2020
Tour Rules and Regulations

1. **Eligibility**

TP Tour events are open to all declared Professional Golfers from the U.K and overseas, open to male and female players. Evidence of playing ability may be required for applicants who have not previously competed in a TP Tour event. The Tour reserves the right to refuse entry to any applicant. Amateur applicants see note 4

2. **Membership**

All Professional Golfers can apply to play or apply for membership online on blue golf www.tptourseries.com

or by contacting the tour office entries@tptourseries.com

Online application is via Blue Golf on the website. Annual membership subscription fee is payable. The term of membership is up to the end of the season regardless of the date of membership application. Membership fees are non refundable. Open to all professionals. For some events the categories below may apply.

1.Past tournament winners

2.Tour member

3.Sponsor invite

4.Amateur invite

5. Non-member/ temporary member

Tournament Entry, Withdrawals, Fees

- Entries are on a first come first served basis, via Blue Golf at www.tptourseries.com. If a player withdraws from an event after the deadline, the entry fee will be chargeable, unless mitigating circumstances apply, for example an invitation to play in a Challenge Tour event or medical evidence of an injury or illness provided by a Doctor. If a non-member withdraws for any reason by prior notice the entry fee is chargeable unless the above applies and a nominal withdrawal fee will be charged. If a player no-shows for an event without notice, a fine of £100 will be charged in addition to the full entry fee. If a player wishes to withdraw at any time there may be a withdrawal fee applicable

- Tournament Entry Fees - Registration Fees are published on Blue Golf on the TP Tour website, Tour members pay a reduced registration fee rate per event

- Late entries accepted after the closing date has expired will be subject to a minimum £15.00 admin fee

- **Team events and Open qualifiers will feature on the schedule on a first come first served policy**

3. **Pro Am events –** professionals invited to participate in pro-am events will be contacted by the tour office

4. **Amateur Entries and Female Competitors**

Amateur entries for TP events from players with a handicap of 1.4 or better are accepted in some tournaments. Amateurs cannot receive prize money. Contact entries@tptourseries.com Amateurs may be required to pay the non member entry fee to participate in a TP Tour event. This will be advised at the time of application. Evidence of current official handicap will be requested. Amateurs finishing in the prizes of any Tour event will win a supplementary prize/voucher. Amateurs who are turning professional to compete on the Tour will need to submit confirmation of their intention to turn professional to their golfing amateur union, and may be required to provide evidence.

Female professional golfers are welcome and can apply to play and join the tour. The tournament golf course may be adjusted for female competitors at the discretion of the tour committee. The standard of 10% distance reduction may apply or a stroke allowance of two strokes may be applied

5. Field Size

Tournament field sizes will be based on the allocation this will vary and may be limited to a pre determined number

6. Prize Fund

Prize Money is awarded to members who finish in the top 25% and ties of the field of any regular OOM tournament. Prize fund is based on final field size and on any additional sponsorship. A minimum 1st prize may be guaranteed regardless of field size, if so this will be prior announced. All prize money is paid by direct bank transfer to members within 48 hours of each event. Non-members may not be paid within the 48 hours

The Official Order of Merit is based on points earned in any TP official event or co- sanctioned event.

If a tie on points occurs then prize money earned will determine the overall winner

7. Format and Starting

Events will be 18 or 36 holes of stroke play unless otherwise stated. In the event of a tie for first place, a hole by hole sudden death playoff will be used to determine the winner. If a playoff is not possible the event will have joint winners, or an alternative format may be decided by the Tournament Director.

