



PGA

Northern Texas Section

2018 Section Tournament Rules & Regulations

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TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

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**NORTHERN TEXAS PGA SECTION
TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS**

ARTICLE I

Purpose

Section 1.

The Tournament Program shall be a vehicle for maintaining and promoting the highest standards of competition, sportsmanship and public goodwill.

ARTICLE II

Proposing Rules & Regulations

Section 1.

The NTPGA Tournament Committee has the responsibility of proposing rules and regulations governing all competition in the Section tournament programs. Such rules and regulations must be approved and adopted by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall publish the Rules & Regulations governing the Section's Tournament Program including all Chapter events. The NTPGA representative, assigned to represent the Section at a sanctioned event, is responsible to the Executive Director for enforcement of all rules and regulations. The *Rules of Golf* shall govern all play except as modified by Local Rules and Rules of Play Card. Participants are responsible for the knowledge of the *Rules of Golf*, and the rules, policies and regulations of the Section.

ARTICLE III

Schedule

Section 1.

The NTPGA shall formulate an annual tournament schedule of events which will permit full participation by eligible members, and which must be approved by the Board of Directors. A master schedule, listing all Section and Chapter events, will be published by the Section in February of each year.

ARTICLE IV

Sanctioned and Approved Events

Section 1. Sanctioned Events

NTPGA Members and Associates are encouraged to participate in Section sanctioned events in order to support Section programs and sponsors. Any golf competition played within the geographical territory of the Northern Texas Section, in which more than twelve (12) NTPGA Members or Associates participate, charging an entry fee and/or offering a purse as prize money (includes "Skins"), or an appearance fee, must be sanctioned by the Executive Director in order for NTPGA Members and Associates to participate.

When an event is sanctioned, the NTPGA will:

1. Publicize the event in its master schedule of events.
2. Approve PGA Member and Associate participation.
3. Assure no conflicting events are sanctioned by the Section on the same date as a Section Major Championship, unless otherwise approved by the Tournament Committee Chair.
4. Assure no conflicting events are sanctioned by the Section in the same Chapter on the same date, unless otherwise approved by the respective Chapter Tournament Committee Chair.
5. Assist the organizing entity with promotion of the event as needed.

Requests for sanction (other than Chapter pro-am events) shall be made in writing and should be received by the Executive Director at least sixty (60) days prior to the event. Each request for sanction will be considered separately. For an event to be sanctioned, the club serving as the host site must have a PGA Member or Associate Head Professional serving as the resident professional, unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director. For an event to be sanctioned, the event must pay the NTPGA a sanction fee of \$5.00 per professional.

Any Chapter or Chapter professional only event held within the Section and using more than twelve (12) NTPGA Members or Associates must be sanctioned by the Chapter in which it is played. The pro-am shall be scheduled through the Chapter Tournament Committee Chair. Each Chair will then communicate with the Section, which will then approve the dates or suggest changes as they relate to the National and Section tournament program. Chapters may determine the method and amount of sanction fees. Currently, Chapter sanction fees are as follows: Metro Chapter - \$5.00 per player; East Texas Chapter - \$10.00 per player; West Texas Chapter - \$10.00 per player.

A general and administrative fee (“Sanction Fee”) of twenty-seven and a half (27.5) percent will be charged against the income of all Section administered tournaments with the exception of the NTPGA Players Tour where an administrative fee of sixteen (16) percent will be used.

Section 2. Approved Events

Professional golf competitions (mini-tours) played within the Section in which non-PGA professionals participate may be approved by the Tournament Committee or the Executive Director for more than twelve (12) NTPGA Members or Associates to participate. The competition does not need to be approved if twelve (12) or less NTPGA Members or Associates participate.

Each one of these events will be considered separately on its own merits. Requests for approved event status shall be made in writing to the Executive Director at least sixty (60) days prior to the event. If an event or tour is “approved”, NTPGA Members and Associates may participate and the tournament sponsor will be responsible for the appropriate “approval fee”, currently \$5.00 per player who participates.

For an event to be approved, the club serving as the host site must have a PGA Member or Associate Head Professional serving as the resident professional, unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director.

ARTICLE V

Rules of Conduct

Section 1. Section Tournament Policy

Discipline, Penalties, and Appeals

Each PGA of America Member or Associate, or NTPGA contestant (“Participant”) in a Section golf tournament acknowledges the right and authority of the Section to (i) fine and suspend from tournament

play; and/or to (ii) fine and permanently bar the Participant from Section tournaments. Any Participant in a Section event hereby releases the PGA of America Section, the PGA of America, the PGA Tournament Corporation, Inc., rules officials, each director, officer, member, employee, agent or representative of any of the foregoing jointly and severally, individually and in their official capacity, of and from any and all claims, demands, damages and causes of action whatsoever, in law or equity, arising out of or in connection with any such decision or action by the Section, PGA of America or any appellate body. All National and Section offenses imposed against a Participant shall accrue for the time period of three (3) years from the said date of the offense. On the anniversary of the three (3) year time period, the said offense will expire and be removed from the record of the Participant.

Fines are due and payable within thirty (30) days unless the Participant has made a written appeal. Should the appeal be denied, the fine will be due and payable within thirty (30) days of such denial of appeal; and the Participant will be ineligible to participate in any Section tournament and any other PGA of America tournaments and the tournaments of any other PGA Section until said fine is paid in full.

Advance Notification of Proposed Disciplinary Action

Except for penalties under the *Rules of Golf* and for “Minor Penalties” (as hereafter defined), any Participant subject to disciplinary action or penalty defined as a “Major Penalty” (as hereafter defined) shall first be notified of such proposed action in writing. Such notice may be presented to the Participant by the NTPGA staff. Within thirty (30) days from the receipt of the notice, the Participant shall submit to the Executive Director such facts or evidence of mitigating circumstances as may apply. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of such information from the Participant, the Executive Director shall notify the Participant in writing of the imposition of the proposed disciplinary action or penalty, or that the proposed action has been dismissed. After the imposition of any penalty hereunder, the Participant shall have the right to appeal to the Section Board of Inquiry as set forth in Appeals herein.

Rules of Golf

Any Participant in a Section tournament who breaches the *Rules of Golf* or Local Rules in effect for the conduct of such event shall be subject to the penalties provided in such Rules as well as any other penalties imposed by the Section consistent with this policy. The decision of the NTPGA staff, with respect to such Rules breach shall be final and conclusive.

Classes of Penalties for Section Tournament Offenses

MINOR PENALTIES - A Minor Penalty is a fine of not more than \$150.00 and/or suspension from tournament play for two or less Section major championships (as defined in Article V, Section I) for which the participant is eligible for. During the suspension, the participant is not eligible to participate in PGA of America or Chapter tournaments. A Minor Penalty may be imposed by the NTPGA staff responsible for the conduct of the tournament.

MAJOR PENALTIES - A Major Penalty is a fine in excess of \$150.00, suspension from tournament play for three or more Section major championships (as defined in Article V, Section I) for which the participant is eligible for, and/or permanent disbarment from Section tournament play. During the suspension, the participant is not eligible to participate in PGA of America or Chapter tournaments.

Appeals

MINOR PENALTIES - Appeals from Minor Penalties shall be to the Tournament Committee Chair (or his/her designee). Such appeal may be in writing or oral. Such appeal shall be received by the Tournament Committee Chair no later than thirty (30) days subsequent to the infraction. The Tournament Committee Chair shall render the decision on appeal in writing within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the appeal and submit a final report to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall submit this final report to the Association General Counsel. Such decision shall be final. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that the Section determines that it would prefer that a Minor Penalty shall be submitted to the Board of Control for a hearing in lieu of action by the Section, then the Section Board of Inquiry will follow the same procedures set forth herein for all matters submitted to the Board of Control for Code of Ethics procedures.

MAJOR PENALTIES - Within thirty (30) days from the date of notification of a Major Penalty, the Participant may submit a written appeal to the Section Board of Inquiry. Failure to file such an appeal shall be deemed conclusively to be an admission of the charges specified in the notification.

Thereafter, the Section Board of Inquiry will prepare a report of the matter to the Board of Control and the matter will be set for a hearing before the Board of Control in accordance with all applicable procedures set forth herein for ethics appeals heard by the Board of Control. The Board of Control shall hear the appeal either at the next regularly scheduled Board of Control hearing or at an expedited meeting that may be held in person or via conference call at the discretion of the Chair of the Board of Control. The decision of the Board of Control shall be final. An appeal shall operate to stay the effective date of any penalty, except suspension from a Section tournament then in progress or scheduled for the calendar week in which the alleged violation occurred, until after a final decision on the appeal.

All fines must be paid within thirty (30) days from the imposition of the fine, or in the event of an appeal, within thirty (30) days from the decision rendered by the Board of Control in the event the Board of Control upholds the findings of the Tournament Committee Chair.

Section 2. Violations

Participants shall be deemed to have violated the Rules of Conduct by:

Conduct Unbecoming a Professional

Any Participant deemed guilty of conduct unbecoming a professional while participating in a Section tournament or in activities related thereto (i.e. practice rounds, hospitality events, etc.) shall be subject to fine, suspension and/or permanent disbarment from Section tournament play as provided in this policy.

Conduct Unbecoming of a Professional includes but is not limited to the following actions:

- (a) Displaying disrespect for the Tournament Committee;
- (b) Displaying disrespect for the NTPGA staff or volunteers;
- (c) Displaying disrespect for the host facility;
- (d) Displaying disrespect for the traditional etiquette of golf;
- (e) Making public complaints or criticisms involving the PGA of America, NTPGA, NTPGA staff, volunteers, sponsors, host facilities, golf courses or the tournament format;
- (f) Using loud, profane and/or abusive language in public;
- (g) Throwing or breaking a club in anger or disgust, or damaging NTPGA / host facility equipment or property;
- (h) Consuming any alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs on the golf course during a tournament, in between two rounds played on one day or during an official practice round;
 1. On the golf course is defined as from the starting time until the score card is returned upon the completion of the round.
- (i) Withdrawing prior to the completion of a tournament round without valid reasoning (i.e. injury or illness).
- (j) Public urination.

Penalty (for violations A through J):

A fine of \$100.00 shall be levied for the first offense. A fine of \$150.00 shall be levied for the second offense, and a prohibition from participating in Section events for one year shall be levied for the third offense.

Any Participant that is found guilty of more than three (3) offenses (violations A through J) for conduct unbecoming a professional may, at the sole discretion of the Section, be permanently prohibited from participating in all Section and PGA of America tournaments and also may be subject to PGA of America Code of Ethics charges. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Section reserves the right to pursue Code of Ethics charges against any participant for conduct charges related to the conduct of any Participant at Section golf tournaments and related events at the sole discretion of the Section in compliance with the procedures for Code of Ethics hearings as set forth in this Article II of the Bylaws.

