



**THE PROFESSIONAL  
PUTTERS ASSOCIATION  
2006 RULE BOOK**

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## **I. ORGANIZATION**

### **1. Authority**

The Professional Putters Association (PPA®) is organized and governed by Joe Aboid and Jim Evans as General Partners of a Partnership duly licensed by Putt-Putt Golf Courses of America, Inc. (and will hereinafter be referred to collectively as “PPA”). The PPA appoints the PPA Executive Director, PPA Commissioner and its selected committee members, if any. The PPA has the final say on any appeals that may be made where appeal rights are specified. Any presentation dealing with appeals is made through the PPA Commissioner, whose decision is final.

### **2. PPA Executive Director - Jim Evans**

As PPA® Executive Director, Jim Evans handles all administrative business for the organization.

### **3. PPA Commissioner - Joe Aboid**

As PPA® Commissioner, Joe Aboid handles all aspects of PPA tournaments and programs.

### **4. PPA National Tournament Director – Joe Aboid**

As PPA National Tournament Director, Joe Aboid is charged with the responsibility of facilitating all PPA tournament activities and enforcing all rules as expressed in this book. The National Tournament Director assumes the tournament director role at any tournament where he is in attendance. The PPA Executive Director may act as National Tournament Director.

### **5. Pro Players Advisory Committee**

The Pro Players Advisory Committee (PPAC) is appointed by the PPA. The PPAC is asked to meet as needed with the PPA and offer suggestions for the PPA tournament program and its members. The PPAC also assists the PPA to ensure the success and smooth operation of all sanctioned tournaments; verify membership, post pairings and register new members at tournament sites, and verify tournament scores, prize money allocations and distributions. Additional responsibilities include rule interpretations, assessing and modifying "local" rules for playing purposes, conducting rules briefings, assisting the Tournament Director in his duties on-site, and assessing rules for possible changes. The capacity of the PPAC is advisory in nature and the PPAC has no governing authority over the affairs of the PPA other than those specific responsibilities assigned to it by the PPA, which are subject to change from time to time. For the 2006 season members of the advisory committee are: Bill Baus, Rick Baird, Andy Coradini, Paul Johns, Jim Heikkinen, Daryl Freeman, Robert Johnson, Brad Lebo, Rick Rybaczek, Gary Hinshaw, Jeffrey Smith, Bill Kirby, Steve Tanton, Frank Warren, Rick Culverhouse and Peter Neumann.

## **II. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in The Professional Putters Association (PPA) is extended to select individuals, male and female, on the basis of their desire to participate in PPA tournaments and to abide by all PPA rules, policies, and procedures. Two membership's categories are available in the PPA: Professional (Pro) Division and APA Division.

Pro Division memberships are open to any person 18 years of age or older. Any person 17 years old or younger, who is desirous of joining the Pro Division, must have a Parental Consent letter accompanying the completed membership application. The membership request must also be approved by the Executive Director of the PPA. The APA Division is open to all players regardless of their age, provided they are able to understand and abide by the rules set forth in the Official Rules and Regulations of the PPA.

Membership in the Professional Putters Association entitles all members to a special greens fee at any participating facility. The greens fee allows for unlimited practice during certain hours of the day. The practice times afforded by the greens fee are set at the discretion of the participating facilities. (Please note restrictions on unlimited practice times elsewhere in this rule book.)

Participation in State, Regional or National Tournament Programs will be allowed only if the participant is a member in good standing in The Professional Putters Association. Membership fees to the Professional Putters Association may be made by personal check, money order or cashiers' check.

If membership fees are paid by personal check and that check is returned for any reason whatsoever, including but not limited to insufficient funds, the member will have 72 hours after notification from the PPA Office to make restitution, including payment of all bank service charges, or their membership will be denied and permanently revoked.

### III. TOURNAMENTS

The PPA shall determine the official tournament schedule each year. The official schedule may be comprised of State, Regional, National and World Tournaments. The number of tournaments, who may participate, and the sites where they are to be held will be at the discretion of the PPA.

Requests for PPA sanctioned Local Tournaments must be made to the PPA Commissioner and will generally be approved by the PPA providing they do not conflict with the State, Regional, or National Tournament Schedules.

Requests for serving as host of a Regional or National Tournament site must be made in writing to the PPA Commissioner.

### IV. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

As PPA member tournament contestants, PPA members are invited guests of the host facility owner. This owner is an independent business person who has invited PPA members to use the facility as a tournament site. As guests, members are expected to act in a professional manner and abide by any and all local rules and regulations enforced by the facility owner or management. All players are mandated by these rules to extend full courtesies to the owner, manager, and staff. Failure to extend those courtesies will result in immediate disqualification from that tournament and may result in loss of membership privileges for the remainder of the tournament season. Additionally, damaging, marking, or defacing a golf hole or any of the equipment, supplies or materials on the golf course facility at any time is prohibited. A player may be fined \$250 for the first infraction in lieu of having membership revoked. The second infraction will result in revocation of membership.

#### 1. Registration and Entry Fees

Upon arrival at a tournament site, each member will pay the required entry fees by cash, traveler's checks or money orders only. No personal checks or credit cards will be accepted for tournament entry fees. At the time of registration, each member must declare his or her intention to participate in any qualifying event that may take place during the tournament. Entry fees and qualifying fees must be paid in full at the time of registration, prior to practicing for the tournament. Players are required to verify all fees paid at the time of registration. The paid receipt will determine any disputes without appeal. At all national tournaments, entry fees must be paid prior to 5pm the day before the scheduled tournament. Once entries are closed, late fees of \$50.00 for the Pro Division and \$20.00 for the APA Division must be paid in addition to any entry or qualifying fees paid. There is no obligation on the PPA to accept late entries fees. If a player chooses to practice prior to paying his or her tournament entry fees, a daily greens fee is required to be paid for practice. Failure to pay appropriate fees will result in the payment of those fees plus a \$25.00 fine.

