



PGA

Southern Texas Section

Southern Texas PGA Senior Series

**Tournament Rules and Regulations,
Conduct, Eligibility and Policies**

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Article I

Purpose

Section 1. General

The Southern Texas PGA Senior Series purpose is to provide a collegial atmosphere and networking opportunities for PGA Members and Apprentices, other Professionals as well as Amateurs that have reached the age of 50 by the date of the final Senior Series Event of the current calendar year. These events will provide opportunities to build relationships, introduce new members to the fraternal aspects of the Series, and encourage the members to play golf and experience many of the golf facilities in south Texas. The tournaments also provide an opportunity to compete for prize money and demonstrate proficiency and expertise in the game.

The tournaments provide a showcase to promote the facilities hosting events and the game. The Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Tournaments are governed by the most recently published edition of the USGA Rules of Golf and its Decisions and the STPGA Local Rules and Conditions of Competition. All Professionals, Amateurs and any participant in the STPGA Senior Series is responsible for knowing the USGA Rules of Golf and the Conditions of the Competition in which they are entered including the provisions stated herein.

Article II

Tournament Committee

Section 1. Overview

The President of the Southern Texas PGA shall appoint a Tournament Chair and Committee. The committee's responsibilities will include approval of the official STPGA Senior Series Tournament Schedule and administration of the STPGA Senior Series Tournament Rules and Regulations.

Article III

Eligibility and Membership Fees

Section 1. Eligibility and Fees

Membership in the Southern Texas PGA Senior Series is open to professional and amateur golfers over the age of 50 by the date of the final Senior Series Event of the current calendar year.. The membership fee to join the Southern Texas PGA Senior Series is as follows:

Southern Texas PGA Members and Apprentices	\$0
Non-PGA or Other Professionals	\$125
Amateurs	\$125

The privilege of participating in Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Tournaments will be extended to any eligible STPGA Senior Series Member.

Article IV

Tournaments

Section 1. General

The STPGA Senior Series Tournament Schedule will be posted on the Southern Texas PGA website. Amendments, additions or changes to the STPGA Tournament Rules and Regulations should be proposed to the Tournament Committee and approval or modification of the Tournament Rules and Regulations would be the responsibility of the STPGA Board of Directors. Each STPGA Senior Series Tournament will have a dedicated webpage within www.stpga.com and can be found by clicking on the “STPGA Senior Series” button under the “Tournament Information” drop down menu. Each Tournament webpage will contain information pertinent to the particular site and event including a tournament registration link, starting times and results.

- March 7-8 Cypresswood Golf Club (Spring)
- April 11-12 River Crossing Golf Club (Spring Branch)
- May 2-3 Eagle Pointe Golf Club (Mont Belvieu)
- June 6-7 Meadowbrook Farms Golf Club (Katy)
- June 27-28 Riverhill Country Club (Kerrville)
- July 18-19 The Club at Sonterra (San Antonio)
- August 8-9 Great Hills Country Club (Austin)
- August 22-23 Walden on Lake Conroe (Montgomery)
- September 12-13 The Woodlands Country Club - TPC (The Woodlands)

Section 2. Tournament Entries and Payment

All tournament entries and payment must be received by the Southern Texas PGA prior to the prescribed deadline. This can be accomplished online or in person. In general, the tournament entry deadline will be the Wednesday prior to the tournament. Entries which are incomplete or without payment will be returned and the entry will be rejected.

All competitors must register online to be eligible to participate. By entering online and/or competing in a Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Tournament, competitors agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Southern Texas PGA Senior Series, the USGA Rules of Golf and the STPGA Local Rules and conditions of Competition.

All entries are subject to approval by the Southern Texas PGA. All professional competitors must have a valid social security number or valid tax identification number.

Entries will be accepted on a first come, first served basis unless specifically stated otherwise on the tournament webpage. Entry fees for Regular 36-hole stroke play tournaments will be \$165. Entry to the Senior Series Championship will be \$190. A full refund less a \$10 cancellation fee will be granted if the competitor cancels before the entry deadline date and time.

Unless otherwise stated on the entry form, the following refund policy applies to all STPGA events:

1. Withdrawal prior to registration closing date:
 - a. Full refund returned to the player's BlueGolf account.
 - b. Full refund returned to the players credit card minus a processing fee of \$10.00
2. Withdrawal after registration closing date:
 - a. Refund request must be submitted with withdrawal explanation by email to the STPGA office.
 - b. If a request is not received by the STPGA office within 48 hours of the completion of the event for which the refund is being requested, there will be no refund.