- (k) Failure to send letters of appreciation;
 - 1. Those contestants who win prize money (including skins game, player's pool, bonus pool, etc.) in the Western Championship, Eastern Championship, NTPGA Professional Championship, Section Championship and Match Play Championship who do not send the Section copies of the appreciation letters mailed/mailed to sponsors within 30 days of the event. Prize money checks will not be sent until these letters are received by the Section.
- (l) Failing to register on-site at Section major championships;
- (m) Dressing in a manner which is not in keeping with the traditions of the game;
 - 1. Male Participants are required to wear slacks at the following major events, including the official practice round (the day prior to the event):
 - a. Western Championship
 - b. Eastern Championship
 - c. NTPGA Professional Championship
 - d. Senior Championship
 - e. Section Championship
 - f. Match Play Championship
 - g. Texas State Open
 - h. Levy Cup Matches
 - i. Texas Joe Black Cup Matches
 - j. Ewing Charity Classic

At the discretion of the host professional and facility, male Participants are permitted to wear golf appropriate shorts in the following Section and Chapter events, including the official practice round (the day prior to the event):

- a. Section Pro-Assistant Championship
- b. Section Pro-Pro Championship
- c. Section Pro-Scratch Championship
- d. Section Pro-Junior Championship
- e. Section Assistant Championship
- f. Chapter Championships
- g. Chapter Pro-Am Tournaments

All female Participants will be required to conform to the current LPGA Tour dress code.

If a specific medical condition prohibits a Participant from wearing slacks, a written request shall be made to the Tournament Committee requesting an

exception. Each request for a medical exception will be considered separately. All requests must be made in writing thirty (30) days prior to the event. The Tournament Committee, will review the request and either approve or decline the request in writing.

Note: The NTPGA staff or the Tournament Committee reserve the right to prohibit a Participant from playing should the Participant be deemed to be dressed inappropriately.

(n) Golf Car Etiquette;

1. At no time are more than two people permitted to ride in or on one golf car. Spectators and caddies are permitted to ride, however when doing so, a spectator automatically becomes a caddie and only the Participant or the caddie may ride at any one time. If a Participant and caddie ride at the same time on one or more carts, the Participant will be in violation and subject to fine. Either the Participant or the caddie must walk but are allowed to alternate. When being timed, the Participant must ride. Exception: Both the Participant and caddie will be allowed to ride at the same time when the Participant has their own golf car at the Match Play Championship and Texas State Open.
2. Participants must follow the stated or posted golf car signs. Golf cars must remain on the car paths around all tees and greens. This includes the parking of the golf car.
3. At the completion of the round, the golf car used should be returned to the golf car staging area.

(o) Non-Metal Spikes;

All Section major championships require the use of non-metal spikes. Shoes with metal or ceramic spike(s) will not be permitted.

(p) Practice during a Suspension of Play for a Dangerous Situation;

All practice areas shall be closed during a suspension of play for a dangerous situation until the NTPGA staff has declared them open for use. Participants who disregard such closing shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Penalty (for violations J through P):

First Offense – \$25.00 fine.

Second Offense – \$50.00 fine and suspension from tournament play for one (1) Section major championship.

Third Offense – \$150.00 fine and suspension from tournament play for two (2) Section major championships.

Fourth Offense – One (1) year playing suspension.

(q) Competing in a “non-sanctioned” event;

Each Member and Associate within the Section is personally responsible for knowing if an event has been sanctioned by the Section or Chapter. If uncertain, inquiries should be

made to the Section or Chapter Tournament Chair or the Executive Director. A “non-sanctioned” event is defined as any event other than a sanctioned event. Members and Associates may participate in unsanctioned events if such an event is not conducted at the same time as a sanctioned event or if the Member or Associate receives a release to participate in such an event set forth in the conflicting event rule below.

Conflicting Event Rule: In the event a Member or Associate desires to participate in a “non-sanctioned” event which is held during any date or dates a Section sanctioned event is scheduled to be held, (“Conflicting Event”), the Member or Associate will be required to submit a written request to participate in the Conflicting Event to the Executive Director for review. All requests must be made in writing thirty (30) days prior to the event. The Section Officers or a committee appointed by the Section Officers, will review the request and either approve or disapprove the request in writing. Requests may be granted or denied at the Section’s sole discretion.

In the event a Member or Associate participates in a Conflicting Event without obtaining the written approval of the Section Officers or applicable committee, the Member or Associate shall be subject to;

Penalty: Minimum suspension of playing privileges for six (6) months from the last day of the Conflicting Event.

- (r) Knowingly entering an NTPGA event for which the Member or Associate is not eligible;

Penalty: Minimum fine of \$100.00. The fine must not exceed \$150.00.

- (s) Failing to notify the Executive Director of a leave of absence by any eligible professional employed at the facility;

Penalty: Minimum fine of \$100.00. The fine must not exceed \$150.00.

- (t) Participation by owning or sharing a ticket or receiving financial benefit from a ticket in a Calcutta event held in connection with a sanctioned Section tournament;

Penalty: Minimum fine of \$150.00 fine and minimum suspension from tournament play for four (4) Section major championships.

- (u) Bringing fewer than the number of amateurs to a pro-am competition than previously committed;

Penalty: Minimum fine of \$50.00. The fine must not exceed \$150.00.

- (v) Failing to appear for any round of an NTPGA sanctioned event for which a Participant enters and is accepted. Note: If a Participant decides to withdraw from tournament play, the competitor must notify either the NTPGA, the NTPGA staff on-site as applicable;

1. A Participant enters a pro-am competition; accepts and fails to appear.

Penalty: Suspension from tournament play for two (2) Section major championships and a \$150.00 fine.

2. A Participant cancels from a pro-am competition on the day of the event or the previous day; he/she fails to find an eligible professional to take his/her place (if no alternates are available).

Penalty: Minimum \$100.00 fine. The fine must not exceed \$150.00.

3. A Participant enters a Section major championship; he/she is accepted and fails to appear for any round.

4. Walking off the golf course without informing a NTPGA staff member.

Penalty: Minimum \$100.00 fine. The fine must not exceed \$150.00.

- (w) Every Participant or team must return a score card for the competition even if the card is marked "No Card".

Penalty: Minimum \$50.00 fine. The fine must not exceed \$150.00.

- (x) Verifying an incorrect handicap for an amateur;

Penalty: Suspension from tournament play for two (2) Section major championships and a \$150.00 fine.

- (y) Returned Insufficient Funded Checks; any returned insufficient funded checks written in payment of entry fee or in conjunction with a Section or Chapter tournament.

Penalty: Minimum \$50.00 fine. The fine must not exceed \$150.00.

- (z) Failure to send a Chapter Pro-Am event summary/sanction fee;

The host professional must send the NTPGA a Chapter Pro-Am event summary outlining the final results, number of participants and enclose a check for the Chapter sanction fee within five (5) days following the event.

Penalty: Minimum \$50.00 fine. The fine must not exceed \$150.00.

- (aa) Failure to send a Chapter Professional only event summary/purse/sanction fee;

The host professional must send the NTPGA a Chapter Professional only event summary outlining the final results, number of participants and enclose a check for the purse and Chapter sanction fee within five (5) days following the event.

Penalty: Minimum \$50.00 fine. The fine must not exceed \$150.00.

ARTICLE VI

Eligible Professionals

Section 1. Classifications

The privilege of participating in the Section Tournament Program will be extended to any NTPGA Member who is primarily employed or Associate who is employed full time in the area required by their classification in the Northern Texas Section, in good standing and otherwise eligible, and who meet the requirements listed in Article V, Section 1, of the *PGA of America Constitution, By-Laws, and Regulations*. Eligible classifications are as follows:

Member Classification	Associate Classification	Classification Description
A-1	B-1	Head Professional at a PGA Recognized Golf Course
A-2	B-2	Head Professional at a PGA Recognized Golf Range
A-3	Not Applicable	Exempt PGA TOUR, Champions Tour, Web.com Tour, LPGA Tour and Futures Tour players
A-4	B-4	Director of Golf at a PGA Recognized Golf Facility
A-5	Not Applicable	Past Presidents
A-6	B-6	Golf Instructor at a PGA Recognized Facility
A-7	B-7	Head Professional at a PGA Recognized Facility Under Construction
A-8	B-8	Assistant Golf Professional at a PGA Recognized Facility
A-9	B-9	Employed in Professional Positions in Management, Development, Ownership Operation and/or Financing of Facilities
A-10	B-10	Golf Clinician
A-11	B-11	Golf Administrator
A-12	B-12	College or University Golf Coach
A-13	B-13	General Manager
A-14	B-14	Director of Instruction at a PGA Recognized Facility
A-15	B-15	Ownership or Management of a Retail Golf Facility
A-16	B-16	Golf Course Architect
A-17	B-17	Golf Course Superintendent
A-18	B-18	Golf Media
A-19	B-19	Golf Manufacturer Management
A-20	B-20	Golf Manufacturer Sales Representative
A-21	B-21	Tournament Coordinator/Director for Organizations, Businesses or Associations
A-22	B-22	Rules Official
A-23	B-23	Club Fitting/Club Repair
A-24	Not Applicable	Employed within the golf industry and not eligible for another Active classification
LMA	Not Applicable	Life Member Active
LMMA	Not Applicable	Life Member Master Professional Active

Registered Associates – Associates have met eligibility requirements once he or she has satisfied the following steps to becoming a PGA Member:

1. Completed a background check approved by the PGA of America.
2. Passed the Qualifying Test.
3. Passed the Playing Ability Test or have attempted the Playing Ability Test at least twice within two years and have posted one 18-hole score that is equal to or less than the Playing Ability target score for 18-holes plus five (5) strokes.
4. Full-time eligible employment at the time of registration.
5. Associate registration verifying employment has been signed and submitted to the PGA of America.
6. All apprentice fees have been paid.

PGA Students – PGA Students who are in the PGA Golf Management University Program or recently graduated, who have passed their Playing Ability Test or if they have attempted the Playing Ability Test at least twice within two years and shoot one 18-hole score that is equal to or less than the Playing Ability target score for 18-holes plus five (5) strokes and are interning or employed in the Northern Texas Section are eligible to compete in Section and Chapter team events and pro-ams, but not in Section or Chapter individual major championships.

Class F Members, Class A Inactive Members and suspended Associates – Class F Members, Class A Inactive Members and suspended Associates are not eligible to participate in sanctioned NTPGA events (see Section 2. Exceptions).

Retired Member “RM”, Life Member “LM” and Life Member Master Professional “LMM” – Retired Member “RM”, Life Member “LM” and Life Member Master Professional “LMM” are eligible to participate in sanctioned NTPGA events unless otherwise specified in the eligibility of the event.

