



**PGA**

Northern Texas Section

**SENIOR ASSOCIATES'  
TOUR**

**TOURNAMENT  
RULES & REGULATIONS**

Revised 1/01/09

**NORTHERN TEXAS PGA  
SENIOR ASSOCIATES' TOUR  
TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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**ARTICLE I**

**Organization**

**Section 1. Name**

The Tour shall be called the "NTPGA Senior Associates' Tour".

**Section 2. Purpose**

The Northern Texas PGA Senior Associates' Tour shall be a vehicle for promoting senior golf by offering a competitive atmosphere, camaraderie, sportsmanship and public goodwill. The events are designed as highly competitive, stroke-play tournaments at premier facilities throughout the northern Texas region for professional and amateurs ages 50 and above.

**Section 3. Proposing Rules and Regulations**

The Northern Texas PGA has the responsibility of proposing rules and regulations governing all competition on the Tour. Such rules and regulations must be approved and adopted by the Northern Texas PGA Board of Directors. The PGA representative, assigned to represent the Section at a Tour event, is responsible to the NTPGA Executive Director for enforcement of all regulations. Tour members are responsible for the knowledge of *USGA Rules of Golf* and the rules, policies and regulations of the Northern Texas PGA Players Tour.

**Section 4. Membership**

Membership to the Tour is open to professional and amateur golfers.

**Section 5. Obligations**

The annual dues of the Tour shall become due and payable in accordance with and on the dates specified by the Northern Texas PGA.

Currently, members of the Tour shall pay annual dues to the Tour as follows:

PGA Member Professionals (in good standing)	\$0
PGA Registered Apprentice Professionals (in good standing)	\$0
Non-PGA/Other Professionals	\$75
Amateurs	\$75

**ARTICLE II**

**Eligibility**

**Section 1. Classifications**

The privilege of participating in Tour events will be extended to any eligible Tour member. Tour members may include the following:

1. Eligible PGA Members (as defined in the NTPGA Tournament Rules and Regulations)
2. Eligible PGA Registered Apprentices (as defined in the NTPGA Tournament Rules and Regulations)
3. Non-PGA/Other Professional Golfers
4. Amateurs

## Section 2. Ten Tournament Rule

The Northern Texas PGA Senior Associates' Tour does not count toward the ten-tournament limit for eligibility in NTPGA Section Major Championships and the PGA of America's tournament program. Note: This applies to PGA Members and Apprentices only.

### ARTICLE III

#### Conduct of Tournaments

##### Section 1. Entry Requirements

- (a) All event entry forms shall be returned to the Northern Texas PGA Senior Associates' Tour via mail, facsimile, overnight carrier or in person prior to the stated entry deadline, typically two days prior to the first tournament round. Entries may also be accepted on-line at [www.ntpga.com](http://www.ntpga.com). Faxed entries with a valid Visa or MasterCard credit card will be accepted. Entries which are incomplete or without proper advance entry fee or with an invalid credit card will be returned and the entry rejected. Entries shall not be guaranteed to a credit card, payment must accompany the entry or the credit card will be charged. Entries will not be accepted over the telephone.
- (b) All competitors must sign an official entry form and/or register on-line to be eligible to participate. By signing an official entry form and/or competing in a Tour event, competitors agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the NTPGA Players Tour, the *USGA Rules of Golf* and NTPGA Local Rules and Conditions of Competition.
- (c) All entries are subject to approval by the NTPGA Senior Associates' Tour. PGA Member/Apprentice competitors must be eligible at the time of entry deadline and at the date of the tournament.
- (d) All professional competitors must have a valid social security number or valid tax identification number.
- (e) Entries received after the entry deadline will:
  - 1. If the starting field is not full, late entries will be added and a late fee of \$25.00 will be added (subject to course availability).
  - 2. If the starting field is full, late entries will be placed on an alternate list. They will be informed by the Tour by telephone as their entry is accepted with a late fee of \$25.00.

##### Section 2. Starting Fields

The field for NTPGA Senior Associates' Tour events shall be 120 players and will be determined on a first come, first served basis (unless otherwise stated on the official entry form).

