

North American Golf Tour – Player Guide

A Player Handbook designed with feedback from our players to our players to help ensure the #1 Player Experience in Tournament golf!

ABOUT US

- The North American Golf Tour (NAGT) is excited to start our inaugural season in 2023, built on the success of 15 years of tournament experience by our CEO and others who have operated and organized tournaments across the country.
- Our commitment to your tour experience will be built around our ability to share our culture and foundations that support Camaraderie, Competition, and Charity.
- We look forward to growing the game by bringing together Amateur, Senior, Veteran, and First Responders to compete together while earning Player of the Year points in their own flights.
- Most of our NAGT staff are Veterans and/or First Responders who bravely served and or proudly protected our country and communities so you can trust our team will operate with integrity.
- Our tournaments will be organized and professional so that your experience is valued. Our team will be available in person from registration to scoring. All results and payouts will be posted and paid out on your tournament day.

MEMBERSHIP

- Membership is optional in our inaugural 2023 season. Membership will be required starting in 2024.
- Our tour is open to all skills and ages with flights for amateur, senior, veteran, and first responders.
- Membership and local Season Passes will be available to those who desire the full tour experience by playing more, saving more, and earning more through exclusive partner offers and larger season-long prize pools.
- The difference in membership v non member year one is non members can play local tournaments and win their flights. Members can do the same, earn player of the year points, earn priority registration at NAGT majors, and will not have to qualify for Nationals in 2023. Nationals will open to all NAGT members.
- National Qualifying will begin in 2024. Tournament of Champions in 2023 is for each tour's Player of the Year in our five flights which is in more detail below.
- To get started, please go to our homepage to create a player profile at no cost.

TOUR & TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- The NAGT will provide tournaments on a local, regional, and national level including National Championships. Tournaments are flighted by handicap ranges and played as gross scoring inside each flight. All events are governed by the Rules of Golf as set by the United States Golf Association (USGA®).
- Local directors and their assistants conduct player registration, check-in, provide player assistance, monitor/enforce pace of play, score, award, and apply rulings, as necessary.
- Our directors will not play in their own events unless they have an assistant to help split duties to help ensure our tournament and player experience goes smoothly.
- Our tour will offer our players a variety of tournament formats such as individual stroke play, single and multiple day events, team competitions like Ryder Cup, match play, multistage competitions, 2-man events, etc. Please check your local tour schedule to view tournaments and formats offered. All formats will earn you points towards player of the year if you are a member.

TOUR COMPETITION

- Within each flight there will be Player of the Year points awarded for open amateur division (under age 50), senior divisions by flight (50 and over), and our Veterans and First Responders.
- Flight ranges have been analyzed to provide fair competition and larger prize pools. We have considered national handicap averages and years of tournament indexes and averages to help determine the fairest flight

ranges for tournament play.

- In local flight play, NAGT will offer five flight ranges for Open and offer separate flights for seniors (50+). In addition, NAGT is the only major amateur tour to offer super senior divisions for ages 65+ at Regional Majors and at National Championships. At local events, if the field size dictates that open non-senior and senior divisions get combined, the seniors may be moved up a tee box or to a shorter yardage based on handicap to help balance fair play. This will be at the director's discretion.
- All Local tour events will pay out a prize pool of a min. of \$20 per flight. Flights will have a minimum participation of 8 players. In the event a flight does not meet the minimum participation, players in Open, Senior, Veteran, and First Responder will be asked to combine within that specific handicap range only. In some cases, players in a flight that don't have enough will be asked to play up but will still earn their points towards their respective flight.
- All Major Championship events will pay out a prize pool of a min. of \$50 per flight. Flights will have a minimum participation of 10 players. Same rules as the previous bullet point.
- Nationals will have standalone Championships and flights for all divisions which are Open Nationals, Senior Nationals, Veteran Nationals, and First Responder Nationals.

LOCAL QUALIFYING

- All local tours are open to both members and nonmembers, both are eligible to compete and win each local tournament. In the event of a local sell out members will earn priority.
- If a nonmember wins a local tournament, the prize pool winnings will be used to cover their membership on the NAGT and 50% of their players previous point earnings will be awarded towards Player of the Year.
- Only NAGT members will earn points towards their season long Player of the Year standings in each flight. Points for players carry to their local tours no matter where they compete across the country or outside your local tour event.
- Members will be able to count their top 8 highest finishes towards the Player of the Year standings.

