



Chicago Golfweek Amateur Tour Handbook for
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Local Handbook

The contents of this Local Chicago Tour Handbook will be the final guide to all decisions on tour matters regarding the Chicago Golfweek Amateur Tour. Please contact your local tour director at chicago@amateurgolftour.net if you have any questions with the following policies and procedures.

Tour Etiquette & Behavior

Each member of the Golfweek Amateur Tour is expected to respect not only the game of golf, but also their playing partners and fellow tour members. Unacceptable behavior will include but not limited to: swearing, club throwing, excessive slow play, and harassment of other people (tour members or golf course staff). Should a member threaten this protocol and expectation a warning will be issued. Repeat offenders will be asked to resign their membership. Respect the game and the tour.

Permanent Local Rules & Pace of Play Guidelines

The tour has created a set of permanent local rules and pace of play guideline that will be applied to each tournament and will not change. These rules are to be enforced at each event and all members are required to know them. To familiarize yourself and as a reminder, these rules will be printed on the back of the players scorecards at each tournament

Tournament Fees

Each tournament requires a tournament payment. Each tournament fee includes golf with carts, warm up range balls and a flighted prize pool designation. In addition each fee includes an administration fee that is used to administer the tournament.

Tournament Prizes & Trophies

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. Additionally, the winner from each flight will receive a 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 below).

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.

Once a payment is received, please allow 24 hours to be added to the "Who's Playing" list found on your local tour schedule page.

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 before tee times are posted. If a player withdraws from a tournament prior to the pairings being released a refund will be applied but the funds will be held on account to be used at a future event. In the case that a player does not play in another tournament, a refund will be issued at the end of the season.

If a player withdraws from a tournament after the pairings have been released the player will only receive a refund if a replacement player is found. The replacement player has to be from the same flight as the player who canceled.

If a replacement player cannot be found, a partial refund can be obtained only if the course does not charge the tour for your place in the field. The amount of the refund will be the tournament fee less any amounts paid towards prize pools, trophies, or other tournament items.

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

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.

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 \$20.
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 (and 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 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 guest is not eligible for any gift card prize, but can win skins money.

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).

Pace of Play Policy

The Chicago Golfweek Amateur Tour's Pace of Play policy gives the responsibility of maintaining the pace of play with the player. Pace of Play plays a huge factor in the experience of each player on the Golfweek Amateur Tour. USGA rule 6-7 governs pace of play in the USGA rulebook.

Under Rule 6-7 and 33-1, the Tournament Committee may establish pace of play guidelines including maximum periods of time allowed to complete a stipulated round, a hole, or a stroke.

- Each player is given 40 seconds to complete each stroke once it is his/her turn to play.

If your routine is causing you to take longer than 40 seconds, then you need to improve your pace of play. Ready golf, continuous putting, good cart etiquette, and preparing to putt while others are putting are all good suggestions to speed up play.

It is NOT the committee's responsibility to warn you on slow play. It is YOUR responsibility to monitor your pace of play to ensure that your group stays on pace.

Lead Group(s)

The first group(s) must finish their eighteen hole round within the allotted time allowed by the committee. If the lead group fails to finish the round within the allotted time allowed by the committee, a 2-stroke penalty will be assessed to the group on their final hole of play. Exception: If the lead group is held up by public play that was sent out before them or play that began on an opposite tee, they will be exempt from the pace of play penalty(s) if they finish over their maximum time but within 15 minutes of the group ahead of them.

Following Groups

A 2-stroke penalty will be assessed to any group failing to complete their 18th hole within 15 minutes of the group in front of them *AND* within the allotted time established by the committee.

Players are advised of the following:

- Tournament officials are not required to notify a player and/or group that they are behind. The group is responsible as well as each individual player in the group. Each group is responsible for monitoring its own pace. Consider yourself warned on the first tee. Proper pace is right behind the group in front of you.
- As a courtesy to each player, the maximum allotted time will be on your official scorecard.
- As a courtesy, the pace of play policy will be available at the registration table and available on the tour website.

