

DAKOTAS TOUR Policies & Procedures for Players & Tournament Directors

MISSION STATEMENT

The Dakotas Tour was founded to provide quality golf events for Amateurs and Professionals in the Upper Midwest. While most events are operated at the local level, all events will strive to provide a unique golf experience for the amateur participants, along with a professional atmosphere, that allows players of all skill levels to compete. The Dakotas Tour's pro-am structured events will provide competitive pro payouts that exceed professional entry fees, allow for professional and amateur friendly formats, and be conducted in a professional and exemplary matter.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Dakotas Tour will maintain a strict no-tolerance policy on any behavior unbecoming of a professional. Professionals are expected to treat all amateurs and fellow professionals with courtesy and respect at all times. This is a Pro-Am based tour that relies on the amateur's participation and enjoyment as well as the professional's skill and conduct.

Conduct such as verbal abuse of any players, vulgar language, club throwing, or damage to the golf course or golf course property is considered a violation. Violations also include the use of illegal drugs or abuse of prescription drugs, cheating, withdrawing without good cause, improper dress, not maintaining financial responsibility, and any other unprofessional behavior. Violations could result in penalty shots, fines, and/or disqualification from one or all events conducted by the Dakotas Tour.

Any serious violations, as determined by the Executive Director, can result in automatic suspension and fines at any time. The length of any suspension shall be determined by the Dakotas Tour Executive Director. If a course(s) has been damaged due to a violation the cost of repairing the damage must be paid in addition to any fines. Any disputes will be decided by the Executive Director in which his decision will be final.

The Dakotas Tour will honor the suspension of any professional by any golf-governing body or professional tour.

DRESS CODE

Slacks are required, however, on a site-by-site basis Bermuda length shorts may be allowed. No denim is permitted. All shirts must reflect appropriate attire, preferably collar shirts or mock turtleneck golf shirts, and must be tucked in at all times. Tee-shirts are not permitted. All hats must be worn forward. Caddies may wear Bermuda length shorts. Caddies must abide by all other player dress code regulations. Caddies may not wear sandals, flip flops, or golf shoes with spikes. Tennis shoes or teaching shoes are preferred. Players are responsible for their caddies. The Dakotas Tour is a "soft-spike" only tour; no metal spikes are permitted.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones are prohibited on the golf course except for emergencies or to contact the host golf shop. I-Pods or other like devices will only be permitted on the practice areas before and after tournament rounds. They are not allowed during competition.

A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a competition round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect play (e.g. gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.

ENTRY FEE POLICY

Players must enter events directly by contacting each site. Players can download entry blanks for some events from our website and send, fax, email, or phone them to each site. Many events will take credit cards. Entry fees are set by each site. Contact each event for particulars.

All players wishing to play any event on the Dakotas Tour must pay the Tour Membership fee via the website. This fee must be paid at least 48 hours prior to playing in any event.

It is a Code of Conduct violation to not maintain financial responsibility including the payment of entry fees.

PROFESSIONAL REFUND POLICY

Any professional withdrawing from an event within the 5-day window prior to the official start of the event will be subject to a \$50 *minimum* administration fee. Otherwise refunds will be made at the discretion of each event and be made after the event is concluded.

A player will be subject to a possible Code of Conduct violation if he withdraws from an event without good cause within 48 hours of the event's start. A player no-showing for an event is subject to a Code of Conduct violation and may not be refunded any of his entry fees.

EXEMPT PROFESSIONAL POLICY

The Top-40 players from the previous year's Bonus Points list will be exempt players. This allows them special exemptions from qualifying at events with qualifiers. Other exemptions are extended at the discretion of each site.

Non-exempt professionals can receive an exemption at an event with a qualifier by finishing in the top eight places at the prior major event and be pre-entered in the next event.

CART/CADDIE POLICY

All players are permitted to use golf carts or pull/push carts. Two carts per foursome and two people per cart are allowed. Caddies may ride based on availability; players have priority on riding. All carts must be kept on the path around all tees and greens and will abide by the golf course's cart policy; failure to do so will subject the professional to a possible fine. Walking is allowed as long as the event's pace of play guidelines are being followed.

PROFESSIONAL PAYOUT GUIDELINES

Each event may distribute the professional purse using a fair and equitable payout distribution. The following guidelines must be adhered to by all events when determining the distribution:

- At least 100% of the professional entry fee must be paid back in the professional purse.
- Last place money must equal 1% of the professional purse or the professional entry fee, whichever is greater.
- At least 1/3 of the professional starting field should be paid.
- The posted professional purse may be reduced due to late tournament withdrawals that are not filled, unless the purse is guaranteed

TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are to ensure consistence from tournament to tournament and shall be followed by each event:

- USGA Rules of Golf govern all play except where modified by the Local Rules. An event's Local Rules should be posted/published before the start of the event.
- Hole locations sheets are to be available for all players during competition rounds.
- Multi-day events shall ensure that players have at least one morning and one afternoon starting time during the first two days (unless using a single shotgun). If using multi-tee waves each player shall start at least once on #1 tee and once on #10 tee during the first two days.
- A method for breaking 1st place ties should be posted/published before the start of the event.
- A policy for weather delays and round cancellations should be posted/published before the start of the event.
- Whether "Summer" or "Winter" rules are in effect should be clarified. If "Winter" or Preferred Lies" will be used, the USGA recommended language (found in the Rules of Golf-Appendix I) should be used and posted/published.
- The golf course will be marked appropriately prior to the start of the event, including water hazards, ground under repair, out-of-bounds, ball drops, etc. These areas should be marked with stakes and/or appropriately colored lines and be clearly visible to eliminate any potential Rules problems.
- If a cut is to be made, the policy should be clearly outlined and posted/published.
- Any purses to be paid should be posted/published with a breakdown of the payment to each place.

- A Pace of Play policy, Rules committee members, and how Rules appeals will be handled should be posted/published.
- Each event will prepare its own pairings for professionals and amateurs. All players in multi-day events should have one starting time in the morning and one in the afternoon as well as one off #1 tee and one off #10 tee. *Professionals should be paired with amateurs based on their ability to interact positively with the amateurs, as well as their potential playing ability. Tournament Directors do not have to put a “veteran” or “highly skilled” professional with an amateur team if the Director does not feel that the professional can interact positively with the amateurs and help them to have an enjoyable experience.*
- Scoring should be done in a timely manner and be posted in a public place for all participants to view.
- Daily results will be reported to the Dakotas Tour Executive Director at the conclusion of each days scoring so that they can immediately be posted on the Tour’s website.