



PLAYER HANDBOOK

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SERIES POLICIES

Membership Qualifications

The Bluegrass Amateur Series (BGAS) is wholly owned and operated by the Kentucky PGA, headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky. Membership to the BGAS is open to male and female amateur golfers who are at least 18 years of age and have an active Handicap Index at a recognized PGA facility and have paid a series membership.

Handicap Index

A Handicap Index is issued by your home golf course and represents your potential scoring ability. When issued you are given a GHIN number which is your distinct account number for your Handicap Index. If you do not have an active Handicap Index and are a member of a private country club, please contact your PGA Professional to activate. Otherwise, visit your local public golf course golf shop or subscribe to one with eClub Kentucky. [Click here](#) to subscribe to a Handicap Index.

Membership Fees & Benefits

The cost for the inaugural season membership is \$40. Series members receive several benefits, which include annual tour branded member gift, bag tag and Rules of Golf Book. Series event entry fees range from \$75 to \$95 depending on the facility and include green fees, golf cart, practice range, trophies and prize pool.

Membership Cancellation/Refund

All BGAS memberships begin the day a member submits his/her registration for service. Only cancellations made within three (3) days of the initial registration will receive a full refund.

Assumption of Risk and Release from Liability

By signing or electronically submitting a member application and entering and playing in a Bluegrass Amateur Series tournament, the participant understands and agrees that there are certain dangers involved with the participation in a golf tournament, 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 risks which the participant assumes and solely accepts and waives all claims of injury to body or property against Kentucky PGA. Further, the participant agrees that while on the premises of a Bluegrass Amateur Series tournament, the participant, and any guest, relative or anyone else affiliated with participant, shall be present at their own risk and that Kentucky PGA shall not be liable for any claims for injuries or damages whatsoever to person or property of the participant or related person arising out of or in connection with the participation in the tournament or presence at the tournament. Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Kentucky PGA from all claims by or liability to participant or affiliated person.

Series Format

Each BGAS event is an 18 hole stroke play event (triple bogey maximum score). All flights except Championship have gross and net scoring. Play will be governed by the current Rules of Golf and modified by Local Rules provided on the Notice to Contestants. The host PGA Professional and staff will be on site at every tournament to handle player registration/check in, provide assistance, handle scoring/prize pools, monitor the pace of play, and make rulings. Any host PGA Professional or designated staff may assess penalty strokes for rules infractions or slow play subject to review by the BGAS Committee. All decisions made by the BGAS Committee shall be final.

Flight Placement

The BGAS is divided into five separate flights with age groups playing from different teeing grounds.

<u>Flight</u>	<u>Hdcp Index</u>	<u>Amateur Yards</u>	<u>Senior Yards</u>	<u>Masters Yards</u>	<u>Ladies Yards</u>
Championship	0 – 4.9	6,500-6,800	6,200-6,400	5,800-6,200	5,800-6,200
Muirfield	5.0 – 9.9	6,500-6,800	6,200-6,400	5,800-6,200	5,800-6,200
Carnoustie	10.0 – 14.9	6,200-6,400	5,800-6,200	5,800-6,200	4,800-5,300
Turnberry	15.0 – 19.9	6,200-6,400	5,800-6,200	4,800-5,300	4,800-5,300
Prestwick	20.0 +	6,200-6,400	5,800-6,200	4,800-5,300	4,800-5,300

On Course Rules

The current Rules of Golf will govern all play. The Tournament Committee will provide a “Notice to Contestants” rules sheet containing local rules, and those rules will govern play for that tournament. The host PGA Professional and staff will be on site at every tournament to handle player registration/check in, provide assistance, handle scoring/prize pools, monitor the pace of play, and make rulings. Any host PGA Professional or designated staff may assess penalty strokes for rules infractions or slow play subject to review by the BGAS Committee. All decisions made by the BGAS Committee shall be final.

Caddies & Spectators

Caddies and Spectators are welcome at all BGAS tournaments provided the caddies do not interfere with pace of play. Caddies are the responsibility of the associated player and are requested to practice proper golf etiquette.

Caddies and Spectators may ride with a player; however, there is a maximum of two carts per group. Spectator carts are at the discretion of the host facility. Please contact the host facility in advance of the event for their policy.

If there is an issue with the behavior of a spectator(s), or caddie(s), the individual(s) will be asked to leave the premises.

Personal Appearance

Proper golf attire is required on the course and in public rooms. Each facility’s dress code will be enforced, but the following regulations are always in effect. Tank tops, denim jeans or shorts, cutoffs, t-shirts, ripple-soles, and metal spikes are prohibited. Golf shirts, usually with a traditional or mock collar, are required. Mid-thigh length shorts are acceptable.

Code of Conduct

Rule 33-7 authorizes the Committee to disqualify a player for a serious breach of etiquette. A player commits a serious breach of etiquette when he shows a significant disregard for an aspect of the Etiquette Section of the Rules of Golf, such as intentionally distracting another player or intentionally offending someone. A serious breach of etiquette includes but is not limited to acts such as throwing clubs, obscenity that is audible to others on the course (including one’s opponents or fellow competitors), and any verbal abuse of an official.

