



GOLF CHANNEL®
AMATEUR
TOUR™

Presented By



SkyCaddie®

PLAYER HANDBOOK
GOLF CHANNEL Amateur Tour
2009v4



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Tour Policies

1. Membership Qualification

Golf Channel Amateur Tour (GCAT) is wholly owned and operated by the GOLF CHANNEL, headquartered in Orlando, Florida. Membership to the GCAT is open to all amateur golfers with a verifiable handicap index. If a member does not have a verifiable index, the GCAT will accept six (6) completed, signed and attested scorecards that will be reviewed by the GCAT Rules Committee and a Tour handicap will be assigned. A detailed explanation on USGA Handicap Index, GCAT Index calculations, and the Tour Points system are stated within the handbook and also at www.GolfChannel.com/amateurTour.

2. Membership Fees

The cost of an annual membership in the GCAT is \$199 for new members and \$179 for renewal members for the 2009 season. Potential members can sign up for the Tour on the official website at www.GolfChannel.com/amateurTour. GCAT member benefits include, but is not limited to; a membership pack (typical items include a Tour branded golf hat, golf shirt, memorabilia, online handicap service, etc and are subject to change from season to season) and other items that may be added at a later point in time. Membership to the Tour includes the ability to play in any open Tour event across the country.

3. Event Registration

Only Tour Players may participate in GCAT events. Guests of Tour Players may participate in up to two (2) events per year but are not eligible for Order of Merit Points, prizing, trophies etc.

Tour Players can register online for local and regional events at www.golfchannel.com/amateurTour or by emailing or calling the local Tour Director. Events may have a limitation on the number of entries, and therefore each event will be filled on a first-come first served basis. Tour Players are encouraged not to wait until the entry deadline as any event may sell-out well in advance of the entry deadline.

Entry fees are determined by the Tournament Committee and typically include all green fees, taxes, cart fees, range balls, scoring, prize fund, and trophies

4. Tournament Application & Payment Policy

It is the responsibility of the Tour Player to submit the required entry fee for each Tournament prior to the entry deadline as payment will secure a position in the Tournament field. Entry fee payments should be made via the website using a credit card but could be paid in other means (check, money order) with the permission of the local Tour Director. It will be assumed that a Tour Player is not participating in a Tournament if the entry fee is not submitted on time or that the local Tour Director is not notified. Any returned check shall be subject to at \$25 handling fee. Any entry fees received after the deadline are subject to a \$20 late fee which shall be determined by the local Tour Director.

5. Cancellations/No Shows

Withdrawal from any event must be done prior to the entry deadline or in accordance with the local Tour Director policy which will vary from market to market, otherwise there can be no refund. After the deadline, should a player on the event waiting list be able to fill the position of the withdrawn player, the withdrawn player will receive credit of the entry fee already paid towards the next event.

Any player that has registered for an event and does not show will forfeit his/her registration fee and may have his/her player privileges revoked for future events.



6. Assumption of Risk and Release from Liability

By signing or electronically submitting a member application and entering and playing in a GCAT event (an “Event”), the participant understands and agrees that there are certain dangers involved with the participation in a golf event, including but not limited to being struck by lightning, getting hit by a golf club, suffering from heat exhaustion, heart attack or injury from uneven terrain among others, all of for which risks participant assumes and solely accepts, and waives all claims of injury to body or property against the Golf Channel and/or the local Tour Director. Further, the participant agrees that while on the premises of a GCAT event, the participant, and any guest, relative or anyone else affiliated with participant, shall be present at their own risk and that neither the Golf Channel nor the local Tour Director (as well as all other presenting sponsors, co-sponsors and representatives affiliated with the tournament) shall be liable for any claims for injuries or damages whatsoever to person or property of the participant or related person arising out of or in connection with the participation in the Event or presence at the Event. Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Golf Channel and any local Tour Director from any and all third-party claims or liability attributable to participant or anyone affiliated with participant.

7. Member Guest Policy

Guests are always welcome to play in any local GCAT Tournament on a space available basis by contacting the local Tour Director and are subject to the same registration deadlines and fees. Every effort will be made to accommodate a guest wherever possible. Guests are limited to two (2) appearances per calendar year and are not eligible for trophies, prize fund, or Order of Merit Points. Guests are not allowed to compete in the National Championship.

8. Tee Times

Tour events will typically utilize tee times (straight or split tee) with occasional shotguns (depending on the course and field size). Pairings will be available on the Tour Web site prior to the event. Pairings are subject to change anytime prior to the event. If an individual tee time has been moved to an earlier pairing, the Tour Director will personally notify that individual of the change.

