

2009 Southern Putting Tour

Dear Fellow Putters:

On behalf of the Southern Putting Tour Committee, we would like to welcome all of you to the 2009 putting season. In November the SPT Committee met in Spartanburg to make a tour and schedule that works to benefit all the players who support our tour.

We would like to thank all of the course owners and managers that have allowed us to play at their facilities during the past and again in the upcoming 2009 putting season. Their continuing generosity in allowing us to play on their courses during the year is one of the key components necessary in making our tour a success.

Please read the rule book and make sure you are familiar with any new rules.

- Players may use any golf ball as long as it is a USGA approved white golf ball and on the approved ball list as of January 2009. The 2004 PPA ball is also acceptable for play. Proputters.com will have a link to the list of approved balls.
- PPA Players may play in any miniature golf tournament, including the USPMGA events but only in the same classification as they play in the PPA.
- You must play any and all open holes in front of your group.
- APA entry fees and expense reimbursements have changed for 2009
- No outside food or drinks will be allowed on the course.

The 2009 PPA Week of the Nationals is scheduled to be held in Orlando, FL during the week of September 14-19. Greg Ward will defend his PPA ProPutters.com title, and Larry Smith will defend his APA ProPutters.com title. The SPT will also host an 8 round, two day regional tournament - the Southern Open in Martinez on July 18-19.

We would like to congratulate all of our champions from 2008 and look forward to a great 2009. The Committee has worked hard to make a program that serves all the players. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact anyone on the committee. Thank you and we look forward to seeing all of you in Burlington on March 14.

The SPT Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Southern Putting Tour members for 2009 are: Tony Jackson (Chairman), Jeff Carr (Vice-Chairman and Secretary), Rick Baird (Treasurer), Frank Warren (Statistician), Rick Rybaczek, Greg Newport, Ricky Schults, Larry Smith and Todd Trent. These individuals will handle all rulings and problems encountered within any Southern Tour event. Either pull one of us aside and talk with us about the problem or submit it in writing and the matter in question will be dealt with promptly. Please remember that we are also players and give us the same courtesy you would want during the tournament.

PPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Membership applications should still be mailed to the PPA Registrar in Lubbock, TX for processing and approval. Once your application is approved, your name will be posted on proputters.com. The SPT is allowed to accept membership fees and approve membership applications. If your name is not posted on proputters.com prior to the weekend's events you will not be permitted to play unless you pay your memberships to this committee. Please send in membership applications as soon as possible to insure your playing privileges are approved before the season starts.

ENTRY FEES AND PAIRINGS

Professional entry fees to all Southern Tour events will be \$40 with the following exceptions: Carolinas' Open \$60, Elton Davis Memorial \$80 and the two state championships \$60. Amateur entry fees will be \$15 for all events except the majors which will be \$25. A \$10 late fee will be assessed to any player who does not pay their entry fees by the time pairings are drawn, which will be 30 minutes prior to tee-off. Please be considerate of the committee members who give up their practice time to run the tournaments by paying when asked to.

There will be an additional \$5 per player "greens fee" collected each day. This will be offered to the course management for the use of their facility.

Pairings for this year will be by random draw in the first tournament on each Saturday. Each following tournament during the weekend will be done based on the previous tournament's results. For major tournaments, pairings will be done by points. Defenders will continue to be paired first in each event.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Player of the year for both the Pro and APA divisions will be determined by using the total number of points, number of wins, money standings and relative or adjusted stroke average. Player of the year will be determined at the end of the year by ranking the top 20 in each category. The highest ranked player will get 20 points, second will get 19, etc. in each category. The ranking points in the categories will be added together, then one point for each win will be added and the person with the greatest point total will be declared player of the year. In the event of a tie, all players tied will be recognized as co-players of the year. To be included in relative stroke average category, a player in either division must have completed 75% of the rounds played.

The Players of the Year in both the Pro and Amateur Division will each receive a plaque to signify their accomplishment.

POINTS SYSTEM

The point systems for professionals and amateurs will be the same as used by the pros last year. First place in both divisions will receive 40 points (35 Points + 5 Bonus for winning), 2nd will receive 34 points, 3rd will receive 33 points, etc. down to a minimum of 5 points for 31st place and below. In the six Major tournaments the top 5 players will earn an additional bonus of 5 for 1st, 4 for 2nd, 3 for 3rd, 2 for 4th and 1 for 5th. Thus the major tournaments points will break down like this: 45 points for first, 38 for 2nd, 36 for 3rd etc.

