



# 2022

## VGA TOUR PLAYERS MANUAL

Veteran Golfers Association  
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# Mission

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The Veteran Golfers Association is dedicated to enriching the lives of Veterans and their family members through the camaraderie and sportsmanship of golf.

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## VGA LOGO

The VGA logo is a registered trademark of the Veteran Golfers Association. Any use of the VGA logo requires prior authorization from VGA National. Altering the VGA logo is unauthorized.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND HANDICAPS

The Veteran Golfers Association is open to all amateur & professional Veteran golfers and their family members. However, all VGA members who are currently or formerly PGA Professionals, must compete from our Champions Flight (A-Flight). When completing the application to be a VGA member, please provide accurate information. Stolen valor is grounds for immediate termination of your membership in the Veteran Golfers Association.

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Membership in the VGA provides all VGA members the opportunity to compete in any VGA event in any city or state around the United States, given there is space availability. Members compete locally to earn points to qualify to register for their state or Regional Championship and the annual Armed Forces Cup. Twenty players from each Regional Championship will advance to the annual National Championship each fall, given there are no unforeseen disasters or epidemics. (i.e. COVID-19)

## ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY

By signing or electronically submitting a membership application on our website, and registering to participate in a VGA Tour event, the player understands and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Veteran Golfers Association. Further, players understand that there are certain dangers involved with participating 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 player assumes and solely accepts. By participating in a VGA event, the player waives all claims of injury to body or property against the Veteran Golfers Association and/or the local VGA State or Regional Director. Additionally, the player agrees that while on the premises of sites hosting the Veteran Golfers Association Tour ("Event"), as well as all other presenting sponsors, co-sponsors and representatives affiliated with the tournament, the player, and any guest, relative or anyone else affiliated with the player, shall be present at their own risk, and that the Veteran Golfers Association and/or the VGA State or Regional Director shall not be liable for any claims for injuries or damages whatsoever to the person or property of the player.

## TOUR FORMAT

All tournaments are gross stroke play or net stroke play with modified USGA rules in effect. The rules of golf, as governed by the USGA, will apply to all VGA Tour events with the following exceptions:

1. Players can score a maximum of double par on any hole. At any time on a hole, if a player reaches double par (including penalty strokes) and the ball is not holed out,

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the player MUST pick up his/her ball.

2. Players have a maximum of 3 minutes to locate a lost ball. When a player suffers a lost ball, after looking for 3 minutes, the group must determine where the ball was last seen. The ball will be dropped as close as possible to where it was last seen or estimated to have landed and stopped but not in a bunker or penalty area.
3. The Veteran Golfers Association will not assess stroke and distance penalties for out of bounds and lost balls. In the case of a lost ball, out of bounds or relief from a penalty area, the player will drop according to the rules of golf and take a 1 stroke penalty. Lost ball and out of bounds will be resolved in the same manner with these 4 steps.
  - Step 1: You've hit your ball out of bounds or have lost your ball.
  - Step 2: You and one fellow playing partner in your group determine the line of flight where your ball went out of bounds or line of flight your ball crossed when it was lost.
  - Step 3: Find the nearest place to play golf from inside the out of bounds or from the nearest line your ball was lost (2 club lengths) no closer to the hole.
  - Step 4: Drop your ball from mid thigh or just above the knee, no closer to the hole. Assess 1 penalty stroke and continue to play under the pace of play rules.

## TOUR FLIGHTS

A. The field will be divided into four indexed flights and five divisions with all players flighted by their VGA handicap index.

