

**2022**  
**GOLF WEEK AMATEUR TOUR**  
**PLAYER'S HANDBOOK**



[www.AmateurGolfTour.net](http://www.AmateurGolfTour.net)



## 2022 Tour Reference Guide

<b>Player moving into a higher flight</b>	<b>Local Tour: Scoring out of flight</b>	<b>2022 Regionals</b>
<p>When a player's AGT index drops below the current flight index level, the player will automatically be advanced into the new flight. The promoted player will be moved with 75% of their current points total. If necessary, additional points will be subtracted to ensure the player does not exceed a tie for 5th place in the point standings in the new flight.</p> <p>Once promoted, a player is only eligible to retreat after posting a <b>minimum of three (3) rounds</b> in the new flight <b>with at least two (2) of those rounds</b> within the range of the next flight bracket index.</p>	<p>Tour flighting is based on a performance index system that groups together players of roughly similar potential ability. The probability of an A or B flight player scoring four strokes below his/her tour index is approximately 130 to 1. The same is true for a C or D flight player scoring five strokes below his/her tour index.</p> <p>To maintain the integrity of each flight, the Golfweek Amateur Tour Index Committee (comprised of the Tour President and three Local Tour Directors) will review instances where members return a score that indicates their actual playing potential exceeds the general ability of their current flight. Local Tour Directors will contact the Committee prior to awarding flight prizes. The Committee will evaluate the playing record of the individual (including but not limited to the number of rounds on tour for established players versus rookies with few rounds, etc.) to determine whether the player will be disqualified from the event. During two-day tournaments, the Committee will not make a final decision until after both rounds have been completed. A Committee member will share the final decision with both the Local Director and the player.</p>	<p>AGT players will be allowed to receive points for two regional tournaments from across the country. Players may participate in as many regional events as they like; however, points may only be earned for the first two regional tournaments played. Points are immediately awarded in the standings (regardless of whether the local tour's season has begun).</p> <p>Regional Flight Winners will qualify for the National Tour Championship in Hilton Head, SC - October 14th-16th.</p>
<b>Player moving into a lower flight</b>	<b>National Championship: Scoring out of flight</b>	<b>Host Tour for a Regional</b>
<p>Players may only retreat a flight two (2) times during a season and all requests to move down a flight must be made by August 15th. No deduction will be made to points earned in a more advanced flight when the player is moved down. Note: If a player has been moved up a flight and then is approved to retreat, all the player's lost points will be reinstated.</p>	<p>Players who compete in the AGT National Championship are subject to having their scores reviewed if they fall below the scoring out of flight guidelines. At the conclusion of each round, the National Championship Committee (comprised of the Tour President and three Local Tour Directors) will discuss scoring issues. Players scoring out of flight will be formally evaluated after each day's scores have been posted. At that time, the player's local Tour Director will advocate for the player, representing player history, past performance and other factors relating to the player's flight placement.</p>	<p>For those members of a tour hosting a regional event, players have two options available to accumulate points for the total number of tournaments on the local schedule.</p> <p><b>Option 1:</b> If a regional tournament appears on the host tour's schedule, and the host tour member does not participate in their posted regional, he/she may replace the event with a two-day major (not a regional) from another tour.</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> If a regional tournament appears on the host tour's schedule, and the host tour member participates in two regional events before their host tour's scheduled regional event, he/she may play in the host tour regional event but will only receive partial points. (Points will be calculated in the same manner as other 2 day majors.)</p> <p>These options are only available to members of a tour hosting a regional event to allow members to accumulate points for the total number of tournaments on the local schedule.</p>
<b>Eligibility for National Championship</b>	<b>Index Validation</b>	<b>Point Transfers</b>
<p>In order to be eligible to participate in the National Championship after a player moves down a flight, regardless of the date moved, the player must complete three (3) rounds in the lower flight (after the retreat and prior to the National Championship).</p>	<p>A player's AGT Tour Index is "validated" once <b>five tour rounds have been posted</b>. Until that time downward flight movement is restricted.</p>	<p>AGT players will be allowed to make up <b>4 missed local points events</b> at any tour city around the country. Players can play and bring away "points to their home tour to replace missed local tournaments (either 4 one-day events OR 3 one-day events plus 1 two-day event).</p> <p>A one-day event may only be replaced by another one-day event and a two-day event may only be replaced by another two-day event that is not a regional tournament.</p> <p>A player does not receive points for any tournament that take place before his/her home tour season starts since the player has not yet missed an event. Members cannot accumulate points from more tournaments than the number of points events on their home tour.</p>
<b>Green Reading</b>	<b>Please Review the entire 2022 GOLF WEEK AMATEUR TOUR PLAYER'S HANDBOOK for all additions, rules and policies.</b>	
<p><b>No green reading devices of any kind are permitted in AGT events.</b> This includes Green Books and/or all types of Green Reading Apps. In short, players and caddies can only use committee-approved yardage books and will no longer be allowed to use information that provides help with the reading of green slopes and grades (USGA – November 2021).</p>		

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## TOUR POLICIES

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### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND HANDICAPS**

The Golfweek Amateur Tour (AGT) is open to all amateur golfers. The registration process consists of completing a Join the Tour form for the current season and paying the current membership fee. First-time players must also submit current handicap information to their local tour director via email (please include your handicap ID# and the name of the organization which maintains the data. If an official handicap is not available, please submit 5 – 10 scores and the slope/rating associated with each course to your local tour director). The local tour director will utilize the information to ensure proper flight placement until an official AGT index is attained. Please provide complete and accurate information on the Join the Tour form. Each piece of data is not only required, but in the past, AGT demographic information has helped attain a variety of extra member benefits.

