



GOLF AM TOUR

PLAYER HANDBOOK
Golf Channel Amateur Tour
2017 Season V1.1a

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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 any amateur golfer with a verifiable handicap index. Before you can compete you must enter a minimum of six (6) completed scorecards into your players club account or have a verifiable USGA® Handicap Index®. 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 2017 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 Member Pack and ability to play in any Tour event across the country, with the exception of Local Tour Championships, which may be closed to Local Tour Members only, and the National Championship, which members must qualify to participate.

3. Membership Cancellation/Refund

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

4. Assumption of Risk and Release from Liability

By signing or electronically submitting a member application and entering and playing in a Am 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 Am 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. Am 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 Am Tour Official may assess penalty strokes for rules infractions or slow play. All decisions made by the Am Tour Committee shall be final.

6. Flight Placement and Movement

The Am Tour is divided into six separate flights and two divisions (Open and Senior). Senior flights will be offered at the Senior National Championship but may or may not be available at local events or Majors depending on participation.

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+

Players are flighted initially based upon their lowest and most current USGA® Handicap Index® or based off of their USGA® Trend Handicap Index® with Am Tour which is calculated by entering six (6) scores into the Players Club Account at www.gcamtour.com. A current USGA® Handicap Index® includes a minimum of six (6) scores within the past year.

Once a Tour Player has completed at least four (4) tournament rounds on the Am Tour, that player will have obtained a Golf Channel Tournament Index, which only factors scores played on the Am Tour. Once obtained, this Tournament Index will be used to coincide with the appropriate flight if it is lower than a player's USGA® Handicap Index®. Similarly, the Tournament Index may be used to coincide with the appropriate flight if it is higher than a player's USGA® Handicap Index, however, this request must originate from the player and in accordance with the policies, procedures, and timing explained below.

Final decisions on re-flighting are solely at the discretion of the Regional Director. Please note Am Tour Officials reserve the right to re-flight a player at anytime.

The Golf Channel Tournament Index is calculated by the following:

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

The Am Tour will revise tournament handicap indexes on the second day of every month.

Special Considerations – Handicapping and Flighting:

- Am Tour reserves the right to promote a player to a better flight at anytime and/or re-flight a player at anytime
- A Tour Player with an established Tournament Index may only play in one flight higher than his/her lowest form of verifiable handicap information (i.e. John Doe has a USGA® Index of 6.5 and a Tournament Index of 13.5. Mr. Doe will compete in the Palmer Flight (4.0 - 7.9) or the Hogan Flight (8.0 - 11.9) and not the Sarazen Flight (12.0 - 15.9). This policy is the responsibility of the player and failure to comply may result in immediate re-flighting and/or disqualification, as well as a deduction in points
- If a Player's Tournament Index improves to correspond with a lower flight, he/she will be awarded with a "Journey to Better Performance Promotion" and notified, promoted, and automatically re-flighted for his/her next event, following the Tournament Index revision/promotion dates which occur on the 2nd of each month. To be eligible for the "Journey to Better Performance Promotion", a player must have had an established Tournament Index for a minimum of one revision
- If a Player's Tournament Index increases more than 2 full points above the lowest threshold of a higher flight, it is the sole responsibility of the Tour Player to request a flight change. This request must be made to one's Local Director and Regional Director a minimum of 5 days prior to a local event, and 10 days prior to a Major Championship. Final decisions on re-flighting are solely at the discretion of the Regional Director.

Special Considerations – National Championships:

- Tour Players who have had an established Tournament Index and receive a "Journey to Better Performance Promotion" will be qualified for the 2017 National Championship in their newly promoted flight only and will forfeit the qualification if they move to a higher-handicapped flight
- Any player who is promoted to a new flight will have points deducted so that they are placed into a tie for third in their new flight if their points are equal to or higher than 3rd place in the new flight
- Any player who is demoted to a higher-handicapped flight will also have their points deducted so that they are placed into a tie for third place in their new flight if their points are equal to or higher than 3rd place in the new flight
- Any Major Champion during the 2017 season is not eligible to move back to a higher-handicapped flight
- If a player qualifies for the 2017 National Championship via a top-three finish in a Major Championship and moves to a higher handicapped flight, that player will forfeit the qualification status.
- 2016 National Champions will automatically play in the next best flight for the duration of the 2017 season

The following represents examples of player movement to a better flight:

- If a player's Tour Index improves to correspond with a better flight, he/she will be notified and automatically promoted and re-flighted for his/her next event following the Tour's index revision/promotion dates, which occur on the 2nd of every month
- If Player A is in the Palmer Flight and his/her Tournament Index becomes 3.9 or less as of a revision date, that player will be promoted to the Championship Flight
- If Player B is competing in the Hogan Flight and has a valid Tournament Index in the Hogan Flight range, but is found to have a USGA® handicap that is lower than 4.0, that player will be automatically promoted to the Palmer Flight