9. Tour Format

The majority of events will be stroke play, gross competition within the assigned flight. Tour play will be governed by the current Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association (USGA), and modified by the Rules or ‘Notice to Contestants’ sheet prepared by the GCAT Tour Committee. Other specialized formats, such as match play or best ball, will be played in accordance with USGA rules. GCAT Tour Officials will be on site at every Tournament to handle player registration/check-in, provide assistance, handle scoring/prize pools, monitor the pace of play and make rulings. Any Tour Official may assess penalty strokes for rules infractions or slow play subject to review by the Tour Committee. All decisions made by the GCAT Tour Committee shall be final.

10. Check-In and Starting

All Tour players must personally check-in at least 30 minutes prior to the assigned tee times and be at their starting point no less than 10 minutes prior to the assigned tee time. Failure to do so may result in a player forfeiting his tee time. If a player is not at the starting point, ready to play, at the assigned starting time, he is in a breach of Rule 6-3 (penalty normally would be disqualification from that event). A player missing his/her starting time will be disqualified and no points or prizes can be earned, but may still be allowed to participate in the event for fun.

11. Golf Carts and Driving Range

A majority of GCAT event fees will include the shared-use of golf cart and range balls. Players must follow cart rules established by the golf course and make arrangements directly with the course if an additional cart is required or desired for spectators or caddies, based on availability.



12. On Course Rules

All play will be governed by the current Rules of Golf as set forth by the USGA. The Tournament Committee will provide an event rules sheet containing local rules and those rules will govern play for that Tournament. Typically, the one-ball rule will not be in effect during play. If there is any confusion of a particular ruling during play, and a Tour Official is not accessible, the player is to enter a second ball into play per Rule 3.3. The player then plays both balls throughout the hole, keeping separate scores and then brings the situation to the Rules Committee at the end of the round for a ruling prior to signing his/her scorecard.

13. Spectators and Caddies

Spectators are welcome at all GOLF CHANNEL Amateur Tour events providing the course allows spectators to walk the course and the spectators do not interfere with pace of play.

Caddies are the responsibility of the associated player and are requested to practice proper golf etiquette while on the course. If there is an issue with the behavior of a spectator(s), or caddie(s), the individual(s) will be asked to leave the premises. Per Rule 6.1, the player incurs the applicable penalty for any breach of a rule by his caddie, including unsportsmanlike conduct.

14. Hole Locations

When possible, the GCAT will provide players with hole location charts that designate the respective events' hole locations.

15. Dress Code and Player Conduct

The GCAT will strictly enforce a Tournament dress code with no exceptions. Collared shirts/mock turtle necks are required, and no jeans, denims, jogging outfits, or sweat pants are permitted. Shorts may be worn, but must be within five inches of the knee. The GCAT will not tolerate swearing, vulgar language, club throwing, alcohol abuse, lack of golfing etiquette, or other such behavior. Such conduct will result in Tournament disqualification and suspension or expulsion from the Tour.

16. Prizes

A portion of each player's entry fee is used to generate each flight prize pool. The prize certificates value at each event will be established prior to such event based on participation. The prize pool may vary slightly the day of the event due to late entries or withdrawals. In order to abide by the guidelines for amateur status put forth by the USGA, no single prize awarded will exceed \$750 in value. Under no circumstances will cash awards be distributed.

17. Trophies

The winners from each flight will receive a trophy or plaque.

18. Merchandise

Certain events, as determined by the GCAT, may have merchandise included as part of the total prize package for that event. As sponsors become more involved with the prize system, merchandise and other forms of gift certificates may be included and awarded to players.



19. Pace of Play

The Golf Channel Amateur Tour Pace of Play policy leaves the responsibility for maintaining the pace of play where it belongs, with you, the player. If you are the first group in the field, you must play in 2 hours 15 minutes or less per nine holes. All subsequent groups must finish the checkpoints within the parameters listed below.

Scorecards will have the expected time your group is to complete each hole. If you fall behind, you are expected to play efficient golf and get back into position. This means playing ready golf and/or continuous putting which are both allowed in stroke play.

The Golf Channel Amateur Tour Pace of Play policy utilizes a two checkpoint system. Two things to keep in mind:

- Players will not receive warnings.
- Each group is responsible for monitoring their own pace.

To avoid penalty, groups must complete each checkpoint hole:

1. Under the allotted time on the scorecard, OR
2. Within 14 minutes of the group ahead.

Checkpoints will be on holes #9 and #18, unless otherwise indicated. All players in a group in breach of the pace of play policy at any checkpoint are subject to penalty.

PENALTIES

First Breach in Round = 1 stroke penalty to each player in the group.

Second Breach in Round = additional 2 stroke penalty to each player in the group.

NOTIFICATION

Any group that completes a checkpoint hole in breach of the pace of play policy will be verbally notified by an Official. Officials at checkpoints should never be confronted.

