



presented by **GOLF GALAXY**

PLAYER HANDBOOK
Golf Channel Amateur Tour
2013 Season V1.0

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TOUR POLICIES

1. Membership Qualification

Golf Channel Amateur Tour (Am Tour) is wholly owned and operated by Golf Channel, headquartered in Orlando, Florida. Membership to the Am Tour is open to all amateur golfers with a verifiable handicap index. Before you can compete you must enter a minimum of six (6) completed scorecards into your players club account. A detailed explanation on USGA® Handicap Index®, Tour Index calculations, and the Tour points system are stated within the handbook and also at www.GCAmTour.com.

2. Membership Fees

The cost of an annual membership into the Am Tour is \$199 for new members and \$179 for renewing members for the 2013 season. Potential member can sign up for the Tour on the official website at www.GCAmTour.com. Am Tour member benefits include, but are not limited to: the Member Pack (typical items include a Tour-branded golf hat, golf shirt, online handicap service, etc.), and ability to play in any Tour event across the country, with the exception of Local Tour Championships, which may be closed to Local Tour Players only, and the National Championship, which players must qualify to participate.

3. Membership Cancellation/Refund

All Golf Channel Amateur Tour memberships begin the day a player submits his/her registration for service. Only cancellations made within three (3) days of the initial registration will receive a full refund. After this point, a pro-rated refund will be issued, subtracting a \$100 fee for the Member Pack. Golf Channel Amateur Tour will not accept returned Welcome Packs. No Refunds will be made after 45 days or after a player has participated in two (2) Golf Channel Amateur Tour tournaments.

4. Assumption of Risk and Release from Liability

By signing or electronically submitting a member application and entering and playing in a Golf Channel Amateur Tour tournament ("tournament"), the participant understands and agrees that there are certain dangers involved with the participation in a golf tournament, 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, all of for which risks participant assumes and solely accepts, and waives all claims of injury to body or property against Golf Channel. Further, the participant agrees that while on the premises of a Golf Channel Amateur Tour tournament, the participant, and any guest, relative or anyone else affiliated with participant, shall be present at their own risk and that Golf Channel shall not 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 tournament or presence at the tournament. Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Golf Channel from all claims by or liability to participant or affiliated person.

5. Tour Format

The majority of tournaments are stroke play, gross competition within one's 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 Am Tour Committee. Other specialized formats, such as match play or best ball, will be played in accordance with USGA® rules of golf. Am 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 Am Tour Committee shall be final.

6. Flight Placement and Movement

The Golf Channel Am Tour is divided into six separate flights and two divisions (Open and Senior). Senior flights will be offered at the Senior National Championship but may or may not be available at local events or Majors depending on participation. Flights are based initially on a player's most current index. Once a player has played on Tour, his/her Tournament Index – factoring only scores from rounds played on Tour - can be used to coincide with the appropriate flight (see below). Please note, though, if large discrepancies are found between one's Tournament Index and any other form of handicap verification he/she holds, the Tour will not allow he/she to compete in a flight that is more than one flight higher than his/her lowest form of handicap verification (i.e. John Doe has a USGA® Index of 6.5 and a Tournament Index of 13.5. Mr. Doe will compete in the Palmer Flight (4-7.9) or the Hogan Flight (8-11.9) and not the Sarazen Flight (12-15.9).

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+

A Tour Player who has played in less than four rounds on Tour will be flighted based on the best available and most current information (a verifiable USGA® index or scores entered into the official Tour website via one's Players Club). If a player does not have a verifiable USGA® Index, he/she will be placed into a flight based on entering a minimum of six adjusted scores into the Players Club by clicking on "Handicap" at www.gcamtour.com.

Golf Channel Amateur Tour reserves the right to promote a player to a better flight at anytime.

