

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!

WHO WE ARE

- The North American Golf Tour (NAGT) was founded in 2023, built on the success of 15 years of tournament experience by our CEO Matt Johnson with the support of an advisory panel who have played, operated, and helped organize Amateur tournaments of all skills and ages across the country.
- Our commitment to your tour experience is built around our passion to provide and support Camaraderie, Competition, and Charity.
- Amateur Men's and Ladies, Senior and Super Senior, Heroes; Veteran, and First Responders will compete together while earning Prize Pools in standalone contests.
- The tour currently operates out of the Midwest with expansion coming across the country soon.
- Most of our local tournament directors are Veterans and/or First Responders so you can trust we will operate professionally and with integrity.
- Our commitment and experience to the game, our players, and our community will proudly be on display at each event from the time you register online to the end of tournament awards. All results and payouts will be issued live and on the same day.

MEMBERSHIP

- There is no cost to join the NAGT. Our tournaments are open to all amateur golfers of any age and any skill level. Simply sign up Free as a Player by creating an online profile.
- Membership and local Season Passes, although optional, offer benefits to those who desire the full tour experience by saving more as you play more! Members save on average anywhere from \$10-75 per entry as well as gain exclusive access to pairing requests, pre-registration, tour partner offers, and boosted gifting and prizing opportunities for our larger season-long prize pools. In other words, members save money and get more stuff!
- Membership and local Season Passes will be available to those who desire the full tour experience by playing more, saving more, and gaining more through exclusive partner offers and larger season-long prize pools.

TOUR & TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- The NAGT will provide tournaments on a local, regional, and national level which include Majors and National Championships. Players are grouped into Flights to compete against others in your same handicap and age ranges.
- The NAGT will provide tournaments on a local, regional, and national level which include Major and National Championships. Tournaments offer Flight winners where players are paired together based on handicap ranges. 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, enforce pace of play, score, award, and apply rulings, as necessary.
- Our tour will offer players a variety of tournament formats such as individual stroke play in both gross and net scoring, single and multiple day events, team competitions, match play, multi series competitions, etc. The majority of our tournaments are one day, 18-hole stroke play championships.
- Please check your local tour schedule to view tournaments and formats offered. All formats will earn you points.

TOUR COMPETITION

- Within each flight there will be Player of the Year points awarded for open amateur divisions (49 years and under), senior divisions (50-64 years of age), Super Seniors divisions (65+ years), and a Hero division for our Veterans and First Responders (both retired and active).
- Flight ranges have been analyzed for 15 years+ to provide fair competition and larger prize pools. Our system is simple, we collect our own tournament data logged into our handicap server, scoring averages for all skills, ages, and tee boxes, along with comparing winning scores from each flight range, to establish a player's tour index.
 - You don't need an active GHIN or handicap to start on tour, we will help you trend your recent scores to start and then move your flight as you progress under tournament conditions by playing the ball down, holing all putts, and playing under the USGA Rules of golf.

- At local events, if the field size dictates that open, non-senior, and senior divisions get combined, the seniors may be moved to a shorter yardage tee box based on handicap to help balance fair play. This will be at the director's discretion.
- All tour events will pay out a prize pool at a minimum of \$20 per player per flight. Flights will be required to have a minimum participation of 8 players. In the event a flight does not meet the minimum participation in Open or Senior; those flights will combine within that specific handicap range. In some cases, players in a flight that don't have enough will be asked to play up a level but will still earn their points in their respective flight to help them earn player of the year.
- All Major Championship events will pay out a prize pool of a minimum of \$25 per player 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 regardless of participating players.
- Nationals Championships will pay out a prize pool of a minimum of \$50 per player per flight and offer standalone Championships or Champions for Men's and Women's Open, Senior, Super Senior, and Hero divisions regardless of participating players.

LOCAL QUALIFYING

- All local tours are open to both members and nonmembers. No qualifying is required to be eligible to play and win. In the event of a local sell-out, members will have priority over players who will be moved to the wait list based on order of entry.
- If a nonmember wins a local tournament, \$50 of the 1st place winnings will be used to cover their membership on the NAGT.
- Although all players will earn points towards the season long Player of the Year standings in each flight, only a member is eligible for the season ending player of the year prize pool. Points for players carry to their local tour no matter where they compete across the country or outside your local tour event.

