



*Ohio Valley Golf Association*

[www.ovgatour.com](http://www.ovgatour.com)

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **Table of Contents**

#### **TOUR POLICIES**

1. Membership Qualification
2. Membership Fees
3. Event Registration
4. Tournament Application & Payment Policy
5. Assumption of Risk and Release from Liability
6. Guest Policy
7. Tee Times
8. Tournament Format
9. Check-In and Starting
10. Golf Carts and Driving Range
11. On Course Rules
12. Dress Code and Player Conduct
13. Prizes & Trophies
14. Skins/Side Games
15. Pace of Play
16. Scorecards
17. Inclement Weather

#### **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES**

1. Flight Placement
3. Tournament Format
4. Tournament Check-in and Starting
5. Tournament Tees
6. Tournament Scorekeeping
7. Tournament Results & Point Standings
8. Determination of Tied Scores
9. Majors
10. Featured Events
11. Regular Events
12. Tour Championship
13. Player Programs
14. Tour Information Guide
15. Membership Contract

## **Tour Policies**

### ***Membership***

Membership to the OVGA Tour is open to all amateur golfers.

### ***Membership Fees***

The cost of an annual membership in the OVGA Tour is \$50. OVGA Member benefits include, but is not limited to, the ability to sign up for tee times via the OVGA web site, pay for your events online and to track your yearly statistics in more than 20 different categories.

### ***Event Registration***

Only Tour members and guests of tour members may participate in OVGA events. All entries must be received prior to the entry deadline, generally the Monday prior to the event. Players can register for a respective event by emailing, registering online or by calling Chad Stewart. Events may have a limitation on the number of entries, and therefore will be filled on a first-come first-serve basis. If the event is full and guests are signed up for that event, and a member wants to play we will contact that guest to let him know he is being bumped for a member, provided the member registers prior to the registration deadline. The complete tour schedule is available on the OVGA web site. All entry fees will include green & cart fees and range balls when applicable. Check the blog page on the OVGA web site for official tournament updates (<http://www.ovgatour.com/blog/>).

### ***Tournament Entry Fees***

Payments can be submitted in cash, check or online payment via credit card. You can pay by credit card on the web site using the Yourpay system through PNC Bank. All tournament entry fees must be received by Tuesday at noon the week of the tournament.

### ***Assumption of Risk and Release from Liability***

By signing or electronically submitting a member application and entering and playing in an OVGA Event, the participant understands and agrees that there are certain dangers involved with the participation in a golf event, including but not limited to being struck by lightning, getting hit by a golf club or golf ball, suffering from heat exhaustion, heart attack or injury from uneven terrain, all of which the participant assumes and solely accepts, and waives all claims of injury to body or property against the Ohio Valley Golf Association, the OVGA Tour and/or the officials of the Ohio Valley Golf Association. Further more, the participant agrees that while on the premises of an OVGA Tour Event, as well as all other presenting sponsors, co-sponsors and representatives affiliated with the tournament, the participant, and any guest, relative or anyone else affiliated with participant, shall be present at their own risk and that the Ohio Valley Golf Association, the OVGA Tour and/or the officials of the OVGA 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 Event or presence at the Event. Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Ohio Valley Golf Association, the OVGA Tour and/or officials of the OVGA from all claims by or liability to participant or affiliated person.

### ***Guest Policy***

Guests of members are always welcome to play in any OVGA tournament. A limited number of tee times may reduce or exclude play by guests at certain events. Members should provide the Tour with as much notice as possible if a guest is being invited. Guests will be allowed to play in one event as a guest and will be asked to join the tour if playing in more than one event. Scores will be posted for all guests for informational purposes only. Guests will be eligible for prizes in all OVGA side games, but not placement prizes for tournament finish. All spots must go to a member prior to the event entry deadline if a member requests to play. Once the event entry deadline passes, guests will be treated the same as members.

### ***Tee Times***

Tee times will be available on the [www.ovgatour.com](http://www.ovgatour.com) prior to the event. Pairings and tee times are subject to change anytime prior to the event. However, we will do our best to keep the pairings and order placement the same regardless of any shift in start times. An official event list will be emailed out midweek before each event with pairings and tee times. If you prefer to play with a certain person, please alert Chad Stewart to your preference and every attempt will be made to ensure your placement in that person's group for any event of your choosing. Tee times

will only be confirmed on the web site when payment for the round is received. Tee times are awarded on a first come, first paid basis.

### ***Tournament Format***

All of the events on the OVGA Tour will be stroke play, net competition within the assigned flight unless otherwise noted. Tour play will be governed by the current Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association (USGA).