<b>VETERANS</b>	<b>FEMALES</b>	<b>WOUNDED</b>	<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>SENIORS</b>
ACTIVE DUTY	ACTIVE DUTY	PURPLE HEART	+18 YRS OLD	+50 YRS OLD
RETIRED	RETIRED	ACTIVE DUTY	DEPENDENTS	VETERANS
DISABLED	DISABLED	RETIRED	SIBLINGS	WOUNDED
DISCHARGED	DISCHARGED	DISCHARGED	PARENTS	FAMILY
<b>FLIGHTS</b>	<b>FLIGHTS</b>	<b>FLIGHTS</b>	<b>FLIGHTS</b>	<b>FLIGHTS</b>
A (0-4.9)	A (0-10)	A (0-4.9)	A (0-4.9)	A (0-9.9 Net)
B (5-9.9)	B (10.1-17)	B (5-9.9)	B (5-9.9)	B (10-19.9 Net)
C (10-14.9)	C (17.1-23.9)	C (10-14.9)	C (10+ Net)	C (20+ Net)
D (15+ Net)	D (24+ Net)	D (15+ Net)	FEMALE (Net)	FEMALE (Net)

B. Veterans are NOT authorized to select the family division as their competition division regardless of qualifications. Veterans who select the family division within their VGA member profile will be subject up to and including termination of their VGA membership.

## VGA HANDICAP INDEX POLICY

A. The VGA Handicap Index Policy is intended to group players into flights of similar ability and to promote fair competition within the flight. VGA handicap indexes are based solely



on a player's performance in VGA events. Players' scores from events that are outside the VGA Tour will not be accepted or used to compute their VGA handicap index. The formula used to compute a player's VGA Tour index is similar to the newly created World Handicap System, adopted by the USGA and R&A.

- B. The VGA will not accept USGA handicaps for flighting during the VGA playoff season. Players shall have an established VGA handicap index (provided after three VGA competitive events) in order to qualify for the VGA playoffs. During the regular season, a new VGA member may supply a USGA approved handicap for tournament flighting purposes; however, that player will NOT be able to win their flight until a VGA handicap index is established.
- C. VGA handicap indexes will be capped at 36 for male competitors and 40 for female competitors. All VGA Net Flight competitors will use 100% of their course handicap for any given round.
- D. The number of rounds used to compute a player's VGA handicap index will be based on the 20 most recent VGA scores, carried over from year to year and converted to differentials. If a player does not have 20 scores, the following table will be used:

Number of Rounds	Score Differential(s) to be Used	Adjustment
3	Lowest 1	-2.0
4	Lowest 1	-1.0
5	Lowest 1	0
6	Average of lowest 2	-1.0
7 or 8	Average of lowest 2	0
9 to 11	Average of lowest 3	0
12 to 14	Average of lowest 4	0
15 or 16	Average of lowest 5	0
17 or 18	Average of lowest 6	0
19	Average of lowest 7	0
20	Average of lowest 8	0

Note: Since the VGA handicap index formula differs from the USGA handicap method, the computed index is not a USGA handicap and cannot be used as such.

## FLIGHT MOVEMENT

### A. Higher Handicap Flight Movement

When a player's VGA handicap index raises to a range that would move them into a higher handicap flight (i.e. a player moves from B flight to C flight), that player has the option to request to stay in the lower handicap flight. The request must be made by the player to the state or regional director prior to the start of each event to ensure proper player flighting. Players that move to higher handicap flights retain their season point totals.



## B. Lower Handicap Flight Movement

When a player's VGA handicap index lowers to a range that moves them into a lower handicap flight (i.e. a player moves from B flight to A flight), that player does NOT have the option to request movement back to the higher handicap flight. Players that move to lower flights during the season maintain their season point totals.

## C. Exceptional Score Rule

1. If a player shoots a score in VGA tournament play that results in a score differential of 7.0 or better than their current VGA handicap index (i.e. they are a 12 index and they shoot a score that results in a scoring differential of 7 or better), that player's results will be reviewed by VGA Leadership. Upon Review, VGA Leadership may take additional action up to and including disqualification or promotion to the next higher flight.

## D. Handicap Index Validation

1. A player's VGA Handicap Index is "validated" once three official VGA Tour rounds have been posted. For new VGA members without a valid VGA handicap index, VGA State Directors may also utilize a valid USGA approved handicap index to initially flight players.