Entry fee refunds will be considered only for medical reasons or family emergencies. A player seeking tournament entry fee refunds may be asked to provide written medical documentation from a physician or health care representative.

All participants must have a current and valid membership at the time entry fees are paid. If participant is not a current member, the participant must reapply for membership into the PPA/APA to be eligible to play in tournament competition.

#### 2. Practice Times and Greens Fees

Greens fee privileges and rates are set at the discretion of the local facility owner. Unless otherwise stated by the facility ownership, greens fees to cover practice times for a tournament are \$10 (PPA) and \$5 (APA) per day per player and will be charged for practice prior to all national tournaments on all days except for 2 days prior to the national tournament. A player must have paid the entry fee to be exempt from paying greens fees on those dates. Any PPA member practicing without paying proper greens fees at any tournament site will be assessed a \$25.00 fine in addition to the greens fees owed. Standard greens fees apply prior to and after these stated times and at all state events. Greens fees expire upon completion of the tournament. Further practice or play on the tournament course is prohibited to all players without the payment of regular greens fees.

The following practice time schedule applies to the various PPA events:

- a) State or Regional Tournament practice time starts upon payment of entry fees the day of the scheduled event.
- b) Tournament practice is not permitted during a sanctioned PPA event being held off the golf course in the same city.

Note: Practice time is generally suspended between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Suspension may be adjusted at the decision of the Tournament Director depending on the local playing conditions. However, with the approval of the Tournament Director and facility owner, a member may pay the appropriate local per round fee and practice during these hours Practice under this condition must be by one ball only and holes must be played in consecutive order beginning with hole number one and ending at hole 18.

### 3. Proper Playing Attire

Members of the Professional Putters Association represent all players, facility owners, and sponsors during tournament activity. Members are expected to dress in an overall professional manner. The final decision as to what constitutes professional manner is determined by the Tournament Director or other Tournament Officials without appeal. The guidelines for participating in a Regional, State or National Tournament are as follows:

- a) **Shirts** - All shirts used in a PPA sanctioned Tournament must be approved by the Tournament Director. "Official Shirts" are defined as those shirts required by any National Sponsor, approved by the PPA. "Official shirts" are required wear by PPA members and must be purchased by all members if required. Absent an "Official Shirt" requirement, shirts worn during play must have a collar. Under no circumstances will T-shirts, shirts that are torn or faded, shirts that may have suggestive or profane language of any kind, or shirts that promote tobacco or alcohol use be permitted. It is the responsibility of each player to strictly adhere to this dress code during each event.
- b) **Trousers/Shorts** - Suitable dress slacks or solid colored shorts will be required in all competitions. No denim jeans will be permitted. Women may also wear skirts or skorts.
- c) **Shoes** - All shoes worn in a PPA sanctioned tournament must be approved by the Tournament Director. Shoes required by any sponsors of the tournament event are required wear by PPA members and must be purchased by all members, if required. Socks must be worn during all National and State competitions. The Tournament Director must approve shoes if there is a question of a worn or soiled condition.
- d) **Head Covering** - All head coverings worn in a PPA sanctioned tournament must be approved by the Tournament Director. Head coverings required by any sponsors of the tournament event are required wear by PPA members and must be purchased by all players, if required. Under no circumstances will head coverings with suggestive or profane language of any kind or that promotes tobacco or alcohol use be permitted.
- e) **Rain Gear** - Rain gear is acceptable in inclement weather during all competitions.
- f) **Attire for PPA Sponsored Social Functions** - Casual business attire is required for all PPA sponsored social functions, such as the PPA banquet unless deemed otherwise by the PPA. Jeans, shorts, t-shirts, tennis shoes, running shoes, hats, etc. are not acceptable except during cookouts, player meetings, and events of similar casual nature.
- g) **General Appearance** - Under no circumstances will the display of any alcohol, tobacco or related items or names be worn or displayed any PPA member during practice or tournament events. Players are to dress in a professional manner.
- h) **Television Participant** - Any person who represents the PPA on television is required to wear approved logo shirts and/or head coverings of the PPA and/or Putt-Putt Fun Center. All other playing attire guidelines apply.



The local Tournament Director shall be responsible for the enforcement and interpretation of the above noted dress code. No appeal of the interpretation of the dress code by the local Tournament Director can be made at the tournament site. Any appeals must be made after the tournament event as noted above.

### 4. Practice Rules

Proper attire shall be in effect during all practice times. Collared shirts and proper trousers or shorts must be worn as described above. The Tournament Director can limit the number of practice balls allowed if it is determined that a player is interfering with the practice rights of other players or is interfering with the play of other facility customers. All players are limited to one (1) practice ball one (1) hour prior to the scheduled starting time of a tournament or at any time when the Tournament Director or facility owner deems necessary. No player may use more than three (3) practice balls at any one time.

### 5. Putters

Each tournament player may use a putter of his or her choice so long as the putter is legitimate and manufactured by a standard golf equipment company. The legality of special putters or modified putters shall be left to the discretion of the Tournament Director.

If a change of putter is desired by a player, the replacement putter must be owned by the player and this change can only be made between rounds, except in the event of a broken or lost putter. In such case, permission to make a change is required from the Tournament Director. If granted, the player may resume play with the replacement putter and the penalty will be three (3) strokes. Depending on the circumstances causing the putter to become lost or broken, the player may be also fined up to \$250 or disqualified from the tournament, or both.

