



**PGA**

Gulf States Section

**TOURNAMENT POLICIES,  
ELIGIBILITY,  
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

## **TOURNAMENT POLICIES**

### **Tournament Policy Board**

The Tournament Policy Board shall consist of the Board of Directors, the Tournament Committee, and the Tournament Director. The Section President shall appoint the Tournament Chairman. The Tournament Committee will be responsible for the scheduling, conducting, and handling of any issues in all Section events. The Section Tournament Director will act as a clearinghouse for all tournament dates.

### **Tournament Eligibility**

The privilege of participating in Gulf States PGA (GSPGA) events will be extended to those Gulf States PGA Members and Apprentices (when applicable) who are in active classifications and good standing, and Life Members. The following events have specific eligibility requirements:

- **MS PGA Invitational**

*AMATEURS:* All Amateur members of facilities employing Mississippi PGA Professional(s); or any Amateurs who receive special invitations from the Tournament Committee.

*PGA PROFESSIONALS:* All Mississippi PGA Members and Apprentices in active classifications and good standing, and Life Members.

*Acceptance Note:* In the event of a full field, all Amateurs will be notified of their status in the Championships after close of entries. Amateurs will be accepted into the field based on (1) prior year participation and (2) USGA handicap index.

### **Online Registration/Entry Forms**

Online registration and entry forms (if applicable to tournament) for GSPGA events will be available online through the tournament schedule at [gspga.com](http://gspga.com).

### **Membership Meetings – Section Championship, Senior Section Championship, MS and LA PGA Chapter Championships, Assistant Championship Six Pro Championship**

In conjunction with the Section Championship, Senior Section Championship, MS and LA PGA Chapter Championships, Assistant Championship, and the Six Pro Championship, a Membership Meeting will be held at a convenient location.

### **Pairings**

For most GSPGA events, pairings will be done at random. For the Section Championship, the Professional Championship, Senior Section Championship, and the Assistant Championship, the first round pairings will be done according to the appropriate final Player of the Year Points standings from the previous year. Subsequent round pairings in these events will be made according to score. Ties will be broken using the first in/last out procedure through the scoring system.

## **Playoff Procedure/Breaking of Ties**

### *Individual Events*

In the event of a tie for first place, the following events will have a sudden death playoff to determine a winner and first place prize money: the Section Championship, Professional Championship, Senior Section Championship, Assistant Championship, MS and LA PGA Chapter Championships, the Mackel Cup, and MS PGA Invitational.

### *Team Events*

#### *Trophies*

In the case of a tie for first place, for trophies only, a scorecard playoff will be held using the USGA recommended tiebreak method. The winning team will be determined on the basis of the best team score for the last nine holes. If the tying teams have the same team score for the last nine, the winning team will be determined on the basis of the last six holes, last three holes and finally the 18<sup>th</sup> hole.

Last 9 holes – #10 – 18

Last 6 holes – #13 – 18

Last 3 holes – #16 – 18

#### *Purse*

All ties will be combined and split for purse purposes only.

### *Mackel Cup*

In the event of a tie for the Mackel Cup, the team that won the previous year's Mackel Cup would retain the Cup.

## **(3) Section Exemption Spots – Open Qualifying – PGA TOUR Events**

The Gulf States PGA receives (3) exemptions into PGA TOUR Open Qualifiers. Each exemption requires a \$450 entry fee and allows a player to skip the Pre-Qualifier. These spots will be given to the first (3) players who register. If more than (3) players register before (enter date) at 5:00pm CT, the spots will go to the highest ranked players based on the attached (previous year's) Section POY points list. If any spots remain available after (enter date) then they will be given out on a first come, first serve basis. PGA Members have first right of refusal for these exemptions.

### **PGA TOUR Event Exemption Spots**

The Gulf States PGA receives (1) exemption spot into PGA TOUR events. The following winners will receive this exemption as detailed:

- E-Z-GO Section Championship Champion – the following year's Zurich Classic of New Orleans
- Gulf States PGA Professional Championship Champion – the following year's Sanderson Farms Championship

The Gulf States PGA receives (1) exemption spot into the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic's Open Qualifier (Champions Tour event). This spot will be given to the winner of the Senior Player of the Year Points List from the previous year. There is a \$150 entry fee for this spot.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **USGA Rules, Hard Card**

Play will be governed by the current USGA/R&A Rules of Golf, the current Gulf States PGA Hard, and where applicable, any Local Rules, conditions, and definitions.

### **Late Entries**

Under no circumstances will an entry into a GSPGA event be accepted after the entry deadline has passed.