## E. Scoring out of flight

### 1. Local Tour Events

VGA Tour flights are based on a performance index system that groups together players of similar ability. In order to maintain the integrity of each flight, the VGA State Directors retain 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. VGA Tour leadership will review any scores deemed to be uncharacteristically outside a player's index range. Players found to be "sandbagging" at any VGA Tour event will be subject to disqualification.

### 2. State, Regional, & National Championship

Players deemed to be misrepresenting their ability, or manipulating their VGA index may be disqualified. For VGA State, Multi-State, and Regional Championships, a player's State Director can advocate for the player, utilizing player history, past performance and other factors relating to the player's flight placement. The VGA Regional Director is the ultimate approval authority for State, Multi-State, and Regional Championships.

### 3. VGA National Championship

For VGA National Championships, a formal tournament committee consisting of the four Regional Directors and a member of the VGA Board of Directors will be in place to make all decisions regarding scoring issues. The VGA National Championship Tournament Committee's decision is final in all scenarios.

## DRESS CODE & PLAYER CONDUCT

A. The VGA will strictly enforce a tournament dress code with no exceptions. Collared shirts and soft spikes are required. Mocks are considered collared shirts. No jeans, jogging outfits, or sweat pants are permitted. Shorts may be worn.



- B. All players are expected to adhere to the VGA Code of Conduct. The VGA will not tolerate swearing, vulgar language, club throwing, alcohol abuse, lack of golfing etiquette, improper use of golf carts, or other such behavior. Such conduct may result in tournament disqualification, suspension or permanent expulsion from the Veteran Golfers Association.
- C. VGA Leadership at each level (state, regional, and national) will make the final decision regarding any disciplinary action required for a tour policy violation.

## **CADDIES & SPECTATORS**

- A. Caddies are not permitted on the VGA Tour unless the tournament course provides them in lieu of golf carts. Spectators are welcome at VGA Tournaments. However, spectators must never be on the player's tee-box, fairway or putting green (cart path only). Additionally, spectators are not authorized to ride in a player's cart, nor are players authorized to ride in a spectator's cart. It is not guaranteed that all courses authorize spectators. If a spectator is found to be disruptive, that spectator will be asked to leave the course.

## **GUEST POLICY**

- A. Each member is allowed to invite (and be paired with) a single guest once per year. We hope that you will choose to invite a potential new VGA member, but if you have a visitor in town for the weekend and want them to play golf in a VGA Tour event, you may invite this guest provided you:
  1. Pay the regular event entry fee for this person. Identify this person on a VGA membership application as your guest.
  2. Your guest will be paired with you for the day and must be included in the proper handicapped flight. Guest players do not accumulate points and are not entered into VGA Tour standings. A guest may decide to join the tour and receive points towards VGA standings for the event, but must decide to do so immediately by informing the VGA State Director during the event, and paying for membership within 24 hours of the event's conclusion. This will allow the guest to receive points for the event and their VGA Tour standings to be updated.

## **WEATHER GUIDELINES**

If the course is open for play, the VGA Tournament will proceed as scheduled. However, per Rule 6.8.a (II), a player may discontinue play if he/she believes there is danger from lightning.

Any delays or cancellation of a tournament will be determined by the golf course and their staff in conjunction with the VGA State Director. If a course becomes unplayable during a tournament, the tournament may be declared official if all players in a flight have played at least 14 holes, no matter the combination.

If a tournament is canceled, a makeup date will be announced as soon as one is determined. Refunds will not be issued, but registrations can be applied to the scheduled makeup date or a future tournament within the same season.



