



**SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA**

**2025**

**SCPGA TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**I. SCPGA TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE**

A. General

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

**II. SCPGA RULES COMMITTEE**

A. General

- i. Shall be comprised of the Rules Chairperson(s), members-at-large, and SCPGA Director of Competitions.
- ii. The Rules Chairperson is appointed by the Section President.
- iii. Members-at-Large of the Rules Committee are appointed by the Rules Chairperson(s).
- iv. The Rules Committee interprets and implements the Rules of Golf.

**III. SECTION EVENTS**

A. Tournaments

- i. 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) APA, (5) Women's Division, (6) Chapter Pro-Am's and Seminars, (7) All others. The Director of Competitions will be responsible for any scheduling conflicts.
- ii. No PGA Member or Associate 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.
- iii. 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.
- iv. Amateurs participating in SCPGA events must have a current and valid index from the SCGA, GHIN or other USGA approved local association in order to be eligible.
- v. Professional conduct will be expected at all times.
- vi. 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. Does not apply to

- Championships (Section, Senior, Assistant). This applies for only one comped host team.
- vii. The reigning Southern California PGA Professional Champion shall receive one (1) exemption into the PGA TOUR's The American Express.
  - viii. The reigning Section Player of the Year shall receive one (1) exemption into the PGA TOUR's Farmers Insurance Open.
    - 1. The second, third and fourth place finishers in the Section Championship shall receive exemption into the Farmers Insurance Open Event Qualifier (entry fee is responsibility of player).
  - ix. Senior Section Champion will earn the exemption into the Hoag Classic Event Qualifier.
  - x. Senior Section Player of the Year will receive the exemption into the Galleri Classic Event Qualifier.
  - xi. Players who qualify into any PGA TOUR, Korn Ferry Tour, or Champions Tour must be PGA Class-A member of the association.
  - xii. Shorts may be worn at all Section events year round at the discretion of the Director of Competitions with the following stipulations:
    - 1. No amateur contestants are in the field. If so, PGA Professional should wear pants.
    - 2. The event sponsor and host facility/host professional must approve the wearing of shorts.
    - 3. Players shall present a neat appearance in both clothing and personal grooming. The Director of Competitions 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.
    - 4. The SCPGA Board of Directors and / or Tournament Committee reserve the right to review all matters regarding personal appearance.
  - xiii. Section Championship / Section PGA Professional Championship Site preferred rotation:
    - 2024 – Hillcrest CC & Rancho Park GC (Centennial)
    - 2025 – Desert Chapter
    - 2026 – Metro Chapter
    - 2027 – San Diego Chapter
    - 2028 – Northern Chapter
    - \*\*The Committee reserves the right to deviate from this rotation in favor of an alternate site approved by the Committee.

#### B. Eligibility

- i. Events shall be open to Members in good standing or currently employed Associates of the Section, with preference of entry into Section events given to Class-A Members. All Associates will be placed on a wait list giving Class A Members priority until the entry deadline. If the field is not full at the entry deadline, Associates shall be entered in the event in the order of their registration unless stated otherwise. This also applies to team events.
- ii. 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 the day of the tournament. 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.

- iii. All Class A-3, Class F / suspended members, and any individual who has played in six (6) or more combined events on the PGA TOUR, Korn Ferry 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.
- iv. Players participating in an event in conjunction 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.
- v. An Associate who is a Player of the Year recipient (APA POY and Women's Associate POY) is eligible to register and compete in the Pinehurst Championship without being placed on the Associate wait list. Must be paired with a Class A Member.
- vi. 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.
- vii. Newly registered Associates and Associates who have transferred from another section must attend an SCPGA Associate Orientation within three months of their start date [or transfer date] and may participate in APA events [excluding the APA Match Play Championship 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. Associates who have met the orientation requirement are eligible to participate in all APA events, as well as any Chapter/Section events in accordance with the Section Rules & Regulations.

c. Entry Procedure

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 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. 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.