Typically, a player will be given a warning for the first offense, although in extreme cases (such as any verbal abuse of a staff), even the first offense may result in disqualification.

Trophies

The winner from each flight will receive a trophy, presented the day of the tournament.

Prizes

For each tournament, a portion of each player's entry fee is used to generate flight prize pools. The value of the prize pool at each tournament will be established prior to the tournament and is based on participation. The prize pool may vary slightly the day of the tournament due to late entries or withdrawals. In order to adhere to the USGA Rules of Amateur Status, no single prize awarded will exceed \$750 in value. Prize certificates are redeemable only at the host facility and are valid until December 31 of the year of the event.

Pace of Play

We want you to enjoy your round, but for the sake of everyone's enjoyment, groups must stay in position. Rule 6-7 states in part, players must play without delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines, the Committee may establish and thereafter prescribes penalties for slow play. Our goal is to play our round of golf in 4:30, and that means we need to play Ready Golf. Ready Golf is simply defined as HIT WHEN READY. If you reach your ball and are ready to hit, when other members of your group are not yet prepared, then go ahead and hit. Keep in mind that in stroke play competition there are no penalties under the Rules of Golf for playing out of turn.

Additional Pace of Play Rules/Guidelines

- Players can card a maximum of triple bogey on any one hole. After that, the player must pick up for the hole. There is no limit to the number of triple bogies that can be carded in a round.
- Rangers will act as Tour officials and will warn slow groups and then report to the director. Times of each group will be noted after the first nine holes. If a 15-minute gap exists, the group is out of position and will only be warned one time.
- The penalty for slow play is 2 strokes for the entire group. All group members are expected to recognize the group is slow and take action to speed the group up.
- Repeat offenders will be asked to leave the Tour for the sake of all other players.
- Players should always hit a provisional ball when a ball goes into an area where it may be lost or OB.
- If you are unsure of the outcome of your ball and think it "may be" lost or OB, play a provisional ball.

Inclement Weather

Severe weather-related conditions may delay or suspend play. Such conditions are as follows:

- The safety of the player due to the danger from lighting
- The course being deemed unplayable (as determined by the host course)

If such inclement weather is present, every effort will be made by the tournament committee to complete the full number of holes. If play is delayed, all players should remain on property at the host facility and await official announcements from the tournament committee. If the course remains unplayable and/or lighting is present, and as the last option, events may become official and shortened. If a minimum of 9-holes is not possible, events may be rescheduled.

While the tournament committee will do everything possible to complete the full number of holes, there will be no refunds should inclement weather shorten the events.

Miscellaneous

The policies and regulations of BGAS are subject to revision. All BGAS Officials are deemed to be familiar with these policies and regulations, as well as the Rules of Golf, and agree to abide by them. Failure to comply with the aforementioned policies and regulations could result in penalties, suspension or expulsion from the BGAS or a tournament.

TOURNAMENT POLICIES

Tournament Entry Procedures

Only Series Members may participate in BGAS tournaments, with the exception that guests may participate in up to two (2) tournaments per year, but are not eligible for Bushnell Order of Merit points, prizing or trophies.

Series event entry fees range from \$75 to \$95 depending on the facility and include green fees, golf cart, practice range, and prize pool. Entries must be submitted via the [GHK Online Tournament Registration System](#), no later than the deadline at 11:59 p.m. Default entry deadline is one week before event (subject to change).

Withdrawal & Refund Policy

Players are required to immediately notify Golf House Kentucky if they need to withdraw from a competition via the [GHK Online Tournament Registration System](#). If Internet access is not available, a player should withdraw via phone. Once groupings have been published, a player should contact the host facility if they need to withdraw. A proper withdrawal is required for a refund to be granted. There are no refunds for memberships.

Withdrawal Timeline

Before entry deadline

After deadline, but 1 day before event

Day of event

Refund

Entry fee less admin fee

Refund is 50%

No refund

Tournament Format

Each Amateur Series event is limited to 120 players and consists of 18 holes of stroke play. All flights except Open have gross and net scoring with a triple bogey maximum score. The Championship flight is gross scoring only.

Groupings and Starting Times

Tournaments will typically utilize an afternoon shotgun start, but some may use morning shotguns or tee times. Groupings will be available on the Golf House Kentucky website prior to the event and emailed to all tournament players. Groupings are subject to change any time prior to the event. If an individual starting time has been changed, the Series Director will notify that individual of the change.

Onsite Check-In

Series Players must check in on site in the Golf Shop at least 30 minutes before the start of the event. Scorecards, Notice to Players and other local information will be on the Players assigned golf cart.

