

# PDGA



PROFESSIONAL  
DISC GOLF  
ASSOCIATION

# Competition Manual



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## INTRODUCTION:

The PDGA Competition Manual outlines procedures and guidelines for PDGA events, and is to be used in conjunction with the Official Rules of Play and Tour Standards document. These procedures and guidelines are required for all PDGA sanctioned events unless specified otherwise. If a Tournament Director finds any provision in the document unacceptable a waiver may be requested by contacting the Tour Manager.

Every effort has been made for this manual to compliment and expand upon information contained in other documents. Where documents appear to conflict this manual should be considered the authoritative source. In the case of a conflict between documents the reader is encouraged to contact the PDGA office directly for clarification.

### *Section 1: Tournament Procedures*

#### **1.1. Player Eligibility**

- A. All members in good standing of the PDGA are eligible to compete in any division for which they qualify based upon class (Professional or Amateur), age, gender, and player rating unless approved in advance by the PDGA Tour Manager. Please see **Section 2: Division Qualification** for more specific information on division eligibility.
- B. Current PDGA Membership is required to compete in any Major, National Tour, or SuperTour (A Tier) event.
- C. In all other PDGA sanctioned events, players who are not current members may compete by paying a non-member fee. This fee is required for all players except players competing in a Junior division.

## 1.2. Tournament Registration

- A. Pre-registration is required for PDGA Major & National Tour events and strongly suggested for all other tier events.
- B. A player is officially "entered" in the event when their entry fee is received at the tournament address.
- C. All openings in the field of play will be filled on a first come-first serve basis, until the allocated places in each division have been filled.
- D. The order of entries received will be according to the postmark of the package containing the entry fee payment.
- E. Entries received via an on-line entry method shall be date and time-stamped based on the actual time the entry fee is received at the on-line entry point.
- F. In the event that multiple entries are received simultaneously, the player with the lowest PDGA number shall have priority.
- G. Posting of the pre-registration list on pdga.com is required for Major & National Tour events (see sanctioning agreement for details) and strongly suggested for all tier events.

## 1.3. Withdraws and Refunds

- A. A player may officially withdraw only by contacting the Tournament Director.
- B. Players must email or phone their withdrawals to the Tournament Director only at the contact information posted.
- C. Discussions with persons other than the Tournament Director, including other tournament staff, shall not be considered official.

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(2) A staggered start with specific tee times. Normally all play will begin on hole 1, but it may start on another hole of the choosing of the Tournament Director. See PDGA Rules of Play 804.02 B for more information.

- C. It is the sole responsibility of the player to be at the course, ready to play in time for the start of their round.

## 1.6. Grouping and Sectioning

- A. Professional and Amateur players should not be grouped together, and players competing in different divisions should be segregated from each other during play as much as practicable.
- B. All players within a division for the first round should be grouped via two methods:
  - (1) Random grouping; players within a division may be randomly grouped for the first round and grouped by cumulative score for each round thereafter.
  - (2) Player Rating grouping; players within a division may use player rating to set first round groups. Highest rated player starting on the lowest number hole, the second highest rated player starting on the following hole, etc. This process would continue until all starting holes have been filled.
- C. To promote fairness, groups shall not be less than three players, except under extenuating circumstances, as deemed necessary by the Tournament Director. In cases where fewer than three players are required to play together players, an official is required to accompany the group.
- D. Groups shall not be more than five players and should be limited to four players whenever possible.

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- D. No refunds will be issued after the 7th day prior to the start of the event, but the player shall be sent a player's package if one was provided to event competitors.
- E. Withdrawals made before the 7th day prior to the start of the event shall receive a 50% refund.
- F. Withdrawals made 14 days prior to the start of the event shall be refunded 100 %, less postage and handling, which shall not exceed 10% of the entry fee.
- G. These criteria may be relaxed at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

## 1.4. Event Check-In

- A. Pre tournament check-in is required for Major & National Tour events and suggested for all other tier events.
- B. Any player who does not check-in by the time specified by the TD shall forfeit their official place and entry fee. Exceptions will be made only at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.

## 1.5. Practice Rounds and Tee Times

- A. A player is responsible for scheduling their practice rounds prior to the event. Availability of the course and its tournament set-up for practice rounds may vary (see Tour Standards for details). The course or courses are closed to practice during the tournament and all other times designated by the Tournament Director.
- B. Two (2) types of starts will be used to begin competitive play:
  - (1) A shotgun start at a specified time, where all competitors are assigned a specific starting hole, and play for all competitors is started simultaneously. See PDGA Rules of Play 804.02 A for more information.

