
2012
SOUTHERN NEVADA
GOLF ASSOCIATION
TOURNAMENT BINDER

UPDATED DECEMBER 15, 2011

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DIVISIONS AND FORMATS

The SNGA will offer 4 different Divisions for tournament play:

Scratch

The Scratch Division is comprised of Golfers typically with a Handicap Index of 5.0 or less (not a requirement) and plays strictly Gross competitions with no Handicaps incorporated into the events.

Net

The Net Division is comprised of Golfers ranging in Handicap Indexes between 0 and 25. The maximum allowable Handicap Index in SNGA Events is 25. Competitions are strictly Net based events, using the 12 month low Handicap Index of each competitor to determine a Course Handicap for the event. Please read the SNGA Handicap Policy for more details on Net Competitions.

Senior

The Senior Division is comprised of any golfer 50 years of age and older. The Senior Division plays in a competition that is "Across the Field" and has both a Net Component and a Scratch Component giving its players the opportunity to win in either competition. The Net component of the competition follows the same Handicap Policy as the Net Division using the competitors 12 Month Low Handicap Index to determine his/her Course Handicap for the competition.

Super Senior

The Super Senior Division is comprised of any golfer 60 years of age and older. The Super Senior Division plays in the same format as the Senior Division with a competition that is "Across the Field" and has both a Net Component and a Scratch Component giving its players the opportunity to win either competition. The Net component of the competition follows the same Handicap Policy as the Net Division using the competitors 12 Month Low Handicap Index to determine his/her Course Handicap for the competition.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

SNGA, MGAN, NNGA, NSGA, and USGA staff all collaborate together to create an annual schedule of events

SNGA Events are the only events that abide by the guidelines set forth in this binder. All other events are subject to their own Association's tournament guidelines. Please read each events guidelines to ensure you are aware of the stipulations for each event.

[**CLICK HERE**](#) for the 2012 Tournament Schedule (Subject to change)

TOURNAMENT ENTRY POLICY

Tournament entry forms for all Southern Nevada Golf Association designated events must be received at least five days prior to the first day of the event, and/or prior to the field becoming full. For state level championships the closeout date of the event may be earlier and will be listed in the specific entry information. Entries must be filled out completely and legibly, and must include full payment for the event. Incomplete entries will not be accepted. Full refunds will be made (less a \$10.00 cancellation fee) if a player has a legitimate reason to withdraw, and the association office is notified at least 48 hours prior to the event. Tournament entries will receive priority in the order in which they are received, except that the following competitors will have a reservation until two weeks prior to the tournament date.

- The defending champion of the event.
- The top 5 competitors on the Qualifying Points List for tournaments between Jan. 1 and June 1.
- The top 5 competitors on the Player of the Year Points List for tournaments between June 1 and December 31.

If their entry has not been received by that date they will lose their reservation and receive the same priority as all other entries.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to compete in Southern Nevada Golf Association designated events, contestants must:

- Hold a Handicap Membership with a club in the SNGA. Contestants must be listed as active service members on the most current SNGA Master Association Listing on the day the tournament entries close.
- Entrants must have a current USGA Handicap Index to play in the Net or Senior Net Divisions. If no USGA Handicap Index has been formed, the competitor may play to a 0.0 Handicap Index.
- Players may not compete simultaneously in two separate divisions of an event conducted on the same day.
- Junior golfers are eligible to play in SNGA Scratch Tournaments provided they have a USGA Handicap Index of **5.0 or less**. If a junior competitor is subsequently found to be incapable of competing at this level (in organized tournaments) they will be restricted from further competition. The SNGA Tournament Committee will be the sole judge of the individual's competency. Junior golfers are eligible to play in SNGA Net Tournaments provided they have a USGA Handicap Index of **25.0 or less**.
- Players that have not played in a full SNGA Event in the last year will play to 50% of their 12 month low Handicap Index. Players that have played in one full event within the last year will play to 75% of their 12 month low Handicap Index. Any tournaments following, competitors will play to 100% of their 12 month low Handicap Index.

Players in the Scratch Division are expected to play to a level of competency that is not distractive to other player in the division. A player whose average scores during any event exceed the course rating by 15 strokes per round is subject to suspension from the division unless unusual weather or other conditions contributed to the high scores.

PLAYER CONDUCT POLICY

This policy applies to all SNGA-administered competitions, USGA qualifying competitions, NSGA competitions, and any other competition administered by the SNGA.

