



**PGA**

Southern California Section

## SCPGA Tournament Rules and Regulations (2017)

### I. SCPGA Tournament Committee

#### A. General

1. Shall be comprised of the Tournament Chairperson, Tournament Vice-Chairperson, members-at-large, and Chapter Tournament Chairpersons.
2. The Tournament Chairperson is appointed by the Section President. Vice-Chair may be appointed by the Tournament Chairperson.
3. Members-at-Large of the Tournament Committee are appointed by the Tournament Chairperson.
4. The Tournament Committee sets forth tournament policies and procedures with approval from the SCPGA Board of Directors.

### II. SCPGA Rules Committee

#### A. General

1. Shall be comprised of the Rules Chairperson(s), members-at-large, and Director of Tournaments.
2. The Rules Chairperson is appointed by the Section President.
3. Members-at-Large of the Rules Committee are appointed by the Rules Chairperson(s).
4. The Rules Committee interprets and implements the USGA Rules of Golf.

### III. Section Events

#### A. Tournaments

1. Section events have priority over any other tournament activity in the Section. Priority is given as follows: (1) Section Events, (2) Chapter Mondays and Championships, (3) Senior Division, (4) AAA, (5) Chapter Pro-Am's and Seminars, (6) All others. The Director of Tournaments will be responsible for any scheduling conflicts.
2. No PGA member or apprentice shall participate in any golf event conflicting with a Section event without a written request and subsequent approval from the Section; otherwise the individual will be subject to a fine. **See the Conflicting Event Rule Appendix**
3. No PGA Section tournament, special event, or activity shall be held at a golf facility, which does not meet Section requirements as a PGA recognized facility.
4. Amateurs participating in SCPGA events must have a current and valid index from the SCGA, PLGASC, WSCGA or other USGA approved local association in order to be eligible.
5. Professional conduct will be expected at all times.
6. The host professional (Director of Golf or Head Professional), if he or she so chooses to compete, shall have their entry fee waived for the event.
7. The reigning Section Stroke Play Champion shall receive one (1) exemption into the following; PGA TOUR CareerBuilder Challenge and the Southern California Web.com Tour event should one be hosted. Individual qualifying will be conducted for the remaining Farmers Insurance Open and Genesis Open qualifying spots.

8. Players who qualify into any PGA TOUR, Web.com Tour, or Champions Tour must be PGA Class-A members of the association.
9. Pants must be worn at all Section events and respective Championships (Section and Assistant Championship) except those events between May 1 and September 30 when shorts may be worn at the discretion of the Tournament Director with the following stipulations:
  - a. The event sponsor and host facility/host professional must approve the wearing of shorts;
  - b. Players shall present a neat appearance in both clothing and personal grooming. The Director of Tournaments shall interpret this regulation in all individual cases. Male PGA contestants may wear slacks or shorts (if applicable). Female PGA 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.
  - c. The SCPGA Board of Directors and / or Tournament Committee reserve the right to review all matters regarding personal appearance.
10. Section Championship / Section Professional National Championship Site preferred rotation:
  - 2015 – Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club {San Diego Chapter}
  - 2016 – TPC Valencia {Metropolitan Chapter}
  - 2017 – Bermuda Dunes Country Club {Desert Chapter}
  - 2018 – Northern Chapter
  - 2019 – Inland Empire Chapter
  - 2020 – San Diego Chapter
  - 2021 – Metropolitan Chapter

\*\*\*The Committee reserves the right to deviate from this rotation in favor of an alternate site approved by the Committee.

#### B. Eligibility

1. Events shall be open only to current dues paying members or currently employed apprentices of the Section, with preference of entry into events given to PGA Members. If the field is not full by the entry deadline, apprentices shall be entered in the event in the order of their registration unless stated otherwise. All apprentices signing up prior to this time will be placed on a wait list.  
 \*\*\*WAITING LIST: In the event a tournament does fill to capacity, a waiting list will be formed in order of registration. Members registering before the deadline have priority on the Waiting List. This list will be valid until 15 minutes prior to the start of play. Any player on the waiting list at the site at least 15 minutes prior to the first starting time will be eligible to take the space of a player who either withdraws prior to play or fails to show for their starting time. If more than one player on the waiting list is on-site the morning of, the order of entry will be determined by the waiting list order posted on the Tournament Information Page.
2. All Class A-3, Class F / suspended members, and any individual who has played in eleven (11) or more combined events on the PGA TOUR, Web.com Tour, Champions Tour, LPGA Tour, or any other professional tour deemed to be included by the SCPGA Tournament Committee are prohibited from playing in SCPGA events. This applies to the twelve (12) months preceding the event involved.
3. Players participating in an event in association with a meeting are required to attend the meeting in order to be eligible in the competition. A player arriving more than 30 minutes late or in the event that the meeting follows golf, does

not attend the meeting, the player is not eligible to compete. Any appeals must be reviewed by the President.

