



2023 Season

VGA TOUR PLAYERS MANUAL

Mission

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



VETERAN GOLFERS ASSOCIATION
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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 & ELIGIBILITY

Active duty, retirees, and honorably discharged members of the Armed Forces that are either amateur or professional golfers are eligible to join and compete in the VGA. VGA members who are currently PGA Professionals without amateur status must compete in our Champions Flight (A-Flight).

Additionally, any family members whose grandparents, parents, spouse, siblings, aunts/uncles, nieces/nephews, have served in the Armed Forces are eligible to compete in the VGA Family Division. Spouses and dependents (18+) are also eligible and are encouraged to join their loved ones on the golf course.

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.

VGA memberships are based on the VGA Tour Season and are valid from September 1st – August 31st. Memberships auto renew on September 1st each year. If a new VGA member joins between July 1st – August 31st, their membership will be valid through August 31st of the following season.

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 in events to earn points. The points earned will be utilized for qualifying to register for State Championships and Armed Forces Cup Regional Qualifiers. 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 are 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 VGA events, 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:

- A. Players can only 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, the player **MUST** pick up his/her ball and move to the next hole.
- B. Players have a maximum of 3 minutes to locate a lost ball. When a player suffers a lost ball, after looking for no more than 3 minutes, the group must determine where the ball was last seen entering the wood line or hazard area. The ball will be dropped as close as possible to where it was last seen entering the wood line or hazard area but not in a bunker or penalty area.
- C. 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.
- D. Lost ball and out of bounds will be resolved in the following manner with these 4 steps.
 - a. Step 1: You've hit your ball out of bounds or have lost your ball.
 - b. 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 where your ball crossed the wood line or hazard area when it was lost.
 - c. Step 3: Find the nearest point of relief outside the out of bounds area, wood line or hazard area from the line your ball was lost. From that point, you get two club lengths to drop a new ball back into play, no closer to the hole.
 - d. 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.
 - e. Note: If a player hits their ball from out of bounds, they will be assessed a penalty of double par max for that hole. However, if a player signs an improper scorecard



with the wrong score and turns that scorecard in following play, they risk the possibility of being disqualified from the event.

TOUR FLIGHTS

- A. The field will be divided into five divisions with four flights in each division based on handicap index. All players will be flighted according to their current VGA handicap index.
- B. Veterans are NOT authorized to select the Family Division as their competition division. Veterans found to have selected the Family Division within their VGA member profile will be subject up to and including termination of their VGA membership.
- C. The Combat Wounded Division is open to both male and female members that are Purple Heart recipients. Males and females electing to play in the Combat Wounded Division will be flighted according to their current VGA handicap index and will compete from the appropriate tee boxes & distances based on their gender.
- D. All new VGA members, males and females, without an established VGA Handicap Index will compete in a co-ed, Gross "No Handicap" Flight.
 - a. Males up to 59 years old will be assigned to the tee box that is approximately 6,000 yards, commonly the white tees.
 - b. Males 60-69 years old will be assigned to the tee box that is approximately 5,500 yards, commonly the senior tees.
 - c. Females and males 70+ will be assigned to the tee box that is approximately 5,000 yards, commonly the red tees.
 - d. After completing 3 events in the No Handicap Flight, players will establish a VGA handicap index and will be flighted within the standard divisions based on their current VGA handicap index.

VETERANS	FEMALES	WOUNDED	FAMILY	SENIORS
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
FLIGHTS	FLIGHTS	FLIGHTS	FLIGHTS	FLIGHTS
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)



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 handicap index is similar to the World Handicap System, adopted by the USGA and R&A.
- B. Players must have an established VGA handicap index, and play in at least 3 current regular season events, to be eligible to compete in their State Championship for that season. For example, you must play 3 events during the 2023 regular tour season to qualify for the 2023 playoff season that begins with the State Championships.
- C. VGA handicap indexes and course playing handicaps will be capped at 36 for male players and 40 for female players.
- D. The number of rounds used to determine a player's VGA handicap index will be based on the 20 most recent VGA tournament 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: the VGA handicap index is not a USGA GHIN 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.

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.

C. Exceptional Scoring Rule Policy

The VGA follows the USGA Rules of Golf exceptional scoring Rule 5.9. For more information on this policy, click here: (<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/handicapping/world-handicap-system/topics/exceptional-score-reduction.html>).

If a player shoots a score in a VGA tournament that results in a score differential of 7.0 or better than their current VGA handicap index, that player's results will trigger our exceptional scoring rule policy.

