

# Champions Tour Qualifying Information

## **Procedures & Information:**

**General:** Each Event Qualifier (and Pre-Qualifier as described below) will be conducted for all open, full-field tournaments by the respective local PGA of America Section and managed by the Champions Tour. The Rules of the USGA govern play, as modified by the Champions Tour. An allotment of Champions Tour Local Rules and Conditions of Competition ("Hard Cards") will be available to competitors on-site. All decisions of the Rules Committee are final.

**Event Qualifier Eligibility:** The Event Qualifier will be limited to professional players aged 50+ in the following categories:

- 1. Tournament Winners:** PGA TOUR and Champions Tour – official victories and players eligible under the PGA TOUR Team Tournament Winner Category.
- 2. Veteran Members:** 150 or more PGA TOUR Career Cuts or 100 or more Champions Tour Career Top 48 finishes, or 150 or more combined PGA TOUR Career Cuts and Champions Tour Career Top 48 finishes. Nationwide Tour Veteran Members are defined as players who have made 150 combined cuts in PGA TOUR and Nationwide Tour official money events, and who have participated in the previous year's PGA TOUR and/or Champions Tour National Qualifying Tournament.
- 3. Those players finishing 75<sup>th</sup> or better on the 2011 Champions Tour Official Money List.**
- 4. Top 30 + ties from the 2011 Champions Tour National Qualifying Tournament**
- 5. A maximum of six (6) players from the Pre-Qualifier**

Each Event Qualifier will be conducted at 18 holes of stroke play. A maximum of the **low seven (7) scorers** from the Event Qualifier will gain entry into the Official Tournament in accordance with applicable Champions Tour policies and procedures. There will be no alternates from the Event Qualifier. A Sudden-Death playoff will commence immediately following play in the event of ties to determine the qualifying positions. The number of Event Qualifier spots available (if less than (7) (seven) will be posted prior to the commencement of play of the Event Qualifier.

**Note 1:** Top Ten Advance Category: If not otherwise exempt into the field at the commitment deadline, a maximum of one player finishing in 10th place or tied for 10th place in the immediately preceding event will advance into the next Champions Tour open, full-field cosponsored event, reducing Event Qualifying spots by one (1).

**Note 2:** Should any combination of players added to the field from Section A.1 (e) (Major Medical), section A.1(k) (Tournament Winners), section A.1 (k) (All-Time Victories), and/or section A.1 (m) (World Golf Hall of Fame Members) of the Champions Tour Tournament Regulations cause the tournament field to exceed 81 players, an Event Qualifying spot, then a restricted sponsor exemption, will be reduced in alternating order.

**Note 3:** In the event that tournaments are scheduled in successive weeks, any player who played in the preceding week's Champions Tour event shall be eligible for the Event Qualifier on the Monday or Tuesday immediately following.

**Entries:** Deadline for receipt of entries by eligible players for the Event Qualifier shall be 5:00p.m. (local tournament site time) on the Friday preceding the Event Qualifier. All players must enter by the applicable deadline. No phone entries will be accepted. Faxes and on-line entries can be accepted at the discretion the respective Section.

**Pre-Qualifier:** A Pre-Qualifier will precede all Event Qualifiers (likely played the week prior to the Event). The Pre-Qualifier shall be open to all amateurs and professionals aged 50+ on the day of the Pre-Qualifier and will be conducted at 18 holes of stroke play competition. Field size shall be limited to 144 players. All entries will be prioritized on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Should the number of entries received on a respective day cause the field limit to be exceeded, the field will be completed and alternates placed via blind draw by the Section. Deadline and format for receipt of entries for the Pre-Qualifier shall be set forth by the respective Section but shall be no less than two days prior to the date of the Pre-Qualifier.

A maximum of the low six (6) scorers from the Pre-Qualifier will gain entry into the Event Qualifier. (Note: At the host Section's discretion, one of the six spots may be allocated amongst its Section membership). There shall be no alternates from the Pre-Qualifier. Should one of the low six (6) scores from the Pre-Qualifier not be able to participate

in the Event Qualifier, he will not be replaced with an alternate from the Pre-Qualifier. The number of Pre-Qualifier spots available (whether 5 or 6) from each respective competition will be posted prior to the commencement of play of the Pre-Qualifier.