### ***Tournament Check In***

All Tour players must personally check-in at least 30 minutes prior to the assigned tee times and be at the starting point at least 5 minutes prior to the assigned tee time. Failure to do so may result in a player forfeiting his tee time. If a player must withdraw from a tournament, then the following refund table will be used to determine if a player receives a refund.

--Withdraws before deadline on Monday: Full Refund will be given

--Withdraws after deadline will not be refunded unless a substitute player or another member can be found to take the spot

### ***Range Ball/Riding Cart***

Please check the OVGA Forum page to see if the current tournament will offer range balls. Players will ride at all OVGA events unless otherwise noted.

### ***Rules***

All play will be governed by the current Rules of Golf as set forth by the USGA. If there is any confusion of a particular ruling during play, and a Tour Official is not accessible, the player is to enter a second ball into play. The player then plays both balls throughout the hole, keeping separate scores and then brings the situation to the Tour Director at the end of the round for a ruling. Any local rules will be addressed by the Tournament Director at the check in table. For the OVGA rule change for pace of play purposes, see PACE OF PLAY section.

### ***Dress Code***

The OVGA Tour will strictly enforce a tournament dress code with no exceptions. Collared shirts are required (Short Sleeve/Long Sleeve Mocks are considered Collared Shirts), and no jeans, denims, jogging outfits, or sweat pants are permitted. Shorts may be worn. Rain suits are allowed.

### ***Player Conduct***

**Thank you in advance for your excellent behavior during OVGA events. You are expected to conduct yourself in accordance to the spirit of the game and in a professional manner at all times, both on the course and on course property. Unprofessional behavior (ie, throwing clubs or balls, excessive swearing, verbal or physical abuse to other golfers/course staff/event staff, continuous problems with pace of play, cheating, etc) will be addressed with either warnings, stroke penalties, event disqualification, tour expulsion or other disciplinary actions as determined by the Board of Directors.**

### ***Skins/Closest To The Pin/Split the Pot***

At each Tour event, there will be an "optional" skins game and Close To The Pin to be entered in, optionally, by cash payment only. Skins competition is gross score under the following format. Golfers in the 0.0-18.0 HCP range will compete for skins/CTP. Players in the 18.1-36.0 HCP range will compete for skins/CTP. For the CTP, 75% of the total pot will go back to the golfers with the other 25% going to the OVGA's charitable fund. CTP/Skin winners will be determined post round and an update posted on the Forum page and sent out via email to alert the winners. Winners may pick up their winnings at their next event. The skins game is optional and thereby does not conflict with amateur status rules. The Split the Pot will be an on-going with no monetary exchange needed to enter. A single player and a hole will be chosen randomly each week. If a player pars the hole, he/she splits the pot. A birdie or better and the player wins the entire pot. If no winner is determined then the money will roll over to the pot for the next event.

### ***Pace of Play***

If a group is behind pace of play, they will first receive a warning. It is the responsibility of the players and groups to maintain pace of play and keep up with the group in front of them at all times. **If you are holding up the group behind you, please let them play through.** Please be responsible enough to not cause a back-up if you can allow a faster group to go ahead.

***OVGA RULE – Should a player leave his spot on the course without playing a provisional ball when a ball is or is believed to be out of bounds or lost outside of a hazard, shall not return to the previous spot played to play their next shot. They should drop nearest to where the ball went OB (2 club lengths) or was lost and assess a 2-shot penalty. It is recommended to play a provisional ball if you think your ball may be OB or lost outside of a hazard. Because of pace of play, once you move forward, you don't go back to play your next shot.***

### ***Tournament Scorekeeping***

Each player and Marker must sign the scorecard in the designated area on the card attesting that each hole is scored correctly. If, during the course of play, a situation arises that requires a ruling and an official is not available, the player shall confer with the others in the group. The members should attempt to make a reasonable ruling at that time. If a consensus cannot be reached, the player shall play two balls through the hole and keep score for both balls. The situation in question must be submitted to the Tournament Committee for an official (final) ruling prior to the signing of the scorecard. If a player submits a scorecard that has not been signed or submits a signed card with a lower score on a particular hole than the actual score, the player will be disqualified from that event. If a player submits a signed card with a higher score on a particular hole than the actual score, the higher score will be posted. Players are only responsible for the score on *each hole* and not the total score (math). All scorecards should be reviewed and signed at the "scoring table" with all parties from the group present.

