



2019 MGA SENIOR TOUR HANDBOOK

MEMBERSHIP

Open to active MGA members of the current season.

With an annual Senior Tour membership (\$60), a player chooses ONE of the sections below and is eligible to play in any of that section's events for a season. DUAL membership options are available in some of the sections.

4 REGIONAL SECTION OPTIONS-

Northern, Southern, Eastern or Western

- For male players, turning 55 anytime in 2019 and older.
- Handicap Index limit of 24.4 or lower.
- Includes eight 18-hole events held on Mondays and six All Section events offerings.

Super Senior Section:

- For male players, turning 70 anytime in 2019 and older.
- Handicap Index limit of 36.4 or lower.
- Includes eight 18-hole events held on a variety of weekdays (except Mondays).
- DUAL membership option available with one of the Regional sections for additional fee (\$25).
- Ineligible for All Sections events unless a DUAL member.

Gross Section:

- For male players, turning 55 anytime in 2019 and older.
- Handicap Index limit of 24.4 or lower.
- Includes eight 18-hole events held on a variety of weekdays (except Mondays)
- DUAL membership option available with one of the Regional sections for additional fee (\$25).
- Ineligible for All Sections events unless a DUAL member.

Women's Section:

- For female players, turning 50 anytime in 2019 and older.
- Handicap Index limit of 36.4 or lower.
- Includes eight 18-hole events held on Mondays and six All Section events offerings.

All Section events which include individual, team and match play formats are open to Regional section members, Women's section members and DUAL members. All Section one-day events are held on Mondays and two-day events are held on Monday & Tuesday or Tuesday & Wednesday if there is a holiday on Monday.

Please note, there is no minimum requirement for the number of events played in. The more you play though, the better value of your membership and opportunity for playing well for performance points. Performance points are explained on page 3 in this Handbook.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

MEMBERSHIP Registration begins on Monday, FEB 4

You may register online with a credit card at mngolf.org or by filling out an application to be mailed or dropped off.

MEMBERSHIP WITHDRAWALS/REFUNDS

Senior Tour Membership Fee will be refunded if the MGA office is notified before a player plays in their first Senior Tour Event or before the sixth event of the season.

EVENT FORMATS & DETAILS

- All events have shotgun starts.
- Net and Gross prizes are awarded*
*There are no Net prizes in the Gross section.
- Stableford format is used for all events except for the Section Cup Challenge event where match play is used. See Scoring Format section for more details.

DIVISIONS & TEES

REGIONAL INDIVIDUAL SECTION EVENTS & ALL SECTION 36-HOLE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

There are two divisions on two different tees: Senior (55-64 or 65+ choosing to play as a Senior) or Master (65+).

- **SENIOR TEES** (6000-6200 yards)
- **MASTER TEES** (5700-5900 Yards)

Players 65+ preferring to play from the Senior tees have the option to compete in the Senior Division for the entire season. These players must notify the Senior Tour department at least 2 weeks prior to their first event to make this choice.

*A player's division is determined by their age as of May 1 except for 65+ players choosing to play in the Senior division.

*A player may not change divisions during the season even if they happen to turn 65 during the active season.

For **Gross, Super Senior, and Women's section events** there are no age categories with one division of competition.

- **GROSS TEES** (6300-6500 yards)
-When courses can allow.
- **SUPER SENIOR TEES** (5600-5900 yards)
-Super Senior Tees are only used in Super Senior events.
- **WOMEN'S TEES** (4900-5200 Yards)

DUAL Gross and Super Senior players compete in either the Senior or Master divisions in the regional events. *There are no Gross or Super Senior Tees in Regional Individual events & All Section events.*

ALL SECTION TEAM EVENTS

Male players have two divisions (Senior or Master) as in the Regional section events. Players may pair up together no matter what division or section they play in (Senior, Master or North, South, Super Senior, etc.) Any teams paired with a combination of a Senior division player with a Master division player will compete in the Senior division. There are no Gross or Super Senior divisions so Gross and Super Senior players teamed together will compete in their regional section division.

Female teams compete in their own flight.

ENTRY PROCEDURE FOR EVENTS

EVENT Registration begins Monday, MARCH 4.

Sign-up for events online with a credit card at mngolf.org or by filling out an event entry form to mail or drop off.

INDIVIDUAL SECTION EVENT SIGN-UP

Regional section individual events are **NOT** filled on a priority basis.

As long as an entry for an individual section event is received by an entry deadline there will be an opportunity to play.

Event entry deadlines are 2 WEEKS prior to each event.

In the case of an oversubscribed field for an individual event, there will be a random draw after the closing entry date to bring the field down to 120 players (or the maximum number of players for the event)- those players not making it into the field will be put on a waiting list. Wait-listed players will be notified of their wait list status and will be contacted if openings become available.