## **6. Official Ball**

All golf balls used in a PPA sanctioned tournament must be approved by the Tournament Director. Golf balls that will be approved are those that are white in color and listed at the web site of the USGA (linked from ProPutters.com) and any golf ball with the PPA logo from the year 2004 and after. Golf balls required by any sponsors of the tournament event must be used and purchased by all members.

A player may carry only one ball on his person during competition. If a change of ball is desired by a player, this change can be made only between competitive rounds. A competitive round is defined as being, "When the scorecards are submitted to the official scorer at the completion of a round during tournament competition." Any player found carrying more than 1 golf ball during a competitive round will be disqualified immediately.

If a ball has been lost or stolen during a competitive round, an alternate ball may be put into play only after permission from the Tournament Director has been granted. If an alternate or different ball has been put into play without permission of the Tournament Director, that player shall be disqualified from further tournament competition. Also, if a ball is lost or stolen, an alternate golf ball may be put into play if approved by the Tournament Director, providing the golf ball is owned by the player himself. The alternate ball may not be given to or received from another player. Once the competition has begun, any golf ball exchanged among tournament contestants will be ruled, "receiving outside advice," and will result in immediate disqualification of both players.

No ball shall be intentionally altered from its original condition in any manner other than placing a personal marking on the ball. If a player is found to be using a ball in competition that has been intentionally altered, the player shall be disqualified from that tournament. This disqualification is without appeal.

The legality of a ball will be left to the discretion of the Tournament Director without appeal.

## **7. Starting Times**

Starting times for Regional and National Tournaments are established by memoranda and/or posting on [www.proputters.com](http://www.proputters.com). Starting times will not be changed without prior approval of the Tournament Director.

Practice will cease and the Tournament Director will conduct a rules briefing shortly prior to the starting time. All players entered in the tournaments shall participate in the rules briefing.

Any player failing to appear on his/her assigned tee within two (2) minutes after being called shall be assessed a stroke penalty for each hole his or her group has completed, up to a five (5) minute limit. After five (5) minutes, the participant will be disqualified. Refunds of entry fees and/or qualifying fees for disqualified players will not be returned.

## **8. Tournament Pairings**

Pairings for all tournaments will be divided by appropriate divisions. Pairings for all tournaments will be made at the direction of the Tournament Director or appointed representatives and will be posted prior to the starting time. Generally, pairings are made by luck of the draw except for the seeding of the defending champion and former national and world champions.

### **8a. Disability Exception**

Any player who has a disability that requires assistance of another player for participation in the tournament may request a "placement pairing" of another player. All "placement pairings" must be approved by the tournament director.

## 9. PPA Membership Media and National Event Requirements

All PPA members are required, within reason, to participate when requested by the Tournament director, facility owner, or sponsor in any media related events during tournament competitions, when that player has entered the tournament event or is present in the city where such event is being held.

Pro players entered in a National tournament event are required to participate in media and Pro-Am events at all National Tournament sites. Failure to participate in media and Pro-Am events, without the approval of the PPA, may result in immediate disqualification and loss of Pro status. There will be no practice allowed during any sanctioned PPA event being held either on or off the golf course premises.

## V. DEFINITIONS

1. **Tee Mat** - that portion of a hole on which play is begun. The tee mat is at the open end of the hole.
2. **Putting Surface** - the area on a hole within the confines of the bumpboards and obstacles. The putting surface includes the tee mat, surface of ramps and chutes.
3. **Cup** - that portion of a hole which ends play. The standard cup depth is approximately 4.5 inches. The object of play is to putt or stroke the ball to have it rest in the bottom of the cup. In situations where the construction of the hole caused the cup to be less than 4.5 inches and the ball has a tendency to easily bounce out of the cup, the Tournament director may allow a piece of carpet or other material to be placed in the bottom of the cup so that a ball stroked into the cup remains in the cup. Other than the instance where construction on a particular hole altered the size of a particular cup, if carpet or other material is used in the bottom of any regulation size cup, then carpet or the same other material must be placed in the bottom of all cups to be used in the tournament.
4. **Bumpboards** - the wooden, metal or concrete perimeter of the hole used to confine the ball within the putting surface. Bumpboards may be used to bank a ball around an obstacle to improve line to hole.
5. **Obstacles** - metal, wooden or concrete objects constructed within the putting area. These objects act as deterrents, in some cases making it impossible to putt directly at the hole. Obstacles may be used to bank a ball to improve line to hole.
6. **Open End of Hole** - that portion of the hole where there is no bumpboard and the tee mat is affixed.
7. **Water Hazard** - that portion within the putting surface that is uncarpeted and may contain water.
8. **Out of Bounds** - that area outside the putting surface.
9. **Prescribed Distance** - any distance, up to length of the Official PPA Scorecard, not to exceed 8", which a ball may be moved under specific conditions. The measurement is made from the edge of the ball closest to the bumpboard or obstacle from which you are seeking relief. When a ball comes to rest on an upper level of the playing surface accessed by steps, a ball may be moved two (2) times the prescribed distance - except on holes constructed to provide an extra area of hole surface on the outside of the bumpboard.
10. **Stroke** - any attempt made to move the ball with the putter with the intention of putting the ball.
11. **Ruling** - an interpretation of rules requested from the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director shall be informed that "a ball" has done a certain thing. In certain situations the Tournament Director may need to question the player needing the ruling. The ruling by the Tournament Director is final.
12. **Greens Fees** - a special privilege extended to PPA members by facility owners or management. Greens fees allow PPA players unlimited play for a daily rate on facilities except during restricted hours. The greens fee is offered at the discretion of the local facility owner.

## VI. PLAYING RULES

### 1. BEGIN PLAY

To BEGIN PLAY on each hole, the ball shall be placed on and stroked from the tee mat.

