

ATTACHMENT A  
**PGA TOUR OPEN QUALIFIER GUIDELINES  
 2024 SEASON**



1. PRE-QUALIFIER

The PGA Section is required to conduct a Pre-Qualifier competition. This round should be played on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday of the week preceding the Open Qualifier. In the event that the pre-qualifying entries number is less than 50 at the non-member entry deadline, the pre-qualifier will be held and the percentage of players advancing to the Open Qualifier will be 75% of the Pre-Qualifying field and any scores tied at this position.

Members of the 2024 PGA TOUR season, 2024 Korn Ferry Tour members, 2024 Regular members of PGA TOUR Champions, 2024 DP World Tour members from Category 1-21 on the Priority Ranking, a player who played in the preceding week's PGA TOUR event immediately preceding the Open Qualifier, former PGA TOUR members from 2020-2023, a player making the cut on the PGA TOUR in the current 2024 season, and players in the top 100 on the World Golf Rankings as of the non-member entry deadline are exempt into the Open Qualifier. PGA TOUR will provide lists for each of these groups to the host Section.

Additionally, three (3) members of the Local PGA Section in which the Tournament is held will be exempt into the Open Qualifier. The PGA Section is solely responsible for identifying and entering these three players prior to the PGA TOUR Members entry deadline (refer to Section 4). These three spots are to be determined by the PGA Section through competitive means - a points list, a separate qualifier, or by other competitive criteria. These three section players will be responsible for paying the \$500 entry fee and will be counted among those nonmembers which split the entry fee with PGA TOUR.

The lowest scoring 25 players plus any ties for 25<sup>th</sup> place from the Pre-Qualifier will be the eligible players for the Open Qualifier, except any Open Qualifier in the previous season whose total Open Qualifying round field size was less than 78 players (including number of expected pre-qualifiers) at the entry deadline for exempt players, the number of players advancing into Open Qualifying will be the lowest scoring 40 players plus any ties for 40<sup>th</sup> place. **NOTE:** When there are less than 50 players in the Pre-Qualifier, 75% of the field will advance to the Open Qualifier.

When more than one pre-qualifying site is used, the split for each site will be announced when the pairings are posted. The percentage for those advancing should be based on the table below. The number of players and ties advancing from each site will be on a pro rata basis (the same percentage of players from each site will advance). For example, 3 Pre-Qualifying sites with 95, 100 and 110 (305) entrants with 25 + ties advancing would use the number 21 which equals 6.9% from each site (7 + ties, 7 + ties and 8 + ties respectively).

<u># Sites</u>	<u>25+ ties Pre-Qualifiers</u>	<u>40 + ties Pre-Qualifiers</u>
2	23	38
3	21	36
4	20	35
5	19	34

It is recommended that the Section allow the applicants to select their site preference when more than one pre-qualifying site is used.

2. PGA TOUR RULES CONTACT

A PGA TOUR Tournament Official will not be on-site during Open Qualifying. However, the Advance Rules Official for that week's PGA TOUR event will be available for support. Additionally, PGA TOUR Vice President of Rules and Competitions, Ken Tackett (304-543-9842) will be available throughout the year for any questions.

3. APPLICATION TO ENTER PRE-QUALIFIER AND OPEN QUALIFIER FORM

The PGA TOUR has provided an Application to Enter Pre-Qualifier and Open Qualifier form, which the PGA Section must use. The form will be emailed to you as a MS Word file. There are blank areas that need to be completed by the PGA Section on pages 1 and 3. Also, please note that you must select whether or not you will allow carts in the pre-qualifier on page 4 – this is the decision of the PGA Section. Please post the entry form on your website and for electronic entries, include an area where applicants must agree to the terms and conditions as part of the electronic process.

4. DEADLINE

Deadline for receipt of entries by eligible players (nonmember professional golfers and amateurs/players seeking amateur status with attested handicaps of two (2) or less) shall be 5:00 p.m. (local tournament site time) on the second Friday preceding the Open Qualifier. All players must enter by the applicable deadline. Members of the PGA TOUR, Korn Ferry Tour, Regular Members of PGA TOUR Champions, DP World Tour Members from category 1-21 on the Priority Ranking, as well as those players exempt from pre-qualifying, must enter by no later than 5:00 p.m. (local tournament site time) on the Friday preceding the Open Qualifier.