Late on the tee: The player must start at the time notified. The tour encourages players to be present on the tee box of their designated starting hole at least five minutes before scheduled tee time. If the player arrives at his starting hole ready to play, within five minutes after his starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is two strokes at the first hole. After five minutes, the penalty for breach of this Rule is disqualification. The clocks on the starting tee are the "Official Time"

8. 2020 Conditions of Competition and Local Rules

All Tournaments will be played under the 2020 Rules of Golf, as published by R&A Rules Limited

For the full text of Conditions or Local Rules, please refer to the referenced page number in the current published Rules of Golf

Any doubtful points or disputes should be referred to the Chief Referee or a tournament official immediately upon completion of play, prior to scorecards being signed. The Tournament Director's decision is final

Section A - CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

1. List of Conforming Driver Heads (model local rule G-1 is in effect] drivers the player carries must have a club head identified by model and loft, that is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the R&A. Penalty for making stroke with a club in breach of condition – Disqualification

2. Groove and Punch Mark Specification (LR G-3) The player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications. Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of condition – Disqualification

3. Specification of the Ball (Note to Rule 5-1) a. List of conforming golf balls as per the R&A guidelines. b. The 'One Ball' condition local rule G-4 is in effect Exception – this condition does not apply in Pro am events

4. Pace of Play - Rule 5.6b

a. In the absence of mitigating circumstances, a group is liable to be timed if it is in excess of the time allowed and in the case of second or subsequent groups, out of position. From the commencement of timing, if any player exceeds 50 seconds on a 'first to play' approach shot (including par 3 tee shot), chip or putt or 40 seconds if it is a tee shot or 'second or third to play' shot, he is deemed to have had a 'bad time'

b. The time allowed for the round will be determined by the Chief Referee and posted on the notice board. Out of position is defined as being more than the starting interval behind the group in front

A player who is timed and is in breach of pace of play will have a bad time carried forward in the round even if the group subsequently arrives back in position or within time Penalty for Breach of Condition One bad time – verbal warning

Two bad times – 1 stroke penalty - Three bad times – 2 stroke penalty and £200 fine - Four bad times - D/Q and £200 fine

NOTE: a. Players will be advised that they are being timed b.Timings will be taken from the moment it is deemed by the official that it is the players turn to play c. An individual player may be timed instead of the entire group

5. Suspension of Play Due to Dangerous Situation (Rule 5-7) Players should stop play immediately on the sound of one prolonged note of the horn and seek shelter. Balls should be marked. Play will only be resumed following two short blasts of the horn. Suspension of play for any other reason will be signalled by three blasts of the horn and players may decide to stop immediately or complete the hole in progress, resumption of play is two blasts

6. Practice [Rule 5] applies in Stroke Play events No practice is allowed on or near the putting green of the hole last played

7. Practice Between Rounds (Note to Rule 5.2) Practice is permitted on a course yet to be played between rounds of a competition

8. Transportation (Model rule G-6) Players must walk the course at all times. Exception; when permitted to ride by the Rules Committee

9. Deciding Ties: in the event of a tie for first place there will be a hole-by-hole play-off to determine the winner

10.Official Recording Area: a scorecard will be deemed returned and officially submitted when a player has completely left the recording area

11. Final Result: a competition is deemed final and closed when the full results are posted and when the competition winner is officially announced by the tournament committee

Section B – LOCAL RULES

1. Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2) Beyond any wall, fence or white stakes defining the course boundary

a. Where out of bounds is defined by white stakes or fence posts (excluding angled supports) the line joining the nearest inside points at ground level of such stakes or posts defines the boundary. A ball is out of bounds when all of it lies on or over such line

b. Where any continuing or adjoining white line is in existence it defines the boundary. A ball is out of bounds when all of it lies on or over such line

c. A ball which has been played and crosses a an out of bounds fence, road or a boundary and comes to rest on a part of the course that is in bounds, is deemed to be out of bounds

2. Penalty areas (Rule 17)

Note: Drop Zones Where there are dropping zones for a penalty area, a ball may be dropped in the dropping zone nearest to where the original ball last crossed the margin, under penalty of one stroke. The DZ is relief area under rule 14.3 where a ball must be dropped and come to rest in the designated DZ area itself

3. Abnormal course conditions (Rule 16-1) a. Ground Under Repair (i) All areas bounded by white lines including spectator crossing points where marked (ii) Seams of Cut turf: Model Local rule F-7 is in effect. (iii) French drains (stone filled drainage ditches)

(iv] For holes or damage left by movable obstructions in parts of the general area cut to fairway height or less, free relief is available for the lie of ball or area of intended swing. There is no relief for interference to the stance.