By submitting an entry for any SNGA-administered competition, the player understands that their participation is at the sole discretion of the SNGA. A player may be removed from any competition at the discretion of the SNGA staff or the rules and competitions committee at any time before or during the competition. Incidents of unbecoming conduct or actions deemed to be detrimental to the image of the SNGA or the spirit of the game are grounds for such removal and suspension from future SNGA-administered competitions. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Willful damage of the golf course or golf course property
- Cursing, berating and/or cursing a rules official
- Throwing clubs
- Any action that may damage the host golf facilities
- Potential endangerment of others
- Conduct deemed unbecoming

Suspension could also result from actions that are disruptive to other players or create an unfavorable image of the association. A player that performs an act considered to be unsportsmanlike conduct will have the incident reviewed by the Southern Nevada Golf Association Board of Directors to determine if further action including suspension is warranted.

Missed Tee Time/No Card

If a player, without prior notification to the committee, misses their tee time or fails to return an 18 or 36 hole score without a valid excuse, they will automatically receive a written warning. The next offense within a two year period may result in a suspension from the next two SNGA Events.

Electronic Devices

Electronic Devices other than SNGA Approved "Distance Measuring" Devices are prohibited. GPS and Rangefinders that include other calculations such as slope are strictly prohibited. Prohibited devices include but are not limited to: cellular telephones, pagers, Ipods, MP3's, CD Players, etc. If a player is caught using these devices during the course of play, the player will be disqualified from the event and may face further sanctions. Cellular telephones may only be used in emergency situations.

Caddie/Spectator Conduct

Any person accompanying a competitor must declare if they are a caddy or a spectator before play starts. Spectators are not authorized to ride in or drive golf carts. The competitor will be responsible for the cost of the additional cart for his caddy in conjunction with the hosting golf club. If additional carts are not available or prohibited by the hosting club, the caddy must walk, or the competitor must walk. Three people in a cart is prohibited. The player is responsible for his caddy's conduct.

Outside Alcohol and/or Illegal Drugs

Under no circumstances are players allowed to bring outside alcohol or illegal drugs onto the property. If a player is caught with outside alcohol or illegal drugs the player will be disqualified from the event and asked to leave and may face further sanctions.

DRESS CODE

The Southern Nevada Golf Association has established the following minimum dress code for SNGA sponsored events, and encourages competitors to wear golfing attire that generally meets accepted standards for golfing competitions:

- Players must wear shirts with collars and sleeves (no tank tops).
- Denim shorts or slacks are not allowed.

Additionally many of our host courses have dress codes that include the following restrictions:

- Spikeless shoes with large knobby soles are not allowed.
- Shorts may be no higher than five inches above the knee.
- Spandex style "coaches" shorts are not permitted.
- "Sweat" shirts/pants are not to be worn as cold weather gear.

The SNGA official at the starter's table has the authority to disqualify competitors that do not meet the minimum dress requirements.

HANDICAP POLICY

The SNGA has revised the Handicap Policy for its SNGA Tournament Series to ensure that the integrity of the USGA Handicap System is upheld while allowing all competitors an equitable chance to compete. We believe that this revised policy encompasses a fair and just system without exhibiting any disincentives for potential new players to participate, i.e., prior handicap reductions for new players to our events.

1. 12 Month Low Handicap Index

The SNGA will determine all players course handicaps for events in all divisions that use handicaps to conduct their contests using players 12 Month Low Handicap Index as the basis.

Example: If your lowest Handicap Index from one year prior to the event as revised on the 1st and 15th of each month is 10.5 and your current Handicap Index as of your latest revision is 13.4, you will be playing to a 10.5 Handicap Index.

Exception: The SNGA has also addressed the 10-3 "R" reduction related to a competitor's 12 month low Handicap Index. If a competitor participating in an SNGA Tournament has a 10-3 Reduction, his/her handicap will be reviewed to see if the "Two Exceptionally Low Tournament Scores" that are creating the 10-3 "R" lie outside the 12 month Low Handicap Index Range. If those tournaments scores lie outside the range, the competitor will not be penalized for the 10-3 "R". The competitor will still be subject to the other Handicap Policy reduction methods.

2. Course Handicap Calculation

The SNGA will next create a Course Handicap for each competitor prior to the first round of any SNGA Tournament. This Course Handicap will be calculated using the USGA Course Handicap Conversion tables and the Course Rating and Slope from the respective tee's each competitor will be playing.