**Amateur Access:** The Event Qualifier is open to professionals only, age 50 and over. Amateurs are permitted to enter and compete in the Pre-Qualifier and maintain his/her amateur status. However, should an amateur competing in the Pre-Qualifier successfully qualify for the Event Qualifier, amateur status will be forfeited prior to entering the Event Qualifier. Amateurs who become professional specifically to enter the Event Qualifier and are not successful in qualifying may apply to the USGA for reinstatement of amateur status.

**Proof of Age:** Players who enter either the Pre-Qualifier or Event Qualifier must be prepared to provide conclusive proof of age as deemed acceptable to the Champions Tour (e.g., certified copy of birth certificate) with the application. The PGA Section shall be responsible for verifying that entrants for the Pre-Qualifier are age 50 and over.

**Entry Fees (non-refundable):**

**\$100** – All players entering the Event Qualifier (Successful Qualifiers and those who gain access to the Tournament as an alternate, provided they played in the Event Qualifier, will not be subject to an additional entry fee into the Official Tournament.)

**\$150** – Players entering the Pre-Qualifier who are current Associate Members of the Champions Tour or Class A members of the PGA of America. (Players successful in qualifying for the Event Qualifier shall not be subject to an additional entry fee)

**\$200** – All other players entering the Pre-Qualifier (Players successful in qualifying for the Event Qualifier shall not be subject to an additional entry fee)

**Note:** An additional \$20.00 insurance fee is required from those players who are not members of the PGA of America.

**Performance Guidelines:** If a player fails to perform at a reasonable competitive level, the Champions Tour reserves the right to remove said player from the competition, or deny future entries, without any refund of entry fee. An excessive number of “no card” tournaments by a player may result in future entries being denied.

**Groove Specifications:** Event Qualifying contestants MUST use equipment which conforms to the Condition of Competition for Groove Specifications as implemented in the PGA TOUR, Champions Tour and Nationwide Tour Local Rules and Conditions of 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](http://USGA.org) (click on Equipment > Conforming 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 Event Qualifying, even if a player is successful in pre-qualifying with non-conforming grooves.

If, before or during 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 Event Qualifying. In the event conformity is still in question and this affects which players advance through the qualifying, the club(s) will be taken to the tournament site for testing. Should the player be disqualified as a result of the test, the Event Qualifying spot(s) will be replaced by the next player(s) on the Champions Tour alternate list.

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 34 of the Rules of Golf shall apply.

**Motorized Transportation (Golf Carts):** In keeping with current Champions Tour Policy at its Official Tournaments, **players are permitted to use golf carts during the Event Qualifier and Pre-Qualifier**, unless conditions dictate otherwise by Champions Tour Staff on-site. Players are not required to have a caddie but have the option to have one should they elect. A player may also walk and carry his clubs or use a manual or electric pull cart.

**Tee Times:** Groupings and tee times will be established after the close of the respective Entry Deadlines and should be available by calling the Qualifying Event site(s) no more than one day prior to the respective events.

**Appearance / Conduct:**

Players: While on the host facility property, players shall present a neat appearance in both clothing and grooming. Clothing worn by players shall be consistent with acceptable golf fashion. Blue jeans, shorts and/or cutoffs and T-shirts are considered inappropriate.

Caddies: While on the host facility property, caddies may wear either long pants or tailored solid colored knee length shorts. Blue jeans, cutoffs and T-shirts are not allowed. Smooth rubber sole shoes are required. Golf shoes with traditional metal or soft spikes are prohibited.

A player or caddie conducting himself in a manner unbecoming a professional could result in the removal from the competition and/or disciplinary action from Champions Tour. The conduct of his caddie is the responsibility of each player.

Champions Tour Tournament Regulations prohibit the use of cellular phones during competition.

**Reduction/Cancellation Guidelines:** Any reduction or cancellation in the respective Qualifying events shall be in accordance with Reduction/Cancellation Guidelines as found in the Champions Tour Player Handbook and Tournament Regulations. In the event that the Event Qualifier and/or Pre-Qualifier is canceled without any player having been able to play, all entry fees and insurance will be refunded. In the event the Event Qualifier and/or Pre-Qualifier is canceled after play has begun, all entry fees will be refunded, minus the \$20 insurance fee, if any, and a \$25 administrative charge. Champions Tour reserves the right to change the format, venue(s), qualifying spots and other criteria as presently contemplated.

For further information, please call Champions Tour Headquarters at (904) 285-3700.