

# Tour Policies And Procedures 1/2022

*For No EXemptions Tour, Inc. OGATOUR.org Members*

*Administrative Support Purposes. The terms “Tour” and “Series” here are synonymous.*

**1. ELIGIBILITY** Tournaments are open to all players. All players must first agree to the current Tour Rules Of Play and this Tour Policies & Procedures. At any time, any player may be rejected or disqualified if the Committee feels that such action is warranted and in the best interest of the tour or Activity.

**2. PLAYER STATUS** Prior to play, players will be required to claim status as “professional” or “amateur” on their registration form. Any amateur finishing in the award places will be awarded a retail gift certificate or prize money with value equal to the posted award amount and not greater than \$1000, or otherwise in accordance with the USGA printed rules of Amateur Status. [Note: Amateurs may receive cash from “optional” competitions, **not** the basic event, consistent with the USGA rules of amateur status and policy on gambling, but the total event awards must not exceed \$1,000. “These limits do not apply to competitions that take place outside ‘tee-to-green competitions’ on a golf course or simulator, such as long-drive, putting or golf-skills competitions.

**Juniors and student players should check with high school, collegiate or university associations to ensure eligibility.**” [USGA 1/2022]. All OGATOUR.org Member groups/Activities accept no responsibility for protecting any player’s amateur status beyond USGA policy conformity.

**3. PERFORMANCE AWARDS** Performance awards will be issued on the day of the event when practical, or held for later presentation, and mailed only at the player’s request. Any amateur award level valued in excess of \$1,000 shall have that excess distributed evenly among all higher finishing professionals. If there are no higher finishing professionals, any “excess” shall be distributed evenly to the highest finishing professional(s).

**4. ENTRY FEES** shall be paid with CASH (No credit or debit cards). Personal checks are an option after the player’s third event, at the Committees discretion. **NO ENTRY FEE REFUNDS** shall be granted.

**5. ENTRY DEADLINES & WITHDRAWALS** All player entry notifications must be received at least 72 hours prior to the tournament's scheduled start, in order to reserve a spot in the respective event. Players canceling within 24 hours of the event start may be penalized an amount not to exceed the entry fee.

**6. FIELD SIZE LIMITATIONS** Field sizes are often critically limited by the host clubs. Entries will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

**7. MEMBERSHIP FEE** Except for higher level play (Levels 2&3), an Annual Membership Fee is required covering 365 days. This fee is \$250 if paid in five \$50 increments, with each increment covering 30 days from the date of payment. The Annual Fee is only \$150 if paid in full, and covers 365 days from the date of payment. **Prior members shall be "grandfathered" at the membership fee level in effect at the date of their initial membership.** **NO REFUNDS** shall be granted.

**8. STIPULATED ROUNDS** Tournament rounds shall be 18 holes of individual stroke play unless otherwise declared by the Committee. If the field of players is unable to complete the round due to lightning or darkness etc., the numbered holes, usually at least nine holes, completed by all the players in the field may constitute the tournament round. In the event that part of the field is unable to complete any hole, those players would have their full entry fee returned.

**9. PRACTICE ROUNDS** Practice rounds are with the discretion and the terms of the host club. Players must contact the host clubs to arrange and negotiate costs for practice rounds.

**10. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS** The Committee shall make determinations with respect to event cancellation or abbreviation due to hazardous weather or unplayable conditions. Players play at their own risk and may discontinue their play and seek shelter without penalty when they deem that safety threatening conditions have arisen. Note: Tournaments may be conducted during periods of inclement weather. Players must continue play without delay during periods of non-threatening inclement weather such as heavy rainfall in accordance with The Rules Of Golf. The Committee and Host Club cannot, and claim no responsibility to assure the safety of any player.

**11. STARTING TIMES** Players must obtain tee times by calling or **texting** the Tour Office between 7-9pm the night before play. Day-2 or Day-3 tee times may be published on the OGATOUR.org website. Starting times and player groupings may be modified if the Committee deems it necessary.

**12. DECIDING TIES TO DECLARE THE WINNER** will be accomplished through hole-by-hole playoff when practical. Except that for lower cost 1-day events, a “split” shall occur if at least one player who is tied for first place desires a split or is otherwise unable to be present for a playoff. In this case these tied players shall be declared “co-medalists”.

**13. RULES OF PLAY** are as published under the current “Tour Rules Of Play”.

**14. CADDIES, SPECTATORS & OTHER NON-PLAYERS** At the host club’s sole discretion, caddies, spectators and other non-players may be permitted to accompany players onto the course. However, these persons must first be registered by their associated player with this Committee and through the host club pro shop staff, at which point any required fee must be paid to the host club. Any tour player who is accompanied by a non-player at the host club facility shall accept responsibility for any damage or harm caused by the non-player to any other person at the host club facility, to the Committee, or to the host club. These third party guests shall maintain a safe position to the side of their associated player, and not move to where they could be struck by a ball.

**15. DRESS CODE** The attire for tournament contestants shall conform with the policy of the respective host clubs. Between November 1st and March 31st, dress code for higher cost 1-day (above \$120) and multi-day events shall require long slacks except when specifically exempted. Violation of this code may be grounds for rejection of future entries into similar events.

**16. CONDUCT** All players must be fully acquainted with and understand the “Rules Of Golf” prior to play. The utmost courtesy is expected between players at all times. Players must play at an efficient pace, and remain completely still and quiet during any other player’s period of shot execution. The consumption of alcoholic beverages or the violation of any governing law or legal statute during any round is strictly prohibited. By local rule, no audio or video devices such as music players or televisions shall be permitted during the round. The penalty for misconduct may be disqualification and/or rejection from future events.

**17. PACE OF PLAY** In accordance with USGA Rule 6-7, pace of play guidelines are hereby established and may be enforced with associated penalties. Players/playing groups will first receive a warning/notice before penalization of the slow individual(s) for subsequent violation(s). Shot execution periods shall require longer than 40 seconds from the time the player’s turn has come and that player has reached the ball to be played. See the Committee for situational clock starting points for play at the teeing ground

and putting green. The Committee encourages player efficiency between shot executions. "READY GOLF" is encouraged and player preparedness to execute shots shows good sportsmanship. Poor sportsmanship may be cause for suspension of players from future events.

**18. ASSUMPTION OF RISK** As a participant in any Tour or Series event the participant assumes all risks and saves as harmless and indemnifies the Committee, any parent company or legal entity, and any host golf club from and against all liability, loss and expense arising directly or indirectly from participation in any Tour event, whether or not such liability, loss or expense occurs by reason of negligence of the Committee or any host golf club. Furthermore, the participant of any Tour event agrees to fully compensate the host club, or any other party or person for any damage(s) incurred by that club, part or person which may be attributed by the Committee to the actions of the member/participant's or participant's associated non-player(s).

**19. MEDIA RELEASE** As a participant, the member agrees to release without compensation any media coverage or record of that participant's play, practice or other activity at the event site including interviews or testimonials, exclusively to the Tour. Such media coverage by the Tour may be accomplished through Tour marketing videos, newspapers, magazines, television, internet posting or broadcasting to include social media, or any other media.