For example, if a VGA member has a handicap index of 12 and plays in a VGA event at a golf course with a slope rating of 139 and a course rating of 71.7; and that player shoots a gross score of 77, that would yield a scoring differential of 4.3 for that round. The player's handicap index of 12 minus the scoring differential of 4.3 would result in a difference of 7.7, thus triggering the exceptional scoring rule.

If a player's performance triggers the exceptional scoring policy, that player's results will be reviewed by VGA Leadership. Upon review, VGA Leadership may take additional action up to and including promotion to the next higher flight.

a. Playoff Season Application of Exceptional Score Rule

- i. Net Flights – handicap index adjustments will be applied for the following round of competitive play. The adjustment could result in a reduction of the allocated strokes, depending on the course playing handicap based on the newly adjusted VGA handicap index.
- ii. Gross Flights – handicap index adjustments will be applied to the following event(s).

D. Handicap Index Validation

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 will flight all no handicap (NH) players in the No Handicap Gross Flight to compete against each other.

E. Scoring Out of Flight



a. Local Tour Events

VGA Tour flights are performance based, where players are grouped together according to similar playing ability. VGA leaders will review any scores deemed to be uncharacteristically outside a player's ability range.

b. State, Regional, & National Championship

VGA leaders will review any scores deemed to be uncharacteristically outside a player's ability range. The VGA Regional Director is the ultimate approval authority for State, Multi-State, and Regional Championships as it relates to player handicaps.

c. VGA National Championship

For the VGA National Championship, a formal tournament committee consisting of the four Regional Directors and a member of the VGA Board of Directors will make all decisions regarding scoring issues.

DRESS CODE

The VGA will strictly enforce a tournament dress code with no exceptions. Collared shirts and soft spikes are required. No jeans, cargo shorts, cargo pants, jogging outfits, or sweatpants are permitted. Shorts, skirts, skorts, and capris may be worn.

CADDIES & SPECTATORS

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

Each member is allowed to invite and be paired with a single guest once per a season. 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:

- A. Notify the State or Assistant State Director that you would like to register a guest for the event.
 - a. Your guest must be added to the event roster given space availability.
 - b. The event administrator will invoice you or your guest for the entry fee.
- B. Pay the regular event entry fee for your guest. Your guest will be paired with you for the day and must be included in the proper handicapped flight.



- a. Guest players do not accumulate points and are not entered into VGA Tour standings.
- b. 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

- A. If the course is open for play, the VGA Tournament will proceed as scheduled.
- B. Any delays or cancellation of a tournament will be determined by the golf course and their staff in conjunction with the VGA State Director.
- C. If a course becomes unplayable during a tournament, the event may be declared official if all players in a flight have played at least 14 holes, regardless of the combination of holes.
- D. 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. By participating as a member in the VGA, players agree not to sell, trade, or give away items that they have earned, to include trophies, medals, putters, merchandise, or apparel, without expressed consent from VGA National. Doing so would constitute a code of conduct violation and would subject that player to disciplinary action.
- B. During the regular season, VGA Tour members that win their flight are eligible to win one VGA medal per season. For each additional flight victory, players will be awarded a lapel pin to be added to their medal ribbon 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 and receive an invitation to that state's corresponding Regional Championship. Players that advance to a Regional Championship from a State Championship are eligible to compete in any Regional Championship given there is space availability to do so.
- 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 National Championship Ring and an invitation to Tuesday for the Troops at The Masters Tournament in Augusta, GA the following spring.
- F. For Senior Region Qualifiers, the flight winners will receive a VGA Trophy.



- G. For Armed Forces Cup Qualifiers, players that advance to the National Armed Forces Cup will receive a special Armed Forces Cup medal.
- H. For the National Armed Forces Cup branch champions, players will receive a glass Armed Forces Cup Trophy and a National AFC Championship ring.
- I. For the Senior VGA Championship, flight winners will receive a VGA gold trophy and an invitation to the VGA National Championship that fall. Note: all senior flight winners must compete from their default Veteran or Family division distances at the VGA National Championship. Regardless of age, no senior tee boxes will be utilized at the VGA National Championship.

TOURNAMENT POLICIES

- A. Tournament registrations and tee times
 - a. Only VGA members may participate in VGA Tournaments, with the exception of our guest policy listed above. All players must register for VGA events online through the VGA website.
- B. Event registration fees are nonrefundable.
- C. Event registrations are transferable in the same season if the player contacts the VGA leader prior to registration closing for the original event.
- D. 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 24 hours prior to an event, please contact your VGA State Director. VGA leader contact information can be found on the VGA website.

