friday prior to the event after 3:00 pm.

Section 08. Scorecard Requirements.

(a) General

- (1) The method of scoring at all events conducted under the auspices of the Georgia Section may be manual, electronic, or both, and shall be determined by the Event Rules Committee at each event.
- (2) All scoring methods shall conform to the USGA Rules of Golf.
- (3) All players are required to return a scorecard, or in the case of electronic, sign the verification form located in the scoring area. Any professional failing to do so for themselves, or in a team competition, for the team, even if the card is marked "no card," will be subject to disciplinary action per Article XI, Section 6 of the Section By-Laws.

Section 09. Size of Field/ Cuts

- (a) Field sizes shall be specific to each event, and shall be set by the Tournament Committee prior to the Event Calendar being published for the following year.
- (b) Except for the Georgia Open as noted in (c) below, Section Events are "no cut" events. Should circumstances arise at an event in progress whereby a cut would be in the best interest of the event, the Event Rules Committee shall be empowered to institute a cut prior to the following day's play, and prior to the publication of the next day's starting times.
- (c) The Georgia Open field shall be cut to the low 60 scorers and ties after 36 holes.

Section 10. Golf Cars / Caddies

- (a) Golf cars are required in all Georgia PGA events. A caddie may be used but the bag must remain on the golf car.
- (b) The Event Rules Committee is authorized to modify (a) above during an event in progress should circumstances (e.g. weather) require such modification.

Section 11. Policy Regarding Ties

- (a) Unless otherwise determined by the Event Rules Committee, in all events, should two or more participants or teams tie for first position, the tie will be resolved by a sudden-death play-off.
- (b) If more than two tie, all players other than the winner will be declared joint winners of second place and share equally in the purse to be distributed.

- (c) Professionals tying for other positions will share equally with those posting the same score.

Section 12. Same Purse/Separate Tees for Women Professionals.

- (a) Women professionals will compete for the same purse but from separate tees in events where both men and women compete.
- (b) Women professionals' overall yardage must not exceed 85%, with each hole playing approximately 78-92% of the men's yardage.

Section 13. Purse Distribution

- (a) Section individual Player of the Year purses.
 - (1) The purse shall pay the top 50% of the field.
 - (2) First place shall receive 12-25%, 12% being the standard.
 - (3) Any event wishing to alter the standard purse distribution outlined in (a) (1) and (2) above must request approval from the Board 30 days prior to the entry deadline of the specific event for which they desire to change.
- (b) Other Section Event purses.
 - (1) The purse shall pay a minimum of the top 33% of the field.
 - (2) First place shall receive 12-25%, 12% being the standard.
 - (3) Any event wishing to alter the standard purse distribution outlined in (a) (1) and (2) above must request approval from the Board 30 days prior to the entry deadline of the specific event for which they desire to change.
- (c) It is recommended that the Chapter's and Division's follow the purse distribution outlined above in (a). Any variance in Chapter and Division purse distributions must be approved by the Board.

Section 14. Dress Code

- (a) General
 - (1) While on the host facility property during the duration of the event, which shall include practice rounds, Pro Am rounds and Tournament rounds, all players shall present a neat appearance in both clothing and personal grooming.
 - (2) No participant shall be allowed to begin a Tournament round inappropriately attired.
- (b) Male participants (PGA Members and Associates, Non-PGA Professionals and Amateurs)
 - (1) Shall wear shirts with collars.
 - (2) Shall wear slacks suitable for golf tournaments. Denim blue jeans and sweatpants are not considered appropriate attire.
Exception: May wear shorts anywhere on Club property with the approval of the Host Facility and without objection from the Tournament Sponsor. Shorts must be a bermuda style (e.g. no cargo, board, tennis or denim) at a length no shorter than slightly above the knee.

- (c) Female participants (PGA Members and Associates, Non-PGA Professionals and Amateurs)
 - (1) Shall be attired in a manner acceptable for women participating in professional golf tournaments.
 - (2) May wear golf attire with or without collars, and with or without sleeves.
 - (3) May wear culottes, walking shorts, golf skirts, skorts, or slacks.
- (d) Caddies
 - (1) Attire - shall follow the requirements as set forth in (a-1), (b) and (c) above.
Exception: Caddies may wear shorts at any event unless specifically prohibited by the Host Facility and / or Tournament Sponsor.
 - (2) Footwear - Smooth rubber sole shoes are required. Sandals, open toe shoes, and golf shoes with traditional metal or soft spikes are prohibited.

