



# **The Michigan Player's Tour**

## **Rules and Regulations**

Revised 2/24/2009

# The Michigan Player's Tour

## Rules and Regulations



### 1. Eligibility

#### a. Men's Division

(1) Eligible Players. The Men's Division of the Michigan Player's Tour is open to all male club professionals and assistants, unaffiliated professionals, and amateurs aged 18 or older. Amateurs must possess a verifiable USGA handicap of 8.0 or less.

(2) Participation of Amateurs. Eligible amateurs will be allowed to play on a space-available basis. Please see Entry Procedure below for additional information on entering Michigan Player's Tour events.

(3) Participation of Women in Men's Division Events. The Michigan Player's Tour reserves the right to allow exceptionally talented female players to participate in Men's Division events on an event by event basis. All females competing in Men's Division events shall play from the same tees as the men.

(4) Participation of Underage Players. The Michigan Player's Tour reserves the right to allow professional and amateur players under the age of 18 to participate in Men's Division events on an event by event basis. The player must present written permission from his parent or guardian along with his registration.

(6) The Michigan Player's Tour reserves the right to refuse participation to anyone.

#### b. Women's Division

(1) Eligible Players. The Women's Division of the Michigan Player's Tour is open to all female PGA Section professionals and assistants, unaffiliated professionals, and amateurs aged 18 or older. Amateurs must possess a verifiable USGA handicap of 5.0 or less.

(2) Participation of Amateurs. Eligible amateurs will be allowed to play on a space-available basis. Please see Entry Procedure below for additional information on entering Michigan Player's Tour events.

(3) Participation of Underage Players. Professional and amateur players under the age of 18 may participate in Michigan Player's Tour events, but are not eligible to receive prize money. The player must present written permission from her parent or guardian along with her registration.

(4) Participation of Men in Women's Division Events. Men will not be permitted to enter or compete in Women's Division events.

(5) The Michigan Player's Tour reserves the right to refuse participation to anyone.

Performance Criteria for Eligibility. Any player who posts a single round score 15 shots or more higher than the course rating during a Michigan Player's Tour event (depending on the conditions) will be subject to a review of their eligibility at the conclusion of the event. Players who are judged to be incapable of competing at the minimum standard set by the Tour will be

suspended from Tour membership until they can demonstrate improvement.

## 2. Membership

Beginning in 2009, all players desiring to compete in Michigan Player's Tour events will be required to pay a membership fee. The amount of the fee will vary according to the date of registration and the status of the player. Members will be guaranteed spots in all events.

Membership fees are the same for both the Men's and Women's Divisions.

To encourage participation of club professionals, assistants, and amateurs, the membership fee will be one half the standard amount.

The breakdown of these fees is as follows:

| From        | To            | Club Pros and Assistants | Professional Players | Amateurs |
|-------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| January 1st | May 15th      | \$75.00                  | \$150.00             | \$75.00  |
| May 16th    | July 15th     | \$100.00                 | \$200.00             | \$100.00 |
| July 16th   | August 15th   | \$75.00                  | \$150.00             | \$75.00  |
| August 15th | End of Season | \$50.00                  | \$100.00             | \$50.00  |

## 3. Tournament Format

The Michigan Player's Tour will consist of three types of tournaments. These are described as follows:

### a. Regular Tour Events

Regular Tour Events will be tournaments held primarily on Mondays or Tuesdays each week. These events may be 18 or 36 holes. In each event, the top 30% of the field (and ties) will receive a check, with the champion receiving at least 20% of the purse.

All ties for low scorer in Regular Tour events will be settled with a playoff. All players (or their caddies) will ride in carts.

In general, Regular Tour events will be at stroke play. From time to time, the Tour may vary the format of a particular event to include a modified Stableford scoring system, a cut after three rounds (in 72 hole events) at resorts with three or more courses, or even a match play event.