Section 3. Divisions

The Southern Texas PGA Senior Series has three divisions. One for competitors ages 50-57 (Senior Division), one for competitors ages 58-65 (Super Senior Division) and one for competitors ages 66 and older (Veteran Division). The Veteran Division will play from a forward tee 94% of the Senior yardage. The competition and awarding of prizes will be determined within each respective division. In addition an overall champion will be determined at each tournament. Points will be awarded based on an individuals finish in the overall tournament field. .

Section 4. Starting Times and Pairings

Starting times and pairings for each tournament will be arranged by the Southern Texas PGA. Pairings will be made in groups of three or four or as otherwise determined by the Southern Texas PGA due to existing circumstances. For second and/or final rounds, pairings will be made according to score. Competitors are responsible for obtaining their respective starting time. The starting times will be made available on the tournament webpage within www.stpga.com and at the host facility.

Section 5. Rules of Play

Competition in all Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Tournaments will be conducted in accordance with the USGA Rules of Golf and its Decisions and the STPGA Local Rules and Conditions of Competition. Competitors will be furnished with a copy of the STPGA Local Rules and Conditions of Competition, and Notice to Competitors, which shall describe any special local rules and conditions.

Section 6. Discontinuance of Play and Rainout Procedure

The Southern Texas PGA Representative in charge shall have the authority to discontinue play for weather conditions. The decision to resume play, postpone any part or cancel play rests with the Southern Texas PGA Representative in charge. Discontinuance of play for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged siren or horn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by several short intermittent siren or horn notes.

NOTE: Players should be aware of their right to stop play at any time if they think lightning threatens them, even though no signal for discontinuance of play has been given or heard. When play has been suspended for a dangerous situation all practice facilities including practice putting facilities are deemed closed. The Rules Committee will notify competitors when these areas are reopened.

- The Southern Texas PGA uses the following guidelines in the event of inclement weather:
- When unplayable conditions occur, play shall be suspended. When conditions there after become playable, play will then resume, even when that round cannot be completed that day. Play may be resumed the following day to include completion of the next scheduled round. It is the responsibility of each contestant to be prepared to commence play as soon as the Committee deems the course playable. Contestants are encouraged not to leave the clubhouse or immediate vicinity during a delay of any sort due to the unpredictability of weather.
- Every effort will be made to finish each round as scheduled.
- In the event of a suspension during the final round, the round shall be canceled if more than half the field is unable to complete the round. If more than half the field completes the round, play should be temporarily suspended and completed when condition permit. Consideration of this procedure is dependent upon availability of the golf course.

Section 7. Golf Course Set-up

Preparation of the golf course shall be subject to the approval of the Southern Texas PGA representative in charge. Locations of the teeing grounds and hole positions on putting greens shall be selected by the Southern Texas PGA representative in charge.

Section 8. Ties and Playoffs

In all Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Tournaments, should two or more competitors tie for first place overall, the tie will be resolved by a sudden-victory playoff, unless otherwise stated. All other ties will be equally shared.

Section 9. Prize Fund Distribution

The prize fund distribution shall be the total of all entry fees, plus the sponsorship added money, less the administrative fee, facility fees and other incidental expenses in conducting the tournament. Approximately 40% of each division will be paid. The prize fund amount for each division will be allocated on a pro rata basis. A bonus amount will be awarded to the overall winner. Professionals will be paid by check and amateurs will receive a gift certificate from the host facility. Amateurs will only be allowed to win an amount equal to the USGA maximum. In the event an amateur should finish in a position that could award more the USGA maximum, the amount over the maximum will be redistributed to the prize fund in a manner determined by the Southern Texas PGA.

Article V

Conditions of Competition

In Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Tournaments the following Conditions of Competition shall be in effect:

Section 1. Separate Tees – Same Purse Policy

Female Professionals will play from a yardage approximately equal to 85% Senior and Super Senior Yardage, and Veterans will play from 94% of the Senior and Super Senior Yardage. Although competing from separate tees, the male and female competitors shall compete for the same purse and/or prizes.