After the event, those still on the waiting list who did not play will receive a designation that prevents them from being wait listed again during the current season.



ALL SECTION EVENT SIGN-UP

All Section events are NOT filled on a priority basis.

The same oversubscription policy from our regional individual events will be implemented. See above.

Continued on next page.

For team event online registration, one player will charge the entire fee to his or her credit card and will be responsible for getting payment from his or her partner. The only way to split a payment up between team members is to send in an entry form with two checks.

NEW!

LATE ENTRY FEE - ANY PLAYER SIGNING UP FOR AN EVENT ONCE PAIRINGS ARE RELEASED WILL HAVE A \$10 FEE ADDED TO THE EVENT COST.

PAYMENT PROCESS FOR EVENTS

All checks and credit cards are processed immediately upon receipt of an entry.

EVENT WITHDRAWAL & REFUND PROCEDURES

Entry fee will be fully refunded if the MGA office is notified by 3:00 pm, THREE BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR to an event:

Monday event (withdrawal required **by Wednesday**)

Tuesday event (withdrawal required **by Thursday**)

Wednesday event (withdrawal required **by Friday**)

Thursday event (withdrawal required **by Monday**)

Friday event (withdrawal required **by Tuesday**)

No refunds will be given for any reason after the withdrawal deadline to the start of the event.

Online withdrawals will receive a charge back immediately to the credit card used for entry. For those entries with payment made by check, reimbursement checks will be mailed out as soon as possible after the event.

PAIRINGS AND RESULTS

Pairings are posted to the Senior Tour homepage between one to two weeks prior to events.

For most of the Senior Tour events, pairings are created in a similar handicap index order with some created in an ABCD format. This allows more players the opportunity to play with different golfers throughout the summer.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT PAIRING REQUESTS.

The Senior Tour is an opportunity to meet new golfers. The team events provide an opportunity to play with a particular buddy and we also encourage carpooling with friends to events.

Please be respectful of the players you are playing with.

Be considerate in regards to smoking and sharing cart driving duties. Remember to work together as a tee group to keep up pace of play and just help each other out. Everyone is here for the same reason to have a fun, competitive golf outing!

Results will be posted to the Senior Tour homepage as quickly as possible.

SHOWING UP ON TIME & NO SHOWS

Please be respectful of the host site, Senior Tour staff and other competitors by showing up in a timely manner and honoring your commitment to participate. Arriving within 15 minutes of your shotgun time is considered late.

Arriving late means you will not be guaranteed the ability to play due to the juggling of carts, tee boxes and foursomes prior to your arrival. No refund will be available in the event of withdrawal due to lateness or no show.

PRACTICE ROUNDS

No provisions have been made for practice rounds at any Senior Tour sites but clubs may be open to public play at prescribed times.

ON-COURSE LIVE SCORING

Players will assist with the scoring process by keeping hole-by-hole scoring on their smart phones with the free USGA Tournament Management app.

PACE OF PLAY

Please make every effort to keep a good pace of play.

Work with your fellow players and keep up with the group ahead of you at all times. If you fall back at all, close the gap. The host site staff and MGA staff will do their best to range and fore-caddie, but ultimately it is up to you the players to keep up pace. Talk to each other and be aware of the time. If you are having a slow hole take extra steps to make up the time.

***Please note, each Site Captain has the authority to:**

- ask a group that has fallen behind to pick up their balls, move to the next hole and record zero points on their scorecards for the skipped/unfinished hole.
- close competition and determine results/prizes when adequate time has been allowed to turn in scorecards. Any cards turned in after close of competition will be considered a disqualification, but the score will still be posted to GHIN.

MGA CONDUCT POLICY

By submitting an entry, or by participating in any MGA competition, the player understands that his/her participation is at the sole discretion of the MGA. The player's entry may be rejected for any event, at the discretion of the Official in Charge, at any time before the close of the competition (as defined in the USGA Rules of Golf Book-Rule 20.2e). Likewise, the player's entry may be rejected, at the discretion of the Committee for reasons deemed necessary, at any time after the close of the competition. Unbecoming conduct or actions at any MGA event, or state, national, or international event, or conduct or action deemed detrimental to the MGA, the spirit of the game, or to the host facilities are grounds for such rejection.