### b. MPT Extreme Series Events

MPT Extreme Series events will be 18 hole stroke play tournaments played on some of Michigan's most exotic and challenging courses. In contrast to Regular Tour events, MPT Extreme Series events will be held primarily on Saturday afternoons.

In each of the events, the top 30% of the field (and ties) will receive a check, with the winner receiving at least 20% of the purse amount. All ties for low scorer will be settled with a playoff. All players (or their caddies) will ride in carts.

c. Pro-Ams

The third type of event conducted by the Michigan Player's Tour will be a collection of 18 hole Pro-Am events preceding certain Regular Tour events. These Pro-Ams will usually be scheduled prior to Regular Tour events taking place in Michigan's larger cities. Pro-Am spots for amateurs will be sold to the general public.

Pro-Ams will usually be a scramble for the amateurs, with Tour players competing at stroke play or modified Stableford format for a modest purse. Amateurs will compete for prizes such as equipment or gift certificates (consistent with the Rules of Amateur status).

**4. Tournament Fields**

a. Field Sizes

The size of the field in each Tour event will be set by the Tour Director. The number will be based on the number of players who purchase memberships.

b. Priority For Entry Into Events

Players desiring to compete in Michigan Player's Tour events will be given spots in the field in the following order of priority:

(1) Tour Members

Tour members will be guaranteed a spot in each event. To secure the spot, the member must notify the Tour office of his or her desire to play in an event before the entry deadline and submit their entry fee.

(2) Amateurs

Amateurs desiring to play in Tour events will be allowed to play on a space-available basis. To get into an event, amateurs must make a \$25.00 deposit on the entry fee prior to the entry deadline. At the deadline, the Tour will notify amateurs who have made the field.

**5. Entry Fees**

Entry fees for events on the Michigan Player's Tour will be as follows:

Michigan Player's Tour Entry Fees\*

| Rounds in Event | Club pros and assistants | Unaffiliated Pros | Amateurs |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| 1               | \$150                    | \$175             | \$75     |
| 2               | \$300                    | \$350             | \$150    |
| 3               | \$450                    | \$525             | \$225    |
| 4               | \$600                    | \$700             | \$300    |

\* For events conducted on premium courses, the Tour will add \$25.00 per round. Please see

Event Information below for entry fees at specific events.

Please note the Tour reserves the right to modify these fees.

## **6. Entry Procedure**

### **a. Entering Michigan Player's Tour Events**

Eligible players desiring to enter Michigan Player's Tour events may pick and choose any number of events to play in during a season. Players entering events may also choose to pay for them in full or simply make a deposit.

Space in events during the early years of the Tour will be limited, so it is best to secure your spot as early as possible.

### **b. Entry Procedure**

Players desiring to enter events on the Tour may do so in three different ways:

(1) Obtain an entry form by calling the Tour office or downloading it from the Tour web site. Return it by mail with a personal check, money order, or credit card information by the deadline.

(2) Call the Tour office and enter by phone before the deadline. The Tour will fill out the entry form and take credit card information.

(3) Enter via Online Registration.

### **c. Deadline for Entry**

In general, the Tour will set an entry deadline which, if a certain number of entries is not attained by the deadline, the Tour will cancel the event. Currently, the deadline is on the Friday preceding the event.

In the early years of the Tour, events generally will not have full fields, so there will be no penalty for entering an event after a posted deadline. As long as there is time for an eligible player to show up at the first tee and there is room for him in the tee times reserved for the event, he will be allowed to play.

Once the Tour begins to fill fields, the late fee policy will be enforced. Entry fees or deposits for all events must be received by 5 pm the Friday before the event to avoid the \$75 late fee. Deadlines will be published on the web site and on printed entry forms.

In certain cases, the Tour may extend registration beyond the deadline and suspend late fees to fill remaining tee times. Notice of extended registration will be posted on the Schedule page.

### **d. Method of Payment**

The Tour will accept cash, checks, money orders and credit cards as payment for membership fees and entry fees. The Tour accepts the following credit cards:

- (1) Mastercard
- (2) Visa
- (3) American Express
- (4) Discover

There is no additional charge for using a credit card to enter events.

