

THE PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS'  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

PLAYING ABILITY TEST  
RULES AND  
REGULATIONS



**PGA**™

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# Playing Ability Test

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## OVERVIEW

Your role, as the PAT Examiner, is crucial. The requirements of this test are mandated by federal court regulations. Violation of these rules and regulations will void the test for all participants. Should any questions or concerns arise while performing the functions as Examiner or Host Professional, do not hesitate to contact Membership Services at (800) 474-2776. The Membership Services Department opens at 8:00 a.m. daily, Monday through Friday. You can also contact Tom Brawley, Senior Director of Membership Services, directly on his cell phone at (561) 628-5291.

Individuals may access the PAT schedule or have the option of registering online by logging onto [www.PGA.org](http://www.PGA.org). To register by phone, please contact Membership Services at (800) 474-2776.

Passing the PAT is not an entrance requirement into the PGA Professional Golf Management Program, but the PAT must be passed prior to an individual registering for Level 3. The PAT remains valid during the Acceptable Progress period, and is considered valid if passed within eight years prior to registration into the PGM Program. In order to be successful, a participant must achieve a 36-hole score within 15 shots of the course rating. For example, if the course rating were 72, the target score for the 36-holes would be 159 ( $72 \times 2 = 144 + 15 = 159$ ). This competition is normally conducted in one day. The Examiner and Host Professional must review the target score together, prior to the date of the PAT, and agree on the score for men and women. Failure to do so could result in the voiding of the PAT and non-payment of fees to the PAT Examiner and Host Professional.

One of the following must be completed to register into the PGA Professional Golf Management Program:

- a. Pass the Player's Ability Test **or**;
- b. Attempt the PAT at least once within the eight years prior to registering into the PGA PGM Program. Within that time frame shoot one 18-hole score in a PAT that is equal to or less than the PAT target score for 18-holes, plus 5 strokes. **NOTE:** Each PAT score has a validity date of eight years. (See chart on next page)

**PLAYING ABILITY TEST OVERVIEW (Continued)**

<b>36 Hole PAT Target Score</b>	<b>18 Hole Target Score</b>	<b>Target Score to Register as an Associate</b>
<b>Course Rating for 36 holes + 15</b>	<b>(36 PAT Score/2)</b>	<b>(36 PAT Score/2) + 5</b>
151	75.5	80
152	76.0	81
153	76.5	81
154	77.0	82
155	77.5	82
156	78.0	83
157	78.5	83
158	79.0	84
159	79.5	84
160	80.0	85
161	80.5	85
162	81.0	86
163	81.5	86
164	82.0	87
165	82.5	87

In order for the competition to take place, the course must have a minimum USGA course rating 68.0 for both men and women. Men under age 50 will play from a minimum of 6,350 yards to a maximum of 6,700 yards, while Women under age 50 will play from a minimum of 5,400 yards to a maximum of 5,700 yards. Men age 50 and over will play from 94% of the Men’s under age 50 yardage and Women age 50 and over will play from 94% of the Women’s under age 50 yardage, while retaining the Men’s and Women’s under age 50 target score.

The golf course is set up with the hole locations in a generally flat area of the green.

# Playing Ability Test

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## EXAMINER RESPONSIBILITIES

The standardization of PAT events is critical to ensure all test sites are conducted professionally and consistently. Failure to complete all the requirements as a PAT Examiner could cause you to forfeit payment and Certification as a PAT Examiner. The following policies must be carried out or the test will be void for all participants.

For a participant to successfully complete the PAT, a 36-hole score must be completed within fifteen shots of twice the course rating.

1. The Rules of Golf must always be adhered to. A PAT Examiner may adopt the Local Rule for Preferred Lies, see page 5 for criteria/conditions which would warrant invoking this Local Rule.
2. You must arrive on site in time to check the tee and hole locations. Hole locations should be on a generally flat area of the green in an equitable location for the PAT competition. Failure to have these two items correctly placed could void the entire competition.
3. In order for the competition to take place, the course must have a minimum USGA course rating 68.0 for both men and women. Men under age 50 will play from a minimum of 6,350 yards to a maximum of 6,700 yards, while Women under age 50 will play from a minimum of 5,400 yards to a maximum of 5,700 yards. Men age 50 and over will play from 94% of the Men's under age 50 yardage and Women age 50 and over will play from 94% of the Women's under age 50 yardage, while retaining the Men's and Women's under age 50 target score. The golf course is set with the flagsticks in a generally flat area of the green.
4. You are responsible for computing the correct target score, reviewing it with the host professional, and making sure it is clearly posted at the scoreboard (see appendix).
5. In addition to the target score being posted at the scoreboard, the compliance form, Notice to Players (local rules addendum), pace of play policy and current conforming golf ball and driver list should also be posted.
6. You are responsible for all PAT competitors to be properly registered, including checking picture identification. If a competitor fails to produce appropriate identification, he/she may NOT participate in the competition.
7. You are responsible for all rulings that are made during the competition. Please review the Notice to Players (local rules addendum) with the host professional well in advance of the event and make sure none of the local rules violate the Rules of Golf.

If assistance is needed in determining a ruling, contact Mark Tschetschot at (561) 624-8547, or Tom Brawley at (561) 624-8550.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PAT EXAMINER (Continued)

8. Before play begins, all players should receive both the PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition (Hard Card) and a Notice to Players (local rules addendum) along with their scorecard. Please make sure competitors do not keep their own scores.
9. You are responsible for enforcing all policies concerning withdrawal, illness, etc. Please review the policies concerning these areas. A competitor who withdraws due to illness must submit medical documentation to the National Office within three business days of the PAT or will be suspended from playing in a PAT for 90 days. For any player to avoid suspension for withdrawal from the event, the National Office must be contacted by the player within 72 hours of the PAT.
10. The score report should be completed legibly in full. The following codes should be used: P = Pass, F = Fail, NS = No Show, NC = No Card, WD = Withdraw, DQ = Disqualified. No Show, No Card and Withdraw will all result in a 90-day suspension.
11. Upon completion of competitor registration, you are responsible for monitoring the pace of play by riding the golf course throughout the competition.
12. The PGA of America will pay PAT Examiners a flat fee of \$400. Upon the completion of play, to allow scores to be posted more rapidly, submit the PAT Reporting Form along with the results to the National Office via Email [Membership@pgahq.com](mailto:Membership@pgahq.com), Fax (561) 624-8439 or Mail. If the PAT examiner is also serving as the Host Professional only the flat fee of \$400 will be paid. If a PAT is conducted with less than ten registrants, the flat fee paid will be dependent on the number of registrants (see appendix).
13. The PAT examiner is responsible for enforcing the dress code (see appendix).
14. The PGA reserves the right to preclude an individual from participating in a PAT based on prior PAT scores that were unreasonably above the target score.
15. Individuals who pass the PAT should be referred to the “Path to Membership” link on [www.PGA.org](http://www.PGA.org) for information on the PGA Professional Golf Management Program.
16. The host professional also plays a vital part in the administration of the PAT. If, in the opinion of the PAT Examiner, the duties are not fulfilled, the Section and National Office should be contacted.

# Playing Ability Test

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## Local Rules for Preferred Lies

A PAT Examiner may adopt the Local Rule for Preferred Lies, only under the following conditions.

- In rare situations where a course has had extreme adverse conditions such as heavy snows, spring thaws, prolonged rains, etc., that one of the following is true:
  1. The course is so saturated from temporary accumulations of water (ie: flooding, heavy rain, etc.) that it would require the ball to be moved a substantial distance and potentially into an adverse condition to get complete relief, when taking relief from temporary water as required in Rule 16.1.
  2. The imminent threat of heavy rain accumulation (90% probability), on an already saturated course that would again cause the same situation as above when taking complete relief from temporary water. The threat of rain itself does not permit preferred lies to be adopted and it must be a significant amount of rain in the forecast that would result in oversaturating of the course.

If one of the above conditions is met, then the PAT Examiner may invoke a preferred lies Local Rule. The PAT Examiner may only invoke a Preferred Lies Local Rules in situations meeting the above conditions.

A Preferred Lies Local Rules **shall not** be invoked for poor turf conditions in general (e.g. winterkill, lack of grass, or other typical agronomic challenges).

The following wording should be used if preferred lies is adopted:

“When a player’s ball lies in a part of the *general area* cut to fairway height or less, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing it from this *relief area*:

- **Reference Point**: Spot of the original ball.
- **Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point**: one *club-length* from the reference point, but with these limits:
- **Limits on Location of Relief Area**:
  - Must not be nearer the *hole* than the reference point, and
  - Must be in the *general area*.

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for *replacing* a ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.

**Penalty for Playing Ball from a *Wrong Place* in Breach of Local Rule: *General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.*”**



## PAT EXAMINER CHECKLIST

- Contact the Host Professional to discuss:
  - Notice to Players (Local Rules Addendum)
  - Golf Course Set Up / Course Condition
  - Defining and Marking the Golf Course
  - Starting Times
  - Compute Correct Target Score and Review with the Host Professional
  
- Review / Post:
  - Target Score
  - Compliance Form
  - PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition
  - Notice to Players (Local Rules Addendum)
  - Pace of Play Policy
  - Rules and Policies Governing the use of Automotive Transportation
  - Approved Golf Ball List available at:  
[http://www.usga.org/ConformingGolfBall/gball\\_list.pdf](http://www.usga.org/ConformingGolfBall/gball_list.pdf)
  - Approved Driver Head List available at:  
[https://www.usga.org/ConformingGolfClub/conforming\\_golf\\_club.asp](https://www.usga.org/ConformingGolfClub/conforming_golf_club.asp)
  
- Check picture identification of all competitors
  
- Make sure all competitors receive:
  - PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition
  - Notice to Players (Local Rules Addendum)
  - Scorecards (exchange with other competitors)
  
- Ride the course to view competitors, make rulings and check pace of play
  
- Complete the PAT Test results Worksheet and Reporting Form then:  
  
Email: [Membership@pgahq.com](mailto:Membership@pgahq.com), Fax: (561) 624-8439  
  
or Mail:  
PGA of America  
Membership Services  
100 Avenue of the Champions  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418
  
- **IMPORTANT:** To access the current steps to become a PGA Member, PAT Examiners should inform competitors to access the “Path to Membership” link on [www.PGA.org](http://www.PGA.org).

