

TIDEWATER ADDENDUM TO GOLFWEEK AMATEUR TOUR MANUAL

TAGT Local Tour Rules, Conditions of Competition, Local
Competitions, and Side Games **(Updated 2/16/2012)**



Implementation of GWAT Optional Local Rules

The Golfweek Amateur Tour (GWAT) Manual sets national rules and policy governing play on the tour. Several rules in the GWAT manual provide options for rule implementation. Local Tour Directors (TDs) must determine how the local tour will implement the rule. Additionally, local tours must state any conditions of competition or local policies in effect. This addendum to the GWAT National Tour Manual applies to the Tidewater Amateur Golf Tour and describes Local Implementation of Tour Rules, Conditions of Competition, and Policies in effect on the Tidewater Golfweek Amateur Tour (TGAT).

TGAT plays under USGA rules except where the GWAT Tour Manual states otherwise. The Local Tour Rules contained in this document further refine GWAT guidance. When in conflict and unless stated otherwise in tournament rules sheet, local rules published by the host course take precedence over USGA, GWAT and Tidewater Tour Local rules.

Veteran Player Flight Placement: Veteran GWAT players with a validated GWAT player index will start their season in the flight where their GWAT player index falls.

Published Rain Dates for 2012: The TGAT will do everything possible to get a tournament round in. If weather becomes a factor then TGAT will move the event to an already used weekend for a Sunday tournament. The tour will try to stay away from weekends not on the schedule.

Tournament Registration: TGAT has published all Tournament Entry Deadlines online (www.agtva.net) and once the event has closed either by a Sell-Out or the Entry Deadline, a waiting list will begin. NO payments will be accepted at the course, to secure a tournament slot payment must be made.

Tournament Entry Spots Rule: All Tidewater Golfweek Amateur Tour events will be based on a 120 player field. Once a tournament reaches 120 players it is full. No additional spots will be added. If the field does not fill at 120 players it will be cut off at the Tournament Entry Deadline located on the schedule page. Only Payment will secure a tournament slot on the Tidewater Golfweek Amateur Tour. This was voted and approved by the committee 2/15/12.

Starting Times: Tee times will be posted on the TGAT web site and emailed to participants at least three days prior to the event. The type of tee start will be stated on schedules, event notices, and tee time notices. TGAT primarily uses shotgun starts. For shotgun starts the published start time will be the time players must be in their carts in the marshalling area. Players who are not in their carts when the order is given to depart for the assigned tee have missed their tee time and are disqualified. There are no refunds for missed tee times or no-shows.

Tiebreakers: All ties for first place will be by "sudden death playoff" conducted on the course played. Playoff holes will be determined by availability of the course. Normally TGAT will not break ties for places below first (2nd, 3rd, etc.). On unusual occasions where it is necessary to break a tie using a scorecard playoff, TGAT will use the USGA recommended tie-breaking method (the winner be determined on the basis of the best score for the last nine holes. If the tying players have the same score for the last nine, determine the winner on the basis of the last six holes, last three holes and finally the 18th hole. In competitions with a multiple tee start, the "last nine holes, last six holes, etc." is considered to be holes 10-18, 13-18, etc.

Flight Yardage and Tee Markers: TAGT will play each flight within GWAT recommended yardages. Flight yardage will vary by tournament to challenge players to play a variety of shots under varying conditions. Each flight will play from specific TAGT tee markers, assigned to their flight by color. Colors for each flight are: **Championship: Purple; A: Brown; B: Green; C: Orange; and D: Maroon.**

TAGT-Major-Rule: If any Major suffers cancellation of a round it will be turned into an 18 hole event it will be awarded Single Points, Single Payouts, and Tour Player Credits. The only exception will be for the final event of the year, which will remain a Major with points and prizes as scheduled.

Entry Credit(s)/Return: Any player who wishes to withdraw from a Tournament and receive a full refund must tell the Tour Director by Wednesday before the Tournament. Telling the Director on Thursday/Friday will result in a Half-Refund. If a player doesn't show on the tournament day without any notice he/she has lost their entry fees. If the course won't charge for a player at the tournament day then a player could get his green fees back for a late notice on tournament day.

Local Rules

The following local rules apply to all TGAT events:

Distance Measuring Devices: For all TAGT play, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.

Stones in Bunkers: Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions (Rule 24-1 applies).

TGAT Conditions of Competition

Conforming ball: The ball the player plays must be named on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the United States Golf Association.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION: Disqualification.