(Please note we must charge you a \$30 fee if your personal check bounces. It costs us a \$25 fee, plus the time to deal with it).

e. Confirmation Of Registration

Players who register online will receive email notification of their payment within minutes of the transaction. Players who pay through the U.S. Mail or in person will be given a receipt of their payment within 15 business days of the transaction.

f. On-Site Registration

All players are required to check in at the Pro Shop at the host site at least 30 minutes prior to the first round of tournament play.

## **7. Practice Rounds and Range**

Players will be responsible for scheduling and paying for practice rounds at all Michigan Player's Tour events. The Tour will negotiate a reduced green fee for practice once the Tour secures event or title sponsorship.

Some courses may include complimentary range balls on tournament days, but in general, players will be responsible for practice balls.

## **8. Tee Times**

Tee times for players competing in Michigan Player's Tour events will be posted on the Tour web site and available over the phone. In general, first and (if applicable) second round tee times will be posted on the Sunday prior to the event. When there is a cut in an event and the field is reshuffled, tee times will be posted by 7 pm the night before the next round (unless a suspension delays the completion of a round).

## **9. Scoring and Rules**

a. Questions and Disputes

The Michigan Player's Tour will conduct its events according to the most current version of the USGA Rules of Golf. If a question or dispute on the rules arises during the course of play, players should proceed under Rule 3-3. In most events, the Head PGA Professional of the tournament course shall be the final authority in rules decisions.

b. Scoring Area

Players will record and return scores according to Rule 6-6. The Tour will set up a scoreboard at each event, with all scores posted being final. The Tour will designate a scoring area, within which players will check and sign scorecards. Any player leaving the scoring area without signing his scorecard will be disqualified.

c. Metal Spikes

Players will not be allowed to wear metal spikes in any Tour events.

d. Rangefinders

The Michigan Player's Tour will allow the use of laser and GPS enabled rangefinders in all Tour events. Rangefinders must be able to measure distance only – no slope or

temperature functions will be permitted.

### **13. Pace of Play Policy**

The Michigan Player's Tour recognizes the problem of slow play has become a detriment to the sport at all levels. In order to do its part in combating the problem, the Tour has adopted the "checkpoint" pace of play policy, which is described as follows:

#### **a. Establishment of Checkpoints On The Course**

Prior to the beginning of a Tour event, the Tour will determine several checkpoints on the tournament course at which pace of play will be measured. These checkpoints will be determined based on the layout of the course, the number of available marshalls, and the proximity of the checkpoints to the clubhouse. The number of checkpoints may vary depending on the course.

Once checkpoints are established, the Tour will determine the number of minutes it should take any group to arrive at the checkpoint from the first tee. Among the factors which will be considered in determining this number is the severity of the course and the likelihood of players to lose golf balls and conduct searches in the course of play.

The location of checkpoints and the time required to reach them will be published prior to the event and distributed to players prior to each round in a Pace of Play handout.

Players will be considered to have arrived at a checkpoint when the player with the honor steps onto the tee box. A group will be deemed late to the checkpoint if the player with the honor steps onto the tee box one full minute after the designated time.

It will be the responsibility of players to possess and synchronize a timepiece to the official time kept by the tournament course to measure their pace of play.

#### **b. Responsibility of the First Group to Tee Off**

The first group to tee off in any round is given primary responsibility to maintain the required pace of play. The first group will be considered in breach of this policy if they exceed the time allotted to reach each checkpoint as detailed in the Pace of Play handout provided to players before the round.

The first time the first group exceeds the allotted time to reach any of the established checkpoints, the group will be given a warning.

Should the first group arrive late at any subsequent checkpoint after being warned, each player in the group will receive a one shot penalty.

Should the group arrive late at any subsequent checkpoint after receiving the one shot penalty, each player in the group will receive a two shot penalty.