# Playing Ability Test

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## GOLF COURSE SET-UP

Proper course set up is essential. Failure to set the course up following the regulations listed below will result in the entire competition being voided.

1. In order for the competition to take place, the course must have a minimum USGA course rating 68.0 for both men and women. Men under age 50 will play from a minimum of 6,350 yards to a maximum of 6,700 yards, while Women under age 50 will play from a minimum of 5,400 yards to a maximum of 5,700 yards. Men age 50 and over will play from 94% of the Men's under age 50 yardage and Women age 50 and over will play from 94% of the Women's under age 50 yardage, while retaining the Men's and Women's under age 50 target score.
2. Be sure that the hole locations are on a generally flat area of the green in an equitable location for the PAT competition.
3. The PAT is a 36-hole competition. It is recommended that the PAT be conducted in one day. However, if this is not the case, all tests must be completed within a one-week period.
4. Only golf courses with a USGA course rating of 68.0 or higher may be utilized for PAT competition.
5. Sections have the option of utilizing two different golf courses for a PAT allowing competitors to play each course once.
6. All penalty areas, abnormal course conditions, and out of bounds, must be appropriately marked.
7. Competitors do not have to be eligibly employed to participate in the PAT.
8. No adjustments are to be made to the target score due to course condition or weather. If conditions are severe, the PAT should be rescheduled or canceled with the National Office being notified immediately. The National Office should be contacted to determine if any variance can be made to the "No Card" policy. This would allow an option to withdraw without suspension and permit others to complete the PAT who may have a chance to pass.

# Playing Ability Test

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## HOST PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The host professional plays a vital part in the administration of the PAT. Listed below is a description of the duties required by the Host Professional. If, in the opinion of the PAT Examiner, the duties are not fulfilled, the Section and National Office should be contacted.

- Ensure the golf course is properly defined, including:
  - All penalty areas
  - All abnormal course conditions
  - Out of bounds
  - Dropping Zones

**NOTE:** The Local Rule for Preferred Lies, see PAT Examiner Responsibilities (page 3), for rare salutations when a PAT Examiner may invoke the Local Rules for Preferred Lies.

- Create a Notice to Players (Local Rules Addendum) and review with the PAT Examiner well in advance of the competition.
- Coordinate with the greens superintendent to ensure the greens, tees and fairways are mowed and in excellent condition.
- In order for the competition to take place, the course must have a minimum USGA course rating 68.0 for both men and women. Men under age 50 will play from a minimum of 6,350 yards to a maximum of 6,700 yards, while Women under age 50 will play from a minimum of 5,400 yards to a maximum of 5,700 yards. Men age 50 and over will play from 94% of the Men's under age 50 yardage and Women age 50 and over will play from 94% of the Women's under age 50 yardage, while retaining the Men's and Women's under age 50 target score.
- Be sure that hole locations are in a generally flat area and in an equitable location for the PAT competition.
- Ensure the range is open at least one hour prior to the first tee time. **NOTE:** Please contact the Section office if a range is not available.
- Create two scorecards for each competitor, including name, starting time, and round number.
- Locate a registration table at the appropriate place for the PAT Examiner's use.

## **HOST PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES (Continued)**

- Create a scoreboard with each competitor's name listed. The following should also be posted on the scoreboard:
  - Starting Times
  - Competitor Compliance Form
  - PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition
  - Notice to Players (Local Rules Addendum)
  - Pace of Play Policy
  - Rules and Policies Governing the use of Automotive Transportation
  - Target Score
  
- PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition (Hard Card), Notice to Players (Local Rules Addendum), and the Pace of Play Policy to all competitors.
  
- Compute the correct target score and review with the PAT Examiner prior to the start of competition.
  
- Post each 18-hole round score on the scoreboard upon conclusion of competition.
  
- Provide sufficient staff to assist the PAT Examiner in starting and course monitoring.
  
- Make sure the appropriate number of golf cars and/or caddies are available for competitors.
  
- Post the approved ball and driver list at the scoreboard and first tee.
  
- Make locker room facilities and appropriate food and beverages available to competitors.
  
- Provide hole location sheets, if appropriate.
  
- Notify National Office and Section Office of any changes in date or location.

Upon receipt of approval from the PAT Examiner that all duties of the Host Professional have been fulfilled, a \$125 honorarium will be mailed by the PGA of America National Office to the Host Professional. Failure to complete all the requirements as a Host Professional could cause you to lose payment. If the Host Professional is also serving as the PAT Examiner only the \$400 flat fee will be paid. If a PAT is conducted with less than ten registrants, the flat fee paid will be dependent on the number of registrants (see appendix).

# Playing Ability Test

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## SECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

It is important that the Section locate appropriate sites to conduct this competition.

In order for the competition to take place, the course must have a minimum USGA course rating 68.0 for both men and women. Men under age 50 will play from a minimum of 6,350 yards to a maximum of 6,700 yards, while Women under age 50 will play from a minimum of 5,400 yards to a maximum of 5,700 yards. Men age 50 and over will play from 94% of the Men's under age 50 yardage and Women age 50 and over will play from 94% of the Women's under age 50 yardage, while retaining the Men's and Women's under age 50 target score.

The golf course is set up with the hole locations in a generally flat area of the green.

The Section is also reminded that entry fees should cover only the expense of operating the event, including:

- Course rental
- Additional rules officials
- Golf car rental fees

**The Section should budget to break even and not to profit from the PAT.**

### SCHEDULING

Each Section is required to schedule five PAT sites with a minimum of ten competitors each. Based on extenuating circumstances, National reserves the right to alter the number of competitors. It is suggested that PATs are scheduled at least 3 weeks apart due to the 7 day registration deadline. The event will be canceled, if on the deadline date, there are fewer than ten competitors registered, unless approved by both the National and Section office.

Each site must employ a PGA Professional as the Host Professional.

The site and date of any PAT being conducted in January or February must be submitted to the National Office by December 1st.

The site and date of any PAT being conducted for the remainder of the year must be submitted to the National Office by December 31st.

The site and date of any PAT added during the year must be submitted to the National Office 45 days prior to the date of play.

**NOTE:** The above does not apply if a PAT is rescheduled due to weather or course conditions prior to play beginning. It is suggested that any PAT postponed due to weather, be rescheduled within 7 to 10 days of the originally scheduled play date. Otherwise it shall be canceled.

## **SECTION RESPONSIBILITIES (Continued)**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE PAT EXAMINER, HOST PROFESSIONAL AND SECTION OFFICE**

The PAT has a seven-day registration deadline. All competitors must register for the PAT with the National Office prior to the seven-day deadline.

The Section Office and PAT Examiner have the authority to substitute competitors from the waiting list, in wait list order, (only competitors who are already registered are eligible to substitute) at any time prior to, and including the day of, the competition. The waiting list will be supplied to the Section Office, along with a listing of all competitors registered, within five business days of the PAT entry closing date. The Section is responsible for supplying the waiting list and list of competitors to the assigned PAT Examiner.

An individual may participate at any PAT site throughout the country.

### **PAT EXAMINER / HOST PROFESSIONAL**

It is the responsibility of the Section Office to assign a certified PAT Examiner to each site. To protect the integrity of competition, the PAT should have an Examiner and a Host Professional present at the event. If a certified examiner is not assigned or is not on site prior to the start of competition, the PAT results will be void.

Equally important to the PAT are the roles of the Host Professional and club staff. When selecting a site, please be sure the Host Professional understands his/her obligations as noted under Host Professional Responsibilities.

All golf courses scheduled to host a PAT event must employ a PGA Professional as the Host Professional.

### **SUMMARY / SECTION RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Select a minimum of five PAT sites by December 1<sup>st</sup> / December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- Ensure sites employ a PGA Professional as the Host Professional.
- Review the appropriate responsibilities with the Host Professional.
- Collect on-site fees over and above the \$100.00 standardized fee, which is paid to the National Office by the participant at the time of registration. Section fees may be collected through the National Office at the time of registration, on site or at the Section Office. If a registrant cancels after the registration deadline the Section is responsible for refunding, if applicable, the onsite fee if the cancellation is due to health or passing a previous PAT.
- Assign a PAT Examiner to each site.
- Advise each PAT Examiner of the most recent, up-to-date information on the course rating.
- Inform all competitors of their starting times and other relevant information, including dress code, at least five days in advance of the PAT date.

# Playing Ability Test

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## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **NO CARDS / WITHDRAWALS**

A competitor who “no cards” (NC) or “withdraws” (WD) in the middle of the PAT will not be allowed to compete in another PAT for a period of ninety days from the date of the PAT in which they NC or WD.

If a competitor has signed up for another PAT within the above ninety-day time frame, they will be allowed to transfer to another site outside the suspension period at no cost.

Competitors withdrawing from competition due to medical reasons will be suspended, unless they submit medical documentation substantiating their condition to the National Office. Documentation must be in the form of a doctor’s statement and must be received within three business days after the date of the PAT.