3. Round 1 Tournament Score Adjustments

The SNGA will develop an undisclosed probability (Strike 1) of shooting any given score prior to each event using the USGA Exceptional Tournament Score Probability Table (see below) found in Appendix E of the USGA Handicap System Manual. After every round, players that shoot a score with a negative differential will be subject to review by the SNGA Staff. This review will consist of each player having their "Net Differential" calculated. SNGA Staff will then enter the below table comparing the Net Differential to the 12 Month Low Handicap Index and determining what the odds were for that player to shoot said score. If the player shoots a score with a probability above "Strike 1" the players score will be taken into consideration for adjustment or possible disqualification.

Appendix E: Exceptional Tournament Score Probability Table

	0-5	6-12	13-21	22-30	GREATER THAN 30
Net Differential	odds	odds	odds	odds	odds
0	5:1	5:1	6:1	5:1	5:1
-1	10:1	10:1	10:1	8:1	7:1
-2	23:1	22:1	21:1	13:1	10:1
-3	57:1	51:1	43:1	23:1	15:1
-4	151:1	121:1	87:1	40:1	22:1
-5	379:1	276:1	174:1	72:1	35:1
-6	790:1	536:1	323:1	130:1	60:1
-7	2349:1	1200:1	552:1	229:1	101:1
-8	20111:1	4467:1	1138:1	382:1	185:1
-9	48219:1	27877:1	3577:1	695:1	359:1
-10	125000:1	84300:1	37000:1	1650:1	874:1

The values in the table are the odds of shooting a net differential* EQUAL TO OR BETTER THAN the number in the left column.

*A net differential is the subtraction of a player's Handicap Index from the Handicap Differential for a particular tournament score. This becomes a negative value when the player scores much better than the player's Handicap Index.

Example: A player with a Handicap Index of 10.5 shoots a 74 from a set of tees with a USGA Course Rating of 71.2 and a Slope Rating of 126.

$$\begin{aligned} (74 - 71.2) &= 2.8 \times 113 / 126 && = 2.5 \text{ Handicap Differential} \\ 2.5 - 10.5 &&& = - 8.0 \text{ Net Differential} \end{aligned}$$

From the chart, the odds are 4,467 to 1 of this occurring.

4. Multiple Round Tournament Score Adjustments

The SNGA is aware that the probability of shooting a low round on any given day is not as significant as the probability of shooting two low rounds on consecutive days. The SNGA will develop two additional undisclosed probabilities (Strike 2 and Strike 3) of shooting consecutive low scores prior to each event using the Two Best Scores Probability Chart provided by the USGA (see below). If the player shoots consecutive scores with a probability above "Strike 2" the player's score will be taken into consideration for adjustment based on the prescribed method explained below. The adjustments for Strike 2 will be made to ALL rounds that have occurred. If the player shoots a score with a probability above "Strike 3" the player will be disqualified from the event.

The values in this table only include pairs of best negative differentials and determines how many strokes a golfer's handicap should be reduced to allow his best two differentials likelihood to be an acceptable "rarity".

Two Best Scores Probability Chart

	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10
0	27	46	92	199	408	869	1808	2480	3871	9180	85779
-1	46	13	26	58	118	253	526	722	1126	2672	24967
-2	96	26	20	43	89	191	398	546	853	2023	18907
-3	199	58	43	59	121	258	537	737	1150	2728	25492
-4	408	118	89	121	200	427	888	1219	1903	4512	42163
-5	869	253	191	258	427	821	1708	2343	3657	8672	81030
-6	1808	526	398	537	888	1708	3385	4644	7249	17189	****
-7	2480	722	546	737	1219	2343	4644	6225	9716	23041	****
-8	3871	853	1150	1903	3657	2343	7249	9716	14912	35361	****
-9	9180	2672	2023	2728	4512	8672	17109	23041	35361	82951	****
-10	85779	24967	18907	25492	42163	81030	****	****	****	****	****

Example: Consider the golfer whose best two differentials were -6 and -8 and the player has a handicap of 15. This event would have a 1 in 7,249 chance. If a threshold of 1 in 258 was established as the limit of reasonability (Strike's), this player should have his handicap lowered three strokes (three diagonal steps to the left in the above table).

5. Summary

The SNGA's intention with a Handicap Policy is to provide an equitable system that ensures the legitimacy of our events. The 3 Strike Policy will help in protecting the field from possible inflated handicaps and scores that have a low probability of occurring, while not penalizing them for lack of participation.