### **Cancellation**

*Prior to Deadline:* Participants may withdraw from an event prior to an entry deadline. There will be a \$10 administrative fee applied to all refunds.

*After the Deadline:* Participants who properly withdraw from an event by notifying the Tournament Committee after the entry deadline, but before their appointed starting time, will be granted refunds. There will be a \$10 administrative fee applied to all refunds.

### **Conduct**

The behavior of PGA Members and Apprentices at GSPGA events must always be considered becoming of a PGA Professional. Actions that are considered not becoming of a PGA Professional include, but are not limited to: conduct showing disrespect for the host professional, the host club, the Section Tournament Staff or Gulf States PGA Rules Officials/Starters, any sponsors, the PGA Code of Ethics, the traditional etiquette of golf, failure to comply with facility or tournament policy, actions that cause hardship or embarrassment to the members of the host facility, or any action brought to the attention of the Tournament Committee in the form of a formal complaint.

The Tournament Committee will take all disciplinary actions. Complaints must be made in writing to the Tournament Committee, stating names, dates, and full particulars. Any fines are payable to the Gulf States PGA, and must be sent to the Section Office within 45 days of the first round of the event. Any appeals to the Tournament Committee and Board of Directors must be made in writing and received at the Section Office within 10 business days of violation notification.

### **Alcoholic Beverage Policy**

Consumption of alcoholic beverages will not be allowed during the course of play in the Section Championship, Professional Championship, Senior Section Championship, MS and LA PGA Chapter Championships, and the Assistant Championship. Any violation will result in immediate disqualification. This includes any time when play has been suspended and players are still on property waiting to resume play. If play is suspended and will not be resumed until the following morning, players are not required to adhere to this policy.

### **Pace Of Play**

Pace of play will be monitored by the posted pace of play timing charts (at certain events). These charts will be posted in the clubhouse and on the 1<sup>st</sup> tee.

### **Dress Code**

PGA Professionals must always be properly attired at all GSPGA events. Jeans are prohibited. PGA Professionals may wear shorts or skorts at any GSPGA event (excluding TOUR Qualifiers and the Children's Hospital Pro-Am). PGA Professionals are responsible for attire of their Amateurs who may wear shorts or skorts, which are mid-thigh or longer.

### **Non-Participants**

Any non-participant must be made aware of the following: 1) the golf carts in the competition are for the use of competitors only. The non-participants must either walk or rent a cart of their own. However, if there is an open seat on a cart, the non-participants may occupy it. If the non-participant that does anything that is deemed to be within the USGA/R&A Rules of Golf definition of a Caddie, that person is deemed to be that participant's Caddie for the entire round; 2) all social functions (lunches, award parties, etc.) are for competitors only; unless otherwise noted.

### **Incomplete Round**

The Tournament Committee will be in charge of deciding what is the most appropriate action when a tournament round can't be completed.

### **Purse/Prize Breakdown**

All GSPGA events will pay 1/3 of the field, and all professional winnings will be mailed. The host professional will be responsible for preparing gift certificates for the amateurs and having the golf shop open so they may be redeemed.

(See the attached addendum for *Purse Breakdown Percentages By Places Paid*.)

### **Player of the Year Points System**

(See documents for *Player of the Year Points*)

### **Tournament Yardages**

In Gulf States PGA sanctioned events, male participants will play the golf course at a length of 6,600 – 7,100 yards. Female participants will play at a yardage that is in the range of 78% – 85% of the male yardage. Senior PGA Members will play the golf course at a length that is in the range of 85% – 92% of the regular male yardage. The Tournament Director reserves the right to play the golf course at a shorter length than the minimum yardage requirements if course conditions and/or course set up merit this decision.

## **Weather Delays**

Before the start of any tournament round, the Tournament Committee reserves the right to implement Preferred Lies (closely mown areas or through the green) due to course conditions.

If there is a delay during play due to inclement weather, the following timing periods will be followed to allow for warm up (practice putting, hitting balls) before play resumes:

- 30 minutes or less delay = 10 minutes for warm up and to get in position
- 30 minutes or more delay = 20 minutes for warm up and to get in position

In the case of a weather delay where the round could be canceled, various factors will be taken into account. If the event is a championship, all efforts will be made to complete the stipulated number of rounds. Factors such as weather forecasts, course conditions, time of delay, number of players left to finish, and Superintendent and Pro Shop staff size will be taken into account. Other factors could be discussed as well.