A Tour Player who has played at least four rounds on Tour as of a revision date can be flighted based on his/her Tournament Index, taking into account the following restriction: no tour player can compete in a flight that is more than one flight higher than his/her lowest form of handicap verification (i.e. John Doe has a USGA® Index of 6.5 and a Tournament Index of 13.5. Mr. Doe will compete in the Palmer Flight (4-7.9) or the Hogan Flight (8-11.9) and not the Sarazen Flight (12-15.9). ***This policy is the responsibility of the player and failure to comply could result in immediate re-flighting and/or disqualification.***

If a Player's Tour Index improves to correspond with a lower flight, he/she will be notified and automatically promoted and re-flighted for his/her next event, following the Tour's Index revision/promotion dates: October 2nd and then every 2nd day of each month. Conversely, if a Player's Tour Index increases one full point above the lowest threshold of a higher flight, it is the sole responsibility of the Tour Player to request a flight change. This request must be made to one's Local Director and Regional Director a minimum of **10 days prior** to one's next registered event to be considered for re-flighting. Final decisions on re-flighting are solely at the discretion of the Regional Director. **Please note Golf Channel Amateur Tour reserves the right to re-flight a player at anytime**

Special Considerations:

- If a tour player wins a Major Championship in a specific flight he/she cannot move back to a higher flight (2013)
 - o If Player A wins the Western Classic in the Hogan Flight he/she cannot move back to the Sarazen/Jones/Snead Flight for that season
- Each National Champion will be automatically promoted to the next flight for the following season



The Tournament Index is calculated by the following:

<u>Number of Acceptable Scores</u>	<u>Differentials to be Used</u>
4	Lowest 3
5	Lowest 4
6	Lowest 5
7 or 8	Lowest 6
9	Lowest 7
10	Lowest 8
11 or 12	Lowest 9

The Tour will revise handicaps on the second of every month*. Tour players will be subject to re-flighting on the 2nd of each month

The following represent examples of player movement from a higher flight to a lower flight throughout the season:

- If a Player's Tour Index improves to correspond with a lower flight, he/she will be notified and automatically promoted and re-flighted for his/her next event following the Tour's Index revision/promotion dates: The 2nd day of every month.
- If player A is in the Hogan Flight and his/her index becomes 7.9 or less as of the revision date, that member will be moved to the Palmer Flight
- Players who are promoted shall be placed in a tie for 3rd place in the new flight if the moved player's point total is greater than or equal to the current 3rd place in the new flight.
- If Josh Smith is in the Hogan Flight and has 1000 points and is promoted to the Palmer Flight, where John Doe is 3rd on the Order of Merit with 400 points, then Josh Smith will be placed in a tie with John Doe at 400 points.
- If you are promoted to a lower handicap flight during the season you are automatically qualified for the 2013 National Championship or 2013 Senior National Championship. This qualification spot is only valid in the promoted flight.

The following represent examples of player movement from a lower flight to a higher flight throughout the season:

- If player A's Tour Index rises to 8.3 as of the next revision date that member will remain in the Palmer Flight
- Player A cannot move back to Hogan until his/her Tour Index reaches 9.0 (1 full point above the lowest threshold of a particular flight, in this case Hogan at 8.0)
- If a Player's Tour Index increases to correspond with a higher flight, it is the sole responsibility of the Player to request a flight change. This request must be made to one's Local Director and Regional Director a minimum of 10 days prior to one's next registered event to be considered for re-flighting.
- Players may not request a flight movement within 10 days of a registered Local or Major event
- If you are demoted to a lower flight you cannot be in any position higher than a T3
- For the 2013 National Championships, any petition by a player to be moved from a flight must be made in writing prior to August 15, 2013 to the corresponding Regional Director

7. Senior Flight Placement

All tour players who turn 50 years of age before December 31, 2012 have the option to be flighted in the senior division at the beginning of the 2013 season. A player that plays and qualifies for the National Championship in the Open flight but turns 50 during the season is **not** permitted to play in the Senior National Championship. **ONLY SENIORS WHO TURN 50 ON/BEFORE December 31, 2012 ARE PERMITTED TO COMPETE IN THE SENIOR FLIGHT AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.**

8. On Course Rules

All play will be governed by the current USGA® Rules of Golf as set forth by the USGA®. The Tournament Committee will provide a "Notice to Contestants" rules sheet containing local rules, and those rules will govern play for that tournament. (See Appendix #2 for an example of a "Notice to Contestants" rules sheet)

9. Spectators and Caddies

Spectators are welcome at all Golf Channel Amateur Tour tournaments provided the course allows spectators to walk the course and the spectators do not interfere with pace of play. Spectators are the responsibility of the player they are watching and must remain out of play (i.e. cart path, rough, etc) and practice proper golf etiquette at all times.