## TOURNAMENT AWARDS

- A. In order for a VGA Tour member to win their flight at any VGA Tour sponsored event, the player must have an official VGA handicap index (established after playing three VGA Tour rounds).
- B. During the regular season, VGA Tour members that win their flight are eligible to win one VGA medal per a season. For each addition flight victory, players will be awarded a lapel pin to be added to their medal for the season.
- C. For State and Multi-State Championships, VGA Tour members who win their flight will be awarded a VGA State Championship trophy.
- D. For Regional Championships, VGA Tour members who win their flight will receive a VGA Regional Championship trophy and an invitation to the VGA National Championship.
- E. Flight winners at the VGA National Championship will receive a VGA National Championship trophy, a Championship Ring and an invitation to Tuesday for the Troops at The Masters Tournament in Augusta, GA the following spring.

## TOURNAMENT POLICIES

- A. Tournament registrations and tee times
  - 1. Only VGA members may participate in VGA Tournaments and events, with the exception of our guest policy listed above. All tournament registrations must be done online through the VGA website.
- B. Event registration fees are non-refundable but are transferable to future VGA events within the same season, provided the player contacts the State Director managing the event to withdraw them prior to the event registration closing for the event.
- C. VGA Leaders are required to post pairings/tee times on the VGA website at least 24 hours prior to the event. If you do not have your pairing information, please email your VGA State Director. You can find their contact information on the VGA website.

## TOURNAMENT CANCELLATIONS AND NO SHOWS

- A. All withdrawals from a regular VGA Tour tournament must be done before event registration closes. If a player withdraws from a tournament after registration closes, the tournament registration fee will be forfeited. If a player withdraws before the registration closes, the tournament fee can be transferred to another event. In the case that a player does not play in another tournament, the tournament registration fee will be non-refundable.
  - B. Fees for State and Regional Championships are non-refundable.
  - C. EVENT NO CALL / NO SHOWS (48 Hours Out From Event)
    - First Offense: Verbal Warning via email from State Director.
    - Second Offense: Written Warning via email from Regional Director.
    - Third Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the season with forfeiture of future event and membership registration fees.
- \*The administration of this policy is at the discretion of the Regional Director.

## TOURNAMENT CHECK IN



- A. Players are expected to sign in at tournaments with either the VGA State Director or at the sign-in table. We require that you check in at least 60 minutes before the start of the event. Failure to do so may result in a 2 stroke penalty, or disqualification from the event. Your timely appearance to our events is appreciated, and alleviates undo stress on our volunteer leaders.
- B. The VGA State Director will provide the official scorecard prior to your round. Please check the official scorecard to verify that your flight is correct. Since flights are assigned via handicap indexes, it is important that we have your handicap on file correctly. It is the player's responsibility to verify their proper handicap & flight.
- C. After you have registered, please find your cart with your name on it and stow your gear. Allow sufficient time to perform your normal warm-up routine. Players are expected to be at the first tee box ten minutes prior to your assigned tee time. For shotgun starts, players are expected to be at their carts twenty minutes prior to your shotgun start time to hear the local course brief prior to driving to your assigned hole.

## TOURNAMENT TEE BOXES

- A. All flights will be from a set of tees customized at each tournament. The following guidelines will be used for determining length:
  1. "A" Flight 6500-6800 yards, commonly blue tees
  2. "B, C, D" Flights 6000-6300 yards, commonly white tees
  3. "Senior" 50-59, 6000-6300 yards, commonly white tees
  4. "Senior" 60-69, 5700-5900 yards, commonly gray tees
  5. "Ladies & Senior" 70+, 5000-5500 yards (tee box must be rated for gender of player), commonly red tees.
  6. By rule, an amputee may move up one tee box from his/her assigned tee box

Note: These also will be the typical yardages that will be used for the State, Regional, and National VGA Championships.