Section 15. Alcohol Consumption Policy

- (a) Waiver - The following language shall be included in all waivers required for event registration: "All tournament participants over the age of 21 (professional and/or amateur) expressly agree to waive any liability on the part of the Georgia PGA, its host facilities, and tournament stakeholders/agents arising out of the consumption of alcoholic beverages and agree to indemnify and save harmless the Georgia PGA, its host facilities, and tournament stakeholders/agents from all claims, damages or lawsuits referable to the consumption of alcoholic beverages. The Georgia PGA, its host facilities, and tournament stakeholders/agents assume no liability for injuries, wrongdoings, or problems to self or others."
- (b) Individual Events
 - (1) Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during play of any Georgia PGA Section, Chapter or Division individual stroke play or match play event.
 - (2) This includes any time when play has been suspended and players are still on property waiting to resume play.
 - (3) If play is suspended and will not be resumed until the following morning, players are not required to adhere to this policy.
 - (4) Violation of this policy will be considered a breach of Section By-Laws, Article XI, Section 6.
- (c) Team Events
 - (1) Consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted during play of any Georgia PGA Section, Chapter or Division team event.
 - (2) Exception: Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during play of any Georgia PGA Section, Chapter or Division Pro-Junior event. Junior in this instance refers to any player under 18 years of age.

Section 16. Exemptions (PGA TOUR)

- (a) PGA TOUR General

- (1) Any exemptions granted to Georgia Section PGA members for PGA TOUR events held within the Section will be guided by the Policy in effect at the time by the PGA TOUR.
 - (2) For current rules regarding PGA TOUR qualifying, check with the Georgia PGA office in the event of policy change.
 - (3) Withdrawal Policy - If a player withdraws, he will be replaced by the next available player in that category (i.e., if a section qualifier withdraws, he will be replaced by an alternate from the qualifying).
- (b) PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions, and Korn Ferry Tour Events
- (1) RSM Classic at Sea Island (PGA TOUR)
 - (A) Category I: The current Georgia PGA Player of the Year will receive the exemption into the RSM Classic. In the event they are unable to play, the spot will be awarded to the next player on the points list.
 - (B) Category II: Three starting places will be open to all Professionals, including Georgia PGA Members and Associates, and Amateurs with 2.0 or less handicap index as determined by GHIN and shall be determined by an 18-hole open qualifying round. The Section is responsible for running this qualifier.
 - (2) Club Car Championship (Korn Ferry Tour)
 - (A) Category I: A limited number of starting places will be open to all Professionals, including Georgia Section PGA Members and Associates, and Amateurs with 2.0 or less handicap index as determined by GHIN and shall be determined by an 18-hole open qualifying round. The Section is responsible for running this qualifier.
 - (3) Mitsubishi Electric Classic (PGA TOUR Champions Event)
 - (A) Category I: A limited number of starting places will be open to all Professionals, including Georgia Section PGA Members and Associates, and Amateurs with 2.0 or less handicap index as determined by GHIN and shall be determined by an 18-hole open qualifying round. The Section is responsible for running this qualifier.

Section 17. Exemptions (Sanctioned Events)

- (a) General
 - (1) Sanctioned events may award up to 4 exemptions for said events.
 - (2) Players receiving an exemption into a Sanctioned event must meet eligibility requirements per the guidelines for each event and pay the entry fee.
- (b) Georgia Open
 - (1) Category I (General)
 - (A) Top ten and ties from previous years Georgia Open
 - (B) All Past Champions (Must meet eligibility requirements)
 - (C) Host professional, eligible GPGA Professional or Associate, or Amateur with 2.0 or less handicap index as determined by GHIN (1) at:
 - 1) Tournament site exemptions (2)
 - 2) All Qualifying sites exemptions (1)

- (D) Sponsor exemptions (2) (Must meet eligibility requirements)
 - (E) Georgia PGA exemptions (4) (Must meet eligibility requirements)
 - (F) Most recent Atlanta Open Champion if not otherwise exempt
 - (G) Low Amateur from Atlanta Open
- (2) Category II (Georgia Section)
- (A) GPGA - Top seventy-five and ties from the prior year's Section point list
 - (B) GPGA - Top twenty and ties from current point list as of entry deadline
 - (C) GPGA - Top ten and ties from the current and prior years Assistant Division point list
 - (D) GPGA - Top ten and ties from the current and prior years Senior Division point list
 - (E) GPGA - Top ten and ties from the current and prior years Northern and Southern Chapter point list
 - (F) Top five from current and prior years GPGA Amateur point list
 - (G) GPGA Section Champion
 - (H) GPGA Senior Section Champion
 - (I) GPGA Match Play Champion
 - (J) GPGA Assistant Champion
 - (K) GPGA Junior Tour 16-18 Boy's Player of the Year
 - (L) GPGA Boy's Junior Championship Champion
 - (M) GPGA Senior Open Champion
 - (N) GPGA Section Points Event winners from the current year not otherwise eligible
 - (O) All A-3's
- (3) Category III (Georgia State Golf Association)
- (A) GSGA Amateur Champion
 - (B) GSGA Mid-Amateur Champion
 - (C) GSGA Senior Amateur Champion
 - (D) GSGA Match Play Champion
 - (E) GSGA Top twenty and ties from the prior year's points list
 - (F) GSGA Public Links Champion
 - (G) GSGA Amateur Championship - Top five and ties from current year
 - (H) GSGA Top five and ties from current point list as of entry deadline.
 - (I) GSGA Boy's Junior Player of the Year
 - (J) GSGA Boy's Junior Champion
 - (K) GSGA Top five and ties from current Senior points list
 - (L) GSGA Top five and ties from the prior year's point list

Note: All players exempt under Category III must retain amateur status to remain exempt.