Caddies are welcome at all Golf Channel Amateur Tour tournaments provided the course allows caddies to walk the course and the caddies do not interfere with pace of play. Caddies are the responsibility of the associated player and are requested to practice proper golf etiquette. 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 of the USGA® Rules of Golf, the player incurs the applicable penalty for any breach of a rule by his/her caddie, including unsportsmanlike conduct.

Spectators and/or caddies are not permitted in a player golf cart (exception: A caddie or spectator may ride in a cart to the starting hole and from green to tee. In addition a spectator or caddie may sit in a cart only when it is parked at a tee or at a green). Use of golf carts is for the sole purpose of the players. Any spectator or caddie found riding in a golf cart during play of a stipulated hole competition may result in the immediate disqualification of the player(s) who are associated with the violating spectator(s) and/or caddie(s) at 2013 Majors and the 2013 National Championship.

The use of spectator carts is not allowed at any Tour event (local, Major, or National).

10. Dress Code

Am Tour 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. .

11. Player Conduct

Players and/or their guest(s) shall conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times. Any excessive display of anger, vulgar language, club throwing, alcohol abuse, lack of golfing etiquette or disrespect to a fellow player or any other individual may be grounds for disqualification from any tournament. The Golf Channel Amateur Tour reserves the right to revoke the membership, without a refund, of any individual at any time for conduct deemed inappropriate or damaging to the Tour.

12. Prizes

For each tournament, a portion of each player's entry fee is used to generate each flight's prize pool. The value of the prize pool at each tournament will be established prior to the tournament and is based on participation. The prize pool may vary slightly the day of the tournament due to late entries or withdrawals. In order to adhere to the USGA® Rules of Amateur Status, no single prize awarded will exceed \$750 in value. Under no circumstances will cash awards be distributed.



13. Trophies

The winner from each flight will receive a trophy, plaque or like item, presented the day of the tournament.

14. Pace of Play Policy

Pace of Play Policy

Golf Channel Amateur Tour has instituted a Pace of Play Policy in accordance with Rule 6-7 of the USGA® Rules of Golf, Undue Delay, which leaves the responsibility for maintaining the pace of play where it belongs, with the player. The players in the first group of the field 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 each group is to complete each hole. If the group falls behind, it is 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 Pace of Play Policy utilizes a two checkpoint system. There are two things to keep in mind:

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

To avoid penalty, groups must complete each checkpoint hole:

- Under the allotted time on the scorecard, OR
- 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.

Multiple breaches of the Pace of Play Policy may result in Tour suspension

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 players' 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 in which the group was notified of the breach (holes #9 or #18).

POSITION

First Group(s) Off Either Tee: If the lead group is behind its expected time after completing one checkpoint (holes #9 or #18) players will be notified and each player in the group shall add a ONE-STROKE PENALTY to his/her 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/her 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 (holes #9 or #18) 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/her 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/her score for that hole. A group may appeal the penalty in the scoring area before turning in 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 of the USGA® Rules of Golf, 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.

15. Inclement Weather

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

The delaying or canceling of a tournament due to inclement weather will be determined by the host facility. In the event of rain/wind or inclement weather, play will continue unless the golf course is deemed unplayable and closed by the golf course. Wind is not considered a condition of inclement weather. In the event of lightning, play may be suspended until such time as threat of lightning has passed. If the course becomes unplayable, the tournament may still be deemed official with a reduction in number of holes played (i.e. an 18-hole tournament being reduced to a 9-hole tournament). In some cases refunds are unavailable depending on course policies.

16. Member Packs

Member Packs will be distributed directly to the Tour Player upon registration via the Tour website for the 2013 season. A player will receive an automated email from the fulfillment house with notification of its shipment. This email will include a tracking number (*PLEASE NOTE: PO Boxes will not have tracking numbers*). If the Member Pack is not received, players are encouraged to contact Am Tour Support at GCATSupport@golfchannel.com. You should expect to receive your Member Pack in 8 weeks.

17. Miscellaneous

The policies and regulations of Am Tour are subject to revision.

All Tour Players in Am Tour tournaments are deemed to be familiar with these policies and regulations, as well as the USGA® Rules of Golf and agree to abide by them. Failure to comply with the aforementioned policies and regulations could result in suspension or expulsion from the Tour or a tournament.



