



PLAYER HANDBOOK
Golf Channel Amateur Tour
2011 V1.1



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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. If a player does not have a verifiable index, Am Tour will accept six (6) completed, signed and attested scorecards that will be reviewed by the Am Tour Rules Committee and a Tour handicap will be assigned. 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 2011 season. Potential members 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 Welcome Pack (typical items include a Tour-branded golf hat, golf shirt, memorabilia, online handicap service, etc.), and ability to play in any open 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 earn qualification in order 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 Welcome 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 Majors and National Championships but may or may not be available at local events depending on participation. Flights are based initially on a player’s most current index. Once a player has played on Tour, his/her Tour Index will be used to coincide with the appropriate flight, per below:

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 member who has played in less than four rounds on Tour will be flighted based on the best available 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 six adjusted non-tournament scores into the Players Club, which will generate an initial trend index. Players will be re-flighted throughout the season when/if their indexes change as of the following revision dates, January 5th and then every 2nd day of each month. **Please note the Golf Channel Amateur Tour reserves the right to re-flight a player at anytime.**

A member who has played at least four rounds on Tour will be flighted based on the Tour Index taking into account the following restriction: no member 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 Hogan flight.) ***This policy is the responsibility of the player and failure to comply could result in immediate re-flighting and/or disqualification.***

The Tour Index is based only on Tour tournament scores using the same formula as the USGA® index, but using the best nine of the most recent twelve scores. A player acquires a Tour Index once he/she has four tournament rounds. Tournament rounds are automatically imported into one’s Players Club, using Equitable Stroke Control. Once a player has a Tour Index, that is the only criteria that should be used to flight him/her.

<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* (*excluding January 2011). Tour players will be subject to re-flighting based on the revision dates as follows: January 5*, February 2, March 2, April 2, May 2, June 2, July 2, August 2, September 2, October 2, November 2 and December 2.

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



- 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.
- 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 (1.0 full point above the lowest threshold of a particular flight, in this case Hogan at 8.0)
- 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. (i.e. Josh Smith in the Hogan Flight has 1000 points and is promoted to the Palmer Flight, where John Doe is 3rd on the Callaway Order of Merit with 400 points. Josh Smith will be placed into a tie with Mr. Doe at 400 points)
- Any petition by a player to be moved from flight to flight must be made in writing prior to August 16 to the Local and Regional Tour Director

All players who turn 50 years of age before December 31, 2010 will be flighted in the senior division at the beginning of the 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, 2010 ARE PERMITTED TO COMPETE IN THE SENIOR FLIGHT AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.**

Any round, tournament and non tournament, when posted correctly, will count towards the player's USGA® Handicap.

7. 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)

8. 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 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 at anytime. Use of golf carts is for the sole purpose of the players. Any spectator or caddie found riding in a golf cart may result in the immediate disqualification of the player(s) who are associated with the violating spectator(s) and/or caddie(s) at 2011 Majors and the 2011 National Championship.

9. Dress Code and Player Conduct

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.

Am Tour will not tolerate swearing, vulgar language, club throwing, alcohol abuse, lack of golfing etiquette, or other such behavior per the USGA® Rules of Golf. Such conduct will result in tournament disqualification and suspension or expulsion from the Tour.



10. 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.

11. Trophies

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

12. SkyCaddie Pace of Play

SkyCaddie Pace of Play Policy

Golf Channel Amateur Tour has instituted the SkyCaddie Pace of Play Policy, 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 SkyCaddie 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.

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 surrendering their scorecards.

CONCERNED PLAYERS AND APPEALS

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

DEFINITIONS

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

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

Rule 6-7 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.

13. 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 play is unable to resume, the Tournament Committee may determine a mutually agreeable conclusion of the tournament, which may include the issuance of rain checks, depending on the number of holes completed.

In the event of a cancellation the Tour will try and re-schedule the tournament date within the seasonal timeframe. Any partial cancellation refunds or credits will be determined based on the policies of the host facility where players may then apply the credit towards a future scheduled event or request a refund. If the course becomes unplayable, the tournament may still be deemed official with a mutually agreed upon reduction in number of holes played (i.e. an 18-hole tournament being reduced to a 9-hole tournament). In some cases, cash refunds are unavailable depending on course policies.



14. Welcome Packs

Welcome Packs will be distributed directly to the Tour Player upon registration via the Tour website for the 2011 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 Welcome Pack is not received, players are encouraged to contact Am Tour Support at GCATSupport@golfchannel.com.