### ***Inclement Weather***

The delaying or canceling of an event due to inclement weather will be determined by the host facility. In the event of a cancellation the Tour will try and re-schedule the event date within the seasonal timeframe. Any partial cancellation refunds or credits will be determined based on the policies of the host facility where players may then apply the credit towards a future scheduled event or request a full refund to be received by mail (if course gives full refund). If the course becomes unplayable during the play of a single day, two-day or Tour Championship event, the event may be shortened to a nine-hole (single day), 18 to 27-hole (two-day) tournament if a flight has completed nine holes. In most cases, cash refunds are unavailable due to course policies.

## **Tournament Guidelines**

### ***Flight Placement***

Golfers will be placed in flights based on their OVGA handicap

Ace: 0 – 9

Eagle: 10-14

Birdie: 15-19

Par: 20-27

Bogey: 28-36

### ***Conquest Cup Playoffs***

Players will square off in a series of 4 events beginning with the first event in September and ending with the Tour Championship. Points will be reset as of September 1 to bring the flights closer together. Only players who played in 10 or more events will be eligible to win the Conquest Cup in their respective flight

### ***Tournament Format***

All tournaments are 18-hole stroke play events. All tournaments are net score within each flight. A player's event index is determined by one of the following: The OVGA Index from the previous year (at the beginning of the season), a USGA Index card (if a rookie on tour). Tournament indexes will change week to week based on OVGA rounds played only. Non-OVGA rounds will not be accepted once an OVGA handicap has been established.

### ***Tournament Tees***

Prior to each event the Tournament Director will determine flight tee placement and course length. The yardage will vary depending on the course teeing grounds, slope and rating. The

OVGA will attempt to provide every golfer an opportunity to participate under the most competitive tournament set-ups possible. Ladies yardage will be set up per USGA Rules (80% of the Men's Tee). Tees for all events will be determined before the start of the season. Once tees are determined they will not be changed unless course conditions merit a change is necessary.

**Tournament Results & Point Standings**

Tournament results will generally be posted via email, on the forum on the night of the event. Tournament results and statistics will be posted on the OVGA website within 3 days of the completion of the tournament. Points are awarded at each tournament using the following formula. All ties will be treated like they do the money on the PGA tour. Here is how your Points will be calculated and other rules about the points that you need to know. If you miss a tournament or can't play on the tournament's date, you will not be permitted to make up the tournament or play it on a non-tournament date.

**Points Table**

**Event Placement, # of Points**

PLACE	MAJOR	REGULAR
1	1600	800
2	1040	520
3	720	360
4	616	308
5	568	284
6	504	252
7	456	228
8	408	204
9	360	180
10	312	156
11	256	128
12	208	104
13	168	84
14	112	56
15	96	48

**Cut Line**

Only the Top 15 players in a flight will receive placement points for their place of finish. Players will still earn participation points for playing (100 for regular events, 200 for a major) even if they do not make the cut.

**The Chase For The Points**

The Conquest Cup Playoffs will begin with the first event in September (regular season is April-August) and will be conducted similar to the FedExCup Playoffs. Seasonal points will be adjusted at the time of the start of the playoffs to bring the players within each flight closer together.

Here is an example of how a player's points would be adjusted at the start of the playoffs:

Place	Adjusted	% of 20K
1	20,000	100.00%
2	19,850	99.25%
3	19,700	98.50%
4	19,550	97.75%
5	19,400	97.00%
6	19,250	96.25%
7	19,100	95.50%
8	19,000	95.00%
9	18,900	94.50%
10	18,800	94.00%
11	18,550	92.75%

12	18,500	92.50%
13	18,450	92.25%
14	18,400	92.00%
15	18,350	91.75%
16	18,300	91.50%
17	18,250	91.25%
18	18,200	91.00%
19	18,150	90.75%
20	18,100	90.50%
21	18,050	90.25%
22	18,000	90.00%
23	17,950	89.75%
24	17,900	89.50%
25	17,850	89.25%

No cuts will be made for playoff events.

***Determination of Tied Scores***

First place will be determined by looking at net score of the back nine first. If there is still a tie, we will look at the last 6 holes, last 3 holes, final hole and then start over on the front nine in the same fashion until a winner is determined. If no winner is determined via net score as mentioned here, the lowest gross score will then determine the winner, then least putts, most FIRs then most GIRs.

***Majors***

The OVGA will hold four “Majors”: The OVGA Masters, Tri-State Open, Dayton Open and Highlander Cup. A Major is worth double the points of a regular event (8,000 pts).

***Regular Events***

Any event which is not a major will be considered a regular event with the total points available per flight equaling 4,000.

***Tour Championship***

This will be the final round of the Conquest Cup Playoffs and is open to all OVGA members to play that day. An awards ceremony and banquet will follow play.