It is the player's responsibility to recognize when a breach has occurred at each checkpoint and penalties must be recorded on their scorecards. Penalties are to be added to the checkpoint hole the group was notified of the breach. (usually holes #9 or #18)

POSITION

First Group(s) Off Either Tee: If the lead group is behind its expected time after completing one checkpoint (9th or 18th hole) players will be notified and each player in the group shall add a ONE-STROKE PENALTY to his score for that hole. If they also pass the second checkpoint behind their expected time, each player shall add an additional TWO-STROKE PENALTY to his score for that hole. A group may appeal the penalty in the scoring area before surrendering their scorecards.

Subsequent Groups: If any subsequent group passes one checkpoint (9th or 18th hole) behind its expected time AND more than 14 minutes behind the preceding group, players will be notified and each player in the group shall add a ONE-STROKE PENALTY to his score for that hole. If they pass the second checkpoint behind their expected time AND more than 14 minutes behind the preceding group, each player shall add an additional TWO-STROKE PENALTY to his score for that hole. A group may appeal the penalty in the scoring area before surrendering their scorecards.

CONCERNED PLAYERS AND APPEALS

A player concerned about slow player(s) in a group should first remind that player of the pace of play policy and encourage them to play more efficiently. The concerned player may, before or after penalties are assessed, request an Official to monitor the group. If a player is identified as holding up the pace of the group, penalties may be applied to that player and rescinded from the others. Appeals for exceptional situations will be considered only in the scoring area after the completion of the round and prior to the return of a player's scorecard.



DEFINITIONS

Timing – A group's completion time at each checkpoint is measured when the flagstick is replaced in the hole once all players in the group have holed out.

Allotted Time – The "allotted time" is the maximum time allowed to complete play of the course or the holes between checkpoints. The allotted time is predetermined by the Tournament Committee and may be adjusted between rounds. Time for ball searches, rulings, and walking or travel time between holes is included in the allotted time. The allotted time for each hole and course will be posted on each player's scorecard.

Rule 6-7. Undue Delay; Slow Play states: "The player must play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines that the Committee may establish. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next teeing ground, the player must not unduly delay play."

RULINGS OR OTHER INCIDENTS

If a ruling or some other legitimate delay occurs which causes the group in question to lose its position, that group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.

Also, here are some tips for all players to observe to help us with our pace of play:

- Plan your shot while walking to your ball or while others are playing and be ready to play when it is your turn.
- Walk briskly between shots or drive the cart without undue delay.
- Proceed directly to your golf ball; don't follow others unless assisting in a search.
- Take several clubs with you to your ball so you won't have to walk back to the cart.
- Play a provisional ball if you think the original might be lost outside a water hazard or out of bounds.

Please putt out when possible and play **READY** golf!

20. Scorecards

Each golfer is responsible for the correctness of his/her scorecard even though a fellow competitor will be marking the scores on each hole. Each scorecard must be signed by the marker and attested by the player. In attesting the scorecard, the player is stating that the score for each individual hole during the round is correct. Players are not responsible for the accuracy of the total round score.

In an effort to equitably resolve any scoring disputes all players in a pairing must submit their scorecards at the **same time** to the scorer's area **immediately upon completion of play** and each player must be available for a reasonable amount of time afterwards to answer questions by the Tournament Committee in the event that a ruling is required. Any protests need to be made to a Tournament Official as soon as possible after an incident occurs so that a proper ruling can be made in a timely fashion. Once the scoreboard has posted a score it shall be considered final and prizes will be awarded to the winners.

21. Inclement Weather

Bad weather is not of itself good reason for discontinuing play. However, per Rule 6.8.a (II), a player may discontinue play if he believes there is danger from lightning.

The delaying or canceling of an event due to inclement weather will be determined by the host facility. In the event of a cancellation the Tour will try and re-schedule the event date within the seasonal timeframe. Any partial cancellation refunds or credits will be determined based on the policies of the host facility where players may then apply the credit towards a future scheduled event or request a full refund to be received by mail. If the course becomes unplayable during the play of a single day, two-day or Tour Championship event, the event may be shortened to a nine-hole (single day), 18 to 27-hole (two-day), or 72 to 54/63-hole Tournament if a flight has completed nine holes. In most cases, cash refunds are unavailable due to course policies. The GCAT will provide each player with rainchecks, monetary refunds if available, or credit towards future events as soon as the course has refunded the local Tournament Director.



22. Membership Packs

Player membership packs will be distributed directly to the Tour member via the Tour website for the 2009 season. A member will receive an automated email from our fulfillment house with notification when it ships, this email will include a tracking number (*PLEASE NOTE: PO BOX's will not have tracking number's*). If you DO NOT Receive you member pack please contact GCAT Support at GCATSupport@golfchannel.com and we will do everything we can do get you your membership pack.