A competitor who does not notify the Section Office and National Office of withdrawal at least 72 hours prior to the date of the PAT will not be allowed to compete in another PAT for a period of ninety days. If a “no show” (NS) is due to medical reasons, documentation as stated above must be submitted to the National Office within three business days of the PAT.

Any competitor whose score indicates NC, WD or NS will be suspended for 90 days unless medical documentation is received at the National Office within three business days of the PAT.

### **CHEATING**

A player who is suspected of cheating during the PAT is subject to suspension by the PGA for a period of five years. A notarized statement from the other competitors, the PAT Examiner, and others involved in the incident, must be submitted to the National Office before any action can be taken.

### **INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION**

The PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition (Hard Card) and the Competitor Compliance Form will be emailed to the Section for distribution to the PAT Examiner and Host Pro prior to the start of the PAT. The Hard Card should also be sent to the competitors along with their tee times and pairings.

### **WEATHER CONDITIONS**

If weather becomes a significant factor in deciding to continue or suspend play, please utilize the following guidelines:

- The Local Rule for Preferred Lies, see PAT Examiner Responsibilities (page 3), for rare salutations when a PAT Examiner may invoke the Local Rules for Preferred Lies.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION (Continued)**

- The entire 36-hole event must be completed within one week. If weather interrupts a round, players should mark their position and if possible return to that position when play resumes (within the one week period).
- If conditions do not warrant the continuation of competition or if scheduling conflicts occur, a competitor may transfer to another PAT in which the deadline has not already passed at no charge.
- If the PAT is canceled due to weather conditions prohibiting the continuation of play, all scores from any completed round will stand. Should the event be rescheduled, the registrant will have the option to play in the rescheduled event, transfer their funds to another available PAT or receive a refund.
- The PAT is a test of skills and the course should provide an equitable opportunity for all the players. If conditions are such that the course is unplayable, simply cancel the event, call the Section Office and National Office, and reschedule (unless the facility is able to conduct the event the following day).



# Playing Ability Test

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q. Is there a dress policy for individuals participating in PATs?
- A. Yes, the Uniform Dress Policy approved by the PGA Board of Directors states:**
- Female participants must wear slacks, culottes, walking shorts, or golf skirts which constitute acceptable clothing worn by women in connection with participation in professional golf tournaments. Male participants must wear slacks and participants shall not wear shorts anywhere on club property. Jeans are not to be considered slacks.**
- All PGA participants will be required to present a neat appearance, appropriate to a professional golf tournament in both clothing and grooming.**
- Q. If PAT contestants are caught cheating during a PAT, may they continue to take subsequent PATs?
- A. They will not be allowed to take the PAT again for up to five (5) years. If a contestant is caught cheating, the PAT Examiner will have the contestants playing in that group who observed the cheating, complete a statement describing the circumstances and have the statement notarized. If it is the PGA Examiner who observes the cheating, the examiner will complete the statement, have it notarized and submit it to the National Office. The National Office will then write a letter to the contestant advising him/her that another PAT cannot be taken for up to five (5) years.**
- Q. May PAT participants use caddies while participating in PATs?
- A. Yes, if the course and Section allow.**
- Q. If the course where a PAT is being held requires that golf cars be utilized by PAT contestants and a contestant uses a caddie, may both the caddie and the contestant ride in the golf car at the same time.
- A. No, only a player may ride in a golf car. See Rules & Policies governing the use of Automotive Transportation.**
- Q. If a PAT participant shows up at the PAT site without picture identification, can he/she be allowed to take the PAT?
- A. The PGA Guidelines specify that all competitors are required to show picture identification. However, if the PAT Examiner or Host Professional can positively identify the competitor without picture identification, this requirement may be waived.**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
CONCERNING NATIONAL OFFICE PAT POLICIES (Continued)**

- Q. Who is responsible for registering PAT participants at the PAT site -- the PAT Examiner or the Host Professional?
- A. The PAT Examiner. The Host Professional only provides the registration table.**
- Q. If a PAT contestant becomes ill or injured during a PAT, requiring him/her to withdraw, will their PAT entry fee be automatically refunded?
- A. No, however, if a doctor's statement is submitted to the National Office within three business days the individual will be allowed a refund or to transfer their funds to another available PAT site, in which the deadline has not passed.**
- Q. Are PAT Examiners expected to continually be on the golf course to spot-check the number of strokes participants are taking and later compare with recorded scores once the PAT has begun?
- A. Yes, PAT Examiners should spot-check contestants' scoring versus recorded scores.**
- Q. Are all PAT participants required to start on Hole #1?
- A. Participants may be started from multiple holes, including a double tee start or a shotgun start, at the PAT Examiner's discretion.**
- Q. Who is the Rules Official during the PAT?
- A. The PAT Examiner. However, he/she may be assisted by the Host Professional or other individuals assigned by the PAT Examiner who are knowledgeable rules officials.**
- Q. If three participants are paired together taking a PAT and two withdraw for whatever reason, who records scores per hole for the remaining participant?
- A. All participants should be advised prior to the start of the PAT that if this situation develops, one of the participants withdrawing must continue to mark scores per hole of the participant continuing to play until someone can notify the PAT Examiner and the player will then be dropped back with another group of participants.**
- Q. If, for some reason, the Host Professional has not received the Competitor Compliance Form or PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition (Hard Card), what should the PAT Examiner do?
- A. The PAT Examiner should make copies of the Competitor Compliance Form or PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition (Hard Card), furnished by the National Office or from this book, and pass them out to the PAT participants. The forms are also located online at <https://www.pga.org/articles/pat-materials>.**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**  
**CONCERNING NATIONAL OFFICE PAT POLICIES (Continued)**

- Q. Should a copy of the Competitor Compliance Form be posted on the scoreboard, along with the target score, prior to PAT participants teeing off?
- A. Yes, it is imperative that the Competitor Compliance Form be posted as it pertains to the legalities concerning cheating if a situation occurs. Also, a copy should be passed out to each competitor prior to their teeing off in the PAT.**
- Q. May PAT contestants practice putt on a hole when they have completed play during a PAT?
- A. No, practice at putting green of hole played is prohibited. See PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition (Hard Card), Restriction on Practice, for more information.**
- Q. If contestants arrive at the PAT golf course prior to their scheduled starting time, should they be allowed or required to start at an earlier time?
- A. The PAT Examiner may allow them to start earlier at his/her discretion. However, the PAT Examiner should not require the participant to start prior to their assigned starting time.**
- Q. If PAT contestants are grouped in threesomes or foursomes and the number of contestants in that group is reduced to two (2), may those two continue to participate in the PAT and keep each other's scores?
- A. Yes, but every effort should be made to add at least one other player.**
- Q. Can a PAT Examiner impose penalties on PAT contestants for slow play?
- A. Yes, however, the PAT Examiner must do so under the PGA Rules for imposing penalties which have been sent to PGA Sections. Timing and warnings should be in accordance with PGA Rules.**
- Q. Is the "one ball" rule in effect for the PAT?
- A. No**
- Q. If a PAT contestant cannot complete 36-holes of play because of physical problems, what recourse does he/she have?
- A. The contestant should apply to take the PAT in a Section that conducts their PAT events over a two-day period, or appeal their case to the PGA Board of Control.**
- Q. May the Host Professional pair one or more of his club members with PAT contestants while they are competing in the PAT?
- A. No**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
CONCERNING NATIONAL OFFICE PAT POLICIES (Continued)**

- Q. May a player be assessed a penalty or disqualified for code of conduct, ie: conduct unbecoming a golf professional?
- A. Yes, for example, a two-stroke penalty can be assessed if an individual consumes alcohol during a PAT or is improperly dressed after the start of play. A second offense would cause disqualification.**
- Q. If a PAT contestant(s) completes a round, and rain precludes other PAT participants from completing their round, do the completed rounds count?
- A. Yes, the PAT contestants are not competing against each other, just the course.**
- Q. When a PAT is rained-out, can the contestants be rescheduled for another PAT without having to meet the 7-day deadline for the rescheduled PAT?
- A. If a PAT is rained-out and rescheduled, everyone can play in the rescheduled PAT or receive a refund or transfer to another PAT that is NOT within the 7-day deadline.**
- Q. If a PAT is postponed due to weather and rescheduled for completion, will PGA pay the PAT Examiner and Host Professional for both dates?
- A. The PGA will pay a fee for only one day but will pay for the additional travel expenses incurred.**
- Q. If a PAT is rained-out, should the PAT fees charged by the Section be refunded?
- A. This decision is up to the Section. However, the National Office recommends that Section fees be refunded or transferred to the next site.**
- Q. If, while conducting a PAT, some competitors complete their rounds and others do not due to weather, can the remaining competitors mark their positions and complete their rounds the next day?
- A. Yes, competitors not finishing their rounds due to weather can complete the round within one week. If the competitor cannot remain to finish the round within one week, they must reschedule for another PAT.**
- Q. Are distance measuring devices allowed during a PAT?
- A. Yes, distance measuring devices are allowed but can only be used to measure distance. If the device measures other factors they must be disabled.**

# Playing Ability Test

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## APPENDIX



**PLAYING ABILITY TEST SITE INFORMATION**  
(Make copies for additional sites)

**SECTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOST PROFESSIONAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE ADDRESS City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE PHONE #:** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF PAT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIZE OF FIELD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE CHARGES (Indicate what site charges cover):** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL CHARGES (i.e. section fee if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**MALE YARDAGE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FEMALE YARDAGE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MALE COURSE RATING:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FEMALE COURSE RATING:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**PLAYING ABILITY TEST SITE INFORMATION**

**SECTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOST PROFESSIONAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE ADDRESS City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE PHONE #:** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF PAT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIZE OF FIELD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE CHARGES (Indicate what site charges cover):** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL CHARGES (i.e. section fee if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**MALE YARDAGE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FEMALE YARDAGE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MALE COURSE RATING:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FEMALE COURSE RATING:** \_\_\_\_\_



## PLAYING ABILITY TEST (PAT) REPORTING FORM

This form must be completed in full by the examiner and returned with the score report and expenses

Date of Event \_\_\_\_\_ PAT Event # \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Yardage: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Male 50 + \_\_\_\_\_ Female 50 + \_\_\_\_\_

Course Rating: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Target Score: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Course – (If test given at two different 18-hole courses, please give name and course rating of both.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Course Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Note any problems/issues in conducting the test: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Host Professional PGA ID# or Last 4-digits of your SS#: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Host Professional: \_\_\_\_\_

PAT Examiner PGA ID# or Last 4-digits of your SS#: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of PAT Examiner: \_\_\_\_\_

PAT Examiner Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

PAT Examiner (City/State/Zip): City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of PAT Examiner: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SUBMIT WITHIN THREE BUSINESS DAYS OF THE PAT.**

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Please complete the PAT Reporting Form & Results by Email [Membership@pgahq.com](mailto:Membership@pgahq.com), Fax (561) 624-8439 or Mail:

PGA of America  
Attn: Membership Services  
100 Avenue of The Champions  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

# Playing Ability Test

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## COMPETITOR COMPLIANCE FORM

### IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ

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#### COMPETITOR COMPLIANCE FORM

I agree to abide by all applicable USGA and PGA of America rules and policies, as referenced on [www.PGA.org](http://www.PGA.org). Registered PGA Associates acknowledge that any act of dishonesty in connection with the PAT competition may subject them to disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Ethics provisions set forth in the PGA Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations.

All competitors acknowledge that any act of dishonesty or violation of the rules of golf in connection with the PAT competition as determined by the Tournament Rules Committee will disqualify the competitor from the tournament, and any score achieved will be void for the purpose of passing the PAT. **Any competitor who violates the rules of golf, intentionally cheats or is involved with any conduct determined by the Tournament Rules Committee to violate the integrity of the PAT may be prohibited by the PGA of America from competing in future PAT events for up to five (5) years, as approved by the PGA of America Board of Directors.**

A picture ID must be presented before participating in the PAT.

Competitor agrees to hold harmless the PGA of America, the applicable Section of the PGA of America, the PAT Examiner, the host golf facility and their officers, directors, employees, agents and representatives (the "Indemnified Parties") from and against any claim arising from or attributable to competitor's participation in the PAT competition. Competitor acknowledges that he/she is competing in the PAT competition at his/her own risk and holds the Indemnified Parties harmless from any claim of competitor, or competitor's heirs, spouse or successors, arising from or attributable to the PAT competition.



# Playing Ability Test

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## PGA OF AMERICA LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

### Playing Ability Test Edition

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf effective January 2019, and where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Committee Procedures refers to the Committee Procedures section in the current *Official Guide to the Rules of Golf*. The *Committee* refers to the PGA of America Rules Committee. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule in *stroke play* is the *general penalty (two penalty strokes)*.

1. **Out of Bounds and Course Boundaries:** *Out of bounds* is defined by the line between the *course-side* points at ground level of white stakes and fence posts.  
**Note:** A ball coming to rest on or beyond a public road is out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the course that is in bounds for other holes.
2. **Abnormal Course Conditions and Integral Objects**
  - a. **Ground Under Repair:**
    - i) Any area **encircled by a white line** (except dropping zones or *out of bounds*).
    - ii) **Newly trenched areas**, including grass-covered cables.
    - iii) **French drains**, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones.
    - iv) If a player's ball lies in or touches a **seam of cut turf** or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing in the *general area*, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b.  
**But** interference does not exist if the seam **only** interferes with the player's *stance*.  
All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief. This means that if a player has interference from any seam after *dropping* the ball, the player must proceed as required under Rule 14.3c(2) even when the ball is within one club-length of the reference point.
    - v) **Painted lines or dots** in a part of the *general area* cut to fairway height or less.  
**But** interference does not exist if the painted lines or dots interfere **only** with the player's *stance*.
  - b. **Immovable Obstructions:**
    - i) **Asphalt and artificially surfaced roads and paths.** White lined areas of *ground under repair* tying into such roads or paths are treated as a single *abnormal course condition* when taking relief under Rule 16.1.
    - ii) **Railroad ties, curbing** or other similar artificial edges adjoining cart paths are part of the same *obstruction*.
    - iii) **Secured mats and plastic cable ramps** covering cables.

- c. **Integral Objects (Free relief not allowed):**
  - i) **Artificial retaining walls** and/or pilings when located in *penalty areas*.
  - ii) **Wires, cables, wrappings, signs and lightning rods** closely attached to trees or objects defining *out of bounds*.
  - iii) **Bunker liners** in their intended position.

**Note:** The *Committee* may treat an exposed liner, not in its intended position, to be *ground under repair*, but interference does not exist if a liner only interferes with the player's *stance*.

- d. **Temporary Immovable Obstructions:** Model Local Rule F-23 in *Committee Procedures* is in effect and includes any Temporary Immovable Obstruction installed for the competition.

### 3. Restrictions on Use of Specific Equipment

- a. **List of Conforming Driver Heads:** Any driver the player uses to make a *stroke* must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, which is on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the USGA.

**Penalty for Making a *Stroke* with Club in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.**

There is no penalty under this Local Rule for carrying, but not making a *stroke* with a driver that is not on the List of Conforming Driver Heads (See Model Local Rule G-1 in *Committee Procedures*).

- b. **Groove and Punch Mark Specifications:** In making a *stroke*, the player must use clubs that conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the *Equipment Rules* that took effect on 1 January 2010. Ping Eye 2 irons manufactured before 31 March 1990 with a groove spacing to groove width ratio of 2.3 to 1 are allowed for play under the Rules of Golf, even when this Local Rule is in effect (See Model Local Rule G-2 in *Committee Procedures*).

**Penalty for making a *Stroke* with Club in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.**

There is no penalty under this Local Rule for carrying, but not making a *stroke* with a club which does not conform to these groove and punch mark specifications.

- c. **List of Conforming Golf Balls:** Any ball used in making a *stroke* must be on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the USGA. This list is posted in the locker room and starting tees and is regularly updated and can be found at [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org).

**Penalty for Making a *Stroke* at a Ball Not on Current List in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.**

### 4. Restrictions on Practice

- a. **Before or Between Rounds:**  
Rule 5.2 is modified in this way: A player must not practice on the competition *course* before or between *rounds*.

**Penalty for Breach of this Local Rule:**

- **Penalty for first breach: *General Penalty*** (applied to the player's first hole).
- **Penalty for second breach: Disqualification.**

- b. **Between the Play of Two Holes:**  
A player must not make any practice *stroke* on or near the *putting green* of the

hole just completed, or test the surface of that *putting green* by rubbing the *putting green* or rolling a ball.

5. **Procedures for Bad Weather and Suspensions of Play**

a. **Methods for Stopping and Resuming Play:**

A suspension of play for a **dangerous situation** will be signaled by **one prolonged note** of a siren or horn.

**All other suspensions** will be signaled by **three consecutive notes** of a siren or horn.

In either case, **resumption of play** will be signaled by **two short notes** of a siren or horn. See Rule 5.7b.

**Note:** All practice areas are **closed** during an immediate suspension for a **dangerous situation** until the *Committee* has declared them open.

b. **Removal of Temporary Water on the Putting Green:**

If a player's ball lies on the *putting green* and there is interference by *temporary water* on the *putting green* the player may:

- Take free relief under Rule 16-1d **or**
- Have their *line of play* squeegeed

Such squeegeeing should be done across the *line of play* and extend a reasonable distance beyond the *hole* (that is at least one roller length) and only be carried out by individuals designated by the *Committee*.

**Note:** The *Committee* may squeegee the *putting green* at any time.

6. **Committee Pace of Play Policy:** See Rule 5.6b(3). The Local Rule setting a Pace of Play Policy, including penalties for not following this Policy, is published and posted in the locker room and starting tees.
7. **Starting Point Defined:** For the purpose of applying Rule 5.3a, the **starting point** for hole #1 and hole #10 is defined by the rope, gallery stakes, green bike fencing and/or blue stakes, blue dots or blue lines.
8. **Returning Scorecard:** For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a player's *scorecard* is treated as returned when the player has first left the scoring area with both feet.
9. **Measuring Condition of Putting Greens:** Before or between *rounds* on any day of the competition or play-off, a player or *caddie* must not use any device that measures the condition (slope, texture, firmness, or moisture level) of any *putting green* on the *course*. The use of such a device is only permitted on practice days.
10. **When the Result of the Competition is Final:** When all scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by the *Committee*, the competition is closed.

PGA of America Rules Committee

# Playing Ability Test

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## NOTICE TO PLAYERS (Formally Supplementary Rules of Play)

### STANDARD WORDING FOR DEVELOPING LOCAL RULES

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf effective January 2019, the PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition Card, the Local Rule for this event regarding Pace of Play which is available at the starting tees, and, where applicable, by the following Local Rules which apply to this golf course.

### OUT OF BOUNDS & COURSE BOUNDARIES

1. Out of Bounds:  
In addition to item # \_\_\_\_ on the PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition Card, out of bounds is defined by the following:

- a) The line between the course-side points at ground level of white stakes and fence posts.
- b) The course-side edge of the white line to the left/right of hole / s # \_\_\_\_.
- c) The inside edge of street curbing on holes # \_\_\_\_.

