

Article IV. TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY

Section 4.1 PGA Members

- A. Philadelphia Section Members
 - 1) All Philadelphia Section PGA Members in good standing and eligibly employed are eligible to play in Section events. Eligibility may vary in specific events due to member classification.
- B. PGA Tour Members (A-3)
 - 1) PGA TOUR Members (A-3) of the Section will not be eligible to play in any Philadelphia Section PGA events.
- C. Tour Event Limitation
 - 1) A PGA member will not be eligible to play PPGA events if he has played in more than four (4) combined events as governed by the PGA of America Tournament Regulations. Please click [here](#) to view further information on the PGA of America's "4 Tournament Rule".
- D. Inactive (IN) & Class F Members
 - 1) Inactive (IN) and Class F members are ineligible for all Section tournaments.
- E. Unless governed by Article 4.1b above, PGA Life Members (Active & Retired) are eligible for all PPGA Tournaments

Section 4.2 PGA Associates

Philadelphia Section PGA Associates in good standing will be permitted to play in Section tournaments and may join the Tournament Players Division of the Philadelphia Section PGA upon payment of the annual TPD dues, provided they meet the qualifications outlined below.

- a) Successful completion of the PGA Playing Ability Test Proper
- b) Registration in the PGA/PGM Program
- c) Unemployed Associates
 - 1) Registered Associates becoming unemployed during the tournament season are entitled to play in Sectional events defined in Note 1 above for a period of thirty (30) days from their last date of employment, after which playing privileges will be suspended. Playing privileges will be reinstated upon becoming employed in a capacity that would entitle the Associate to again receive credits towards membership.
- d) Suspended Associates
 - 1) Associates who become suspended under any circumstance will not be eligible for participation in any Section events.

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Section 4.3 Pre-Associates

Philadelphia Section PGA Pre-Associates, British PGA Members and PGM Students shall be permitted to play in selected Section tournaments and may join the Tournament Players Division (TPD) of the Philadelphia Section PGA upon meeting the qualifications outlined below.

A registered Pre-Associate of the Philadelphia Section PGA shall only be eligible after successful completion of the following:

- a) The Playing Ability Test Proper (PAT)
- b) The Philadelphia Section PGA Pre-Associate registration
- c) Pre-Associate dues payment
- d) The PGA/PGM program enrollment within the allotted two (2) years, if applicable
- e) Proper employment within the Philadelphia Section PGA.

Any individual may apply for Pre-Associate status during the following two years of successful completion of the PAT proper. After this initial two-years, all individuals must be registered in the PGA/PGM program to participate in Section events.

Section 4.4 Out of Section Members

Out of Section PGA members may compete in Pro-Pro events as approved by the tournament committee. They must be PGA Members in good standing and these professionals must be a partner of a Philadelphia Section PGA Professional or they will not otherwise be eligible to compete.

Section 4.5 Amateurs

In Section events amateur participation will be by invitation of the Sponsor or Tournament Committee. Only amateurs with a handicap index of five (5.0) or less (or otherwise designated on the event entry form) shall be eligible to enter Open events. Entries for Open events can be obtained from the Philadelphia PGA online tournament program. The amateur's home club professional is responsible for verifying the amateur's handicap. Amateur entries are governed by the same criteria as the professional entries.

- a) See Section 8.11 of these Rules & Regulations for procedures regarding handicap and club verification.
- b) In Championship Pro-Am events all amateurs must have a current USGA handicap, with a minimum of ten (10) scores.

Section 4.6 Tournament Sponsor Exemptions

In Philadelphia Section PGA tournaments, the sponsor of an event or in the absence of a sponsor, the host professional shall be entitled to two (2) professional exemptions. Upon approval of the Tournament Committee a tournament sponsor may be granted more than two (2) exemptions if it is in the best interest of the event.

- a) To be considered eligible for a tournament exemption all players invited by a sponsor and/or host professional must meet the eligibility requirements in section 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 above.

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- b) It should be clearly understood that professionals may not contact a tournament sponsor either directly or through a third party to request a sponsor's exemption. Any violation of this regulation or the spirit of this regulation shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- c) In sponsored pro-am events where the field is not filled at the time of the entry deadline, the host professional, in the best interest of the sponsor, may invite out-of-section PGA Members in order to fill the field. Under these circumstances Section 4.1, 4.3 and 4.5 of the Philadelphia Section Tournament Regulations apply. All invited professionals will be eligible for all tournament prizes and/or prize money.

Section 4.7 Points List & Past Champion Exemptions

- a) In PPGA events all exempt players must be in good standing and eligibly employed within the Philadelphia Section PGA.
- b) For a current list of all PPGA tournament exemptions please review each event on www.philadelphia.pga.com