

A male disc golfer is captured in a dynamic pose, mid-throw, wearing a black t-shirt with a Nike logo and dark shorts. A blue disc is visible in the upper right. The background features a stylized disc golf course sign with the number 12 and a chain-link fence. The overall color scheme is dominated by blue and teal.

Professional Disc Golf Association's

Competition Manual

for Disc Golf Events



www.pdga.com

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PDGA Competition Manual

Introduction

The PDGA Competition Manual outlines procedures and guidelines for PDGA events, and is to be used in conjunction with the Official Rules of Play and Tour Standards document. These procedures and guidelines are required for all PDGA sanctioned events unless specified otherwise. If a Tournament Director finds any provision in the document unacceptable a waiver may be requested by contacting the Tour Manager at tour@pdga.com or 706.261.6342.

The Spirit of the Game

Disc golf is played, for the most part, without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of disc golf.

Section 1: Tournament Procedures

1.1 Player Eligibility

A. All members in good standing of the PDGA are eligible to compete in any division for which they qualify based upon class (Professional or Amateur), age, sex, and player rating unless approved in advance by the PDGA Tour Manager. Please see Section 2: Division Qualification for more specific information on division eligibility.

B. Current PDGA Membership is required to compete in any Major, Elite Series/National Tour, or SuperTour (A Tier) event.

C. In all other PDGA sanctioned events, players who are not current members may compete by paying a non-member fee. This fee is required for all players except players competing in a Junior division.

1.2 Tournament Registration

A. Pre-registration is required for PDGA Major & Elite Series/National Tour events and strongly suggested for all other tier events.

B. A player is not officially "entered" into the event until their entry fee is received along with their registration information at the tournament address.

C. All openings in the field of play will be filled on a first come-first serve basis, until the allocated places have been filled.

D. The order of entries received will be according to the postmark of the package containing the entry fee payment.

E. Entries received via an on-line entry method shall be date and time-stamped based on the actual time the entry fee is received at the on-line entry point.

F. In the event that multiple entries are received simultaneously, the player with the lowest PDGA number shall have priority.

G. Posting of the pre-registration list on pdga.com is required for Major & Elite Series/National Tour, and A-Tier events and strongly suggested for all tier events.

1.3 Withdraws and Refunds

A. A player may officially withdraw only by contacting the Tournament Director.

B. Players must email or phone their withdrawals to the Tournament Director only at the contact information posted for the Tournament.

C. Discussions with persons other than the Tournament Director, including other tournament staff, shall not be considered official.

D. No refunds will be issued after the 7th day prior to the start of the event, but the player shall be sent a players package if one was provided to event competitors.

E. Withdrawals made before the 7th day prior to the start of the event shall receive a 50% refund.

F. Withdrawals made 14 days prior to the start of the event shall be refunded 100 %, less postage and handling, which shall not exceed 10% of the entry fee.

G. These criteria may be relaxed at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

1.4 Event Check-In

A. Pre tournament check-in is required for Major & Elite Series/National Tour events and suggested for all other tier events.

B. Any player who does not check-in by the time specified by the Tournament Director shall forfeit their official place and entry fee. Exceptions will be made only at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.

1.5 Practice Rounds and Beginning Play

A. A player is responsible for scheduling their practice rounds prior to the event. Availability of the course and its tournament set-up for practice rounds may vary (see Tour Standards for details). The course or courses are closed to practice during the tournament and all other times designated by the Tournament Director.

B. Two types of starts will be used to begin competitive play:

(1) **Shotgun Starts** (rounds where several groups start simultaneously): At a scheduled time, scorecard(s) shall be distributed to the players at Tournament Central. After the cards have been distributed, groups shall be given adequate time to reach their assigned teeing areas. A loud noisemaker, such as an air horn, shall be used to indicate that there are two minutes remaining until tee off. This signal shall be a series of two short blasts. At this time, players are to end practice and all practice shots and move promptly to their teeing areas. A throw by a player between the two minute signal and the start of the round shall receive a warning if observed by two or more players or an official. After being warned, subsequent throws by the player during this period, if observed by two or more players or an official, shall result in one penalty throw added to the player's score, regardless of the number of throws. An extended blast of the noisemaker begins the round and signals the scorekeepers to call the throwing orders.