The 2011 Welcome Pack Includes:

1. 1-Year Membership (365 days) to your local tour
2. Ability to play in events on ANY Local Tour & National events
3. Player's Club Account
4. Official Am Tour Logoed Golf Shirt
5. Official Am Tour Logoed Hat
6. USGA Handicap Index ®
7. USGA® Rules of Golf Book
8. Sleeve of Premium Callaway Tour i(z) Golf Balls
9. Sleeve of Premium Callaway HX Bite Golf Balls
10. Golf Galaxy Golf Accessory Kit (Includes: Carabineer, Golf Tees, Ball Marker and Divot Tool)
11. Buy 10 Winn Grips and get 3 FREE at Golf Galaxy! Free Installation at Golf Galaxy stores (**Free Installation is valid for the 13 Winn Grips Only*)
12. Special pricing on SkyCaddie rangefinders
13. Member-Only Am Tour Logoed Membership Card with Golf Galaxy Discount
14. Member-Only Am Tour Logoed Hat Clip
15. Member-Only Am Tour Logoed Sharpie
16. Member-Only Am Tour Logoed Decal

15. Miscellaneous

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

All participants 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 Callaway Order of Merit Points, prizing or trophies.

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

Entry fees are determined by Local Tour Directors and 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 and National events, a credit card and/or money order must be made 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 prior to the entry deadline or in accordance with the Local Tour Director's policy which may vary from market to market, otherwise there can be no refund.

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, Callaway Order of Merit Point distribution, prizes, and side games, a flight must consist of at least 3 players* for local tournaments and 6 players for 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. If there are at least 6 Senior players per flight, there will be a Senior flight offered in local events. Senior flights will be offered as well at all Major and National Championships, provided there are at least 6 players within the flight.

Under no circumstances will members be moved to a higher handicapped flight to form a conforming flight (i.e. Palmer to Hogan or Jones to Snead).

While a Tour Player may have played a tournament in a flight lower than his/her Tour flight, his/her Callaway Order of Merit Points will accrue to him/her in his/her assigned Tour 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 Callaway 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 Callaway 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 regional tournament may utilize the modified stableford scoring system. All tournaments are scratch or gross score within each flight. There is no net scoring and under no circumstances are players to receive strokes.

6. 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 Local Tour Director will personally notify that individual of the change.

7. Check-In and Starting

All Tour players must personally 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. 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 normally would be disqualification from that event). A player missing his/her starting time will be disqualified and no points or prizes can be earned, but may still be permitted to participate in the event, depending on availability.

Upon check-in tournament participants may receive their tournament registration package, which may include the following:

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

8. 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	6600-7000	6300-6600	6000-6300
Palmer	6600-7000	6300-6600	6000-6300
Hogan	6300-6600	6000-6300	5500-6000
Sarazen	6300-6600	6000-6300	5500-6000
Jones	6000-6300	6000-6300	5300-5800
Snead	6000-6300	6000-6300	5300-5800

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.

Ladies will play from the approximate yardages listed above, regardless of number of players in any particular flight.

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.



9. Scorekeeping and Scorecards

Players must exchange their scorecards with another player in the group. A separate area (tear-off strip at the top or bottom of card) is provided to allow each player to keep his/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 may 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.

If, during the course of play, a situation arises that requires a ruling and an official is not available, the player shall confer with the others in the group and inform them that he/she will play two balls through the hole in accordance with USGA Rule 3-3 and keep score for both balls. The situation in question must be submitted to the Tournament Committee for an official ruling prior to the signing of the scorecard.

If a player submits a scorecard that has not been signed or submits a signed card with a lower score on a particular hole than the actual score, the player will be disqualified from that tournament. If a player submits a signed card with a higher score on a particular hole than the actual score, the higher score will be posted. **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.**

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.**

10. Results and Callaway 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

CALLAWAY GOLF POINT DISTRIBUTION

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



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

Tour Players may compete in as many tournaments as they choose, however, only the best 8 finishes will count for the Callaway Order of Merit race in order to identify the player who is having the best season, per flight. 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 Callaway Order of Merit would be 800 points (8 x 100 is 800 points).

The 2nd Half Order of Merit will commence on/around June 1, 2011. The 2nd Half Order of Merit 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 2nd half Order of Merit, per flight and not exempt in another category, will receive an invitation to the National Championships. Players should contact their local Tour Director for further information and for the exact start date of the 2nd Half Order of Merit in their market.

11. Determination of Tied Scores

For all **first place ties** in flight, there will be an on-course playoff (course permitting), supervised by a Committee Member. The golf course and the availability of carts, holes, daylight and other factors will determine the holes used to conduct the playoff. The playoff will 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. Aside from first place, a scorecard playoff will be used for all places that pay out a prize/gift certificate, within flight.

For awarding **Callaway Order of Merit Points** in the event of a tie, the Local Tour 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.

12. Distance Measuring Devices

USGA-conforming distance measuring devices are allowed at all local, Major, and National tournaments. Am Tour specifically supports and encourages the use of SkyCaddie, a device proven to speed up pace of play. Members can purchase a SkyCaddie unit at a special, discounted members-only price. Players should contact their Local Tour Director for more information.

13. Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Cell phones may only be used as a distance measuring device (provided it is USGA-conforming) and in emergency situations in local, Major and National tournaments, provided the cell phone is in the "silent" or "quiet" mode. Other electronic devices such as iPods and MP3 players are strictly prohibited in local, Major, and National tournaments.



14. 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 Callaway Order of Merit Points**. Guests are not allowed to compete in the Majors or National Championship tournaments.

15. Majors

A Major tournament is a two-day 36-hole event that will include members from all across the country. Majors award DOUBLE Callaway Order of Merit Points. The top three finishers and ties in each flight at a Major 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 Championship play.

16. National Championship (September 24-27, 2011*) *Subject to Change

The National Championship is a professional-style 72-hole tournament **with no cut** to include 18 holes per day. 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.

17. Senior National Championship (September 18-21, 2011*) *Subject to Change

The Senior National Championship is a professional-style 72-hole tournament **with no cut** to include 18 holes per day and is open Tour Players who have turned 50 on or before December 31st 2010 and who have played and qualified in the Senior division during the 2011 season. Seniors must have been flighted as Seniors throughout the season.

18. National Championship Qualifying

All Local Tours may qualify up to 30% of their Tour Players. Tour Players who have qualified through a 2-day Major will not count against a Tour's % allotment. Players should contact the local Tour Director in regards to qualifying standards specific to that Local Tour. The following exemption categories shall apply to every Tour per flight in addition to the qualifying categories set by the Local Tour Director:

- A) Past National Champions
- B) Top 5 and ties from 2011 National Championship
- C) Top 3 and ties from the 2011 Majors
- D) Top 2, not exempt in another category, on the overall 2011 Callaway Order of Merit List
- E) Top finisher, not already exempt, from the 2nd half 2011 Callaway Order of Merit List
- F) Top finisher, not already exempt, from the local Tour Championship tournament

Qualifiers for the Senior and National Championship must be a member in good standing with Golf Channel Amateur Tour and are required to compete in at least five (5) tournament rounds on Tour of which three (3) must be local tournament rounds, meaning non-Majors. All qualifiers must ALSO compete in at least one (1) tournament round after June 1, 2011. A tournament round is designated as an 18-hole score.



19. 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

9102 Southpark Center Loop, Suite 230

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. We will worry about the group behind you!
- **IF YOU ARE WALKING.** If your group is falling behind, hitch a ride on someone's cart to your tee ball and then walk. The distance to the tee ball, even on a par three is the biggest slow-down if you are walking and others are riding.
- **PLAY READY GOLF.** There is no penalty for playing out of turn in stroke play.
- **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 BALL AND IMMEDIATELY GO TO YOUR BALL.** Do not wait for him to hit **UNLESS** you would be in his line of flight.
- **IF YOU ARE THE PASSENGER AND ARE UNSURE OF WHICH CLUB TO HIT.** Take several clubs and send the driver to his ball.
- **IF YOUR NEXT SHOT IS A WEDGE OR SHORT IRON TO THE GREEN.** Take your putter with you and tell the driver to go on without you.
- **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
2011 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

LOCAL RULES AND CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

DATE: September 21-24, 2011 COURSE: World Golf Village – Slammer & Squire

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

Tees Played	Slammer & Squire
Championship/Palmer	Black
Hogan/Sarazen	Blue
Jones/Snead	White

Play will be from the designated tee markers, not necessarily the scorecard yardages

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 each 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

- For the 1st group, a 1-stroke penalty will be assessed for failing to complete the front or back nine in 2 hours 15 minutes or less
- For all subsequent groups, a 1-stroke penalty will be assessed to any group failing to complete their 9th hole in 2 hours and 15 minutes and within 14 minutes of 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.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR: Denoted by closed white lines, newly sodded areas, flower beds, and fire ant hills

OUT OF BOUNDS: Defined by the inside edges at ground level of boundary walls, split rail fences, perimeter fence posts, street curbing, roads, parking lots, white stakes, and white lines connecting markers. A ball that crosses a public road is defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course

CELL PHONES: Cell phones are permitted but must be in the “silent” or “quiet” position

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Electronic devices such as iPods and MP3 players are prohibited during tournament play. A breach of this rule is cause for disqualification

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 (players cannot substitute a golf ball during a hole unless it is lost out of bounds or lost in a hazard)

TIME OF STARTING: It is the responsibility of the player to be at the correct starting hole 10 minutes in advance of the start time. A 2-stroke penalty will be assessed to any player not ready to play at his/her starting time. Note to rule 6-3 and optional condition in appendix 1. If a player arrives after his group has played their 2nd shots, the player shall be disqualified.

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

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS: Relief without penalty shall be given for the following immovable obstructions: (1) starter tents and signage, (2) man-made buildings, and (3) cart paths and service roads (paved or not)

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.

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.

CADDIES/SPECTATORS: Are not allowed in a player cart 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 his/her 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.