23. Miscellaneous

The Rules and Regulations of the GCAT are subject to revision. The GCAT is not associated with either the United States Golf Association or the PGA of America, and GCAT Tournaments have not been sanctioned by either golfing organization.

All participants in GCAT events are deemed to be familiar with these Rules and Regulations, as well as the Rules of Golf and agree to abide by them. Failure to comply with the aforementioned rules and regulations could result in suspension or expulsion from the Tour or Tournament.



Tournament Guidelines

1. Flight Placement

The GCAT is divided into six separate flights and two divisions (Open and Senior). Flights are based on the members current Index in the first event played in the following order:

OPEN FLIGHT		SENIOR FLIGHT (50+)	
FLIGHT	INDEX	FLIGHT	INDEX
CHAMPIONSHIP	0-3.9	SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP	0-3.9
PALMER	4.0-7.9	SENIOR PALMER	4.0-7.9
HOGAN	8.0-11.9	SENIOR HOGAN	8.0-11.9
SARAZEN	12.0-15.9	SENIOR SARAZEN	12.0-15.9
JONES	16.0-19.9	SENIOR JONES	16.0-19.9
SNEAD	20.0+	SENIOR SNEAD	20.0+

You may be flighted as a Senior if you were 50 or older on or before December 31st of the previous calendar year. For players who do not want to be flighted as a Senior but are eligible for this classification, you will need to alert your Tour director to flight you as an Open player.

A Tour Player who has played in less than 4 rounds on TOUR will be flighted based on the best available information (A verifiable USGA Index or scores entered into Blue Golf). If a player does not have a verifiable USGA Index, a player can be placed into a flight based on entering 6 adjusted scores into the Players Club, which will generate their initial index. Players will be re-flighted throughout the season when/if their indexes change. A Tour Director may re-flight a Tour Player at any time, with the approval of the Regional Director, until a minimum of 4 rounds are played on Tour.

A Tour Player who has played at least 4 rounds on TOUR will be flighted based on the TOUR index with the following restrictions:

- No player can compete in a flight that is more than 1 flight higher than their lowest form of handicap verification
- Flight Movement-Once a player earns a promotion to a lower flight (i.e Palmer to Championship), that player will play the remainder of the current season in the new flight. The Regional Director may review an individual case and the decision of the Regional Director will be final.

If a player is moved from one flight to another, the player will not be allowed to move any higher than a tie for 3rd place in that next flight. Points will be adjusted to reflect the move.

Example: If a player is moved from the "Hogan" flight where they had 200 points, up to the Palmer flight where 3rd place has only 150 points, then the player's point total will be reduced to 150 and will then be placed in a tie for 3rd.

The Tour does not want to penalize players for getting better, but this will help keep players from taking too many points from an easier flight and moving past everyone in the tougher flight. Rather than stay in an easy flight and eventually lose your points, it would be to the player's advantage to move up if playing in the wrong flight.

****NOTE**** A Tour Director reserves the right to disqualify a player and/or move a player to another flight even if the above criteria has not been met. Although these instances are rare, the integrity of the entire Tour and the proper flighting of players must be maintained to protect the field/Tour. Should a player be moved by a local director without meeting the above criteria, the player has the right to appeal the movement to the regional director.

It is very important to provide an honest initial assessment of your playing ability. If a player is deemed to have 'sandbagged', that person could lose all Order of Merit Points earned to that point, and then be moved to the proper



flight and/or disqualified from the Tour. Sandbagging will NOT be tolerated and could potentially result in loss of membership privileges.

2. Tournament Flight Guidelines

Each Tournament field will vary in the size. In order to present a competitive field in terms of competition, Order of Merit point distribution, prizes, and side games, a flight must consist of at least 3 players* for local Tournaments and 6 players for Regional Majors and the National Championship. (*A local tour will hold a Championship Flight if it consists of 2 Championship Tour Players)

Under no circumstances should players be moved to a higher handicapped flight to form a conforming flight i.e. Palmer to Hogan, Jones to Snead.

While a player may have played the **Tournament** in a flight lower than his Tour flight, his Order of Merit points will accrue to him in his assigned **Tour** flight. This is the same for Senior Flights, if a Senior plays in a open flight due to a small number of Senior players, the Order of Merit points awarded will carry over to his/her Senior Flight. Example: If John Smith (a 55 year old Senior Hogan Player) plays in the Open Hogan flight and comes in second place earning 125 Order of merit points, those points will count for his Senior Hogan flight)

Senior flights will be offered at all regional and national events, provided there are at least 6 participants per flight. It is up to the Local Director to determine if there is enough interest to offer Senior Flights at a local level.