***Player Programs***

The OVGA Tour has in place some programs to help grow and mature the tour. The following programs will be an opportunity for tour players to help in the growth and to make the tour more enjoyable for all.

***A. Player Referral Program***

Rookies who sign up as a foursome will receive \$10 off their membership fee for the season. Any member (veteran or rookie) who is responsible for bringing 8 or more new members to the tour will receive a free membership for that season. If 8 or more new members are brought in during the season, that member would receive a free round of golf at an event of their choosing equal to \$50.

***B. Sponsorship Referral Program***

Sponsorships are a big part of the OVGA tour. With the influx of some revenue, we can advertise better, reduce tournament entry fees and improve the prizes award. Working with the Board of Directors for each sponsor that you bring on board, you will receive either a free membership into the OVGA Tour or a free tournament entry fee. Please contact Chris Blake if you are interested in sponsoring or have a sponsorship idea.

**OVGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Tour President**

**Chad Stewart**

Contact Information:

Phone: (513) 575-1166  
Email: [chad@ovgatour.com](mailto:chad@ovgatour.com)  
Website Address: [www.ovgatour.com](http://www.ovgatour.com)  
Mailing Address: 6363 Shannon Drive, Hamilton, OH 45011

### **Tour Vice Presidents**

Steve Waterhouse – [casahio@yahoo.com](mailto:casahio@yahoo.com)  
Chris Blake – [lblake@cinci.rr.com](mailto:lblake@cinci.rr.com)

### **Board Members**

Michael Bowen – [mbowen1@cinci.rr.com](mailto:mbowen1@cinci.rr.com)  
Bill Weitzel – [sales@conquestcustomgolf.com](mailto:sales@conquestcustomgolf.com)  
Larry Buskey - [lbuskey@dbllaw.com](mailto:lbuskey@dbllaw.com)  
Frank Hill - [bennyhil@cinci.rr.com](mailto:bennyhil@cinci.rr.com)  
Tom Haley - [ickygui@roadrunner.com](mailto:ickygui@roadrunner.com)  
Matt Berry - [matt\\_berry1@yahoo.com](mailto:matt_berry1@yahoo.com)  
Matt Johnson - [mattjohnson1973@hotmail.com](mailto:mattjohnson1973@hotmail.com)  
Ron Spencer – [bayerasa2@fuse.net](mailto:bayerasa2@fuse.net)

**Ohio Valley Golf Association Golfer Contract**

1. Members Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ USGA Hcp: \_\_\_\_\_

**Publicity**

3. Do you give the OVGA permission to use your name, age and suburb on any tour publications or tour related websites? Please circle one below:

Yes      No

**Playing Partners**

4. Please list fellow players whom you would like to be partnered with during your rounds:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Terms and Conditions**

By signing, the member agrees to make full payment of their membership fee along with returning the completed membership contract. A copy of the contract can be returned to you by request after OVGA approval if noted by the Board of Directors. Please send completed contract and checks to the address at the top of this contract. Please make all checks payable to OVGA and write membership on the memo line (bottom left of check). Membership is good for the current season only.

In the event of a rainout or cancellation of an event, an email will be sent to you and a bulletin will be posted on the OVGA web site. Your payment for a cancelled round can be returned to you or rolled over to a future event.

All tee times will be assigned once payment for the tee time is received. No tee times will be assigned if the round has not been paid in advance.

In accordance to the Ohio Valley Golf Association's agreement with our sponsors, no usage of our sponsors logo(s) is allowed without written consent of said sponsor(s). Furthermore, no usage of the Ohio Valley Golf Association logo is allowed without written consent of the OVGA.

In case of injury on the course, the member agrees to hold harmless the Ohio Valley Golf Association, its sponsors, or members from any and all claims, actions, suits or allegations for damages to person or property, which relates, emanates, or in any way

pertains to any tour function. Further, member agrees to indemnify the OVGA for any and all costs or losses which may be incurred by the OVGA as a result of such claims, actions, suits or allegations, including and not limited to reasonable attorney fees and expenses of litigation.

**Golf is a gentleman's game, you are expected to conduct yourself in accordance to the spirit of the game in a professional manner at all times. Unprofessional behavior (ie, throwing clubs, excessive swearing, verbal or physical abuse to other golfers or course staff, continuous problems with pace of play) will be addressed first with a written warning. Second offenses will be grounds for possible expulsion or other disciplinary actions as determined by the Board of Directors.**

**PROPOSED BY:**

**APPROVED BY:**

Signature of New Member

Name of OVGA Board Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