TOURNAMENT PRIZE MONEY

The Southern Tour payout system will be the same as the one used last year. The top five (5) places in 54 hole tournaments will be guaranteed as follows: 1st-\$150, 2nd-\$110, 3rd-\$90, 4th-\$80, and 5th-\$75. The remainder of the prize money for any given tournament will be based on the number of participants. The maximum number of money spots paid out for any tournament will generally not exceed half of the field. Prize money in both state championships will be the amount taken in from entry fees minus \$100. The committee will use a pre-determined scale to pay out all prize money. This pay-scale sheet will be available at all tournament sites for your review.

The amateur pay out system has been modified for 2009. A copy of the APA payout schedule for 2009 will be available to all players at the first tournament of the year in Burlington, and at any time thereafter.

QUALIFYING SPOTS

We have had instances over the last few years where people have been eligible to be awarded a qualifying spot but were not present to accept the qualifying spot(s). To be consistent with the rulings we have made over the last few years, this is how this situation will be handled. If there is a chance you may be eligible to be awarded a qualifying spot, do not leave the tournament site until that spot is officially awarded. If another player turns a down spot and the spot falls to you and you are not present, the spot will go to the next person in line.

TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBLE (DEFINITION) AND MINIMUM EVENTS

The following are the qualification rules for the Southern Putting Tour Championship:

1) A player may not have previously turned down a spot for the Tour Championship. EXCEPTION: A player will still be eligible to earn a qualifying spot via points (see below, 11 points spots available) even if they have turned down an earned spot during the regular season. They will not, however, be eligible for any other medal play spots if they have previously turned down a spot. The qualifying by points option would apply to anyone turning down a spot during the regular season **with the exception** of the final weekend in Augusta. Players may NOT turn down a spot in either of the final two medal play tournaments of the season and still be eligible for one of the 11 points spots for the Tour Championship.

2) A player needs to finish the season with credit for playing in at least the minimum number of events required, which will be 10 events or \$400 in entry fees in the Pro Division and 6 events for the APA Division. In both Pro and APA, a player can “buy in” to the rest of their minimum by paying the difference. A one tournament credit will be allowed by playing in either one of two Virginia major tournaments: Dogwood Festival Open or Virginia Open. It is important to note that you will only receive credit (\$40 or one tournament) toward your minimum with these tournaments and will not receive points or other statistics that will count toward the Southern tour. Virginia will also allow any one of our majors to count toward one tournament on their tour. If you qualify and pay the qualifying fees, and then fail to meet the minimum and do not “buy in”, you will forfeit your spot and your qualifying fee.

NC/GA STATE MEDAL PLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

We would like to congratulate Ricky Schults for winning the PPA North Carolina State Championship. We also want to congratulate Todd Trent for winning the APA North Carolina State Championship. Congratulations to Jeff Carr for winning the PPA Georgia State Championship and to Ben Blake for winning the APA Georgia State Championship.

The SPT is proud to have the 2009 Southern Tour Championship in Burlington, NC. on Course 1 (the back course). The PPA Tour Championship and the APA Tour Championship will be held simultaneously.

SOUTHERN TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Professional Division

Congratulations to Rick Culverhouse on his 2008 SPT Tour Championship. Rick becomes the first qualifier for the 2009 Championship.

Thirty-nine (39) players will make up the professional field in Burlington. One qualifying spot will be awarded at each tournament to the low medalist that does not already have a spot and has not previously turned one down. Two spots will be awarded for each major tournament (Carolinas Open, Elton Davis Memorial, GA State Championship and NC State Championship), and one spot will be awarded to the Match Play champion. Please note: the spot awarded in previous years to the low weekend medalist (combined Saturday and Sunday low medalist) has been eliminated. The remaining 11 spots will be filled based on total points among those players who have played in the minimum number of tournaments and who are eligible. Also, anyone who participates in 15 scheduled SPT tournaments or pays \$600 in tournament entry fees and has not previously qualified based on the methods above will earn a spot based on their support of the tour. There is potential that utilizing the “participation” rule could increase the number of players in the field above 39. The qualifying fee for the Tour Championship is \$100 (non-refundable) and is due at the time of qualifying.

The prize money breakdown in the Pro Division will be determined at the Tour Championship. All 39 spots will be paid in the Tour Championship, with last place receiving no less than \$100.

Amateur Division

Congratulations to Ben Blake on his victory in the APA Tour Championship.

The cost for amateurs to play in the Tour Championship is \$30. There is no limit to the number of players in the APA Field in Burlington.