3. Tournament Format

With the exception of a Regional Major and the National Championship, all Tournaments are 18-hole stroke play events. At the discretion of the local or regional Tour director, a local or regional Tournament may utilize the modified stableford scoring system. All Tournaments are scratch or gross score within each flight. There is no net scoring and under no circumstances are players to receive strokes.

4. Tournament Check-In and Starting

All Tour players must personally register on site at least 30 minutes prior to the assigned tee times and be at their starting point at least 10 minutes prior to their assigned tee time. Failure to do so may result in a player forfeiting his tee time. If a player is not at the assigned starting point, ready to play, at the assigned starting time, that player is in a breach of Rule 6-3 (penalty normally would be disqualification from that event). A player missing his/her starting time will be disqualified and no points or prizes can be earned, but may still be allowed to participate in the event for fun.

Upon check-in and payment of any required Tournament fees, members will receive their event registration package, which may include the following:

- Local Rules Sheet
- Hole Location Chart
- Gift Certificates
- Scorecard

5. Tournament Tees

A breakdown on the average distances the Tour tries to set yardage to (based on course availability):

FLIGHT	YARDS
Championship	6600 – 6900
Palmer	6600 – 6900
Hogan	6300 – 6600
Sarazen	6300 – 6600



Jones	6000 – 6300
Snead	6000 – 6300
Ladies Jones/Snead	5700 – 6000

The yardage will vary depending on the course teeing grounds, slope and rating. The GCAT will attempt to provide every golfer with an opportunity to participate under the most competitive Tournament set-ups possible.

Ladies in each flight will have the option of playing from the next category (Ladies in the Championship Flight or Palmer Flight will play from the tees for Hogan Flights and Sarazen at approximately 6300 - 6600 yards; Ladies in Hogan Flight or Sarazen Flight will play from the tees for Jones Flight and Snead Flight at approximately 6000 - 6300 yards; Ladies in Jones Flight and Snead Flight will play from the Ladies Jones/Snead at 5700 – 6000).

Seniors when combined within the Open Flight will play from the Open distances described above. At Regional Majors and when there are enough Senior players, the Seniors will play from their own yardage set by your local director.

6. Tournament Scorekeeping

Players must exchange their scorecards with another player in the group. A separate area (tear-off strip at the top or bottom of card) is provided to allow each player to keep his or her own score. There may also be an area to track fairways hit, GIR and total putts. This is not mandatory, but may be available. Each player and marker must sign the scorecard in the designated area on the card attesting that each hole score is correct. At the end of the round, use the tear-off strip to check the accuracy of your own official card. Each player must sign their card and each “marker” must sign their card as well.

If, during the course of play, a situation arises that requires a ruling and an official is not available, the player shall confer with the others in the group. The members should attempt to make a reasonable ruling at that time. If a consensus cannot be reached, the player shall play two balls through the hole in accordance with Rule 3-3 and keep score for both balls. The situation in question must be submitted to the Tournament Committee for an official (final) ruling prior to the signing of the scorecard.

If a player submits a scorecard that has not been signed or submits a signed card with a lower score on a particular hole than the actual score, the player will be disqualified from that event. If a player submits a signed card with a higher score on a particular hole than the actual score, the higher score will be posted. Players are only responsible for the score on *each hole* and not the total score.

All scorecards should be reviewed and signed at the “scoring table.” In an effort to equitably resolve any scoring disputes all players in a pairing must submit their scorecards at the **same time** to the scorer’s area **immediately** upon completion of play and each player must be available for a reasonable amount of time afterwards to answer questions by the Tournament Committee in the event that a ruling is required.



7. Tournament Results & Order of Merit Points

All Tournament results and year-to-date leader boards will be available at every event as well as on the Web site after each Tournament. Points will be awarded in each flight based on the order of finish. Points will be awarded as follows:

POS	POINTS
1st	175
2nd	125
3rd	100
4th	90
5th	80
6th	70
7th	60
8th	50
9th	40
10th	30
11th +	20

If there are 10 players or less in a flight, the Order of Merit points will be totaled from the bottom up. For example: In a flight with less than 10 players, the last place finisher in the flight will receive 30 points, second to last will receive 40 points and so on up the schedule of points, with the flight winner earning a 25 point bonus. If there were only 5 players in the flight, the winner would receive 95 points.