Section 2. Exceptions

- (a) A Member (other than a Class A-3 member) or Associate is not eligible to participate in some Section Major Championship Events if he/she has played in more than ten tournaments (as hereafter defined) in the twelve months preceding the date of entry. A Member or Associate who is eligibly employed may compete in the Pro-Assistant Championship, Pro-Pro Championship, Pro-Scratch Championship and Pro-Junior Championship on a space available basis and Pro-Amateur Events upon invitation of the host professional.

The following is a list of tours used to determine the ten tournaments: APT Tour, Asian Tour, Australia/New Zealand Tour, Champions TOUR, Dakotas Tour, eGolf Professional Tour, European Challenge Tour, European Senior Tour, European Tour, Gateway Pro Tours (Arizona and California), Golfweek National Pro Tour (Gold Tour and Silver Tour), Hooters Tours (Carolina Summer and Winter Series) – NGA Pro Golf Tour, JPGA Senior Tour, JPGA Tour, Ladies European Tour (LET), LPGA Futures Tour (Symetra Tour), LPGA Tour, LPGT, PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Canada, PGA TOUR China, PGA TOUR Latinoamerica, The Safari Tour, The Sunshine Tour and Web.com TOUR tournaments. The U.S. Open, U.S. Senior Open, PGA Championship and Senior PGA Championship are not included in the ten-tournament count.

- (b) A Class-A Member may request an extension of his/her playing privileges from the date he/she becomes unemployed. Class A-3 Members are not eligible for this extension. The Member, after requesting an extension, will receive an extension of one (1) month of playing privileges for each full year of PGA membership (maximum of twelve (12) months) or until the time he/she becomes inactive. A Member does not have a classification while granted a playing extension. A playing extension provides playing privileges in all Chapter events and Section events except those restricted to specific classifications. The PGA National Office does not recognize playing extensions granted by a Section. A Member is solely responsible for meeting any eligibility guidelines set forth by the PGA National Office for a National Tournament. A Member may only use this type of extension one (1) time in a two-year period. Such requests shall be made in writing to the Executive Director.
- (c) An Associate may request a 30-day extension of playing privileges from the date he/she becomes unemployed. An Associate does not have a classification while granted a playing extension. A playing extension provides playing privileges in all Chapter events and Section events except those restricted to specific classifications. The PGA National Office does not recognize playing extensions granted by a Section. An Associate is

solely responsible for meeting any eligibility guidelines set forth by the PGA National Office for a National Tournament. Requests shall be made in writing to the Executive Director. An Associate may only use this type of extension one (1) time in a two-year period. Such requests shall be made in writing to the Executive Director.

- (d) Any Member or Associate who takes a leave of absence for 90-days or less must be eligibly employed for a period of 30-days prior to the privilege of participating again in the Section's tournament program. For a leave of absence over 90-days, the Member or Associate must be eligibly employed for a period of 60-days prior to the privilege of participating again in the Section's tournament program. Request for a leave of absence shall be made in writing to the Executive Director.
- (e) A Member or Associate from a different Chapter may be invited by the host professional to participate in a pro-am competition at his facility. There is no limit as to the number of Members or Associates that a host professional may invite.
- (f) A Member or Associate of a Section other than the NTPGA may be invited by the host professional to participate in a pro-am competition at his/her facility. Not more than three (3) non-NTPGA Members or Associates may be invited to an event, unless approval for an additional number is granted by the Tournament Committee.
- (g) The host professional of the Pro-Pro Championship and Pro-Scratch Championship will be given a playing exemption into the applicable championship when it is conducted outside Northern Texas Section boundaries. The following stipulations apply to this playing exemption: exemption must be approved by host professional's Section Executive Director, the host professional must team with an NTPGA Member (exception Pro-Scratch); the host professional must meet the eligibility requirements for the tournament proper; the host professional's playing exemption can be transferred to a PGA Class A eligible member of his/her professional staff; the playing exemption is only for one (1) host professional staff member; the host professional agrees to abide by the conditions of the competition and NTPGA Tournament Rules & Regulations as set forth.
- (h) Class A Inactive Members are permitted to only play in the Pro-Pro Championship, Pro-Scratch Championship, Pro-Junior Championship and Chapter / Professional Winters Series team events on a space available basis (see Article VII, Section 5 Entry Priority–Non-Qualifying Events (b)).
- (i) Non-PGA affiliated professionals may be invited by the host professional to participate in a pro-am event at his/her facility. Not more than three (3) non-PGA affiliated professionals may be invited to an event, unless approval for an additional number is granted by the Tournament Committee Chair. Each non-PGA affiliated professional must purchase a Chapter Player's Card to participate. The cost of this card is \$25.00 payable to the Chapter that the pro-am is played in. A Chapter Player's Card must be purchased prior to each pro-am. It is the responsibility of the Chapter Tournament Chair to manage this responsibility. All funds generated stay within the Chapter.
- (j) Inactive Members may be invited by the host professional to participate in a pro-am competition at his/her facility. Not more than three (3) Inactive Members may be invited to an event, unless approval for an additional number is granted by the Tournament Committee Chair.

ARTICLE VII

Section Major Championships

Section 1. Championship Events / Eligible Classifications

The following are considered Section Major Championship events conducted by the NTPGA and applicable eligibility related to each event:

1. PRO-ASSISTANT CHAMPIONSHIP – Maximum number of players: 264
(Open to A-1, A-2, A-4, A-9, A-12, A-13, A-14 or A-15 Members and their employed assistants. The assistant must be an A-6 or A-8 Member or Associate [All B Classifications]). Eligible Members and Associates also include those who have participated in more than ten tournaments in the twelve months preceding the date of entry.

Note: If an A-1, A-2, A-4, A-9, A-12, A-13, A-14 or A-15 at a facility is unable to compete (injury, sickness, family emergency, etc.), and is the sole eligible partner of the A-6, A-8 or Associate [All B Classifications]), he may be substituted by a Life Member with the approval from the NTPGA.
2. PRO-PRO CHAMPIONSHIP – Maximum number of teams: 60
(Open to eligible Members and Associates and Class A Inactive Members (on a space available basis) and Members and Associates who have participated in more than ten tournaments in the twelve months preceding the date of entry (on a space available basis)). A-3 Members, Class A Inactive Members and Members and Associates who have participated in more than ten tournaments in the twelve months preceding the date of entry may not play on the same team.
3. PRO-SCRATCH CHAMPIONSHIP – Maximum number of teams: 88
(Open to eligible Members and Associates and Class A Inactive Members (on a space available basis) and Members and Associates who have participated in more than ten tournaments in the twelve months preceding the date of entry (on a space available basis) and scratch amateurs of their choice. Competitors who have applied for Amateur Reinstatement (A/R) with the USGA are eligible to compete.
4. PRO-JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP – Maximum number of teams: 60
(Open to eligible Members and Associates and Class A Inactive Members (on a space available basis) and Members and Associates who have participated in more than ten tournaments in the twelve months preceding the date of entry (on a space available basis) and one junior (ages 7-19) of their choice.)
5. EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP – Maximum number of players: 144
(Open to eligible Members and Associates, with the exception of A-3 Members.)
6. WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIP – Maximum number of players: 144
(Open to eligible Members and Associates, with the exception of A-3 Members.)
7. NTPGA PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP – Maximum number of players: 156 (PGA of America eligibility required)
8. NTPGA ASSISTANT CHAMPIONSHIP – Maximum number of players: 128
(Open to eligible A-8 Members and all classifications of Associates.)
9. NTPGA SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP – Maximum number of players: 144
(Open to eligible Members aged 50 and over, with the exception of A-3 Members.)
10. SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP – Maximum number of players: 144
(Open to eligible Members, with the exception of A-3 Members.)

11. MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP – Maximum number of players: 40
(Open to the top 32 eligible Members from the current year’s Player of the Year Points Standings following the Section Championship and the top eight (8) eligible Members from the current year’s Senior Points Standings following the Section Championship.)

Note: Should a professional qualify for the Match Play Championship via both points lists, the professional must declare the division they would like to compete in by the tournament entry deadline. A professional is not permitted to play in both the Open and Senior Division of the Match Play Championship.
12. TEXAS STATE OPEN – Exemptions and qualifying for 156 players
(Open to professionals and amateurs with a recommended handicap index of 6.4 or less.)
13. TEXAS WOMEN’S OPEN – Maximum number of players: 144
(Open to professionals and amateurs with a recommended handicap index of 9.9 or less, who are verified by medical documentation to be female (see Article VII, Section 2 (c) for Transitioned Athletes policy).

The following are considered Major Championship events and are conducted by either the NTPGA or STPGA each year:

1. TEXAS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (STPGA) – Maximum number of teams: 150
(Open to eligible Members and Associates, with the exception of A-3 Members. Both team members must be employed by the same facility.
2. TEXAS SENIOR OPEN (STPGA) – Qualifying for 120 players
(Open to professionals and amateurs with a handicap index of 8.4 or less who have reached the age of fifty [50] on or before the first round of the championship.)
3. TEXAS JOE BLACK CUP MATCHES (NTPGA vs. STPGA) – Twelve (12) players on the team open to the top nine (9) A-1, A-4 or A-13 Members from the NTPGA based on the Player of the Year Points Standings following the Section Championship; the top senior professional on the Senior Joe Black Cup Points Standings following the Section Championship and Section President, regardless of their classification; plus one (1) Captain’s pick of an A-1, A-4 or A-13 Member.

To be eligible to compete in the Texas Joe Black Cup Matches, the top nine (9) A-1, A-4 or A-13 Members as well as the Captain’s pick must be eligibly employed as an A-1, A-4 or A-13 prior to the first round of the Section Championship. They must also be eligibly employed as an A-1, A-4 or A-13 prior to the first day of the Texas Joe Black Cup Matches. Points earned in a classification other than A-1, A-4 or A-13 in the Eastern Championship, Western Championship or NTPGA Professional Championship are transferable should the Member be employed as an A-1, A-4 or A-13 prior to the first round of the Section Championship.

Senior Joe Black Cup points are awarded to members aged 50 and over who compete in the Open Division of the Eastern Championship, Western Championship, NTPGA Professional Championship and Section Championship.

Note #1: If the current Section President qualifies for the Joe Black Cup team on the Player of the Year Points Standings, the next eligible A-1, A-4 or A-13 on the Player of the Year Points Standings will qualify.

Note #2: If the top senior professional on the Senior Joe Black Cup Points Standings qualifies on his own merit, as one of the top nine (9) A-1, A-4 or A-13 professionals, and

if the senior professional that finishes second is also higher on the Player of the Year Points Standings than the next eligible A-1, A-4 or A-13 professional, then the top senior professional will be deemed to have qualified as one of the top nine (9) A-1, A-4 or A-13 professionals. The senior professional finishing second, regardless of classification, will be deemed to have qualified as the Senior Joe Black representative.