##### Section 3. Entry Fees

The NTPGA Board of Directors shall determine the amount of the entry fees. Entry fees for 36-hole Tour events shall be as follows:

- |     |  |          |
|-----|--|----------|
| (a) | Regular Stroke-Play events and Team Championship | \$150.00 |
| (b) | Senior-Junior Classic and Tour Championship      | \$175.00 |

Class "F" Members, Class-A "Inactive" Members or suspended Members/Apprentices will not be able to compete.

#### **Section 4. Refunds**

A full refund minus a \$25.00 cancellation fee will be granted if the player cancels before the date and time listed on the official entry form.

If a player cancels after this time, they will not receive a refund.

In cases of emergency, written requests for refunds can be submitted to the Northern Texas PGA Section office within five business days of the first round of the tournament. These requests for a refund will be considered separately on their own merits.

No refund will be issued for any reason once a player has teed off.

“No Shows” will not receive a refund for any reason.

#### **Section 5. Arrangement of Pairings / Starting Times**

- (a) Starting times and pairings for Tour events will be done on a blind draw in groups of three or four players, or as otherwise determined by the NTPGA due to existing circumstances. Groupings of players for the first round shall be drawn in the following categories:
- (b) For the second and/or final rounds, the field will be repaired according to score.
- (c) Requests for starting times will not be accommodated.
- (c) Players will not be called to their tees.
- (d) Players shall start at the time and the order arranged unless otherwise informed by the Tour representative in charge. Prompt attendance is required of all players at their starting point of each round. Time of starting penalties shall be consistent with Rule 6-3 and the Note to Rule 6-3 in the *USGA Rules of Golf*.
- (e) Each contestant is responsible for obtaining his starting time.
- (f) Men will compete from the same set of tees, regardless of age. Women will compete from a forward set of tees at a distance that meets the PGA of America requirements.

#### **Section 6. Rules of Play**

Play in all Tour events shall be conducted in accordance with the *USGA Rules of Golf*, as modified by the Northern Texas PGA Senior Associates' Tour. Players will be furnished a copy of such modifications, including Local Rules and Conditions of Competition for the Northern Texas PGA, and Notice to Competitors, which shall describe any special Local Rules and Conditions prior to their starting times.

#### **Section 7. Scorecard Requirements**

The player's scorecard responsibilities shall be consistent with Rule 6-6 of the *USGA Rules of Golf*.

Every competitor must return a scorecard for himself, even if the scorecard is marked “no card”.

#### **Section 8. Pace of Play**

**OUT OF POSITION:** A group is deemed out of position when starting play on any hole which is clear of all players and the elapsed time for the round averages more than 13 1/2 minutes per hole for groups of three or 15 minutes for groups of four for the holes completed (unless otherwise stated).

**NOTE:** The Committee reserves the right to time a group when the Committee deems it necessary.

**WARNINGS/OFFENSE:** All players in a group that is out of position shall be informed that they are being timed. Such a warning to a group will be given after all players have left the teeing ground and prior to any other stroke.

**TIMING:** Players will have 40 seconds to play a stroke. It is reasonable for a player to have a few extra seconds on trouble shots. The player having the honor on the teeing ground and the player making the first stroke on or near the putting green on the hole being played has an additional 10 seconds for preparation.

The timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is his turn to play and he can play without interference or distraction. Any time spent determining yardages will count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, timing will begin after the player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace his ball, repair his ball mark and other ball marks on his line of putt and remove loose impediments on his line of putt.

**FOLLOWING WARNING:** Once a group has been informed that they are being timed, any player who exceeds the allotted time to play will be informed that any subsequent bad time will be subject to the following penalties:

**FIRST OFFENSE:** A one stroke penalty will be assessed.

**SECOND OFFENSE:** A two stroke penalty will be assessed.

**THIRD OFFENSE:** The player will be disqualified.

### **Section 9. Transportation**

Contestants may ride or utilize a caddy, but are not permitted to carry their own clubs. Two golf cars will be allocated per group. No more than two people may ride on a golf car at any one time. The Rules Committee has the right to modify this regulation.

### **Section 10. Conduct**

Tour members shall be responsible at all times for conducting themselves in a manner adhering to the traditions of the game. Players must attempt to be competitive and must conduct themselves in a professional manner.

Players must accept responsibility for the conduct of his caddie. A caddie who conducts himself in an unbecoming manner could result in the removal of the player from the competition.