## BEFORE ROUND STARTS

- A. For all events, you will be provided an official hard-copy scorecard, which supersedes all other scoring. Before players tee off, check your scorecard to verify all the player information is correct. In the event that a piece of information is incorrect, clear it up with the VGA State Director. If a VGA Leader is not immediately available, please advise your group and mark the problem on the scorecard so that adjustments can be made at the turn or at the end of the round before you sign your card.
- B. Exchange scorecards within your group. Each player's score is kept by another player or official "marker" who must record the players' hole-by-hole scores on the player's line, and for reference may keep his own unofficial score at the bottom or far side of the card. Whenever possible, you should not be the marker for the player who is your marker, and you should not be the marker for the other player in your cart.
- C. The VGA State Director or starter will provide local course rules. Local rules take prece-

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dence over VGA Tour or USGA rules.

- D. Each player should identify their ball with a distinctive marking and show it to their playing partners. You must be able to positively identify the ball you found is yours. If you cannot positively identify the ball as yours, then USGA rules deem your ball to be lost.
- E. Players may only have a maximum of 14 clubs in accordance with the USGA rules of golf.
- F. Follow the starter's instructions for order of play. In the absence of a starter, start in the order indicated by the VGA State Director, the order of players on the live scoring app, or by alphabetical order by your last name.

## **DURING THE ROUND**

- A. Keep golf carts away from greens and bunkers. Follow course markings for keeping carts on paths and properly entering or exiting the fairway.
- B. After each hole, players shall announce their gross score for the hole, so it can be properly recorded.

## **PACE OF PLAY**

- A. Our goal is to play our round of golf in 4.5 hours. Players should play at a prompt pace throughout the round by preparing in advance for each stroke and moving promptly between strokes and going to the next tee. Keep in mind that in stroke play competitions there are no penalties under the Rules of Golf for playing out of turn.
- B. Players may only post a maximum of double par on any one hole. After double par has been reached, the player must pick up for the hole. There is no limit to the number of double par holes that can be carded in a round.
- C. When possible, rangers will act as VGA Tour officials to warn slow groups, and then report slow groups to the State Director. If a gap exists, the group is out of position and will only be warned one time. Slow play penalties might be assessed to groups with a gap in front of them. A "gap" is defined as not being able to see the group of golfers ahead of you.
- D. Should a group be identified by a marshal, tournament official or VGA Leader as out of position, the group will have one hole in which to regain position. Out of position is defined by the VGA as not being able to see the group in front of you. If a group fails to regain position, the following action could be taken on the group at the VGA Leader's discretion
  - First Offense - Warning
  - Second Offense - One (1) Stroke Penalty
  - Third Offense - Two (2) Stroke Penalty
  - Fourth Offense - Disqualification.
- E. The tournament director is given latitude to allow more time for players with handicaps that prevent faster play. In order to be considered for longer playing time, a player with a handicap must address it with the tournament director prior to the start of play.

## **DISAGREEMENT OR UNCERTAINTY OF THE RULES OF GOLF**

- A. Competitors who question a rule or procedure during the play of a golf hole may play an alternate ball(s) under USGA Rule 3-3, but must comply with all requirements of that rule. 11



Before playing any ball, the player must announce that he/she will play two balls under Rule 3-3; which ball is being played under which rule; and state which ball he/she wishes to count if the rule permits. At the conclusion of the round, the VGA State Director or head course professional will make the final ruling. In any discrepancy of the rules, after conferring with the Regional Director, the VGA State Director will make all final decisions.

### **AFTER THE ROUND: RETURNING SCORECARDS**

- A. At the conclusion of the round, players must review official scorecards with their playing partners. If you need a ruling, obtain one before signing the official card. USGA rules for returning official scorecards will be imposed.
- B. Turn in scorecards immediately following play. Players are responsible for the correctness and proper return of their scorecard. If a player submits a signed card with a lower hole score than the actual score made, the player will be disqualified from the tournament. Players must resolve any rules issues that occurred on the course before signing the official scorecard. All scorecards require at least two signatures; one by the marker and one by the competitor. All players should review their hole-by-hole scores for correct recording, and must sign to attest their score. Scorecards are considered final and submitted once given to the scoring table with all signatures.