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- E. When there are more entrants than can play together in one round, the field of competitors may be split into sections or pools.
- F. If conditions differently affect play among sections, the director may consider using a sectioning procedure to determine advancement. Under this procedure, a proportionate number of advancing players would be taken from each section by score and their scores would not be carried forward.

## 1.7. Suspension of Play

- A. If, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, excessive rain or hazardous conditions exist that make it impractical or dangerous to continue play, the tournament shall be suspended. The signal to suspend play shall be the same as the signal to start (see Rule 804.02).
- B. Players shall immediately stop play and mark the lie of each member of the group. A natural object is sufficient to mark the approximate lie from which the player shall resume play. Players shall then return to the first teeing area, clubhouse, tournament central or area designated by the director.
- C. Players shall resume play from their approximate lies as established when the round was halted. The approximate lie is determined by a majority of the group.
- D. The Tournament Director may allow players to take a break while waiting for weather to improve, but may require players to return at a time assigned by the Tournament Director until play resumes or until the round is postponed.
- E. The Tournament Director may postpone the incomplete portion of the round for a later date if, in the Tournament

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- Director's opinion, the conditions will not improve or if darkness will fall prior to the projected finish time.
- F. Partial round scores shall be carried forward to the completion of the round whenever the round is resumed.
  - G. A player who stops playing before a signal to stop has been given shall receive two penalty throws if, in the opinion of the director, the player stopped playing prematurely.
  - H. The Tournament Director will make every effort to complete all rounds of the tournament as scheduled.
    - (1) If a total of 54 holes or fewer holes are scheduled. All players must complete a minimum of 18 holes for the event to be considered official.
    - (2) If a total of 72 holes are scheduled. All players must complete a minimum of 36 holes for the event to be considered official.
    - (3) If these criteria are not met, all efforts will be made to reschedule the event. If rescheduling is impossible, a full refund will be issued minus player's package, PDGA, and other associated event fees.
  - I. Based upon course availability, and if less than one half of the field needs to complete a round necessary to declare the event official, the tournament may be completed the day after the final round was scheduled. All suspended rounds shall be completed, unless conditions exist that make it impossible. If such conditions exist, the results shall be final as of the last completed round as long as the necessary hole requirements are met.
  - J. The completion of a suspended round is a higher priority than a future round and thus future rounds may be canceled in order to complete a suspended round.

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money allocated to the number of positions represented by the tied players and dividing that by the number of players tied. Trophy distribution for ties may be determined by sudden death play or by any related disc golf skill event determined by the director.

#### 1.10. Distribution of Prizes

- A. Any prizes (money or merchandise) declined by a player must pass down to the next finishing position. (Example: If a player placing third declines his prize, the player in fourth place will receive third place prize, the player in fifth will receive fourth place prize, etc.) Tournaments are allowed to retain prizes that have been declined by all players within a division only after the declined prizes have been passed through all finishing positions.
- B. The usage of skins (and other similar formats) is permitted at PDGA events but scores are not allowed to determine a player's overall standing in the event and prizes are not credited towards a player's winnings.
- C. Any prizes that a player has earned will be distributed at the completion of the event once the results have been tabulated and verified.
  - (1) Tournament Directors may award prizes earlier at their discretion.
  - (2) Players who leave before the official distribution of prizes do not relinquish their winnings but are responsible for any associated shipping costs.

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#### 1.8. Reduction of Field Size

- A. The field may be cut for a semi finals or finals at the discretion of the Tournament Director, provided this is announced well in advance of the event.
- B. Unless announced in advance by the Tournament Director all ties for a semi final or final cut will be broken by the use of a tiebreaker. (See section on Tie Breaker).
- C. Making the cut line at or above the cash line is highly recommended.
- D. Any eligible player who chooses not to participate in a semi final or final shall receive cash or prizes equal to finishing last in the appropriate cut.

#### 1.9. Tie Breakers

- A. Between rounds when the groups are being reset, tied positions shall be broken. The player with the lowest score in the most recent round shall have the highest ranking when the scorecards/positions are reset. In the event of ties for lowest score, the ties shall be broken by the Tournament Director through a consistently applied manner.
- B. Final ties for first place in any division or for the reduction of field size must be broken by sudden death play. Sudden death play shall begin with hole number one unless a different hole or series of holes is designated by the Tournament Director prior to the start of the tournament.
- C. First place cash/prize must be awarded to the division winner and listed in the event results. Cash or prizes may not be evenly split between any players tied for 1st place.
- D. Final ties for other ranks shall be officially recorded as ties. Prize money distribution to tied players (other than for first place) shall be determined by adding the total

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## Section 2: Division Qualifications

