



For the purpose of this document, the Southwest PGA shall be referred to as the "Section." The tournament program shall be a vehicle for promoting the highest standards of competition, sportsmanship, and public good will.

**ARTICLE I**  
**Proposing Rules and Regulations**

The Section's Tournament Committee ("Committee") in concert with the Director of Rules and Competitions ("Tournament Director") has the responsibility of proposing rules and regulations governing all Events in the Section's Tournament Program, including all Chapter Events, for approval and adoption by the Board of Directors (the "Board"). The Tournament Director is responsible for scheduling, administrating and staffing all Section Events. Upon approval and adoption, the Board shall publish the Rules & Regulations on the Section's website and at all Section and Chapter Events. The Section shall assign an individual to represent the Section at each Event, who shall have ultimate authority for interpretation and enforcement of the Rules and Regulations. The USGA Rules of Golf shall govern all play, except as modified by the notice to players. Local Rules and the Section's Rules of Play Card, which shall be made available at or near registration for every Event. Participants are responsible for knowledge of the Rules of Golf, as well as the published and available Local Rules, the Rules of Play Card, and these Rules and Regulations

**ARTICLE II**  
**Eligible Professionals**

**Section 1. Eligibility**

All Section Members and Associates who are in good standing and otherwise meet the requirements identified in the *PGA of America Constitution, By-Laws, and Regulations* shall be eligible to compete in Section Events, except to the extent participation is limited to certain classes, categories, or age groups of Members for specific Events as described herein.

**Section 2. Exceptions**

- a) Reserve, Class-F Members, Life Member Century Members, and Associates who are under suspension are ineligible to compete in any Section Events.
- b) *A-3 Members* of the Section (Professionals with exempt status on the any related tours for the PGA TOUR or LPGA Tour) are ineligible to participate in Section Major Championships and other Section tournaments as defined in Article IV. Exceptions: A-3 members are eligible to participate in the Arizona Open, Arizona Senior Open and Section Pro-Am Events.
- c) *Registered Associates* are eligible to play in all Section tournaments except for those listed here: Southwest Section PGA Professional Championship, Southwest Section Senior Professional Championship and Shriners Hospitals for Children Open Qualifier.
- d) Privileges for Members who become unemployed: (i) Class A members of the Section, in good standing, who become unemployed, shall be granted a playing privilege extension for the duration of the Member's active status; and (ii) Associates of the Section, in good standing, who become unemployed, shall be granted a sixty (60) day playing privilege extension, beginning on the first date of unemployment.

**ARTICLE III**  
**Eligible Facilities**

**Section 1. Eligibility**

Section events can only be conducted at a facility which employs an A-1, A-4, or A-13 Professional who meets the eligibility requirements of the Section.

**Section 2. Exceptions**

If an event is scheduled prior to the A-1, A-4, or A-13 Professionals departure, the Section has the option to continue with the event.



**Section 3. Responsibility of Host Professional**

- a) The host professional is responsible for organizing and ensuring that his facility is in a tournament condition acceptable to the Committee. All sanctioned tournament requests must be submitted to the Section's Tournament Director and contain information as to dates, purse, format, prize distribution, and other pertinent facts needed to evaluate the Event for approval by the Committee.
- b) The host professional will receive a "host facility check list" from the Section tournament staff at least one month prior to the scheduled Event. The host professional shall return the completed check list to the tournament staff within one week after it is received. This check list is designed to help the host identify any situations the tournament staff should be aware of, and also to allow tournament staff to schedule time for golf course marking and setup.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Major Tournament Championships**

**Section 1. Major Championship Events**

**1. SOUTHWEST SECTION PGA CHAMPIONSHIP / PGA PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING**

PGA of America eligibility required; open to Section Members. The Southwest PGA Championship and PGA Professional Championship Qualifier will be scheduled for 54-holes of stroke play with a cut after 36 holes. In the event of a tie for the championship, or for a qualifying or alternate spot, a sudden death, on-course playoff will be held.

**2. SOUTHWEST SECTION SENIOR PGA CHAMPIONSHIP / SENIOR PGA PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING**

Open to the following Members who have reached the age of fifty (50) on or before the first round of the Event: Class A Members, Life Members (Active, Retired, Master Active, and Master Retired), Master Professionals, and Retired Members. While Retired Members are eligible to play in the Southwest Section Senior Professional Championship for the purse, they are not able to qualify for the Senior PGA Professional Championship. The Southwest Section Senior PGA Professional Championship will be scheduled for 36-holes of stroke play with no cut. In the event of a tie for the championship, or for a qualifying or alternate spot, a sudden death, on-course playoff will be held.