REGIONAL MAJOR ELIGIBILITY/PRIZING

- The NAGT will host a series of Regional Major Championships across the country where all members are invited to sign up and participate.
- Nonmembers are welcome to register for the wait list; however, members have first rights and most majors are expected to sell out quickly.
- A minimum of 10 players will be required to host a flight. If minimum is not met players will either be combined in each flight based on handicap levels and or asked to play up a flight.
- Regional NAGT major flight champions will earn their choice of the tournament prize pool, or a NAGT "Replay Reward" which is a Free entry title defense at the same event in 2024, or can apply a credit of 50% off Nationals in 2023 whichever is greater or players preference.
- NAGT Majors in 2023 are scheduled to be played at French Lick, IN, RTJ Shoals, AL, and Big Cedar Lodge, MO.

NATIONAL QUALIFYING

In 2023, we are proud to offer our founding members an open national championship where all NAGT members are eligible to compete after a minimum of 4 local tournaments. We hope you plan ahead and join us to help celebrate our North American Open/Sr/Veteran/First Responder National Championships with prize pools expected to be near \$25k!

In 2024 the following is how to qualify for the three National Championships which are Open/Senior, First Responders, and Veterans.

- Finish top 2 in your flight at any Regional State Championship and compete in 4 local tournaments.
- Finish top 4 in your flight at any NAGT Major Championship and compete in 4 local tournaments.
- Any golfer who earns a "Player Promotion Pass" during the season and competes in 4 local tournaments will qualify for Nationals(see details below)
- Any player who wins 3 NAGT tournaments from any flight and or tour during the season and competes in 4 local tournaments will qualify through the "Winners Circle".
- Any Player who finishes in the Top 25% of their local Player of Year standings, competed in 4 local tournaments, and won a tournament in that same flight on any tour will qualify.
- Any NAGT tour director is automatically qualified for Nationals.

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

The NAGT wanted to recognize our top players by offering them this exclusive Invitational as a reward for their excellent play in 2023! This field will be the strongest of the season with only the local Player of the Year from each flight from each local tour earning the right to compete in the season's most prestigious championship!

This will be a VIP type event for all in attendance! Host site and date will be announced soon.

- All 5 flights will be played as their own Open Championship to help identify the NAGT Player of the Year and #1 ranked player in North America!
- Even though all will be combined, we will also recognize a Net Senior, Super Senior, Veteran, and First Responder champion!
- Your tee gifts and prize pool will be customized to commemorate this special invitation.

FLIGHT PLACEMENT

The flight ranges on the NAGT differ from those of the other amateur tours. Through detailed analysis of more than a decade of tournament trends and player performance, these ranges have been developed to create the fairest competition and to promote larger prize pools.

Flight	Handicap Range
Flight F1	Plus - 4.4
Flight F2	4.5 - 8.9
Flight F3	9.0 - 13.4
Flight F4	13.5 - 17.9
Flight F5	18.0+

- If a player is new to the tour, a USGA handicap, GHIN, and or verified handicap from another organization will be used to determine a player's starting flight.
- If a player is new to the tour and does not have an established handicap, a player will be asked to communicate with their local director within ten days of their first event so that a trend can be established based on the player's most recent 10 scores.
- Flight integrity is extremely important to help protect our players. When a new tour player exceeds their trend, and or flight handicap range, and or beats the runner up in their flight by a significant margin in their first 4 tournaments as determined by the NAGT tournament committee, they may be asked to move up a flight at the next event(s) until they establish a consistent tournament index. In those cases, the runner up will earn a share of the win.
- A tournament index is the official handicap used to flight members of the NAGT and will be established and revised after each round on tour to flight players if it is lower than an existing GHIN.
- NAGT reserves the right to promote a player at any time and/or re-flight a player at any time based on their current or past performance, and or when a GHIN or outside handicap index does not align to the player's tournament scores.
- All players with a Tour Index will be flighted within the appropriate handicap range but can request to play up to a higher flight if they want the challenge of stronger competition. This request is the responsibility of the player.
- Once a player wins a local tournament in a flight, they can no longer move back a flight regardless of handicap until the end of the current points season.
- Once a player wins a National Championship in a flight, they can no longer move back a flight regardless of handicap for two full seasons.