### 2. HONORS

The HONOR of putting first on the first hole shall go to the player listed first in each of the pairings. Each player will, in turn, putt out each hole before the next player begins play on the hole. The player who wins the previous hole shall putt first on the succeeding hole. Honors will carry over to succeeding rounds in which the same players compete together.

**Ruling:** Any player who putts out of turn will play the next hole in the proper order.

### 3. CONTINUOUS PLAY

**3.1. MEDAL PLAY.** All putts shall be putted out. No player may concede a putt. Each player shall continue to putt until the ball comes to rest at the bottom of the cup.

**Ruling:** In medal play any player, having not completed the hole, who intentionally picks up his ball will be disqualified at that point.

**3.2. MATCH PLAY.** A player may concede a putt at any time. No player may pick up his ball from the playing surface without a verbal concession from his opponent.

**Ruling:** In match play, any player who picks up his ball from the playing surface without verbal concession by his opponent will lose the hole regardless of the score by either player.

### 4. INADVERTENT PICK-UP

**4.1.** No player shall inadvertently pick up his ball while it is in play on the playing surface.

**Ruling:** In medal play, any player who inadvertently picks up his ball will inform the Tournament Director of his action. After receiving permission to continue, he will continue from the approximate position from which it was picked up with a one (1) stroke penalty, counting all previous strokes.

**Ruling:** In match play, any player who inadvertently picks up his ball will lose that hole to his opponent, regardless of the score of the hole.

**4.2.** No player shall inadvertently pick up an opponent's ball while it is in play on the playing surface.

**Ruling:** In medal play, any player who inadvertently picks up an opponent's ball will be assessed a one (1) stroke penalty. The opponent shall return the ball to the approximate original position on the playing surface and continue play with no penalty.

**Ruling:** In match play, a player may pick up an opponent's ball only after verbally conceding that a putt is good. A player who picks up an opponent's ball is considered to have conceded the putt. It is the responsibility of the player to ensure any concession is understood.

**Note:** This might help to emphasize the act of sportsmanship.

### 5. PUTTING A MOVING BALL

**5.1.** A player shall hit his ball only one (1) time during the motion of putting.

**Ruling:** Any player who hits the ball more than one (1) time during the motion of putting shall count each hit as a stroke and play the ball from the point at which it comes to rest.

**5.2.** No player shall putt a moving ball.

**Ruling:** Any player who hits a ball that is moving with a motion other than the original putt shall return the ball to the tee mat and play the hole again, counting all previous strokes.

### 6. INTERFERENCE

A ball in motion or at rest (stopped) on the playing surface shall not be interfered with by anyone at anytime. Interference can be made by a spectator, Tournament Marshall, opponent or any outside agent. Elements of nature and debris are to be excluded.

**Ruling:** Any ball interfered with by anyone, excluding elements of nature, shall be returned to its original position with no penalty, counting the previous stroke.

### 7. ALTERING THE LIE OF A BALL

**7.1.** No player will alter the position, or cause to move, a ball on the playing surface except as provided for under other rules.

**Ruling:** If a player attempting to address his ball on the playing surface inadvertently strikes the ball, moving it less than twelve (12) inches, it is returned to the original position with no penalty.

**7.2.** After a ball has come to rest on the playing surface for a period of fifteen (15) seconds, if wind or other elements of nature cause the ball to move, it will be returned to the original position with no penalty.

## 8. MARKING BALL FOR CLEANING

A ball lying at rest on the playing surface may be marked and lifted for cleaning. Marking is done by placing a small coin next or against the back edge of the ball on the playing surface in line with the cup. After cleaning, the ball is returned to the exact same position without a penalty. At least one player in the group must be notified before marking a ball.

**Ruling:** If the player does not notify the other members of the group, he will return the ball to the marked position with a one (1) stroke penalty counting all previous strokes.

## 9. BALL OVERHANGING CUP

No player shall alter the position or cause to move a ball on the playing surface overhanging the cup except as provided for under other rules. Rule 7(7.2) applies to a ball overhanging the cup.

## 10. DELAY IN PLAY

During a round, no player/group shall deliberately delay, slow down or cause a delay for any other player/group. All players/groups are directed to play every hole that is open in front of them. If during play, pace is lost with the group ahead, the group or player responsible for the delay may receive a warning. Losing pace is generally defined as falling two or more holes behind the group ahead.

Once a group finishes the previous hole, the next player then has 20 seconds to address and tee off. If a player is distracted, he may step away and start over with his initial address, but only within the allotted time. However, in no event shall a player stay over a ball in order for the elements (wind or rain) to change. All players must play continuously until they have caught up with the group directly in front of them leaving no open holes between theirs and the next group. The Tournament Director has full authority to assess the penalties as stated below to the player/group for repeated violations of the rule without appeal.

**Ruling:** If a player/group is observed or reported to delay or cause a delay in play, the Tournament Director shall:

- a) warn any player/group one (1) time; and
- b) if the same player/group is in violation of this rule a second (2nd) time, the Tournament Director shall assess that player/group a two (2) stroke penalty; and
- c) if the same player/group is in violation for a third (3rd) time, the Tournament Director will disqualify the player/group.

## 11. OUTSIDE ADVICE

No player shall give or receive aid or advice from another player. Assistance from a spectator shall be ignored.

**Ruling:** Any player accepting such aid or advice may be disqualified from that tournament or future competition, except as provided for in Section IV, 8(a).

## 13. DISCONTINUING PARTICIPATION

Any player entered in a tournament may not withdraw or discontinue participation prior to the completion of the event without approval of the Tournament Director.

