



PGA
PROFESSIONAL
SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP

2023 ENTRY INFORMATION

REFER TO THE SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP DATES, DEADLINE DATES, SITES & ENTRY FEES DOCUMENT FOR YOUR SECTION'S SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Every applicant (except exempt applicants) must go through a **two-stage process** as follows to compete in the PGA Professional Championship:

1. Enter and compete in your Section PGA Professional Championship. See "Section Championship Dates, Deadline Dates, Sites & Entry Fees" document for your Section's specific information.
2. A pre-determined number of top finishers from each Section, plus exempt players, will then advance to the 2024 PGA Professional Championship scheduled to be played April 28 - May 1, 2024, (Sunday through Wednesday) at Fields Ranch at PGA Frisco. An additional \$100 entry fee will be required to enter the 2024 PGA Professional Championship and a separate eligibility deadline must also be met. For players advancing into the 2024 PGA Professional Championship, entry information will be emailed February 2024.

All members who wish to play in the 2024 PGA Professional Championship, and/or the 2024 PGA Championship (both of which will have an eligibility deadline that must be met) must first enter their respective 2023 Section PGA Professional Championship (unless exempt status applies).

Provided all eligibility requirements are met and maintained, exemptions for the 2024 PGA Professional Championship are as follows:

- Former Champions through 1996 have a lifetime exemption. Former Champions beginning in 1997 forward are exempt into the national Championship until he/she reaches the age of 60 or for a minimum of 10 years from such victory, whichever is the later;
- Top 20 plus ties in the 2023 PGA Professional Championship;
- PGA Professionals making the cut in the 2023 PGA Championship;
- 2023 Senior PGA Professional Champion;
- 2023 Assistant PGA Professional Champion, provided they are a member prior to winning the Championship;
- 2023 Rolex PGA Professional Players of the Year (Regular, Senior, Women's);
- Top 2 finishers in the 2024 PGA Winter Championship's Stroke Play Championship (not otherwise in the field).

Exempt players have the option, but are not required, to play in their Section PGA Professional Championship provided entries are made prior to the deadline and eligibility is met.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is limited to PGA members who meet all of the following criteria:

1. Must be eligibly employed and in good standing (in one of the following classifications) as of the first round of their 2023 Section PGA Professional Championship. PGA of America membership records must reflect this status on the date of the first round (unless special exception criteria are met).

*MP	Master Professional	A-14	Director of Instruction at a PGA Recognized Facility
A-1	Head Professional at a PGA Recognized Golf Course	A-15	Ownership or Management of a Retail Golf Facility
A-2	Head Professional at a PGA Recognized Golf Range	A-16	Golf Course Architect
A-4	Director of Golf at PGA Recognized Golf Facilities	A-17	Golf Course Superintendent
*A-5	Past Presidents of the Association	A-18	Golf Media
A-6	Golf Instructor at a PGA Recognized Facility	A-19	Golf Manufacturer Management
A-7	Head Professional at a PGA Recognized Facility Under Construction	A-20	Golf Manufacturer Sales Representative
A-8	Assistant Golf Professional at a PGA Recognized Facility	A-21	Tournament Coordinator/Director for Organizations, Businesses or Associations
A-9	Employed in Professional Positions in Management, Development, Ownership Operation and/or Financing of Facilities	A-22	Rules Official
A-10	Golf Clinician	A-23	Club Fitting/Club Repair
A-11	Golf Administrator	A-24	Employed within the golf industry and not eligible for another Active classification
A-12	College or University Golf Coach		
A-13	General Manager		

*Must be eligibly employed in one of the above-mentioned active membership classifications to be eligible.

2. Must **not** have played in more than eight (8) combined Adams Pro Tour (APT), Asian Tour, Dakotas Tour, Epson Tour (formerly the Symetra Tour-LPGA), European Challenge Tour, European Senior Tour, European Tour, GPro Tour (beginning 1/1/22), JPGA Senior Tour, JPGA Tour, Korn Ferry Tour, Ladies European Tour (LET), LPGA Tour, Mackenzie TOUR-Canada (including the Forme Tour), PGA Australia Tours, PGA New Zealand Tours, PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions, PGA TOUR China, PGA TOUR LatinoAmerica, , The Safari Tour and The Sunshine Tour tournaments **during the twelve-month period prior to the respective Section's deadline**. The U.S. Open, U.S. Senior Open, U.S. Women's Open, PGA Championship, KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship and KPMG Women's PGA Championship are not included in the 8-tournament count.