4. Newly elected PGA members must complete a Section orientation within one (1) year of their election date otherwise he or she shall be suspended from Section tournament activity until the orientation is completed.
5. Apprentice teams are not allowed in team events. At least one member of the team must be a Class A. Teams containing an Apprentice will be placed in a pending file until the registration deadline of the tournament at which time they will be added according to availability and in order of their registration. **(effective May 1, 2015)**
6. Newly registered Apprentices and Apprentices who have transferred from another section must attend an SCPGA Apprentice Orientation within three months of their start date [or transfer date] and may participate in AAA events [excluding the AAA Championship, AAA Match Play and North/South Cup Matches] and Chapter/Section events for which they are eligible during this time. After three months, playing privileges will be revoked until such time that this requirement is met. Apprentices who have met the orientation requirement are eligible to participate in all AAA events, as well as any Chapter/Section events in accordance with the Section Rules & Regulations.

#### **IV. Chapter, Senior's Division, and Apprentice Events**

##### **A. Tournaments**

1. The Section shall designate Chapter Mondays.
2. "Monday" tournaments and two day Pro-Amateurs should have at least \$1,000 added to the total purse to be distributed between the professional purse and amateur prize fund at the discretion of the designated Tournament Chairperson. Added money requirements for all Pro-Amateurs shall be determined by the Tournament Committee.
3. All scheduled events MUST NOT take place one (1) day before or one day after any SCPGA Section tournament (e.g. a tournament must not be conducted on a Sunday or Tuesday for a Monday Section event).
4. Items listed under **Section Events** apply to all Chapter, Senior's Division, and Apprentice Events.
5. Chapter Championship shall include the Stroke Play Championship and Match Play Championship of the respective Chapter.
6. Chapter, Senior Division, and Apprentice events shall not be conducted on the same date. Any conflict will be reviewed by the Tournament Committee and the SCPGA Director of Tournaments.
7. Official/Invitational Events  
An event hosted by a PGA Professional or PGA Apprentice within the geographic boundaries of the Southern California Section and consisting of eleven or more PGA Professionals or PGA Apprentices is considered an "Official Event" unless it qualifies as an "invitational event." "Official Events" must follow the Section/Chapter Tournament Rules and Regulations with regards to the scheduling and operation of the event. Official Events must have approval of the Chapter Tournament Chairperson as well as the Section Director of Tournaments & Rules. Official Events must be placed on the Section calendar and must not conflict with Section Events. An event with ten or less PGA Professionals or PGA Apprentices is considered an "Unofficial Event," however should a Section event or event within a player's Chapter be scheduled the same day, the player must obtain permission from the Section Director of Tournaments & Rules in order to participate in the "Unofficial Event" otherwise the player will be subject to a fine and or suspension.  
"Invitational Events" are permitted as long as no conflict exists with scheduled Section events or events within that Chapter. "Invitational Events" shall be operated by the host professional and is not considered an "Official Event"

regardless of number of PGA Professionals or Apprentices participating. “Invitational Events” will be placed on the Section Calendar, or may use Section resources pending approval of the Section Tournament Committee. All requests for approval must be submitted in writing to the Section Director of Tournaments and the Section Tournament Chairman a minimum of ten business days prior to the next Tournament Committee Meeting.

#### **B. Conflicting Events**

Waiver for competing in non-sanctioned Section events applicable to Section Members and Apprentices.

**(a) Obligations of Section.** On a date on which any golf event sanctioned by the Section is scheduled to be played, the Section shall not sanction or approve any other similar golf event without the advance written consent of the sponsor(s) of the first scheduled Section sanctioned event and/or the Tournament Committee Chairman or Tournament Director or Executive Director which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. “Similar golf event” means a tournament of the same type (i.e. Pro-Am event, pro only event, senior event, regular professional event, etc.). Notwithstanding the foregoing, Members and Apprentices are prohibited from participation in any event held within the boundaries of the Section that is not sanctioned by the Section unless the Member or Apprentice had obtained a release to participate in any unsanctioned event by following the process as set forth below in “Guidelines for Conflicting Event/Non-Sanctioned Event Releases”.