Tees

Each tournaments yardage will vary depending on the course teeing grounds, slope, and rating. BGAS will attempt to provide every golfer with an opportunity to participate under the most competitive tournament set-ups possible. Below is a breakdown of the yardage ranges by flight:

<u>Flight</u>	<u>Hdcp Index</u>	<u>Amateur Yards</u>	<u>Senior Yards</u>	<u>Masters Yards</u>	<u>Ladies Yards</u>
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Turnberry	15.0 – 19.9	6,200-6,400	5,800-6,200	4,800-5,300	4,800-5,300
Prestwick	20.0 +	6,200-6,400	5,800-6,200	4,800-5,300	4,800-5,300

Scorekeeping and Scorecards

Players must exchange their scorecards with another player in the group. A separate area (tear-off strip at the bottom of card) is provided to allow each player to keep his/her own score. Each player and marker must sign the scorecard in the designated area on the card attesting that each hole score is correct. At the end of the round, the tear-off strip should be used to check the accuracy of one's own official card. Each player must sign his/her card and each "marker" must sign his/her card as well. Immediately upon conclusion of the tournament round, each player in the group should proceed to the designated scoring area collectively. At the scoring area, Series Players will exchange cards, bring up any rulings to the tournament committee, and thoroughly check the accuracy of the scorecard at the designated scoring area. Once signed, the group will turn in their scorecards collectively and may depart from the scoring area.

Each player is responsible for the correctness of his/her scorecard even though a fellow competitor will be marking the scores on each hole. Players, though, are only responsible for the score on each hole and not the total score. If a player signs for an incorrect scorecard with a lower score on a hole than they actually shot, that player will be disqualified per rule 6-6d.

In an effort to equitably resolve any scoring disputes all players in a pairing should submit their scorecards at the same time to the scorer's area immediately upon completion of play and each player should be available for a reasonable amount of time afterwards to answer questions by the Tournament Committee in the event that a ruling is required. Any protests need to be made to the Tournament Committee as soon as possible after an incident occurs so that a proper ruling can be made in a timely fashion. Competition in each flight is deemed to have closed when the trophy has been presented to the champion.

Results & Bushnell Order of Merit Points

The Bushnell Order of Merit is designed to qualify players for year-end awards and prizes. At the end of the season prize certificates are paid out to the top leaders on the Bushnell Order of Merit. Actual number of places is based on total membership at the end of the season. Each flight has a separate season-long ranking, based on points earned at each event. Points are allocated

1st Place	12 points
2 nd Place	10 points
3 rd Place	9 points
4 th Place	8 points
5 th Place	7 points
6 th Place	6 points
7 th Place	5 points
8 th Place	4 points
9 th Place	3 points
10 th Place	2 points
11 th Place/Higher	1 Point

Determination of Tied Scores

For all first place ties in flight, there will be an on-course playoff (course/weather/daylight permitting along with course availability). The playoff will continue until a player records a lower score than the other(s) on a particular hole (sudden death). If an on-course playoff is not possible, a scorecard playoff will take place using the cumulative score of the back nine (#10 - #18), then the last 6 holes (#13 - #18), then the last 3 holes (#16 - #18). If the players are still tied after matching the final 3 hole scores, then it goes to the #1 handicap hole on the back nine (#10 - #18) then to the #2 handicap hole on the back nine (#10 - #18) until a winner is determined.

For awarding Bushnell Order of Merit Points in the event of a tie, the Committee will add up all points for the tied places and divide by the number of players tied for the spot. The tied players will then be awarded the same number of points (including first place).

Tournament Prize Payout Policy

For each tournament, a portion of each player's entry fee is used to generate each flight's prize pool. BGAS strives to provide a prize payout that is equitable to all players. BGAS believes a winner of a flight regardless of the number of entries deserves to win the same prize as other winners. All other prize places are determined by the number of participants with the goal to pay 30% of the players in the flight. The value of the prize pool at each tournament will be established prior to the tournament and is based on participation. The prize pool may vary slightly the day of the tournament due to late entries or withdrawals. In order to adhere to the USGA Rules of Amateur Status, no single prize awarded will exceed \$750 in value. Prize certificates are redeemable only at the host facility and are valid until December 31 of the year of the event. Exception is end of year prize bonuses, which are redeemable at any host facility.

Distance Measuring Devices

Distance measuring devices are allowed at all tournaments as long as the device does not measure slope, grade or wind.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Cell Phones may be used only if doing so does not unduly delay play, cell phones must be on silent at all times. In the spirit of competition, cell phone usage during competition is discouraged. A player should be respectful of their fellow competitors. The device may only be used to make phone calls in emergencies.

Guest Policy

Guests are always welcome to play in any BGAS tournament on a space available basis by contacting either the host PGA Professional or the Series Coordinator and are subject to the same registration deadlines and fees. Every effort will be made to accommodate a guest whenever possible. Guests are limited to two (2) tournaments per BGAS season and are not eligible for trophies, prizing or Bushnell Order of Merit Points.

Practice Round

There are no official practice rounds. However, in some cases a host facility may offer guest access to the course at a discounted or standard fee (private facility).

Hospitality Services

General snack bar services are available for players at their own expense at all events.