TOURNAMENT POLICIES

1. Tournament Registration

Only Tour Players may participate in Am Tour tournaments, with the exception that guests may participate in up to two (2) tournaments per year, but are not eligible for Order of Merit Points, prizing or trophies.

Tour Players can register online for local, Major and National Championships at www.GCAmTour.com or by emailing or calling their 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 typically include all green fees, taxes, cart fees, range balls, scoring, prize fund, and trophies.

2. Tournament Application and 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 Tour website using a credit card, but may be paid by other means (i.e. 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. For all Major Championships and National Championships, a credit card and/or money order must be paid prior to the closing of the entry deadline. Cash and check payments will NOT be permitted to secure a position in any Major or National event.

3. Cancellations and No Shows

Withdrawal from any tournament must be done in accordance with the posted tournament cancellation policy. If a Tour Player withdraws prior to the tournament he or she is subject to a cancellation fee.

Any Tour 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.

4. Tournament Flight Guidelines

Each tournament field will vary in its 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 tour players* for local tournaments and 6 tour players for Majors and the National Championships. (*A local Tour will hold a Championship flight if it consists of 2 Championship Tour Players). It is up to the Local Tour Director to determine if there is enough interest to offer Senior flights at the local level. Senior flights will be offered at all Major and National Championships, provided there are at least 6 players within the flight.

While a Tour Player may have played a tournament in a flight lower than their flight, the Order of Merit Points will accrue to their assigned flight. This is the same for Senior flights; if a Senior plays in an Open flight due to a small number of Senior players, the Order of Merit Points awarded will carry over to his/her Senior flight. For 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 toward his Senior Hogan flight points.

5. Tournament Format

With the exception of the Majors and the National Championships, most tournaments are 18-hole stroke play events. At the discretion of the Local Tour Director or Regional Director, a local or Major 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.

6. Tournament Payout Schedule

Local Tournament Payout Schedule – Single Day 18-hole Tournament

<u># of Players in Flight</u>	<u># Places to Payout</u>	<u>Minimum Payout for Flight</u>	<u># of Players in Flight</u>	<u># Places to Payout</u>	<u>Minimum Payout for Flight</u>
3	1	\$60.00	22	6	\$440.00
4	1	\$80.00	23	6	\$460.00
5	1	\$100.00	24	6	\$480.00
6	2	\$120.00	25	6	\$500.00
7	2	\$140.00	26	7	\$520.00
8	2	\$160.00	27	7	\$540.00
9	2	\$180.00	28	7	\$560.00
10	3	\$200.00	29	7	\$580.00
11	3	\$220.00	30	8	\$600.00
12	3	\$240.00	31	8	\$620.00
13	3	\$260.00	32	8	\$640.00
14	4	\$280.00	33	8	\$660.00
15	4	\$300.00	34	9	\$680.00
16	4	\$320.00	35	9	\$700.00
17	4	\$340.00	36	9	\$720.00
18	5	\$360.00	37	9	\$740.00
19	5	\$380.00	38	10	\$760.00
20	5	\$400.00	39	10	\$780.00
21	5	\$420.00	40	10	\$800.00

**All payouts are in the form of a gift card in accordance to the USGA® Rules of Amateur Status*

**Minimum Amount Contributed Per Player is \$20*

**Paying out 25% of field, rounding upwards, per flight*

7. Tee Times

Tournaments 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 website prior to the event and emailed to all tournament players. Pairings are subject to change anytime prior to the event. If an individual tee time has been changed, the Tournament Director will personally notify that individual of the change.

8. Check-In and Starting

For all local tour events, all tour players must check in 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. For Majors and National Championships, all Tour Players are required to check in during the posted registration 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/her 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 USGA Rule 6-3 (penalty is disqualification if a player is 5 minutes or more late to the tee). A player missing his/her starting time will be disqualified and no points or prizes can be earned, but may still be permitted to participate in the event, depending on availability.

Failure to do so may result in a player forfeiting his/her 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 USGA Rule 6-3a - **A player incurs a 2 stroke penalty** if they are within five minutes late to their scheduled starting time. A player who is more than five minutes late to his/her scheduled starting time will be **disqualified** and no points or prizes can be earned, but may still be permitted to participate in the event, depending on availability.