Entries after the registration deadline will be accepted permitting there is availability in the event or space on the waiting list. Only the Section, Senior and Assistant Championships will late entries not be accepted.

d. Entry Withdrawal

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 tournament day, 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. To withdraw from an event, please contact the Section Headquarters at (951) 845-4653 or email the Tournament Director.

e. Conduct

Any conduct deemed by the SCPGA Tournament Committee to be injurious or unprofessional to a member, associate, staff, rules official, golf facility, 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 Competitions 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.
- *Cell Phone* - Mobile phones shall be turned off/silent during the stipulated round. Conversational use shall be limited to emergency use only or to call for a ruling. Text or email function may only be used for important issues providing there is no audible sound and the use does not distract other players. Any player deemed by a tournament official or fellow competitor to be distracting play will be asked to discontinue all use of their cell phone for the remainder of the stipulated round. If a player continues to use their phone they will be removed from the golf tournament immediately. Any player delaying play due to non-emergency use of a mobile phone or any other electronic device will be subject to penalty under Rule 5.6.
- *Marijuana* - The use of cannabis during the play of competition or on the premises of the event is prohibited. Any individual that is found violating this rule will be disqualified from the tournament and is subject to a fine and/or suspension.

#### F. Appeals

Members and Associates 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.

#### G. 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 Players sheet available at the tournament site. Disregard all other club posted local rules.

#### H. Cheating Allegations

All Members, Associates, Non-PGA Professionals, and Amateurs that are in discrepancy in procedure the Rules of Golf may be called to a meeting with the Southern California PGA Ethics Committee and/or Board of Directors. All accused shall have the right to appear at all hearings and/or calls, present evidence and have witnesses appear on their behalf. Procedures for all Members, Associates, Non-PGA Professionals, and Amateurs accused of violating any of the Rules of Golf are as follows:

- Form for Complaints. Individual(s) wishing to have the conduct of another professional(s) or amateur(s) during a Southern California PGA event under review shall notify the Tournament Director, Executive Director, or President in writing within seven (7) days of the close of the event. On-site verbal complaints will be considered under this policy as well. The complainants and accused shall be immediately notified of the policy process and asked to submit information in writing, if necessary.
- Complaint Processing. The Executive Director and Tournament Director shall provide a written or electronic notification of the complaint to the accused. This notification shall occur within seven (7) days of receiving the submitted complaint.

- c. Inquiry Decision. The Executive Director and Tournament Director shall determine whether the received complaint shall or shall not be submitted to the Ethics Committee. A decision not to submit the complaint to the Ethics Committee shall preclude further action and review by both the complainant and accused.
- d. Referral to the Tournament Committee and/or Board of Directors. If the Executive Director and Tournament Director submit the complaint to the Ethics Committee, all details concerning the allegations submitted in the complaint shall be handed over to the Tournament Committee. All accused shall have the right to appear at all Southern California PGA hearings and/or calls, present evidence and have witnesses appear on their behalf.
- e. Admission of Guilt. If offered, individuals accused of violations may sign an Admission of Guilt and waive the right to a hearing.
- f. Penalty Recommendation. Following the hearing(s), the Ethics Committee shall recommend to the Executive Director and Tournament Director a penalty for the individual(s) accused of violation(s) based on the severity of the violation. Penalties may include suspension from participation and/or fines. The Executive Director and Tournament Director shall then notify the accused of such penalty electronically or in writing. Suspensions and violations may carry over to the following year.
- g. Anonymity and Confidentiality. Every effort will be made to ensure that the information and identity of those involved in potential Code of Conduct violations remain anonymous and confidential.
- h. Records. The writings of complaints, hearings, and outcomes will be filed on the individual(s).
- i. PGA of America Board of Control. If the Executive Director, Tournament Director and Ethics Committee agree, violations may be submitted to the PGA of America Board of Control for further investigation.