### **TIE BREAKERS**

- A. During local VGA Tour events, all tie breakers will consist of a scorecard playoff, starting with the lowest handicap holes first. For State, Regional, and National Championships, all 1st place ties will be decided by a sudden-death playoff on the course. If a sudden death playoff is not possible due to lack of light or inclement weather, a scorecard playoff will be used to determine a winner. Acceptable scorecard-playoff tie-breaking procedures include: Best score on #1 handicap hole, #2, #3, etc, until a winner is decided.
- B. All tie breakers from the Regional Armed Forces Cup Qualifiers will be determined by the individual player's previous VGA Tour season points total. If two teams tie in points for first place at the National Armed Forces Cup, the team captains will select a player from their team or themselves to play in a sudden death play off.

### **TOURNAMENT CONCLUSION**

- A. Once the final scores are tabulated and awards have been presented to the winners, the tournament is considered final and closed. The VGA State or Regional Director will always be the final decision on all tournament matters.

### **POINTS SYSTEM**

- A. The VGA Tour points system is designed for two reasons:
  - 1. To provide early access to VGA state playoff events for the top points earners in each Region.
  - 2. Provide a qualification system for all VGA Tour members into the Regional and National Armed Forces Cup.



## POINTS SYSTEM MATRIX

Place	Regular Season & Senior Championships <5 Players Per Flight w/VGA HCP	Regular Season & Senior Championship >5 Players Per Flight w/VGA HCP	State Championship <5 Players Per Flight w/VGA HCP	State Championship >5 Players Per Flight w/VGA HCP	Regional Championship <10 Players Per Flight w/VGA HCP	Regional Championship >10 Players Per Flight w/VGA HCP
1	13	15	19	22	26	30
2	12	14	18	21	25	29
3	11	13	17	20	24	28
4	10	12	16	19	23	27
5	10	11	15	18	22	26
6	10	10	15	17	21	25
7	10	10	15	16	20	24
8	10	10	15	15	20	23
9	10	10	15	15	20	22
10	10	10	15	15	20	21
11	10	10	15	15	20	20

- A. Points are only awarded to VGA Members that complete a full round at any sanctioned VGA event with 7 or more VGA Members competing. Any player that withdraws from an event will not receive points for participating in that event. If there are extenuating circumstances surrounding a player's withdrawal, Regional Directors will have the final decision regarding points awarded to that player.
- B. For each player placing outside the top 10, the points will remain the same as the person in 11th place.

### Points Matrix - National Championship

The VGA will not award any additional points for members that make it to the VGA National Championship.

### VGA TOUR PLAYOFFS

- A. VGA State Championships are the first round of our yearly playoff series. State Championships will be reserved for those states that have 75+ active VGA members. For those states that do not have 75+ active VGA members, they may participate in Multi-State Championships as directed by their Regional Director. The major takeaways are the following:
1. In order to qualify for ANY state or multi-State Championship, a player must have established a VGA handicap index.
  2. Players have the option of playing in any State Championship in their region or around the country given there is space availability in the tournament.
  3. Players will earn points during the course of the season by playing in regular season



events. These points will determine how players receive priority for playoff event registration. For example, the top 30% of points earners in a state will be able to register for their State Championship prior to the bottom 70%. The points associated with each event and the registration timelines for playoffs will be calculated on the VGA website under the player's dashboard. Registration timelines for the VGA Playoffs will be determined and communicated by the VGA State & Regional Director.

4. State and multi-State Championships are one day, 18 hole events. Regional and National Championships are two day, 36 hole events.
5. The number of players advancing from any given state or multi-State Championship to the Regional Championship will be determined by the Regional Director.
6. Players will have access to the State and Regional Championship they reside in first. Players may also register for other State and Regional Championships, given space availability. Special exceptions can be coordinated through a Regional Director for access on a case-by-case basis if necessary.
7. For the VGA National Championship only, all A flight players will play out each hole. The double par max rule will not be utilized for A flight players only.
8. For all playoff events (State Championships, Regional Championships, Regional Armed Forces Cups, National Armed Forces Cup & VGA National Championship), a player's VGA handicap index will be locked the Wednesday before the tournament's scheduled first round, regardless of any outstanding rounds that have not processed.