5. PRE-QUALIFYING AND OPEN QUALIFYING SITES

To the extent possible, conditions of the Pre-Qualifier and Open Qualifier site shall be comparable to those of the Tournament site in conditioning, speed of greens, etc. The course should be of a traditional nature, in good condition, and a good test of golf. A course where a player must hit an iron off of a majority of tees or a course that is in poor condition from a maintenance perspective is unacceptable. While the proximity of the course to the Tournament site should be considered, it is more important to play a higher quality course located ninety (90) minutes from the Tournament site than it is to play one of less quality thirty (30) minutes away.

6. FIELD SIZE

The Open Qualifier field size ideally will be 78 players or less, including PGA TOUR, Korn Ferry Tour and Regular PGA TOUR Champions members. If the field size as of the entry deadline for members exceeds 78 players because of the number of PGA TOUR, Korn Ferry Tour, Regular PGA TOUR Champions members, and DP World Tour Members from category 1-21 on the Priority Ranking who enter, the field size will be expanded to accommodate the PGA TOUR, Korn Ferry Tour, Regular PGA TOUR Champions members, and DP World Tour Members from category 1-21 on the Priority Ranking.

7. GROUPINGS / STARTING TIMES

The groupings and starting times for the Open Qualifier must be approved by the Advance Rules Official for that week's PGA TOUR event competition and shall be posted by 3:00 p.m. (local time) on Saturday preceding the competition. Normally the competition will be played in groups of three (3) players, with starting times off both the first and tenth tees. The first starting time should be at the earliest reasonable time which provides time for maintenance procedures and provides the first group forty-five (45) minutes to warm up. The following guidelines are suggested for creating the groupings for the Open Qualifying round.

- (a) Limit the number of PGA TOUR members in a group to no more than two.
- (b) To the extent possible, group PGA TOUR members in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> starting times off both starting tees in both waves of starting times.
- (c) To the extent possible, use later starting times for PGA TOUR members that are in the top 10 alternates for the tournament or made the cut in the previous week's PGA TOUR tournament.

8. QUALIFIER POSITIONS / PLAYOFFS

The number of players advancing is normally four; to the extent possible, hole-by-hole playoffs for qualifier positions shall be conducted immediately following the completion of qualifier competition play. It is not necessary to identify alternates, since a withdrawal by one of the four open qualifiers will result in that qualifier being replaced with a player on the PGA TOUR alternate list. In no case will a playoff be decided by any means other than a hole-by-hole format, even if this means continuing the playoff on the next day.

Upon approval by the Advance Rules Official for that week's PGA TOUR event and prior to starting a hole-by-hole playoff, contestants that earn a qualifying position are in the field of the above-named tournament. In the event of a tie for the last Open Qualifying position, a separate hole-by-hole playoff competition will be conducted to determine the player(s) that will earn the remaining qualifying position(s) for the above-named tournament.

Prior to the approval of the round scores at an Open Qualifying site, an Open Qualifying contestant who gains entry into the field of the above-named tournament shall be removed from the Open Qualifying competition, even if the player has completed his Open Qualifying round and returned his scorecard.

A contestant competing in an Open Qualifying hole-by-hole playoff that gains a position in the field via the alternate list of the above-named tournament shall be removed from the hole-by-hole playoff.

A contestant competing in an Open Qualifying hole-by-hole playoff that earns an Open Qualifying position is in the field of the above-named tournament and is removed from the alternate list.

9. TRADITIONAL SPIKES

Facilities hosting Open Qualifiers may not prohibit the use of traditional metal spikes for the Pre-Qualifier and Open Qualifier. Players may be required to use soft-spikes during practice rounds.

10. GOLF CARTS / PULL CARTS

Golf Carts are not permitted during the Open Qualifier. Manual or electric pull carts are permitted. At the option of the PGA Section, players are permitted to ride during a Pre-Qualifying round. This should be noted in the entry form approved by PGA TOUR if applicable under the section entitled Transportation.

11. CADDIES

Players are not required to have a caddie. Players and caddies shall walk at all times, except when permitted by the Rules Committee to ride. Caddies are not permitted to walk on the competition course putting greens the day(s) of the Open Qualifying competition except during the round when accompanying their player.

12. APPEARANCE / CONDUCT

Players: While on the host facility property on the day(s) of competition, players shall present a neat appearance in both clothing and personal grooming. Blue jeans, cutoffs, T-shirts or shirts with no collar shall not be worn. Players are permitted to wear golf shorts which are knee length, tailored and neat in appearance. Compression leggings worn underneath shorts must be solid in color.