**3. SOUTHWEST SECTION ASSISTANT PGA PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Open to Section A-8 members and B-8 Associates. The Southwest Section Assistant PGA Professional Championship will be scheduled for 36-holes of stroke play with no cut. In the event of a tie for the championship, or for a qualifying or alternate spot, a sudden death on-course playoff will be held.

**4. ARIZONA OPEN**

The Arizona Open will be a 54-hole stroke play event, with a cut after 36 holes. The field will consist of professionals and amateurs with USGA handicap indexes of 10.0 or lower, determined at time of registration for a qualifier or the championship proper. Amateurs will compete for the championship, for low amateur recognition, and for gift certificates. Amateur prizes will be redeemed from the host facility golf shop. In the event of ties for the championship, or for low amateur, a sudden death, on course playoff will determine the winner.

**5. PRO-PRO CHAMPIONSHIP**

Open to Section Members and Associates.

**6. SPRING MASTERS**

Open to Section Members and Associates.

**7. PRO ASSISTANT CHAMPIONSHIP**

Open to A-1, A-2, A-4, A-9, A-12, A-13, A-14 or A-15 Members and their employed assistants. The assistant must be an A-6 or A-8 Member or Associate (All B Classifications).

**8. ARIZONA SENIOR OPEN**

Open to professionals and amateurs with a USGA handicap index of 10.0 or less at time of registration and have reached the age of fifty (50) on or before the first round of the championship.



### 9. MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

The field is limited to 64 Section Members or Associates determined on a first come first served basis. Players will be seeded by the final Open, Senior, and Assistant Player of the Year points list from the previous year. All participants without such previous year POY points will be seeded randomly beginning with the categories that are not full. A participant who is eligible in multiple categories will receive the lowest possible seed.

### 10. BOB GOLDWATER CUP TEAM

The Bob Goldwater Cup is an annual team event held between the top 24 amateurs (12 Open and 12 Senior) in Arizona against the top 24 PGA Professionals (12 Open and 12 Senior) from golf clubs throughout the state in a Ryder Cup-style format to see who earned the title as the Goldwater Cup Champions. The top 10 finishers in the Section's Player of the Year points system (in both the Open and Senior Divisions) are invited to participate on the appropriate team. The Southwest Professional Champion, Senior Southwest Professional Champion, Player Series Champion, and Senior Series Champion will earn the 11th and 12th positions in the Open and Senior divisions if not already eligible. The remaining players to join each team are selected by the Tournament Director. Points accumulated from the start of the calendar year through the final Event prior to the Goldwater Matches will be used to determine the player invitations. The invitations to participate are limited to Arizona residents only, and members with A-3 classification are not eligible to participate.

### 11. SOUTHWEST SECTION PGA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Once all Section point events are concluded for a calendar year, the player earning the most points in each division of the Section's Player of the Year Points system (Open, Senior, and Assistant) will become Player of the Year for that division. If a tie exists for first place in any division, the tie will be broken by the individuals' respective finish positions in the Southwest Section Professional Championship (Open), the Southwest Section Senior Professional Championship (Senior), or the Southwest Section Assistant Professional Championship (Assistant). Only PGA Members of the Section can earn Player of the Year points in the Open and Senior divisions. Eligibly employed A-8 members and registered associates can earn Assistant Player of the Year points. All points allocated to an Event will be identified and published prior to the first round of the event. The Committee will periodically review Event point allocations. Members with A-3 classification are not eligible.

## Section 2. Entry Requirements

- a) All Major Championship entries must be submitted online.
- b) All entries are subject to approval by the Section's Executive Director, the Tournament Director, and/or the Committee. Players must be eligible at the time of entry deadline and at the date of the Event.
- c) The Section reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to deny entry (professional or amateur) at any time for any tournament for conduct unbecoming, which includes, but is not limited to, one or more Tournament Violations listed in the Rules of Conduct below.

## Section 3. Entry Fees/ Refunds

- a) Entry fees will be determined by the Tournament Director and approved by the Committee.
- b) A processing fee of \$8.00 will be added to all Section tournaments and events, to cover the Section's direct expenses related to the processing of credit card payments and BlueGolf transaction fees
- c) All events will have a hard deadline entry date. No entries will be accepted after the deadline, except at the sole discretion of the Committee. The website will feature colors (Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red) to indicate when registration will open and close.
- d) Full payment is required at time of entry.
- e) A contestant may withdraw from an event prior to closing date and receive a full refund less a processing fee of \$10.00. For a player withdrawing after the closing date, an official refund request form (available on the Section website) must be submitted to the Section office to the attention of the Tournament Director; refund requests will be reviewed by the Committee on a monthly basis.