A member may compete in as many Tournaments as they choose. However, they can only score points in as many Tournaments as are on their home Tour's schedule, including Regional Majors. For example: Fred's home Tour has nine local events and there are three regional majors in his region. His home Tour then has 12 events on the schedule. Fred may play in as many events as he chooses, but only his best 12 events will count towards his Order of Merit point total. (See limitation on number of point scoring regional majors below under **Regional Majors**)

8. Determination of Tied Scores

For all first place ties in flight, there will be an on-course playoff (course permitting), supervised by a Committee Member. The golf course and the availability of carts, holes, daylight and other factors will determine the holes used to conduct the playoff. The playoff will commence until a player records a lower score than the other(s) on a particular hole (sudden death). If an on-course playoff is not possible, a scorecard playoff will take place using the cumulative score of the back nine, then the last 6, then the last 3 holes. If the players are still tied after matching the final 3 hole scores, then it goes to the #1 handicap hole on the back nine, then to the #2 handicap hole on the back nine until a winner is determined. Aside from first place, the scorecard playoff will be used for all places that pay out a prize/gift certificate, within flight.

For awarding **points** in the event of a tie, the Tournament Director will add up all points for the tied places and divide by the number of players tied for the spot. The tied players will then be awarded the same number of points (Example: If there are 3 players tied for 2nd place in an 11+ flight, add up 125, 100 and 90 and divide by 3 - each player will



receive 105 points). Since a first place winner is always determined with a playoff or score card playoff, the sole winner of first place will be entitled to first place merit points. The player that loses the playoff will receive second place merit points.

9. Distance Measuring Devices

USGA-conforming distance measuring devices are allowed at all local, regional, and national events. GCAT specifically supports and encourages the use of SkyCaddie, a device proven to speed up pace of play. Members can purchase a SkyCaddie unit at a special, discounted members-only price. Please contact your local Tour director for more information.

10. Regional Majors

Each region is different, but typically a region will hold three to five “Majors”. A Major is a two-day 36-hole event that will include players from all Tours in that region as well as across the country. Majors have DOUBLE “Order of Merit” points per the schedule below. A player is only allowed to compete for points in as many Majors as their region has scheduled. The top three finishers in each flight at a major automatically qualify for the GCAT National Championship. However, the Tour policy regarding minimum playing requirements must be attained (Please reference #12 below).

POS	POINTS
1st	350
2nd	250
3rd	200
4th	180
5th	160
6th	140
7th	120
8th	100
9th	80
10th	60
11th +	40

11. Championship Week

The 2009 National Championship will be held September 21-27 at PGA West and affiliated courses in La Quinta, CA. The National Championship week consists of 3 events: National Team Championship, National Championship, and National Senior Championship. Tour Players must qualify for each of these events as outlined below and per your local Tour Director.

12. National Championship (September 21-25, 2009)

The National Championship, held during the annual “Championship Week”, is a professional-style 72-hole Championship with a cut after the 3rd round (54 holes) of competition. Qualifiers from all across the country will compete for a place in Tour history and the honor of becoming the National Champion.

All Tours may qualify up to 30% of their members in each flight, Open and Senior. Tour Players who have qualified through a regional major will not count against a Tours % allotment.

13. Senior Championship (September 21-25, 2009)

The Senior National Championship is open to all members of the GOLF CHANNEL Amateur Tour who turned 50 on or before December 31st of the previous calendar year and who have played and qualified in the Senior division during that season. Seniors need to have been flighted as Seniors throughout the season and can qualify through the



various options available to a local Tour. They can also qualify through a regional. Seniors must meet the minimum participation guidelines above.

All Tours may qualify up to 30% of their members in each flight, Open and Senior. Sr. Tour Players who have qualified through a regional major will not count against a Tours % allotment.

14. National Championship Qualifying

All Tours may qualify up to 30% of their membership in each flight, Open and Senior. Tour Players who have qualified through a Regional Major will not count against a Tours % allotment. Please contact your local Tour Director with regards to qualifying standards on your local Tour. The following exemption categories shall apply to every Tour in addition to the qualifying categories set by your local Tour Director :

- A) Past Champions
- B) Top 5 and ties from 2008 National Championship
- C) Top 3 and ties from the 2009 Regional Major Championships
- D) Top 2 on the 2009 Callaway Order of Merit (per Flight)

Qualifiers for the National Championship must be a member in good standing with the GOLF CHANNEL Amateur Tour and are required to compete in at least five (5) tournament rounds on Tour of which four (4) must be on the local schedule. A tournament round is designated as an 18-hole score. No cards, no-shows, or disqualifications are not designated as an acceptable or applicable round.

15. Team Championship & Qualifying

The Team Championship is the oldest event on the GOLF CHANNEL Amateur Tour. Each local Tour has the opportunity to send teams of twelve (12) players to compete during "Championship Week" for the coveted Team Championship Cup. The Tournament is a 45-hole match play event with 27 holes played on day one and 18 holes on day two.

