

## **PART 6A**

### **TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES**

#### **1. Association Tournaments**

- 1.1 The Association is responsible for the negotiation, implementation and administration of National tournaments as set out in the Constitution, and whilst the Executive Committee shall ultimately approve these Tournaments, the terms are binding on all regions. The right to accept or reject entries for National tournaments shall rest solely with the Executive Committee.
- 1.2 Regional managers are responsible for organising and obtaining sponsorship for all regional tournaments open to all Members in the region or a certain class of Member  
  
e.g. Assistants' tournaments.
- 1.3 The Regional Committee will determine the relevant levels of prize fund to be played for in a regional tournament.
- 1.4 The Chief Executive or their appointed deputy shall be responsible for organising and obtaining sponsorship for all Women's Section (WPGA) tournaments open to all female Members of the Association and Assistants who are female.
- 1.5 The committee of the Women's Section (WPGA) will determine relevant levels of prize fund to be played for at a WPGA-approved tournament.

#### **2. County PGA and Irish Branch PGA Tournaments**

- 2.1 All County and Branch Associations will comply with all Tournament Regulations set out in this Part 6 of these Regulations.
- 2.2 Each County and Branch Committee is responsible for the implementation of a tournament schedule which supplements and does not conflict with (regulation 2.5) the overall schedule of tournaments administered by the national and regional administration of the Association.
- 2.3 Each County and Branch Committee will determine its own rules for eligibility for such tournaments run under its jurisdiction allowing for the provision that all Members of the relevant County or Branch Association will be able to enter tournaments subject to the format of the tournament making such entry permissible.
- 2.4 Each County or Branch Committee may, at their discretion, invite Members who are not Members of that County or Branch to play in Pro-Am tournaments run within that County or Branch provided that the total number of Professionals in this category does not exceed 10% of the field. This 10% may include Members of a recognised overseas PGA, players holding the following Tour categories and Full Members of the below Professional Tours:  
  
DP World Tour (Cat 1 – 23 and PC category)  
European Challenge Tour (Cat 1 – 20 and A2 category)  
Legends Tour (Cat 1 – 9)  
Ladies European Tour (Cat 1 – 20)

Ladies European Tour Access Series (Cat 1 – 13b)

PGA Tour (Cat 1 – 39)

Korn Ferry Tour (Cat 1 – 37)

Champions Tour

LPGA Tour (Cat 1 – 19)

Epson Tour (Cat A – N)

County and Branch PGA tournaments will not be permitted on any day when there is a National or regional tournament being played within that County or Branch, unless prior permission has been obtained from the National Tournament Department or relevant Regional Manager depending on who is administering the tournament.

- 2.5 Where County or Branch PGA events are authorised and scheduled against a regional event in another County, a player in the Top 50 of the Regional Order of Merit must obtain a written release from the Regional Manager in order to compete in that County or Branch tournament.
- 2.6 County or Branch PGA tournaments will not be permitted on any day when there is a Regional Order of Merit, or Assistant's Order of Merit tournament, except in exceptional circumstances when prior permission must have been obtained in advance of the relevant County tournament from the relevant Regional Manager.
- 2.7 County and Branch Associations shall be responsible for the organisation and administration of tournaments staged within their boundaries for the Members of that County or Branch Association. However, it is important that these Associations advise the regional administration of their tournament calendar at the earliest practicable opportunity so as to:
  - (a) ensure the date is approved and is included in the regional calendar; and
  - (b) minimise the possibilities of organising a conflicting tournament.

### **3. Conflicting Tournaments Release**

- 3.1 For the purposes of this paragraph a Member is eligible to enter any tournament organised or approved by the Association (an "Association-Approved Tournament") if:
  - (a) he finishes at the appropriate level to qualify from the Association Regional Order of Merit as determined by the region; or
  - (b) he is invited or nominated to enter.
- 3.2 In order to protect the sponsorship obtained by the Association, by providing the highest quality representative field possible at Association-Approved Tournaments, a Member must not play in a tournament which conflicts with any Association-Approved Tournament in which he is eligible to enter, and in relation to Association-Approved Tournaments a Member must play in the highest-ranking tournament in which he is automatically entitled to enter or is entered, unless he obtains a release from the National Tournament Department or Regional Manager (as appropriate) responsible for administering the tournament. A written release will be given in the following (non-exhaustive) circumstances:

- (a) In the event that a Member has entered an Association-Approved Tournament and subsequently withdraws to enter a higher-ranking tournament, the Member must inform the organiser of the Association-Approved Tournament (i.e. at national, regional or County level) which will give that Member a release from playing in their tournament.