****NOTICE for 2023 Section PPC Championships leading into the 2024 PGA Professional Championship, the number of "Professional Tours" that a PGA Member may participate in, and still remain eligible to compete in PGA Member Championships, will be reduced from eight (8) to four (4). This 4-tournament rule will be applied to all Championships & Player of the Year eligibility beginning in 2024 (EXCEPTION: The current year's PGA Professional Champion will still be allowed a maximum number of eight (8) tournaments, applicable only for the year they won). (Board Approval - June 2022)**

PGA Tournament Corporation, Inc., reserves the right to determine whether any player meets eligibility and to reject any player who does not meet these requirements. The PGA member will not be eligible to participate if:

- a) the member is serving a suspension from Membership;
- b) the member is suspended from tournament participation for National tournaments; or
- c) the member is classified as Class F, Life Member Active (LMA), Life Member Master Professional Active (LMMA), Life Member Retired (LM), Life Member Master Professional Retired (LMM), Life Member Century (LMC), Retired Member (RM), Reserve, A-3, or Honorary (HM).

TO ENTER YOUR SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP

To enter your Section PGA Professional Championship, please contact your Section directly or enter through your Section's on-line entry website. See "Section Championship Dates, Deadline Dates, Sites & Entry Fees" for your Section's specific information.

SECTION INFORMATION

The PGA Board of Directors has determined that the allocation of the number of players advancing from each Section PGA Professional Championship to the PGA Professional Championship will be based on the average number of players over the last five (5) years (using actual number of eligible players starting their Championship).

All applicants must compete in the Section within which they are affiliated on their Section's entry deadline date unless they have transferred to a new Section.

Applicants who have transferred into a new Section AFTER their Section's entry deadline have the option of competing in their original Section or in their new Section, but not in **both**. To compete in their new Section, they must inform their new Section of their intention at least seven (7) days prior to that Section's event.

Applicants who have transferred into a new Section PRIOR to their (former) Section's entry deadline, and their new Section's Championship has already taken place, the former Section must make a "special exception" and allow them to compete, even if membership records do not reflect that they are a member in good standing (in that specific Section) on the date of the former Section's deadline.

Please notify your Section directly if you need to withdraw from the 2023 Section PGA Professional Championship.

PRIZE MONEY

Total prize money in each Section PGA Professional Championship will be a minimum of \$10,000.

METHOD OF PLAY

The Section PGA Professional Championship is a stroke play event with a minimum of 36 holes. In the event of a tie for the last advancing place or an alternate's place, there should be a play-off as determined by the Section.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

As a condition of participating in the 2024 PGA Professional Championship, which is scheduled to be played April 28-May 1, 2024, at PGA Frisco at Fields Ranch East, you agree to the following:

As playing in events is a privilege, any tournament entrant whose employment status is in question, must be declared eligibly employed as of the first round of their 2023 Section PGA Professional Championship to be eligible to participate. The Board of Control shall render decisions and have final adjudication on any appeal related to playing privileges. Competitors who are found to be ineligibly employed subsequent to the start of the event (i.e., ineligible employment not adjudicated prior to the entry date of the event), shall be declared ineligible to advance to any further Championship or event, if applicable, and any prize money earned in the event shall be retained by the Section until the final determination of employment status is rendered.

A player's participation in the Section PGA Professional Championship is subject to the terms herein, all Rules, Regulations, provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of The PGA of America and other conditions applicable to the Section PGA Professional Championship, as well as to the terms and conditions of the agreement between PGA Tournament Corporation, Inc., or with agreements made with other parties with respect to same, inclusive of, but not limited to, anti-doping policies. In addition, the following conditions apply.

