



GATEWAY PRO TOUR

2012 GATEWAY PRO TOUR POLICIES

TOURNAMENT SERIES

Arizona Winter Series

(12) 54-hole tournaments hosted January through April in the Greater Phoenix Area.

California Series

Tournaments hosted in the Greater San Diego Area during summer (June – August).

Gateway Q-School Challenge Series

Tournaments hosted in the Greater Phoenix Area prior to PGA Tour Qualifying School (September - October) that award PGA Tour Qualifying School entry fees.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

All regular series events will be 54 holes and will cut after 36 holes to the low 35% of the field plus ties.

A “Flex Cut” will be implemented for all tournaments with 100+ player fields. Flex is defined as the cut made at the closest number to 35% of the field. In case of a tie, the cut will be made at the lower number.

Example (100 player tournament/35 players): If there are 33 players at one under par and 40 players at even par, the cut would be one under par.

Cut percent will be rounded up at .9 or higher for all events

36 holes must be completed for an event to stand as a completed Tournament, as we will not play beyond the final scheduled day of the event. In the event a tournament cannot be completed due to weather, the purse will be distributed evenly to the players, less tournament expenses (i.e. green fees, staff, etc.).

ELIGIBILITY

Members

To become a member of Gateway Pro Tour, a player must submit an application and pay all required membership fees by deadlines set forth by the tour. Applications are accepted on a first come first serve basis and the tour reserves the right to reject any application.

Non-Members

A non-member may purchase unlimited individual tournament spots on a space available basis. Non-member earnings are considered unofficial and do not count toward Q-School Bonuses, PGA/Nationwide exemptions or member benefits.

Amateurs

All amateurs participating in a Gateway Pro Tour event must have a U.S.G.A. handicap of 5 or less and will be granted entry on a space available basis.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Tour Membership

\$1000 – If received by December 1, 2011

\$1500 – If received after December 1, 2011

Membership is effective January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 and is valid toward entry into all Gateway Pro Tour tournaments.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES

Arizona Series

Members: \$1150 per tournament

Non-Members: \$1350 per tournament

Full Payment

All (12) Events: \$11,400 (\$950 per tournament)

California Series

Members: Coming Soon

Non-Members: Coming Soon

Gateway Q-School Challenge Series

Members: Coming Soon

Non-Members: Coming Soon

PAYMENT DEADLINES

Membership Payments

Members must submit their membership payment on or before December 1, 2011 to receive the membership at a rate of \$1000. Memberships will be accepted after December 1, 2011 at a rate of \$1500.

Tournament Payments

The payment deadline for all events is 5:00 p.m. Monday the week prior to an event. Players who wish to register after the Monday deadline will be charged a \$50 late fee and are subject to acceptance on a space available basis. Members and Non-Members may register for events as far in advance as possible; however, member registrations will be granted entry first.

Acceptable Forms of Payment

The tour accepts wire transfers, cashiers checks, money orders and credit cards (Visa, MC, and Amex) as acceptable forms of payment. A 3% transaction fee is automatically applied to all payments made by credit card. A \$30 transaction fee must be included to all bank wire transfer totals when submitted.

Checks

No personal checks accepted, unless pre-approved by the Gateway Pro Tour office. Any returned check will result in a \$50 service fee and loss of check writing privileges.

REFUND POLICIES

Tournament Refund

A full refund will be issued to a player wishing to withdraw their tournament entry fee without penalty until 5:00 pm Friday the week prior to a tournament.* Failure to meet this requirement will result in a forfeit of any monies paid to the tour.

Medical Refund

If a player is unable to participate due to medical reasons, causing the field to be reduced; the purse will also be reduced. The Gateway Pro Tour Tournament Director must be notified at least 48 hours in advance in order for a medical refund to be considered. A doctor's note must be submitted to the tour office before a refund check will be issued. Once a player hits an official shot in an event, there are no refunds, regardless of medical reason. All medical refunds will receive a 20% administrative charge to the total entry fee paid. *(Sample Refund Formula: 80% of \$1250 = \$1000 refund)*

PGA, Nationwide, Champions & European Tour Refunds

Any player who qualifies for a PGA Tour, Nationwide Tour, Champions Tour or European Tour event before the first day of play will receive a full refund of their entry fee, if the events coincide. Once a player hits an official shot in an event, there are no refunds, regardless of whether or not they gain entry into that week's PGA, Nationwide, Champions or European Tour event.

No Show/Withdrawal Refund

No-shows will not be tolerated. Any player who no-shows or withdraws from an event will forfeit their entry fee.

**Players who purchase the 12-tournament Arizona Winter Series in full will be refunded a maximum of two (2) tournament entry fees for any reason.*

PRACTICE ROUNDS

Members

Gateway Pro Tour members will receive one (1) complimentary practice round two (2) days prior to an event which they are registered for. Members will be required to show a photo I.D. to the golf course to verify their participation in an event. Practice round times and days may vary. Members are responsible for reserving their tee times in advance. Any member who attempts to receive a complimentary practice round at a tournament location for which they are not registered will result in immediate dismissal from the tour.