Note: The Georgia PGA's policy regarding member participation in Non-Exempt Events does not apply to the Georgia Open.

(c) Atlanta Open

(1) Category I

- (A) Top ten and ties from previous years Atlanta Open
- (B) All Past Champions
- (C) Host professional, eligible GPGA Professional or Associate, or Amateur with 2.0 or less handicap index as determined by GHIN at:
 - 1) Tournament site exemptions (2)
 - 2) All Qualifying sites exemptions (1)
- (D) Sponsor exemptions (2) (Must meet eligibility requirements)
- (E) Georgia PGA exemptions (4) (Must meet eligibility requirements)
- (F) Georgia Open winner if not otherwise exempt (Current winner - Must meet eligibility requirements)

(2) Category II

- (A) GPGA - Top seventy-five and ties from the prior year's point list
- (B) GPGA - Top ten and ties from the current and prior years Assistant Division point list
- (C) GPGA - Top ten and ties from the current and prior years Senior Division point list
- (D) GPGA - Top ten and ties from the current and prior years Northern and Southern Chapter point list
- (E) GPGA Section Champion
- (F) GPGA Senior Section Champion
- (G) GPGA Match Play Champion
- (H) GPGA Assistant Champion
- (I) GPGA Junior Tour 16-18 Boy's Player of the Year
- (J) GPGA Senior Open Champion (Must meet eligibility requirements)
- (K) GPGA Section Points Event winners from the current year not otherwise eligible
- (L) All A-3's
- (M) GPGA - Top twenty and ties from current point list as of entry deadline.
- (N) GPGA - Top five and ties from the current and prior years Georgia PGA Amateur point list

(3) Category III

- (A) GSGA Amateur Champion
- (B) GSGA Mid-Amateur Champion
- (C) GSGA Senior Amateur Champion
- (D) GSGA Match Play Champion
- (E) GSGA - Top twenty and ties from the prior year's points list
- (F) GSGA Amateur Championship - Top five and ties from current year
- (G) GSGA - Top five and ties from current point list as of entry deadline.
- (H) GSGA Public Links Champion
- (I) GSGA Boys Junior Player of the Year
- (J) GSGA - Top five and ties from the prior year's Senior points list
- (K) GSGA - Top five and ties from the current Senior points list

Note: All players exempt under Category III must retain amateur status to remain exempt

Section 18. Billy Peters Cup Team (Biennial)

(a) General

- (1) The Billy Peters Cup Team shall be captained by the Section President, or a Member designated by the Section President.
- (2) The Billy Peters Cup Team shall be comprised of 12 Georgia PGA Members who must be a Class "A", Master Professional, Life Member, or Retired Member in good standing.

(b) BP Cup Team eligibility (Regular)

- (1) Six (6) members of the Billy Peters Cup Team will be selected from the current Billy Peters Cup Points list standings, a combination of the previous two year's point standings,
- (2) In the event a player from the top 6 on the current Billy Peters Cup Points list is unable to play, that spot will be awarded to the next available player on the points list.
- (3) There will be two (2) captain's picks.

(c) BP Cup Team eligibility (Senior)

- (1) 1st pick, low senior on the current Section Player of the Year Points list.
- (2) 2nd pick, low senior on the current Senior Points list. (If this is the same player, the senior with the second most points would be next).
- (3) 3rd pick would be determined by the age of the 2 seniors already chosen. If both players are between age 50-54 then the next pick would be the low 55+ senior off of the current Senior Points list. If one of the top 2 players is 50-54 and one is 55 or older then the next player chosen would be the next senior on the list regardless of age. If both players are 55+ then the next player chosen would have to be age 50-54.
- (4) 4th pick would be a captain's choice based on what age is needed to fill the team.

Section 19. Procedures for Postponed / Uncompleted Events

(a) General

- (1) Once an event has been postponed, the Tournament Committee shall have the authority to cancel the event, declare the event finished with the rounds completed, or complete the event at a later date prior to the end of the current calendar year.
- (2) If no rounds are completed, competitors shall receive a refund of their entry fee, less expenses incurred.