If you have any questions regarding the SNGA Handicap Policy, please contact the SNGA Offices at 702-458-4653 x. 200.

PACE OF PLAY POLICIES

The SNGA has developed multiple Pace of Play Policies to meet the needs of specific types of events and to accommodate the varying amount of volunteers at SNGA Events. A Pace of Play Guideline will be posted at the first tee of every SNGA event and will be available for review by all competitors before the start of competition.

PACE OF PLAY WITH CHECKPOINTS

The Pace of Play with Checkpoints guidelines are set forth so that USGA Rule 6-7. Undue Delay; Slow Play is utilized. When a group is out of position AND over on time at the check-point, the players in the group are liable to penalty under these guidelines. Players in a group that has missed one or more check-points will be liable to a penalty according to the following schedule of penalties pending final determination of whether a breach or breaches of these guidelines have occurred.

Before each round the tournament committee will determine the time allotted to finish each round based on weather conditions, size of field, pairing sizes, and other factors. The committee will also post the Pace of Play Policy being used for the event and have a copy available at the first tee for reviewal.

PACE OF PLAY WITH MONITORS

The Pace of Play with Monitors guidelines are set forth so that USGA Rule 6-7. Undue Delay: Slow Play is utilized. Each monitor will be assigned a specific number of groups to watch. Those monitors have the authority to assess the guidelines of the Pace of Play Policy at any time during the course of play.

The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, the group is behind the prescribed schedule as detailed on the Pace of Play Time Chart which will be held by each monitor. Any following group will be considered out of position if it (a) is taking more than the allotted time to play **and** has put the flag in the hole more than 15 minutes after the group in front of them did. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be in breach of pace of play.

Before each round the tournament committee will determine the time allotted to finish each round based on weather conditions, size of field, pairing sizes, and other factors. The committee will also post the Pace of Play Policy being used for the event and have a copy available at the first tee for reviewal.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

The Prize breakout is determined by many factors including the field size, sponsor contributions, and entry fee costs. In every division, the top 25% of the field is eligible to receive prize money in the form of gift certificates in the pro shop of the hosting club and/or sponsor gift certificates. A copy of the final prize distribution amounts for each division will be posted in the scoring area for each event.

SCRATCH DIVISION

The Scratch Division prize distribution will pay out to the top 25% of the field in every event with ties being split for every position except 1st. If there is a tie for first place, a sudden death playoff will be held on the first applicable hole to determine a winner.

NET DIVISION

The Net Division prize distribution will pay out to the top 25% of the field in every event with ties being split for every position except 1st. If there is a tie for first place, a three hole playoff will be held on the first applicable hole using 1/6th of the competitors Course Handicap to determine a winner.

SENIOR DIVISION

The Senior Division prize distribution will pay out to the top 25% of the field (12.5% in Net and 12.5% in Scratch).

The Senior Scratch Division prize distribution will pay out to the top competitors in each event with ties being split for every position except 1st. If there is a tie for first place, a sudden death playoff will be held starting on the first applicable hole to determine a winner.

The Senior Net Division prize distribution will pay out to the top competitor in each event with ties being split for every position except 1st. If there is a tie for first place, a three hole playoff will be held starting on the first applicable hole using 1/6th of the competitors Course Handicap to determine a winner.

SUPER SENIOR DIVISION

The Super Senior Division prize distribution will pay out to the top 25% of the field (12.5% in Net and 12.5% in Scratch).

The Super Senior Scratch Division prize distribution will pay out to the top competitors in each event with ties being split for every position except 1st. If there is a tie for first place, a sudden death playoff will be held starting on the first applicable hole to determine a winner.

The Super Senior Net Division prize distribution will pay out to the top competitor in each event with ties being split for every position except 1st. If there is a tie for first place, a three hole playoff will be held starting on the first applicable hole using 1/6th of the competitors Course Handicap to determine a winner.

SNGA POINTS RACES

The SNGA has developed 19 different points races for Players of the Year and Qualifying Events. Each event has a designated amount of points. Those players that accumulate the most points will be eligible to participate in Nevada State Events and will become the Player of the Year in their respective division. In order to be eligible for any of the SNGA, State, or National Points Races, players must purchase a Tour Membership before the event in which they want points. Please read below for more information about the SNGA Points Races.