If a player is not present to throw when it is his or her turn, the scorekeeper shall allow 30 seconds. If the player has not thrown after the 30 seconds has elapsed, a score of par plus four is to be entered for that hole. This procedure continues on any subsequent holes for which a player is absent. No holes shall be replayed. If a complete round is missed, or if a player does not finish a round, the player may, at the discretion of the Tournament Director, be disqualified.

(2) **Staggered Starts or Tee Times** (rounds where groups start one after another on a certain hole): The player shall start at the time announced by the Tournament Director. Players may practice until their group prepares to tee off provided their practice does not distract players on the course. If a player is not present to throw when it is his or her turn, the scorekeeper shall allow 30 seconds. If the player has not thrown by then, a score of par plus four is to be entered for that hole. This procedure continues on any subsequent tee offs for which a player is absent. No holes shall be replayed. If a complete round is missed, or if a player does not finish a round, the player may, at the discretion of the Tournament Director, be disqualified.

C. It is the sole responsibility of the player to be at the course, ready to play in time for the start of their round.

1.6 Grouping and Sectioning

A. Professional and Amateur players should not be grouped together, and players competing in different divisions should be segregated from each other during play as much as practicable.

B. All players within a division for the first round should be grouped via two methods:

- (1) Random grouping; players within a division may be randomly grouped for the first round.
 - (2) Player Rating grouping; players within a division may use player rating to set first round groups. Highest rated player starting on the lowest number hole, the second highest rated player starting on the following hole, etc. This process would continue until all starting holes have been filled.
- C. For subsequent rounds, players should be grouped by division, as much as practicable, then by total score from all previous rounds.
- D. To promote fairness, groups shall not be less than three players, except under extenuating circumstances, as deemed necessary by the Tournament Director. In cases where fewer than three players are required to play together, an official is required to accompany the group and may play as long as this does not interfere with the competing players.
- E. Groups shall not be more than five players and should be limited to four players whenever possible.
- F. When there are more entrants than can play together in one round, the field of competitors may be split into sections or pools.
- G. If conditions differently affect play among sections, the Tournament Director may consider using a sectioning procedure to determine advancement. Under this procedure, a proportionate number of advancing players would be taken from each section by score and their scores would not be carried forward.

1.7 Suspension of Play

A. If, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, lightning, excessive rain or hazardous conditions exist that make it impractical or dangerous to continue play, the tournament shall be suspended. The signal to suspend play shall be made in the same fashion as the signal to start, but using three short blasts. These blasts should be repeated at least once within a minute time-frame and the Tournament Director should make any necessary efforts to ensure all groups could hear the signal.

B. Players shall immediately stop play and mark the lie of each member of the group. A natural object is sufficient to mark the approximate lie from which the player shall resume play. Players shall then return to the first teeing area, clubhouse, tournament central or area designated by the Tournament Director.

C. Players shall resume play from their approximate lies as established when the round was halted. The approximate lie is determined by a majority of the group.

D. The Tournament Director may allow players to take a break while waiting for weather to improve, but may require players to return at a time assigned by the Tournament Director until play resumes or until the round is postponed.

E. Play shall be resumed using the same signals to the players as at the start of the round - a two-minute warning consisting of two short blasts, then a single extended blast to indicate the round restarting two minutes later.

F. The Tournament Director may postpone the incomplete portion of the round for a later date

if, in the Tournament Director's opinion, the conditions will not improve or if darkness will fall prior to the projected finish time.

G. Partial round scores shall be carried forward to the completion of the round whenever the round is resumed.

H. A player who stops playing before a signal to stop has been given shall receive two penalty throws if, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, the player stopped playing prematurely.