#### **IV. CHAPTER, DIVISIONS AND PAT EVENTS**

##### A. Tournaments

- i. The Section shall designate Chapter Mondays.
- ii. Items listed under Section Events apply to all Chapter, Senior's Division, Women's Division and Associates Events.
- iii. Chapter Championship shall include the Stroke Play Championship and Match Play Championship of the respective Chapter.
- iv. Chapter, Senior Division, and Associates events shall not be conducted on the same date. Any conflict will be reviewed by the Tournament Committee and the Section Director of Competitions.
- v. A PGA Member may join two Chapters, the one in which the PGA member is employed (or in the case of a Life Member, the one in which they reside), and one other. If the member elects to join more than one Chapter, that person may only hold office and play in the "Championship" of the Chapter in which they are employed (residence Chapter for Life Members).
- vi. A PGA Associate may participate in only the Chapter tournament events conducted by their primary Chapter. Primary Chapter refers to the Chapter where an Associate is eligibly employed on a full-time basis, regardless of seasonality, and may not participate in any other Chapters events, including as a partner or individual competitor.
- vii. Official/Invitational Events  
An event hosted by a PGA Professional or PGA Associate within the geographic boundaries of the Southern California Section and consisting of eleven or more PGA Professionals or PGA Associate 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 Competitions. 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 Associates 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 Competitions 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 Associates 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 Competitions and the Section Tournament Chairperson 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 Associates.

- i. 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 Associates 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 Associate 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”.
- ii. 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 Associates, no Section Member or Associate shall participate in any unsanctioned golf event on a date when a Section sanctioned event for which such Member or Associate is eligible and within reason to compete is scheduled except as follows:
  1. Notify the Section of your intent to participate in any conflicting event no less than three (3) business days prior to the start of that event. The Section will then notify you of your status.
  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 Associate is eligible to participate for the respective championship. Exception: For qualifying events only, a Member or Associate 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 Associates 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 Associate’s mailing address and sanctioned event site (zip code to

- zip code) and the Member or Associate 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 Associate that is suspended from the SCPGA tournament program is exempt from this obligation.
  7. Section Members are entitled to contact the Tournament Committee Chairperson for further explanation of this policy; however, these and only these guidelines will be strictly adhered to and enforced.
- iii. 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 first offense violation is a written notification. The second offense is \$100 fine. The third offense may be subject to 6-month playing suspension.

c. Player Ability Tests

PAT's shall be administered by the Section. Participants must ride in golf cars (maximum two (2) cars per group) and are prohibited from the use of a caddie during the stipulated round. This applies to PAT's in the Southern California Section only.

**V. ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES**

a. 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, conditions and pace of play considerations.

**Tees:**

The PGA of America's guideline for Men and Women PGA Members and Associates competing for the same purse is that Women will play up to a maximum of 85% of the Men's yardage for all Section events. This will allow courses to be set up for Women in the 78-85% range of the Men's yardage, which should allow Women PGA Members and Associates to fairly compete with Men for the same purse from different tees.

A single set of tees will be set for Men in all Section events, with exception below. The Men's tees will be a composite setup with a minimal yardage of 6,300 yards. Typical yardage setup for Men tees will be 6,600 – 7,000 yards with some Championships extending beyond 7,000 yards.

A set of tees will be available to Senior's (Age 50 & above) at the Senior – Junior Championship only. 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.

All Section events (minus the National Qualifiers – Section, Senior & Assistant Championships) will allow Men 70 years of age or older to play from the same set of tees as are set for the Women, at 78-85%. This percentage is merely a recommendation and may exceed 85%.

b. Player of the Year Race

The Player of the Year recipient for each respective division (Section, Chapter, Women's, Senior's, APA) must be in good standing at the conclusion of each point race. To earn Section Player of the Year honors, the player must be a Class A PGA Member. No Associate may win the Section Player of the Year honors, though points will be awarded to Associates in Section events. Concluding each division's season point race, a Player of the Year bonus shall be paid out to top participants in each division; must be in good standing.

c. Tournament Formats

**Stroke Play:** All individual stroke play championships shall have no more than 84 players in a single wave. Play will 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 point standings, or a combination of both (i.e. seeded by qualifying with any ties broken by previous year PoY standings).