SNGA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The SNGA Players of the Year Points Race is conducted from January 1st to December 31st of every year. Divisional Player of the Year Races include the Scratch, Net, Senior Scratch, Senior Net, Super Senior Scratch, and Super Senior Net Divisions.

NEVADA STATE QUALIFYING EVENTS

The Nevada State Golf Association in conjunction with the Nevada regional Associations (SNGA and NNGA) conduct Statewide events every year. Each regional Association is responsible to hold qualifying events and maintain a qualifying points race for these events. The current statewide events that require a qualifying points race include the Nevada State Amateur, Nevada State Match Play Championship, Nevada State Net Amateur Championship, Cobb-Whalen Cup Matches, and Oliver Cup Matches.

The state qualifying points races run from the date of the prior years tournament up to 30 days prior to the upcoming event. The Cobb-Whalen and Oliver Cups are held biennially and the final year of events leading up to the Cup Matches are worth double points.

NATIONAL QUALIFYING EVENTS

The SNGA holds points races for National Qualifying Events. Those events include the Pacific Coast Amateur and the USGA Men's State Team Championship. These events are national recognized events for the top players from each Association across the United States and neighboring countries.

The first Pacific Coast Amateur Championship was held on the links of San Francisco Golf Club at The Presidio, April 24-27, 1901 making this tournament one of the oldest amateur golf championships in American history.

The USGA State Men's Team grew out of the Association's centennial anniversary in 1995. USGA officials believed that a new championship, one in which each state could be represented by amateur, non-college golfers, was an appropriate way to cap the USGA's year-long birthday celebration. The competition proved to be such a success that the Association decided to continue conducting the championship biennially.

National Qualifying Points Races run from the date of the prior tournament until 45 days prior to the upcoming event. The USGA State Team Championship is held biennially and the final year of events leading up to the Team Championship are worth double points.

POINTS DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

First through 15th place will receive a percentage of the points assigned for each tournament as outlined on the accompanying chart. Points will be divided evenly when there are ties. The only exception will be ties for first place, where the winner of the playoff will receive first place points.

DESIGNATED POINTS EVENT BREAKDOWN

National Events

PLACE	PERCENT	US Open, US Senior Open	US Amateur, US Senior Am.	US Mid Am, Junior, Publinks	Pac Coast USGA Team
	100%	1000	800	600	500
1	25%	250	200	150	125
2	16%	160	128	96	80
3	12%	120	96	72	60
4	9%	90	72	54	45
5	7%	70	56	42	35
6	5%	50	40	30	25
7 thru 10	4%	40	32	24	20
11 thru 15	2%	20	16	12	10

State and Local Events

PLACE	PERCENT	NSGA State Amateurs	NSGA Mid-Am NSGA Match Play	SNGA Major Events	SNGA Mid Events	SNGA Minor Events
	100%	400	350	300	200	100
1	25%	100	87.5	75	50	25
2	16%	64	56	48	32	16
3	12%	48	42	36	24	12
4	9%	36	31.5	27	18	9
5	7%	28	24.5	21	14	7
6	5%	20	17.5	15	10	5
7 thru 10	4%	16	14	12	8	4
11 thru 15	2%	8	7	6	4	2

Additional Events

Points to Qualifiers

US Open Sectional Qualification	100
US Open Local Qualification	75
US Senior Open Qualification	75
US Amateur Qualification	50
US Mid-Amateur Qualification	50
US Public Links Qualification	50
US Junior Am Qualification	50
US Senior Amateur Qualification	50

Under Mid Points Distribution

Points

NCAA National Championships	500
NCAA Regional Championships	350
Nevada State High School Championships	300

NEVADA STATE NET AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

The Nevada State Net Amateur Championship (400 point event) is an event that is conducted as a 36 hole individual stroke play event followed by Match Play. Therefore the points distribution is as follows:

Match Play Qualifiers:

Winner: 100
 2nd Place: 64
 T3rd Place: 42
 T3rd Place: 42
 T5th Place: 24
 T5th Place: 24
 T5th Place: 24
 T5th Place: 24

Non Match Play Qualifier:

9th Place: 16
 10th Place: 12
 11th Place: 8
 12th Place: 6
 13th Place: 6
 14th Place: 4
 15th Place: 4

Designated points events are determined prior to the tournament season. Points events cannot be added to the list of designated points events after the SNGA Tournament Schedule has been posted for the year. No points events will be added mid-year.