### 2.1. General

- A. Players are not allowed to enter a division for which they are ineligible. Please see The Table of PDGA Tour Player Divisions for specifics.
- B. A player is solely responsible for knowing what division(s) they are eligible to compete in. Entry into an ineligible division may result in disqualification from the event and/or suspension from PDGA events.
- C. A player must properly identify themselves when competing in a PDGA sanctioned event. Players who wish to remain anonymous or who assume a false identity will be disqualified from the event and face potential suspension from the PDGA tour.
- D. Professional players entering into a Professional division compete for money and Amateur players entering into a Professional division may accept merchandise in lieu of cash.
- E. Players entering into an Amateur division compete for trophies and/or prizes.
- F. Female players may compete in male divisions if they wish, but male players may not compete in female divisions.
- G. A player registered as an Amateur may compete in any Pro division for they are eligible based on age and gender.
- H. A player registered as a Professional may only compete in Amateur divisions in select cases. (See Section 2.4 for specifics)
- I. A Tournament Director may, by giving adequate public notice, restrict the divisions offered. Absent such notice, the director shall offer for competition any division which

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has four or more players that are eligible and wishing to compete. Tournament Directors may offer divisions with less than four players at their discretion.

- J. All Bump rules are invalid and not allowed at PDGA sanctioned events. Players shall be allowed to play in any divisions they might be eligible for, if those divisions are offered by the Tournament Director.

## 2.2. Exceptions

- A. Players are allowed to enter a ratings based division they would otherwise be ineligible to participate only under the following circumstances
- (1) If approved before the event by the PDGA Tour Manager.
  - (2) Players who have become ineligible for a division due to a ratings update may participate for two weeks following the update, provided they are pre-registered for the event in question, at the discretion of the TD.
  - (3) If competing in an applicable points series (see Section 2.2 B for specifics)
- B. Players may be allowed to enter a ratings based division they would otherwise be ineligible to participate in as part of a points Series provided that
- (1) The Series Director has contacted the PDGA prior and received approval from the PDGA Tour Manager.
  - (2) The Series allows players to stay in the division for the entire Series.
  - (3) The player has not competed in a higher division at any time during the Series.
  - (4) The player's rating does not exceed 20 points above the rating ceiling for the division they wish to compete in.

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- < 750 can play Recreational Women (FW3)

- B. Players are awarded Amateur points for their performance but these points are not eligible for year-end awards or Worlds invitations.

## 2.5. Trophy Only

- A. At the option of the TD, Amateur players are allowed to play in Pro divisions for which they are eligible according to age and gender at a reduced entry fee.
- B. At the option of the TD, Pro or Am players may compete for trophies only in any Amateur division offered by an event that their player rating, age and gender qualifies them for, by paying a reduced entry fee.
- C. Players competing under "Trophy Only" are not allowed to accept cash or prizes based upon finish but are allowed to accept trophies.
- D. Players paying full price should have priority over players paying the reduced rate. If an event or division is full, a TD may require trophy only players to pay the full price in order to maintain their position in the tournament.

## Section 3: Player Code of Conduct

### 3.1. General

- A. All tournament players must abide by the information given in the PDGA Competition Manual and the PDGA Rules of Play. Any player in non-compliance may be disqualified, or may not be allowed to participate in the tournament at any time.
- B. All participants agree that the PDGA and its agents may publish photographs and other kinds of images of their participation at Tour events.

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## 2.3. Reclassification

- A. Professional to Amateur
- (1) Players registered with the PDGA as Professionals may petition the Tour Manager for reclassification back to Amateur.
- B. Amateur to Professional
- (1) An Amateur wishing to change their classification to Professional may do so by contacting the PDGA office and requesting a Pro card.
  - (2) An Am player is automatically re-classified as Pro when the player has accepted cash while competing in a Pro division. Accepting prizes in lieu of cash or accepting money for winning an ancillary contest such as an ace pool does not cause a player to relinquish his or her amateur status.

## 2.4. Pros Playing Am

- A. Pros rated less than 970 may now compete in Amateur divisions offered at PDGA A, B, and C Tier events, for which they qualify based on player rating, age, and gender.
- (1) Pro Men and Women
    - < 970 can play Advanced (MA1)
    - < 935 can play Intermediate (MA2)
    - < 935 can also play Advanced Master (MM1) if they are of Masters age
    - < 900 can play Recreational (MA3)
    - < 900 can also play Advanced Grandmaster (MG1) if they are of Grandmasters age
    - < 850 can play Novice (MA4)
  - (2) Pro Women only
    - < 850 can play Advanced Women (FW1)
    - < 800 can play Intermediate Women (FW2)

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- C. All players at PDGA National Tour and Major events are required to be available to any and all media while on site except during or within 30 minutes of the start of a competitive round.
- D. Players are not permitted to have active cell phones or audible pagers on the course during any competitive round.