There are no qualification methods for the APA tour Championship. An amateur qualifies for the Tour Championship by playing in the minimum 6 tournaments. The hard minimum will remain at 2 tournaments (a player may play in 2 tournaments throughout the year and pay \$60, plus the \$30 entry fee, and play in the Tour Championship). A copy of the reimbursement schedule for the APA Tour Championship will be available at the first tournament in Burlington. Also, the Champion and Runner-up will receive a plaque for their performance.

SPT MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

We would like to congratulate Rick Rybaczek (PPA Pro) and Will DeBruin (APA) for their victories in the 2008 SPT Match Play Championships.

The format for the 2009 SPT Match Play Championship will be the same as in 2008. The Tour Match Play Championship will be held in Martinsville on Sunday, March 22, and will be a double elimination event. A qualifying spot for the Tour Championship will be awarded to the Match Play Champion. Winner's bracket matches will be 36 holes, with loser's bracket matches being 18 holes. Seedings will be done using the combined 108 hole results of the 2 tournaments played on Saturday, March 21 in Martinsville. In the likely event two or more players have the same combined total, ties will be broken by using the score of the last round of the day, then going to the second last round of the day, all the way to the second round of the first tournament. If that does not break the tie we will revert to the 18th hole of the final round and continue back until the tie is broken. Players who can only play in one tournament on Saturday will be seeded by their point standing behind all players who played both Saturday tournaments. Players who did not putt on Saturday will be seeded behind all players who did play on Saturday, again by points. Prize money and expense reimbursement will not exceed one-half of the field.

CLAYTON CUP AND HANCOCK CUP

We would like to congratulate the SPT teams that won the 2008 Clayton Cup and Hancock Cup events.

The PPA team captained by Tony Jackson and Greg Newport included Jeff Carr, Randy Reeves, Caleb Kennedy, Frank Warren, Rick Rybaczek and Ricky Schults. The APA team captained by Todd Trent and Larry Smith included Vanette Block, Mark Lawson, Ben Blake and Bo DeBruin. The VA tour will be hosting the 2009 matches at a site to be determined.

Each Clayton Cup team will consist of eight members. The SPT will have two teams competing for the Cup. The SPT teams will be determined by total points earned for the year after the final medal play tournament in Augusta on September 6. The top 8 players by points will make up one SPT Clayton Cup team, players in point spots 9 through 16 will make up the other SPT Clayton Cup team.

The number of players per team for the Hancock Cup will remain at six. The SPT will have two teams competing for the Cup. The format for determining Hancock team members will also be by total points. The top 6 players by points will make up one SPT Hancock Cup team, players in point spots 7 through 12 will make up the other SPT Hancock Cup team.

Entry fee for the Clayton Cup is \$75 and the entry for the Hancock Cup is \$25. All participants receive a plaque, win or lose.

Prize money for the Clayton Cup will be distributed to the top two teams in the four team competition. Prize money will be determined at the tournament site.

SPORTSMANSHIP (read this carefully!)

Through the years, there has been a growing concern with sportsmanship in our game. The PPA is our concern. So when we are out on the course, we will conduct ourselves in a professional manner. It is understandable that in the heat of the moment people will have some emotion. Everyone has gone through it. However, when someone throws a temper tantrum, it helps nobody. It disrupts the play of others, but more importantly, it hurts the integrity of the game and the image of the PPA. This committee implemented the following rule in 2007 which remains in place for 2009:

When a player draws undue attention to himself or herself due to unsportsmanlike conduct, for each tournament occurrence:

First occurrence: verbal warning

Second occurrence: a two stroke penalty will be assessed to the round when the occurrence took place

Third occurrence: player will be disqualified for the present tournament and is suspended from playing in the next scheduled SPT event

Additionally, after five warnings during the year, the player will be suspended from playing in the next scheduled SPT event.

The SPT also implemented the following rule in 2008 regarding offensive language which remains in place for 2009:

When a player draws undue attention to himself or herself due to the use of language that is derogatory, discriminatory or offensive based upon race, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, ethnic background or national origin it greatly hurts the integrity of the game and the image of the PPA. Such language is not acceptable during practice or competition or on any facility where the SPT may hold a scheduled event.

There is a zero tolerance policy regarding such language. The following will result should any committee member be made aware of (and can confirm) the use of such language:

First occurrence: player will be disqualified for the present tournament (or if in practice, disqualification from the next scheduled tournament).

Second occurrence: player will be disqualified from the present tournament and suspended from the next scheduled SPT event (or if in practice, disqualification/suspension from the next two scheduled SPT events)

Third occurrence: player will be disqualified/suspended for all remaining SPT events for the balance of the season, including any year end events the SPT may be hosting and for which that player may have already qualified for (SPT Tour Championship, Clayton/Hancock Cup, etc.). Player will also forfeit his or her spot on any SPT team competing in any year end event, such as the Clayton Cup or Hancock Cup, no matter the host location.