## QUALIFYING

- A. **State Championship** - to qualify for a VGA State Championship, a player must earn points by competing in local VGA Tour events and have an established VGA handicap index. Those players earning the most points during the VGA Tour Season have priority when registering for their State Championship. All players, regardless of where they reside, are eligible to compete in any State Championship, given there is space availability to do so. If a State Championship hosts their Senior Division, the Senior flight winners may advance to their Regional Championship of the Regional Director, given there is space availability to do so. All seniors advancing to a Regional Championship must compete in the Veteran, Female Veteran, Combat Wounded, or Family division. Senior flights will not compete at the Regional Championship. All players will be responsible for their travel and/or lodging to and from a State Championship.
- B. **Regional Championship** - to qualify for a VGA Regional Championship, a player must first compete in a State Championship. In general, the top two players per flight from a State Championship will qualify to advance to a Regional Championship. However, each region's qualifications may differ, depending on the number of states in a region and the size of a region's membership. All eligible players, regardless of where they reside, have the option of competing in any Regional Championship, given there is space availability to do so. All players will be responsible for their travel and/or lodging to and from a Regional Championship.



- C. **Senior Regional Championship** - to qualify for a Senior Regional Championship, a player must be 50 years of age or older and must have an established VGA handicap index. Each region will host a Senior Regional Championship each spring. Approximately 30 players will advance from each Senior Regional Championship to the Senior VGA Championship, hosted in Pinehurst, NC. All eligible senior players, regardless of where they reside, have the option of competing in any of our four Senior Regional Championships, given there is space availability to do so. Players are responsible for their travel and/or lodging to and from any Senior Regional Championship.
- D. **Senior VGA Championship** - to qualify for the Senior VGA Championship, a player must be 50 years of age or older, must have an established VGA handicap index and must have played in a Senior Regional Championship. The Senior VGA Championship will be hosted in Pinehurst, NC each summer following the regular VGA Tour Season. The first place flight winners will advance to the VGA National Championship each fall. Players are responsible for their travel and/or lodging to and from the Senior VGA Championship.
- E. **National Championship** - twenty players from each of the four Regional Championships will advance to our VGA National Championship each fall. The allocation of slots are as follows: top 2 players from each flight in the Male Veteran Division, the top player from each flight in the Female Veteran, Wounded Veteran and Family Divisions, and the 4 flight winners from the Senior VGA Championship. All players advancing to the VGA National Championship are responsible for their travel to and from the event. In addition, players will be required to bring certain items (i.e. apparel), as specified by VGA National. The goal of the VGA National Championship is to provide a PGA Tour level experience as the capstone event of the VGA Tour Season. Therefore, each championship player will receive 3 nights lodging (2 players per room), 3 rounds of golf, meals, and apparel free of charge.
- F. **Tuesday for the Troops** - each flight winner from the VGA National Championship will receive an invitation to participate in Tuesday for the Troops during The Masters Tournament in Augusta, GA the following spring. All VGA Champions will be responsible for their travel to and from Augusta, GA to participate in Tuesday for the Troops.
- G. **Armed Forces Cup** - to qualify for the Armed Forces Cup, a player must be a Veteran or active duty member of the United States military.
1. Regional Qualifying:
    - A. The top 8 points earners per branch per region will be invited to compete head-to-head in 2 x 18 hole match play tournaments against other players in their branch, utilizing the VGA handicap system.
    - B. Participation is mandatory for all players expecting to advance to the National Armed Forces Cup in Pinehurst the following Memorial Day.
    - C. Each player will be seeded by their overall points total from the previous VGA Tour season.