REGIONAL MAJOR ELIGIBILITY/PRIZING

- The NAGT will host a series of Regional 2-Day 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 priority placement.
- 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 gift cards from the tournament sponsor, or an entry fee credit for the same vent the following season or can apply their credit towards any National tournament within 2 years.
- A minimum of 12 players will be required to host an Open and Senior flight. If the minimum is not met, players will be combined by flight. All six Flights will be played.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING

- Members are automatically qualified for Nationals! No qualifying is needed so that you can plan ahead! Lifetime members will get first right of refusal with an early registration offer, then Annual members, and then to all players if spots are still available.
- Member Priority in the event of a sellout is as follows:
 - Lifetime members will be automatically qualified.
 - Annual Member, past National Champion.
 - Annual Member, 2-year exemption from last Major Championship.
 - Player of the year from each flight and each tour, current season.
 - Local Masters Flight Champion
 - Local Open Flight Champion
 - Any player who wins 3 NAGT flighted tournaments within the current season.
 - Exemption earned from your local Tour Championship where each tour will be given an allotment of players.

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

- The NAGT will recognize our top champions annually by offering them an exclusive Invitational as a reward for their exceptional wins on tour! This field will be the strongest of the season with only tournament champions earning the right to compete in the season's most prestigious championship and largest prize pool!
- This will be a VIP type event for all in attendance!
- All Open and Seniors will be combined in each of our six flights to help identify the true "champion Golfer of the Year" in each flight!
- Your tee gifts and prize pool will be customized to commemorate this special invitation.

FLIGHT PLACEMENT

The flight ranges at NAGT differ from those of the other amateur tours. Through detailed analysis of more than a decade of tournament performance, these ranges have been developed to create the fairest competition.

| Flight | Mens Open | Ladies Open | Mens Senior | Mens Super Senior | Ladies Senior |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Flight 1 (4.4 or less) | 6500-7000 | 5500-6200 | 6200-6500 | 6000-6300 | 5700-6000 |
| Flight 2 (4.5-7.9) | 6300-6800 | 5300-6000 | 6100-6400 | 5800-6200 | 5500-5800 |
| Flight 3 (8.0-11.4) | 6200-6600 | 5200-5800 | 6000-6300 | 5800-6100 | 5500-5800 |
| Flight 4 (11.5-14.9) | 6000-6400 | 5000-5600 | 5900-6200 | 5700-6000 | 5300-5700 |
| Flight 5 (15.0-18.4) | 5900-6300 | 4900-5500 | 5800-6100 | 5500-5800 | 5300-5700 |
| Flight 6 (18.5+) Net | 5800-6200 | 4800-5400 | 5700-6000 | 5300-5700 | 5300-5700 |

- If a player is new to the tour, a USGA handicap and or verified handicap from another organization will be used to determine a player's starting flight. If none are available, the player will be asked to contact their local director within ten days of their first event so that a trend can be established based on the player's most recent scores.
- Flight integrity is extremely important to help protect the field. 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 as determined by the tournament committee, they may be asked to move up a flight at the next event 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 after 3-5 rounds on tour and be used to establish a flight if it is lower than a 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. This responsibility rests with the player.
- Once a player wins a local tournament in a particular 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 Regional Major Championship in a flight, they can no longer move back a flight regardless of handicap for a full calendar year.
- 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 Tour Director may make these promotions at any time.
- Any player winning four tournaments in the same season will earn a performance promotion for the remainder of that season. For the following season, that player will be re-assigned, if necessary, to a flight based upon their current handicap index at the end of the season.
 - Performance Promotion is defined as the reward that elevates a player to the next flight where they will compete against lower handicap ranges than your current flight. Performance Promotions can occur at any point before each tournament once handicap revisions are updated. Any Performance Promotion that occurs will automatically qualify for the Tournament of Champions in your new flight.
 - Eligibility for a "Performance Promotion" mandates that a player must have established a Tour Index after a minimum of five posted rounds on Tour prior to earning the promotion.
 - Flight standing player of the year points will be deducted starting on April 1st, if necessary, into a tie for 3rd place as player recognizes that the points accrued were in a less competitive flight
- 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.
- 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 14 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 so some players may be promoted.