The Northern Texas PGA reserves the right to remove a player from the competition for non-competitiveness or unbecoming conduct.

### **Section 11. Dress Code / Appearance of Players**

Players shall present a neat appearance in both clothing and personal grooming. Blue jeans, shorts or T-shirts are not permitted in Tour events. All male professional and amateur contestants will be allowed to wear Bermuda length shorts unless stated otherwise on the entry form. All female professional and amateur contestants will be required to conform to the current LPGA Tour dress code.

Caddies may wear either long pants or tailored knee-length shorts. Blue jeans, cutoffs, T-shirts or tank tops shall not be worn. Smooth rubber sole shoes are required. Golf shoes with metal or soft spikes are prohibited.

The Tournament Staff or the NTPGA reserve the right to prohibit a competitor from playing should the competitor be deemed to be dressed inappropriately.

### **Section 12. Footwear / Metal Spikes**

In all Tour events, restrictions on footwear (i.e. metal or ceramic spikes) will follow the policy of the host facility. All competitors must abide by the facility's policy.

The Tournament Staff or the NTPGA reserve the right to prohibit a competitor from playing should the competitor be wearing non-conforming footwear.

### **Section 13. Discontinuance of Play / Rain Out Procedure**

- (a) The policy for discontinuance of play will be consistent with Rule 6-8 of the *USGA Rules of Golf*. The Tour representative in-charge, after consultation with the Committee, has the authority to order discontinuance of play due to weather conditions. The decision to resume play, postpone any part of it or cancel play rests

entirely with the official in-charge. When serving on the Committee, no member may be a competitor. Discontinuance of play for a dangerous situation shall be signaled by one prolonged siren or horn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by several short intermittent siren or horn notes. NOTE: Players should be aware of their right to stop play at any time if they think lightning threatens them, even though no signal for discontinuance has been given or heard. When play has been suspended for a dangerous situation all practice facilities including practice putting greens are deemed closed. The Rules Committee will notify players when these areas are to be reopened.

- (b) In Tour events contested at 36 holes, the following rain-out / inclement weather procedure will apply:
  - 1. One day rained out – event will be contested at 18 holes with the entire purse paid.
  - 2. Two days rained out – event may be rescheduled at 36 holes at a later date.
- (c) The following guidelines are for use by the Committee in case of bad weather:
  - 1. When unplayable conditions occur, play shall be suspended. When conditions thereafter become playable, play will then be resumed, even when that round cannot be completed that day. Play may be resumed the following day to include completion of the next scheduled round. It is the responsibility of each contestant to be prepared to commence play as soon as the Committee deems the course playable. Contestants are encouraged not to leave the clubhouse facility during a delay of any sort due to the unpredictability of weather conditions.
  - 2. Every effort shall be made to finish each round as scheduled.
  - 3. In the event of a suspension during the final round, the round shall be canceled if more than half the field is unable to complete the round. If more than half the field completes the round, play should be temporarily suspended and completed when conditions permit. Consideration of this procedure would depend upon availability of the golf course.

#### **Section 14. Course Preparation**

Preparation of the course shall be subject to approval of the Tour representative in-charge. Locations of teeing grounds and hole positions on putting greens shall be selected by the Tour representative in-charge.

#### **Section 15. Ties / Playoffs**

In all NTPGA Senior Associates' Tour events, should two or more competitors tie for first place overall in the professional and amateur divisions, the tie will be resolved by a sudden-death playoff, unless otherwise stated. All other ties will be equally shared with the exception of the last spot in the "Overall" professional and amateur divisions, which will be settled by scorecard playoff.

#### **Section 16. Prize Fund Distribution**

- (a) The prize fund distribution shall be the total of all entry fees, plus the sponsorship added money, less the Tour administration fee, facility fees and other incidental expenses in conducting the event as determined by the Tour.
- (b) Approximately 33% of each age group shall be paid. All professionals and amateurs must return a final round score to be eligible for the purse.
- (c) The prize fund distribution will be determined by the Tour representative in-charge, at their discretion. Approximate guidelines for prize fund distribution can be found in Appendix I.
- (d) Distribution to amateurs finishing "in the money" will be in the form of gift certificates equal to the posted purse amount for the appropriate place finished in the field with a maximum for any amateur as provided by the USGA.
- (e) Distribution to professionals finishing "in the money" will be equal to the posted purse amount for the appropriate place finished in the field.

