



([www.amateurgolftour.net](http://www.amateurgolftour.net))

## 2011 Membership Manual Chicago Tour

Maguire Golf, LLC  
(630) 886-3442  
[chicago@amateurgolftour.net](mailto:chicago@amateurgolftour.net)

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### **Tournament Policies**

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### **Distance Measuring Devices Grooves**

- receive discounts.
- Members will also receive a Tour Goody Bag (items change from season to season, but normally consists of a GWAT Hat, GWAT Logo Shirt, Rules of Golf book etc)
- Each member also receives a GWAT Handicap Index

## Tour Policies

### Membership Applications and Handicaps

The Golfweek Amateur Tour is open to all amateur golfers with a handicap index. If a player does not have a handicap, the Golfweek Amateur Tour (GWAT) will accept a player's membership with five complete, signed and score attested scorecards. These scores will be reviewed by the local tour director and a tour handicap will be assigned. Please provide complete and accurate membership applications. Each piece of data is not only required, but has proven useful to the GWAT in the past in attaining all sorts of extra benefits for members.

### Membership Fee

The Chicago Golfweek Amateur Tour annual membership fee for 2011 is \$95.00 per player. Potential members can join the tour by visiting the website and completing the [Join the Tour](#) form.

Memberships can be refunded within 5 days after the membership is purchased. Tour Goody Bags (see below) can not be returned once purchased, and will be deducted from the refunded membership fee.

### Member Benefits

- Membership in the GWAT allows all members to compete in any GWAT event in any city.
- Practice Round discounts are negotiated with our tournament courses the week before a tournament. Please be prepared to show your GWAT member card to

### Assumption of Risk and Release from Liability

By signing or electronically submitting a member application and entering and playing in a Golfweek Amateur Tour Event, the participant understands and agrees that there are certain dangers involved with the participation in a golf event, including but not limited to being struck by lightning, getting hit by a golf club, suffering from heat exhaustion, heart attack or injury from uneven terrain, all of which risks the participant assumes and solely accepts, and waives all claims of injury to body or property against Mac Golf, the Golfweek Amateur Tour and/or the local Tour Director. Further, the participant agrees that while on the premises of the Golfweek Amateur Tour ("Event"), as well as all other presenting sponsors, co-sponsors and representatives affiliated with the tournament, the participant, and any guest, relative or anyone else affiliated with the participant, shall be present at their own risk and that Mac Golf, the Golfweek Amateur Tour and/or the local Tour Director shall not be liable for any claims for injuries or damages whatsoever to person or property of the participant or related person arising out of or in connection with the participation in the Event or presence at the Event. Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Mac Golf, the Amateur Golf Tour and/or the local Tour Director from all claims by or liability to participant or affiliated person.

### Tour Format

All tournaments are gross stroke play with USGA rules in effect. The rules of golf as governed by the USGA will apply with the following exceptions:

- A player can card a triple bogey max on any hole. At any time

on any hole if a player exceeds triple bogey and the ball is not holed out, the player MUST pick up his/her ball, help the group finish the hole and will record a triple bogey as his/her score for the hole.

- The local rules of a host course supersede if in conflict.

**Tour Flights**

The player’s field will be divided into five handicapped flights.

Flight	Index
Championship	0 - 3.9
A Flight	4.0 - 8.9
B Flight	9.0 - 13.9
C Flight	14.0 – 18.9
D Flight	19.0+

**Tour Handicap Policy:**

The Tour Handicap Policy will introduce throwing out more scores and imputing any scores from the previous season. Using players last 11 tournament scores; the handicap will be derived from the best 7 scores or 66%. These seven scores will still use the differential formula from last season. Along with the new flight ranges this system will do more than ever to keep the integrity of each flight.

- **Rule #1 – Player moving into a higher flight**

If a player started in a flight and their current GWAT handicap puts them in the next flight above their current level by more than a ½ stroke (ie player started in B flight but now possesses an GWAT handicap of 8.4 or better) the player will automatically be moved into the new flight. The player will be moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the point standings in new flight to give ample opportunity for the new player to win his flight while maintaining the integrity of the current flight point’s leader.

- **Rule #2 – Player moving into a lower flight**

If a player started in a flight and their current handicap puts them in a lower level by more than **2 full strokes** and have played a minimum of 3 events they are eligible to move down to a lower flight to better accommodate their skill level. If a player wishes to move down a flight a request must be made before the July 10<sup>th</sup>. The player will retain all points earned unless the total earned points places the member above third place in the standings in the new flight. Points will be adjusted at that time to reflect a 3<sup>rd</sup> place standing.

- **Rule #3 – Flight Freeze**

All flights will be frozen and final on July 10<sup>th</sup>. At this time, players will not be able to move to a lower flight. This is to protect the field at the Tour Finals at Hilton Head. If a situation arises after July 10<sup>th</sup> through the end of the season where a player is outplaying his/her flight, as outlined in rule #1 above, a move to a new flight will be made.