A player unconditionally and irrevocably grants and assigns to the PGA of America, without limitation, the right to use their name, image, voice and likeness in television, radio, motion picture, photographic, internet, social media, electronic and all other media, whether now in existence or hereafter created, in connection with their participation in the Section PGA Professional Championship and/or other events conducted in conjunction/connection with the Championship. For the avoidance of doubt, this grant of rights shall authorize The PGA of America, any of its affiliates, subsidiaries, and assigns, to make any and all use of the player's name, image, voice and likeness in connection with: (1) advertising, promoting or publicizing the Section PGA Professional Championship, any television or electronic broadcasts or radio broadcasts of the Championship, any subsequent Championships, The PGA of America, PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions, or any events sponsored or cosponsored by The PGA of America and the game of golf in general and/or the players; (2) live or recorded telecasts, television programs, radio broadcasts, internet broadcasts, or other electronic transmissions or programming during golf tournaments; (3) broadcasts or exhibitions on a recorded basis as part of a program, motion picture, electronic transmission programming or video recording of the Section PGA Professional Championship, or year-end summaries of sports award programs or any news or sports news programs; provided that in no case shall the rights granted herein be used in any program, motion picture or video recording designed for instructional purposes with the express consent of the player(s) involved; (4) live or taped non-exclusive updates in any form of media; and (5) commemorative coins, official lithographs, commemorative yearbooks, portraits, paintings, posters, or other materials commemorating a player; participation in the Section PGA Professional Championship. A player agrees to refrain from any action which will interfere with the orderly recording, production, reproduction, publication and dissemination of such recordings, transmissions, films, tapes, pictures, photographs, or images. A player acknowledges and agrees it is their intent to provide the rights outlined herein and to intentionally forego any rights to review and/or approve any recording or transmission.

In the event, a player or any person or entity with a player, record and/or otherwise capture, via any device and/or manually, whether at the site of the Section PGA Professional Championship or remotely, any data, content, images, video or statistics, in any form, related to and/or resulting from a player's participation in the Section PGA Professional Championship ("player data") the player hereby agrees to not use such player data for any commercial purpose, as such is defined by The PGA of America, without first obtaining the approval of The PGA of America, such approval at The PGA of America's sole discretion.

A player will not share any part of the prize money they may win in the Section PGA Professional Championship with any other player.

A player may not bet or wager on any aspect of the Section PGA Professional Championship (or engage in any other gambling activities on the premises of the Championship), nor may they provide any information concerning any player and/or the Section PGA Professional Championship to a party that the player knows, or has reason to believe, will use or is likely to use the information in connection with gambling on the Section PGA Professional Championship. The player shall promptly notify the PGA of America if they are approached by a third party requesting or providing information that the player knows, or has reason to believe, will be used in connection with gambling on the Section PGA Professional Championship.

A player assumes all risk and danger incidental to participation in the event (both to the player and to third parties as a consequence of a player's actions) and releases The PGA of America, PGA Tournament Corporation, Inc., their affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, employees, members, sponsors and the host site from all liabilities from such cause.

It is also understood that a player's participation in the PGA Professional Championship is subject to pre-qualifying unless the player is among those who are exempt from pre-qualifying.

At the 2024 PGA Professional Championship, players must employ a caddie for all Championship rounds and shall walk during all practice and competition rounds (unless otherwise directed by The PGA of America).

POLICIES

Although potentially competing from separate tees, men and women professionals shall compete for the same purse. For example, the man or woman professional with the lowest score shall win first place money.

The **condition of competition regarding grooves and punch marks is in effect for ALL stages of the 2024 PGA Professional Championship presented by Cadillac, Club Car, Corebridge Financial, and Rolex.**

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The conditions governing play and purse distribution will be determined by the PGA of America and distributed by the appropriate PGA Section. The Section PGA Professional Championship will be subject to the overall supervision of the Section.

Proper golfing attire must always be worn during play. The Tournament Director may prohibit play by those who do not conform to dress standards of the Section.

Any player who shall be deemed guilty of conduct unbecoming a Golf Professional while participating in the Section PGA Professional Championship or activities related thereto (i.e., practice rounds, hospitality events, etc.), or who otherwise is deemed to violate the Code of Ethics of the PGA shall be subject to fine and/or suspension from tournament play.