FLIGHT POLICY – PLAYER PROMOTION PASS AND FLIGHT MOVEMENT

- If a player's Tour Index improves to correspond with a better flight during the season after the minimum of 4 local tournaments have been met, he/she will be awarded with a "Player Promotion Pass" to the next flight and will be notified, promoted, and awarded this distinction of improvement. Promotions normally occur during the first week of each month, but the NAGT and Tour Director may make these promotions at any

time.

- Any player who wins three tournaments during the points season will earn a Player Promotion Pass and be promoted a flight regardless of Tour Index.
- Any NAGT Member who earns a promotion will also receive an official invitation to the National Championship in their new flight and recognition from our NAGT national office for their accomplishment.
- Promoted players will keep their points in their previous flight and can still win Player of the Year should the rest of the flight be unable to catch up after the Tour Championship. The player can earn Player of the Year honors in their new flight by making up ground beginning at their first event in their new flight and through the remainder of the points season.
- Promoted players will carry over a percentage of their previous flight point total within the new flight. However, upon promotion, the promoted player can only carry the following scale:
 - 100% of their Player of the Year Points carry thru Memorial Day
 - 50% of their points carry if promoted after Memorial Day and through July 4th weekend
 - 25% of their points carry if promoted after the July 4th weekend up to the Tour Championship.
 - This will help maintain prize pool and flight integrity for those players who competed at their true handicap range in the same flight for the full season and are in contention for Player of the Year.
- A player who feels he/she is not competitive in their flight may request to be moved back and provide the data (Tour Index) to support their request.
- The Tour Director and a local Player Advisory Board will review handicaps and automatically move a player back a flight once a player's index is a full point above the flight handicap range. Requests must be made before pairings are set for that next event.
- All local flight movement will be suspended within 10 days of your local Tour Championship each season. Player reviews for flight movement will resume in the fall points season after Nationals. A handicap revision will be run 14 days from Nationals to ensure fair competition at our highest levels.

TOURNAMENT INDEX/HANDICAP REVISIONS

- The NAGT uses the best 8 out of 20 rounds to determine Tournament Indexing. This is the method used in modern handicap computation and the best 8 scores out of the most recent 20 scores are used in calculations. If a player has fewer than 20 scores available, then fewer than 8 scores will be used in the calculations. For certain score amounts, there are additional adjustments made. A revision will be run to update member handicaps at the first of each month.

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

- Tour Players can pre-register online for all local tournaments. Each tournament will have a limitation on the number of entries, and therefore each event will be filled on a first come first served basis. Players are strongly encouraged to register early for each event as they may sell-out well in advance of the entry deadline.
- It is the responsibility of the player to submit the required entry fee prior to the entry deadline. Acceptable payment methods to be listed on each tournament information page. Credit Card payments are preferred and should be paid through the registration portal. The local tour director may permit alternative payment methods.
- Entry fees typically cover all green fees, cart fees for players only-not caddies or spectators, range balls and use of the practice facility, live scoring, player prize pool, trophies, and NAGT staff.
- Other optional side games (e.g., skins, closest-to-the-pin, etc.) may be offered at tournaments for an additional cost.

CANCELLATIONS / NO SHOWS

- Withdrawal from any event prior to registration being closed in accordance with the posted tournament cancellation policy will not be penalized, and a full refund will be issued by the local tour director.
 - Any tournament cancellations after the deadline will be at the director's discretion and may include no refund, a partial refund minus a cancellation fee, or tour credit in place of a refund.
 - No show and or same day cancellations for any reason will forfeit their entry fee as the tour staff has committed a final number to the course.