**Ruling:** Any player who withdraws or ceases to participate in a National Tournament, without the approval of the Tournament Director, shall be disqualified from the next two (2) regularly scheduled National Tournaments. If the unauthorized withdrawal is from a State or Regional Tournament, the player is disqualified from playing in any State or Regional event until after two (2) State or Regional Tournaments have been held in the State or Region where the unauthorized withdrawal occurred.

A second (2nd) violation of this rule shall result in permanent disqualification from PPA membership for this member.

## 13. SCORING

**13.1. MEDAL PLAY.** Each player shall prepare an official scorecard, entering the number of strokes for each round played. Scorecard must be completed in its entirety to include all or some of the following:

- a) round number;
- b) course number;
- c) P for Pro members or A for APA member, player in the space provided above the words Player No. on the left hand side of the score card;
- d) player number of each player (in order of listing on pairing sheets);
- e) name of each player (as listed on pairing sheets);

- f) the number of holes played at the beginning of this round (if any);
- g) the total score of all previous rounds (if any); and
- h) the number of holes that will have been played at the completion of this round for each player.  
If the round is begun by a shotgun start, each player will circle the hole number on the scorecard to indicate the hole where he started to play.

Each player shall keep score for all players in his group. Each player shall mark, under the appropriate hole number, the number of strokes each player takes as each hole is played.

At the conclusion of the round, all scorecards must be completed in their entirety, including: total number of strokes for the first nine (9) holes, total number of strokes for the second nine (9) holes, grand total, total number of strokes taken for the tournament for each player in the group and signature of player completing the scorecard.

After completing their scorecard, each player shall exchange scorecards with another member of the group, checking every entry on the scorecard for accuracy. When accuracy has been determined, sign your name attesting that all entries are correct. A member of the group will staple all of the group's scorecards together and turn them into the official scorer for posting. All scorecards turned in to the official scorekeeper must be recognizable. This will include the signature of the player completing the card and the signature of the player attesting the score.

### **13.1a. DISABILITY EXCEPTION**

Any player, who has a handicap that would prevent them from keeping score, will play in a group not smaller than 3 players. In that case, only 2 scorecards may be turned in at the completion of the round provided that the disabled player verbally acknowledges the scores turned in to the official scorer are accurate.

**13.1b. PENALTY STROKES.** In medal play, penalty strokes shall be entered on the scorecard by entering the number of strokes penalized under the appropriate hole and drawing a circle around the penalty number. Penalty strokes are added in the nine (9) hole totals and grand totals.

**Ruling:** Each member of a group shall be assessed one (1) stroke penalty for each error or omission on a scorecard turned in to the official scorer. The official scorer shall call any mistakes to the attention of the Tournament Director who will enforce the rules. The Tournament Director shall notify each member of the group there was a rule infraction and have them correct their tournament score totals to include the penalty strokes.

**Ruling:** At the conclusion of the tournament each member of every group is held responsible for checking that the proper scores were posted and no mistakes were made by the official scorer.

**13.2. MATCH PLAY.** Official scorecards are optional for match play competition.

**Ruling:** The Tournament Director will not make a ruling on any score dispute unless both players in the match maintain a scorecard. If a scorecard is not used, and scoring disputes cannot be resolved, then both players may be disqualified.

If a scorecard is used each player shall indicate the hole on which play is begun by drawing a circle around the hole number as done in shotgun starts.

A plus (+) mark is placed under the hole number of the player that wins a hole; a dash (-) is shown under the hole number of the player that loses the hole; a dash (-) is shown for both players if the hole was halved (tied).

**MATCH PLAY WINNER.** Match play shall be for eighteen (18) holes (one round) or thirty-six (36) holes (two rounds). Play shall continue in that round or rounds until a player has won more holes than his opponent and the number of holes the player is leading by is greater than the number of holes remaining to be played.

**Ruling:** In the case of an all square (tied) match at the end of the allotted holes, the winner shall be determined by sudden death starting on the hole where play originated.

**Ruling:** The winner of each match shall report to the official scorer who won the match and margin of score.

*Example:* Player A defeated player B 2 and 1, indicating Player A was ahead by two (2) holes with only one (1) hole left to play.

*Example:* For sudden death playoff: Player A defeated player B, 22 holes.

**Ruling:** A player who wins the match and fails to report the results of the match to the official scorer may be disqualified from further competition in that tournament.

#### 14. PLAYING RULE VIOLATIONS

A player who violates a playing rule shall assess himself the number of penalty stroke(s) prescribed for the particular rule he violated. Any player who observes a player rule violation shall bring the violation to the attention of the player who violated the rule; this player will assess himself the penalty stroke(s) prescribed.

**Ruling:** In the event there is a dispute concerning the rule in question, a ruling shall be requested from the Tournament Director.

#### 15. FALSIFICATION OF SCORING

No player shall intentionally falsify a score or create a situation which could result in a question of the validity of a score.

**Ruling:** If a player is found to have violated this rule, he shall be disqualified from the tournament and will be permanently disqualified from further PPA competition.

#### 16. COMPETING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

No member shall appear at a tournament site any time while under the influence of alcohol or drugs (except as prescribed for medication), regardless of the extent of that influence.

**Ruling:** A player who violates this rule may be fined and/or disqualified from membership in the PPA.

#### 17. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

**17.1.** While on the golf course at any time, no player shall openly gamble, use profanity, or display temper, rudeness, ungentlemanly acts, or other unsportsmanlike conduct.

**Ruling:** A player who violates the above rule may be penalized, fined or disqualified at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

**Appeal:** In the event a player is disqualified, the player has the right of appeal as outlined under Section VIII, GENERAL RULES, Rule 13.

**17.2.** While on the golf course at any time, no members shall openly exchange monies or in any way display conduct that could imply gambling.