### **MEMBER BENEFITS**

- Membership in the AGT allows all members to compete in any AGT event in any tour/city during the current season while also providing the consistent competition associated with a designated home tour. Allowing only one membership per season helps us to ensure all tournament rounds are associated with the correct ID# used in the member's official index.
- Discounted practice round rates are often negotiated with our tournament courses for the week before an event. Please be prepared to show your AGT member card to receive discounts.
- Members also receive a Tour Welcome Kit. For the 2022 season, members will choose their Welcome Kit items from a list of carefully selected options ranging from gear, logo items, handicap service, etc.
- Members compete locally to qualify for the annual Golfweek Amateur Tour National Championship (October 14-16, 2022, Hilton Head, SC)

### **ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY**

In order to compete in any event on the Golfweek Amateur Tour, players must sign or electronically agree to the following waiver in the Tour registration.

Agreement: \*

By checking "agree" below and entering and playing in a Golfweek Amateur Tour tournament ("tournament"), I understand and agree 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 I assume and solely accept, and waive all claims of injury to body or property against Golfweek, the Amateur Golf Tour, sponsors, host course, owners, company officers, employees or volunteers. Further, I agree that while on the premises of a Golfweek Amateur Tour tournament, I, and any guest, relative or anyone else affiliated me, shall be present at their own risk and that Golfweek, the Amateur Golf Tour, sponsors, host course, owners, company officers, employees or volunteers 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. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Golfweek, the Amateur Golf Tour, sponsors, host course, owners, company officers, employees, or volunteers from all claims by or liability to myself or affiliated person. I am hereby indicating that I understand all of the information pertaining to tournament prizes, the Golfweek Amateur Tour point system and all rules and instructions contained herein. I am hereby indicating that when registering for a Golfweek Amateur Tour event, I understand all of the information pertaining to tournament prizes and all rules and instructions contained herein. I understand that if I am unable to participate, I may be responsible for the tournament entry fees. I hereby hold harmless the Golfweek, the Amateur Golf Tour, sponsors, host course, owners, company officers, employees or volunteers and its organizers from any and all liability for any loss or injury related to my attendance or participation in any Golfweek Amateur Tour sanctioned event. I grant permission to the Golfweek Amateur Tour and Golfweek and related entities to use or authorize others to use any photographs, motion pictures, recordings, or any other record of my participation in this event or related activities for any legitimate purpose without remuneration. I also understand that annual memberships are not refundable after participating in an event and are not refundable after 30 days regardless of participation.

### **TOUR FORMAT**

All tournaments are gross stroke play with USGA rules in effect. The rules of golf as governed by the USGA will apply with the following exceptions:

- Players in A through D flights can card a maximum of triple bogey on any hole (the triple bogey rule does not apply to Champ flight). At any time on any hole if a player reaches triple bogey (including penalty strokes) and the ball is not holed out, the player **MUST** pick up his/her ball, help the group finish the hole and will record a triple bogey as his/her score for the hole.
- The local rules of a host course take precedence if in conflict.
- A limited number of special events using different formats (Skins, Ryder Cup, etc.) take place throughout the year. These unique tournaments will be listed on the local tour schedule and identified as non-gross stroke play and non-point events. As such, these events are not eligible to be made up for points in the local standings. All other tournaments will strictly adhere to the standard format.

### **TOUR FLIGHTS**

The field will be divided into five indexed flights.

<b>Flight</b>	<b>Index</b>
<b>Championship</b>	<b>0 - 3.9</b>
<b>A Flight</b>	<b>4.0 - 8.9</b>
<b>B Flight</b>	<b>9.0 - 13.9</b>
<b>C Flight</b>	<b>14.0 - 18.9</b>
<b>D Flight</b>	<b>19.0+</b>

## **TOUR INDEX POLICY**

The Tour Index Policy is intended to group players into flights of comparable potential ability to promote fair competition within the flight. Indexes are based solely on AGT performance.

The AGT index formula will closely mirror the published USGA handicap method (for a complete description see USGA Handicapping Manual at [www.usga.org/handicapping/roh/2020-rules-of-handicapping.html](http://www.usga.org/handicapping/roh/2020-rules-of-handicapping.html)). The AGT formula differs from USGA handicap methodology in that it uses only rounds played on tour and substitutes the triple bogey rule in place of Equitable Stroke Control. In addition, the number of scores used vs. the differentials used is unlike the USGA model.

A tour index is attained by posting three rounds on tour. The number of rounds to be used to compute the AGT index will be based on the best 8 of the last 16 most recent AGT scores from the past two seasons, converted to differentials and calculated based on the table below:

<b>Number of AGT Scores</b>	<b>Number of Differentials Used</b>
2 or less	Best 1
3 or 4	Best 2
5 or 6	Best 3
7 or 8	Best 4
9 or 10	Best 5
11 or 12	Best 6
13 or 14	Best 7
15 or 16	Best 8

**(Note:** Since the AGT index formula differs from the [USGA handicap method](#), the computed index is not a USGA handicap and cannot be used as such. Players have the option to receive a USGA Handicap thru GolfNet as part of their Welcome Kit and as a benefit of joining the Golfweek Amateur Tour.