**(b) Obligations of Section PGA Professionals.** To contribute to the success of the Section sanctioned tournament program by supporting their fellow hosting professionals and qualifying events attached to those events and to permit the Section to fulfill its contractual obligations concerning representative fields of Section Members and Apprentices, no Section Member or Apprentice shall participate in any unsanctioned golf event on a date when a Section sanctioned event for which such Member or Apprentice is eligible and within reason to compete is scheduled except as follows:

1. Obtain from the Section web site, Section office or the Tournament Committee Chairman the official tournament release form. Section Headquarters must receive the completed form no less than 3 business days prior to the first round of the unsanctioned event. The Section office will notify by email, phone, fax or mail the status of the applied tournament release form.
2. The unsanctioned event is not scheduled on any of the same dates of a Section Major Championship (See page 190 for Major Championships and eligibility) and the Member or Apprentice is eligible to participate for the respective championship. Exception: For qualifying events only, a Member or Apprentice that attempts to qualify for a Section Major Championship and fails to do so may request a release to participate in an unsanctioned event. Members or Apprentices exempt from qualifying will not be eligible for a release.
3. The unsanctioned event is not scheduled on any of the same dates of a Section sanctioned event (pro-ams or other event) that is located within 60 miles of the Member’s or Apprentice’s mailing address and sanctioned event site (zip code to zip code) and the Member or Apprentice is eligible to participate in the Section event and the Section event is full.
4. The unsanctioned event is not a Pro-Am or the like event.
5. Host Professionals of an unsanctioned event are precluded from the above criteria and may participate in his/her unsanctioned event. Host professionals are not obligated to submit a tournament release form to the Section Headquarters.

6. Any Member or Apprentice that is suspended from the SCPGA tournament program is exempt from this obligation.
7. Section Members are entitled to contact the Tournament Committee Chairman for further explanation of this policy; however, these and only these guidelines will be strictly adhered to and enforced.
  - (c) Guidelines for Conflicting Event/Non-Sanctioned Event Release. The Section may deny any particular release request if it is determined that such release would cause the Section to be in violation of a contractual commitment to a sanctioned event sponsor or the fulfillment of its qualifying process or would otherwise significantly and unreasonably harm the Section and/or such sanctioned event sponsor or the overall Section tournament program. **Penalty for a violation is \$100 fine and 6-month playing suspension.** Section Members and Apprentices may obtain a Conflicting Event Request Form at [www.scpga.com](http://www.scpga.com)

C. Entry Procedures

Entry into events may be done on the Section website. Telephone calls are not a method of entering an event. It is the player's responsibility to make the Section office receive the entry. Payments must be made by check or credit card. Entries received must be complete and include full payment. The time which completed entries are received is based on the date of receipt in the Section office. A minimum \$10 late fee will be assessed to individuals submitting their entries following the deadline date. Fields will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. Waiting lists for full fields will be based upon order of receipt and completion of all entry requirements.

D. Entry Withdrawal/Cancelation Policy (Effective 3/1/2017)

A player may withdraw from an event and receive a full refund of their entry as long as the participant has notified the Section Tournament Department prior to the closing of registration.

In the case the player fails to inform the Section Tournament Department of the Withdraw prior to the deadline, that player will forfeit the total amount of their entry fee. Any player who "no shows" or withdraws during the play of an event will also forfeit their entry fee.

This above Policy does not apply for any event in which registration is handled by National.

To withdraw from an event, please contact the Section Headquarters at (951) 845-4653 or e-mail Max DeSpain at [mdespain@pgahq.com](mailto:mdespain@pgahq.com).

E. Conduct

Any conduct deemed by the SCPGA Tournament Committee to be injurious or unprofessional to a member, apprentice, staff, rules official, golf course, or the Section or the like may be subject to the following penalties:

- First offense shall result in a \$100 fine and/or suspension.
- Second offense or any serious misconduct may be dealt with under the Code of Ethics of the PGA of America.
- **Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages** The Section Director of Tournaments and Tournament Committee shall be authorized to impose penalties consisting of a fine and/or Code of Ethics Violations requiring review by the Section Ethics Committee, should a player demonstrate Conduct Unbecoming as the result of the consumption of alcoholic beverages during designated practice rounds and/or tournament rounds.