These include, but are not limited to:

1. Cheating
2. Willful destruction of golf course or MGA property
3. Abusive language or conduct towards MGA and/or host facility, staff, volunteers, or other players
4. Abusive or derogatory criticism of the MGA and/or host facility staff, volunteers, or other players
5. Club throwing and/or physical endangerment of others
6. Offensive or excessively loud behavior
7. Alcohol and/or substance impaired behavior
8. Repeated withdrawals or no cards during or after completion of a round
9. Inappropriate golf attire
10. Other conduct deemed to be unbecoming

Should such an incident occur, the Official in Charge shall submit a report to the Senior Tour Committee. Future sanctions may range from suspension from future MGA events to not being eligible for MGA team competitions and/or player awards. This may include losing exempt status for future year(s). The decision to reject an entry during an event by the Official in Charge is final.

HANDICAP REVIEW POLICY

The Senior Tour Committee will be monitoring scores throughout the year with the authority to modify a player's handicap for Senior Tour events going forward. The Senior Tour Committee will handle handicaps on a case by case basis.

AWARDS

For all events, net and gross prizes are awarded (except for the Gross section with only gross prizes). Merchandise certificates will be awarded as determined by the MGA Senior Tour Committee. No contestant can win more than one award per event.

SCORING FORMAT & REQUIREMENTS

In order to tabulate the winners of shotgun Tour events as quickly as possible, each score card must be filled out completely including gross and net scores. Please fill in stableford points on each hole, as well as, total stableford points must be filled out on each score card.

If a player fails to complete a hole, he must enter the score he most likely would have had. All of our Senior Tour events are in a stableford format. If you are having a particularly tough hole and are out of the points for that hole, it is okay to pick up and record what you most likely would have had. This is not a requirement but certainly is a help with pace of play.

Each score card must be totaled and have two signatures before it is turned into the scoreboard. Score cards that are not totaled or incomplete in any way will be returned to the players to complete before they will be accepted.

Be sure to start your score card on the hole on which you are starting and mark the card after each hole. Please keep a neat, legible score card. No individual or team may keep their own score.

Stableford Points

1 Point = Bogey 3 Points = Birdie 5 Points = Double
2 Points = Par 4 Points = Eagle Eagle

Upon completion of play, players must check their hole-by-hole scores carefully. Both the player and the marker must sign the card and return it to the Senior Tour site captain in a prompt manner. Make every effort to turn your scorecard in as quickly as possible after your round completion. Drop your scorecard off before putting your clubs away. If there is a time constraint due to a double shotgun event, work with your cart mate to be efficient. One player can turn the scorecard in and the other player can unload the cart.

All scores shot during the MGA Senior Tour will be posted by the MGA to each player's GHIN handicap record.

SENIOR TOUR PERFORMANCE POINTS

The Senior Tour utilizes a performance points system to determine qualification for the **Senior Tour Finals** and the **MGA/WSGA Cup Matches**. There are overall performance points standings for each section and an overall performance points standings for all of the regional sections combined for the MGA/WSGA Cup Matches.

For each Senior Tour event, the top eight positions in the net and gross competition in each division in each individual and team event will receive Senior Tour Performance Points. Each player's performance points accumulate for a performance point total that is taken from their top four finishes for their Section standings and all of their event points for the MGA/WSGA Cup Match standings.

Performance points will be awarded as follows per person:

	18-hole Regional <u>Ind. Event</u>	18-hole All Section <u>Ind. Event</u>	18-hole All Section <u>Team Event</u>	Section Cup <u>Challenge</u>
1st	50 pts	65 pts	30 pts	65 pts
2nd	40 pts	55 pts	24 pts	55 pts
3rd	35 pts	45 pts	21 pts	45 pts
4th	30 pts	40 pts	18 pts	40 pts
5th	25 pts	35 pts	15 pts	35 pts
6th	20 pts	30 pts	12 pts	30 pts
7th	15 pts	25 pts	9 pts	25 pts
8th	10 pts	20 pts	6 pts	20 pts
				+ 35 pts for shootout winner



***Ties will NOT be broken for Performance Points position. Ties will ONLY be broken for prizes awarded.**

Gross & Super Seniors: There are no Gross or Super Senior points awarded in the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western sections. For DUAL members playing in their regional section events they will compete and earn points in their respective division standings in their regional section. For their Gross or Super Senior events they will be awarded points in the Gross or Super Senior point standings.

Dual Gross or Dual Super Senior members playing in

All Section events: (Please see Senior Tour Divisions on page 1 for information regarding team event divisions.) Dual members getting points in an All Section event will have them applied to their regular section standings.

Tie-breakers for Senior Tour Finals qualifying spots:

- If a player qualifies in both net & gross or in the same section or two different sections as a DUAL member— the higher position is taken. If the positions are the same, the higher point total is taken.
- Tie-breaker for players with same total of points:
 - If both players have over 4 events the higher fifth event is the tie-breaker.
 - If either player has 4 events or less, the best performance is the tie-breaker.
- If additional tie-breaker is required contact the Senior Tour Dept.