9. Tees

Below is a breakdown of the average yardages typically used, by flight, on Tour (based on course/flight availability):

Flight	Open Yards	Senior Yards	Ladies Yards
Championship	6500-7000	6000-6600	5800-6300
Palmer	6500-7000	6000-6600	5800-6300
Hogan	6000-6600	6000-6600	5400-6000
Sarazen	6000-6600	5800-6300	5400-6000
Jones	5800-6300	5800-6300	4800-5300
Snead	5800-6300	5800-6300	4800-5300

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

When flights are combined (Open with Senior), players will compete from the tee yardages from the flight that has the majority of the players (i.e. 2 players in the Sarazen flight and 4 players in the Senior Sarazen flight – there will be one combined Sarazen flight with all 6 players playing from the Senior Sarazen tee yardages) At Majors and when there are enough Senior players to field their own flight, the Seniors will play from their own yardages set by the Regional Director and Local Tour Director.

10. Scorekeeping and Scorecards

Players must exchange their scorecards with another player in the group. A separate area (tear-off strip at the bottom of card) is provided to allow each player to keep his/her own score. 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, the tear-off strip should be used to check the accuracy of one's own official card. Each player must sign his/her card and each "marker" must sign his/her card as well.

Immediately upon conclusion of the tournament round, each player in the group should proceed immediately to the designated scoring area collectively. At the scoring area, Tour Players will exchange cards, bring up any rulings to the tournament scoring committee, and thoroughly check the accuracy of the scorecard at the designated scoring area. Once signed, the group will turn in their scorecards collectively and may depart from the scoring area. Any player who is tardy to the designated scoring area by more than 10 minutes after completion of round may be disqualified.

Each player is responsible for the correctness of his/her scorecard even though a fellow competitor will be marking the scores on each hole. Players, though, are only responsible for the score on *each hole* and not the total score. If a player signs for an incorrect scorecard with a lower score on a hole than they actually shot, that player will be disqualified per rule 6-6d

In an effort to equitably resolve any scoring disputes all players in a pairing should submit their scorecards at the **same time** to the scorer's area **immediately upon completion of play** and each player should 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 the Tournament Committee as soon as possible after an incident occurs so that a proper ruling can be made in a timely fashion. **Competition in each flight is deemed to have closed when the trophy has been presented to the winner.**

11. Results and Order of Merit Points

Points will be awarded in each flight based on the order of finish. Points will be awarded as follows:

**LOCAL TOURNAMENT
ORDER OF MERIT POINT DISTRIBUTION**

FINISHING POSITION	NUMBER OF TOUR PLAYERS IN FLIGHT									
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11+	
1 st	75	85	95	105	115	125	135	145	175	
2 nd	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	125	
3 rd	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	100	
4 th		30	40	50	60	70	80	90	90	
5 th			30	40	50	60	70	80	80	
6 th				30	40	50	60	70	70	
7 th					30	40	50	60	60	
8 th						30	40	50	50	
9 th							30	40	40	
10 th								30	30	
11 th +									20	

If there are 10 tour players or fewer in a flight, the Order of Merit Points will be totaled from the bottom up. For example: In a flight with fewer than 10 tour 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.

Tour Players may compete in as many tournaments as they choose, however, only the best 8 finishes will count for the Order of Merit standings. For example, Tour Player A plays in 10 tournaments of 11+ players and finishes in 3rd place each time (10 tournaments x 100 points). Tour Player A will have accrued 1000 total points, but his total for the Order of Merit would be 800 points (8 x 100 is 800 points).

The "Summer Series" Order of Merit race will commence on/around June 1, 2013. The "Summer Series" points race provides another avenue to qualify for the National Championship for players who may have signed up late or not played their best in the beginning of the season. The top finisher on the "Summer Series", per flight and not exempt in another category, will qualify for the National Championship. Players should contact their local Tour Director for further information and for the exact start date of the "Summer Series" in their market.

12. Determination of Tied Scores

For all **first place ties** in flight, there will be an on-course playoff (course/weather/daylight permitting along with course availability). The playoff will continue 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 holes, 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 (#10 - #18) then to the #2 handicap hole on the back nine (#10 - #18) until a winner is determined. For 36-hole events, the scorecard playoff will start with the final round score and work down, if necessary, according to the above schedule.