- **Scoring out of flight:**

In order to maintain the integrity of each flight, the tour director retains the right to promote a player into a higher flight should a final score be submitted that does not fall within acceptable scoring ranges for the flight. This promotion will be referred to as a “battlefield” promotion and will take place immediately at a tournament site.

**Dress Code and Player Conduct**

- The GWAT will strictly enforce a tournament dress code with no exceptions. Collared shirts and soft spikes are required. (Short Sleeve Mocks are considered Collared Shirts). No jeans, denims, jogging outfits, or sweat pants are permitted. Shorts may be worn.
- The GWAT will not tolerate swearing, vulgar language, club throwing, alcohol abuse, lack of golfing etiquette, or other

such behavior. Such conduct may result in tournament disqualification and suspension or expulsion from the Tour.

### **Caddies & Spectators**

- Caddies are not permitted on tour unless tournament course provides them in lieu of carts
- Spectators are welcomed to come and watch tournaments, however each course has different guidelines for spectators. It is not guaranteed the course will allow spectators and it's the responsibility of those who wish to follow the action to check with the tour director before the tournament to receive course instructions and rules.

### **Pace of Play**

Our goal is to play our round of golf in 4:15, and that means we need to play Ready Golf. Ready Golf is simply defined as HIT WHEN READY. If you reach your ball and are ready to hit, while other members of your group are not yet prepared, then go ahead and hit. Keep in mind that while there are no penalties under the Rules of Golf for violating order of play.

### **Additional Rules/Guidelines**

- Players can card a triple bogey on only one hole. After that the player must pick up for the hole. There is no limit to the number of triple bogies that can be carded in a round.
- Rangers will act as Tour officials and will warn slow groups and then report to the director. Times of each group will be noted after the first nine holes. If a 15-minute gap exists, the group is out of position and warned only one time.
- The penalty for slow play is 2 strokes for the entire group
- Repeat offenders being asked to leave the Tour for the sake of all other players.
- Players must always hit a provisional ball when a ball goes into an area where it may be lost or out-of-bounds. If you are unsure of the outcome of your ball and think it "may be" out,

play a provisional ball.

### **Guest Policy**

Each member is allowed to invite (and be paired with) a single guest. This privilege is extended to all members and may be exercised once per season. We hope that you will choose to invite a potential new member, but if you have a visitor in town for the weekend and want to play golf in a Tour event, you may invite this guest providing you:

1. Pay the regular event entry fee for this person plus \$10.
2. Identify this person on a GWAT membership application as your guest.

Your guest will be paired with you for the day and may be included in the proper handicapped flight for prizes even if you are playing in a different flight. Please note that if your guest wishes to participate in tournament prizes, then said guest will be required to produce a current (or verifiable) handicap index at time of registration. Guest players will not be able to accumulate points and the standings for the tournament will be adjusted as if the guest was not part of the field. A guest will have the option to join the tour and receive Chicago Cup points, but must do so before the next event. Note this is not meant to be the player's next event, but rather the next event on the tour schedule

A member can bring guests for 2 tournaments in a season.

It is even more crucial that you meet our timetables for advance event registration when you have a guest. Appearing at a tournament with a guest not only makes the GWAT look less than organized, but may also result in our not being able to get your guest on the course.

### **Weather Guidelines**

Simply put, if the course allows us on the course, we play. Bad weather is not of itself good reason for discontinuing play. However, per Rule 6.8.a (II), a player may discontinue play if he/she believes there is danger from lightning.

Any delays or cancelling a tournament will be determined by the golf course and their staff. If a course becomes unplayable during a tournament, the tournament may be declared official if at least 9 holes have been played.

If a tournament is cancelled a makeup date will be announced as soon as one is determined.

Refunds will not be issued, but rather applied to the scheduled makeup date or the next available tournament. The choice will be up to the player, however it must be conveyed to the tour director in written fashion (email will suffice).

### **Tournament Prizes**

For each tournament, a portion of the player's tournament fee will be placed towards the flight player pool. The value of the portion differs for each tournament and is determined on the number of participants in each flight. Prize pools may vary on the day of the tournament from announced prizes due to late entries and withdrawals. The GWAT adheres to the USGA Rules of Amateur Status in such that no single prize shall exceed \$750.00. Cash prizes will not be given, and all prizes will be in the form of Visa Gift Cards

### **Tournament Trophies**

The winner from each flight will receive a crystal trophy or plaque.

## **Tournament Policies**

### **Tournament Registrations and Tee Times**

Only GWAT members may participate in GWAT tournaments and events (with the exception that members can bring guests, see policy above).