When the road's edge or curbing is difficult to define we may use the following:  
The outside edge of the course-side curb to the right of hole #\_\_\_\_.

Note: the course-side edge is an integral object.

- d) The water's edge on the opposite side of the penalty area on holes # \_\_\_\_.
- e) The inside face of the wall surrounding the maintenance building.

**OR**

The wall surrounding the maintenance building. A ball is out of bounds when it is beyond the wall.

- f) The boundary to the left of hole #\_\_\_\_ is defined by the course-side edge of the white paint dots located on \_\_\_\_.
- g) A ball coming to rest on or beyond the road (identify the road or holes where it comes into play) is out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the course that is in bounds for other holes.
- h) The outside edge of the cart path between the white stakes with blue tops on holes #\_\_\_\_, #\_\_\_\_ and #\_\_\_\_. The cart path itself is treated as an immovable obstruction.
- i) Cables that are closely attached or lying adjacent to the boundary fence on hole #\_\_\_\_ are treated as integral objects and not obstructions.

- j) The water's edge on the opposite side of the red penalty area where the edges are tied into out of bounds. The water's edge defines the out of bounds on holes #\_\_\_ & #\_\_\_.
2. Internal Out of Bounds (Hole # \_\_\_)  
The white stakes (location) on hole #\_\_\_ define out of bounds during play of hole # only. During play of any other hole the same white stakes are immovable obstructions.

3. Stakes Identifying Out of Bounds  
When out of bounds is defined by a line on the ground, a trench or other way that may not be visible from the teeing area, the Committee may place stakes to help identify the boundary. These stakes have been placed for visibility and are immovable obstructions.

A ball that is in or beyond the ditch to the right of hole #\_\_\_ is out of bounds. The white stakes with blue tops have been placed to help identify the out of bounds but do not define the out of bounds. Such stakes are immovable obstructions.

### PENALTY AREAS

1. Relief on Opposite Side of Red Penalty Areas  
When the ball last crossed the edge of the red penalty area to the left of hole #\_\_\_, as an extra relief option under Rule 17.1d and adding one penalty stroke, the player may drop the original ball or another ball on the opposite side of the penalty area:
- Reference Point: The estimated point on the opposite edge of the penalty area that is the same distance from the hole as the estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the red penalty area.
- Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: Two club-lengths but with these limits:
- Limits on Location of Relief Area:
- Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, **and**
  - May be in any area of the course except the same penalty area, **but**
  - If more than one area of the course is located within two club-lengths of the reference point, the ball must come to rest in the relief area in the same area of the course that the ball first touches when dropped in the relief area.
2. Cart Path Edge Defines Penalty Areas:  
Where penalty area lines tie into the edge of cart paths defined by yellow / red stakes with blue tops, the edge (penalty area side) of the cart path defines the edge of the penalty area on holes #\_\_\_ and #\_\_\_.
3. Yellow Penalty Area Hole # \_\_\_  
During play of hole #\_\_\_ the yellow penalty area to the right of the hole is to be played as a red penalty area.
4. Yellow Penalty Area to be Played as Red Penalty Area Holes # \_\_\_ :  
During the play of hole #\_\_\_ the yellow penalty area is to be played as a red penalty area.
5. Dropping Zone/s for Yellow Penalty Area: Hole(s) # \_\_\_.  
When a player's ball is in a penalty area, including when it is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area even though not found, the player may take relief using one of the options under Rules 17.1d.

Or, as an additional option, the player may drop a ball in the dropping zone under penalty of one stroke.

(Optional additional wording) – provided the dropping zone is not nearer the hole than where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area.

Dropping Zone Location: #\_\_\_\_\_ - To the left of the penalty area in the fairway.  
#\_\_\_\_\_ - Short right of the penalty area.  
#\_\_\_\_\_ - On the forward tee.

6. Dropping Zones for Penalty Areas:

When a player's ball is in a penalty area, including when it is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area even though not found, during the play of holes #\_\_\_\_, #\_\_\_\_ and #\_\_\_\_; the player may take relief under Rule 17.1d or, as an extra option, he/she may drop a ball in the dropping zone under penalty of one stroke.

Dropping Zone Locations: Hole #\_\_\_\_ – Short of the penalty area on the forward tee  
Hole #\_\_\_\_ – Short of the penalty area on the forward tee  
Hole #\_\_\_\_ – Left of the penalty area in the fairway

7. Dropping Zone/s for Penalty Areas: Hole(s) #\_\_\_\_:

When a player's ball is in a penalty area on hole #\_\_\_\_, including when it is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area even though not found, the player may take relief using one of the options under Rules 17.1d.

If the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area (between the green stakes to the left or behind the green) The player may take relief under Rule 17.1d, or, as an additional option, he/she may drop a ball in the dropping zone under penalty of one stroke.

(Optional additional wording) - provided the dropping zone is not nearer the hole than where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area.

Dropping Zone Location: Short left of the green.

8. Penalty Areas, No Play Zone Signage:

Signs located in or around the penalty areas warning of environmentally-sensitive areas or wetlands usage may be disregarded by the player. Such signs are obstructions.

9. Drainage Channel

The drainage channel to the right of hole #\_\_\_\_ is to be treated as part of the general area and not as a penalty area.

10. Desert Areas / Volcanic Rock Areas

All desert (volcanic rock) areas are red penalty areas, and the edge of the penalty area is where the grass and desert (volcanic rock) areas meet.

All areas of lava are red penalty areas.

11. Artificial Wall Around Penalty Area

Where an artificial wall surrounds the edge of a penalty area or on hole #\_\_\_\_, the penalty area is defined by the outside/inside edge of the wall.

**BUNKERS**

1. Coquina Sand:  
Coquina sand areas such as that to the left of hole #\_\_\_ (tan color sand, containing shells, pebbles and the like) are part of the general area and not bunkers.

2. Bunkers:  
All areas of the course that were designed and built as bunkers will be played as bunkers whether or not they have been raked. This will mean that many bunkers that are positioned outside of the ropes as well as some areas of bunkers inside the ropes, close to the rope line, will likely include numerous footprints and tire tracks during play of the Championship. Such irregularities of surface are a part of the game and no free relief is available from these conditions.

3. No Bunkers on the Course:  
There are NO “bunkers” on the golf course. All sandy areas whether natural, prepared sand or enclosed with grass are part of the general area and are not bunkers.

The practice bunker located to the left of the 18<sup>th</sup> green is ground under repair and is part of the general area. Free relief is available under Rule 16.1b

The sand area in front, left and behind #\_\_ green is not a bunker and is part of the general area.

4. Edges of Bunkers:  
The edge of the bunker to the left of hole #\_\_\_ is defined by the outside edge of the blue stakes. The stakes are movable obstructions and are inside the bunker

The edge of the bunker left of #\_\_\_ green is defined by the blue line painted in the sand. If any part of the ball touches the line, then the ball is in the bunker.

Any areas of sand that have been raked are treated as a part of a bunker

Where required, blue dots/lines define the edges of the bunkers. If any part of the ball touches the dots/lines, then the ball is in the bunker.

## PUTTING GREENS

1. Edge of the Putting Green Defined: Hole #\_\_\_  
In certain areas, the edge of the putting green on hole #\_\_\_, is defined by (color) dots or a (color) line.  
A ball is on the putting green when any part of it touches the putting green. The dots or line are/is on/off the putting green and free relief is not available from them.

2. Edging Grooves/Encroachment Liners – Putting Greens:  
The edging grooves/encroachment liner around the aprons or fringes of the putting greens are ground under repair. If a player’s ball lies in or touches a groove or a groove interferes with the area of intended swing:  
i) Ball in General Area: The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b  
ii) Ball on the Putting Green: The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1d.

**OR**

Edging Grooves/ Encroachment Liners around a putting green are immovable obstructions and if applicable, free relief is available under Rule 16.1b or 16.1d.

3. Edging Grooves/Encroachment Liners – Fringe:

The grooves around the fringes of the putting greens are ground under repair. However, interference by a groove with the player's stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under Rule 16.1a.

If the ball lies in or touches the groove or the groove interferes with the area of the player's intended swing, relief is available under Rule 16.1b or 16.1d.

**OR**

Encroachment liners around the fringe of a putting green are immovable obstructions and if applicable, free relief is available under Rule 16.1b or 16.1d.

4. Mole Cricket Damage on Putting Green:  
Mole Cricket damage on the putting green is treated as ground under repair. If applicable, the player may proceed under Rule 16.1d.
5. Putting Green and Turf Nursery Hole # \_\_\_:  
The putting green and turf nursery to the right of # \_\_\_ green are not "wrong greens". However, they are treated as part of the general area.
6. Practice Green:  
The practice green located left of hole # \_\_\_ is not a wrong green and free relief is not required or permitted under Rule 13.1f

**OR**

The practice green located left of hole # \_\_\_ is not a wrong green and free relief is not required to be taken under Rule 13.1f, but it is ground under repair and a player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b

**ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS**

**(Including Immovable Obstructions, Dangerous Animal Condition & Embedded Ball)**

1. Earth Cracks:  
If a ball comes to rest in an earth crack, in any part of the general area (optional: cut to fairway height or less), such that any part of the ball lies below ground level, the player may be entitled to relief without penalty under Rule 16.1b, but only when so authorized by a member of the Committee.
2. Aeration Holes:  
If a ball comes to rest in an aeration hole or an aeration hole interferes with the player's area of intended swing in the general area, the player is entitled to relief without penalty under Rule 16.1b. There is no relief for interference with only the player's stance.
3. Mole Cricket Damage on Putting Green:  
Mole Cricket damage on the putting green is treated as ground under repair.  
If applicable, the player may proceed under Rule 16.1d.  
Note: Sand and loose soil on the putting green may be removed.
4. Ground Under Repair:  
In addition to item # \_\_\_ on the PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition Card, ground under repair includes depressions made by spectator seats, but only when so declared by a member of the Committee.  
Relief is for lie of ball or area of intended swing only.