**ARTICLE V  
Pro-Am & Pro-Pro Events**

**Section 1. Events**

- a) Section Pro-Am Series.
- b) Section Pro-Pro 1 (April), Section Pro-Pro 2 (May), Section Pro-Pro 3 (June), Pro-Pro Championship (Two-Day in August), Semi-Annual and Annual Meeting Pro-Pro

**Section 2. Entry Requirements**

- a) All Pro-Am and Pro-Pro entries must be submitted online.
- b) Entry fees for all participants will be determined by the Tournament Director and approved by the Committee.
- c) For team events, professionals are responsible for registration of the team and for online payment of the team's entire entry fee.
- d) Registration for Section PGA Pro-Am events will be available on the Section website or using BlueGolf.
- e) Professionals are responsible for the conduct of their team and the completion of the scorecard at the end of the round.
- f) All amateurs must fit the criteria for amateur status set by the USGA.
- g) If an amateur doesn't have a USGA handicap, the PGA professional will be allowed to set a handicap for that player; however, if the information available to the professional indicates a potential handicap range for that player, he should err towards the lower end in fairness to the rest of the field; and, professionals shall be held individually responsible for the handicaps of their amateur partner(s)
- h) The Professional hosting a Pro-Am or Pro-Pro has the privilege of inviting another PGA member or Associate in good standing from another Section. Members and Associates from other Sections may only play in three such events each year.

**Section 3. Format**

- a) In Pro-Am events a format of one best ball gross combined with one best ball net with 75% handicap allowance will be used with a maximum allowable course handicap of 18.
- b) Amateurs will have a maximum score per hole of net double bogey in the Pro-Am Series.
- c) In the Pro-Am Series the Model Local Rule I-1 will be in effect, permitting practice on the course after or between rounds.
- d) If a professional no shows for a Pro-Am event which he is entered, he will be subject to the Rules of Conduct Policy Article VI.
- e) In the event an amateur team is left without a professional, a professional from the field will be blind drawn for their team.
- f) Approximately thirty-three percent of the field will receive prizes based on the Section approved payoff chart. In the event of ties for last place and the total amount for that place is less than \$10.00, those monies will remain in the Tournament Account.
- g) Pro-Pro events may have differing formats based on the Event and the advice of the Tournament Director and the Committee.



**ARTICLE VI**  
**Rules of Conduct**

**Section 1. Policy**

Section Members, Associates, and non-Section players should all times conduct themselves in a manner befitting the high standards of the Section. Members and Associates should influence all amateur partners to abide by the same standards. By registering to play in a Section event, all players agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Section, the Rules of Golf, and these Section Rules of Conduct.

Comments or complaints concerning the tournament program shall be made in writing to the Committee.

**Section 2. Violations**

All players shall be deemed to have violated the Rules of Conduct by:

**Conduct Unbecoming a Professional**

Any Participant who the Committee deems to be guilty of conduct unbecoming a professional while participating in a Section tournament or in activities related thereto (e.g., practice rounds, hospitality events, etc.) shall, at the Committee judgment and discretion, be subject to fine, suspension, and/or permanent expulsion from Section tournament play as provided in these Rules of Conduct. Conduct Unbecoming of a Professional includes but is not limited to the following actions:

**Section 2.1 Minor Penalties**

- a) Displaying disrespect for the Tournament Committee or the staff(s) of the PGA or Section.
- b) Disrespecting the traditional etiquette of golf.
- c) Using loud, profane, and/ or abusive language on the course or in public areas.
- d) Making public complaints or criticisms involving the PGA or Section staff, sponsors, host clubs, golf courses, or the tournament format.
- e) Throwing or breaking a club in a manner of disgust, or damaging Section or host facility equipment or property.
- f) Excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages or any use of illegal substances while participating in and/or attending an event.
- g) No showing for an event without good cause and without providing notice as far in advance as reasonably possible.
- h) Withdrawing prior to the completion of a tournament round without good cause (e.g., injury or illness).
  - A competitor deciding to withdraw from a tournament once play has begun shall not leave a group until a Section Official is notified of the need to withdraw and has ample opportunity to provide the remaining player(s) with a marker. If no marker is needed, the player withdrawing must still notify a Section Official prior to leaving the tournament site.
- i) Public urination.
- j) Failing to register on-site at Section Major Championships.
- k) Failing to participate in live scoring at Section Major Championships.
- l) Dressing in a manner which is not in keeping with the traditions of the game.
  - a. Examples of dress attire not allowed: Sleeveless apparel, jeans, collarless shirts or other distasteful apparel.
  - b. Male participants must wear slacks in the following events: Southwest PGA Professional Championship, Senior PGA Professional Championship, Assistant PGA Professional Championship, and any Tour Qualifying events.
  - c. When a "Must Wear Slacks" policy is in force, this may include any practice rounds where advance notice of such requirement is provided to the players.