## 3.2. Pace of Play

- A. All competitors shall play without undue delay and will make every effort to keep up with the group in front of them. Between completion of one hole and teeing off on the next hole or while advancing down the fairway, the player shall not unduly delay play by his or her actions.
- B. A player causing undue delays may be issued an excessive time violation by tournament officials. Please see PDGA Rules of Play 801.03 Excessive Time regarding specific penalties.

## 3.3. Professional Misconduct

- A. The PDGA adopts a strict policy of appropriate behavior and comments to the media. Any conduct deemed to be unprofessional is subject to disqualification by the Tournament Director, and may also be subject to suspension from PDGA events.
- B. Players are expected to behave in a professional and sportsmanlike manner while participating in a PDGA sanctioned event. Actions that are in violation of this conduct include but are not limited to:
- Throwing items in anger (other than discs in play)
  - Overt rudeness
  - Destruction or abuse of property, including plant life

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- Cheating or willful attempt to circumvent the rules of play
  - Fighting or threatening other players, tournament staff, or spectators
  - Consumption of alcohol or use of any illegal substance from the 2-minute warning until the player's scorecard is submitted
  - Abuse of alcohol after play and on course property is considered professional misconduct
  - Underage drinking
- C. The use of illegal substances is forbidden from the 2-minute warning until the player's scorecard is submitted. Such use shall result in immediate disqualification.
- D. The use of alcohol is forbidden from the 2-minute warning until the player's scorecard is submitted. Such use shall result in immediate disqualification at a B Tier or higher event. At a C or D Tier event the TD shall either disqualify the offending player or issue them a warning. If a player has been issued a warning, all subsequent violations shall result in immediate disqualification.
- E. Tournament Directors are required to report any disqualifications to the PDGA as quickly as possible. Players who are guilty of any misconduct at the tournament site or any other facility associated with a PDGA sanctioned event may be subject to a fine and/or suspension from the PDGA. (Consult the PDGA Disciplinary Process for more information).

### 3.4. Dress Code

- A. All competitors and staff are required to wear a shirt.
- B. All competitors and staff are required to wear shoes or

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- (6) No offensive, profane, or obscene slogans or logos shall be allowed on any clothing. Junior players may not wear slogans or logos referring to alcohol or tobacco.
- (7) This dress code will be in effect from start to finish at each event, including all tournament rounds.
- (8) Players who do not make a cut, but wish to remain on site through the duration of the tournament, will be considered spectators and will not be required to conform to the Tour's dress code.

### 3.5. Carts and Caddies

- A. Players are required to walk during their tournament rounds at all PDGA events unless alternate transportation such as golf carts are provided to all competitors
- B. Players will have the option to bring a caddie or carrying device during their round of play. A player's caddie is subject to all items within the PDGA Rules of Play and the PDGA Competition Manual including all applicable dress codes.
- C. Players choosing to use a caddie will be solely responsible for their caddie's conduct. Misconduct by a caddie may subject the player and caddy to disqualification and/or suspension.
- D. Players must instruct their caddies to maintain a reasonable distance and not interfere with a competitor attempting his or her shot.
- E. For those players wishing to use a carrying device, approved carrying devices include disc golf bags, foldable chairs and push cart companions. No animals, motor driven or bicycle type devices shall be allowed at all PDGA events.

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other foot coverings. Players will not be allowed to play in bare feet. Sandals or slides are allowed.

- C. The following dress code for all competitors will be enforced at all PDGA National Tour and Major Events. The PDGA also recommends that this dress code be enforced at Super Tour and lower tier events, but this decision lies solely with the Tournament Director:
- (1) All players in PDGA sanctioned competition and tournament staff are expected to dress appropriately and to maintain a clean and well-groomed appearance at all event sites and associated functions.
  - (2) All players must wear a shirt covering their upper chest area. A well-tailored shirt with a fold-down, mock turtle, v-neck, crew neck, Henley, or zippered collar, and with sleeves covering the part of the arm from the shoulder to the elbow (commonly known as the upper arm), shall be considered acceptable. Women are also allowed to wear sleeveless shirts as designated above.
  - (3) No tee shirts will be allowed, except for competitors in the Junior and Amateur divisions during preliminary rounds only. Juniors and Amateurs shall not wear tee shirts during semifinal or final rounds. Crew neck or V-neck shirts made of high-performance or high-tech materials, such as Dry-Fit, Cool-Max, and others will be allowed.
  - (4) Shirts that hang down lower than the bottom hemline on the player's shorts shall be tucked in.
  - (5) No ripped shirts, shorts, pants will be allowed on the course. This includes unhemmed, torn or cut "vents" at the shirt collar.

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