



## Chicago Golfweek Amateur Tour Local Policies

Maguire Golf, LLC  
(630) 886-3442

[chicago@amateurgolftour.net](mailto:chicago@amateurgolftour.net)

## Table of Contents

### **Tour Policies**

- Membership Fee
- Membership Benefits
- Caddies & Spectators
- Pace of Play
- Guest Policy
- Weather Guidelines
- Tournament Prizes
- Tournament Trophies

### **Tournament Policies**

- Tournament Registrations and Tee Times
- Tournament Cancellations & No Shows
- Scoring & Scorecards
- Tiebreakers
- Disagreement or uncertainty of the Rules of Golf
- Distance Measuring Devices
- Square Grooves
- Chicago Cup Points System - Qualifications
- Optional Tournament Games

### **Membership Fee**

The Chicago Golfweek Amateur Tour annual membership fee for 2012 is broken into 2 parts. For \$99.00 per player a member can join the tour and receive a standard goodie bag this is known as the Par Membership. For an additional \$20 (\$119) players can purchase the Birdie Membership. 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.

### **Par Member Benefits**

- Membership in the GWAT allows all members to compete in any GWAT event in any tour 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 receive discounts.
- Members will also receive a Tour Goody Bag (items change from season to season, but normally consists of a GWAT Hat, and 1 year subscription to Golfweek & other items)
- Each member also receives a GWAT Handicap Index

### **Birdie Member Benefits**

- All benefits mentioned above with Par Membership
- Tour Shirt (\$50 value)
- All Google Pay web fees waived (\$3 per tournament)

### **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 4:30, and that means we need to play Ready Golf. This means playing ready golf and/or continuous putting which are both allowed in stroke play. Keep in mind that while there are no penalties under the Rules of Golf for violating order of play.

Each group is on the clock, literally. We will have a timer recording finishing times for each group. ANY GROUP that finishes outside of 15 minutes from the group in front of them will be penalized. **Each player in the slow group will be penalized 2 strokes!** Consider yourself warned and on the clock now, no exceptions. Help make the day enjoyable for everyone, don't be the cause of slow 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.
- 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 (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 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.

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.

### **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 the last 6 holes total score (#13-#18)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tiebreak is the last 3 holes total score (#16-18)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tiebreak is #1 handicapped hole
- 5<sup>th</sup> Tiebreak is #2 handicapped hole
- If a tie remains after 5<sup>th</sup> tiebreaker, players will remain tied and split any prize amounts.
- All 1<sup>st</sup> place ties will go to sudden death playoff on the course.

### **Distance Measuring Devices**

Range finders and GPS units are permitted for tournament play assuming the units do not adjust for slope and/or wind direction and speed. These models cannot be used in tournament play: Bushnell 1600 Slope Edition, Leupold GX-2, Callaway idTECH, Opti-Logic InSight GT. This is not a complete list and any device that may be in question can and will be inspected by Tour Officials.

### **Square Grooves**

GWAT Chicago will allow square grooves in 2011 and will follow the USGA guidelines to allow square grooves to be used in tournament play until 2014. Starting in 2014, square grooves will not be allowed for tournament play

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

### **Chicago Cup Points System - 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 point's leader will be crowned the Chicago Cup Champion for his respective flight.

#### **Michllini Cup**

- Top 4 point winners from each of the five flights qualify for the Michllini Cup (Ryder Cup style event) to be held at the end of season.

### **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 skins game, closest to the pin contest and a hole in one award. **Players can pick and choose which contests they want to play in, they do not have to play in all three.**

##### **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 \$80, and \$20 will be placed in the tour-wide hole in one pot.
- 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.

**Hole in One Pool** - What's better than aceing a par 3? How about getting paid for it! \$1 of the \$5 closest to the pin 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. The starting balance in 2012 is \$1,010

#### **TopGolf Challenge---\$20 (Annual fee)**

- This game is just like the "Kodak Challenge" on the PGA Tour.
- This game is "flighted", meaning you will compete only against your own skill level. Each participant puts up a one-time \$20 entry. During the season, we will choose one par 4 at each event and we will track your score during the year and the player with the lowest score on those designated holes will win the pot. Ties split the pot. We have 10 events during the year that equals 12 rounds (2 scores for 2 day major) or 12 Scoring Challenge Holes. We will only count your 7 best scores in the Scoring Challenge. So, you don't have to play in all of the events to play this game. But, the more you play, you better your chances because we will drop your high scores and only keep your best 9.

#### **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. We do not keep any of the prize pool, 100% is paid back to the winners.

#### **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 (from a Skins game) 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.