**Ruling:** Any member(s) who violates the above rule may be penalized or fined at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

**17.3.** No member shall mark or deface, in any manner, any bumpboard, carpet or tee mat at any time.

**Ruling:** If it is determined that a player has marked the carpet or rails, the violation will result in the following action: first infraction - \$250 fine; second infraction - revocation of PPA membership.

#### 18. TIES AND PLAYOFF

**18.1. MEDAL PLAY.** If two (2) or more players are tied for first place at the completion of tournament play, an additional round of eighteen (18) holes shall be played to determine the tournament winner. Exceptions to this rule are possible if the Tournament Director has announced in advance of the last round that another method shall end ties.

If two (2) or more players remain tied after the additional eighteen (18) holes, the winner shall be determined by a sudden death playoff. Play shall continue until one (1) player has defeated all others. In the event there are more than two (2) players tied for first place, all the players who are eliminated shall be considered tied for second place and shall share equally in the prize monies. Any playoffs will be held on the course on which the tournament ended.

**Ruling:** Only the scores recorded during the regular tournament play shall count in the total scores for the tournament. The phrase "Winner of Playoff" will be indicated beside the score of the eventual winner. In the event that a trophy is to be awarded for a tied position in the tournament, those players will play sudden death playoff to determine the recipient of the trophy.

**18.2. MATCH PLAY.** If a match play pairing ends in a tie after the end of a scheduled eighteen (18) or thirty-six (36) hole match, the winner shall be determined by a sudden death playoff. The winning score shall be determined by the number of holes played.

**18.3. TIES FOR QUALIFYING POSITIONS.** If two (2) or more players are tied for the Medal Play Qualifying Berth at the completion of the qualifying tournament and if the players have met all other criteria for qualifying, the winner will be decided by an eighteen (18) hole playoff. Exceptions to this rule are possible if the Tournament Director has announced in advance of the last round that another method shall end ties. If two (2) or more players remain tied after the

additional eighteen (18) holes, the winner shall be determined by a sudden death playoff or other method. Play shall continue until one (1) player has defeated all others. If there are two (2) or more qualifying spots, the defeated players are now listed in the pairing for the MATCH PLAY QUALIFYING BERTH. In the event of identical scores, the players shall be listed in the match play in the order they were listed on the original pairings for the tournament.

If two (2) or more players have identical scores and there are more players than positions available, the players in question will play a sudden death playoff to fill the spot(s) available.

## 19. GENERAL AND WET PLAYING CONDITIONS

**19.1.** When a group prepares to play a hole that has a loose ring or loose obstacle, the player shall check the position of the obstacle. If the obstacle requires adjustment, the player shall have the Tournament Director make the adjustment. Certain wet playing conditions may require special rulings by the Tournament Director.

**19.2.** No player shall wipe water from the bumpboard or obstacle, nor mark the carpet with his putter or any other instrument in an attempt to remove water from same. However, when there is water on a tee-mat, it may be cleared.

**Ruling:** In medal play, a one (1) stroke penalty shall be assessed against the player for each violation of this rule.

**Ruling:** In match play, the player violating this rule shall lose the hole to his opponent.

**19.3** No player shall use his putter or feet to remove moisture or standing water in such a way as to create a path or line to the cup.

**Ruling:** A player in violation of this rule may be penalized one (1) stroke for each infraction or disqualified from the tournament.

## 20. ALTERING PLAYING SURFACE

After tournament play begins, no change to the permanent playing surface may be made by any member of the group without permission of the Tournament Director.

**Ruling:** Any player violating this rule shall replay the hole, counting all previous strokes.

## 21. THE INTENT OF A STROKE

Any player that attempts to move a ball with a putter will consider that attempt a stroke. If a stroke with intent is made and no contact is made with the ball, the intent will be counted as a stroke.

# VII. RULE INTERPRETATIONS

## 1. A BALL COMES TO REST AGAINST A BUMPBOARD

**Ruling:** The ball may be moved/spaced perpendicular from the bumpboard any distance up to the prescribed distance. This movement is allowed even if the result allows a ball to clear an obstacle.

## 2. A BALL COMES TO REST AGAINST AN OBSTACLE

**Ruling:** The ball may be moved within the prescribed distance wherever relief is available providing such movement does not improve the next putt by clearing the obstacle. If the next putt does offer the player a clear shot to the cup, then the ball must be moved from the obstacle in such a fashion that there is no improvement in the line to the hole.

*Explanation:* Any questions or disagreements concerning ball movement will be resolved by the Tournament Director who will rule consistently throughout the event.

## 3. BALL SPACING ERRORS

**Ruling:** If a ball is spaced incorrectly and played, the ball is returned to the correct spacing, counting all previous strokes and adding a one-stroke penalty. This penalty may only be assessed prior to any member of the group beginning the next hole.

## 4. A BALL COMES TO REST OUT OF BOUNDS

**Ruling:** The ball is out of bounds and shall be placed in bounds on the playing surface at the point it left the playing surface. The only exception to this rule is where the ball goes out of bounds at the open end of the hole. In this case the next shot must be from the tee mat. There is a one (1) stroke penalty to move the ball in bounds. Should a ball go out of bounds and return to the playing surface by its own momentum, it is played as is with no penalty.

**5. ALL TEE MATS ARE PLAYED AS IS WITH NO ARTIFICIAL AIDS USED TO CAUSE THE BALL TO HOLD A POSITION**

**Ruling:** Any player violating this rule shall replay the hole counting all previous strokes.

**6. THE TEE MAT IS PART OF THE PLAYING SURFACE**

**Ruling:** Once a ball is in play, it cannot be touched until it comes to rest. On holes where it is possible for the ball to be returned to the player at the open end of the hole, the ball must be allowed to clear the putting surface before it can be stopped. Any ball touched or picked up by the player before leaving the putting surface shall be returned to the tee mat, counting all previous strokes and a one (1) stroke penalty.