4. LEVY CUP MATCHES (NTPGA vs. STPGA) – Twelve (12) players on a team consisting of the top six (6) A-8 Members from the Levy Cup Assistants Points Standings following the Section Championship and the top six (6) Senior professionals on the NTPGA Senior Points Challenge list following the Section Championship regardless of classification.

The Assistant (A-8) representatives will be based on points earned from the Eastern Championship, Western Championship, NTPGA Professional Championship, NTPGA Section Championship and the NTPGA Assistant Championship.

The Senior representatives (any classification) will be based on points earned in the Senior Division of the Eastern Championship, Western Championship, NTPGA Section Championship and the NTPGA Senior Championship.

Note: Should a professional qualify for the Levy Cup Matches from both the Levy Cup Assistants Points Standings and the NTPGA Senior Points Challenge, the player will be deemed to have qualified under the list they finished highest on.

Section 2. Entry Requirements

- (a) All entry forms shall be returned to the NTPGA online, via mail, fax, overnight carrier or in person prior to the stated entry deadline. Forms which are incomplete or without proper advance entry fee or with an invalid credit card will be returned and the entry rejected. Entries will not be accepted over the telephone.
- (b) All Participants must sign an official entry form, or for online registration, be approved by the NTPGA to be eligible to participate. By officially entering an event, Participants agree to abide by the Tournament Rules & Regulations, the *Rules of Golf*, Local Rules and Rules of Play Card.
- (c) All entries are subject to approval by the NTPGA. Participants must be eligible at the time of the entry deadline and as of 12:01 a.m. on the day of the first round of the tournament.
- (d) Gender Policy
 - a. Application Process
 - i. For entry into any NTPGA event in which it is required that an athlete is a specific gender (male or female), each athlete must identify himself or herself during the entry application process as a person of that particular gender.

In the event that an athlete has had gender reassignment surgery at any point after puberty, that athlete must provide certain documentation to the NTPGA in accordance with the procedures set forth below.

Gender reassignment prior to puberty is not subject to these requirements.

Failure to provide proof of gender when gender has been reassigned, and to comply with the process and procedures set forth in this policy, may result in disqualification from the applicable event.

Eligibility to play in an NTPGA event will only be evaluated in connection with an athlete who has submitted an entry application to play in that NTPGA event. The specific NTPGA event must be identified in writing with the accompanying documentation specified below.

b. Applicant Eligibility Requirements

- i. Pre-pubescent – Individuals who have undergone sex reassignment from male to female before puberty are regarded as girls and women (female). This applies as well for female to male reassignment, who should be regarded as boys and men (male).
- ii. Post pubescent – Individuals who have undergone sexual reassignment from male to female or female to male after puberty are eligible for participation in NTPGA sanctioned events if they have:
 1. Undergone surgical anatomical changes, including external genitalia changes and reassignment changes completed during a gonadectomy (or other equivalent surgical procedure) no less than two (2) years prior to the entry deadline for the applicable NTPGA event;
 2. Undergone hormonal therapy appropriate for the assigned sex, administered in a verifiable manner, for a sufficient length of time, but no less than one (1) year, to minimize or negate gender-related advantages in sport competitions (i.e. substantial reduction in testosterone); and
 3. Presented verifiable legal documentation recognizing the athlete's assigned gender (or transitioned gender status) conferred by the appropriate official authorities.
- iii. The suitability and acceptance of each of the above conditions is subject to the Section Tournament Committee's sole discretion.

c. Eligibility Verification Requirements

- i. Gender reassignment documentation must be submitted in triplicate via overnight or first-class mail in an envelope marked "Confidential" and addressed to the Executive Director. All such documentation must be received at the NTPGA no later than the close of entries for the specific NTPGA tournament. The documentation, which will be reviewed by the NTPGA's medical panel, comprised of specialists reasonably and impartially selected by the NTPGA in its sole discretion (at least one (1) panelist shall be chosen by the applicant), must include the following:
 1. Hospital records confirming completed surgical gonadectomy; and
 2. All office records documenting related follow-up treatment.

In the event that hospital records have been purged or lost, or are otherwise unobtainable, a current physical examination performed by a physician experienced in this type of surgery, a report from that physician, and the documentation referenced in (1) and (2) above, will be considered and reviewed.

- ii. All reasonable transitioned status verification processes will be at the expense of the athlete applicant.
 - iii. The suitability and acceptance of each of the above conditions, and any documentation presented to evidence any of the aforementioned requirements, is subject to the NTPGA's sole discretion.
- d. Privacy
- i. The NTPGA will maintain such information and documentation in confidence, with only NTPGA counsel, the Executive Director, and limited NTPGA staff members having access to such information and documentation.
The results of any transitioned status verification conducted by the NTPGA shall be strictly confidential and shall not be made public, but will be reported to the NTPGA counsel who shall advise the Executive Director on all matters related to the athlete applicant's transitioned status verification.

The NTPGA expressly disclaims any ability to limit or prevent third party inquiries made directly to the athlete or to others. In the event that a third party, including media representatives, makes an inquiry with respect to a particular athlete's eligibility to play in a particular championship, the NTPGA will respond simply that the athlete was deemed eligible to compete in the championship.

Section 3. Qualifying Events

The field for the Texas State Open, conducted in Northern Texas, will be determined as follows:

- (a) Exemptions into the field
 - 1. Past champions from the event.
 - 2. Top 10 (10) professionals and ties from the previous year's event.
 - 3. Top two (2) amateurs and ties from the previous year's event.
 - 4. Low PGA Professional from the previous year's event (must have made the 36-hole cut to earn exemption).
 - 5. The top fifteen (15) NTPGA professionals and ties and the top fifteen (15) STPGA professionals and ties on each Section's previous year's final Player of the Year Points Standings.
 - 6. Top three (3) NTPGA and STPGA professionals on the current year's Player of the Year Points Standings as of July 18.
 - 7. Class A-3 Members who are residents of the State of Texas. Professionals in this exempt category must be a Class A-3 Member on the day of the first round of the Texas State Open in order to receive the exemption.
 - 8. The current year's Texas Amateur Champion.
 - 9. Top ten (10) point leaders on the current year's NTPGA Players Tour.
 - 10. Top point leader on the APT current year's Winter Series final points list, if otherwise eligible (non-transferable).
 - 11. Three (3) sponsor exemptions.

12. One (1) exemption each for the All American, Prestige and Legends Junior Tours.
 13. A minimum of ten (10) professionals who bring a team of three (3) paid amateurs to participate in the pro-am prior to the championship will receive an exemption into the tournament proper.
- (b) The remaining spots into the starting field will be determined by qualifying.
- (c) Size of the field will be determined as follows:
1. In the event that 156 or less competitors enter the tournament in a one course event, or 240 or less competitors enter the tournament in a two course event (exempt plus non-exempt competitors), all competitors will be included into the starting field of the tournament proper.
 2. In the event that 157 or more competitors enter the tournament in a one course event, or 241 or more competitors enter the tournament in a two course event (exempt plus non-exempt competitors), qualifying will be held to determine a starting field of a minimum of 156 competitors in a one course event or 240 competitors in a two course event. The number of qualifying positions available at each qualifying site will be determined pro-rata based on the percentage of qualifiers entered at a particular qualifying site relative to the total number of qualifiers entered. Second Chance Qualifying will be held 1-14 days prior to the tournament proper with a minimum of fourteen (14) qualifying spots available. Individuals will be allowed to compete in only one qualifying tournament with the additional option of competing in the Second Chance Qualifying tournament to attempt qualifying twice.
- (d) Entry forms that are incomplete or without proper advance entry fee, or with an invalid credit card or that are illegible, or received after the entry deadline will:
1. Be returned with a second chance qualifying entry form and a memorandum explaining why the entry was returned.
 - i. There will be no alternates for qualifying sites.
 - ii. Once each qualifying field has been set at the entry deadline, there will be no additions to any qualifying field or to the number of successful qualifying spots available at each site, unless authorized by the NTPGA.
 - iii. Players will not be able to change qualifying sites following the entry deadline.
- (e) Exempt Players whose entries are received after the entry deadline will:
1. Be placed on an alternate list. They will be informed by the NTPGA that their entry is received. Exempt players may replace successful qualifiers or other exempt players who withdraw prior to the Second Chance Qualifying entry deadline.
 2. If an exempt player is still on the alternate list as of the Second Chance Qualifying entry deadline, they may enter the Second Chance Qualifying.
- (f) Exempt pro-am professionals who withdraw:
1. If the exempt pro-am professional withdraws prior to the pro-am, the spot will be

filled by the pro-am alternate list.

2. If the exempt pro-am professional withdraws after the pro-am, the spot will be filled by the exempt player alternate list, if there are no exempt players on the alternate list, the spot will be filled by the alternate list from Second Chance Qualifying.

(g) Refunds:

1. Refund requests must be made prior to the entry deadline, after which time refunds will not be granted.
2. Successful qualifiers who withdraw – upon the completion of each qualifying event, successful qualifiers will not be granted a refund of the qualifying entry fee.
3. Exempt players who withdraw – refunds for exempt players will be granted up until 5:00 p.m. the day preceding the championship.

(h) Qualifying Discontinuance of Play / Unplayable Conditions Procedure:

In the event of a suspension during the qualifying round, the round shall be cancelled if more than half the field is unable to complete the round on the qualifying date. If more than half the field completes the round, play should be temporarily suspended and completed when conditions permit. This may include completing play the following day.

Consideration of this procedure would depend on the availability of the golf course. The NTPGA has the right to modify the qualifying round schedule which may include, but is not limited to completing play on another day or cancel the entire qualifying round and reschedule at a later date.

Participants who cannot play on the date rescheduled will be refunded their entry fee less an administrative fee and will be sent a Second Chance Qualifying entry form. They will not be allowed to transfer into another qualifying site.

Note: In the case of inclement weather, Second Chance Qualifying will be conducted up until the day prior to the original championship date.

Section 4. Open Division and Senior Division

The field for the Pro-Pro Championship, Pro-Scratch Championship, Western Championship, Eastern Championship, Section Championship and Match Play Championship will consist of an Open Division and a Senior Division.

- (a) Eligibility – The Open Division is open to all eligible Members and Associates with no age parameters. The Senior Division is open to eligible Members and Associates 50 years of age or older as of the first round of the applicable championship who declares to compete in the Senior Division.
1. A Member or Associate is not permitted to play in both the Open and Senior Division.
 2. A Member or Associate may choose the division they would like to play in on an event by event basis.