#### **c. Responsibilities of Following Groups**

Groups teeing off after the first group will be considered in breach of this policy if they exceed the time allotted to reach each checkpoint as detailed in the Pace of Play handout. If previous groups are delayed and the designated time cannot be met, the group will be in breach if it arrives at the checkpoint more than 15 minutes after the previous group.

Note -- If previous groups are ahead of the designated pace, the group will not be in violation if they arrive at the checkpoint at or before the time established for their group in the Pace of Play handout, even if it is more than 15 minutes after the previous group.

The first time the group exceeds the applicable time, the players will receive a warning.

The second time the group exceeds the applicable time, each player in the group will receive a one shot penalty. Additional breaches will result in two shot penalties.

#### d. Appeals

If it can be determined an individual player in a group is responsible for the failure of the group to arrive at a checkpoint at the designated time, the members of the group may appeal any penalties assessed. Any appeal of a penalty must be referred to the PGA Professional of the tournament course in charge of rulings immediately upon completion of a round. The group will be interviewed by the Professional to determine if the claim is valid.

The PGA Professional's decision shall be final. If the group in question does not appeal immediately upon conclusion of the round, any penalties shall stand.

In the administration of these pace of play guidelines, neither the Tour staff, its designees, nor the host PGA Professional in charge of rulings shall tolerate abuse, oral or otherwise, by a player. Such abuse may constitute conduct unbecoming a professional and possible termination from Tour membership without refund.

#### e. Tips for Maintaining Reasonable Pace of Play

The last thing the Tour desires in maintaining pace of play is for players to have their day ruined by receiving penalty strokes for slow play. On the other hand, courses have a business to run, and if the Tour cannot maintain reasonable pace of play, the course will be reluctant to host events for the Tour in the future.

In order to keep play moving, please consider the following suggestions:

1. Players hitting balls towards out of bounds or hazards should play a provisional (if applicable) to eliminate the need to return to the point where the original ball was played.
2. If any question arises about how to proceed under the Rules, proceed according to Rule 3.3 (Doubt as to Procedure). Play a second ball, and report to the Professional in charge of rulings immediately after the round.
3. Finally, if your group gets behind, allow other players to play when ready even if you are away. Although the order of play (farthest ball from the hole plays first) is part of the heritage and etiquette of the game, it is more important to maintain pace of play when your group is behind.

It is hoped these tips will aid in keeping things moving.

### **14. Carts and Caddies**

All events on the Michigan Player's Tour will require the use of carts. If a player desires to walk during a round, he may appoint either his caddy or his fellow competitor to drive the cart. A maximum of two carts will be allowed per group.

Players choosing to walk must not slow down pace of play.

### **15. Purses**

The Michigan Player's Tour will pay out purses commensurate with other professional tours. In all events, prize money will be paid out to the top 30% of the field.

Unless specifically stated, the purse of an event will vary with the number of competitors, and will not be fixed until the closing date of entries for the event.

a. Prize Money Breakdown

In all events, the low 30% of scorers and ties of the starting field will receive a check, with the champion receiving at least 20% of the purse. In events with smaller fields, the Tour will adjust the percentage of the first place check to the overall purse size and the number of paid spots.

Prize money breakdown for a typical full field event (156 players) will be according to the following formula:

Purse Breakdown

| Place | Percentage of Purse |
|-------|---------------------|
| 1     | 20 %                |
| 2     | 11.25               |
| 3     | 9.375               |
| 4     | 8.125               |
| 5     | 7                   |
| 6     | 6                   |
| 7     | 5.125               |
| 8     | 4.375               |
| 9     | 3.75                |
| 10    | 3.25                |
| 11    | 2.875               |
| 12    | 2.625               |
| 13    | 2.375               |
| 14    | 2.125               |
| 15    | 1.9375              |
| 16    | 1.75                |
| 17    | 1.5625              |
| 18    | 1.4375              |
| 19    | 1.3125              |
| 20    | 1.1875              |
| 21    | 1.125               |
| 22    | 1.0625              |
| 23    | 1.0                 |
| 24    | .96875              |
| 25    | .9375               |
| 26    | .90625              |
| 27    | .875                |
| 28    | .84375              |
| 29    | .8125               |
| 30    | .78125              |
| 31    | .75                 |