## **FLIGHT MOVEMENT**

### **1 – Player moving into a higher flight**

When a player's AGT index drops below the current flight index level, the player will automatically be advanced into the new flight. The promoted player will be moved with 75% of their current points total. If necessary, additional points will be subtracted to ensure the player does not exceed a tie for 5<sup>th</sup> place in the point standings in the new flight. Once promoted, a player is only eligible to retreat after posting a minimum of three (3) rounds in the new flight with at least two (2) of those rounds within the range of the next flight bracket index (see item #2)

### **2 – Player moving into a lower flight**

If a validated player's index rises into the range of the next flight bracket, he/she may choose to retreat a flight. Eligible players must notify their tour director that they want to move to a lower flight. Players

may only retreat a flight two (2) times during a season and all requests to move down a flight must be made by August 15th. After that time, players may not move down for local, regional, or national events. No deduction will be made to points earned in a more advanced flight when the player is moved down. Additionally, if a player has been moved up a flight and then is approved to retreat, all the player's lost points will be reinstated. However, if necessary, points will be subtracted to ensure the player does not exceed a tie for 5th place in the point standings in the lower flight.

### **3 – Eligibility for National Championship when player moves into a lower flight**

In order to be eligible to participate in the National Championship after a player moves down a flight, regardless of the date moved, the player must complete three (3) rounds in the lower flight (after the retreat and prior to the National Championship).

### **4 - Index Validation:**

A player's AGT Tour Index is "validated" once five tour rounds have been posted. Until that time downward flight movement is restricted. Un-validated players whose index rises into the range of a lower flight may request the local Tour Director review their placement once three (3) rounds have been recorded. The local Tour Director will consider whether sufficient performance data is available to determine that a player is currently in a flight above the level of his/her playing potential and assess the impact on the local points standings and/or qualifying for the National Championship. However, players should be aware that moving down a flight with fewer than seven (7) scores in the system is a volatile position and a good round in their new "easier" flight could cause them to move back to their original flight with a reduction in points.

### **5 - Local Tour: Scoring out of flight:**

Tour flighting is based on a performance index system that groups together players of roughly similar potential ability. The probability of an A or B flight player scoring four strokes below his/her tour index is approximately 130 to 1. The same is true for a C or D flight player scoring five strokes below his/her tour index.

To maintain the integrity of each flight, the Golfweek Amateur Tour Index Committee (comprised of the Tour President and three local Tour Directors) will review instances where members return a score that indicates their actual playing potential exceeds the general ability of their current flight. Local Tour Directors will contact the Committee prior to awarding flight prizes. The Committee will evaluate the playing record of the individual (including but not limited to the number of rounds on tour for established players versus rookies with few rounds, etc.) to determine whether the player will be disqualified from the event. During two-day tournaments, the Committee will not make a final decision until after both rounds have been completed. A Committee member will share the final decision with the player and his/her local Tour Director.

### **6 - National Championship: Scoring out of flight:**

Players who compete in the AGT National Championship are subject to having their scores reviewed if they fall below the scoring out of flight guidelines. At the conclusion of each round, the National Championship Committee (comprised of the Tour President and three local Tour Directors) will discuss

scoring issues. Players scoring out of flight will be formally evaluated after each day's scores have been posted. At that time, the player's local Tour Director will advocate for the player, representing player history, past performance and other factors relating to the player's flight placement. Any player judged by the Committee and/or the Tour President to be misrepresenting their ability or manipulating their AGT index such that their flight placement does not represent their actual ability, will be immediately disqualified. Outside of immediate disqualification, the Committee will reserve the right to make a final decision after all rounds have been completed. A Committee member will share the final decision with the player and his/her local Tour Director. If a player is disqualified prior to the completion of the National Championship, he/she will not be refunded any portion of the tournament fee/side games.

### **DRESS CODE AND PLAYER CONDUCT**

- The AGT will strictly enforce a tournament dress code with no exceptions. Collared shirts and soft spikes are required. (Mocks are considered collared shirts). No jeans, denims, jogging outfits, or sweatpants are permitted. Shorts may be worn.
- The AGT will not tolerate swearing, vulgar language, club throwing, alcohol abuse, lack of golfing etiquette, improper use of golf carts, or other such behavior. Such conduct may result in tournament disqualification and suspension or expulsion from the Tour.

### **CADDIES, SPECTATORS, & GREEN READING DEVICES**

- Caddies are not permitted on tour unless tournament course provides them in lieu of carts.
- Spectators are welcomed at AGT tournaments; however, each course has different guidelines for spectators. In addition, with COVID-19, local/state/federal guidelines may impact the ability of courses/directors to permit spectators and must be followed at all times. It is not guaranteed the course will allow spectators and it's the responsibility of those who wish to follow the action to check with the tour director before the tournament to receive course instructions and spectator rules.
- No green reading devices of any kind are permitted in AGT events. This includes Green Books and/or all types of Green Reading Apps. In short, players and caddies can only use committee-approved yardage books and will no longer be allowed to use information that provides help with the reading of green slopes and grades. (USGA – November 2021)

### **GUEST POLICY**

Each member is allowed to invite (and be paired with) a guest during any local one-day or two-day tournament. We hope that you choose to invite potential new members to play with you throughout the season. We also welcome your guests that are in town for the weekend and want to play golf in an AGT event. If you are a perspective member interested in experiencing the Tour before joining, you are also encouraged to play!

Guest Guidelines:

1. All guests must complete a Join the Tour form for the current season and submit handicap information prior to the tournament in the same manner as new members.