TOURNAMENT PRIZING AND POINTS

- The winner of each flight will receive an award such as a trophy or gift, and the winner and top finishers as determined by the leaderboard will earn a portion of the designated prize pool for each flight.
- A portion of the player's entry fees are used to generate the prize fund (set at \$20 per player in each flight)
- Prizes will be paid in gift cards. Per USGA rules, cash awards for flighted competitions are not permitted.
- Side games will be optional at all events and will typically offer a skins game, skills game for the players, and raffle for a local charity. These can be cash prizes.
- Members will earn points for all NAGT tournaments they participate in across the country no matter their own local tour or format.
- Player of the Year Standings are based on a member's best 8 highest finishes throughout the season, despite the number of events played. This method is used to reward strength of finish per average tournament and balance participation.
- Player of the Year Points are set on all tours and tournaments as follows:

Place	Local Events	Regional Championships * 4 per tour max.	NAGT National Majors
1	150 Points	300 Points	450 Points
2	125	250	375
3	100	200	300
4	75	150	195
5	65	130	180
6	60	120	165
7	55	110	150
8	50	100	135
9	45	90	120
10	40	80	105

- **Members who finish outside the top 10 will earn 25 points regardless of finish.**

TOURNAMENT FLIGHT PAYOUTS

- All payouts will conform to USGA® Rules of Amateur Status.
- The following is a prize fund recommendation to be paid out at your local and national tournaments.
- The chart below is a NAGT guideline for local tour directors but at their discretion.

# Players in the Flight	Places Paid	Minimum Payout
6	1	\$120
7	1	\$140
8	1	\$160
9	2	\$180
10	2	\$200
11	2	\$220
12	3	\$240
13	3	\$260
14	3	\$280
15	3	\$300
16	4	\$320
17	4	\$340
18	4	\$360
19	4	\$380
20	4	\$400
21	4	\$420
22	4	\$440
23	4	\$460
24	4	\$480
25	4	\$500

SPECTATORS & CADDIES

- Caddies and spectators are welcome and encouraged at each tournament at the discretion of the local director. Each course may have different policies that we abide by as guests of the host facility.
- Caddies and spectators are the responsibility of the associated player who is solely responsible for their proper golf etiquette and general decorum. If any issue(s) arise with their behavior or lack of proper golf etiquette, they will be asked to leave the premises and the tournament player could be DQ.
- Golf carts are limited at each event to tournament players. Caddies and spectators wishing to ride should anticipate paying a cart fee if asked by the club and respect the course's availability with their current cart fleet.
- If no additional carts are available for purchase, then the tournament player may give up their seat if agreed upon by the tournament pairing and will then walk with the expectation to keep pace.
- If that group falls behind pace the spectator and or caddie will be asked to return to the clubhouse so that the player can get back into position.

PLAYER CONDUCT/DRESS CODE

- Players or guests are expected to honor and always respect the golf course local dress code and personal conduct policy. In addition, the NAGT reserves the right to disqualify any player for any suspicion of the following conduct and behavior:
 - All local course dress code policies should be followed
 - Unsportsmanlike conduct towards another player
 - Damage to property or players
 - Poor course etiquette
 - Disrespectful actions towards fellow players
 - Drug and alcohol abuse
 - Any reason deemed as inappropriate by the course staff, player complaint, and/or tour
 - Throwing a club and or intentionally acting out and damaging the course is an automatic DQ
 - Not respecting pace of play and our policy can also result in penalties up to and including a disqualification during and/or after your round
 - Cheating with intent will result in a permanent ban
- Refunds will not be issued to any disqualified player or voluntary WD.

PACE OF PLAY

- Efficient pace of play is a driving factor of a successful and positive tournament experience for all participants. The Tournament Committee at each competition will determine the maximum allowable time each group is permitted to play the round, noting a player is expected to maintain a pace faster than the maximum allowable time.
- Typically, the maximum allowable time will be 2 hours 15 minutes for nine holes and 4 hours 30 minutes for 18-holes. We encourage you to play at a 4 hour pace at all times.
- Repeat offenders of the pace of play policy will be asked to tee off at the end of the tee sheet each tournament.
- Lead Group(s)
 - The first group(s) should finish their first nine holes at a pace faster than the maximum allotted time. If the lead group finishes over the maximum allotted time after nine holes, each player in the group will be assessed a 2-stroke penalty applied on their 9th hole and or 18th hole.