The following represents examples of player movement to a lesser flight:

- A player who is promoted to a better flight based on their Tournament Index will only be considered for re-flighting to their former flight if their Tour Index reaches 2 full points higher than the lowest threshold of the former flight. EX: Johnny Smith is promoted from the Snead Flight to the Jones Flight based off of his Tournament Index of 19.9. Mr. Smith would not be eligible to move back to the Snead Flight until his Tournament Index is 22.0 or higher
- If a Player's Tour Index increases to correspond with a higher flight, it is the sole responsibility of the Player to request a flight change. This request must be made to one's Local Director and Regional Director a minimum of 5 days prior to a local event and 10 days prior to a Major Championship to be considered for re-flighting
- For the 2017 National Championships, any petition by a player to be moved from a flight must be made in writing prior to August 1, 2017 to the corresponding Regional Director

7. Senior Flight Placement

Senior flights are for players 50 years of age and older. All tour players who turn 50 years of age before December 31, 2016 have the option to be flighted in the senior division if senior flights are available. A player that 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, 2016 ARE PERMITTED TO COMPETE IN THE SENIOR FLIGHT AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.**

8. On Course Rules

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

9. Spectators and Caddies

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

Caddies are welcome at all Am Tour tournaments provided the course allows caddies to walk the course and the caddies do not interfere with pace of play. Caddies are the responsibility of the associated player and are requested to practice proper golf etiquette. If there is an issue with the behavior of a spectator(s), or caddie(s), the individual(s) will be asked to leave the premises. Per Rule 6.1 of the USGA® Rules of Golf, the player incurs the applicable penalty for any breach of a rule by his/her caddie, including unsportsmanlike conduct.

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

For local (18-hole) events only, spectators and/or caddies are permitted in a player golf cart and may rent a cart depending on availability and course policy as well as local Tour policy.

10. Dress Code

Am Tour will strictly enforce a tournament dress code with no exceptions. Collared shirts/mock turtle necks are required, and no jeans, denims, jogging outfits, or sweat pants are permitted.

11. Player Conduct

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

12. Prizes

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

13. Trophies

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

14. Pace of Play Policy

The Am Tour policy leaves the responsibility for maintaining the pace of play where it belongs, with the player. Efficient pace of play is a huge factor of a successful and positive Am Tour experience for all participants in accordance with Rule 6-7 of the USGA® Rules of Golf.

Lead Group(s):

The first group(s) must finish their first nine holes within the maximum allotted time established by the committee (typically, this time will be 2 hours 15 minutes). If the lead group finishes over the maximum allotted time after nine holes, each player in the group will be assessed a 2-stroke penalty on their 9th hole.

The first group(s) off each tee must also finish 18 holes within the maximum allotted time established by the committee (typically, this time will be 4 hours 30 minutes). Failure to finish under this maximum allotted time for 18-holes will result in a 2-stroke penalty, which will be assessed to the score on the final hole of play.

Exception:

If the lead group(s) are held up by public play that was sent out before them or that began on the opposite tee, they will be exempt from the pace of play penalty(s) if they finish over their maximum time but within 14 minutes of the group ahead of them

Following Groups:

A 2-stroke penalty will be assessed to any group failing to complete their 9th hole within 14 minutes of the group in front of them AND over their maximum allotted time

A 2-stroke penalty will be assessed to any group failing to complete their 18th hole within 14 minutes of the group in front of them AND over their maximum allotted time

Players are advised of the following:

- Rules officials are NOT required to notify a player and/or group that they are behind. This is the responsibility of the group and each individual player in that group
- Each group is responsible for monitoring its own pace. Being in position means to be immediately behind the group in front of you.
- As a courtesy to each player, the pace of play policy will be reiterated on the starting hole
- As a courtesy to each player, the **maximum** allotted time will be on your official scorecard
- If a player is penalized three (3) times during the season that player will be suspended from tournament play for a minimum of six (6) months

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.

15. Inclement Weather

Severe weather-related conditions may delay or suspend play. Such conditions are as follows:

- The safety of the player due to the danger from lighting
- The course being deemed unplayable (as determined by the host course)

If such inclement weather is present, every effort will be made by the tournament committee to complete the full number of holes. If play is delayed, all players should remain on property at the host facility and await official announcements from the tournament committee.

If the course remains unplayable and/or lighting is present, and as the last option, the following may result in an official tournament:

- 18-hole (local) events may become official and shortened. If a minimum of 9-holes is not possible, local events may be rescheduled
- 36-hole Major Championships may become official and shortened to an 18-hole tournament
- 54-hole Duel in the Desert may become official and shortened to an 18-hole tournament
- 72-hole National Championship may become official and shortened to a 18-hole tournament

While the tournament committee will do everything possible to complete the full number of holes, there will be no refunds should inclement weather shorten the events.