*Explanation:* The application of this rule is on all holes; however, most of such violations occur on ramped or inclined holes.

**Ruling:** Play begins when the ball is placed on the tee-mat. If a member of a group begins play on the next hole before play is complete on the previous hole, a 1 stroke penalty will be assessed to the player who prematurely began play.

**7. TABLE RULINGS**

**7.1 A Ball Comes to Rest Under a Table**

**Ruling:** The ball may be moved back towards the tee mat in line with the original position of the ball one (1) club length (including head, shaft and grip) from the front edge of the table. There is no penalty assessed.

**7.2 A Ball Comes to Rest on the Table Ledge**

**Ruling:** If a player's ball comes to rest on the table ledge, the ball can be played as it lies or placed in the fairway carpet runway one club length from the table edge and played with no penalty.

**8. BALL COMES TO REST WITHIN A WATER HAZARD**

**Ruling:** The ball is lifted and placed within the prescribed distance at the point it entered the water hazard away from the cup. A one (1) stroke penalty is assessed.

**9. BALL INADVERTENTLY KNOCKED OFF THE TEE MAT**

**Ruling:** Any ball moving more than twelve (12) inches onto the carpeted surface is played as is, counting all previous strokes. The only exception to this rule is on certain holes that by design are down hill off the tee mat. In such cases, the Tournament Director shall decide if the ball would have rolled more than the twelve (12) inches if the hole were flat. If the Tournament Director determines the ball would have rolled more than the twelve (12) inches if the hole were flat, then the ball will be played where it came to rest.

**10. A BALL ROLLS OUT THE OPEN END OF THE HOLE**

**Ruling:** When the ball comes to rest off the playing surface, either on its own or having been stopped by a player, play will then resume from the tee mat, counting all previous strokes.

**11. IF A TEE MAT BECOMES LOOSE DURING TOURNAMENT COMPETITION**

**Ruling:** The Tournament Director shall return the tee mat to its original position and mark a line around it to show its intended position.

***SINCE ALL RULES AND EXPLANATIONS UNDER SECTION VII - RULE INTERPRETATIONS - ARE TO BE ENFORCED AT THE TOURNAMENT SITE AND CANNOT BE CHANGED LATER, THERE IS NO APPEAL TO THESE RULES AS RULED UPON BY THE ON-SITE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.***

**VIII. GENERAL RULES**

**1. AMATEUR PARTICIPATION**

Amateurs may compete in tournament competition at various designated PPA tournaments. Those tournaments are indicated on the National Tournament Schedule published by the PPA.

Amateurs shall always participate in the APA or amateur division of play. Under no circumstances shall amateur players compete against Pro members in any tournament event unless a Pro/Am tournament is designated. Amateurs may not win prize money, but may receive announced expense reimbursement as rewards for their competition.

## 2. NON AFFILIATED TOURNAMENTS

2.1 Members of the PPA may not participate in any non-affiliated tournament on a date when that non-affiliated event is held on the same date as any PPA National Tournament.

2.2 Members who compete in non affiliated tournaments must do so at their same or equivalent level of membership.

**Ruling:** Any player found crossing divisions of play will have their PPA membership revoked.

## 3. DEFENDING CHAMPIONS

A member of the PPA who wins and accepts first place prize money automatically agrees to participate in the next PPA event scheduled at that facility. A member of the PPA who wins and accepts first place prize money in the National Championship automatically agrees to participate in the next PPA National Championship. The only exception to the rule shall be in the case of health, accident or written permission of the PPA. Request for exception must be made in writing.

## 4. INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS

The Tournament Director shall have full authority to delay the start of a tournament and/or stop play during tournament progress when weather conditions would endanger the safety of the players (i.e., lightning, hail, tornado, etc.) or the playing surface becomes saturated with water and is declared unplayable. Play shall continue by all players until a delay or stop in play is authorized.

**Ruling:** Upon being notified by the Tournament Director to stop play, players shall immediately mark their scorecard with a circle around the last score entered. This circle will indicate the hole on which they were playing when play was stopped and which player was the last to play.

**Ruling:** If a player has started play on a hole when the stop play is authorized, that player will have the choice of completing that hole or marking his ball with a small coin. When play resumes, he will then replace his ball and continue putting, counting all previous strokes. Any player(s) who has not yet started play on a hole will immediately cease putting and find shelter.

## 5. TOURNAMENT DELAYS

**Medal Play Ruling:** In the event a tournament is delayed until another day and the tournament was begun by announced tee-off, all scores recorded during incomplete rounds shall be eliminated. All rounds that have been completed during that day and have been recorded as official scores shall be counted.

**Ruling:** All scorecards shall be returned to the official scorer for safe keeping until play is resumed at a later date. Any player abusing this rule can be disqualified.

**Ruling:** In the event some players in a division have completed the round, while others players in the same division have not completed the round, the scores of the completed rounds shall be official. The scores of the incomplete rounds shall not be counted.

**Ruling:** In the event inclement weather prohibits the completion of the tournament event, the tournament will be declared complete provided at least 50% of the scheduled number of rounds has been completed in their entirety.

**Match Play Ruling:** In the event a tournament is delayed until another day and the tournament was begun by shotgun start or is a match play event, all scores recorded at the time play is stopped shall be considered good and be counted. When play is resumed, it shall begin at the hole where play was stopped.

**Ruling:** In a match play event, each player shall give the official scorer a scorecard that shows on which hole play was stopped, the player's name and the standing of the match when play was stopped. Scorecards shall be signed by both players, representing the information is correct and official.