(For current list see http://www.usga.org/ConformingGolfBall/conforming_golf_ball.asp)

TAGT Competitions

Season Championship: The TGAT Season Championship is based on season-long points accumulation that begins with the first event of the season and concludes at Local Finals. Event points are described in the GWAT manual. Prizes and trophies will be awarded to Season Champions. The basis for participation in the National Championship will be season points standings. The top ten players in points standing in each of the five flights are eligible to participate in the National Championship (presuming they meet the requirement to have completed and returned valid scores for at least 5 tournament rounds). Each of the Five Flight Season Champions will receive a PAID ENTRY into the National Championship (\$300 Value).

TGAT Series Championships: We will modify our series format for 2012. As always, there will be a Season Points Championship that includes all the points earned starting from the first tournament of the year all the way through the final event of the year. The Season Points Championship is the race to crown the Grand Champion of each flight; and is the ultimate goal for our players every season. In previous years we ended the season with a four event Chase Cup series. This year instead of the Chase we will have three separate series over the course of the season. Each series will run concurrently with season events, and points totals

for each series will be kept separately from the Season Championship. So at each event this year, your points will be totaled for the current "series", and a separate total will be computed for the "Season Points Championship". The first series will be the "Spring Sprint" series, starting March 24 with the first event of the year, and ending with the Tidewater Masters at Kilmarlic Golf Club, May 20 (4 one-day events and one major). The next series will be the "Summer Heat", starting June 2 and finishing July 1 (three one-day events and one Major). The Fall Final series will encompass the last five events of the year, beginning and ending with majors plus three one-day events. Each event will have a purse paid to the top three places. The series winner will get a trophy and a slot on the VALA Challenge Cup Team Virginia.

Remember, each series is independent of the others, so a poor performance in one series doesn't hurt your chances in other series or the Season Championship. If an event is cancelled due to weather or circumstances, the series will just have one less event. But, if a series event is delayed, that event will still be part of the same series, even if it is played later in the year. The idea for the mini-series is to promote that "playoff feel" during several periods of the year; to offer players an opportunity for individual recognition during times when they can play all events of a series; to recognize strong play during several times of the year with a VALA team slot, and to offer players incentive to play in all events throughout the year. Hopefully at least one of the series will find each of our players at their peak performance!

Virginia-Louisiana Challenge Cup Matches: This event began in 2007 and pits the Louisiana vs. Virginia tours in a Ryder Cup style, 54 hole match-play event. Players vie for the honor and responsibility of representing their tour and the glory and prestige of winning the Cup. Players pay their own event fees, and the 2012 dates are October 22nd-25th. **Eight** players from each flight make up the Virginia team, for a total of 40 players. Team composition is made up as follows:

Virginia Team Composition, for each flight:

- *Season Champion (1 – Per Flight)*
- *Spring Sprint Series Champion (1 – Per Flight)*
- *Summer Heat Series Champion (1 – Per Flight)*
- *Fall Final Series Champion (1 – Per Flight)*
- *The next eligible players in line from the Season Standings (4– Per Flight or more if any of the Season or Series Champions win more than one title or are unable to play)*

TAGT Tournament of Champions

ToC (October 14th): Adoption of the three-series format will also enable us to have a limited field "Tournament of Champions" at the end of the season. Right now the date is tentatively Oct 14, 2012 at a course as yet to be determined. The field for the ToC will be limited to the winners of each of the 14 season events and those who won the Mini-series. If multiple winners reduce the field below 70, then players will be added based upon their finish in the Season Points Championship from each flight (in other words, if 69 different players qualify for the tournament of champions, then the player from any flight who did not otherwise qualify who finished the highest in their flight in the Season Points Championship will qualify. If that player is not able to play, then it will go to the next. In the event of a tie, all tied players will gain entry). In the case of a player who wins an event but then leaves the flight, that player will count as a winner from the flight where they won, but will compete in the ToC in the flight where they finish the season. ToC is a non-points event and is not included in the regular season and mini-series contests.

New for 2012: D Flight Net Division for TAGT Majors

During tournaments designated as “Majors” (scheduled two-day TAGT events) there will be a net division of D flight open only to those players with a tour index of 24.0 and above who do not win a gross-score prize. These players will compete on a net-score basis for a single gift certificate. Tie scores will split the net purse. This unique net division is anticipated to provide equity among D-Flight players. All other flights have a narrow index bracket of 4.9 strokes. D flight is an index bracket of “19 and up”. Therefore the D-Flight net competition is designed to provide recognition for those for players with an index of 24 and up who perform better than their index during major competition.

