



Tour Rules and Regulations 2022

1. Eligibility

TP TOUR events are open to players from the U.K and overseas. Evidence of playing ability may be required for those who've not previously competed in a TP TOUR event. As a development TOUR, we reserve the right to refuse entry to any applicant.

2. Membership

Apply online www.tptourseries.com via blue golf www.tptour.bluegolf.com

or by contacting the tour office entries@tptourseries.com

An annual fee is payable to join the TP TOUR. Membership of the TOUR is valid to the end of the season regardless of date of membership application. Most events will have a first come first served policy. However, for others the Categories listed below will gain priority on entry if an event is over-subscribed. Once a member has been approved the name will be published on the season's TOUR members list. Membership fees are non-refundable. Non-members can apply paying a temporary membership fee each event. The categories below are applied if an event is over subscribed, depending on the allocation.

1. TPT Winners
2. Sponsor invites
3. TOUR Members
5. Non-members

3. 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, the entry fee will be chargeable, unless mitigating circumstances apply, for example an invitation to play in a Challenge Tour event or another world ranking event. A medical certification of an injury that would render the player incapable of competing, or an illness verified by a medical certificate. If a non-member withdraws for any reason the entry fee is chargeable. If any player no shows for an event without notice, a fine will be charged in addition to the full entry fee. If a player has to withdraw for any reason prior to the start of an event, a withdrawal fee is applicable. Withdrawal fees are not subject to appeal.

- Tournament entry fees are published on Blue Golf. A player is only registered when their entry fee has been processed fully and they have received notification via blue golf for the relevant event, entries are payable electronically.
- Late entries may be subject to a £25.00 admin fee
- * A transaction service fee of 2.95 is applied for online entries
- * Team events and Qualifiers will feature on the schedule on a first come first served policy
- * Other invitations are offered to members of the TP TOUR
- * Pro Am events – professionals invited to participate in pro-ams will be contacted directly by the TOUR office

4. Amateur Entries and Female Competitors

Amateur entrants with a handicap of 3 or better can apply, evidence of an official handicap is required. Amateurs finishing in the top 6 prizes of any TP TOUR event are able to win a money prize up to a limit of £700 GBP in line with the R&A rules on amateur status. Amateurs who intend to turn professional to compete in a TP event as a professional golfer, are advised to submit confirmation of their intention to turn professional to their county union office or national golfing amateur union and may be required to provide evidence.

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

5. Field Size

Final field sizes are based on the allocation at each event, this may be limited to a pre-determined number.

6. Prize Fund

Prize Money is awarded to players who finish in the TOP 6 and TIES of the field of any regular OOM tournament. Prize funds are based on the final field and any additional sponsorship. Prize money is calculated by the TOUR committee at each event and published on blue golf, prize money is paid by direct bank transfer to TP TOUR members within 48 hours of each event. Non-members of the TOUR may be paid within 72 hours.

The Official Order of Merit [OOM] is based on points earned in any TP TOUR official event or co-sanctioned event. If a points tie occurs, prize money earned will determine the overall winner and grand prize if applicable.

7. Format and Starting

Tournaments will be conducted by scratch contests of 18 or 36 holes of stroke play, unless otherwise stated on the event notice to players. 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. A competitor must be present on the tee box of their designated starting hole at least five minutes before their scheduled tee time. If the player arrives at his starting hole ready to play, within five minutes after his starting time, 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. Conditions of Competition and Local Rules

Section A Conditions of Competition

The TP TOUR 'Official Hard Card' Local Rules and COC will be supplied to all competitors. Additional local rules pertaining to each individual tournament will be supplied where applicable by officials, on the tee or at registration at each venue.

Tournaments will be played under the 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 Rules of Golf.