For awarding **Order of Merit 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. For example: If there are 3 players tied for 2nd place in an 11+ player flight, points of 125, 100 and 90 will be added and divided by 3, with each player to receive 105 points. Because a first place winner is always determined with a playoff or scorecard playoff, the sole winner of first place will be entitled to first place points. The player that loses the playoff will receive second place points.

13. Distance Measuring Devices

USGA-conforming distance measuring devices are allowed at all local, Major, and National tournaments.

14. Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Cell phones and other electronic devices that can be used to communicate are prohibited and may not be used for any reason other than in case of emergency (penalty is disqualification). Electronic devices made for the sole purpose of measuring distance (SkyCaddie, Bushnell etc) may be used so long as the device deals with factual information only and does not have the ability to calculate slope, grade, wind etc (penalty is disqualification). A player may request to have his phone on in case of emergency, but this must be declared to the starter prior to play

15. Guest Policy

Guests are always welcome to play in any local Am Tour 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 whenever possible. Guests are limited to two (2) appearances per Tour season and are **not eligible for trophies, prize fund, or Order of Merit Points**. Guests are not allowed to compete in the Majors or National Championship tournaments.

16. Major Championships

A Major Championship is a multi-day tournament that typically includes Tour Players from all across the country. Majors award double Order of Merit Points. The top three finishers and ties in each flight at a Major Championship automatically qualify for the Am Tour National Championships. However, the Tour policy regarding minimum playing requirements must be attained (see reference #18 below) in order to be eligible for National Championships.

17. National Championship

The National Championship is a 72-hole stroke play championship. Qualifiers from all across the country will compete for a place in Tour history and the honor of becoming the National Champion in their respective flight.

18. Senior National Championship

The Senior National Championship is a 72-hole stroke play championship that is open to Tour Players who have turned 50 on or before December 31st 2012 and who have played and qualified in the Senior division during the 2013 season. Seniors must have been flighted as Seniors throughout the season.

19. National Championship Qualifying

Each flight, per local Tour, may qualify up to 25% of their Tour Players. Tour Players who have qualified through a Major Championship, Past National Champion, Top Five and ties from 2012 National Championship will not count against a Tour's % allotment. In order to receive an invitation to compete in the National Championships, a player must be both "Eligible" and "Qualified":

Eligibility

A Tour Player becomes eligible for the National Championships by completing five (5) tournament rounds on Tour with the following restriction:

- A) One (1) of the rounds must come on/after June 1, 2013
A tournament round is considered a posted 18-hole tournament score

Qualified Players

The following is how players can qualify for the 2013 National Championships in order of priority:

- 1) Past National Champions
- 2) Top 5 and ties from 2012 National Championships
- 3) Top 3 and ties from a 2013 Major Championship
- 4) Any 3-time Tour winner from the 2013 season (non-major)
- 5) Any player who earns a flight promotion during the 2013 season
- 6) Top three, not exempt in another category, from the 2013 Order of Merit
- 7) Top finisher, not exempt in another category, from the "Summer Series"
- 8) Top finisher, not exempt in another category, from the local (home) Tour Championship
- 9) Top 25% of each flight per Tour

Qualifiers for the Senior and National Championship must be a member in good standing with Golf Channel Am Tour. A position in the field is not guaranteed and is limited to the first 600 per Championship.

20. Tour Contact Information

Any questions or comments on the Player Handbook should be submitted to the Local Tour Director or the Regional Director. Local Tour Director contact information may be found on each city's Tour page at www.GCAmTour.com.

Northeast Regional Director:	Rick Adamek	radamek@golfchannel.com
Southeast Regional Director:	Mike Rich	mrich@golfchannel.com
South Central Regional Director:	Drake Schunck	dschunck@golfchannel.com
West Coast Regional Director:	Joe Wagner	jwagner@golfchannel.com

Golf Channel Amateur Tour

7580 Golf Channel Drive
Orlando, FL 32819

GCATsupport@golfchannel.com
www.GCAmTour.com

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



Appendix 1

HOW TO AVOID SLOW PLAY

Below are some tips for all members to observe to help with 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.
- **IF YOU ARE WALKING.** If your group is falling behind, 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.
- **KEEP AN EYE ON EACH OTHER'S SHOTS.** Help look for lost balls **AFTER** you have hit your shot. If all four members 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/HER BALL AND IMMEDIATELY GO TO YOUR BALL.** Do not wait for him/her to hit **UNLESS** you would be in his/her 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/her 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.
- **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.