TOURNAMENT CANCELLATIONS AND NO SHOWS

- A. The standard registration fee for regular tour events is nonrefundable.
- B. All withdrawals from a regular VGA Tour event must be done before event registration closes.
 - a. If a player withdraws from an event after registration closes, the event registration fee will be forfeited.
 - b. If a player withdraws before the registration closes, the event registration fee can be transferred to another event in the same season.
 - c. In the case that a player does not play in another event that season, the event registration fee will not be transferred or refunded.
- C. Registration fees for State and Regional Championships are nonrefundable.
- D. Event No Call/No Shows
 - a. If a player is absent from an event or does not call their state leader 24 hours prior to the start of an event, that player will be marked as a No Show (NS).
 - i. Players with two no shows in a quarter will be given a verbal warning.



- ii. Players with three no shows in a quarter will be suspended for the following quarter.
- iii. Players with four no shows in a season will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- iv. Suspended players will not be refunded their event registration fees and/or their membership fee.
- v. If a player receives multiple suspensions for no shows, they may lose their eligibility as a VGA member indefinitely.
- vi. The administration of this policy is at the discretion of the Regional Director.

TOURNAMENT CHECK IN

- A. Players are expected to check in at events. Your timely appearance to VGA events is appreciated and alleviates undue stress on our volunteer leadership teams.
- B. The VGA State Director will provide an 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 prior to any VGA event.
- C. After players have registered, players must find their assigned golf carts and stow their gear. Allow sufficient time to perform a normal warm-up routine. Players are expected to be at the first tee box ten minutes prior to their assigned tee time. For shotgun starts, players are expected to be at their carts twenty minutes prior to their shotgun start time to hear the local course tournament brief.

TOURNAMENT TEE BOXES

Tee boxes will be assigned to all flights at each tournament. The following guidelines will be used for determining tee box length:

- A. "A" Flight 6500-6800 yards, commonly blue tees
- B. "B, C, D" Flights 6000-6400 yards, commonly white tees
- C. "Senior" 50-59, 6000-6400 yards, commonly white tees
- D. "Senior" 60-69, 5600-5900 yards, commonly gray tees
- E. "Ladies & Senior" 70+, 5000-5500 yards (tee box must be rated for gender of player), commonly red tees.
 - a. By rule, an amputee may move up one tee box from his/her assigned tee box.
 - b. A Senior player may elect to play back a tee box given they have received permission to do so from their state director prior to the event.

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



BEFORE ROUND STARTS

- A. For all events, players will be provided an official hard-copy scorecard, which supersedes all other scoring. Before players tee off, they must check their scorecards to verify all the player information is accurate. In the event of a scorecard discrepancy, players need to consult with their VGA leader. If a VGA Leader is not immediately available, a player needs to advise their group and mark the discrepancy on the scorecard so that adjustments can be made at the at the end of the round.
- B. Players must then exchange their scorecards within their group. Each player's score is kept by another player (not riding in the same cart). That player's marker must record the player's hole-by-hole scores on the player's line.
- C. The VGA leader will provide local course rules. Local rules take precedence over VGA Tour or USGA rules.
- D. Each player should identify their ball with a distinctive marking and show it to their playing partners. Players must be able to positively identify their ball at all times. During the course of play, if a player cannot positively identify their ball, then the USGA Rules of Golf deem the player's ball as a lost ball.
- E. According to the USGA Rules of Golf, players may only have a maximum of 14 clubs in their bag during a competitive round. Players found to have more than 14 clubs in their bag during a VGA event will be disqualified from that tournament.

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 by all markers.
- C. The player in the foursome with the lowest handicap will be responsible for keeping up with live scoring on the Golf Genius app. Maintaining accurate live scoring is mandatory for all VGA events.

PACE OF PLAY

- A. The standard duration for an 18-hole golf tournament is 4.5 hours. VGA members are expected to play ready golf at all times. Keep in mind that in stroke play competitions there are no penalties under the USGA 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 their ball up immediately and move on to the next hole.
- C. When possible, rangers will act as VGA Tour officials to warn slow groups, and then report slow groups to VGA leadership. If a gap exists, the group is out of position and will only be



warned once. Slow play penalties may be assessed to groups with a significant gap in front of them. A "significant gap" is defined as not being able to see the group of golfers ahead of you. If your group is out of position, it is your responsibility to motivate your group to get back into position, or your group may incur a slow play penalty.