2. All guests must register for/pay for the tournament following the same procedures as members.
3. Guests are not eligible to participate in a regional tournament (listed on the official Golfweek Amateur Tour homepage and appear on the comprehensive schedule page).
4. A player may only participate in one tournament as a guest; membership must be purchased prior to playing in a second AGT event.
5. Guests may participate in the side games offered at an event; however guests are NOT eligible to win prizes or earn points in the standings for placing unless they join the Tour before the tournament is finalized and prizes are awarded. A guest may decide to join the Tour at the conclusion of their round by simply informing the Tour Director and immediately paying the membership fee at the course. This on-site membership process (completed online) enables the local Tour Director to correctly submit the results to the National Office.
6. Guests who participate and do not join in this manner will not be permitted to earn points for the event should they join later in the season.
7. The AGT point standings will only reflect paid tour members. For example, if a guest finishes a tournament in 3<sup>rd</sup> place but does not join, the 4<sup>th</sup> place paid tour member would receive 3<sup>rd</sup> place points and prizes.

### **WEATHER GUIDELINES**

Simply put, if the course allows us on the course, we play. 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/she believes there is danger from lightning. In addition, if either the course or the local Tour Director suspends play due to weather, all players must immediately mark their balls and cease playing until the local Tour Director announces play may resume.

Any delays or cancellation of a tournament will be determined by the golf course and their staff in conjunction with the Tour Director. If a course becomes unplayable during a tournament, the tournament may be declared official if all players in a flight have played at least nine holes no matter the combination. Tournament results will be based solely upon the holes ALL players finish in each flight. Ties for prizes will be determined in the following manner: tee time starts will use the USGA system and shotgun starts will use the Handicap Hole system each based upon ONLY the holes that the ENTIRE flight completed. In either event, if players have the same score after reviewing each viable hole combination, the players will split both points and the prizes associated with the tied positions. In the event of a tie for first place, the local tour director will speak to all of the affected players and the appropriate course personnel to determine if the tied players will wait until the course becomes playable to complete an on-the-course playoff OR if the players will split the points/prizes.

If a tournament is cancelled, a makeup date will be announced as soon as one is determined. Refunds will not be automatically issued, but rather will be applied to the scheduled makeup date or fall under the Tournament Cancellation/No Show policies within this manual. The choice will be up to the player; however, it must be communicated by email to the local Tour Director (see the *Contact Tour Director* tab).

### **TOURNAMENT PRIZES**

At each tournament, a portion of the tournament fee will be placed into the flight player prize pool. The amount of the portion differs for each tournament and is determined by the number of participants in each flight. Prize pools may vary on the day of the tournament from announced prizes due to late entries and withdrawals. The AGT adheres to the USGA Rules of Amateur Status in such that no single prize shall exceed \$750.00. **Cash prizes will not be given, and all prizes will be in the form of Gift Cards.** The only form of prizes permitted for flight winners are the following types of gift cards: Visa, Master Card, American Express, a gift card to a retail outlet, or a gift card to the pro shop of the current tournament. All prize payouts will appear on the website with the results.

### **TOURNAMENT TROPHIES**

At each tournament, the winner from each flight will receive a crystal trophy or plaque.

## TOURNAMENT POLICIES

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### **TOURNAMENT REGISTRATIONS AND TEE TIMES**

Only AGT members may participate in AGT tournaments across the country without restrictions. Guests are only permitted to play in accordance with the official guest policy contained within this manual. All participants must follow the same registration process.

All tournament registrations must be done through the website via the *Schedule* tab which contains a registration link for every event. Registration normally ends one week prior to the event (please adhere to the stated deadlines found on the local tour's registration requirements). Deadlines are based upon contracts with the golf courses. Directors often need to pay for tee times a week in advance, therefore it is important to get entry fees into the system ASAP. Most of the courses utilize one week as an acceptable window for the Tour Director to guarantee tee times.

We welcome your registration for all events as soon as possible. Many members register for all of the events they plan to play throughout the season at the same time they join the Tour and then pay the tournament fees before each deadline. However, registration does not guarantee a spot in the tournament if a sellout occurs. The only way to guarantee placement to the tournament is to pay for it. All tournaments are open to AGT members at the same time, regardless of the player's home tour. Within 24 – 48 hours of the local Tour Director receiving your registration, your name will be added to the Who's Playing List for the event. Similarly, your paid status will be updated within 24 – 48 hours of receiving your payment. Roster Lists are available via the *Schedule* tab and are manually updated – if your information is not correctly posted and it has been more than 48 hours, please reach out to the local Tour Director via the *Contact Director* tab.

Payment for an event secures your position in a tournament, however, your registration helps tour directors anticipate/adjust player counts on an on-going basis. Once registered for a tournament, you may withdraw at any time by sending an email to the local Tour Director. If your request was made within the event's stated guidelines, you will be removed from the roster and refunded according to the Tournament Cancellations and No Shows section of this manual. If you are accepted as a late entry (after the registration deadline) you are not automatically eligible for a refund and must consult with the local Tour Director.

Tee times will be posted on the AGT website at least one day prior to all one-day events via the *Tee Times – Pairings* tab. Pairings for the second day of a two-day tournament will be posted as soon as possible after the conclusion of the first round. We recommend you check the site before going to the course in case there are last minute changes to pairings. If you do not see your name on the pairings, please contact the tour director hosting the event via the information located on the *Contact Tour Director* tab.

## **TOURNAMENT CANCELLATIONS AND NO SHOWS**

To be entitled to a refund, the player must withdraw from the tournament before registration for the event closes or becomes sold out.