The Section Tournament Director shall be authorized to impose penalties consisting of a fine of \$100 for the first offense, a fine of \$150 for the second offense, and suspension from tournament play for the third offense for any of the following violations:

- Club throwing/club breaking
- Damage to course equipment or property
- Abuse, oral (profanity) or otherwise directed at rules officials, other competitors, spectators, sponsors, championship staff, volunteers, or others
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or marijuana use (unless pre-approved as a treatment for a medical condition) during practice rounds and/or championship rounds
- Any other conduct deemed to be unbecoming a PGA Golf Professional

In the event of a tie for first place, and/or for an alternate position, at the end of the Championship, there will be a play-off as determined by the Section Tournament Committee.

Only exempt players and players qualifying through their Section Championship will be allowed to enter the National Championship.

ADDITIONAL PLAYING OPPORTUNITIES

It is anticipated that the following additional playing opportunities may be available to those who play well in the Championship, however these benefits may be subject to change at any time.

Players participating from the forward tees shall not be eligible to earn playing privileges in the PGA Championship and tournaments co-sponsored or approved by the European Tour, PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions, Korn Ferry TOUR or the USGA. Prior to starting at the Section level, women must declare if they will be playing from the forward tees.

The 2024 PGA Professional Champion:

- The PGA Professional Champion is exempt into PGA Professional Championships, until he/she reaches 60 years of age or for a minimum of ten (10) years after victory, whichever is the later, provided eligibility requirements are met and maintained.
- Subject to confirmation, approval of the PGA TOUR and availability of spots in specific tournament fields as determined by the PGA TOUR, the current PGA Professional Champion, if they played from the back tees, is exempt for a maximum of six (6) open tournaments, beginning after the PGA TOUR Championship in the fall of the current year through the first FedEx Cup event the following year, in addition to any sponsor exemptions. Three (3) of these must be open tournaments held opposite World Golf Championships and the Open Championship.
- The PGA Professional Champion is exempt into the 2024 Senior PGA Professional Championship, provided all eligibility requirements are met.

Top 5 Finishers playing from the back tees in the 2024 PGA Professional Championship:

- The top five (5) eligible finishers, including ties to a floor of 10th position, will be exempted to the Second Qualifying Stage of the Korn Ferry TOUR, provided an entry is filed by their deadline.

Top 10 Finishers plus ties playing from the back tees in the 2024 PGA Professional Championship:

- The top ten (10) finishers, including ties, will be exempted into Final Qualifying Stage of the 2024 (British) Open Championship provided an entry is filed by their deadline.

Top 20 Finishers playing from the back tees in the 2024 PGA Professional Championship:

- The top twenty (20) finishers will earn an exemption into the 2024 PGA Championship.
- The top twenty (20) finishers will earn points towards the 2024 PGA Cup Team.

Top 20 Finishers in the 2024 PGA Professional Championship, who advance to the 2024 PGA Championship:

- The top twenty (20) finishers who advance into the 2024 PGA Championship will be exempted into Final Qualifying (only) for the 2024 U.S. Open, provided an entry is filed by their deadline.

Top 20 Finishers plus ties in the 2024 PGA Professional Championship:

- The top twenty (20) finishers plus ties will be exempt into the 2025 PGA Professional Championship, if all eligibility requirements are met and maintained.

All Female Participants making the initial cut in the 2024 PGA Professional Championship:

- All female participants making the initial cut in the 2024 PGA Professional Championship will earn points towards the 2024 Women's PGA Cup Team.

All Participants playing from the back tees in the 2024 PGA Professional Championship:

- All playing participants are exempted into the First Qualifying Stage of the Korn Ferry TOUR, provided an entry is filed by their deadline.

NOTE: A player forfeits the additional benefits earned through the PGA Professional Championship if he/she fails to meet all of the eligibility criteria listed here: must be classified and eligibly employed as MP, A-1, A-2, A-4, A-5, A-6, A-7, A-8, A-9, A-10, A-11, A-12, A-13, A-14, A-15, A-16, A-17, A-18, A-19, A-20, A-21, A-22, A-23, A-24, on the entry deadline and must not have played in more than four (4) combined "Professional Tour" events in the immediate twelve (12) month period prior to the specific tournament deadline.