If the event is not a championship, the Tournament Committee will find a time when it is no longer conceivable to finish the round based upon a number of factors. Before the round begins in a non-championship event, the Tournament Committee will identify a time when the round needs to be canceled due to a severe weather delay. This time will be based on when the round started, how long the delay has been, weather forecasts, course conditions, number of players left to finish, Superintendent and Pro Shop staff size, and length of drive home for players. Other factors could be discussed as well. If players started off of #1 tee only and have finished 9 holes, once the tournament is canceled, the tournament will be deemed a 9 hole tournament. If the tournament is a shotgun start and is canceled, the Tournament Committee and any sponsors reserve the right to reschedule the event or have a blind draw for the winners.

If the event is a 36 hole championship and there is weather forecasted for round 2, before round 2 begins, the Tournament Committee reserves the right to make round 2 two stipulated 9 hole rounds. If only one 9 hole round is completed by entire field in round 2, the tournament will be scored as a 27 hole event. If round 2 has not been started, and it is not feasible to get in event 9 holes, the event will be considered an 18 hole event.

## GSPGA SECTION PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Section Championship		GSPGA Prof. Champ.		Chapter Championships	
1 <sup>st</sup>	600	1 <sup>st</sup>	450	1 <sup>st</sup>	300
2 <sup>nd</sup>	540	2 <sup>nd</sup>	405	2 <sup>nd</sup>	270
3 <sup>rd</sup>	520	3 <sup>rd</sup>	390	3 <sup>rd</sup>	260
4 <sup>th</sup>	500	4 <sup>th</sup>	375	4 <sup>th</sup>	250
5 <sup>th</sup>	480	5 <sup>th</sup>	360	5 <sup>th</sup>	240
6 <sup>th</sup>	460	6 <sup>th</sup>	345	6 <sup>th</sup>	230
7 <sup>th</sup>	440	7 <sup>th</sup>	330	7 <sup>th</sup>	220
8 <sup>th</sup>	420	8 <sup>th</sup>	315	8 <sup>th</sup>	210
9 <sup>th</sup>	400	9 <sup>th</sup>	300	9 <sup>th</sup>	200
10 <sup>th</sup>	380	10 <sup>th</sup>	285	10 <sup>th</sup>	190
11 <sup>th</sup>	360	11 <sup>th</sup>	270	11 <sup>th</sup>	180
12 <sup>th</sup>	340	12 <sup>th</sup>	255	12 <sup>th</sup>	170
13 <sup>th</sup>	320	13 <sup>th</sup>	240	13 <sup>th</sup>	160
14 <sup>th</sup>	300	14 <sup>th</sup>	225	14 <sup>th</sup>	150
15 <sup>th</sup>	280	15 <sup>th</sup>	210	15 <sup>th</sup>	140
16 <sup>th</sup>	260	16 <sup>th</sup>	195	16 <sup>th</sup>	130
17 <sup>th</sup>	240	17 <sup>th</sup>	180	17 <sup>th</sup>	120
18 <sup>th</sup>	220	18 <sup>th</sup>	165	18 <sup>th</sup>	110
19 <sup>th</sup>	200	19 <sup>th</sup>	150	19 <sup>th</sup>	100
20 <sup>th</sup>	180	20 <sup>th</sup>	135	20 <sup>th</sup>	90
21 <sup>st</sup>	160	21 <sup>st</sup>	120	21 <sup>st</sup>	80
22 <sup>nd</sup>	140	22 <sup>nd</sup>	105	22 <sup>nd</sup>	70
23 <sup>rd</sup>	120	23 <sup>rd</sup>	90	23 <sup>rd</sup>	60
24 <sup>th</sup>	100	24 <sup>th</sup>	75	24 <sup>th</sup>	50
25 <sup>th</sup>	80	25 <sup>th</sup>	60	25 <sup>th</sup>	40
Field	60	Field	45	Field	30

### PGA Tour Events

field	35
make cut	+150
top 20	+300
win	+1000

### Web.com Tour Events

field	30
make cut	+100
top 20	+225
win	+750

### PGA Professional Champ.

field	0
make cut	+75
top 20	+150
win	+600

### Major Championships

field	75
make cut	+300
top 20	+600
win	+2000

Participation points are awarded for any Pro-Pro, the Three Pro Championship, and Six Pro Championship. DOES NOT INCLUDE: Section Championship, Professional Championship, Trustmark Invitational, Chapter Championships, and the SPS.

Participation points awarded based on # of rounds completed. A player must sign and return a correct scorecard for each round in order to receive the points.

15 points – 1 round event

30 points – 2 round event

45 points – 3 round event