Note: Male Professionals are allowed to wear appropriate dress shorts at all other Section events. Players are asked to respect the facility they're at and adhere to the facility's dress policy when on site. Examples include but are not limited to removing their hat when entering the golf shop or dining in the restaurant, conforming to proper attire when on property, and behaving in a professional manner.



**Penalty for Minor Penalty**

**First Offense:**

A fine of \$50

**Second Offense:**

A fine of \$100 and a suspension from play for one (1) Section Major Championship

**Third Offense:**

A fine of \$200 and a suspension from play for two (2) Section Major Championships

**Fourth Offense:**

Such discipline and penalties as the Committee and/or the Board deem appropriate.

**Section 2.2 Major Penalties**

- a) Serious infraction of any 'a' through 'l' infraction, and/or multiple infractions that in combination are deemed to be "serious" by the Committee.
- b) Knowingly signing for an incorrect score either as the player or the maker or otherwise cheating in a golf tournament.
- c) Knowingly verifying an incorrect handicap for an amateur.

**Penalty (for violations 'a' through 'c'):**

**First Offense:** A minimum \$250 fine and minimum playing suspension of one (1) year.

**Second Offense:** A lifetime suspension of playing privileges.

**Note:** Any participant deemed to have cheated will forfeit any earnings from the event in which the cheating occurred. This will be separate from any disciplinary action/penalty authorized herein and imposed on the player.

The Tournament Director of the Section, when performing duties related to tournaments, subject to review by the Committee where appropriate, will have the authority to enforce these Rules and Regulations and these Rules of Conduct.

**Section 3. Disciplinary Action**

Players who violate the Section's Tournament Rules of Conduct, as defined in this document, shall be subject to disciplinary action as identified above, and / or as determined by action of two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Committee members present at the scheduled meeting. The Tournament Director, and or the Executive Director of the Section, must inform the Committee Chair of all violations, and will have the authority to act as deemed necessary in accordance with these violations.

Any Member or Associate accused of Violating the Tournament Rules of Conduct (a "Respondent") shall have the right to appear at all hearings and/or calls, present evidence, and have witnesses appear on his / her behalf. Procedures for Tournament Rules of Conduct Violations are as follows:

- a) Respondents accused of Violations shall be provided written or electronic notification of the charges and the time and place of any hearing(s), which shall be held at special or regularly scheduled Committee meetings.
- b) The Respondent may request and have up to thirty (30) days to respond to the alleged Violation(s) before any hearing is held.
- c) All decisions shall be provided to the Respondent electronically or in writing.
- d) A Respondent accused of violation(s) 'a' through 'o', if offered by the Executive Director, Tournament Director, or Committee, may sign an Admission of Violation(s), accept the discipline proposed, and waive the right to a hearing.
- e) Suspensions and Violations may carry over to the following year.
- f) Depending on the severity of any Violation or conduct unbecoming a PGA professional, the Executive Director, Tournament Director, and/or the Committee may recommend that a Violation be brought to the attention of the Board for assessment, for increase or decrease of any discipline or penalties, and/or for ratification of any discipline or penalties.



**Section 4. Appeals of Disciplinary Action**

- a) Minor Penalties as defined in Article VI Section 2.1. Appeals from Minor Penalties shall be submitted in writing to the Committee no later than thirty (30) days after delivery of notice of the Violation. The Committee Chair shall notify the Respondent in writing of the Committee's decision on appeal within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the appeal and submit a final report to the Section's Executive Director. Such decision shall be final.
- b) Major Penalties as defined in Article VI Section 2.2. Within thirty (30) days from the date of notification of a Major Penalty, the Respondent may submit a written appeal to the Section's Board. Failure to file such an appeal shall be deemed as a waiver of all rights to pursue any further appeal and an acceptance of the discipline and penalties imposed.

Following the receipt of a written appeal of a Major Penalty and of the Board's decision on the appeal, the Section's Board will submit a report of the matter to the PGA Board of Control, at which point the PGA's rules and procedures for hearing and decision of such matters, and for potential additional or substitute discipline and penalties, will take effect. An appeal to the Board shall operate to stay the effective date of any discipline or penalty, until after final decisions are issued by the Board and then by the Board of Control; provided, however, that an appeal shall not stay a suspension from a Southwest Section PGA tournament then in progress or scheduled for the calendar week in which the alleged violation occurred.

Note: All fines for Major Penalties must be paid within thirty (30) days from the imposition of the fine, or in the event of an appeal, within (30) days from the decision rendered by the Board of Control in the event the Board of Control upholds the findings and decision of the Committee.