Non-Members

Practice rounds will be available at all tournament sites; times and days may vary. Players are responsible for practice rounds, including reserving tee times and any fees that may apply.

PURSE

Prize Money

Checks are distributed to members at the next scheduled event, or upon request, the check(s) can be mailed to the player's address on file. Non-member earnings will be mailed to the address on file. All checks are mailed within 7 days upon completion of an event. No check(s) will be distributed without a player's U.S. Social Security Number or U.S. Tax ID number on file with Gateway Pro Tour. Non-Resident Alien players must have an IRS W-8 BEN form on file and according to IRS regulations; the tour will withhold 30% of all earnings for taxes. Players are responsible for correct Names, Social Security Numbers and Addresses. Any check(s) not cashed by the end of the calendar year will be forfeited to the tour, without exception. Fees for reissue of lost check(s): \$50.00 per issue.

GROOVE POLICY

Effective January 1, 2011, all Gateway Pro Tour players must use grooves that conform to the USGA's newly-established standards for all clubs 25 degrees and higher. Please see the USGA website for full details at <http://www.usga.org>.

PAIRINGS

Pairings will be a random draw for the first two (2) events of the year. All pairings for the remainder of the year will be based on the official money list. Tee times will be posted on the website 36 hours in advance and in the golf shop 24 hrs in advance. No requests will be taken for tee times.

PACE OF PLAY

Rule 6-7 states, in part: The player shall play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines which may be laid down by the Committee. The following pace of play guidelines, penalties and fines for stroke play competitions have been adopted:

Definition of "Out of Position"

The first threesome or foursome to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to play, as detailed on the applicable course's Pace of Play Chart.

Any subsequent group will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they (a) exceed the allotted time to play or (b) reach a par-3 hole is open and free of play or reach a par-4 or par-5 hole and have not cleared the teeing ground before the hole is open and free of play.

NOTE: The Rules Committee reserves the right to time a group when the Rules Committee deems it necessary.

Monitoring Group

When play is in threesomes, the first group in each segment to start will be notified by a Gateway Pro Tour Rules Official of monitoring and timing. Any subsequent group out of position will not be informed of monitoring and timing unless asked by the player(s).

When play is in twosomes, all groups will be informed by a Gateway Pro Tour Rules Official of monitoring.

Timing

At the discretion of the Rules Committee, once a group is determined to be out of position, players in the group may be timed. Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is his turn to play and he can play without interference or distraction. Time spent determining yardages will count as time taken for the next stroke. On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean, and replace his ball, repair his ball mark and other ball marks on his line of putt and remove loose impediments on his line of putt.

NOTE: A player is permitted 40 seconds to play a stroke, and an extra 20 seconds (for a total of 60 seconds) will be allowed for:

- (a) the first player to play a stroke on a par-3 hole;
- (b) the first player to play a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5 hole;
- (c) the first player to play a third stroke on a par-5 hole;
- (d) the first player to play around the putting green; and
- (e) the first player to play on the putting green

Any player in a group being timed, who exceeds the applicable time to play a stroke, will be informed as soon as practicable.

Penalties During a Round

First Offense: One timing exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke, no penalty and name added to offender list.

Second Offense: One more timing (total of two) exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke, a fine of \$50.00.

Third Offense: One more timing (total of three) exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke, a two (2) stroke penalty.

Fourth Offense: One more timing (total of four) exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke, disqualification from the event.

OFFENDER LIST: Players in receipt of a warning or penalty for pace of play will be noted on the offender list, which will be posted on the Tour's information board and score board area for all tournaments remaining within the series. Pace of play offenders will be paired together for all remaining events. Offender names will be removed from the list and return to regular pairings once a player has completed an entire event without any pace of play delays.

NOTE: Any timing exceeding the applicable time to play will be carried over throughout the round.

In the administration of these pace of play guidelines, a member of the Rules Committee shall not tolerate abuse, oral or otherwise, by a player. Such abuse may constitute conduct unbecoming a professional and possible termination from the Tour without refund.

CONDUCT POLICY

Gateway Pro Tour will maintain a strict no tolerance policy on any behavior unbecoming a professional which includes but not limited to vulgar language, club throwing, and damage to the golf course or golf course property. If the tour cannot determine who has damaged the golf course or golf course property the purse will be reduced to cover any costs due to the damage. Gateway Pro Tour will not tolerate any use of illegal drugs or abuse of any prescription drugs. Any violation of the drug use policy will result in an automatic dismissal from Gateway Pro Tour. Gateway Pro Tour will not allow any alcohol or gambling at any tournament site during a stipulated round. Following completion of the stipulated round, consumption of alcohol should be limited to the clubhouse lounge and locker room areas only.