All tournament registrations must be done online through the website. Each tournament registration ends one week prior to the event. This is done at the request of the golf course. Often times we need to pay for tee times a week in advance, therefore it is important to get entry fees into the system ASAP. Most of the courses accept one week as an acceptable window for the Tour Director to guarantee tee times.

We welcome your registration for all events as soon as possible. Many members register for all of the events that they plan to play in for the season on their membership application. When we receive multiple event registrations, you are marked to play in those events whether you have paid or not. If you notify us within the appropriate time frame that you can't make one of the events, you will not be charged for the event or your money will be applied to your next event.

Tee times will be e-mailed or posted on the GWAT web page at least three days prior to the event. If you do not receive your tee time information, please call the Tour Director. The course will also have the pairing sheet, but calling the tour director is the best and quickest solution.

### **Tournament Cancellations and No Shows**

All withdrawals from a tournament must be done at least 4 days before the tournament date OR before tee times are posted, whichever is later. If tee times are posted early then a player must withdraw at least 4 days in advance of the tournament date. If a player withdraws from a tournament, his/her tournament fee will be held on account and be applied to the next tournament

he/she registers for. In the case that a player does not play in another tournament, a refund will be issued at the end of the season.

Refunds are only available if the golf courses do not charge the tour for your missing the event. Most courses will charge the tour based upon the headcount given in advance. The Tour Director will do all he can to try and issue a refund, but be aware, most of the time this is out of his power.

In the event that a player does not show for a tournament or event, no refund will be given, and the players ability to play in future events may be revoked.

### **Tournament Check In**

Please sign in by either locating the Tour Director or the sign-in table. We kindly ask that you check in at least 20 minutes before your assigned tee time. Failure to do so may result in a 2 stroke penalty. Your timely appearance to the event will be recorded.

The GWAT Director will provide the official score card and offer entrance to the skins pool.

Locate your cart with your name on the cart card. Check the official score card to verify that your flight is correct. Since flights are assigned via handicaps, it is important that we have your handicap on file correctly.

Proceed to the driving range or what ever your normal routine is. The Tour Director will call on deck the tee times as well as the players who should be on the tee. Be at the first tee ten minutes before your assigned time.

### **Tournament Tee Boxes**

All flights will be from a set of tees customized at each tournament. The following guidelines will be used for

determining length:

- Championship Flight – 6700 yards and up
- “A” Flight will play at 6500-6800 yards.
- “B” flight will play at 6400-6600 yards.
- “C” flight will play at 6200-6500 yards
- “D” Flight will play 6000-6300 yards.
- Women - will play the next tee box in front of assigned group.

### **On the First Tee**

The Director or the course starter will provide local course rules.

Each player must identify his ball with a distinctive marking and show it to his playing partners.

Players must count the number of clubs in their bag (14 max).

Check score cards for first tee honor, the captain of the group will be the first name on the scorecard. Please hit in the order of the names on the card.

On the course, enjoy your round and please stay in position. Slow play penalties as indicated in the GWAT rules will be assessed.

### **At the Turn**

At the turn, please have your card ready for the Director to quickly review. The Director will take your front nine score and will be checking for birdies, eagles etc. for the skins pool. Front nine scores will be posted to let other players know where they stand.

**Important to note:** Do not take a break at the turn, instead continue to keep pace with the group in front of you. If we are behind on pace, the tour director may not take scores and rather send your group off the next tee. Please be aware and prepared

to make the turn as quick as possible

### **Scoring & Scorecards**

For all events, there will be two (2) scorecards per foursome, one (1) per cart. At the beginning of the round, BEFORE players tee off, please check the scorecard to verify all the player information is correct. In the event that a piece of information is incorrect, please note it on the scorecard and adjustments can be made at the turn or at the end of the round as to not slow down play and also assuming that the information is not material to the tournament scorecard (ie an incorrect handicap or wrong set of tees is not a reason to hold up play. An incorrect flight designation is valid.)

At the end of the round, please review the scorecards with your playing partners. Please circle birdies and eagles, no other markings please. Please sign and attest scores and turn in scorecards as quickly as possible. A scorecard will be considered final and submitted once given to scoring table with 2 signatures.

If a player submits a signed card with a lower score on a particular hole than the actual score, the player will be disqualified from the tournament. It's crucial that all players come to agreement BEFORE the scorecard is submitted final.

In the event of any on course rules issue on the course, please locate and obtaining ruling from the host course professional before completing your scorecard.

Once the final scores are tabulated and the trophy has been presented to the tournament champion, the tournament is considered final and closed.

### **Tiebreakers**

All ties will be broken by a scorecard playoff.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tiebreak is back nine total score
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tiebreak is #1 handicapped hole
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tiebreak is #2 handicapped hole, etc.
- All 1<sup>st</sup> place ties will go to sudden death playoff on the course.