**OR**

Ground Under Repair:

In addition to item #\_\_ on the PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition Card, ground under repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic have combined with wet conditions to affect materially the ground surface, but only when so declared by a member of the Committee.

**OR**

Ground Under Repair:

Relief is for lie of ball or area of intended swing only for the following:

- a) Seams of Cut Turf: All seams within the cut turf area are considered the same seam.
- b) Newly trenched areas including grass-covered cable trenches
- c) Depressions made by spectator seats, but only when so declared by a member of the Committee.

**OR**

Ground Under Repair:

- a) Areas defined by white lines (except dropping zones), including those marked for gallery crosswalks
- b) French drains, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones.
- c) Relief is for lie of ball or area of intended swing only for the following (in the general area only):
  - i) Seams of cut turf – All seams within the cut turf area are treated as the same seam in taking relief.
  - ii) Newly trenched areas
  - iii) Painted lines or dots in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less.
- d) Ground under repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic have combined with wet conditions to affect materially the ground surface, but only when so declared by a member of the Committee.

5. Bird/Animal Foraging Damage:

Areas of the golf course damaged by birds or other foraging animals may be ground under repair but only when so declared by a member of the Committee. If relief is available, it is for interference for the lie of ball or area of intended swing only.

6. Sand Crab Holes:

In addition to item #\_\_ on the PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition Card, ground under repair includes holes and casts made by Sand Crabs, but only when such holes or casts interfere with the lie of the ball or area of intended swing.

7. Flower Beds Surrounded by Cart Paths: (Hole # \_\_\_\_\_).

Flower beds that are surrounded by an artificially surfaced road or path (including everything growing within that area) and the road or path are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

8. Dropping Zone for Ground Under Repair: (Hole # \_\_\_\_\_).

If a player is entitled to relief from the ground under repair beyond #\_\_\_\_\_ green the player may proceed under Rule 16-1b or may drop a ball, without penalty, in the dropping zone.

(Optional additional wording) provided that the dropping zone is not nearer the hole than the original position of the ball.

Dropping Zone Location: Short left of the green in the rough.

9. Embedded Ball in Stacked Turf:  
Free relief is not allowed when a ball is embedded in stacked turf faces above bunkers.
10. Asphalt and Artificially Surfaced Roads and Paths:  
White lined areas of ground under repair tying into such roads or paths are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.
11. Railroad Ties, Curbing or Other Similar Artificial Edges  
Railroad ties, curbing or other similar artificial edges adjoining cart paths are part of the same obstruction.
12. Sprinkler Heads Adjacent to Putting Greens:  
The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is on the line of play and is:
  - a) Within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
  - b) Within two club-lengths of the ballException: There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.
13. Exposed Tree Roots in Fairways:  
If a player's ball is at rest in a portion of the general area cut to fairway height or less and there is interference from exposed tree roots that are in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less, the tree roots are treated as ground under repair. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b  
**But:** interference does not exist if the tree roots only interfere with the player's stance.
14. Animal Damage:  
In the general area, areas of damage caused by (animal type) are treated as ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1b.  
**But** interference does not exist if the damage only interferes with the player's stance
15. Ant Hills:  
Large or hard ant hills on the course are, at the player's option, loose impediments that may be removed under Rule 15.1 or ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1
16. Deer Hoof Damage:  
Damage that is clearly identifiable as having been caused by deer hoofs is ground under repair from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.
17. Mushrooms Growing on Putting Greens:  
Mushrooms that are attached on the putting green are ground under repair from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1d.
18. Flooded Bunker:  
The flooded bunker to the left of hole #\_\_\_ green is ground under repair in the general area. It is not treated as a bunker during the round.  
Optional:  
All other bunkers on the course, whether they contain temporary water or not, are still bunkers for all purposes under the Rules.
19. Drainage Channels Adjacent to Cart Paths:

Drainage channels that are made of artificial materials and run next to cart paths are treated as immovable obstructions and are part of the cart path. A player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b.

20. Bridges:  
All bridges throughout the course are treated as immovable obstructions.
21. Drain Covers:  
Drain covers throughout the golf course, if readily movable are treated as movable obstructions, if not readily movable, they are treated as immovable obstructions.
22. Decorative Landscape Areas:  
Decorative landscape areas (flowerbeds/shrubberies and the like) surrounded by an immovable obstruction are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

### **DROPPING ZONES**

1. Dropping Zone/s for Penalty Areas: Hole(s) # \_\_\_\_.

If a ball is in the penalty area on hole #\_\_\_\_, including when it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found came to rest in the penalty area, the player has these relief options, each for one penalty stroke:

- a) Take relief under Rule 17.1, or
- b) As an extra option, drop the original ball or another ball in the dropping zone located on the forward tee. The dropping zone is a relief area under Rule 14.3.

(Optional additional wording) – provided the dropping zone is not nearer the hole than where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area.

Dropping Zone Location: #\_\_\_\_ - To the left of the penalty area in the fairway.  
#\_\_\_\_ - Short right of the penalty area.  
#\_\_\_\_ - On the forward tee.

2. Dropping Zone for Ground Under Repair: (Hole # \_\_\_\_).

If a ball is in the ground under repair to the right of hole #\_\_\_\_ green, including when it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found came to rest in the ground under repair, the player may:

- a) Take free relief under Rule 16.1, or
- b) As an extra option, take free relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in the dropping zone located (where located). The dropping zone is a relief area under Rule 14.3

(Optional additional wording) provided that the dropping zone is not nearer the hole than the original position of the ball.

Dropping Zone Location: Short left of the green in the rough.

3. Dropping Zone for Immovable Obstruction: (Hole # \_\_\_\_).

If a ball has interference from the (Immovable Obstruction) to the left of hole #\_\_\_\_ fairway, including when it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found came to rest in the immovable obstruction, the player may:

- a) Take free relief under Rule 16.1, or
- b) As an extra option, take free relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in the dropping zone located (where located). The dropping zone is a relief area under Rule 14.3

(Optional additional wording) provided that the dropping zone is not nearer the hole than the original position of the ball.

Dropping Zone Location: Short left of the green in the rough.

### **LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS**

1. Mulched or Gravel Pathways:

Mulched or gravel pathways are immovable obstructions. Individual pieces of mulch or gravel are loose impediments. Elsewhere, when used other than on pathways, mulch or gravel are loose impediments.

**OR** (when no gravel is present)

Mulched pathways are immovable obstructions. Individual pieces of mulch are loose impediments.

Elsewhere, when used other than on pathways, mulch is a loose impediment.

**OR**

Mulch and Gravel:

Mulch or gravel that is used as an artificial surface on paths such as that short right of #\_\_\_ green is either a loose impediment or an immovable obstruction, at the option of the player. Mulch, when used around trees and/or beautification areas, is a loose impediment.

2. Spanish Moss: (Air Plants or any like vegetation).

Spanish Moss in a tree is considered growing or attached, therefore it cannot be removed. When it has fallen to the ground, it is a loose impediment.

### **INTEGRAL OBJECTS**

1. Integral Objects Include the Following:

- a) Mesh screening or cables when closely attached to boundary fences.
- b) Stone or rock walls when located within penalty areas. Rocks that have become detached from such walls are treated as loose impediments.

2. Erosion Control Mesh Netting:

Erosion control mesh netting when covering or supporting rocks in or around penalty areas is an integral object.

3. Integral Objects Include the Following:

- a) Screening attached to any boundary fence
- b) Retaining walls and pilings when located within penalty areas
- c) Tree wrappings, electrical wires, light fixtures, cables, tree signs and lightning rods when closely attached to trees.
- d) Natural rock outcrops.
- e) Erosion control mesh netting when covering or supporting rocks in or around penalty areas.
- f) Natural sand pathways

4. Natural Rock Outcrops:

Naturally occurring rock outcrops are a part of the course from which no free relief is available.

## **PERMANENTLY ELEVATED POWER LINES OR CABLES**

1. **Permanently Elevated Power Lines or Cables:**

If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line (or tower or a wire or pole supporting a power line) during the play of hole #\_\_, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6 for what to do).

**OR**

During the play of any hole, if a ball strikes a permanently elevated power line or cable on the course, the stroke counts, and the player must play the ball from where it lies or proceed under the Rules.

## **TEEING AREA**

1. **Starting Point Defined:** For the purpose of applying Rule 5.3a, the starting point for hole #1 and hole #10 is defined by the rope, gallery stakes, green bike fencing and/or blue stakes, blue dots or blue lines.

2. **Tee Markers:** All MALE contestants will play from the **WHITE PGA of America** tee markers. All FEMALE contestants will play from the **YELLOW PGA of America** tee markers.

## **STANDARD FORMAT FOR LOCAL RULES OF PLAY**

**Notice to Players Example (formerly Supplementary Rules):**

**TOURNAMENT NAME**

Date

Facility - course

### **Notice to Players**

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf effective January 2019, the PGA of America Local Rules and Terms of the Competition Card, the Local Rule for this Championship regarding Pace of Play which is available at the starting tees, and, where applicable, by the following Local Rules (**optional** and Terms of the Competition), which apply to this golf course.