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

1. List of Conforming Driver Heads (model local rule G-1 is in effect] Any driver 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 the player must use a ball on the conforming golf balls list issued by the R&A. The 'One Ball' condition local rule G-4 is in effect with the following exception – does not apply in Pro-am events
4. Pace of Play - Rule 5.6b. 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' 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 whose group is timed 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

Notes:

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 one prolonged note of the horn and seek shelter, balls should be marked. Play may 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. Practice is NOT 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 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 when a player has completely left the recording area

11. Result of the Competition – a competition is deemed finalised and closed when the result is posted on the noticeboard and when the competition winner 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 boundary of the course

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 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

(1) All areas bounded by white lines including spectator crossing points where marked

(2) Seams of cut turf: Model Local rule F-7 is in effect.

(3) French drains (stone filled drainage ditches)

(4) For holes 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, but there is no relief for interference to the stance.

b] Immovable Obstructions

1. White lined areas adjoining any areas defined as immovable obstructions are to be regarded as part of the obstruction 2. Decorative landscaped areas (flower beds / shrubberies) surrounded by an obstruction are part of that obstruction 3. Mats that are secured and all ramps that are covering cables are immovable obstructions 4. Roads or paths surfaced with woodchip or mulch – individual pieces of this material are loose impediments 5. Non-permanent bridges erected for players or spectators are immovable obstructions

c] Temporary Water

If a player's ball 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

Any Squeegee activity should be done across the line of play, must extend a reasonable distance beyond the hole (1 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; 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 (stroke is cancelled and must be replayed without penalty)

7. Temporary immoveable obstructions (TIO)

Model local rules F22 and F23 are in effect

A. Dropping zone policy: In the general area when a player's 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

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, 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] 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 are permitted – 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 player's 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'

Additional rules and safety - 'Covid19 rules '

Rules and regulations pertaining to health and safety including Covid 19 rules and best practice with various government advice, will be directly relayed to players and enforced on site.

The following 'Winter Rules' may be in effect 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 Players competing on the TP TOUR should conduct themselves with the highest standards of fair play and courtesy at all times. Caddies and supporters should 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 host clubs and staff at tournament venues. 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

1. Code of Conduct

Any players, caddies or supporters displaying inappropriate behavior, or behaviour that in the opinion of the Tournament Director may inflict reputational or other damage will be subject to disciplinary action and/or suspension. Disciplinary and Code of Conduct decisions are not subject to appeal and entry fees will not be refunded for disciplinary matters. A team of officials are present at each tournament, if there is a concern a player should speak to an official at the tournament site or with the TD.

2. 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

3. 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 may be worn with a belt and should be of a smart appearance. In the bar or lounge environment of the clubhouse no golf waterproofs or hats may be worn. Penalty for improper attire – disciplinary decision /fine

4. Caddies

Caddies are required to wear non-spiked shoes or trainers only, caddies may be required to wear the TOUR or sponsors bib and wear appropriate attire. A competitor who has played in an event cannot caddy for another player in the same tournament or a play off

5. Damages and Insurance:

Players are responsible for any damages they or their caddies may cause. We recommend players to obtain specialist golfing insurance.

6. Practice Rounds:

Practice at host venues is by arrangement by the player, unless an official practice day has been designated, polite contact must be made in advance by phone or email to the secretary or pro at the venue. This includes arrangement to play a practice round, or walk the course. In any visit a player may not play more than one ball on the course. 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 access, especially at late notice or on weekends.

7. Overseas Players

Players have agreed when applying to play on the TOUR that they are responsible for their own withholding and income tax in the country where the tournament is being played. Prize Money for foreign nationals may be paid by bank transfer or by cheque - if selecting bank transfer 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.

8. 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

9. Order of Merit, TOUR Championship & Bonus Prizes

An official OOM Order of Merit points table is operated each season – a bonus winning grand prize, various invitations to overseas events and other incentives will be determined. To qualify for order of merit bonus prizes, a player must have played a minimum of 5 OOM events during the relevant season.

10. 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 TP TOUR and agree to assign any such rights to TP TOUR to the extent that any such rights may vest in themselves personally. Participants agree to refrain from any action, which interferes with 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

TP TOUR Committee

2022