b. Immovable Obstructions

[i] White lined areas adjoining any areas defined as immovable obstructions are to be regarded as part of the obstruction

[ii] Decorative landscaped areas (flower beds / shrubberies) surrounded by an obstruction are part of that obstruction

[iii] Mats that are secured and all ramps that are covering cables are immovable obstructions

[iv] Roads or paths surfaced with woodchip or mulch, small pieces of this material are loose impediments

[v] Non-permanent bridges erected for players or spectators are immovable obstructions

c. Temporary Water

If a players balls lies on the putting green and there is interference by temporary water the player may take relief under rule 16.1d or have his line of play squeegeed

Squeegee activity should be across the line of play, must extend a reasonable distance beyond the hole (one club length) and may only be carried out by authorised tournament personnel

4. Immoveable Obstructions close to putting greens Model local rule F5 is in effect but is modified as follows; For a ball in the general area, relief is obtainable when both the ball and the immoveable obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less

5. Integral Objects a. Bunker liners in their intended position b. Wires, cables or other objects when closely attached to trees or other permanent objects c. Artificial retaining walls and pilings when located within penalty areas d. Floating sponsor display signs when in penalty areas, (no line of sight relief allowed) wires or cables anchoring them are temporary cables e. Any closed gate attached to a boundary object.

6. Permanent overhead power lines Model local rule E11 is in effect but only for a ball that strikes a power line located inbounds and not a supporting pole or object (the stroke is cancelled and must be replayed without penalty)

7. Temporary immoveable obstructions (TIO) Model local rules F22 and F23 are in effect

a. Drop zone policy. In the general area when a players ball lies in or on a TIO or so close to the TIO it interferes with the stance or area of intended swing and relief is required, the player may; proceed under any of the options the TIO local rule or rule 16.1 or if

dropping zones have been marked, the player may drop the original ball or another ball without penalty in the nearest DZ. This is true even if it is nearer the hole

b. The dropping zone is a relief area under 14.3, where a ball must be dropped in or come to rest in the DZ itself

8. Movable Obstructions Definitions

Examples are but not limited to; free standing advertising hoardings and boards, drink dispensers, cameras, television microphones, free standing scoreboards

9. Embedded Ball – Model local rule F-2 is in effect

Note: exceptions apply, including the following additional exception: a player may not take relief if the ball is embedded in the face of a bunker that consists of stacked turf

10. Protection of young trees or regeneration areas

No play zones – model local rule E10] golf course regeneration areas in the general area may be identified by stakes, wire stays and/or cages

11. Turf plugs on Putting Green: on any putting green

Turf plugs of any size have the same status as old hole plugs and may be repaired

12. Model local rule E12 is in effect

When taking Back-On-the-Line relief, there is no additional penalty if a player plays a ball that was dropped in the relief area required by the relevant Rule (Rule 16.1c(2), 17.1d(2), 19.2b or 19.3b) but came to rest outside the relief area, so long as the ball, when played, is within one club-length of where it first touched the ground when dropped

13. Distance Measuring Devices /DMD's

DMD's are permitted in competition however, they may not be set to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect play such as elevation or slope. Penalty for improper use - DQ

14. Model local rule G-9 is in effect

If a players club is 'significantly damaged' during a round by the player or caddie, except in cases of abuse, the player may replace the club with any club under rule 4.1 c [1] however a cracked clubface does not constitute 'significantly damaged'

The following WINTER RULES may be in effect only when notified:

1. Lift, Clean and Place: applies on closely mown areas only, cut to fairway height or less, the ball must be marked before lifting. The ball may be cleaned and placed no nearer the hole within six inches of its original position

2. Aeration Holes: Relief without penalty is available for lie of the ball only. Through the green the ball must be placed - at the nearest point of relief, no nearer the hole.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULES: Stroke Play – Two Strokes (unless otherwise stated)