16. Member Packs

Member Packs will be distributed directly to the Tour Player upon registration via the Tour website for the 2016 season. If the Member Pack is not received, players are encouraged to contact Am Tour Support at GCATSupport@golfchannel.com. You should expect to receive your Member Pack in 8-12 weeks.

17. Miscellaneous

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

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

TOURNAMENT POLICIES

1. **Tournament Registration**

Tour Players can register online for local, Major and National Championships at www.GCAmTour.com or by emailing or calling their Local Tour Director. Events may have a limitation on the number of entries, and therefore each event will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. **Tour Players are encouraged to register early as any event may sell-out well in advance of the entry deadline.**

Entry fees typically include all green fees, taxes, cart fees, range balls, scoring, prize fund, and trophies.

2. **Tournament Application and Payment Policy**

It is the responsibility of the Tour Player to submit the required entry fee for each tournament prior to the entry deadline as payment will secure a position in the tournament field. Entry fee payments should be made via the Tour website using a credit card, but may be paid by other means (i.e. money order) with the permission of the Local Tour Director. It will be assumed that a Tour Player is not participating in a Tournament if the entry fee is not submitted on time. For all Major Championships and National Championships, a credit card must be paid prior to the closing of the entry deadline. Cash and check payments will NOT be permitted to secure a position in any Major or National event.

3. **Cancellations and No Shows**

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

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

4. **Tournament Flight Guidelines**

Each tournament field will vary in its size. It is up to the local Tour Director to determine if there is enough interest to offer senior flights at the local level. Senior flights will be offered at all Major and National Championships, provided there are at least 9 (or more) players signed up in the open flight and 9 (or more) players signed up in the corresponding senior flight as of the registration deadline.

While a Tour Player may have played a tournament in a flight lower than their flight, the Race to Nationals Points will accrue to their assigned flight. This is the same for Senior flights; if a Senior plays in an Open flight due to a small number of Senior players, the Race to Nationals 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 Race to Nationals Points, those points will count toward his Senior Hogan flight points.

5. **Tournament Format**

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

6. Tournament Payout Schedule

Local Tournament Payout Schedule – Single Day 18-hole Tournament

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

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

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

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

7. Starting Times

Tournaments will typically utilize starting 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 starting time has been changed, the Tournament Director will notify that individual of the change.

8. Check-In and Starting

For all local Am Tour tournaments, Tour Players must check in on site at least 30 minutes prior to the assigned starting times and be at their starting point at least 10 minutes prior to their assigned starting time. For Majors and National Championships, all Tour Players are required to check in during the posted registration times and be at their starting point at least 10 minutes prior to their assigned starting time.

If a player arrives at their starting hole at the starting time that player is deemed to be late to the tee and incurs a penalty of 2-strokes. A player will be disqualified if they arrive at their starting hole five or more minutes after their starting time.

9. Tees

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

Flight	Open Yards	Senior Yards	Ladies Yards
Championship	6400-7000	6000-6600	5500-6300
Palmer	6400-7000	6000-6600	5500-6300
Hogan	6000-6600	6000-6600	5200-6000
Sarazen	6000-6600	5800-6300	5200-6000
Jones	5800-6300	5800-6300	4800-5500
Snead	5800-6300	5800-6300	4800-5500

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

When flights are combined (Open with Senior), players will compete from the tee yardages from the flight that has the majority of the players (i.e. 4 players in the Sarazen flight and 5 players in the Senior Sarazen flight – there will be one combined Sarazen flight with all 9 players playing from the Senior Sarazen tee yardages) At Majors and when there are enough Senior players to field their own flight, the Seniors will play from their own yardages set by the Regional Director and Local Tour Director.

10. Scorekeeping and Scorecards

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

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

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

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

11. Results and Race to Nationals

The Race to Nationals is designed to qualify players for the National and Sr. National Championships. Points will be awarded in each flight based on the order of finish. Points will be awarded as follows:

LOCAL TOURNAMENT POINT DISTRIBUTION

NUMBER OF TOUR PLAYERS IN FLIGHT

		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11+
FINISHING POSITION	1 st	65	75	85	95	105	115	125	135	145	175
	2 nd	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	125
	3 rd		30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	100
	4 TH			30	40	50	60	70	80	90	90
	5 TH				30	40	50	60	70	80	80
	6 TH					30	40	50	60	70	70
	7 TH						30	40	50	60	60
	8 TH							30	40	50	50
	9 TH								30	40	40
	10 TH									30	30
	11 TH +										20

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

Tour Players may compete in as many tournaments as they choose, however, only the best 12 finishes will count for the Race to Nationals standings. For example, Tour Player A plays in 15 tournaments of 11+ players and finishes in 3rd place each time (15 tournaments x 100 points). Tour Player A will have accrued 1,500 total points, but his total for the Race to Nationals would be 1,200 points (12 x 100 is 1,200 points).