- (f) The Tour office will pay out the prize fund distribution within seven (7) to ten (10) days of the event.

**Section 17. NTPGA Senior Associates’ Tour Championship Exemptions**

At NTPGA Senior Associates’ Tour events, a determined number of players within their respective age groups will be invited/qualify to compete in the year-end NTPGA Senior Associates’ Tour Championship. Invitees/qualifiers per age groups are as follows:

- (a) Overall Division Finishers
- (b) 50-57 Professionals – Top 5 and ties
- (c) 58-65 Professionals – Top 5 and ties
- (d) 66 & Up Professionals – Top 3 and ties
- (e) 50-57 Amateurs – Top 5 and ties
- (f) 58-65 Amateurs – Top 5 and ties
- (g) 66 & Up Amateurs – Top 3 and ties

Other means of qualifying:

- (a) Defending Senior Associates’ Tour Champions
- (b) NTPGA Senior’s Championship (PGA Members only)
- (c) Host Professionals over 50 of the calendar year
- (d) Sponsor Exemption

**Section 18. Player of the Year Points Challenge**

The top ten (10) professionals and amateurs at each individual stroke-play events will be awarded points. The leading points earner among professionals and amateurs at the conclusion of the year will be recognized as the “NTPGA Senior Associates’ Tour Play of the Year.” These recipients will be recognized at the Northern Texas PGA Annual Awards Banquet.

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR  
POINTS DISTRIBUTION TABLE**

<i>Regular Tour Events</i>		<i>Tour Championship</i>	
1 <sup>st</sup> – 100	6 <sup>th</sup> – 70	1 <sup>st</sup> – 125	6 <sup>th</sup> – 80
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 90	7 <sup>th</sup> – 65	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 115	7 <sup>th</sup> – 75
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 85	8 <sup>th</sup> – 60	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 100	8 <sup>th</sup> – 70
4 <sup>th</sup> – 80	9 <sup>th</sup> – 55	4 <sup>th</sup> – 90	9 <sup>th</sup> – 65
5 <sup>th</sup> – 75	10 <sup>th</sup> – 50	5 <sup>th</sup> – 85	10 <sup>th</sup> – 60

**Section 19. Texas State Open Exemptions**

The top Professional and Amateur on the NTPGA Senior Associates’ Tour Player of the Year points list (*after the June 23 & 23 Hackberry Creek Senior Open*) will receive exemptions to the 2009 **Chesapeake Energy Texas State Open** at The Cascades in Tyler, Texas on July 16-20..

**Section 20. Texas Senior Open Exemptions**

The top five (5) Professionals and top five (5) Amateurs on the NTPGA Senior Associates’ Tour Player of the Year points list (*after the August 31 & September 1 Gentle Creek Senior Open*) will receive exemptions to the 2009 **Maker’s Mark Texas Senior Open** at The Clubs of Kingwood in Kingwood, Texas on September 23-25. Note: If a player from each top five (5) has already received an exemption, the exemption will not go to sixth place finisher and so on.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Rules of Conduct**

**Section 1. Policy**

Tour members shall be responsible at all times for conducting themselves in a manner adhering to the traditions of the game. By signing an entry form and/or entering an event, the player agrees to abide by the prescribed Rules of Conduct. Comments or complaints concerning the Tour shall be made in writing and addressed to the NTPGA Executive Director.

**Section 2. Violations**

PGA Members and Apprentices shall adhere to Rules of Conduct in NTPGA Senior Associates' Tour events in the same manner as Section events as stated in the NTPGA Tournament Rules and Regulations.

**Section 3. Disciplinary Action**

Each Tour member, by becoming a member of the Tour and/or participating in Tour events, acknowledges the right and authority of the Northern Texas PGA Senior Associates' Tour, Northern Texas PGA Section and NTPGA Executive Director to fine and suspend the member from tournament play, and/or fine and permanently bar the member from play in Tour events or other events conducted by the Northern Texas PGA for violation of the Tournament Rules and Regulations. Disciplinary action will be consistent with the NTPGA Rules and Regulations set forth for Section tournaments.