3. A Member or Associate must declare the division they wish to compete in by the championship entry deadline and may not change divisions after the championship entry deadline.
 4. For the Pro-Pro Championship and Pro-Scratch Championship both partners must be 50 years of age or older as of the first round of the championship to compete in the Senior Division.
- (b) Format – The Open Division and Senior Division are separate competitions.
1. The tournament champion will be determined by the Open Division results in all cases.
 2. A separate purse will be distributed to the Open Division and Senior Division based on the percentage of the field competing in each Division.
 3. The payout will be no less than 33% of the field in the Open Division and no less than 50% of the field in the Senior Division.
 4. All ties in the Senior Division will be equally shared.
 5. The Senior Division will have a separate Final Round Players Pool at the Western Championship, Eastern Championship and Section Championship.
 6. The Senior Division will have a separate Skins Game at the Pro-Pro Championship, Western Championship, Eastern Championship and Section Championship.
- (c) Separate Tees Guidelines - The following guidelines shall be used by the NTPGA in determining the placement of tees for the divisions in the Pro-Pro Championship, Pro-Scratch Championship, Western Championship, Eastern Championship, Section Championship and Match Play Championship. Note: The following yardage guidelines may vary due to overall course yardage and whether the championship purse is based on one overall division or multiple divisions.

Open Division (Male Competitors) – set to the overall championship yardage.

Open Division (Female Competitors) – set between 85-90% of the overall championship yardage.

Senior Division (Male Competitors; ages 50-64) – set to the overall senior championship yardage.

Senior Division (Male Competitors; ages 65-74) – set between 90-94% of the overall senior championship yardage.

Senior Division (Male Competitors; ages 75 and older) – set between 85-90% of the overall senior championship yardage.

Senior Division (Female Competitors; ages 50-64) – set between 85-90% of the overall senior championship yardage.

Senior Division (Female Competitors; ages 65 and older) – set between 80-85% of the overall senior championship yardage.

- (d) The Senior Division will not earn points or have scores considered for the following awards and competitions; NTPGA Player of the Year, NTPGA Ben Hogan Stroke Play Average Award and NTPGA Texas Joe Black Cup Team. A competitor must play in the Open Division to earn points or have scores considered for the above stated awards and competitions.

The Senior Division will earn points towards the Senior Division Points Challenge Award and qualifying for the Levy Cup Matches and Senior Division of the Match Play Championship. The Senior Division of the Match Play Championship will be a separate competition to recognize a Senior Division Match Play Champion. Should a professional qualify for the Match Play Championship via both points lists, the professional must declare the division they would like to compete in by the tournament entry deadline. A competitor is not permitted to play in both the Open and Senior Division of the Match Play Championship.

- (e) Exemptions/Qualifying Spots – PGA TOUR and Web.com Tour exemptions and/or qualifying spots will be awarded based on Open Division final results in all cases.

Section 5. Entry Priority – Non-Qualifying Events

The field for non-qualifying events conducted in Northern Texas will be determined as follows:

- (a) The defending champion in any Section major championship is automatically entered in the applicable event provided that his/her entry is received prior to the entry deadline, and he/she is otherwise eligible.
- (b) All entries will be registered on the date of receipt at the NTPGA and accepted on a first come first served basis. In events with a limited field, all eligible professionals whose entries in major championships are received prior to the stated deadline will be accepted into the field on the basis of the priority system and the maximum size of the field stated on the entry form.

Exception: For the Pro-Pro Championship and Pro-Scratch Championship, entry priority will be given to eligible / active Members and Associates. Class A Inactive Member entries will be registered following the deadline, prior to which only eligible / active Members and Associates may register. Following the deadline, Member, Associate and Class A Inactive Member entries will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

- (c) Following the stated deadline, the field will be paired according to the time constraints set by the NTPGA and host facility. If the field is not full, entries received after the entry deadline will be placed on an alternate list for the applicable event. After the original pairings have been made, alternates will only be accepted to fill incomplete groups or replace contestants who withdraw.
- (d) For the Match Play Championship, the field will be seeded according to the standings on the current year's Player of the Year Points Standings following the Section Championship. If an eligible Member is unable to participate, the field will be filled by eligible Members from those who finished outside the top 32 from the current year's Player of the Year Points Standings.

For the Match Play Championship Senior Division, the field will be seeded according to the standings on the current year's Senior Points Standings following the Section Championship. If an eligible Member is unable to participate, the field will be filled by eligible Members from those who finished outside the top eight (8) from the current year's Senior Points Standings.

Section 6. Entry Fees / Refunds

- (a) Entry Fees for Section Championships – The amount of entry fees shall be determined by the Tournament Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Minimum entry fees shall be \$150.00 for assistant professional major championships; \$150.00 for senior professional major championships; \$150.00 for the Pro-Junior Championship; \$175.00 for the Pro-Assistant Championship; \$225.00 for individual professional major championships; \$450.00 for two-day professional / one amateur team events and \$450.00 for two-day professional team championships, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors.

For the Western Championship, Eastern Championship, NTPGA Professional Championship and Section Championship, host professionals will receive one complimentary entry fee. The host professional may elect to forward the complimentary entry fee to any other eligible professional at the facility for any reason.

- (b) Entry Fees for National Qualifying Events –

PGA Professional Championship:

National Registration - \$225.00

Section Registration - \$0.00

Assistants' Championship:

National Registration - \$30.00

Section Registration - \$150.00

Seniors' Championship

National Registration - \$140.00

Section Registration - \$150.00

Note: Members that do not register for National qualifying may play in the NTPGA Professional, Assistant and Senior Championships to earn points and prize money, but will not be eligible to qualify for the National Championship. Note: Qualifying spots and added money for these championships are still determined by entries received by the National Office.

- (c) Refunds for Section Major Championships (excluding National qualifying events) - A full refund will be granted if the player / team cancels before 5:00 p.m. on the day preceding the championship. If a player / team cancels after this time they will be refunded the fixed tournament expenses only (cart, range and/or food).

- (d) Refunds for National Qualifying Events –

PGA Professional Championship – A refund of \$165.00 (National keeps \$60.00 of the original \$225.00 entry fee) will be granted if a player cancels after the National deadline and before 5:00 p.m. on the day preceding the official practice round. If a player cancels after this time they will be refunded the fixed tournament expenses only (cart, range and/or food).

Assistant Championship – A refund of \$150.00 (National keeps 100% of the National registration fee) will be granted if a player cancels after the National deadline and before 5:00 p.m. on the day preceding the official practice round. If a player cancels after this time they will be refunded the fixed tournament expenses only (cart, range and/or food).

Senior Championship – A refund of \$150.00 (National keeps 100% of the National registration fee) will be granted if a player cancels after the National deadline and before 5:00 p.m. on the day preceding the official practice round. If a player cancels after this time they will be refunded the fixed tournament expenses only (cart, range and/or food).

- (e) Refunds for Emergency – In cases of emergency, written requests for refunds can be submitted to the NTPGA within five business days of the first round of the tournament. These requests for a refund will be considered separately on their own merit.

Section 7. Arrangement of Starting Times / Pairings

- (a) Starting times and pairings for individual stroke play major championships will be based on a blind draw basis from the following priority categories:

- 1. For the Western Championship and Eastern Championship, Joe Black Cup team members from the previous year will be paired together during round one. For the NTPGA Professional Championship and the Section Championship, the top 9 A-1, A-4 and A-13 and the top senior professional on the current year's Joe Black Cup and Senior Joe Black Cup Points Standings and the Section President, regardless of their classification, will be paired together during round one.

For the NTPGA Assistant Championship, NTPGA Professional Championship and the Section Championship, the top 6 A-8's on the current year's Levy Cup Points Standings will be paired together during round one.

- 2. For the Western Championship and Eastern Championship, professionals who were the top 32 points leaders from the previous year's final Player of the Year Points Standings, all individual major championship winners, for events in which there is no qualifying, will be paired together for round one.

For the NTPGA Professional Championship and Section Championship, professionals who are the top 32 points leaders from the current year's Player of the Year Points Standings, all individual major championship winners, for events in which there is no qualifying, will be paired together for round one.

For the Section Championship during round one, the top 3 on the current year's Player of the Year Points Standings will be paired together.

- 3. For the Western Championship and Eastern Championship, Senior Division professionals who were the top 9 points leaders from the previous year's final Senior Points Challenge List, all individual major championship winners, for events in which there is no qualifying, will be paired together for round one.

For the Senior Championship and Section Championship, Senior Division professionals who are the top 9 points leaders from the current year's Senior Points Challenge List, all individual major championship winners, for events in which there is no qualifying, will be paired together for round one.

For the Section Championship during round one, the top 3 on the current year's Senior Player of the Year Points Standings will be paired together.

- 4. All other professionals and amateurs will be paired together for round one.
- 5. For events in which there is qualifying, all exempt players for that particular event (see Section 3 [a]) will be paired together for round one and two (TSO).

- (b) For pro-am events, the field will be re-paired by score after the first round within the respective a.m. / p.m. waves. When a double tee wave is used, lowest scores from the a.m. wave will play late in the p.m. wave for the second round. Lowest scores from the p.m. wave day one will play late in the a.m. wave for the second round. Subject to change according to course design and availability.
- (c) For professional-only events without an Open and Senior Division, for the second and / or final rounds, the field will be re-paired by score using a double tee wave or waves (reverse horseshoe) with the lowest scores off last on the first tee, middle scores off first on the first and tenth tees, and highest scores off last on the tenth tee. Subject to change according to course design and availability.

For professional-only events with an Open and Senior Division, for the first round, the field will be paired within each Division using a double tee wave or waves (reverse horseshoe). The Senior Division will start first in the a.m. wave on the first and tenth tees. Subject to change according to course design and availability.

For professional-only events with an Open and Senior Division, for the second and / or final round, the field will be re-paired by score within each Division using a double tee wave or waves (reverse horseshoe) with the lowest scores off last on the first tee, middle scores off first on the first and tenth tees, and highest scores off last on the tenth tee. The Senior Division will start first in the a.m. wave on the first and tenth tees. Subject to change according to course design and availability.

- (d) Requests for round one starting times will be accommodated as practicable so long as the requests are made before the pairings are completed. If an exempt player requests a round one starting time, he/she is subject to be paired outside the exempt category. If a Senior Division player requests a round one starting time outside the Senior Division starting time parameters, he/she is subject to disqualification if the Senior Division completes round one and he/she is unable to complete round one. Starting times and pairings will be based on the current standings at the conclusion of the preceding round for events contested over multiple rounds. However, in unusual circumstances the NTPGA may change this sequence.
- (e) Under no circumstances may a player request a specific fellow competitor with whom to play.
- (f) Players will not be called to their starting tees.
- (g) Players shall start at the time and the order arranged unless otherwise informed by the NTPGA. 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.
- (h) Each player is responsible for obtaining their starting time and starting tee.

Section 8. Score Card Requirements

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

Section 9. Pace of Play

DEFINITION OF OUT OF POSITION: The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any

time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to play, as detailed on the applicable Pace of Play Time Chart.

Any subsequent groups will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they (a) exceed the allotted time to play and (b) reach a par-3 hole that is open and free of play, reach a par-4 hole and have not played a stroke from the teeing ground before the hole is open and free to play, or reach a par-5 hole and all players in the group have not played a stroke from the teeing ground before the hole is open and free to play. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.