|              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| 32           | .75625 |
| 33           | .74375 |
| 34           | .73125 |
| 35           | .71875 |
| 36           | .70625 |
| 37           | .69375 |
| 38           | .68125 |
| 39           | .66875 |
| 40           | .65625 |
| 41           | .64375 |
| 42           | .63125 |
| 43           | .625   |
| 44           | .61875 |
| 45           | .6125  |
| 46           | .60625 |
| 47 and below | .6     |

The mathematical formula used to determine the payout at each place is:

$$p_n = 0.2P(n)^{-0.85}$$

where

$p_n$  = payment amount at

nth place

P = total purse

n = place

With smaller fields, the Tour will map the prize money breakdown on the curve of this formula.

#### b. Prize Money Payments

Prior to the institution of the Tour membership policy, prize money will be paid by check immediately at the conclusion of each event.

Once the membership policy goes into effect, the Tour will pay out prize money to its members no later than 5 business days after the completion of events. Prize money will be paid either through check or electronic deposit. Players will provide a designated address to mail checks, or provide an account number and routing number for e-deposits.

Non-members who finish in the money will also be issued checks within 5 business days after the conclusion of the event.

#### c. Prizes For Amateur Players

The Rules of Golf concerning prizes for amateurs is as follows:

##### 3.2 Playing For Prize Money

An amateur golfer must not play golf for prize money or its equivalent in a match, competition or exhibition.

Note: An amateur golfer may participate in an event where prize money or its equivalent is offered, provided that prior to participation he waives his right to accept prize money in that event.

### 3.2 Prize Limits

#### a. General

An amateur golfer must not accept a prize (other than a symbolic prize) or prize voucher of retail value in excess of \$750 or the equivalent, or such a lesser figure as may be decided by the USGA. This limit applies to the total prizes or prize vouchers received by an amateur golfer in any one competition or series of competitions.

Exception: A prize for a hole-in-one made while playing golf may exceed the above prize limit.

#### b. Exchanging Prizes

An amateur golfer must not exchange a prize or prize voucher for cash.

Note 2: It is recommended that the total value of prizes in a gross competition, or each division of a handicap competition, should not exceed twice the prescribed limit in an 18-hole competition, three times in a 36-hole competition, five times in a 54-hole competition and six times in a 72-hole competition.

Exception: An amateur golfer may submit a prize voucher to a state or regional golf association and thereafter be reimbursed from the value of that voucher for expenses incurred in participating in a golf competition, provided the reimbursement of such expenses is permitted under Rule 4-2.

Note 1: The responsibility to prove the retail value of a particular prize rests with the Committee in charge of the competition.

Given the above policy, the Michigan Player's Tour will abide by the following guidelines in awarding prizes to amateurs in Michigan Player's Tour events:

1. All prizes awarded to amateurs (other than trophies) will be in the form of gift certificates -- no cash will be awarded, nor will the gift certificates be redeemable for cash.
2. Since the total purse available to professionals in the field varies with the number of professionals competing, the number of rounds in the event, and the amount of sponsor contributions added to the purse, the value of gift certificates awarded to amateurs will also vary due to these factors.
3. In addition to winning the trophy, amateurs who win a Michigan Player's Tour event will be entitled to a gift certificate whose value does not exceed \$750.00 and is in accordance with the factors listed above.
4. Since the Tour awards prize money only to professionals who finish in the top 33% of scorers in events, the Tour will award gift certificates to the low amateurs in an event only if their scores finish "in the money" (i.e., within the percentage of players who earn checks).
5. If more than one amateur finishes "in the money," each amateur will receive a gift certificate. The value of these gift certificates will increase with the order of finish. If the

lowest scoring amateur finishes in a position that would have paid a professional in that position \$750.00 or more, the low amateur will receive a gift certificate of \$750.00, with other amateurs "in the money" receiving proportionally less.