Section 2. Electronic Measuring Devices

The use of devices that measure only distance will be allowed in certain STPGA Sponsored and Sanctioned Tournaments. The use of devices that gauge or measure other conditions that might affect a player's play (e.g., wind, temperature, gradient, etc.)

regardless of whether any such conditions are actually used is not permitted. The policy at each tournament should be posted on the application for entry and/or a tournament information board. It is the responsibility of the player to know whether Electronic Measuring Devices are permitted in any particular competition. A competitor in breach of this policy shall be disqualified.

Section 3. Alternative Spike Policy

It is a requirement of the Southern Texas PGA that all individuals (and their caddies) participating in any Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Tournament wear spikeless/non-metal (alternative spike) golf shoes. The use of spikeless/non-metal golf shoes may result in the participant slipping on wet or damp surfaces (inclusive of but not limited to turf areas, wooded areas such as bridges and pathways, etc.) and reduced traction on non-level areas of the course. As evidenced by the participant's entry application into the tournament, the participant acknowledges that potential dangers relative to the use of spikeless/non-metal golf shoes have been disclosed to the participant and participant agrees to assume the risk of sustaining an injury arising from or attributable to the use of spikeless/non-metal golf shoes at the tournament site. The participant here releases the Southern Texas PGA and the STPGA Officers, Directors, Members, employees, successors and assigns (the Indemnified Parties) from any and all claims for loss and damage, inclusive of, but not limited to personal injury, whether or not caused by participant's use of spikeless/non-metal golf shoes at the event's premises in connection with the tournament. The consideration for this release is the permission granted by the Southern Texas PGA to the participant to participate in the golf tournament. This release binds not only the participant, but also the participant's spouse, heirs, legal representatives and assigns. If a competitor or his/her caddies is found to be in violation of this policy after making a stroke during his/her stipulated round, the competitor shall be disqualified from the event.

Section 4. 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 that the Committee may establish." The following pace of play guidelines, penalties and fines, for stroke play competitions have been adopted. In the administration of the 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.

DEFINITION OF "OUT OF POSITION"

The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to play, as established by the Rules Committee.

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

NOTE: The Committee reserves the right to time a group when the Committee deems it necessary. Further, if a player is determined by the Rules Committee to be unreasonably slow, he may be timed individually at the Rules Committee's discretion, regardless of whether his group is out of position.

TIMING

When the Rules Committee determines that a group or an individual are out of position and will be timed, all players in the group, or the specific individual, will be informed they are being timed.

Other than on the putting green, the timing of a players' stroke will begin when it is his turn to play and he can play without interference or distraction. Time spent determining yardage 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, life, 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 second (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;
- 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

1st Offense: One (1) timing exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (1 bad time) - no penalty.

2nd Offense: One more timing (total of two) exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (2 bad times) - a one (1) stroke penalty.

3rd Offense: One more timing (total of three) exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (3 bad times) - a two (2) stroke penalty.

4th Offense: One more timing (total of four) exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (4 bad times) - disqualification.

NOTE: Any timing exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (bad time) will be carried over throughout the round.

APPEALS

Any appeal of a penalty must be referred to the on-site STPGA Tournament Director or designated Official in charge, immediately upon completion of the player in question's round. The decision of the STPGA Tournament Director shall be final. If the player in

question does not appeal immediately upon conclusion of his round, any penalties shall stand.

NOTE: A player may not appeal an occasion of being out of position and timed.

Article VI

Code of Conduct

Section 1. General

All Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Contestants participating in Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Tournaments or in activities related thereto (e.g. practice rounds, hospitality events, etc.) shall be responsible at all times for conducting themselves in a manner adhering to the traditions of the game. By signing an entry form, entering online or competing in a Tournament, the competitor agrees to abide by the prescribed Code of Conduct. Comments or complaints concerning the Southern Texas PGA Senior Series should be made in writing and addressed to the Southern Texas PGA Executive Director. Contestants must accept responsibility for their caddie. A caddie that conducts him or herself in violation of the Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Code of Conduct could result in fines, removal or loss of playing privileges for the contestant. The Southern Texas PGA reserves the right to remove a player from competition for non-competitiveness or unbecoming conduct.

Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Competitors shall adhere to the USGA Rules of Golf, Southern Texas PGA Rules and Regulations and the rules and regulations of any facility hosting a Southern Texas PGA Tournament. Each Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Member, by becoming a member, acknowledges the right and authority of the Southern Texas PGA to fine and suspend a Member from Tournament play, and/or fine and permanently bar the Member from play in Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Tournaments or other events or tournaments conducted by the Southern Texas PGA for violation of the Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Tournament Rules and Regulations, Conduct, Eligibility and Policies.

Section 2. Conduct Unbecoming a Professional

Conduct unbecoming a professional will include but would not be limited to the following:

- Any violation of the PGA of America Code of Ethics
- Malicious damage to a golf course, whether intentional or accidental; or any damage to any other part of the facility's course or equipment
- Intentional throwing, breaking or destruction of golf clubs or equipment
- Loud, profane, crude and/or abusive language deemed to be offensive to spectators, participants and/or the STPGA Tournament Committee
- Competing as the partner of and/or verifying the handicap of an amateur with the knowledge that such handicap is false or otherwise inaccurate
- Tender of any draft, check, credit card or bill of exchange, which is dishonored after presentation for any reason

- ❑ Intoxication or being under the influence of an illegal substance before, during or after tournament play
- ❑ Returning a false scorecard for a team or individual
- ❑ Other such conduct as may be deemed inappropriate and/or offensive before, after or during tournament play or which could cause embarrassment to the host professional or the Southern Texas PGA

Section 3. Dress Code

Proper golf attire is required for all Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Tournaments. Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Members are expected to present a neat appearance in both clothing and personal grooming. Appropriate dress will consist of slacks or shorts (with permission from the host facility) and shirts with collars and sleeves for Male Professionals. Female participants must wear slacks, culottes, walking shorts, or golf skirts which constitute acceptable clothing worn by women in connection with participation in professional golf tournaments.

Section 4. Alcoholic Beverage Policy

Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Members are prohibited from consuming any alcoholic beverages while participating in Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Tournaments. This shall be in effect during the stipulated round and any playoffs.

Excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages at a tournament site anytime could be considered a breach of the Southern Texas PGA Tournament Code of Conduct.

Section 5. Penalties for Violation of STPGA Tournament Code of Conduct

The general penalties for violation of any aspect of the STPGA Tournament Code of Conduct will be as listed below. Depending on the severity of any infraction, the PGA Member or Apprentice accused may be subject to PGA of America Code of Ethics charges in addition.

1st Offense - \$100 fine

2nd Offense and Subsequent Offenses - \$300 fine and forfeit their privilege of being eligible to play or compete in STPGA Sponsored and STPGA Sanctioned Tournaments for a period of six months from the date of the infraction.

*All infractions will carry a two-year continuous cycle.

Article VII

Points List and Tour Championship Qualification

Section 1. Points List and Player of the Year

Annually the Southern Texas PGA will determine a Senior Series Player of the Year. This award will be given to the individual that accumulates the highest total in the points list. Points will be awarded based on performance in the Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Tournaments.

Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Tournament Point List Breakdown											
1st	2500	13th	900	25th	500	37th	380	49th	320	61st	274
2nd	2000	14th	850	26th	488	38th	375	50th	315	62nd	270
3rd	1850	15th	800	27th	475	39th	370	51st	310	63rd	267
4th	1700	16th	750	28th	463	40th	365	52nd	305	64th	263
5th	1550	17th	700	29th	450	41st	360	53rd	302	65th	260
6th	1450	18th	650	30th	438	42nd	355	54th	298	66th	256
7th	1350	19th	625	31st	425	43rd	350	55th	295	67th	253
8th	1250	20th	600	32nd	413	44th	345	56th	291	68th	249
9th	1150	21st	575	33rd	400	45th	340	57th	288	69th	246
10th	1050	22nd	550	34th	395	46th	335	58th	284	70th	242
11th	1000	23rd	525	35th	390	47th	330	59th	281	71st	239
12th	950	24th	513	36th	385	48th	325	60th	277	72nd	235

Total: 41,910

Playing Opportunities determined by Points List or other Competitive Basis

At such time as these opportunities are available the playing spots will be awarded as described below.

Section 2. Tour Championship Qualifying

Southern Texas PGA Senior Series Members that have competed in three (3) regular tournaments will be eligible to participate in the Senior Series Championship. Southern Texas PGA Members who compete in the Southern Texas Senior Championship would only be required to play in two (2) Senior Series tournaments to qualify for the Tour Championship