Local Rules

- Please refer to the "Hard Card" for Permanent Local Rules and Conditions of Competition for the 2017 season. It will be available on the tour website, at the registration table, and on the back of the

scorecards. It is YOUR responsibility to be familiar with and understand these local rules. Hitting your first tee shot is an agreement to these policies.

- Additional Local Rules for the Day of Competition will be printed on the back of the scorecards as the “Notice to Competitors”. These will also be available at the registration table. It is the PLAYERS responsibility to know and understand these rules. Hitting your first tee shot is an agreement to these policies.

Chicago Cup Points System - Qualifications

National Tour Championship @ Hilton Head, SC.

- The top ten point leaders on August 13th, 2017 from each of the five flights qualify for the National Tour Championship
- Flight Champions from each major tournament will receive invitations to compete in the National Tour Championship.

All players that qualify for Tour Championship must:

- Play in at least 5 tournaments on the Chicago tour schedule

Chicago Cup

- Overall season point’s leader will be crowned the Cup Champion for his/her respective flight at the conclusion of the Chicago Championship

Cup Points Transfers

If an AGT player misses tournaments for their local tour, they will have the option to attend up to 4 non-local other AGT events and apply those points to their Cup points race.

New for 2017, The Chicago Tour Championship will feature a special boost in points as well as a “FINAL FOUR” feature. The Chicago Tour Championship will be a TRIPLE point event (see below)

In addition, the top 4 players in each flights Chicago Cup race will be paired together at the Chicago Championship. If any one of those 4 players wins the Chicago Tour Championship, they will automatically win their flight Chicago Cup regardless of the final point outcome.

Place	Non-Major	Major	Tour Champ
1	450	900	1350
2	275	550	825
3	225	450	675
4	175	350	525
5	165	330	495
6	155	310	465
7	145	290	435
8	135	270	405
9	125	250	375

10	115	230	345
11	100	200	300
12	90	180	270
13	85	170	255
14	80	160	240
15	75	150	225
16	70	140	210
17	65	130	195
18	60	120	180
19	55	110	165
20	50	100	150

“Border Battle” (Chicago vs Milwaukee Ryder Cup)

- The top point winners from each of the five flights qualify for the event to be held at the end of season. The additional roster will be completed with captain picks. The goal would be to bring a team of 26 players from each side.
 - Champ Flight – 3 Qualifiers and 1 Captain Pick
 - A Flight – 5 Qualifiers and 1 Captain Pick
 - B Flight – 5 Qualifiers and 1 Captain Pick
 - C Flight – 5 Qualifiers and 1 Captain Pick
 - D Flight – 3 Qualifiers and 1 Captain Pick

- Players will earn points through August 13th, 2017 and teams will be announced September 1st

- Players will need to have played in at least 4 Chicago events to be eligible to qualify via points or captain picks

Flight Movement

The Chicago Tour will implement the following LOCAL Rule for flight movement:

1 – Player moving into a higher flight (From B Flight to A Flight)

When a player's AGT index drops below the current flight index level, the player will automatically be advanced into the new flight. Once promoted, GWAT will transfer 75% of the points the player accumulated in their previous flight to the new flight as long as it does not exceed a tie for 5th place in the point standings in new flight. Once a player has been promoted to a new flight he must continue play in the new flight until his/her handicap becomes validated (see below)

2 – Player moving into a lower flight (From A Flight to B Flight)

If a validated player's index rises into the range of the next flight bracket they may choose to retreat a flight. Players who wish to move flights must request so by notifying their tour director. For all requests the following schedule will be in effect for flight movements:

- May 31st

- June 15th

- June 30th
- July 15th
- July 31st

After July 31st players will not be able to move to a lower flight, no exceptions. Players will bring 100% of their points they have accumulated to their new flight, but will not exceed a tie for 5th place in the point standings.