No monies paid for green's fees or entry fees, including prepayment for an event for which the player is subsequently suspended or qualification fees for year end events for which the player is subsequently suspended, will be refunded should a disqualification/suspension occur as described above. These monies will be considered as fines for the occurrence(s).

In 2002, the National Players Advisory Board enacted rules regarding damaging courses. If you are caught damaging or marking a course, any member of the State Tour committee, National Pro Players Committee, or National Players Advisory Board can and will assess you a \$250 fine on your first offense. Please consult the 2008 PPA Rule book for explanation of these rules.

SCHEDULE CHANGES AND OFFICIAL NOTIFICATIONS

Please note that locations for state tour events are subject to change. Players are encouraged to verify sites by visiting the proputters.com web site. All PPA State tour event sites and dates posted 2 weeks prior to the scheduled playing dates on proputters.com are to be considered final site locations

CLOSING REMARKS

Please review the enclosed schedule and make plans to be at as many Southern Tour events as possible this year. If there are any questions or comments regarding this letter or anything regarding the tour, feel free to contact any member of the SPT committee. Several contact numbers and email address appear below. We all look forward to seeing you again this year!

Tony Jackson	864 921 3450	tj51@charter.net
Jeff Carr	803 609 4141	jcarr@sc.rr.com
Rick Baird	704 562 2795	ncpparick@mindspring.com

2009 SOUTHERN PUTTING TOUR SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Tournament Name	Start	Entry Fee	Course	Rds	Spots
Mar 14	Burlington, NC		Noon	\$40 / \$15	1	3	1
Mar 15	Burlington, NC	Howard Loy Memorial	10 a.m.	\$40 / \$15	1	3	1
Mar 21	Martinsville, VA		11 a.m.	\$40 / \$15	2	3	1
Mar 21	Martinsville, VA		~ 3:30	\$40 / \$15	2	3	1
Mar 22	Martinsville, VA	SPT Match Play Championship	9 a.m.	\$40 / \$15	2	MP	1
Apr 25	White Lake, NC		11 a.m.	\$40 / \$15	1	3	1
Apr 25	White Lake, NC		~ 3:30	\$40 / \$15	1	3	1
Apr 26	White Lake, NC	25th Annual Carolinas' Open	10 a.m.	\$60 / \$25	1	4	2
May 30	High Point, NC		11 a.m.	\$40 / \$15	1	3	1
May 30	High Point, NC		~ 3:30	\$40 / \$15	1	3	1
May 31	High Point, NC	Wayne Hancock Memorial	10 a.m.	\$40 / \$15	1	3	1
June 13	Martinez, GA		11 a.m.	\$40 / \$15	Blue	3	1
June 13	Martinez, GA		~ 3:30	\$40 / \$15	Blue	3	1
June 14	Martinez, GA		10 a.m.	\$40 / \$15	Blue	3	1
July 4	Gastonia, NC		Noon	\$40 / \$15	3	3	1
July 5	Gastonia, NC		10 a.m.	\$40 / \$15	3	3	1
July 18	Martinez, GA	PPA Southern Open	Noon	\$150 / \$30	Blue	4	0
July 19	Martinez, GA	PPA Southern Open	9 a.m.		Blue	4	0
Aug 1	Winston-Salem, NC		Noon	\$40 / \$15	Nature	3	1
Aug 2	Winston-Salem, NC		10 a.m.	\$40 / \$15	Nature	3	1
Aug 8	Burlington, NC	35th Annual Elton Davis Memorial	Noon	\$80 / \$25	1	4	0
Aug 9	Burlington, NC	35th Annual Elton Davis Memorial	10 a.m.		2	4	2
Aug 22	High Point, NC		Noon	\$40 / \$15	1	3	1
Aug 23	High Point, NC	NC State Championship	9 a.m.	\$60 / \$25	1	6	2
Sept 5	Martinez, GA		Noon	\$40 / \$15	Red	3	1
Sept 6	Martinez, GA	Georgia State Championship	9 a.m.	\$60 / \$25	Red	6	2
Sept 14-19	Orlando, FL	Week of the Nationals					
Oct 3	Burlington, NC	SPT Tour Championship	Noon	\$100 / \$30	1	4	
Oct 4	Burlington, NC		10 a.m.		1	4	
Oct 10	Site TBA, Virginia	Clayton / Hancock Cup	11 a.m.	\$75 / \$25	TBA		
Oct 11	Site TBA, Virginia	Clayton / Hancock Cup	10 a.m.		TBA		