- If a player withdraws from a tournament hosted by his/her home tour before the stated deadline, the player has the choice of applying the payment towards another event hosted by the local tour or receiving a refund.
- If the player chooses to apply the fee towards a future event, he must notify the Tour Director via email and the tournament fee will be held on account by the local Tour Director.
- All payments or balances remaining from unused tournament fees will be refunded to the player at the end of the season (no later than October 10<sup>th</sup>).
- Credits may not be applied to future membership fees or carried over to future seasons.
- If a player withdraws from an event that is not hosted by their home tour before the stated deadline, the host Tour Director will automatically refund the visiting player within one week of the tournament's conclusion (unless the player emails a request for the payment to be held on account pursuant to the same guidelines as a home tour event).
- If a player withdraws from an event after the tournament has been listed as "sold out" on the *Schedule* tab of the website, the player will only be eligible for a refund if a replacement player in the same flight may be obtained by the host Tour Director. Sold out tournaments differ in this regard since numbers are locked in, prizes pools are finalized, and other players have been denied entry. This policy applies to all AGT tournaments and takes precedence over the originally stated registration deadline.
- If a player withdraws from a tournament after the registration deadline, refunds are only available if the golf course does not charge the local tour for your missing the event. Most courses will charge the tour based upon the headcount given a week in advance. The Tour Director will do all he/she can to try and issue a refund, but be aware, most of the time this is not possible and may not be determined until the tournament has been concluded.
- If a player does not show for an event, no refund will be given, and the player's ability to play in future events may be revoked.

## **TOURNAMENT CHECK IN**

Players must personally sign in at every tournament with either the Tour Director or at the sign-in table (including the second day of a two-day event. We require that you check in at least 20 minutes before your assigned tee time. Failure to do so may result in a 2-stroke penalty. (Reminder: a player will not be allowed to participate unless a current season Join the Tour registration form has been completed).

The AGT local Tour Director will provide the official score card and offer entrance to side games. Check the official score card to verify that your flight is correct. Since flights are assigned via handicaps, it is important that we have your handicap on file correctly.

Although tours may vary in the amount associated with each side game, all side games must be entered during the check-in process and paid up-front (two-day events must be paid for in one payment during check-in process of the first round). The optional side games (listed below) are offered at every AGT tournament. Some tours provide additional cash games. Please check with the local director for exact guidelines as slight variations may occur across the country.

- Flight skins (Depending on the size of the overall field/specific flights, some flights may be combined – be sure to ask prior to entering)
- Super skins
- Closest to the Pin

Allow sufficient time to perform your normal warm-up routine, find your cart with your name on the cart sign and stow your gear. The Tour Director will call on-deck the tee times as well as the players who should be on the tee. Be at the first tee ten minutes before your assigned time. For shotgun starts, you must be in your cart in the marshaling area to hear the local course brief 20 minutes before the scheduled start.

### **TOURNAMENT TEE BOXES**

All flights will be from a set of tees customized at each tournament. The following guidelines will be used for determining length:

- Championship Flight will play at 6500 – 7000 yards.
- “A” Flight will play at 6500 – 6800 yards.
- “B” Flight will play at 6400 – 6600 yards.
- “C” Flight will play at 6200 – 6400 yards
- “D” Flight will play 5900 – 6200 yards.
- Women will play from a tee box of the closest comparable slope rating to that of the men in the same flight. In the absence of a suitable tee box the local tour director will choose or designate a tee box or tee box combination the equivalent of 85-90% of the men's distance in the same flight.
- Note: These also will be the typical yardages that will be used for the National Tour Championship

### **ON THE FIRST TEE**

- For all events, you will be provided an official score card/cards. As soon as you have it in hand, BEFORE players tee off, check your scorecard to verify all the player information is correct. If a piece of information is incorrect, clear it up with the Tour Director. If he/she is not immediately available, please advise your group and mark the problem on the scorecard so that adjustments can be made at the turn or at the end of the round (before you sign your card). Do not delay play to fix information that does not affect the conduct of your round (e.g., an incorrect handicap or wrong tee box is not a reason to hold up play if your group knows the correct tee box for your flight. However, information you cannot resolve that would cause you to play from the wrong tee box needs to be fixed before you start).

- Exchange scorecards within your group. Each player's score is kept by another player or official "marker" who must record the players' hole-by-hole scores on the player's line, and for reference may keep his own unofficial score at the bottom or far side of the card (you may also keep a separate unofficial scorecard for reference). Whenever possible, you should not be the marker for the player who is your marker; and should not be the marker for your cart-mate. Identify who will be keeping the paper scorecard and who will be keeping the electronic scorecard – both methods are required at every tournament.
- The Director or starter will provide local course rules. Local rules take precedence over tour or USGA rules. These rules will also be available for review on the at least one day prior to the tournament and paper copies will be available at the course.
- Each player should identify his ball with a distinctive marking and show it to his playing partners. You must be able to positively identify that the ball you found is not one of the same brand and number that was lost by another player. If you cannot positively identify the ball as yours, then USGA rules deem your ball to be lost.
- Players may have a maximum of 14 clubs.
- Follow the starter's instructions for order of play. In the absence of a starter, start in the order listed on the scorecard.

### **DURING THE ROUND**

- Keep golf carts away from greens and bunkers. Follow course markings for keeping carts on paths and properly entering or exiting the fairway.
- After each hole players should announce their score for the hole so that it can be properly recorded on both the paper scorecard and the electronic scorecard.
- Players should work together to solve any issues occurring on the course in an appropriate manner. Remember to play two balls if there is a rules question and resolve any outstanding issues before turning in scorecards. In the event there is an issue that interferes with the continuation of the tournament or there is an emergency on the course, immediately contact the local Tour Director or his/her designee.