2011 TOUR SIDE GAMES

Side Game Effect on Amateur Status

USGA rules about amateurs not receiving cash apply to tournament prizes, not side wagers. Since side games like “skins”, “closest to the pin”, and “challenge hole” are side wagers between players, they do not affect amateur status. The “wager” for side games is typically held by one party. For TGAT the Tour Director and his staff hold the wager. In this manner winners are determined using the tournament software, and winnings are divided and delivered at the next event. Players may only wager on themselves, they may not enter a wager on another player who has decided not to participate in a side game(s).

Tournament Skins Game (within each flight): Cost Per Player: \$10 dollars per event. In this game you are competing to make the best single score on a hole. All ties cancel. You are only wagering with players in your flight who enter the game.

Tournament SUPER SKINS Game (all flights contribute to a single purse): Cost Per Player: \$10 dollars per event. In this game you are competing to make the best single score on a hole. All ties cancel. You are wagering with players from any flight who enter the game.

For skins and super-skins games 1) if the round is not played, bets are returned; 2) if there are no winners at an event, bets will roll to the next event and player entries tracked (for the last event of the year bets will be returned). 3) At the final event of the year if the rounds are played but there is no winner, the bet pool will be divided into five equal amounts and the players who entered the betting pool (only those players) will draw names to determine five winners.

Tournament Closest to the Pin Game (Flight Only)

Cost Per Player: \$5 dollars per event. In this game you are trying to hit your tee shot “closest to the pin” of all the players who enter. Usually you are competing against players in your flight. Each flight will have two Closest to the Pin holes in each round. The breakdown of the \$5 dollars paid per player for the Closest to the Pin is as follows. If there is no winner for one of the holes (e.g. nobody hits the green), the full amount will be paid to the other hole.

- Two Dollars goes to the First Closest to the Pin hole
- Two Dollars goes to the Second Closest to the Pin hole
- One Dollar goes to the Hole in One Purse (ALL FLIGHTS one PURSE)

- **Example:** 20 players in the B Flight enter the Par 3 Challenge. That will total \$100 dollars.
 - B Flight Closest to the Pin #1 - \$40 dollars to the winner
 - B Flight Closest to the Pin #2 - \$40 dollars to the winner

- Final \$20 dollars goes into the HOLE IN ONE PURSE (ALL FLIGHTS)

Hole-In-One-Purse

To participate in the Hole-In-One purse you must enter the Closest to the Pin Game. If a player makes a Hole-In-One during that round and he has entered the Closest to the Pin Game for that event he will win the current Hole-In-One Purse. This purse will continue to build until a player wins. (Note: If the value of the Hole-In-One purse exceeds the amount that per GWAT by-laws can be carried over to the next season, the excess amount will be raffled at the annual Tour Banquet.)

Scoring Challenge

- »Entry Per Player: \$20 dollars (One Time Payment)
- »At each event one hole will be the Scoring Challenge Hole.
- »All Flights must play this hole (Par 4's) from the same yardage.
- »If you move flights your money will move with you.
- »You must play at least 10 Rounds to be eligible to win.
- »Your Best 10 Scores will count as a Score in Relation to Par.
- »The More rounds you play the more chances to improve your scoring.
- »The Top-Three Per Flight will win money (1st: 50% ; 2nd: 30% ; 3rd: 20%).
- »Holes will be announced in the Tidewater Manual by 1 March.

PRIZE PAYOUTS are to Golfballs.com for the 2012 Tour Season

Single Day Tournaments – Top-4 Players per flight including tie breakers

Winner receives a Crystal Glass Set (Name, Date, Score, Course) usually presented every third tournament.

Two Day Majors – Top-8 Players per flight including tie breakers

Winner receives a Crystal Trophy presented the day of the major.

All Prize Payouts are located in another PDF on the Rules Page of the website.

All Tour Trophies are located in another PDF on the Rules Page of the website.

2012 END OF THE SEASON PRIZES

- The 5 Season Champions after the Local Finals will receive a Paid Entry into Nationals (\$300 value)
- The 5 Season Winners will receive a Golf Bag/Gift (Name Included) from Golfballs.com
- The 5 ToC Winners will receive a Golf Bag (Name Included) from Golfballs.com
- If the same player wins he will get a Stamped Wedge/Gift with his/her Name.