A member qualifies for their local Team Championship team through the criteria established by the local Tour Director. The local Tour Director can choose from a variety of programs to make their team. Typically, the top two players from each flight are awarded spots to play in the event.

A team will consist of two players from each flight on that Tour. If either player is not able to attend, the local Tour Director will select replacements by moving down the list of players in that flight until a team is full (see your local Tour Director for Team Championship qualifications)

The winning team will take home the Team Championship Cup. Each player will receive a smaller version of the Team Championship Cup as well as individual gift certificates/merchandise.



Questions or Comments on the Handbook

Any questions or comments on the Tour handbook should be submitted to your local Tour Director, the Regional Offices or the National Office.

Local Tour Director's contact information can be found on each city's Tour page at www.golfchannel.com/amateurTour.

Northeast Regional Director:	Rick Adamek	radamek@golfchannel.com
Southeast Regional Director:	Tim Patterson	tipatterson@golfchannel.com
South Central/Midwest Regional Director:	Drake Schunck	dschunck@golfchannel.com
West Coast Regional Director:	Joe Wagner	jwagner@golfchannel.com

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The most current version of the handbook can be found on our Tour Web site. **The electronic version online shall override and supersede any printed form of the document.**



Appendix A

HOW TO AVOID SLOW PLAY...

The desired pace of play on the courses we play is **four hours and 30 minutes** with carts off the paths.

The Golf Channel Amateur Tour Pace of Play policy leaves the responsibility for maintaining the pace of play where it belongs, with you, the player. If you are the first group in the field, you must play in 2 hours 15 minutes or less per nine holes. All subsequent groups must finish the checkpoints within the parameters listed below.

Scorecards will have the expected time your group is to complete each hole. If you fall behind, you are expected to play efficient golf and get back into position. This means playing ready golf and/or continuous putting which are both allowed in stroke play.

The Golf Channel Amateur Tour Pace of Play policy utilizes a two checkpoint system. Two things to keep in mind:

- Players will not receive warnings.
- Each group is responsible for monitoring their own pace.

To avoid penalty, groups must complete each checkpoint hole:

1. Under the allotted time on the scorecard, OR
2. Within 14 minutes of the group ahead.

Checkpoints will be on holes #9 and #18, unless otherwise indicated. All players in a group in breach of the pace of play policy at any checkpoint are subject to penalty.

PENALTIES

First Breach in Round = 1 stroke penalty to each player in the group.

Second Breach in Round = additional 2 stroke penalty to each player in the group.

NOTIFICATION

Any group that completes a checkpoint hole in breach of the pace of play policy will be verbally notified by an Official. Officials at checkpoints should never be confronted.

It is the player's responsibility to recognize when a breach has occurred at each checkpoint and penalties must be recorded on their scorecards. Penalties are to be added to the checkpoint hole the group was notified of the breach. (usually holes #9 or #18)

POSITION

First Group(s) Off Either Tee: If the lead group is behind its expected time after completing one checkpoint (9th or 18th hole) players will be notified and each player in the group shall add a ONE-STROKE PENALTY to his score for that hole. If they also pass the second checkpoint behind their expected time, each player shall add an additional TWO-STROKE PENALTY to his score for that hole. A group may appeal the penalty in the scoring area before surrendering their scorecards.

Subsequent Groups: If any subsequent group passes one checkpoint (9th or 18th hole) behind its expected time AND more than 14 minutes behind the preceding group, players will be notified and each player in the group shall add a ONE-STROKE PENALTY to his score for that hole. If they pass the second checkpoint behind their expected time AND more than 14 minutes behind the preceding group, each player shall add an additional TWO-STROKE PENALTY to his score for that hole. A group may appeal the penalty in the scoring area before surrendering their scorecards.



CONCERNED PLAYERS AND APPEALS

A player concerned about slow player(s) in a group should first remind that player of the pace of play policy and encourage them to play more efficiently. The concerned player may, before or after penalties are assessed, request an Official to monitor the group. If a player is identified as holding up the pace of the group, penalties may be applied to that player and rescinded from the others.

Appeals for exceptional situations will be considered only in the scoring area after the completion of the round and prior to the return of a player's scorecard.

DEFINITIONS

Timing – A group's completion time at each checkpoint is measured when the flagstick is replaced in the hole once all players in the group have holed out.

Allotted Time – The "allotted time" is the maximum time allowed to complete play of the course or the holes between checkpoints. The allotted time is predetermined by the Tournament Committee and may be adjusted between rounds. Time for ball searches, rulings, and walking or travel time between holes is included in the allotted time. The allotted time for each hole and course will be posted on each player's scorecard.

Rule 6-7. Undue Delay; Slow Play states: "The player must play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines that the Committee may establish. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next teeing ground, the player must not unduly delay play."