**Ruling:** When play is resumed, if either player has not completed the hole being played when play was stopped, both shall replay the hole.

## 6. TOURNAMENT POSTPONEMENT

If a tournament is postponed until a later time during the same day, play shall resume on the hole where each player was playing when play was stopped. All scores on completed holes shall be counted.

## 7. ENDORSEMENTS

When a member of the Professional Putters Association acts as an official member of the PPA, he/she may not advocate and/or endorse any product, service, project, putting tournament program and/or miniature golf course without written permission of the PPA. Permission for such endorsements shall be requested in writing from the PPA. Permission will be granted for any worthy product or project. Worthiness shall be based on the positive effects the products, projects and/or endorsement will have

on the PPA member and/or the PPA. Endorsement, as used in this rule, shall be defined as any activity on behalf of, written or oral statement in favor of, and/or personal efforts to assist or advocate any PPA non-sanctioned events, putting tournaments and/or tournament programs. Any product endorsed by the PPA is to be endorsed by its members. Any member who endorses a product, project or golf course without permission of the PPA shall be permanently banned from membership privileges.

#### **8. FINES**

The Tournament Director, members of the Advisory Committee (current members are listed on page 4 of this rule book.), and PPA officials shall have the authority to fine members of the PPA a maximum of \$500 for each violation of the PPA rules or any other breach of sportsmanship that would reflect upon the membership, character and good name of the Professional Putters Association.

The Tournament Director shall furnish the following written details to the PPA Executive Director: the names of members who were fined, the nature of the infraction, the name of witnesses who observed the incident, and circumstances involved in the incident. Any member so fined may refuse to pay a fine by offering his resignation to the PPA. In the event such resignation is not forthcoming, any fine assessed shall be due and payable to the PPA Office within 72 hours after notification. A member may appeal the fine only in writing and submit that appeal to the PPA Commissioner, whose decision shall be final.

#### **9. GRIEVANCES**

Any member who feels he has just cause for grievance may submit such grievance in writing to the PPA and request a redress. The PPA Executive Director shall have the authority to reject the request or recommend specific redress to the PPA, whose decision shall be final.

#### **10. PERSONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

At all tournaments, each member is responsible for his own arrangements, accommodations, food and transportation. The PPA will attempt to furnish members with information concerning the tournament accommodations and contact information for tournament officials while in the area.

#### **11. PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEO TAPE/FILM**

Members shall make themselves available to the PPA for the purpose of obtaining a digital image of the player prior to their participating in a National Tournament Event. The photographs will be used for new releases and publicity of the PPA. All Members agree that the PPA may use any and all still photographs, video tape or film of the member without compensation to the member.

#### **12. CHANGING MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

Players who request membership in the Pro Division agree to maintain their Pro status until the end of the calendar year, at which time players may revert to APA status. Any Pro desiring to revert to Amateur status may do so by submitting his/her resignation in writing to the PPA. After reverting from Pro to Amateur status, the Amateur may not become a member of the Pro Division again for a minimum of two (2) full years.

#### **13. APPEAL**

In the event a player has been ruled disqualified, penalized or fined, they have the right to appeal. Such appeal must be made in writing to the PPA Commissioner within 15 days from the date of ruling. The appeal may include written statements from witnesses on behalf of the accused player. The ruling of the PPA Commissioner shall be final.

#### **14. NO TOBACCO POLICY**

During tournament competition on the course, tournament participants are prohibited from using or displaying any tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, chew, pipes, etc.

#### **15. NO OUTSIDE CONCESSIONS PERMITTED**

Under no circumstances may outside beverages or food of any kind, be brought on the golf course while participating under privileges of the Professional Putters Association.

#### **16. SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

For the health and safety of our members, the PPA is a drug free association. Use or involvement with drugs or exceeding the legal limit of alcohol is not tolerated. A violation of this policy shall result in the revoking of membership. We reserve the right to test any member prior to or after membership has been accepted. Failure to comply with a request for a drug test may result in loss of membership privileges. Any member charged or convicted of a drug or alcohol related incident may lose membership privileges.

#### **17. DENYING OR REVOKING MEMBERSHIP**

The PPA may revoke the membership or deny the application of persons who have been convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude, having any outstanding indebtedness, or any other violations or rules of the association. Any person charged with said offense(s) may be denied application or suspended from membership pending the resolution of the issue.

#### **18. PERSONAL CONDUCT**

The member agrees to promptly and faithfully comply with all present and future policies, requirements, directions, requests, and rules and regulations of the Association as set forth either verbally or in writing by the PPA. The member further agrees to conform to all state and federal laws and not at any time commit any act or become involved in any situation or occurrence tending to bring the Association into public scandal, ridicule or which will reflect unfavorably on the reputation of the Association.

#### **19. RULE INTERPRETATIONS**

Every attempt has been made to cover all aspects of a putting tournament and PPA sanctioned event. In the event a situation occurs not specifically spelled out in this Rule Book, the Tournament Director, PPA Executive Director or PPA Commissioner will have full authority to apply the intent of the closest ruling to that situation.

#### **20. PERSONAL SPONSOR SHIRT AND HAT GUIDELINES**

All personal sponsors must be approved by the PPA before any name, likeness, or logo may be placed on shirts. The approval form must be completed and signed by the PPA Commissioner or Executive Director before final approval will be granted. The Personal Sponsor Approval Form may be downloaded from [www.proputters.com](http://www.proputters.com) or received from the PPA upon request. The player may wear the shirt and hat provided by a sponsor, provided that shirt and hat meets all guidelines outlined by the dress code as stated in these rules, Section IV(3).