Notes

PGA of America Rules Committee

# Playing Ability Test

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## RULES, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES GOVERNING PACE OF PLAY

A *round* of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace. Each player should recognize that his pace of play is likely to affect how long it will take other players to play their *rounds*, including both those in the player's own group and those in following groups. To encourage and enforce prompt play, and in addition to the provisions of Rule 5.6, the PGA of America Rules Committee has adopted the following Local Rule setting a Pace of Play Policy:

1. **Unreasonable Delay of Play:** A player must not unreasonably delay play, either when playing a hole or between the play of two holes.
2. **Pace of Play Time:** All groups of four (4) are expected to play at a pace not to exceed **4 hours 35 minutes**, while all groups of three (3) are expected to play at a pace not to exceed **4 hours 12 minutes**.
3. **Definition of Out of Position:** The first group to start from the 1<sup>st</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> tee, or after a “starter’s time,” will be considered out of position if, at any time during the *round*, the group’s cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes played. Any following group will be considered out of position if a) it has exceeded the time allowed for the number of holes played **and** b) reaches the tee on a par 3 hole and the preceding group has cleared the next tee, or fails to clear the tee of a par 4 hole before the preceding group has cleared the *putting green*, or reaches the tee of a par 5 hole when the preceding group is on the *putting green*. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.
4. **Procedure When Group is Out of Position:** *Referees* will monitor pace of play and decide whether a group that is “out of position” should be timed. An assessment of whether there are any recent mitigating circumstances, e.g. a lengthy ruling, *lost* ball, unplayable ball, etc. will be made.

If a decision is made to time the players, each player in the group will be subject to individual timing and a *referee* will advise each player that they are “out of position” and they are being timed.

In exceptional circumstances, an individual player, or two players within a group of three may be timed instead of an entire group.

5. **The Maximum Time Allocated Per Stroke:** Is **40 seconds**. **Ten** extra seconds are allowed for the first player to play: a) a tee shot on a par 3 hole; b) an approach shot to the green; and c) a chip or putt.

The timing will start when a player has had sufficient time to reach the ball, it is his turn to play, and he is able to play without interference or distraction. Time taken to determine distance and select a club will count as time taken for the next *stroke*.

On the *putting green*, timing will start when the player has had a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and *replace* the ball, repair damage that interferes with the *line of play* and move *loose impediments* on the *line of play*. Time spent looking at the *line of play* from beyond the *hole* and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next *stroke*.

Timings will be taken from the moment it is decided by the *referee* that it is the player's turn to play and he is able to play without interference or distraction. The first time a player exceeds the time limit listed

above, he will be cautioned that any further time in excess of this limit will be treated as a breach of this Local Rule.

Timing ceases when a group is back in position.

**Penalty for Breach of Local Rule:**

- Penalty for first breach: One-stroke penalty.
- Penalty for second breach: **General Penalty** applied in addition to the penalty for the first breach.
- Penalty for third breach: **Disqualification.**

Until a player has been advised of a bad time, he cannot incur a further bad time.

**NOTE:** The *Committee* reserves the right, at any time, to time a group when the *Committee* considers it necessary. Further, if a player is determined by the *Committee* to be unreasonably slow, he may be timed individually at the *Committee's* discretion regardless of whether his group is out of position. Players should also be aware that the *Committee* may assess a “bad time” to a player in a group which is out of position if the player makes no effort to help his group get back in position. Examples of this would be a player who unreasonably delays play between *strokes* or holes.

**Procedure When Again Out of Position During Same Round:** If a group is “out of position” more than once during a *round*, the above procedure will apply on each occasion. Bad times and the application of penalties in the same *round* will be carried forward until the *round* is completed. A player will not be penalized if he has a second bad time before being advised of the earlier bad time.

**IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THESE PACE-OF-PLAY GUIDELINES, A MEMBER OF THE RULES COMMITTEE SHALL NOT TOLERATE ABUSE, ORAL OR OTHERWISE, BY A PLAYER. SUCH ABUSE MAY CONSTITUTE CONDUCT UNBECOMING A PROFESSIONAL.**

# Playing Ability Test

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## **RULES AND POLICIES GOVERNING USE OF AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION**

The PGA PAT Examiner is authorized to impose penalties consisting of a fine of \$100 for the first offense, a fine of \$150 for the second offense, and suspension from PAT play for the third offense for any of the following violations:

A player's clubs must be transported on a golf car. **Only players** may ride in a golf car and no more than two players are allowed to ride in the golf car at one time.

Only two golf cars will be allowed per group.

Golf cars should not be taken from the golf car staging area until both players have arrived and are ready to play.

Spectator golf cars are not allowed. Only official golf cars authorized by the PAT Examiner will be allowed on the course.

Golf cars must not be driven up to the sides of greens and/or tees. Golf cars should be driven on the cart paths as much as possible and across the fairway at a 90 angle. **When so restricted, golf cars must remain on paths at all times.**

It is imperative that all players return their golf cars to the golf car staging area immediately upon completion of their round. Do not leave them at the various courses or their respective practice areas or parking lot.



# Playing Ability Test

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## DETERMINING THE TARGET SCORE

Successful completion of the test shall be achieved by shooting a combined score that does not exceed the target score. The target score is computed by multiplying the appropriate USGA approved course rating (which recognizes the appropriate course yardage for men and women) by two and adding fifteen to that number.

**Example:** If the course rating is 72.4, the target score would be  $72.4 \times 2 = 144.8$ . Drop the fraction or decimal (after multiplying by two), leaving 144 and add 15, which equals 159. Regardless of how large or small the fraction may be, either from the exact course rating or the figure, which results from adding two course ratings and the 15 strokes, the fraction is dropped and not rounded.

This procedure is based on a legal decision which detailed the determination of the target score, as well as the PGA Constitution which states that a person must play "a creditable game of golf by making no more than the score" indicated for 36 holes. **Women's target scores will be calculated from the closest women's rated tee location.**

### Posting a Score From Non-rated Set of Tees on a Rated Course

If USGA Course Ratings from a selected set of tees is not available, locate the nearest set of rated tees for the appropriate gender. Determine the yardage difference between the set of tees being played and the rated set of tees. Find the range that includes the yardage difference on the following table. Add the resulting table values if the non-rated tees are longer than the rated tees, or subtract the resulting values if the non-rated tees are shorter than the rated tees.

If the yardage difference is more than 1,250 yards for women or 802 yards for men, find one-half of the yardage difference on the Table, double the corresponding numbers, and apply the procedure above. For example, if a man finds a yardage difference of 1,400 yards, he doubles the values for 700 yards from the Table, and adds 6.4 ( $3.2 \times 2$ ) to the Course Rating and 16 ( $8 \times 2$ ) to the Slope Rating.

**Example:** A woman plays from tees, which are not rated for women. The women's Course Rating from the forward tees is 71.6. The non-rated tees are 396 yards longer than the forward tees. She enters the 387 to 404 yard range, which corresponds to adding 2.2 to the Course Rating of the forward tees. She will post her score with a Course Rating of 73.8 ( $71.6 + 2.2$ ). Please keep in mind that regardless of how large or small the fraction may be, **the fraction is dropped and not rounded up.**

**DETERMINING THE TARGET SCORE (Continued)**

**WOMEN'S RATINGS ADJUSTMENTS FROM UNRATED TEES**

Yards	Change In Course Rating	Change In Slope Rating
0 to 8	0.0	0
9 to 26	0.1	0
27 to 44	0.2	0
45 to 62	0.3	1
63 to 80	0.4	1
81 to 98	0.5	1
99 to 116	0.6	1
117 to 134	0.7	1
135 to 152	0.8	2
153 to 170	0.9	2
171 to 188	1.0	2
189 to 206	1.1	2
207 to 224	1.2	2
225 to 242	1.3	3
243 to 260	1.4	3
261 to 278	1.5	3
279 to 296	1.6	3
297 to 314	1.7	4
315 to 332	1.8	4
333 to 350	1.9	4
351 to 368	2.0	4
369 to 386	2.1	4
387 to 404	2.2	5
405 to 422	2.3	5
423 to 440	2.4	5
441 to 458	2.5	5
459 to 476	2.6	5
477 to 494	2.7	6
495 to 512	2.8	6
513 to 530	2.9	6
531 to 548	3.0	6
549 to 566	3.1	7
567 to 584	3.2	7
585 to 602	3.3	7
601 to 620	3.4	7

Yards	Change In Course Rating	Change In Slope Rating
621 to 638	3.5	7
639 to 656	3.6	8
657 to 674	3.7	8
675 to 692	3.8	8
693 to 710	3.9	8
711 to 728	4.0	8
729 to 746	4.1	9
747 to 764	4.2	9
765 to 782	4.3	9
783 to 800	4.4	9
801 to 818	4.5	10
819 to 836	4.6	10
837 to 854	4.7	10
855 to 872	4.8	10
873 to 890	4.9	10
891 to 908	5.0	11
909 to 926	5.1	11
927 to 944	5.2	11
945 to 962	5.3	11
963 to 980	5.4	11
981 to 998	5.5	12
999 to 1016	5.6	12
1,017 to 1,034	5.7	12
1,035 to 1,052	5.8	12
1,053 to 1,070	5.9	13
1,071 to 1,088	6.0	13
1,089 to 1,106	6.1	13
1,107 to 1,124	6.2	13
1,125 to 1,142	6.3	13
1,143 to 1,160	6.4	14
1,161 to 1,178	6.5	14
1,179 to 1,196	6.6	14
1,197 to 1,214	6.7	14
1,215 to 1,232	6.8	14
1,233 to 1,250	6.9	15

**Key:** Find the range that includes the difference in yardage between the rated tees and the non-rated tees. The middle column is the change in Course Rating, and the column to the right is the change in Slope Rating. If the non-rated tees are longer than the rated tees, their ratings are higher; if the non-rated tees are shorter, their ratings are lower.