### **PACE OF PLAY**

We want you to enjoy your round but for the sake of everyone's enjoyment need you to please stay in position. Slow play penalties will be assessed. Our goal is to play our round of golf in 4:30, and that means we need to play Ready Golf. Ready Golf is simply defined as HIT WHEN READY. If you reach your ball and are ready to hit, when other members of your group are not yet prepared, then go ahead and hit. Keep in mind that in stroke play competition there are no penalties under the Rules of Golf for playing out of turn.

#### Additional Pace of Play Rules/Guidelines

- Players in the A/B/C/D Flights can card a maximum of triple bogey on any one hole. After that the player must pick up for the hole. There is no limit to the number of triple bogies that can be carded in a round.
- Rangers will act as Tour officials and will warn slow groups and then report to the director.

Times of each group will be noted after the first nine holes. If a 15-minute gap exists, the group is out of position and will only be warned one time. In addition, any messages sent through the online scoring system must be shared with the entire group as they also serve as official warnings. The penalty for slow play is 2 strokes for the entire group. All group members are expected to recognize the group is slow and take action to speed up the group.

- Repeat offenders may be asked to leave the Tour for the sake of all other players.
- Players should always hit a provisional ball when a ball goes into an area where it may be lost or OB. If you are unsure of the outcome of your ball and think it “may be” lost or OB, play a provisional ball.

### **DISAGREEMENT OR UNCERTAINTY OF THE RULES OF GOLF**

Competitors doubtful of their rights or correct procedure during the play of a hole may play an alternate ball(s) under USGA Rule 3-3 but must comply with all requirements of that rule. Before playing any ball, the player must announce that he will play two balls under Rule 3-3, which ball is being played under which rule, and state which ball he wishes to count if the rules permit. At the conclusion of the round or first opportunity, the Tour Director will make the final ruling. In any discrepancy of the rules, the AGT Tour Director will make all final decisions.

### **AFTER THE ROUND: RETURNING SCORECARDS**

As soon as possible after the end of the round, review official scorecards with your playing partners. Pull carts away from the final green so you don't obstruct following players. If you need a ruling, get it before signing the affected card. USGA rules for returning official scorecards will be imposed.

- Turn in scorecards as quickly as possible. Players are responsible for the correctness and proper return of their scorecard. Although our tournaments utilize an online scoring system throughout the event, the paper scorecard serves as the official record (not the online system).
- Scorecards must correctly record a number indicating the strokes taken on each hole. Please circle birdies and eagles, no other markings please. All players are also responsible for verifying the online system correctly recorded the same number as listed on the scorecard to indicate the strokes taken on each hole. Finalize the online scoring results as quickly as possible as well.
- If a player submits a signed card with a lower score on a particular hole than the actual score made, the player will be disqualified from the tournament. It's crucial that all players come to agreement BEFORE the scorecard is submitted. Since the paper scorecard is the official score, a player in this situation will be disqualified from the tournament even if the online scoring system recorded the correct score on the hole.
- Players must resolve any rules issues that occurred on the course before turning in the official scorecard. You must locate and obtain a ruling from the local tour director and host course professional before completing your scorecard.
- All scorecards require at least two signatures; one by the marker and another by the player. All players should review their hole-by-hole scores for correct recording and must sign to attest their score. Scorecards are considered final and submitted once given to scoring table with all signatures. In the event there are any discrepancies between the paper scorecard and an online

scoring system, the online system will be adjusted to reflect the hole-by-hole recording on the paper scorecard.

### **TIEBREAKERS**

All first-place ties (for all events) will be decided by sudden-death playoff on the course. If more than two people are tied for first, the playoff ends as soon as a first-place winner is determined (the remaining participants' places are based upon the scorecard playoff format listed below). The playoff winner receives the trophy and the first-place prize.

When necessary to break ties for prize purposes (outside of 1<sup>st</sup> place), all TWO-DAY events must be determined in the following manner: Day 2 total, Day 1 total, Day 2 back nine, Day 2 front nine, Day 1 back nine, Day 1 front nine.

When necessary to break ties for prize purposes (outside of 1<sup>st</sup> place) for one-day events, local Tour Directors will determine and post the policy used to break ties for second, third, fourth, etc. Acceptable scorecard-playoff tie-breaking procedures for ONE-DAY events include:

1. The USGA system (best total of last 9 holes, if the tying players have the same score for the last 9 holes, they check the last 6 holes, then the last 3 holes, and finally the 18th hole).
2. Best score on #1 handicap hole, #2, #3, etc., until decided.

### **TOURNAMENT CONCLUSION**

Once the final scores are tabulated and the trophy has been presented to the tournament champion, the tournament is considered final and closed. Results from each tournament may be found on the website within two days of the tournament's conclusion. Tournament recaps are also posted on the website after each event, consult your local Tour Director for details on where and when to locate this information. Additional pictures are sometimes located on the official social media accounts of the local tour and are accessible by the links on their individual web pages.

***The AGT Tour Director will always be the final decision on all Tour matters.***

### **POINTS SYSTEM**

The points system is a nationwide formula intended to level the playing field and allows golfers the opportunity to qualify for the National Tour Championship. The point system listed below is the only system in place for all tournaments and applies to every flight. In the event of a tie (outside of first place), points are split evenly between all of the tied players (the points associated with each position are totaled and then divided according to the number of players). For example, if there was a two-way tie for third place, each player would receive 200 points ( $225 + 175 = 400$  and  $400/2 = 200$ ) and the local tour director would determine how the prize pool is distributed.