### **Disagreement or uncertainty of the Rules of Golf**

Player must announce that he is playing a second ball. First ball played will be the ball as it lies; second ball will be according to the alternate rule. At the conclusion of the round or first 9 holes, the Tour Director will make the final ruling. In any discrepancy of the rules, the GWAT Tour Director will make all final decisions.

**The GWAT Tour Director will always be the final decision on all Tour matters.**

### **Chicago Cup and National Tour Championship Points System**

The points system is a nationwide formula intended to level the playing field and allows golfers the opportunity to qualify for the Tour Championship as well as the Chicago Cup. The point system applies to each flight.

Place	Non-Major Tournament	Major Tournament
1	450	900
2	275	550
3	225	450
4	175	350
5	165	330
6	155	310
7	145	290
8	135	270
9	125	250
10	115	230

11	100	200
12	90	180
13	85	170
14	80	160
15	75	150
16	70	140
17	65	130
18	60	120
19	55	110
20	50	100

For each finishers outside the top 20, -2 points will deducted from the previous finish in non major tournaments and -4 points will be deducted from previous finish. This will continue down until all golfers are accounted for.

**Points Transfers - Playing outside your home tour and transferring points back**

- Any GWAT player will be allowed to make up 3 events at any tour city around the country. Players can play and bring points to their home tours to replace a missed tournament. Members can not exceed the maximum number of tournaments for the season (14) and accumulate points for it. Once a member exceeds the maximum number of tournaments, the member can no longer accumulate points based on his finish in any future events.
- The following guidelines will apply to those who play events outside of their home tour:
  - 80% of those points to their local tour points total, if the flight contains 6 or more players

- 60% of those points to their local tour points total, if the flight contains 5 or fewer players
- If a player is the sole competitor in the tournament event, only 30% of points may be transferred.

**Qualifications**

**National Tour Championship @ Hilton Head, SC.**

- Top ten point winners from each of the five flights qualify for the National Tour Finals
- Flight Champions from each major tournament will receive invitations to compete in the National Tour Finals.

**Chicago Cup**

- Overall season long points leader will be crowned the Chicago Cup Champion for his respective flight.

**Michllini Cup**

- Top 5 point winners from each of the five flights qualify for the Chicago-Detroit Ryder Cup to be held at the end of season.

**Optional Tournament Games**

**Skins and Pins**

**Format**

This is an optional \$10 side bet between players. Each player will receive an invitation to enter skins & pins pool on the first tee of each event.

Its 3 games in one: a skins game, closest to the pin contest and a hole in one award.

**Skins** - The single best score on any of the 18 holes is a skin. The player making the single best score on any hole earns one skin. A player with the only **birdie, eagle or double eagle** on a given hole

wins a skin. More than one player making birdie, eagle, or double eagle cancels the skin. The skins game will be broken down into 2 groups. First group will comprise the Champ, A, & B flights. The second group will comprise of the C & D flights. Two groups equal two separate prizes.

**Closest to the Pin** - The golfer from each flight with the closest tee shot to the hole will win the cash prize. The Closet to the Pin contest will be broken down into 2 groups. First group will comprise the Champ, A, & B flights. The second group will comprise of the C & D flights. Two groups equal two separate prize pools. Each course will be setup with 2 closest to the pin contests for each group.

**Hole in One Pool** - What's better than aceing a par 3? How about getting paid for it! \$1 of the \$10 entry fee goes to a Tour wide prize pool for the first golfer to register a hole in one. The pool will carry over from tournament to tournament until one lucky golfer wins the prize pool.

#### **Why is the Tour Director involved?**

With five flights teeing off over several hours time, players find it difficult to manage a side bet that is event-wide. The Tour Director holds the bets and calculates prizes as a convenience to the players. It is the player's pool. A \$1 fee will be applied per golfer for running the pool, holding the bets, and calculating the prizes.

#### **How much are the payouts?**

Payouts will vary from tournament to tournament and is all based on the # of golfers playing in the event, however here's an example:

50 golfers (8 Champ Flight, 10 A-Flight, 12 B-Flight, 12-C Flight, 8 D-Flight)

- Hole in one Pool: \$50
- Champ/A/B Skins Prize Pool: \$150
- C/D Skins Prize Pool: \$100
- Champ/A/B Closest to the Pin Prize Pool: \$90 (\$45 for each hole)
- C/D Skins Prize Pool: \$60 (\$30 for each hole)

#### **Normally how many skins are made?**

Typically, there are less than five skins per event.

#### **What happens if no skins are made?**

The pool is carried over to the next event if no skins are made.

#### **A tip on how to win skins...**

Seldom will more than one player birdie the first hole.

#### **Will receiving cash hurt my amateur status?**

USGA rules about amateurs not receiving cash apply to tournament prizes, not side bets. Since the skins and pins pool is a side bet between players, your status will not change.