**DETERMINING THE TARGET SCORE (Continued)**

**MEN'S RATINGS ADJUSTMENTS FROM UNRATED TEES**

<b>Yards</b>	<b>Change In Course Rating</b>	<b>Change In Slope Rating</b>
0 to 10	0.0	0
11 to 32	0.1	0
33 to 54	0.2	0
55 to 76	0.3	1
77 to 98	0.4	1
99 to 120	0.5	1
121 to 142	0.6	1
143 to 164	0.7	2
165 to 186	0.8	2
187 to 208	0.9	2
209 to 230	1.0	2
231 to 252	1.1	3
253 to 274	1.2	3
275 to 296	1.3	3
297 to 318	1.4	3
319 to 340	1.5	4
341 to 362	1.6	4
363 to 384	1.7	4
385 to 406	1.8	4

<b>Yards</b>	<b>Change In Course Rating</b>	<b>Change In Slope Rating</b>
407 to 428	1.9	5
429 to 450	2.0	5
451 to 472	2.1	5
473 to 494	2.2	5
495 to 516	2.3	5
517 to 538	2.4	6
539 to 560	2.5	6
561 to 582	2.6	6
583 to 604	2.7	6
605 to 626	2.8	7
627 to 648	2.9	7
649 to 670	3.0	7
671 to 692	3.1	7
693 to 714	3.2	8
715 to 736	3.3	8
737 to 758	3.4	8
759 to 780	3.5	8
781 to 802	3.6	9

**Key:** Find the range that includes the difference in yardage between the rated tees and the non-rated tees. The middle column is the change in Course Rating, and the column to the right is the change in Slope Rating. If the non-rated tees are longer than the rated tees, their ratings are higher; if the non-rated tees are shorter, their ratings are lower.

# Playing Ability Test

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## TEST INFORMATION

### REGISTRATIONS

- Registrations are taken in order of receipt at the PGA of America National Office and through [www.PGA.org](http://www.PGA.org). There is a 7-day registration deadline for every PAT. The registration fee, paid at the time of registration, is \$100.00 for each PAT and the registrant is responsible for all additional on-site fees.
- For schedule information or to register with an American Express, MasterCard or Visa, visit [www.PGA.org](http://www.PGA.org), or call Membership Services at (800) 474-2776.

### WAITING LIST POLICY

- If a PAT becomes full before the deadline date, a wait list will be established. At the registration deadline a wait list report including the wait list registrants in order of registration is sent to the Section Office. To determine your wait list status, you may contact the National Office prior to the deadline and the Section Office after the deadline. If there are any late cancellations or no shows the day of play, the Section will fill any remaining spots from the wait list, in wait list order, from those who present themselves on site. If a spot does not become available off the wait list, an individual should contact the National Office at (800) 474-2776 to have the fees transferred to another available PAT or have funds refunded.

### TRANSFERS/REFUNDS/CANCELLATIONS

- There are no transfers or refunds from a PAT inside the 7-day registration deadline unless it is a cancellation after passing a previous 36-hole PAT (this does not include meeting the 18 hole minimum PAT requirement) or off a wait list. An individual who passes the 36-hole PAT and is signed up for another, must contact the National Office at (800) 474-2776, within three business days of passing the 36-hole PAT to have the funds refunded. A competitor, who is unable to participate in a PAT and does not notify the National Office and Section Office at least 72 hours prior to the PAT, will be suspended from playing in another PAT for 90 days.
- A competitor who withdraws during play or no cards (does not complete and submit a card for two 18 hole rounds) will be suspended from competing in another PAT for 90 days from the date of that PAT. If that competitor is signed up for another PAT within the suspension period, that individual will be canceled from that PAT and the funds will be refunded.
- An individual, who cancels, withdraws or no cards due to injury or illness may submit medical documentation to the National Office no later than three business days following the PAT for review for refund, and/or waiver of suspension.

## **PLAYING ABILITY TEST INFORMATION (Continued)**

- If a PAT is canceled for not meeting the minimum registrations, you will be notified by the National Office. If a PAT is canceled due to weather, you should contact the Section Office.

### **DRESS CODE**

- Female participants must wear slacks, culottes, walking shorts, or golf skirts which constitute acceptable clothing worn by women in connection with participation in professional golf tournaments.
- Male participants must wear slacks and participants shall not wear shorts anywhere on club property. Jeans are not to be considered slacks.

### **THE COMPETITION**

- In order for the competition to take place, the course must have a minimum USGA course rating 68.0 for both men and women. Men under age 50 will play from a minimum of 6,350 yards to a maximum of 6,700 yards, while Women under age 50 will play from a minimum of 5,400 yards to a maximum of 5,700 yards. Men age 50 and over will play from 94% of the Men's under age 50 yardage and Women age 50 and over will play from 94% of the Women's under age 50 yardage, while retaining the Men's and Women's under age 50 target score.
- The golf course is set up with the hole locations in a generally flat area of the green.
- Target score is determined by multiplying the USGA course rating by two (2) and adding fifteen strokes. (After multiplying, any remaining fraction is dropped.)
- The PGA of America allows PAT Examiners to adopt a local rule for preferred lies should extenuating circumstances occur and warrant such a change. For more information regarding the PGA of America's policies regarding the allowance of preferred lies in a PAT, please review Page 5 of this manual.

### **GOLF CAR**

- Contestants' clubs must be transported on a golf car; no more than two cars per grouping. Only players may ride in a golf car.
- Only two people are allowed to ride in the golf car at one time.
- When one golf car is employed by two players, the golf car and any person or thing in it is always deemed to be the equipment of the player whose ball is involved, except when the golf car is being moved by one of the players employing it, the golf car and its contents are considered the equipment of that player.
- Spectator golf cars are not allowed. Only official golf cars authorized by the PAT Examiner will be allowed on the course.
- It is imperative that all players return their golf cars to the golf car staging area immediately upon completion of their round. Do not leave them at the various courses or their respective practice areas or parking lot.

## PLAYING ABILITY TEST INFORMATION (Continued)

### OTHER POLICIES

- To enter into the PGA Professional Golf Management Program, the registrant must attempt the PAT at least once within eight years prior to registration. Within that time frame, shoot one 18-hole score in a PAT that is equal to or less than the PAT target score for 18-holes, plus 5 strokes. Each PAT score has a validity date of eight years. Any registrant, who enters the PGA PGM Program without successfully passing the PAT, must pass the 36-hole PAT prior to registering for Level 3 testing. The 36-hole PAT remains valid during the Acceptable Progress period. For more information on the PGA Professional Golf Management Program, visit [www.PGA.org](http://www.PGA.org).
- The PGA reserves the right to preclude an individual from participating in a PAT based on prior PAT scores that were unreasonably above the target score.
- There must be at least ten registrants in a PAT at the deadline in order for the PAT to be held unless approved by both the National Office and Section Office.
- Starting times are sent by the Section prior to the PAT. If you do not receive this listing, you should contact the Section Office.
- A photo identification is required at the PAT site, lack thereof is cause for disqualification.
- If allowed by both the Section and golf course, caddies are permitted.
- Devices that measure distance are permitted. If the device measures other factors they must be disabled.
- The use of alcohol, legalized marijuana and any illegal substance is prohibited during play of the PAT.
- For conduct unbecoming a golf professional during a PAT, the registrant may be assessed a two stroke penalty. A second offense will result in disqualification. PAT participants are advised that actions determined by the PGA of America to be construed as conduct unbecoming a golf professional in any way connected with the PAT (without limitation unprofessional behavior displayed or unprofessional actions of any nature or description committed during practice rounds, the PAT test, or committed subsequent to the completion of a PAT) may result in the suspension of such an individual from participating in PATs for a period up to two (2) years at the sole discretion of the PGA of America.
- To preserve the integrity of the game and our PGA competitions, please be reminded that each player has the duty and responsibility to protect the rest of the field from questionable practices and Rules infractions. If you are doubtful as to the rights or procedure for either yourself or a fellow competitor, seek the counsel of the PAT Examiner.
- Scores from the first two competition rounds of a collegiate golf tournament (Division I, II, III and NAIA) may be used to satisfy the 36-hole PGA Playing Ability Test requirement. Playing Ability Test validity would extend eight years past the date of passing. Applicant would be responsible for submitting documentation of scores, yardage and course rating to verify Playing Ability Test eligibility, and all PGA minimum standards for the Playing Ability Test must be met.
- The PAT schedule and deadlines are subject to revision. For an updated schedule visit [www.PGA.org](http://www.PGA.org). All deadlines are based on Eastern Time. For any questions regarding PAT policies, contact the Membership Services Department at (800) 474-2776.

# Playing Ability Test

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## **PAT EXAMINER AND HOST PROFESSIONAL PAYOUTS**

When a Playing Ability Test is conducted with ten or more registrants the PAT examiner receives a flat fee of \$400 and the Host Professional receives a flat fee of \$125. Please see the chart below detailing the payout based on the number of registrants. Please note that the Section and National Office must approve Playing Ability Tests being conducted with less than ten registrants.

<b>Number of Registrants</b>	<b>Examiner Payout</b>	<b>Host Professional Payout</b>
10	\$400	\$125
9	\$375	\$100
8	\$350	\$75
7	\$325	\$50
6	\$300	\$25