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 limit 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 operating fees.
- Other optional side games (e.g., skins, closest-to-the-pin, etc.) may be offered at tournaments for an additional cost and can be paid at check-in the day of the tournament.

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 warrant 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 director 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.
- Prizes will be paid in gift cards. Per USGA rules, cash awards for flighted competitions are not permitted unless deemed a scratch contest.
- Side games are optional at and will typically offer a skins game, skills game, and raffle for a local charity.
- 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 off the top 10 or fewer tournaments throughout the season, despite the number of events played. This method is used to reward strength of finish per average tournament and balance participation consistency.
- Player of the Year Points will be allocated as follows:

| Place | Local Events | Local State Championships (or other local high profile events) | Regional Major Championships |
|-------|--------------|---|------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 11 | 35 | 70 | 90 |
| 12 | 30 | 60 | 80 |
| 13-19 | 25 | 50 | 75 |
| 20-30 | 20 | 40 | 60 |
| 31-40 | | 30 | 50 |
| 41-50 | | | 40 |

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 local and national tournaments.
- The chart below is a NAGT guideline for local tour directors but is at their discretion.

| # Players in the Flight | Places Paid | Minimum Payout |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 6 | 1 | \$120 |
| 7 | 1 | \$140 |
| 8 | 2 | \$160 |
| 9 | 2 | \$180 |
| 10 | 3 | \$200 |
| 11 | 3 | \$220 |
| 12 | 3 | \$240 |
| 13 | 3 | \$260 |
| 14 | 3 | \$280 |
| 15 | 4 | \$300 |
| 16 | 4 | \$320 |
| 17 | 4 | \$340 |
| 18 | 4 | \$360 |
| 19 | 4 | \$380 |
| 20 | 5 | \$400 |
| 21 | 5 | \$420 |
| 22 | 5 | \$440 |
| 23 | 5 | \$460 |
| 24 | 5 | \$480 |
| 25 | 5 | \$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 with regard to proper behavior, golf etiquette and general decorum. If an issue arises, they will be asked to leave the premises.
- 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 will be asked to return to the clubhouse so that the player can return to the cart and get back into position.

PLAYER CONDUCT/DRESS CODE

- Players or guests shall 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.
 - We respectfully request that you not wear or try and solicit through competitor am tour brands.
 - 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 the pace of play given before your round 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 for a disqualified player.

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 9 holes and 4 hours 30 minutes for 18 holes.
- Repeat offenders of the pace of play policy will be asked to tee off at the end of the tee sheet or be disqualified after they reach the allotted time.
- Please take the pace of play pledge and read through your local tournament pages for rules, penalties, and tips.
- Advisories
 - Tournament Officials are not required to notify a group they are out of position – knowing this is the responsibility of 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 within a swing distance.
 - Any player penalized three (3) times during a calendar year will be suspended from 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.

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 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. 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 and at least 30-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 20-minutes prior to their starting time.
- A player who arrives late and misses their starting time may be given a ride out to join their group at a 2-stroke penalty (as long as the group has completed less than 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. Disqualification could result should the starting time, 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

- 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 yardages by flight can be viewed in this handbook under Flight Placements. Yardages are at the local tour directors' discretion.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Distance measuring devices are allowed at each event. Devices that measure or show slope, wind, breaks in the green, or other factors besides yardage are not permitted.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices should always be on 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.

POINTS/PRIZES/TOURNAMENT SIDE GAMES AND PREVIEW

- Prize pools will be shared before the event on the tournament information page and/or player preview typically emailed by the director within 3 days of the event. Awards will be issued the same day. You do not have to be present to win or collect. In that case, you will receive your awards and winnings before the end of your next scheduled event.

CONTACT US

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