Example: Matt's GWAT index after the May 11th tournament rises to 5. Matt requests to move to the A Flight immediately. In accordance with the schedule his movement request will be reviewed and if approved he will be placed in his new flight on May 31st.

3 - Index Validation:

New Member - A player's AGT Tour Index is "validated" once 5 (five) tour rounds have been posted.

Existing Member - If a member is a prior year's member, his handicap index will be validated with 15 (fifteen) tour rounds posted.

Un-validated players whose index rises into the range of a lower flight may request the local Tour Director review their placement. Tour Directors will consider whether sufficient performance data is available to determine that a player is currently in a flight above the level of his playing potential. Players should be aware that moving down a flight with fewer than seven scores in the system is a volatile position and a good round in their new "easier" flight could cause them to move back to their original flight with a reduction in points.

4 - Local Tour: Scoring out of flight:

Tour flighting is based on a performance index system that groups together players of roughly similar potential ability. To maintain the integrity of each flight, the tour director retains the right to promote a player into a higher flight should a member return a single round score that indicates their actual playing potential exceeds the general ability of their current flight. The probability of an A or B flight player scoring four strokes below his/her tour index is approximately 130 to 1. The same is true for a C or D flight player scoring five strokes below his/her tour index. Therefore, when players post "once in a lifetime" scores the result will be reviewed. This will happen for A & B flights when a single round score is 4 strokes or more below the flight bracket; for C & D flights 5 strokes or more (course rating plus low range of the flight index bracket). If warranted, Tour Directors must immediately promote the player to the next higher flight. Tour directors will consider player performance history on tour and off (if available) in deciding whether this round is truly a great personal achievement or an indication that the players' potential warrants immediate movement to a more advanced flight. This promotion will be referred to as a "battlefield" promotion and will take place immediately at the tournament site.

5 – Flights Frozen

Continuing in 2017, for Chicago Cup purposes ONLY all flights will be frozen on Aug 13th, 2017 for the final 3 events of the season. Players whose index drops below the current flight index level may remain in their respective flight to compete for the Chicago Cup after August 13th. The following exceptions will be applied:

- 1) A player will be promoted to a new flight, should that player's index exceed the bottom end of the new flight range by more than 1 full stroke. For example, Steve's index is 13.5 on August 10th, he can remain in the C flight. On August 24th his index is 12.8, he would then be promoted to the B Flight and his points will be adjusted.
- 2) Index Key for movement after August 1st

Flight	Low	High	Promotion after Aug 1
A Flight	4.0	8.9	2.9 Index
B Flight	9.0	13.9	7.9 Index
C Flight	14.0	18.9	12.9 Index
D Flight	19.0		17.9 Index

- 3) The Flight Frozen rule is a local rule and will not apply to any event the player will play outside of the Chicago Tour after August 13th. The rule also does not apply for National Tour Championship purposes

Optional Tournament Games

Skins and Pins

Format

This is an optional \$20 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 flighted skins game, a full-field skins game and a closest to the pin contest. **Players can pick and choose which contests they want to play in, the choice is up to the player and not required.**

Skins (\$10)

- This game will only apply to whoever enters this game that is in your flight. If 20 players are in your flight and all enter, the pot will be \$200.
- If you score the lowest score in your flight on any hole during the tournament, you will win cash.
- The winners are determined as soon as every player in your flight turns in their signed score card

Overall Skins (\$5)

- This game will apply to any player in the tournament; it is open to all flights. If 100 players are in the tournament and all enter, the pot will be \$500
- If you score the lowest score on any of the 18 holes during the tournament, you will win cash.
- The winners are determined as soon as every player in the event turns in their signed score card.

Closest to the Pin (\$5)

- This game will apply to whoever enters this game that is in your flight. If 20 players are in your flight and all enter, the closest to the pin pot will be \$100.
- Each flight will have one par 3 for an opportunity to win this cash prize. There will be a marker for your flight on the designated par threes for this game. Make sure you only write on the marker for your flight.
- The winners are determined as soon as every player in the event turns in their signed score card.

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