NOTE: The Rules Committee reserves the right to time a group when the Rules Committee deems it necessary. Further, if a player is determined by the Rules Committee to be unreasonably slow he may be timed individually at the Rules Committee's discretion, regardless of whether his group is out of position.

TIMING: When the Rules Committee determines that a group or an individual will be timed, all players in the group, or the specific individual, will be informed they are being timed. A group or an individual will be informed after leaving the teeing ground and before any further strokes. Timing will discontinue when the group has regained its position. Any timing exceeding the allotted time to play will be carried over for the remainder of the round.

Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is his turn to play and he can play without interference or distraction. Time spent determining yardage 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. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as time taken for that stroke.

NOTE: A player is permitted 40 seconds to play a stroke, and an extra 10 seconds (for a total of 50 seconds) will be allowed for: (a) the first player to play a stroke on a par-3 hole; (b) the first player to play a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5 hole; (c) the first player to play a third stroke on a par-5 hole; (d) the first player to play around the putting green; and (e) the first player to play on the putting green.

PENALTIES: Any player in a group being timed, who exceeds the applicable time to play a stroke, will be informed as soon as practicable and is subject to the following penalties in Stroke Play/Match Play competitions:

FIRST OFFENSE: Warning / Warning

SECOND OFFENSE: One (1) Stroke Penalty / One (1) Stroke Penalty

THIRD OFFENSE: Two (2) Stroke Penalty / Loss of hole

FOURTH OFFENSE: Disqualification / Disqualification.

Section 10. Discontinuance of Play / Unplayable Conditions Procedure

- (a) The policy for discontinuance of play will be consistent with Rule 6-8 of the *Rules of Golf*. The Rules 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 Rules Committee. When serving on the Rules Committee, no member may be a competitor. Discontinuance of play immediately for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged siren or horn note. Three consecutive short signal notes will signal discontinuance of play. Two short signal notes will signal the resumption of play. NOTE: Players should be aware of their right to stop play at anytime 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 re-opened.

(b) In Section Major Championships contested at 36-holes, the following unplayable conditions procedure will apply:

1. One round cancelled – event will be contested at 18-holes with the entire purse paid.
2. Two rounds cancelled – event will be rescheduled at 36-holes at a later date.

Note: For professional-only events with an Open and Senior Division, each Division is a separate contest.

(c) In Section Major Championships contested at 72-holes, the following unplayable conditions procedure will apply:

1. One round cancelled – event will be contested at 54-holes with the entire purse paid.
2. Two rounds cancelled – event will be contested at 36-holes with the entire purse paid.
3. Three rounds cancelled – event will be rescheduled at 36-holes at a later date.

(d) The following guidelines are for use by the Rules Committee in case of inclement 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 Rules 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 cancelled 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. If conditions force a delay long enough to where the final round may not be completed on that day, play may be resumed the following day. Consideration of this procedure would depend upon availability of the golf course as well as the type of competition.
4. For the Pro-Assistant Championship, the NTPGA staff may make the decision to declare the championship as two separate competitions on separate courses.

Note: For professional-only events with an Open and Senior Division, each division is a separate contest.

Section 11. Policy Regarding Ties

- (a) **Major Events:** In all major events, should two or more professionals or teams tie for first position, the tie will be resolved by a playoff, such playoff shall be on a “hole-by-hole” basis (unless otherwise stated) immediately following the conclusion of the final round. However, in unusual circumstances the Rules Committee may change this policy. 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. Professionals tying for other positions will share equally with others posting the same score. Exception: There will be no playoffs in the Senior Division. All ties will be equally shared.
- (b) **Match Play Championship:** Should there be a tie for a position in the top 32 finishers on the Player of the Year Points Standings to determine a professional’s seeding in the Match Play Championship, the tie will be broken using the Member’s finish in the current year’s Section Championship Open Division. If one Member competed in the Open Division and the other Member in the Senior Division, the Member who competed in the Open Division wins the tie-break regardless of scores. If one Member competed in the Section Championship and the other Member did not, the Member who competed in the Section Championship wins the tie-break regardless of scores.

Should there be a tie following the Section Championship tie-breaking method, the tie will be broken utilizing their individual rounds in the Section Championship Open Division starting with the final round, and then the first round.

If the tie is still not broken, the same method to break the tie will be utilized using the NTPGA Professional Championship. If the tie is still not broken, the final position on the previous year’s Player of the Year Points Standings will be used to break the tie.

Should there be a tie for a position in the top eight (8) finishers on the Senior Points Standings to determine a professional’s seeding in the Senior Division of the Match Play Championship the tie will be broken using the Member’s finish in the current year’s NTPGA Senior Championship.

Should there be a tie following the NTPGA Senior Championship tie-break method, the tie will be broken utilizing their individual rounds in the NTPGA Senior Championship starting with the final round, and then the first round. If one Member competed in the NTPGA Senior Championship and the other Member did not, the Member who competed in the NTPGA Senior Championship wins the tie-break regardless of scores.

If the tie is still not broken, the same method to break the tie will be utilized using the Senior Division of the Section Championship. If the tie is still not broken, the final position on the previous year’s Senior Points Standings will be used to break the tie.

The applicable tie-break methods outlined above will be used to determine alternate positions if there is a tie for a position.

- (c) **Texas Joe Black Cup Team:** Should there be a tie for the last position on the Texas Joe Black Cup team, the tie will be broken using the Member’s finish in the current year’s Section Championship Open Division.

Should there be a tie following the Section Championship tie-break method, the tie will be broken utilizing their individual rounds in the Section Championship Open Division starting with the final round, and then the first round.

If the tie is still not broken, the same method to break the tie will be utilized using the NTPGA Professional Championship. If the tie is still not broken, the final position on the previous year's Player of the Year Points Standings will be used to break the tie.

- (d) **Levy Cup Team:** Should there be a tie for the last position on the Levy Cup team, the tie for the Assistant representative will be broken using the A-8 Member's finish in the current year's Section Championship Open Division. The Senior representative (any category) will be broken using the Senior's finish in the Section Championship's Senior Division.

Should there be a tie following the Section Championship tie-breaking method, the tie will be broken utilizing their individual rounds in the Section Championship Open Division and Senior Division, respectively, starting with the final round and then the first round.

If the tie is still not broken, the same method to break the tie will be utilized using the NTPGA Assistant Championship and NTPGA Senior Championship, respectively. If the tie is still not broken, the final position on the previous year's Player of the Year Points Standings and Senior Points Challenge lists, respectively, will be used to break the tie.

- (e) **Alternate Position Order in Qualifying Events:** In the event no players are present to resolve a tie(s) to properly order an alternate list, the order of the alternate list will be determined by lot.

Section 12. Reduction of Field (Cuts)

- (a) For the Texas State Open, the starting field shall be reduced to 55 players having the lowest scores at the conclusion of 36-holes of tournament play, including any players tied for 55th place. For the Texas Women's Open, the starting field shall be reduced to 50 players having the lowest scores at the conclusion of 36-holes of tournament play, including any players tied for 50th place.

Section 13. Prize Fund Distribution

- (a) The prize fund distribution shall be the total of all entry fees, plus the sponsorship added money, less the Section Sanction Fee and other incidental expenses as determined by the Tournament Committee and NTPGA staff. Each finishing position for all major stroke play event purses will be assigned a specific percentage of the total purse (see tables in Appendix I).

A minimum of 33% of the field shall be paid. Exception: A minimum of 50% of the field shall be paid in the Senior Division in the Pro-Pro Championship, Pro-Scratch Championship, Western Championship, Eastern Championship and Section Championship. Should there be a tie for the final position in the money for any applicable prize distribution in conjunction with a chapter professional only or section major championships and as a result the final position check is less than \$20.00, the final position will not be paid out. The funds will be considered a donation to the NTPGA Junior Golf Foundation.

- (b) For the Texas State Open and the Texas Women's Open, the distribution of the amateur portion shall be arranged on a descending percentage basis with a maximum for the low amateur as provided by the *Rules of Golf*. Amateurs will receive a gift certificate redeemable for merchandise in the host facility's golf shop. Amateur awards will be given only to those who make the 36-hole cut and return a score card for the final round.

Should there be a tie for the final position in the money and as a result the final position check is less than \$20.00, the final position will not be paid out. The funds will be considered a donation to the NTPGA Junior Golf Foundation.

Professionals that make the cut and do not finish (WD, NS, NC or DQ) will earn last place prize money.

(c) Separate Tees / Same Purse Policy:

Individual Major Championships: In all Section sanctioned events, with the exception of the Texas State Open, Texas Women's Open, NTPGA Players Tour, and PGA TOUR related qualifying events, a separate set of tees shall be provided for female professionals set at no less than 85% and no more than 90% of the overall championship yardage. In these events, men and women shall compete for the same purse. The man or woman professional with the lowest score shall win first place money.

Senior Division: A separate set of tees shall be provided in the Pro-Pro Championship, Pro-Scratch Championship, Eastern Championship, Western Championship, Section Championship and Match Play Championship for the following categories:

1. Male competitors ages 50-64.
2. Female competitors ages 50-64.
3. Male competitors ages 65-74.
4. Female competitors ages 65 and older.
5. Male competitors 75 and older.

Within the Senior Division, men and women of any age shall compete for the same purse. The male or female professional with the lowest score shall win first place money.

Senior Championship: In the Senior Championship, a separate set of tees shall be provided for female professionals ages 50-64, female professionals 65 years of age and older, male professionals 65-74 years of age and male professionals 75 and older. In this event, men and women shall compete for the same purse. The male or female professional with the lowest score shall win first place money.

Note: Only professionals that register and play from the championship tees are eligible to qualify for the national championship.

Team Major Championships: In the Pro-Assistant Championship, Pro-Pro Championship, Pro-Scratch Championship, Pro-Junior Championship) a separate set of tees shall be provided for competitors based on their age as of the first round.

Male Competitors 60-69 – set between 90-94% of the overall championship yardage.

Male Competitors 70 years of age or older – set between 85-90% of the overall championship yardage.

Female Competitors 59 years of age or younger – set between 85-90% of the overall championship yardage.

Female Competitors 60 years of age or older – set between 80-85% of the overall championship yardage.

In these events, all competitors will compete for the same purse.