- D. Should a group be identified by a marshal, tournament official or VGA Leader as out of position, the group will have fifteen minutes in which to regain position after the first warning. If a group fails to regain position, the following action could be taken on the group at the VGA Leader's discretion:
 - a. First Offense – Warning
 - b. Second Offense - One (1) Stroke Penalty
 - c. Third Offense - Two (2) Stroke Penalty
 - d. Fourth Offense - Disqualification.
- E. The tournament director is given latitude to allow more time for players with handicaps that prevent faster play. 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

Competitors who question a rule or procedure during play may elect to play an alternate ball(s) under USGA Rule 3-3 but must comply with all requirements of that rule. 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 or she wishes to count if the rule permits. At the conclusion of the round, the VGA leader will make the final ruling with respect to any rule discrepancies.

AFTER THE ROUND: RETURNING SCORECARDS

- A. At the conclusion of the round, players must review official scorecards with their playing partners. If you need an official ruling, obtain one from your VGA leader before signing the official card. All USGA rules for returning official scorecards will be imposed.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. Players must turn in their scorecards to VGA leadership immediately following play. Players are responsible for the correctness and proper return of their scorecard. If a player submits a signed scorecard with a lower score than the score they actually shot, the player will be disqualified from the tournament.



TIE BREAKERS

- A. During local VGA Tour events, all tie breakers will consist of a scorecard playoff, starting with the lowest handicap holes first. Our scorecard tie-breaking procedure includes best score on #1 handicap hole, #2, #3, etc., until a winner is decided.
- B. 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.
- C. All tie breakers from the Regional Armed Forces Cup Qualifiers will be determined by the individual player's previous VGA Tour season points total.
- D. 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 playoff.

TOURNAMENT CONCLUSION

Once the final scores are tabulated and awards have been presented to the winners, the tournament is considered final and closed. VGA leadership will always be the final decision on all tournament matters.

POINTS SYSTEM

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

POINTS SYSTEM MATRIX

- 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, given that the event is not a fundraising event, Senior Qualifier, Armed Forces Cup qualifier, National Armed Forces Cup, Senior VGA Championship, or VGA National Championship.
- B. 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.



Place	Regular Season Events <5 Players per Flight	Regular Season Events >5 Players per Flight	State Championship <5 Players per Flight w/VGA HCP	State Championship >5 Players per Flight w/VGA HCP	Region Championship <10 Players per Flight w/VGA HCP	Region 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
12	10	10	15	15	20	20

VGA TOUR PLAYOFFS

VGA State Championships are the first round of our playoffs for the current season. 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.

- A. To qualify for ANY State or Multi-State Championship, a player must have an established VGA handicap index and have played in at least 3 regular season events in the current season.
- B. Players have the option of playing in any State Championship in their region or around the country given there is space availability to do so.
- C. Players will earn points during the season by playing in regular season events. These points will determine how players receive priority for playoff event registrations. 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%.
- D. The points a player earns in each event will be calculated on the VGA website under the player's dashboard. It is the players responsibility to report any points discrepancies found in their VGA player profile to their VGA leadership.
- E. Registration timelines for the VGA playoffs will be determined and communicated by the VGA State & Regional Director.
- F. State and multi-State Championships are one-day, 18-hole events. Regional and National Championships are two-day, 36-hole events.



- G. The number of players advancing from any given State or Multi-State Championship to the Regional Championship will be determined by the Regional Director.
- H. Players may register for any State Championship regardless of where they reside given space availability.
- I. Players that qualify from a State Championship to compete in a Regional Championship are eligible to compete in any Regional Championship given there is space availability.
- J. Players that have competed in a Regional Championship and did not advance to the National Championship are eligible to participate in subsequent Regional Championships given there is space availability.
- K. 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 during the VGA National Championship.
- L. For all playoff events (State Championships, Regional Championships, Regional Armed Forces Cup Qualifiers, 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 play in three regular events during that season 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. If a State Championship includes the Senior Flights, the Senior Flight winners will NOT advance to their Regional Championship. All senior players wanting to advance to a Regional Championship must compete in the Veteran, Female Veteran, Combat Wounded, or Family division at their State 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. The number of slots available at each region's championship 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, and that player has played in a State Championship that season. All flight winners from the previous season's National Championship will receive an invite to compete at their Regional Championship if they have a current membership and played in at least three regular events during the current season. All players will be responsible for their travel and/or lodging to and from a Regional Championship.