6. Should an amateur prize amount be less than the professional prize amount which would have been paid for that particular place in the order of finish, the balance of the prize money will be added to the professional purse.
7. Amateurs finishing "in the money" may opt to have the amount of their gift certificate applied to the entry fee of a future tournament on the Tour. The amateur will still be subject to space-available limitations for that event, however. If the amateur does not make the field, he will be given a gift certificate equal to the amount applied to the entry fee.

## **16. Withdrawals and Refund Policy**

### **a. General Policy**

Withdrawals will be accepted for any reason when notice is given by 5 pm the Friday before the event. Players must call the Tour office to withdraw.

For withdrawals after the Friday deadline, the player will forfeit his entry fee. Medical withdrawals after the Friday deadline will be evaluated on a case by case basis. To obtain a full refund, the player must submit written documentation containing a doctor's official letterhead (when practicable).

No refund or credit will be given for any reason once a player has teed off. 'No shows' will not receive a refund or credit for any reason.

### **b. Withdrawals Due To Participation On Other Tours**

Players who are scheduled to play in a Michigan Player's Tour event, but qualify to play in a PGA, LPGA, Nationwide, Canadian, Hooters, Tarheel, Futures, or PGA Section event that week, will receive a full credit or refund of their tournament entry fee if they notify the Tour of their desire to withdraw by noon on Tuesday.

## **17. Rainouts**

All decisions for tournaments affected by rain will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Tour and the PGA Professional of the tournament course. A rain shortened tournament will be considered official only when the entire field has completed 18, 36 or 54 holes. It will be the general policy of the Tour to complete as many rounds as possible. Play may be extended another day if possible, but not beyond.

## **18. Cancellations**

If weather or circumstances warrant, the Tour may be forced to cancel an event. All players entered in the event shall receive a full refund of their entry fee, or they may opt to have it applied to another event.

If an event is cancelled, the Tour will attempt to reschedule the event.

## **19. Player Attire and Conduct**

### **a. Philosophy**

As a professional golf tour, the Michigan Player's Tour expects its players to exhibit professional pride and a sense of responsibility in upholding the highest traditions of the game. Among these traditions are maintaining a professional appearance and observing an impeccable standard of conduct.

### **b. Men's Division Attire**

Men must wear slacks and golf shirts whenever they are on the grounds of a tournament course. Shorts are not permitted. No denim. Players must also wear golf shoes during practice rounds and tournament rounds. Golf shoes must have soft spikes. Shirts must have a collar (or an acceptable alternative). Players may wear logos of sponsors -- please, no NASCAR style logo displays. Caddies must wear a collared shirt (or an acceptable alternative), and may wear shorts.

### **c. Women's Division Attire**

Participants in Women's Division events have much more latitude in their dress code. In general, players should adhere to fashions acceptable to the LPGA Tour.

### **d. Conduct**

While competing, players should diligently observe the standards of etiquette as published by the USGA. To review these standards, please go to the USGA web site.

## **20. Legal**

### **a. Photography and Television Rights**

Players competing on the Michigan Player's Tour shall give their explicit permission to be photographed, televised, and / or videotaped while practicing or competing in Tour events. Images and audio taken of players in Tour events shall be used strictly to publicize the event or the Tour, and to create a record of the results of the event for television broadcast, web and print publishing, and radio. The Tour will not use a player's name or image in any commercial advertising without the player's specific permission.

### **b. Injury and Liability**

As independent contractors, players on the Tour are expected to maintain their own health and liability insurance policies. All players must sign a waiver of liability prior to competing in a Michigan Player's Tour event. The waiver form is included with both the Tour Membership Application and Tournament Registration Form.