Place	Non-Major Tournament	Major Tournament
1	450	900
2	275	550
3	225	450
4	175	350
5	165	330
6	155	310
7	145	290
8	135	270
9	125	250
10	115	230
11	100	200
12	90	180
13	85	170
14	80	160
15	75	150
16	70	140
17	65	130
18	60	120
19	55	110
20	50	100

For each finisher outside the top 20, deduct -2 points from the previous finish in non-major tournaments and -4 points in major tournaments. Continue deducting for each place until all golfers are accounted for in the standings.

### **POINTS TRANSFERS**

AGT players will be allowed to make up 4 missed local points events at any tour city around the country. Players can play and bring “away” points to their home tour to replace missed local tournaments (either 4 one-day events OR 3 one-day events plus 1 two-day event). Please note the following guidelines

- A one-day event may only be replaced by another one-day event and a two-day event may only be replaced by another two-day event that is not a regional tournament.
- A player does not receive points for any tournament that takes place before their home tour season starts since the player has not yet missed an event.
- Members cannot accumulate points for more tournaments than the number of points events on their home tour. Each established local tour will host a minimum of 10 tournaments and a newly established tour will host a minimum of 8 tournaments between January – September. Once members meet the number of home tour events, they can play on away tours but cannot transfer any points to their home tour.
- All make-up tournaments must be completed prior to the local tour’s final event so the season-ending standings/points may be finalized at the last local tournament. Players can transfer in

points if they miss the last local tournament or the last local two-day major; however, the replacement event must have been played prior to the start of the final local event.

- Although points are not eligible to be counted in the official standings until a player has missed an event, all points earned by playing on other tours will automatically accrue throughout the season and be “banked” in the system. If/when a player misses an event on their home tour; points will be taken from the bank and applied to the Points Standings. This process will automatically occur based on the chronological order of the events played/events missed.
- If a player does not see the appropriate points in the standings when the results are listed for a tournament, he/she should contact their local Tour Director.
- All players’ points will be reviewed by the local Tour Director and National Office prior to the National Championships to ensure accuracy and any errors will be rectified prior to the local tour’s final tournament.

The following guidelines will apply to transfer of points for non-regional events outside of a player’s home tour:

- 80% of away points to their local tour points total if the flight contains 8 or more players.
- 60% of away points to their local tour points total if the flight contains 5 to 7 players.
- 40% of away points to their local tour points total if the flight contains 2 to 4 players.
- If a player is the sole competitor in the tournament event, no points can be transferred.

The following guidelines will apply to transfer of points for players moving to a new tour during the season:

- 75% of the player’s former tour points are moved to the new tour. However, additional points will be subtracted (if necessary) to ensure the player is not ranked higher than tied for 5th place in the new tour’s current flight points standings.
- If the new tour city has yet to start their season, no points will be transferred.
- Players may only transfer tours one time during a season and the transfer must take place before August 1st. Requests to transfer tours must be made in writing via email to the local tour director and the National Office.

## **REGIONAL SERIES**

We developed the Regional Series to encourage members to share in the national camaraderie and competition throughout the year that is typically experienced during our end-of-season National Championship. The 2022 Regional Series exclusively includes the following point-based tournaments:

Southern IceBreaker
Western States IceBreaker (1/15-1/16)
Reynolds Lake Oconee Classic (3/5-3/6)
Florida Regional (4/9-4/10)
Smokey Mountain Regional (4/23-4/24)
Memorial Day Open (5/28-5/29)
Memorial Day Championship (5/28-5/29)
Southern Regional (7/9-7/10)
Midwest Regional (7/11-7/12)
Virginia Regional (8/20-8/21)
Labor Day Regional (9/3-9/4)
Regional Players Championship (9/3-9/4)
Four Ball Championship (2/26-2/27, non-points event)

All AGT players are eligible to receive full points for two regional tournaments from across the country regardless of local schedule. Players may participate in as many regional events as they like; however, players may not earn full points for more than two (2) regional events. Full points for regional events will be awarded as events are played in chronological order. Points are immediately awarded in the standings (regardless of whether the local tour's season has begun).

For those members of a tour hosting a regional event, players have two options available to accumulate points for the total number of tournaments on the local schedule.

**Option 1:** If a regional tournament appears on the host tour's schedule, and the host tour member does not participate in their posted regional, he/she may replace the event with a two-day major (not a regional) from another tour. Keep in mind that only one two-day tournament may be replaced for points.

**Option 2:** If a regional tournament appears on the host tour's schedule, and the host tour member participates in two regional events before their host tour's scheduled regional event, he/she may play in the host tour regional event but will only receive partial points. (Points will be calculated in the same manner as the guidelines for major events outside a player's home tour).

These options are only available to members of a tour hosting a regional event to allow members to accumulate points for the total number of tournaments on the local schedule.

## **NATIONAL TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP AT HILTON HEAD, SC. (10/14-10/16)**

### **Qualifying:**

Players that finish in the top five (5) of the Local Tour's points standings race in the A, B, C, and D Flight or players that won their flight in one of the Regional Series events (as listed on pages 18 – 19) qualify for the 2022 National Championship. Players in the Championship Flight that finish in the top 15 of the Local Tour's points standings race qualify (regardless of tour size).

In addition, the designated number of players from each flight per tour according to the grid below also qualify for the National Championship. The number of players in the A, B, C, and D flights listed on the chart below are based upon Local Tour's points standings as of July 31st.