**Senior-Junior:** A Senior (50 years of age or older) playing with a Junior (49 years of age or younger) in a Four-Ball stroke play competition. It is recommended that there be a Junior Tee, Senior Tee at 95% of the yardage and Women's tee at 85% of the yardage.

**Pro-Club Member & Pro-Lady:** It is recommended that the Four-Ball format be used in the Pro-Club Member (previously Pro-Scratch) and a modified Stableford format be used in the Pro-Lady. Amateur partners must share the same facility affiliation as their Professional and carry an index from that respective facility. Both formats are to exclude players under the age of 21 and any players currently participating on their collegiate golf team.

**Pro-Official-Superintendent:** A four-person team made-up of a PGA Professional, GCSAA Superintendent, Club Official, and manager or staff member from the same facility. It is recommended that the modified Four-Ball format with the low gross score and low net score counting as the team score.

**Pro-Assistant:** Four-ball format comprised of Professionals from the same club. 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-6, A-14, A-21, A-23, A-24, A-8, B-14, B-6, B-21, B-23 or B-8

A-4 (Director of Golf): Any A-1, A-6, A-14, A-21, A-23, A-24, A-8, B-1, B-6, B-14, B-21, B-23 or B-8

A-9: Any A-13, A-4, A-1, A-14, A-6, A-23, A-24, A-8, B-13, B-4, B-1, B-14, B-6, B-23 or B-8

A-13 (General Manager): Any A-1, A-4, A-6, A-14, A-23, A-24, A-8, B-1, B-4, B-6, B-14, B-23 or B-8

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

A-15 (Golf Retail Management): 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)



d. SCPGA Team Matches

**California Cup Matches:** Biennial matches held on the opposite year of the Honors Matches, typically odd years, verses Northern California PGA. The eight (8) person team is made of the current Section Champion and the top seven (7) players on the Section Player of the Year Point standings. Must be a Class A PGA Member. Matches are held in December and rotate from Northern California and Southern California.

**Honors Matches:** Contested with the SCGA on even years, the 12-person team must have four (4) Seniors aged 50 or older and eight (8) Class A PGA Members. The team is selected from the top 12 players on the Section Player of the Year Point standings.

**SCPGA/NCPGA Senior Cup Matches:** The Top 24 Seniors from the Senior's Player of the Year Points standings are selected to compete annually against the Northern California PGA. The Matches span over two days in Santa Maria. Player dinner is included.

**Southern California Women's Cup:** Biennial match with the amateurs of the SCGA. The top eight women from the Women's Player of the Year standings participate in the 36-hole match; includes 18-hole team and singles matches over two days.

**APA North/South Matches:** The top 12 players from the APA Player of the Year Points race are selected to compete against the Northern California PGA's Associates. The NCPGA and SCPGA alternate hosting the biennial matches that will be on odd years. Of the 12 team members, 2 will be Captain picks and may be A-8's.

e. Division Eligibilities

There are three sub-divisions under the Section umbrella: Senior, Women, and Associate (APA). The following rules apply to that respective division.

**Senior:** Available to Class A PGA Members and Associates aged 50 years or older. The Super Senior age within this division only is 70 years of age. Participants who are 70 years of age or older have the option, each season, to move down a division and compete against the younger (50-69) age group for individual tournament prize and Player of the Year honors. A player who does this is locked into the younger division for the entire season. The Senior Committee oversees this division and has discretionary authority to change individual tournament formats.

**APA:** Open to Associates only. No A-8's are permitted to participate. Exemption: An A-a may participate in APA if that individual is classified as an Associate during the first event of the APA season.

**Women:** All Women PGA Professionals are eligible to compete in this division. There will be two flights offered within the Division – Championship and Senior. The Senior Flight shall be for those aged 50 years of age or older and played at a shorter distance. A Women's Committee is in place to set guidelines for this division.