First offense for violation of this policy is a \$500 fine, second offense is a \$1,000 fine, and third offense is automatic dismissal from Gateway Pro Tour without refund; no exceptions. All fines are due to be paid in full before the conclusion of the event. *

* If uncollected, these fines will be deducted from the current week's purse, with the name(s) of offender(s) publicly posted to the tournament field.

- Any conduct disputes will go before the tournament committee in which the decision of the tournament committee shall be final.
- The Tour reserves the right to disqualify a player at any time for breach of conduct. The player will forfeit all earnings from the stipulated tournament in that case.

Appeals

Any appeal of a penalty and fine must be referred to the on-site Tournament Director immediately upon completion of the player in question's round. The Tournament Director's decision shall be final. If the player in question does not appeal immediately upon conclusion of his round, any penalties and fines shall stand.

SCORING

All players are required to return their scorecards to the scoring area immediately following the tournament round. The scoring area will be determined by the committee and defined by a tent, rope, or the specific room in which it is located. A scorecard is deemed returned once the player has left this defined area.

ATTIRE

Slacks are preferred, but or bermuda length shorts are permitted. No denim allowed. All shirts must reflect appropriate attire, and must be tucked in at all times. All hats must be worn forward. All caddies must abide by the same regulations as the players. Caddies may not wear sandals, flip flops, or golf shoes with spikes. Tennis shoes or teaching shoes are preferred. Players are responsible for their caddies. Gateway Pro Tour is a "soft-spikes" only tour; no metal spikes are permitted. Players must wear slacks and a collared shirt to all meetings, Championships, and Gateway Pro Tour hosted events.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell Phones

Use of cellular telephones is prohibited on golf course property except in the parking lot of the respective club. Use of your cellular phone is always prohibited in the clubhouse at any event. Any breach is subject to a fine up to \$1,000.00 and possible disqualification from the tournament. Cell phone use is allowed during suspense of play in appropriate areas.

I-Pods

I-Pods will only be permitted on the driving range and putting green before and after tournament rounds. I-Pods are not allowed during competition. Any breach is subject to a fine up to \$1,000.00 and possible disqualification from the tournament.

Range Finders

Range finders are allowed in Gateway Pro Tour events. Players may not use devices that measure slope, wind or anything other than distance. Electronic devices that have slope measuring capabilities must be turned off prior to the round. Members and non-members may purchase a yardage book at the golf course for a cost of \$15.00.

CARTS AND CADDIES

Carts

All players are permitted to use golf carts, no pull carts are allowed. Two carts per group and two people per cart allowed.* If at any time there are more than two people per cart then each individual in or on the cart will receive up to a \$100.00 fine. All carts must be kept on the path around tees and greens; failure to do so will be subject to a \$100.00 fine. Please note that when play has been suspended and the golf course is being evacuated this rule does not apply. Walking is allowed on Gateway Pro Tour as long as pace of play guidelines are being followed.

Spectator golf carts are not allowed unless approved by the Tournament Director.

Caddies

Caddies are permitted and may ride on carts based on availability; players have priority on riding.

*Any person riding in a cart other than the player is considered the player's caddie; and with such, will be subject to all caddie stipulations stated in the official U.S.G.A. Rules of Golf.

SUSPENSION OF PLAY

Due to Dangerous Situation

Play may be suspended due to dangerous situations. A suspension of play for a dangerous situation shall be signaled by one long air horn blast. After a horn or siren has sounded, players must immediately halt play and may not resume again until the Committee has ordered to do so. Under suspension, the entire golf course, driving range, putting greens and all practice areas are closed. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

Due to Non-Dangerous Situation

Suspension of play due to fog, excessive rain, ice, wind or darkness is not considered dangerous and will be signaled by three (3) consecutive air horn blasts. Players in the process of playing the hole may complete the hole. Players in between the play of two holes must stop immediately.

PLAYOFFS

All 1st place ties will be determined by a sudden-death playoff, which will immediately follow regulation play beginning on a hole chosen by the tournament committee.

PLAYER ADVISORY BOARD

Prior to the first scheduled event of the 2012 Gateway Pro Tour Season, board members will be appointed by the Gateway Pro Tour Committee. The names of the acting board members will be posted on the Gateway Pro Tour website.

The 2012 Board will consist of six (5) player representatives selected by the Tournament Committee. The Committee reserves the right to replace board members throughout the season, if necessary. The Board will be required to convene at least four (4) times throughout the 2012 calendar year.

The Board is intended to be an avenue to express player views and concerns professionally to the Gateway Pro Tour Staff, as well as establishing a bond between all parties to contribute to the ongoing success of Gateway Pro Tour. All concerns and issues discussed with the Board will be considered when making decisions.

DISCLAIMER

Gateway Pro Tour reserves the right to refuse entry to any player for any reason.

Gateway Pro Tour is not responsible for items stolen, lost or damaged at any practice facility, host or secondary golf courses.

Participants in Gateway Pro Tour tournaments are responsible for any damage they cause to the golf course and/or property of the golf course.