Players Regulations

Members of the TP Tour should conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner with the highest standards of fair play and courtesy at all times. Players' caddies and supporters must also act in the best interests of their players. Players should deal with officials, the media and journalists in a helpful and positive manner. Detrimental behavior involving players or caddies will be subject to disciplinary action. Players are also responsible for their caddies' actions. Furthermore, it is a condition of entry that any competitor on the TP Tour has the upmost discretion when dealing with staff and members at tournament venues. Players are encouraged for their own benefit to follow and post on the various social media channels. Any player found guilty of inappropriate behavior in any aspect of their activity in regard to the TP Tour will be subject to disciplinary action by the Tournament Committee

3. Code of Conduct

Any players, caddies or supporters displaying inappropriate behavior, using abusive or profane language, breaking or throwing clubs, causing damage to the course, or behaving in any way that in the opinion of the Tournament Director may damage the Tour's reputation will be subject to disciplinary action and/or suspension. Any player unfairly and outspokenly critical of a venue, the Tour, staff, its members, the course or venue officials will be subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary and Code of Conduct decisions are not subject to appeal and entry fees will not be refunded for disciplinary matters. At all events a team of officials are present, if there is a concern players should speak to an official on the course or with the Tournament Director.

4. Mobile Phones

Mobile telephone calls and chatter are prohibited inside the clubhouse bar or lounge, and during the round, except in emergencies or only to call for a ruling. Penalty for improper use - D/Q

5. Players Attire

As befitting a professional golfer and as per the host club requirements (e.g. metal spikes may be banned), no denim, sandals, trainers, t - shirts may not be worn. In hot weather shorts can be worn and are are acceptable but must be worn with a belt and of a smart appearance. In the bar or lounge environment of the clubhouse no golf waterproofs or hats of any kind. Penalty for improper attire – disciplinary decision and or / fine

6. Caddie Attire

Caddies are required to wear non spiked shoes or trainers only, caddies may be required to wear the tour or sponsors bib, and to dress in a smart fashion. A competitor cannot caddy for another player who has played in the same tournament

7. Damages and Insurance:

Players are responsible for any damages they or their caddies may cause. The Tour recommends players to carry specialist golfing insurance

8. Practice Rounds:

Practice at host clubs is by arrangement, players must contact well in advance the secretary or professional of the venue to arrange a practice round, or to walk the course. In any visit a player may not play more than one ball on the course – exception a second ball may be played from the fairway if a player misses the green with an approach. Allow members to play through immediately if you are holding up play for any reason. In some cases the club may not be able to arrange any access, especially at late notice or on weekends. Always acknowledge the members of host clubs and that you are visiting as a guest of the club

9. Overseas Players

Players have agreed when registering that they are responsible for their own withholding and income tax in the country where the tournament is being played (if applicable) and also in their own respective countries. Prize Money for foreign nationals will be paid by bank transfer or by cheque - if selecting bank trans players must provide accurate IBAN and SWIFT code information to the tournament office. Bank transfer fees incurred if applicable will be subtracted from prize money

10. Tour Committee

A tournament committee comprising Tour Administrator, Chief Referee and Tournament Director will be present at each event. The tournament committee reserves the right to amend the Tour Regulations where necessary

8. Order of Merit, Tour Championship & Bonus Prizes

An official OOM Order of Merit is operated each season
A bonus winning grand prize, invitations to the overseas end of season special event and other incentives are applicable by merit
If there is a tie on points earned, the winner of the OOM will be decided by prize money earned
To qualify for the grand prize, the player must have played a minimum of 6 Order of Merit events during the relevant season
The top 60 players on the OOM will automatically qualify for the Tour Championship

9. Television, radio, motion picture, photographic and similar rights

Participants acknowledge that all television, radio, print, motion picture, electronic media rights, statistical data and all similar rights in all events forming part of the TP Tour or any other event run in conjunction with, or under the auspices of the TP Tour, are assigned to the TP Tour and agree to assign any such rights to the TP Tour to the extent that any such rights may vest in themselves personally. Participants agree to refrain from any action, which interferes with the TP Tour's ownership rights hereunder. The TP Tour has sole authority to broadcast, display, publish or otherwise exhibit any proceedings at any tournament run by the TP Tour including any happenings, images or events relating thereto

TP Tour Committee 2020