Tie-breakers for MGA/WSGA Senior Tour Cup Matches qualifying spots:

- If a player qualifies in both net & gross— the higher position is taken. If the positions are the same, the higher point total is taken.
- If additional tie-breaker is required contact the Senior Tour Dept.



ALL SECTION - SECTION CUP EVENT

The format of the Section Cup Challenge will now be individual matches. Golfers will compete in four 9-hole net matches against a golfer of a similar playing ability. During the match, players will accumulate points after the completion of each hole: win hole = 1 point, tie = 0.5 points, lost hole = 0 points. The player who accumulates the most points in a match will earn an additional three points—meaning, the maximum number of points a player can receive in a match is 12.

After 36-holes, a player's four match point total will be reflected on the tournament's overall leaderboard. The top two players (one senior and master) from each section will then be selected to represent their section in a four-hole shootout. The winner of the shootout will determine the section champions.

SENIOR TOUR FINALS

For the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western sections, the top four players in Net and Gross, in each age division from each section will be invited to the Senior Tour Finals along with the top four players in Net and Gross from the Super Senior section.

The Finals will be an individual stableford net and gross competition with champions recognized in both net and gross for Overall, Senior, Master, and Super Senior.

Gross Section: Top four players in the overall performance points standings will receive an invitation to the Senior Tour Finals.

Women's Section: At least four top players in the overall performance points standings (top two from Gross and top two from Net) will receive an invitation to the Senior Tour Finals. Number of qualifiers may expand but is dependent on number of registered female members.

MGA/WSGA CUP MATCHES

The Wisconsin State Golf Association Senior Tour versus the MGA Senior Tour! This is a match play event with 24 players on each state's team. The top six players in Senior Net, Senior Gross, Master Net and Master Gross in the overall performance points standings from the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western sections combined will be invited to represent the MGA team for this event.

MGA DRESS CODE

For all MGA competitions, players must be neat in appearance with respect to personal grooming and clothing.

All males are required to wear shirts with collars or mock turtlenecks and sleeves, and either golf slacks or Bermuda shorts which measure no higher than two (2) inches above their knees. All females are required to wear either slacks, shorts, or golf skirts that are of appropriate length, and golf tops (sleeveless tops are permitted).

Examples of attire NOT ACCEPTABLE include the following:

Short shorts, athletic shorts, tennis shorts, cutoffs, jeans, jean shorts, tank tops, t-shirts, and sweats pants.

The committee in charge shall decide whether this requirement has been met and will withdraw the entry of any player who does not comply with this policy.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The USGA Rules of Amateur Status will be the standard for the MGA Senior Tour. Each player must conform to the Rules in every respect. See Rules and Regulations on page 6 of this handbook or better yet, sign up for an MGA Rules Workshop.
- Each participant in the MGA Senior Tour acknowledges that neither the Minnesota Golf Association nor the host facilities are responsible for any injury during the playing of any Senior Tour event.
- Each participant in the MGA Senior Tour acknowledges that his membership is subject to rejection at any time by the MGA. The reason for rejection may include unbecoming conduct (see MGA Conduct Policy on previous page).
- The MGA reserves the right to use any photographic or video image of any competitor taken during a Senior Tour event for its own media-related use(s).

MGA SENIOR TOUR CAPS

Each registered Senior Tour participant is eligible to receive an official MGA Senior Tour Cap. Caps are available for pick up at events and in the MGA office.

FINAL REMARKS...

Let us know what you think...

Please don't hesitate to talk to your MGA site captain or MGA staff regarding your thoughts about the Senior Tour. We're constantly striving to create the optimal golfing experience for you and appreciate your feedback of all kinds.

We're very appreciative of our host sites and we can't forget to let them know. Remember we're guests at these facilities and hope to return for future events. Each host site's staff and pro work very hard to put on a quality event. Please don't hesitate to thank them and let them know you enjoyed your round of golf with them at an event!

Thank you... for your participation in the MGA Senior Tour.

It has a tremendous history and has become a program that has been emulated in other golf associations across the nation. Here at the MGA we are very proud of the Senior Tour and of the players, host sites and staff who have come to make it such a successful and valuable part of golf in Minnesota.

Have a great season this year and please contact us with any questions!

MGA Senior Tour Department

Joel Comstock, *Regional Affairs Director/Senior Tour Director*
Rules, questions & concerns.
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Tone Pulido, *Senior Tour Manager*

Event administration including entries, pairings & withdrawals, Senior Tour course set-up, and rules.
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Karen Spruth, *Administrative Assistant*

General Senior Tour questions & concerns
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