Note: When withdrawing to enter a higher-ranking tournament, there must be a direct clash with the official practice round, pre/post tournament Pro-Am or actual tournament round(s). A travel day may also be permitted where there is 150 miles of travel to the host venue.

For the purpose of paragraph 3.2 "a higher-ranking tournament" is defined relative to a committee under whose auspices the relevant tournament is administered (and "highest- ranking tournament" shall be interpreted accordingly) as defined below:

The following tournaments are considered to be higher-ranking compared to National Tournaments that are administered by the Executive Committee.

- (a) Tournaments sanctioned by Members of the International Federation of PGA Tours.
- (b) All tournaments carrying OWGR pointage.
- (c) Any other tournament considered to be of appropriate status.

The following tournaments are considered to be higher-ranking compared to Regional Tournaments that are administered by the Regional Committee.

- (a) Tournaments sanctioned by Members of the International Federation of PGA Tours.
- (b) All tournaments carrying OWGR pointage.
- (c) PGA National Tournaments.

The following tournaments are considered to be higher-ranking compared to County Tournaments that are administered by the County Committee.

- (a) Tournaments sanctioned by Members of the International Federation of PGA Tours.
- (b) All tournaments carrying OWGR pointage.
- (c) PGA National Tournaments.
- (d) PGA Regional Tournaments.

For the purpose of paragraph 3.2, a "tournament" means any golf tournament where more than four Members or professional golfers participate for Prize Money, and "Prize Money" means sums paid either in fixed appearance fees or for competition on the day.

The Association will endeavour to make available its top-quality players in each region to compete in its tournaments. Each region will publish an annual tournament calendar, which will include a statement of those Members who are eligible to enter tournaments, by reference to their place in the Regional Order of Merit (and it may also make special invitations or nominations). Those Members eligible to play in a particular tournament must not play in a tournament not approved by the Association which conflicts with the Association tournament. Such a Member may obtain a release from either the National Tournament Department or the Regional Manager (depending on whether it is a National

or regional tournament) if he wishes to enter a "higher-ranking tournament" which is described in the Rule. If a Member fails to comply with this paragraph 3.2 the Association shall impose on the Member a fixed penalty of £250.

#### **4. Eligibility to Play in Regional Tournaments**

4.1 Regional tournaments are open only to Members of the region under whose auspices the tournament is administered.

Regional Committees, may, at their discretion, invite Members of the Association who are not Members of that region to play in Pro-Am tournaments run within that region provided that the total number of professionals in this category does not exceed 10% of the professional field. This 10% may include Members of a recognised overseas PGA, players holding the following Tour categories and Full Members of the below Professional Tours:

DP World Tour (Cat 1 – 23 and PC category)

European Challenge Tour (Cat 1 – 20 and A2 category)

Legends Tour (Cat 1 – 9)

Ladies European Tour (Cat 1 – 20)

Ladies European Tour Access Series (Cat 1 – 13b)

PGA Tour (Cat 1 – 39)

Korn Ferry Tour (Cat 1 – 37)

Champions Tour

LPGA Tour (Cat 1 – 19)

Epson Tour (Cat A – N)

4.2 The above paragraphs do not apply to open tournaments approved by the Executive Committee or tournaments that are administered in conjunction with The DP World Tour and Challenge Tour, Legends Tour or Ladies European Tour.

#### **5. Levy**

5.1 A levy may be imposed on the prize money or fees in all PGA tournaments. The levy shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

#### **6. Film and Media Rights**

6.1 The television, radio, film and all other electronic media rights of all Members participating in tournaments approved by the Association, or any other golf tournament run in conjunction with or under the auspices of the Association, shall be assigned to the Association.