- (d) The NTPGA will pay out the prize fund distribution within ten (10) business days of the event assuming all sponsorship monies have been received. Those contestants who win prize money (including skins game, players pool, bonus pool, etc.) in the Eastern Championship, Western Championship, NTPGA Professional Championship, NTPGA, Section Championship and Match Play Championship will be mailed their check once the Section has received copies of the appreciation letters that are required to be mailed / emailed to sponsors within 30 days of the event. Prize money checks will not be sent until these letters are received by the Section. Professionals who win prize money in the Texas State Open and Texas Women's Open who are not a PGA Member or Apprentice will be mailed their check once the NTPGA has received a current year IRS Form W-9.
- (e) There will be a Final Round Players Pool of up to \$1,000.00 for all professionals in the Open Division for round two in the Western Championship, Eastern Championship, NTPGA Professional Championship and Section Championship. The Final Round Players Pool is based on scores for round two only. The top five (5) round two scores will be paid out with all ties equally shared. A player who is awarded purse monies may not also earn Final Round Players Pool monies. First place in the Final Round Players Pool will be no more than last place prize money. If it is numerically impossible to use all the funds allocated in the payout, any excess funds will be added to the overall purse payout for the championship. The Players Pool is separate from the tournament purse. Winnings will be paid out by the NTPGA via check following the championship.
- (f) There will be a Final Round Players pool of up to \$500.00 for all professionals in the NTPGA Assistant Championship. The Final Round Players Pool is based on scores for round two only. The top five (5) round two scores will be paid out with all ties equally shared. A player who is awarded purse monies may not also earn Final Round Players Pool monies. First place in the Final Round Players Pool will be no more than last place prize money. If it is numerically impossible to use all the funds allocated in the payout, any excess funds will be added to the overall purse payout for the championship. The Players Pool is separate from the tournament purse. Winnings will be paid out by the NTPGA via check following the championship.
- (g) There will be a Final Round Players pool of up to \$500.00 for all professionals in the NTPGA Senior Championship. The Final Round Players Pool is based on scores for round two only. The top five (5) round two scores will be paid out with all ties equally shared. A player who is awarded purse monies may not also earn Final Round Players Pool monies. First place in the Final Round Players Pool will be no more than last place prize money. If it is numerically impossible to use all the funds allocated in the payout, any excess funds will be added to the overall purse payout for the championship. The Players Pool is separate from the tournament purse. Winnings will be paid out by the NTPGA via check following the championship.
- (h) There will be a Final Round Players pool of up to \$500.00 for all professionals in the Senior Division for round two in the Western Championship, Eastern Championship and Section Championship. The Final Round Players Pool is based on scores for round two only. The top five (5) round two scores will be paid out with all ties equally shared. A player who is awarded purse monies may not also earn Final Round Players Pool monies. First place in the Final Round Players Pool will be no more than last place prize money. If it is numerically impossible to use all the funds allocated in the payout, any excess funds will be added to the overall purse payout for the championship. The Players Pool is

separate from the tournament purse. Winnings will be paid out by the NTPGA via check following the championship.

- (i) There will be a \$1,000.00 Skins Game for all professionals in the Pro-Pro Championship, Western Championship, Eastern Championship, NTPGA Professional Championship and Section Championship. The \$1,000.00 Skins Game money will be allocated in each championship as follows; \$500.00 for round one and \$500.00 for round two. If no skins are won during round one, the skins money allocated for round one will be carried over to round two. If no skins are won during round two, the skins money allocated for round two will be added to the overall purse payout for the championship. If no skins are won during round one or round two, the skins money allocated for each round will be added to the overall purse payout for the championship. The Skins Game is separate from the tournament purse. Winnings will be paid out by the NTPGA via check following the championship.
- (j) There will be a \$500.00 Skins Game for all professionals in the NTPGA Assistant Championship. The \$500.00 Skins Game money will be allocated in each championship as follows; \$250.00 for round one and \$250.00 for round two. If no skins are won during round one, the skins money allocated for round one will be carried over to round two. If no skins are won during round two, the skins money allocated for round two will be added to the overall purse payout for the championship. If no skins are won during round one or round two, the skins money allocated for each round will be added to the overall purse payout for the championship. The Skins Game is separate from the tournament purse. Winnings will be paid out by the NTPGA via check following the championship.
- (k) There will be a \$500.00 Skins Game for all professionals in the NTPGA Senior Championship. The \$500.00 Skins Game money will be allocated in each championship as follows; \$250.00 for round one and \$250.00 for round two. If no skins are won during round one, the skins money allocated for round one will be carried over to round two. If no skins are won during round two, the skins money allocated for round two will be added to the overall purse payout for the championship. If no skins are won during round one or round two, the skins money allocated for each round will be added to the overall purse payout for the championship. The Skins Game is separate from the tournament purse. Winnings will be paid out by the NTPGA via check following the championship.
- (l) There will be a \$500.00 Skins Game for all professionals in the Senior Division in the Pro-Pro Championship, Western Championship, Eastern Championship and Section Championship. The \$500.00 Skins Game money will be allocated in each championship as follows; \$250.00 for round one and \$250.00 for round two. If no skins are won during round one, the skins money allocated for round one will be carried over to round two. If no skins are won during round two, the skins money allocated for round two will be added to the overall purse payout for the championship. If no skins are won during round one or round two, the skins money allocated for each round will be added to the overall purse payout for the championship. The Skins Game is separate from the tournament purse. Winnings will be paid out by the NTPGA via check following the championship.

Section 14. Golf Cars / Caddies

Golf cars are not required in all NTPGA major championships; however, if a player chooses not to use a golf car he/she must employ a caddie. Participants are not permitted to carry their own bag unless otherwise stated on the official tournament entry form. Please reference Article V, Section 2 for rules pertaining to Golf Car Etiquette. The NTPGA staff reserves the right to modify this regulation.

ARTICLE VIII

Chapter/Pro-Amateur Events

Section 1. Host Professional Responsibilities

All Chapter Championships and Pro-Ams must be conducted at a course with a PGA Member or Associate Head Professional, unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director.

In hosting a Chapter Pro-Am event, the host professional must:

- (a) Schedule the pro-am through the Chapter Tournament Committee Chair. Each Chair will then communicate with the NTPGA, which will then approve the dates or suggest changes as they relate to the National and Section tournament program.
- (b) Acknowledge each entry, advising applicant that his entry is accepted, on an alternate list or the field is full.
- (c) Notify accepted entries of their starting time a minimum of three (3) days in advance of the event.
- (d) Arrange to have the use of the course reserved for tournament players only during the competition.
- (e) Define all boundaries, water hazards, lateral water hazards and ground under repair.
- (f) Prepare a Rules of Play Sheet and an official team score card with handicap stroke holes identified for amateur players.
- (g) Post a pairings sheet with starting times.
- (h) Provide a registration desk with personnel to handle entry fee collection and handicap verification.
- (i) Provide an official scoring area and provide personnel to verify and post scores.
- (j) Prepare and post a prize breakdown sheet prior to the completion of the first (or only) round.
- (k) Provide an effective warning system to be used in the event of dangerous weather.
- (l) Arrange to write and distribute gift certificates to prize winning amateurs immediately after play is completed.
- (m) Send out the professional prize distribution within five (5) days following the event.
- (n) Send a tournament summary outlining the final results, number of participants and enclose a check for the Chapter Sanction Fee to the NTPGA within five (5) days following the event.

Section 2. Entry Requirements

- (a) Chapter Pro-Am event entry forms will be distributed to all Chapter Members and Associates via direct email / mailings conducted by each Chapter.
- (b) Pro-Am event entry forms should be returned to the host professional unless otherwise stated on the form.

- (c) In Pro-Am events held in conjunction with major tournaments, the field of competing professionals will be selected by the host professional and / or the tournament sponsor, provided all selected professionals meet current eligibility requirements.
- (d) By signing an official entry form or by verbally committing to play, competitors agree to abide by the Tournament Rules & Regulations.
- (e) An amateur, to be eligible to participate in pro-am events, must be invited by a NTPGA Member, Associate or the host facility.
- (f) Class A-3 members are eligible to participate in professional only team events. No more than one (1) Class A-3 Member may participate on a team.
- (g) Chapter Player's Cards are available to purchase for \$25.00 and are payable to the Chapter in which the pro-am is being conducted. Chapter Player's Cards must be purchased prior to a pro-am. It is the responsibility of the Chapter Tournament Chair to manage this responsibility. All funds generated stay within the Chapter.
 - 1. Non-PGA professionals may be invited by the host professional to participate in a pro-am; however no more than three (3) may compete and a Chapter Player's Card must be purchased for each professional. This must be done upon approval by the Chapter Tournament Chair.
 - 2. Associates that are suspended or Class "F" Members are not eligible to participate and do not have the option of purchasing a Chapter Player's Card.
 - 3. Members that hold one of the following classifications may be invited by the host professional to participate; however they must purchase a Chapter Player's Card upon approval by the Chapter Tournament Chair. No more than three (3) Members with one of these classifications may participate:
 - a. Class F
 - b. Inactive
 - c. Ineligibly Employed
 - d. Unemployed
 - 4. Chapter Player's Cards are only available for pro-am events and may not be purchased for professional only events.
 - 5. A professional may utilize a Chapter Player's Card up to three (3) times within the calendar year.

Section 3. Amateur Handicaps

- (a) An amateur's handicap must be verified by presenting a current handicap card or in the absence of a handicap card a handicap computed according to the *Rules of Golf* together with a record of the handicap prior to the pro-am. If handicap verification data is not presented at the tournament site, it must be sent to Chapter Tournament Chair within three (3) days after the tournament. Without proper verification, checks and gift certificates will not be issued. If proper verification is not received within three (3) days of the event, all awards will be voided and assigned to the NTPGA Junior Golf Foundation.

- (b) Members of the host facility who are competing shall have their handicap verified by the host professional.

Section 4. Arrangement of Pairings

- (a) The host facility and / or host professional has the authority to assign starting times and groupings as they deem appropriate. They shall take into account the following:
 - 1. When using a shotgun start, the size of the field shall not exceed 32 teams per shotgun.
 - 2. When using morning and afternoon starting times, the field shall not exceed 64 teams.
 - 3. Starting times shall be arranged at intervals of eight (8) minutes or more.
 - 4. Once a competing team has begun play, there shall be no substitutions for amateurs or professionals who cannot complete a round, or who cannot return for a subsequent round. There shall be no refunds after an individual has begun play.
- (b) In the event a pro-am team is incomplete, the following shall apply:
 - 1. If a professional fails to appear, the amateurs assigned to his team may compete and use the scores of a drawn professional to assist in their team score.
 - 2. If an amateur fails to appear, a designated amateur shall be drawn and his scores shall be used to assist in their team score.
 - 3. Any drawn amateur or professional can only win a prize with his original team. Any prize won on a drawn team by an amateur or professional shall be donated to the NTPGA Junior Golf Foundation.

Section 5. Score Card Requirements

- (a) The professional contestant is responsible for maintaining the score card for the team. He shall enter the gross score of an amateur when that score is used as a best ball. He shall enter the best ball score(s) for each hole. The score card shall be signed by the professional and attested by one of the amateur team members. Penalties for violations shall be consistent with other scoring violations.
- (b) It is the competing professional's responsibility to examine the official score card for accuracy prior to the round. Any inaccuracies including the allotment of handicap strokes for amateurs shall be reported to the host professional or the designated committee.