Double points will only be offered at Major Championships and your local (home) Tour Championship. All other tournaments will offer points as described above. For example: San Diego has a Tour Championship and Los Angeles has a Tour Championship. A member from the San Diego Tour may play in the LA Tour Championship, however it will only be worth single points as described above. The San Diego player may receive double points only in the San Diego Tour Championship and Major Championships.

12. Determination of Tied Scores

For all **first place ties** in flight, there will be an on-course playoff (course/weather/daylight permitting along with course availability). The playoff will continue until a player records a lower score than the other(s) on a particular hole (sudden death). If an on-course playoff is not possible, a scorecard playoff will take place using the cumulative score of the back nine (#10 - #18), then the last 6 holes (#13 - #18), then the last 3 holes (#16 - #18). If the players are still tied after matching the final 3 hole scores, then it goes to the #1 handicap hole on the back nine (#10 - #18) then to the #2 handicap hole on the back nine (#10 - #18) until a winner is determined. For 36-hole events, the scorecard playoff will start with the final round score and work down, if necessary, according to the above schedule.

For awarding points in the event of a tie, the Tournament Director will add up all points for the tied places and divide by the number of players tied for the spot. The tied players will then be awarded the same number of points. For example: If there are 3 players tied for 2nd place in an 11+ player flight, points of 125, 100 and 90 will be added and divided by 3, with each player to receive 105 points. Because a first place winner is always determined with a playoff or scorecard playoff, the sole winner of first place will be entitled to first place points. The player that loses the playoff will receive second place points.

13. Distance Measuring Devices

Distance measuring devices are allowed at all tournaments as long as the device does not measure slope, grade or wind.

14. Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Cell Phones may be used only if doing so does not unduly delay play, cell phones must be on silent at all times. In the spirit of competition, cell phone usage during competition is discouraged. A player should be respectful of their fellow competitors. The device may only be used to make phone calls in emergency situations.

15. Guest Policy

If you are interested in playing on tour, please contact your Local Tour Director.

16. Major Championships

A Major Championship is a multi-day tournament that typically includes Tour Players from all across the country. Majors award double points. The top three finishers and ties in each flight at a Major Championship automatically qualify for the Am Tour National Championships provided there are nine (9) players or more in that particular flight. If a flight size at a Major is five (5) players or less, only one qualification spot will be awarded. Flight sizes between six (6) and eight (8) players will award two qualifying spots. Please note the Tour policy regarding minimum playing requirements must be attained (see reference #19 below) in order to be eligible for National Championships.

17. National Championship

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

18. Senior National Championship

The Senior National Championship is a 72-hole stroke play championship that is open to Tour Players who have turned 50 on or before December 31st 2016 and who have played and qualified in the Senior division during the 2017 season. Seniors must have been flighted as Seniors throughout the season.

19. National Championship Qualifying

Each flight, per local Tour, may qualify up to 33% of their Tour Players. Tour Players who have qualified through a Major Championship, Past National Champion, Top Five and ties from 2016 National Championship will not count against a Tour's % allotment. In order to receive an invitation to compete in the National Championships, a player must be both "Eligible" and "Qualified":

Eligibility

A Tour Player becomes eligible for the National Championships by completing seven (7) tournament rounds on the Am Tour, two (2) of which must be local tournaments, with the following restriction:

- A) Two (2) of the tournament rounds must come on/after June 1, 2017
A tournament round is considered a posted 18-hole tournament score

Qualified Players

The following is how players can qualify for the 2017 National Championships in order of priority:

- 1) Past National Champions
- 2) Top 5 and ties from 2016 National Championships
- 3) Top 3 and ties from a 2017 Major Championship
- 4) Any 3-time local tournament winner from the 2017 season (non-major)
- 5) Any player who earns a Performance Promotion during the 2017 season and remains in the promoted flight
- 6) Top three, not exempt in another category, from the 2017 Race to Nationals
- 7) Top 33% of each flight per Tour
- 8) Top two finishers and ties, not exempt in another category, from the local (home) Tour Championship

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

20. Tour Contact Information

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

Northeast Regional Director:	Rick Adamek	rick.adamek@golfchannel.com
Southeast Regional Director:	Mike Rich	mike.rich@golfchannel.com
South Central Regional Director:	Drake Schunck	drake.schunck@golfchannel.com
West Coast Regional Director:	Joe Wagner	joe.wagner@golfchannel.com

Golf Channel Amateur Tour

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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.**