- F. Distance Measuring Devices  
Distance measuring devices are allowed in all Section events.
- G. Players Ability Tests  
PAT's shall be administered by the Section. Players must not use caddies during the stipulated round. This applies to PAT's in the Southern California Section only.
- H. Appeals  
Members and apprentices may appeal issues arising under these Rules and Regulations in writing. Any written appeal must be submitted to the SCPGA Tournament Committee and/or Board of Directors for review
- I. Rules of Play  
Play will be governed by the most current version of the USGA Rules of Golf as implemented by the SCPGA Rules Committee. Local Rules in effect will be found on the Player Information sheet, the most current SCPGA Rules Card is available on [scpga.com/tournaments](http://scpga.com/tournaments), and the Notice to Competitors sheet available at the tournament site. Disregard all other club posted local rules.
- V. Administration Guidelines
- J. Course Setup  
Course setup for all Section events will be the responsibility of the Section Tournament Director. Setup will take into account format, difficulty of the course and pace of play considerations.  
**Tees:**  
**Women** - A set of tees will be available for female contestants at all Section Tournaments that will be set at approximately 80- 85% of the yardage played by male contestants that keeps the playing characteristics of each hole as similar as possible.  
**Seniors** - A set of tees will be available to Seniors (Age 50 & above) for all Team events except the Summer Meeting Golf, Annual Meeting Golf and the Professional-Assistant Championship. Individual Stroke Play and all Match Play events will be conducted with a single set of Men's tees. The Senior Tees will be set at 95% of the Men's (49 & Under) yardage keeping the playing characteristic of each hole as similar as possible.  
\*\*\* At Meeting Golf events, Seniors age 70 or older will play from the same set of tees as are set for the Women.
- K. Player of the Year Race  
The Player of the Year recipient for each respective division (Section, Chapter, Women's, Senior's, AAA) must be in good standing at the conclusion of each point race. To earn Player of Year honors within the Section, the player MUST be a member. No apprentice can win the Section Player of the Year honors, though points will be awarded to Apprentices in Section events. For year end, a Player of the Year bonus to be paid out to top participants in each division; must be in good standing.
- L. Tournament Formats  
**Stroke Play:** All individual stroke play championships shall have no more than 84 players in a single wave. Play will always be conducted with players in groups of three and only in extreme circumstances may this format be altered and only with the approval of the Tournament Committee Chairman.  
**Match Play:** Seeding should be either based off of qualifying, previous year Player of the Year standing, or a combination of both (i.e. seeded by qualifying with any ties broken by previous year PoY standings).

**Pro-Scratch & Pro-Lady:** Both formats are recommended to exclude the following participants: Players under the age of 21 and any players currently participating on their collegiate golf team. It is recommended that the Four-Ball format be used in the Pro-Scratch and Pinehurst format be used in the Pro-Lady. Amateur partners must share the same facility affiliation as their Professional.

**Senior-Junior:** A Senior (50+) playing with a Junior (under 50) in a Four-Ball stroke play competition. It is recommended that there be a Junior Tee, Senior Tee at 95% of the yardage and Super Senior Tee (70+) at 85% of the yardage.

**Pro-Assistant:** Eligibility for the Pro-Assistant are as follows:  
The following are all acceptable pairings with the Member Classification on the left listed as the wheel. All partners **MUST** be employed at the same facility/place of business.

A-1/A-2 (Head Professional): Any A-14, A-6, A-23, A-8, B-14, B-6, B-23 or B-8

A-4 (Director of Golf): Any A-1, A-6, A-23, A-8, B-1, B-6, B-23 or B-8

A-9: Any A-13, A-4, A-1, A-14, A-6, A-23, A-8, B-13, B-4, B-1, B-14, B-6, B-23 or B-8

A-13 (General Manager): Any A-4, A-1, A-6, A-23, A-8, B-4, B-1, B-6, B-23 or B-8

A-14 (Director of Instruction): Any A-6 or B-6

A-19 (Golf Retail Management): Any A-20 or B-20

The highest ranking Manager will be the wheel for any team consisting of more than two players. The following is the ranking chart:

A-9 A-13 A-4

A-1/A-2 A-14

\*\*A-19 may only have A-20 as their partner(s)