Section 6. Pace of Play

- (a) When playing in groups of four, allowing an average of 15 minutes per hole, a round should be completed in 4 hours, 30 minutes.
- (b) Refer to Pace of Play guidelines on the Rules of Play Hard Card.
- (c) An amateur unable to assist his team on a hole is required to pick up his ball.

Section 7. Discontinuance of Play

- (a) The policy for discontinuance of play shall be consistent with Rule 6-8 of the *Rules of Golf*.
- (b) The host professional, if not competing, or a committee designated by the host professional, has the authority and responsibility to order discontinuance of play due to weather conditions. The decision to resume play, postpone any part of it or cancel play entirely rests with the host professional or the designated committee. It is recommended that no member of the committee be a competitor in the event.
- (c) In a one-day event, if play is discontinued before the field has completed play, the following policy will apply:
 - 1. If 75% or more of the field has completed play, and it will not be feasible for the others to do so on that day, the tournament payout shall be re-figured on the basis of the number completing play. Those participants unable to complete play shall be deemed non-competitors and will be refunded the portion of the entry fee going into the prize purse.
 - 2. If less than 75% of the field has completed play, the event will be postponed and/or rescheduled.
 - 3. One day events shall not be reduced to less than 18-holes if play is not completed.
- (d) In a multi-day event, if play is discontinued before the field has completed play, the following policy will apply:
 - 1. The unfinished teams will resume play on the following day, prior to the start of the day's scheduled play.
 - 2. If one of the rounds is canceled, the tournament payout will be paid out in full based on previous round scores.

Note: Under no circumstances will play continue past the last scheduled round of the competition.

Section 8. Prize Fund Distribution

- (a) The prize fund for distribution shall be the total of the entry fees plus any added money less the Chapter Sanction Fee and any operating expenses.
- (b) The prize fund will be distributed to a minimum of 33% of the starting field.
- (c) Winning professionals will be paid by check mailed from the host professional within five (5) days of the event, or mailed from the NTPGA within ten (10) business days of receiving the final results.
- (d) Winning amateurs will be awarded gift certificates redeemable for merchandise in the host facility's golf shop.
- (e) If for any reason the certificates are not distributed upon completion of the event, they will be mailed to the professional of the team.

Section 9. Chapter Professional Only Events

The NTPGA may be responsible for chapter professional only event entry forms, collection of entry fees, signing off on the prize distribution, final results, total revenue and expenses, and the net purse. The NTPGA will then pay out the prize distribution within ten (10) business days of receiving the final results. The Chapter Tournament Chair shall send a final tournament summary to the NTPGA including: prize distribution, complete results, total revenue and expenses, and the net purse.

ARTICLE IX

PGA TOUR Qualifying Exemptions

Section 1. Exemptions

- (a) Exemptions granted to the NTPGA Members for PGA TOUR events held within the Section will be guided by the current PGA TOUR policy.
 - 1. Currently, this policy provides an exemption for the current NTPGA Section Champion from the Open Division. This applies for the PGA TOUR's Byron Nelson only. In the event he chooses not to participate, leaves the Section, becomes ineligible for tournament play, or is otherwise already in the tournament proper, his spot will revert to the Player of the Year. The spot will be allocated back to the PGA TOUR field alternate list should the Player of the Year be unable to participate.
 - 2. Currently, this policy provides three (3) exemptions into "open" qualifying for the first, second and third place professional on the previous year's final Player of the Year Points Standings. This applies for the Byron Nelson "Open" Qualifying only. In the event one or all choose not to participate, leave the Section, become ineligible for tournament play, or are otherwise already in the tournament proper, the exemption will revert to the previous year's final Player of the Year Points Standings. The NTPGA will only go down to the tenth position on the previous year's final Player of the Year Points Standings, after which time the spots will be forfeited if not filled. The Policy Regarding Ties in Article VII, Section 10 for the Match Play Championship will be used to resolve ties.

Section 2. "Open" Qualifying

- (a) The NTPGA will conduct "pre" qualifying and "open" qualifying to determine open positions in PGA TOUR events with the number of positions determined by current PGA TOUR policy. Currently, this policy provides four (4) exemptions for all amateurs and all professionals in an 18-hole qualifying round. The "pre-qualifying" field will be limited to the first 312 entries. This applies for the Byron Nelson only.
- (b) The NTPGA will conduct qualifying to determine open positions in Web.com Tour events with the number of positions being determined by current Web.com Tour policy. Currently, this policy provides twelve (12) exemptions, unless otherwise adjusted by the PGA TOUR, for all amateurs and all professionals in an 18-hole qualifying round.
- (c) For "pre" and "open" PGA TOUR and Web.com Tour qualifying events, qualifying will be open to all professionals, including NTPGA Members, Apprentices and amateurs with a handicap index of 2.4 or less.
- (d) For "pre" and "open" PGA TOUR and Web.com Tour qualifying events, all competitors will be required to compete from the same set of tees regardless of age or gender

APPENDIX I: MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP PRIZE FUND DISTRIBUTION

The following tables shall be used as a guide for the prize fund distribution for all Major Championships. The NTPGA may round these totals up or down at their discretion.

In an event with no cut after 36-holes, 33% of the starting field should be paid. These events include the Pro-Assistant Championship, Pro-Pro Championship, Pro-Scratch Championship, Eastern Championship, Western Championship, NTPGA Professional Championship, Section Championship, NTPGA Senior Championship and NTPGA Assistant Championship. The Match Play Championship and Pro-Junior Championship will have a separate prize fund distribution.

A. Major Championships shall use the following percentage table based on 40 places to be paid:

1) .1200	9) .0340	17) .0200	25) .0135	33) .0096
2) .0788	10) .0320	18) .0190	26) .0130	34) .0092
3) .0660	11) .0300	19) .0180	27) .0125	35) .0088
4) .0570	12) .0280	20) .0170	28) .0120	36) .0084
5) .0480	13) .0260	21) .0160	29) .0115	37) .0080
6) .0440	14) .0240	22) .0150	30) .0110	38) .0076
7) .0400	15) .0220	23) .0145	31) .0105	39) .0072
8) .0360	16) .0210	24) .0140	32) .0100	40) .0069

B. The Texas State Open shall use the following percentage table (subject to change) based a reduction of the field to the low 55 scores plus ties. The percentage table is based on 55 professionals making the cut:

1) .1800	11) .0200	21) .0110	31) .0062	41) .0042	51) .0027
2) .1150	12) .0175	22) .0105	32) .0060	42) .0040	52) .0026
3) .0850	13) .0165	23) .0100	33) .0058	43) .0038	53) .0025
4) .0650	14) .0155	24) .0095	34) .0056	44) .0036	54) .0024
5) .0550	15) .0145	25) .0090	35) .0054	45) .0034	55) .0023
6) .0475	16) .0138	26) .0085	36) .0052	46) .0032	
7) .0410	17) .0131	27) .0080	37) .0050	47) .0031	
8) .0350	18) .0125	28) .0075	38) .0048	48) .0030	
9) .0300	19) .0120	29) .0070	39) .0046	49) .0029	
10) .0250	20) .0115	30) .0066	40) .0044	50) .0028	

APPENDIX II: POINTS DISTRIBUTION

NTPGA PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS DISTRIBUTION

Place	Section	Professional	Eastern/Western
1	150	125	100
2	135	110	90
3	120	100	85
4	110	90	80
5	100	85	75
6	90	80	70
7	85	75	65
8	80	70	60
9	75	65	55
10	70	60	50
11	68	58	48
12	66	56	46
13	64	54	44
14	62	52	42
15	60	50	40
16	58	48	38
17	56	46	36
18	54	44	34
19	52	42	32
20	50	40	30
21	48	38	29
22	46	36	28
23	44	34	27
24	42	32	26
25	40	30	25
26	39	29	24
27	38	28	23
28	37	27	22
29	36	26	21
30	35	25	20
31	34	24	19
32	33	23	18
33	32	22	17
34	31	21	16
35	30	20	15
36	29	19	14
37	28	18	13
38	27	17	12
39	26	16	11
40	25	15	10

Note: A Player of the Year Award will be presented to the Member accumulating the most points in these Section events: Section Championship, NTPGA Professional Championship, Eastern Championship and Western Championship. Points are awarded using the above tables for each major championship. Only Members are eligible to receive Player of the Year points unless otherwise stated on the entry form. For the Eastern Championship, Western Championship and Section Championship, Members must compete in the Open Division to be eligible for Player of the Year points.

NTPGA SENIOR POINTS DISTRIBUTION

Place	Senior	Section	Eastern/Western
1	100	125	100
2	90	100	90
3	80	90	80
4	70	80	70
5	60	70	60
6	50	60	50
7	45	50	45
8	40	40	40
9	35	35	35
10	30	30	30
11	25	25	25
12	20	20	20
13	15	15	15
14	10	10	10
15	5	5	5

Note: Only Members are eligible to receive Senior Points unless otherwise stated on the entry form. For the Eastern Championship, Western Championship and Section Championship, Members must compete in the Senior Division to be eligible for Senior Points.

To be eligible for the Senior Division of the Match Play Championship, the Member must compete in the Senior Division during at least one of the following Section major championships: Eastern Championship, Western Championship or Section Championship. Participating in only the NTPGA Senior Championship does not satisfy the Match Play Championship Senior Division eligibility requirement.

**NTPGA ASSISTANT POINTS DISTRIBUTION
(LEVY CUP MATCHES ONLY)**

For the Levy Cup Matches, an accumulation of points is based upon the Player of the Years points earned by A-8 professionals at the Eastern Championship, Western Championship, NTPGA Professional Championship and NTPGA Section Championship.

In addition, A-8 professionals (only) will receive points at the NTPGA Assistant Championship based on the distribution below. The points below will be awarded consistently with the A-8 professional's finish in the championship. For example: A 4th place finish in the championship receives the 4th place points below.

Place	Points	Place	Points
1	200	11	96
2	180	12	92
3	170	13	88
4	160	14	84
5	150	15	80
6	140	16	76
7	130	17	72
8	120	18	68
9	110	19	64
10	100	20	60

APPENDIX III: BEN HOGAN / NTPGA STROKE PLAY SCORING AVERAGE AWARD

The Ben Hogan / NTPGA Stroke Play Scoring Average Award is presented to the Section Member compiling the lowest overall adjusted scoring average in the Open Division for these events: Eastern Championship, Western Championship, NTPGA Professional Championship and Section Championship. There is a total of eight (8) possible rounds to be played. All players must complete a minimum of six (6) rounds to be eligible for the Award. Each player's adjusted scoring average is determined by totaling the stroke averages according to par (+/-), dividing this total by the number of completed rounds, and adding this final number to 72. Rounds played as an Apprentice count towards the Ben Hogan Stroke Average award.