Caddies: While on the host facility property on the day(s) of competition, caddies may wear either long pants or tailored solid colored knee length shorts or skorts. Blue jeans, cutoffs, T-shirts or shirts with no collar shall not be worn. Smooth rubber sole shoes are required. Sandals, open toe shoes, and golf shoes with traditional metal or soft spikes are prohibited.

Players and Caddies shall conform to the host facility's appearance policies while onsite during any practice round.

While on host facility property during qualifying rounds; players and caddies shall conduct themselves in a professional manner. PGA TOUR reserves the right to remove a player from the qualifying competition for; non competitiveness; conduct unbecoming a professional by the player; conduct unbecoming a professional by the players' caddie.

13. EVACUATION PLAN

An evacuation plan is required for the Pre-Qualifier and Open Qualifier competitions in the event inclement weather or other emergency necessitates a prompt evacuation of the golf course.

14. SCORECARDS

Scorecards must be for the course being played and need to include the player's name, date, starting hole (i.e., #1 and #10), the yardage and par for each hole and a place for both the player and marker to sign. Ideally, the Section will create its own scorecard for the competition as opposed using the normal card for the course.

15. RULES OF PLAY

Play shall be governed in accordance with the Rules of Golf of the United States Golf Association, as modified by the PGA TOUR Local Rules and Terms of the Competition card (Hard Card) and supplemented by the Notice to Players. Questions or disputes (including equipment rulings) shall be settled by the Advance Rules Official for that week's PGA TOUR event, whose decision shall be final.

DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES

For play in Open Qualifying, a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If during the round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4.3a(1).

GUIDANCE ON USE OF CELL PHONES DURING ROUND

The use of cell phones in an Open Qualifier tournament is typically prohibited by Tournament Regulations, although the PGA Tour Rules Committee may allow use of cell phones during a round as long as the players and caddies are adhering to the cell phone policy. When allowed, the following general uses of cell phones by players and caddies during a round are allowed: checking the leaderboard in the tournament, use as a compass, getting distance information by using as an electronic distance-measuring device, getting any type of weather information

(including wind speed) that is available from weather forecasts, measuring temperature and humidity at the course. A Notice to Players on what is allowed and not allowed will be provided to the players by the Section.

#### GROOVE SPECIFICATIONS

Open Qualifying contestants MUST use equipment which conforms to the Local Rule for Groove and Punch Mark Specifications as implemented in the PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions and Korn Ferry Tour Local Rules and Terms of the Competition (Hard Card). This condition shall NOT apply to Pre-Qualifying. The complete specifications for grooves in elite competitions along with a public database listing conformity of many clubs can be found at USGA.org (click on Playing > Equipment > Club & Ball Lists > Informational Club Database) or by contacting the USGA Equipment Standards Department at (908) 234-2300. Players should confirm that their equipment conforms to the new specifications well in advance of the competition and should be aware that conforming equipment must be used in Open Qualifying, even if a player is successful in pre-qualifying with non-conforming grooves.

If, before the competition, a player has doubt as to the conformity of a club, PGA Section officials will attempt to determine the status of the club(s), but play will not be delayed in doing so. There will be no on-site field testing for groove conformity at Open Qualifying. If the club(s) in question is not listed on the public databases listing conformity of clubs, the club shall not be used in the competition.

In the event that it is discovered that a player's club(s) do not conform after the close of the competition, the provisions of Rule 20 of the Rules of Golf shall apply.

16. PACE OF PLAY

The PGA TOUR Pace of Play Policy will be in effect for the Open Qualifier, except the fine structure shall not apply. Sections will be required, under the guidance of the Advance Rules Official for that week's PGA TOUR event, to create a Pace of Play Time Chart.

17. OFFICIALS AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS

The host PGA Section is required to coordinate the starters, scoring officials and provide at least four on-course rules officials at each qualifier course. We expect that one or more of these be certified by PGA/USGA examination to the level of USGA or PGA of America guidelines.

18. COURSE CONDITIONS

Generally, there should be no change in the usual maintenance program of the course. However, all putting greens must be mowed the morning of the Open Qualifier. Fairways and tees must be cut within the preceding day and bunkers should be smoothed prior to play. The PGA TOUR requests that the course generally be firm and fast and not overly wet on the competition day. If possible, divots in landing areas and on tees should be filled and dew on fairways, tees and putting green collars should be removed.