- Exception: If the lead group is held up by public play that was sent out before them or that began on the opposite tee, they will be absolved from the penalty provided they finish within 14 minutes of the group in front of them.
- All Following Groups
 - Groups are always expected to be waiting on the group directly in front of them. A 2-stroke penalty will be assessed to each player in a group that is over maximum time and fails to finish within 14 minutes of the group in front of them. Penalties will occur at checkpoints on holes #9 and #18.
- Advisories
 - Tournament Officials will do their best to but are not required to notify a group they are out of position – knowing this is the responsibility with the player and their group.
 - Each group is responsible for monitoring their pace of play. Being in position means to be immediately behind the group in front of you with a shot.
 - Any player penalized 2x within a month or 3x times during a points season may be asked to no longer compete on the tour.
 - A player concerned about slow play in a group should first remind the player of the pace of play policy and encourage them to play more efficiently. The concerned player may request an official monitor of the group and offending player(s). If a particular player is identified as holding up the pace of play, penalties may be applied to that player only and rescinded from others.
 - In the event you are playing or paired in a foursome and experiencing slow play, it is suggested you break into two twosomes until you catch the group in front of you.
 - If a group is pushing you even if you are on pace and they don't have a group in position behind them please let them play through on the next tee box.

WEATHER POLICY

- Weather-related conditions may delay or suspend play such as:
 - Lightning and severe weather.
 - Course being deemed unplayable as determined by the host facility.
- If such inclement weather is present, every effort will be made by the tournament committee to complete the full number of holes. Under a delay, all players should remain on property and await official announcements from the tournament committee. A delay will never go longer than 2 hours. If the course remains unplayable and/or lightning is present, and, as the last option, the following may result in an official tournament:
 - 18-hole events may become shortened, scored, and awarded as nine holes. If this is not possible, it may be rescheduled.
 - Multi round and or multi day tournaments may become official and shortened to an 18-hole tournament as determined by the tournament director.
 - While the Tour will do everything possible to complete the full number of prescribed holes, there will be no refunds should inclement weather shorten the event and the directors official scores to the above. All prizes and points will be awarded as if the tournament was completed.

CHECK-IN & STARTING

- Players should always check-in with the tournament staff on-site prior to the start of the first round at least 45-minutes prior to starting time. It is the responsibility of the player and pairing to be at their starting hole or in proximity to hear the starter approximately twenty (20) minutes prior to their starting time.
- A player who arrives late and misses their group starting time may be given a ride out to join their group at a 1- stroke penalty per hole up to 2 holes. The group will then circle back to the starting hole at the completion of the round to help the late arrival finish their round. This will be a local decision at the discretion of the tournament director and should not be expected. Withdraw could result should the starting time, main draw, pace of play, and or order of your flight be disrupted.
- When possible, tee times are accelerated. It is the responsibility of the player to check in early and be ready should the starter send your group off early.

TEeing GROUNDS

- Course yardages to be determined by the tournament committee and aligned with the flight abilities. Typically, senior and ladies' yardages will be less. Actual yardages will vary based on conditions, courses, slope, and ratings.
- Recommended tee boxes by flight are as follows but still at the local tour directors' discretion.

Flight	Open Yardage	Senior Yardage	Super Senior Yardage
F1/F2	6500-6800	6200-6500	6000-6200
F3/F4	6200-6500	6000-6300	5800-6000
F5	6000-6300	5800-6200	5500-6000

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Distance measuring devices are allowed at each event. Devices that measure slope, wind, breaks in the green, or other factors besides yardage are not permitted.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices should always be silent out of respect for fellow competitors.
- The playing of music during a tournament must be agreed upon by all golfers in the pairing and even then, the volume must be kept low so that no other groups can hear the music.

OTHER

- Any discrepancy regarding these rules, their interpretation, omissions, etc. are at the discretion of the Tour Director. Playing in a NAGT event means you agree to the tour's rules and regulations. Appeals and/or feedback can be sent to our national office and will be considered.
- All players competing at any NAGT event agrees to waive any responsibility of the tour, directors, or golf course should any injury and or death occur. You accept all risks as the player.

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