- C. **Senior Regional Qualifier** - Each region will host a Senior Regional Qualifier each spring. To qualify for a Senior Regional Qualifier, a player must be 50 years of age or older, must have an established VGA handicap index, and must have played in a minimum of 3 events during the current season. Approximately 30 players will advance from each Senior Regional Qualifier to the Senior VGA Championship, hosted in Pinehurst, NC in August. All eligible senior players, regardless of where they reside, have the option of competing in any of our four Senior Regional Qualifiers, given there is space availability to do so. Players are responsible for their travel and/or lodging to and from any Senior Regional Qualifier.
- 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 Qualifier. 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 the 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 apparel items, 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. Additional considerations include:
- 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 during the VGA National Championship.
 - The overall male and female A-Flight champions will receive a five-year exemption to future VGA National Championships.
 - To maintain their exemption status, the overall champions must play in 3 regular season events each VGA Tour Season and attend the VGA Championship.
 - If a previous overall champion with exempt status fails to attend a VGA National Championship, the VGA retains the right to forfeit the remaining years of the player's exempt status and their VGA membership eligibility.
- 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.

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. There are no exceptions to this policy.

a. Regional AFC Qualifying:

- i. The top 8 point earners per branch per region will be invited to compete head-to-head in 2 x 18-hole net match play tournaments against other players in their branch, utilizing the VGA handicap system.
- ii. Participation is mandatory for all players expecting to advance to the National Armed Forces Cup.
- iii. After the 2 x 18-hole net 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 point total from the previous VGA Tour season will be selected as the Armed Forces Cup Team Captain for their branch and will receive 1 x Captain's Pick.
- iv. The Captain's Pick can be any active 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.
- v. All tie breakers will be determined by a player's previous VGA Tour season total points.
- vi. Players are responsible for their registration fees, travel and/or lodging to and from the Regional Armed Forces Cup Qualifier.

b. National AFC Qualifying:

- i. The top 2 players per branch from each AFC Regional Qualifier will receive an invitation to compete in the VGA National Armed Forces Cup.
- ii. The highest point earner per branch across all four Regional AFC Qualifiers will be selected as the National AFC Team Captain for their branch.
- iii. 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 playoff.
- iv. Players are responsible for their registration fees & travel to and from the National Armed Forces Cup.

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:

- A. Players are allowed to have their service animal accompany them to VGA events.
- B. A service animal must be under the control of its handler while at VGA events.



- C. 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 service animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.
- D. 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 removal of the service animal from the golf course. If the player refuses, the VGA reserves the right to disqualify the player from the tournament.

TRANSGENDER COMPETITION

The VGA recognizes that there may be instances where transgender competition could occur within any given division or flight. The VGA Competition Committee, consisting of the four Regional Directors and the VGA President, reserves the right to review transgender competition on a case-by-case basis.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The VGA uses the handle @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>

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 VGA Social Media pages.

CODE OF CONDUCT

By registering as a VGA member, you are bound to abide by the following:

- A. Always treat other players with respect, and act in a safe and sportsmanlike manner.
- B. Always cooperate with other players, VGA staff, golf course staff and officials.
- C. Refrain from the use of vulgar language, profanity, and obscene gestures.
- D. Refrain from the use of vulgar accessories on apparel, golf bags, or golf clubs.
- E. Refrain from becoming intoxicated or drinking excessively.
- F. Never cause physical or verbal harm to another player, VGA staff, or officials.
- G. Always treat VGA staff, golf course staff, officials, and other players with respect.
- H. Listen to and follow all given rules/directions/instructions from staff and officials.
- I. Respect the golf courses and facility amenities without damage or cigarette butts.
- J. Never urinate on a golf course in the view of other players or spectators.



- K. Never sell, trade, or give away awards earned as a player in the organization.
- L. Never make disparaging remarks to other players regarding their performance.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

All players are expected to adhere to the Code of Conduct. The VGA will not tolerate excessive swearing, vulgar language, club throwing, alcohol abuse, lack of proper golf etiquette, improper use of golf carts, or other such behavior. Such conduct may result in event disqualification, suspension, or permanent expulsion from the VGA.

If you fail to abide by the VGA Code of Conduct, the following consequences may occur:

- A. Verbal Warning via email from the Regional Director.
- B. Written Warning via email from the Regional Director.
- C. Removal from the tournament (no refund of registration fee).
- D. Disqualification from advancing to a Regional Championship.
- E. Disqualification from advancing to a National Championship.
- F. Temporary suspension from the VGA (no refund of registration fee or membership fee).
- G. Permanent expulsion from the VGA (no refund of registration fee or membership fee).

VGA Regional Directors have full authority and discretion on how they interpret the code of conduct and are the final authority to determine the discipline of any player that violates the code of conduct in their region. If you would like to appeal a discipline determination, you have 14 days to submit an appeal request via email to the Regional Director. The VGA President, along with input from the other 3 Regional Directors, will be the final authority on all disciplinary related appeals in the Veteran Golfers Association.





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It's more than just a game