Please putt out when possible and play READY golf!

APPENDIX 2
The Western Classic
LOCAL RULES AND CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

DATE: August 13th – 14th, 2011

COURSE: The Great White

The USGA Rules of Golf shall govern this competition. The following Local Rules & Definitions shall also be in effect. Disregard all Local Rules & Definitions posted in the golf shop or on the course scorecard. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach for a local rule or condition is two strokes

TEEING GROUNDS

Tee's Played	The Champions Course
Championship/Palmer	Gold
Sr. Palmer/Hogan/Sarazen Sr. Hogan	Blue
Jones/Snead/Sr. Snead Sr. Sarazen/Sr. Jones	White

Play will be from the designated tee markers, not necessarily the scorecard yardages ***Ladies will be able to play the red tee's***

CONDUCT UNBECOMING:

Players and/or their guest(s) shall conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times. Any excessive display of anger, vulgar language, club throwing, alcohol abuse, lack of golfing etiquette or disrespect to a fellow player or any other individual may be grounds for disqualification from any tournament. The GOLF CHANNEL Amateur Tour reserves the right to revoke the membership, without a refund, of any individual at any time for conduct deemed inappropriate or damaging to the Tour.

PACE OF PLAY: 4:30: Each group is individually responsible for maintaining and policing their groups pace of play. The finishing time for each hole is located on your scorecard. Players may inform another contestant that he/she is the cause of the group being out of position as a courtesy to that player. Rules Officials are not required to notify groups that they are out of position.

- 1-stroke penalty will be assessed to the 1st group for failing to complete the front in 2 hours 15 minutes and also penalized for not finishing 18 holes in 4:30.
- 1-stroke penalty will be assessed to any group failing to complete their 9th hole in 2:15 and finishing 14+ minutes behind the group in front of them
- 1-stroke penalty will be assessed for any group playing in 4:30+ and finishing 14+ minutes behind the group in front of them.

RULE 3-3: For any ruling question or doubt as to procedure. Rule 3-3 is announcing your intention to play two (2) balls, complete the hole with both balls, and bring to the attention of the tournament committee before you turn in your signed scorecard.

LIMITATION ON GOLF BALLS: Each player should put an identification mark on his ball and alert his fellow competitors of such. The one ball rule is not in effect, however a player must complete the hole playing the same type of ball. Penalty: 2 Strokes

TIME OF STARTING: It is the responsibility of the player to be in his or her cart 10 minutes in advance of the start time. A 2-stroke penalty will be assessed to any player not ready to start at their starting time. Note to rule 6-3 and optional condition in appendix 1c

GROUND UNDER REPAIR: Defined by (a) closed white lines, (b) flower beds by tee boxes, and (c) Fire ant hills.

CELL PHONES: Need to be in the off position during play and use is limited to the parking lot or clubhouse

PRACTICE BETWEEN HOLES PROHIBITED: Note 2 to rule 7 & optional condition in appendix 1 shall be in effect. 2-strokes

OBSTRUCTIONS: Relief without penalty shall be given for the following immovable obstructions: (1) cart paths/maintenance roads, (2) buildings, (3) Irrigation control boxes and surrounding shrubbery, and (4) staked trees (stance & swing)

LATERAL WATER HAZARDS: Defined by red stakes and/or lines. When both stakes and lines are present, the stakes identify the hazard and the lines define the hazard margin.

OUT OF BOUNDS: Defined by white stakes/lines, boundary fences, and inside edges at ground level of street curbing and roads.

ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITIONS: Include casual water, Ground under repair, and holes and casts made by burrowing animals. Free relief may be taken under rule 25-1b.

EMBEDDED BALL: The embedded ball rule is in effect through the green, NOT in hazards

CADDIES/SPECTATORS: Are not allowed in a player cart at any time during the stipulated round. Any violation of this rule may result in the disqualification of the corresponding player

SCORECARDS: Each player in the group must be present and turn in their scorecards together as a group within 10 minutes of finishing the round. Any ruling questions must be brought to the attention of the tournament committee before a signed scorecard is turned in.

Local Rules: There is no relief from Coquina cart paths, all Coquina is considered through the green

Drop Zone: There are no drop zones!!

Competition in each flight is deemed to have closed when the trophy has been presented to the winner