# OF PLAYERS IN FLIGHT	TOUR CAN BRING TOP
0 - 14	5
15 - 40	10
41 - 60	15
61+	20

All qualified player must be a current Golfweek Amateur Tour member and must have competed and returned valid scores for at least five (5) tournament rounds during the 2022 season. (Each day of a two-day event counts as a separate round). The five (5) round minimum requirement applies to all players, including those that qualified as a Regional Flight Winner.

If a player chooses to move down a flight at any time during the season, that player must post three (3) completed rounds in the lower flight after the last downward movement to play in the lower flight during the National Championship. As stated earlier, all requests to move down a flight must be made by August 15<sup>th</sup> AND the player must complete the required three (3) rounds in the lower flight (after the last retreat and prior to the National Championship). These requirements also apply to players that qualified as a Regional Flight Winner.

Registration opens for all qualified players (as stated above) at the same time and takes place once all Labor Day tournament results are posted (est. date is 9/8). Players that move into the qualification zone after the registration process opens, will be invited to register as well.

Qualification does not guarantee a spot in the Tour Championship field. Each flight has a maximum field size. When the field is full, the flight will be shut down to additional players regardless of local point standings. No preference will be given to a player based upon their specific standing in the posts race. Spots will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until the flight is sold out, or October 1<sup>st</sup> (whichever occurs first). Players must pay the entry fee at the time of registration. Payments received by unqualified players will be immediately refunded. If any flight is not sold out on September 26<sup>th</sup>, we reserve the right to open registration to additional players from all tours.

**National Championship: Scoring out of flight:**

Players who compete in the AGT National Championship are subject to having their scores reviewed if they fall below the scoring out of flight guidelines. At the conclusion of each round, the National Championship Committee (comprised of the Tour President and three local Tour Directors) will discuss scoring issues. Players scoring out of flight will be formally evaluated after each day's scores have been posted. At that time, the player's local Tour Director will advocate for the player, representing player history, past performance and other factors relating to the player's flight placement. Any player judged by the Committee and/or the Tour President to be misrepresenting their ability or manipulating their AGT index such that their flight placement does not represent their actual ability, will be immediately disqualified. Outside of immediate disqualification, the Committee will reserve the right to make a final decision after all rounds have been completed. A Committee member will share the final decision with the player and his/her local Tour Director. If a player is disqualified prior to the completion of the National Championship, he/she will not be refunded any portion of the tournament fee/side games.

**Tiebreakers:**

All first-place ties will be decided by sudden-death playoff on the course.

**For all other places the ties are broken as follows: Day 3 total, Day 2 total, Day 1 total, Day 3 back nine, Day 3 front nine, Day 2 back nine, Day 2 front nine, Day 1 back nine, Day 1 front nine.**

**Team Cup Competition:**

Team Cup score is calculated from the best 2 scores from each flight each day. All five flights then are added up from all three days for an overall total winning tour/city. All tours must have at least 2 players in each flight to be represented as a team in Hilton Head.

**2022 Tour Championship Specific Rules:**

1. One Ball rule is in play the entire tournament. (One ball rule details will be emailed to all entered players before the tournament begins)
2. Range Finders are allowed provided the slope function is not used.
3. Caddies are not allowed.
4. No green reading devices allowed.
5. All players must sign their respective scorecards each day.

## **2022 TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP ITINERARY:**

### **THURSDAY OCT. 13TH TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION NIGHT & SKINS GAME:**

**12:30pm *Skins Game at Dolphin Head in Hilton Head Plantation***

**4:00-8:00 pm *Registration and Welcome Party at the Arthur Hills at Palmetto Dunes.***

### **FRIDAY OCT. 14TH ROUND ONE BEGINS & TEAM PHOTO:**

**7:00am-8:00am *Tournament check in for all flights and player warm-up at assigned courses.***

***ALL FLIGHTS HAVE AN 8:30 AM SHOTGUN START!!!!***

**2:30-4:30pm *Scoring from Round One and lunch for all players at The Arthur Hills GC main scoreboard at Palmetto Dunes.*** A photographer will be available for team pictures

Pairings for Round Two will be posted Friday evening on the Tour's website, [www.amateurgolftour.net](http://www.amateurgolftour.net).

Note: All pairings will be assigned by scores from the first round.

### **SATURDAY OCT. 15<sup>TH</sup> ROUND TWO BEGINS:**

**7:00am-8:00am *Player sign in and warm-up at assigned course.***

***ALL FLIGHTS HAVE AN 8:30 AM SHOTGUN START!!!!***

**2:30-4:30pm *Scoring from Round Two and lunch for all players at main scoreboard at Arthur Hills at Palmetto Dunes.***

Pairings for Round Three will be posted Saturday evening on the Tour's

website, [www.amateurgolftour.net](http://www.amateurgolftour.net). Note: All pairings will be assigned by scores from the first round and second rounds combined.

### **SUNDAY OCT. 16<sup>TH</sup> THE FINAL ROUND BEGINS:**

**7:00am-8:00am *Player sign in and warm-up at assigned course.***

***ALL FLIGHTS HAVE AN 8:30 AM SHOTGUN START!!!!***

**2:30-4:30pm *Final scoring and lunch for all players at the main scoreboard at Arthur Hills at Palmetto Dunes.***

**4:00-5:00pm *Closing Ceremony and Awards Presentation*** for all winners including the Team Trophy, currently held by the Hilton Head/Savannah Tour. Edwin Watts 2-person challenge will also be awarded. Winning team pictures taken, and Edwin Watts gift cards given to the top 5 teams.