19. COURSE MARKING

The marking of the course is the Section's responsibility, while the Advance Rules Official for that week's PGA TOUR event will be available for questions. The course should be marked prior to the Pre-Qualifier if necessary. Please contact the facility and develop an action plan for marking the course. The use of 1" x 2" x 24" stakes for penalty areas and 1" x 2" x 30" or 36" stakes for out-of-bounds is preferred. The Section shall ensure that there is enough red, yellow and white marking paint to mark the course, as well as some green marking paint, enough paint guns and

a stake mallet. Out-of-bounds must be defined and marked with white stakes and all penalty areas must be identified with stakes and defined by painted lines. The marking of any ground under repair will be the Section's responsibility while the Advance Rules Official for that week's PGA TOUR event will be available for questions.

20. HOLE / TEE MARKER LOCATIONS

*Hole Locations:* The location of the hole on each green is the Section's responsibility while the Advance Rules Official for that week's PGA TOUR event will be available for questions. Hole locations are not to be marked (dotted) prior to cutting the hole for the qualifying round. Hole locations should be determined and paced from the front and side of the green, however DO NOT dot the green to indicate the hole location prior to the day of the qualifying round. Doing so allows the Open Qualifying contestants playing practice rounds the ability to practice putt to the hole location.

*Tee Markers:* All players in the field are required to play from the same tee markers, including females. Therefore, only one set of markers is needed on each hole. Please make arrangements to have all other tee markers removed from the competition course prior to the first starting time. The positioning of the tee markers is the Section's responsibility while the Advance Rules Official for that week's PGA TOUR event will be available for questions.

21. SCOREBOARD / SCORING AREA

An Official Scoreboard with a minimum of nine and eighteen-hole scores and a summary is required for the Open Qualifier. A scoring area(s) for players to sign and return their scorecard is required. The area should be in close proximity to the finishing green(s) and needs to be large enough to allow all players in a grouping to be seated comfortably. The perimeter of the scoring area must be defined.

22. VOLUNTEERS / TENTS

Please coordinate with the host facility the recruitment of volunteers if necessary and the construction of starting and finishing tents.

23. OPEN QUALIFYING RESULTS

At the conclusion of the Open Qualifier competition, the Section shall submit the electronic [Successful Open Qualifying Form](#). This form will include the four\* qualifiers' full names as they would want them to appear in groupings, their contact information, date of birth, hometown/state, their score for the Open Qualifier and caddie information if obtainable. Please submit this form as soon as possible so the successful qualifiers can be added to the PGA TOUR competition.

\*All events will have 4 successful qualifiers except WM Phoenix Open.

24. REDUCTION/CANCELLATION/FORCE MAJEURE GUIDELINES

Any reduction or cancellation in the respective qualifying competition shall be in accordance with Reduction/Cancellation Guidelines as found in the PGA TOUR Tournament Regulations. In the event that the competition is canceled without any player having been able to play, all entry fees will be refunded. In the event the competition is canceled after play has begun, all entry fees will be refunded, minus a \$25 administrative charge per player.

The term "Force Majeure" shall mean acts of God, earthquakes, blizzards, tornadoes, hurricanes, fire, flood, malicious mischief, insurrection, riots, labor disturbances, public enemy, war, landslides, explosions, epidemics, compliance with any order, ruling, injunction or decree by any

court, tribunal or judicial authority of competent jurisdiction and any other similar circumstances beyond the reasonable control of PGA TOUR. Section acknowledges and agrees that PGA TOUR shall have the right to cancel or reschedule the Tournament as a result of a Force Majeure event. In such event, PGA TOUR shall not be responsible to reimburse any expenses.

If in the judgment of the Advance Rules Official for that week's PGA TOUR event, whose decision shall be final, conditions render commencement or continuation of tournament play inadvisable, play shall be postponed until such time as the Advance Rules Official for that week's PGA TOUR event determines that such weather conditions or other occurrences or conditions have improved sufficiently for play to commence or resume.

In situations involving adverse weather conditions or any other occurrence or condition, our first priority is the completion of the qualifying competition. Every effort will be made to achieve this objective by the end of the scheduled competition day.

In the event the qualifying competition cannot be completed by the end of the scheduled competitive day, play will be extended. Every effort will be made to complete the qualifying competition as soon as possible. The Open Qualifying competition will not continue beyond the end of the day immediately preceding the first scheduled tournament round of the competition. In the event one or more of the 18-hole Open Qualifying contestants cannot be identified, those qualifying spots will be filled by the next available players on the PGA TOUR Alternate List.

PGA TOUR reserves the right to change the format, venue(s), qualifying spots and other criteria as presently contemplated.