RULINGS OR OTHER INCIDENTS

If a ruling or some other legitimate delay occurs which causes the group in question to lose its position, that group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.

Please putt out when possible and play **READY** golf!

Also, here are some tips for all players to observe to help us with our pace of play:

- **KEEP UP WITH THE GROUP IN FRONT OF YOU.** Focus on keeping pace with the group in **front of you**. Do not be concerned with the group behind you. We will worry about the group behind you!
- **IF YOU ARE WALKING.** If your group is falling behind, hitch a ride on someone's cart to your tee ball and then walk. The distance to the tee ball, even on a par three is the biggest slow-down if you are walking and others are riding.
- **PLAY READY GOLF.** There is no penalty for playing out of turn in stroke play. If you are approximately 100 yards from the green on the left side of the fairway and Jack is the same distance on the other side of the fairway, make eye contact and determine which one is going to play next. If you assume he's away and he assumes you're away and you both stand around waiting and staring straight ahead -- yes, it makes a you-know-what out of you and Jack.
- **KEEP AN EYE ON EACH OTHER'S SHOTS.** Help look for lost balls **AFTER** you have hit your shot. If all four players are looking for the ball at the same time, the group has come to a dead, screeching halt.
- **AS CART DRIVER, DROP OFF YOUR PASSENGER AT HIS BALL AND IMMEDIATELY GO TO YOUR BALL.** Do not wait for him to hit **UNLESS** you would be in his line of flight.
- **IF YOU ARE THE PASSENGER AND ARE UNSURE OF WHICH CLUB TO HIT.** Take several clubs and send the driver to his ball.
- **IF YOUR NEXT SHOT IS A WEDGE OR SHORT IRON TO THE GREEN.** Take your putter with you and tell the driver to go on without you.



- **KNOW WHEN IT'S YOUR TURN TO PUTT.** How many times do you see all four players reach the green and grow silent? Talk. Somebody call out the order: "Ray, your away, Jack your next, then Gene ...". If you want to check your putt out from both sides, get a look from one side **BEFORE** it becomes your turn.
- **USE THE CONTINUOUS PUTTING RULE WHENEVER POSSIBLE.** You may choose to putt out to increase your group's pace of play.
- **NEVER RECORD SCORES AT THE GREEN.** Do it at the next tee box.



Appendix B

SCORECARDS AND STATS

These guidelines will help explain how to keep the playing statistics for your fellow competitor and yourself.

You will be keeping both score and stats for another player in your group. You are the **MARKER**, your fellow competitor is the **PLAYER**. You will keep his/her score and stats on the **UPPER** portion of the scorecard. You keep your score and stats on the tear-off **UPPER or LOWER** portion. At the end of the round you will sign the card as the marker, have the player sign and then tear off the lower portion so you can lay it across your own scorecard (which another player has kept for you) and double check that your score is accurate before signing it.

REMEMBER you are responsible for your score on each hole. We will double check to make sure the total is correct. Do not sign your scorecard if there is any question about your score on any hole. Once you have signed the card you are committed to that score. If you sign for a score that is higher than what you shot you will be given that score. If you sign for a score that is lower than what you shot, you will be **disqualified**.

If you have a question about a hole, do not sign your card until you have received a ruling from the Tournament Director. However, remember that under stroke play rules, if you have played a hole incorrectly, once you have left the green on that hole you cannot go back and replay the hole. If there is any doubt as to how to proceed, play **two balls** into the hole and a ruling can be made after the fact.

In keeping your fellow competitors statistics, it is not necessary for you to pay attention to him/her playing the hole. Obviously, you want to concentrate on your own game. Each player, as they leave the green, should volunteer the appropriate information to their marker. Simply saying "green, two putts" relays the fact that you missed the fairway, hit the green and two-putted or "fairway, three putts" says you hit the fairway, missed the green and had three putts. **Don't make your marker chase you down for this information just because you had a bad hole.**

FAIRWAYS Only first tee shots that finish in the fairway are counted.

GREENS IN REGULATION Only greens hit in the regulation number of shots (or less) with the ball originally put into play are counted.

PUTTS Only putts struck from the putting surface are counted. A stroke from the putting surface with a club other than a putter is counted as a putt. A stroke from off the green struck with a putter is **NOT** a putt.

DRIVING DISTANCE Driving distance will be measured on two holes per round, usually one on the front and one on the back. Only the first ball put into play will be measured. As we do not have the staff to physically measure distances the following procedure will be used:

Estimate the total yardage of the hole by the relationship of the tee markers to the nearest yardage marker. If there is no yardage marker, use the listed yardage on the course scorecard. Upon reaching the ball, calculate the yardage to the center of the green and simply subtract from the total yardage you calculated for the hole.