D. After the 2 x 18 hole matches conclude, the top 2 players per branch per region will advance to the National Armed Forces Cup. Of those 8 players per branch advancing, the player with the highest points total from the previous VGA Tour season will be selected as the Armed Forces Cup Team Captain, and will receive 1 x Captain's Pick.

E. The Captain's pick can be any VGA member, provided they served in the same branch, have a verified VGA handicap index, and have played in a Regional AFC Qualifier in the same season.

F. Any and all tie breakers will be determined by a player's previous VGA Tour season points total.

G. Players are responsible for their travel and/or lodging to and from the Regional Armed Forces Cup Qualifier.

## 2. National Qualifying:

A. Top 2 players per branch from each AFC Regional Qualifier will receive an invitation to compete in the VGA National Armed Services Cup each season.

B. The highest point earner per branch across all four Regional AFC Qualifiers will be selected as the National AFC Team Captain.

C. If two teams tie in points for first place at the National Armed Forces Cup, the team captains will select a player from their team or themselves to play in a sudden death play off.

C. Players are responsible for their travel and/or lodging to and from the National AFC.

## SERVICE ANIMALS

The VGA recognizes the importance of service animals to our Veterans and family members. Therefore per ADA Guidelines, the VGA has implemented the following:

1. Players are allowed to have their service animal accompany them to VGA events.
2. A service animal must be under the control of its handler while at VGA events.
3. Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the player's disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of tasks. In that case, the player must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.
4. If a player's service animal is unruly, disruptive or harmful to other players, and the player does not take effective action to control it; the VGA reserves the right to request the player remove the service animal from the golf course. If the player refuses to complete the round without the service animal, the VGA reserves the right to disqualify the player from the tournament.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

The VGA uses @vgagolf for Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to communicate with our members. The VGA also hosts a Facebook group as a forum for VGA members to communicate and connect with VGA Leaders and other members. The VGA Facebook group page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/veteransgolfassociation>

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The VGA monitors all VGA Social Media pages. Disparaging comments towards the organization, its leaders, or its members will not be tolerated; therefore, the VGA reserves the right to delete comments, remove individuals from the VGA Facebook group page and block individuals from any/all VGA Social Media pages.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

As a member of the VGA, I pledge to:

1. Treat other players with respect at all times.
2. Cooperate with other players, VGA staff, golf course staff and officials at all times.
3. Refrain from the use of vulgar language, profanity, and obscene gestures.
4. Refrain from becoming intoxicated or drinking excessively.
5. Never cause physical, verbal or emotional harm to another player, VGA staff, golf course staff or officials.
6. Treat the VGA staff, golf course staff, officials, other players and spectators with respect at all times.
7. Listen to and follow all given directions/instructions from staff and officials.
8. Ask officials or staff, in a calm manner, to explain any rules I do not understand.
9. Respect the golf courses and facility amenities.
10. Participate in a sportsmanlike and safe manner at all times.
11. Read and review the VGA tournament rules and adhere to them at all times.
12. Uphold the VGA philosophy of healthy competition and sportsmanship.

If I fail to abide by the VGA Code of Conduct, then depending on the seriousness of the offense(s), any or all of the following consequences may occur:

1. Verbal Warning.
2. Removal from the tournament (no refund of registration fee).
3. Temporary suspension from league play (no refund of registration fee or membership fee).
4. Permanent expulsion from the VGA (no refund of registration fee or membership fee).
5. Disqualification from advancing to a Regional Championship.
6. Disqualification from advancing to Nationals.

## DISCIPLINE POLICY

I understand that the VGA has a discipline policy for conduct in recreation programs, tournaments and facilities. In the event that I am asked to leave a program/tournament/facility, I understand that the registration fee will not be refunded to me. I further understand that the VGA has full authority and discretion on how it interprets the code of conduct and is the final authority to determine the outcome of any player that violates our code of conduct.

Good luck this year on the VGA Tour, and we look forward to seeing all of you on the links. Be safe and hit them straight!





# VGA<sup>®</sup>

It's more than just a game