I. The Tournament Director will make every effort to complete all rounds of the tournament as scheduled.

- (1) If a total of 54 holes or fewer holes are scheduled. All players must complete a minimum of 18 holes for the event to be considered official.
- (2) If a total of 72 holes are scheduled. All players must complete a minimum of 36 holes for the event to be considered official.
- (3) If these criteria are not met, all efforts will be made to reschedule the event. If rescheduling is impossible, a full refund will be issued minus players package, PDGA, and other associated event fees.

J. Based upon course availability, and if less than one half of the field needs to complete a round necessary to declare the event official, the tournament may be completed the day after the final round was scheduled. All suspended rounds shall be completed, unless conditions exist that make it impossible. If such conditions exist, the results shall be final as of the last completed round as long as the necessary hole requirements are met.

K. The completion of a suspended round is a higher priority than a future round and thus future rounds shall be canceled in order to complete a suspended round.

1.8 Reduction of Field Size

A. The field may be cut for a semi-finals or finals at the discretion of the Tournament Director, provided this is announced well in advance of the event.

B. Unless announced in advance by the Tournament Director all ties for a semi-final or final cut will be broken by the use of a tiebreaker. (See Section 1.9)

C. Making the cut line at or above the payout line is highly recommended so that all players who make the cut get paid.

D. Any eligible player who chooses not to participate in a semi-final or final shall receive cash or prizes equal to finishing last in the appropriate cut.

1.9 Tie Breakers

A. Between rounds when the groups are being reset, tied positions shall be broken. The player with the lowest score in the most recent round shall have the highest ranking when the scorecards/positions are reset. In the event of ties for lowest score across all previous rounds, the ties shall be broken by the Tournament Director through a consistently applied manner such as lowest PDGA number or alphabetical by last name.

B. Final ties for first place in any division or for the reduction of field size must be broken by sudden death play. Sudden death play shall begin with hole number one unless a different hole or series of holes is designated by the Tournament Director prior to the start of the tournament.

C. First place cash/prize must be awarded to the division winner and listed in the event results. Cash or prizes may not be evenly split between any players tied for first place.

D. Final ties for other ranks shall be officially recorded as ties. Prize money distribution to tied players (other than for first place) shall be determined by adding the total money allocated to the number of positions represented by the tied players and dividing that by the number of players tied. Trophy distribution for ties may be determined by sudden death play or by any related disc golf skill event determined by the Tournament Director, but only for the purpose of awarding trophies, the players must remain officially recorded as tied in the results.

1.10 Distribution of Prizes

A. Any prizes (money or merchandise) declined by a player must pass down to the next finishing position. (Example: If a player placing third declines his prize, the player in fourth place will receive third place prize, the player in fifth will receive fourth place prize, etc.) Tournaments are allowed to retain prizes that have been declined by all players within a division only after the declined prizes have been passed through all finishing positions. This does not include an Amateur player requesting merchandise in lieu of cash in a Professional division.

B. The usage of skins (and other similar formats) is permitted at PDGA events but those scores are not allowed to determine a player's overall standing in the event and prizes are not credited towards a player's winnings.

C. Any prizes that a player has earned will be distributed at the completion of the event once the results have been tabulated and verified.

(1) Tournament Directors may award prizes earlier at their discretion.

(2) Players who leave before the official distribution of prizes do not relinquish their winnings but are responsible for any associated shipping costs.

1.11 Officials

A. To be eligible to serve as an official, an individual must be a current PDGA member and have demonstrated knowledge of the rules by passing the PDGA Official's Exam. Upon significant changes to the Rules of Play, the PDGA Board of Directors may require officials to pass an updated Official's Exam to retain certification as an official.

B. Tournament Directors are required to pass the Official's Exam before they may sanction an event.

C. Each official must pass the PDGA Officials Exam, and must carry a copy of the rules.

D. Non-playing certified officials appointed by the Tournament Director may actively make rulings during any tournament play that they witness. If an appointed official competes in the tournament, he or she may not officiate for any ruling within his or her own division. The official's ruling supersedes the ruling of the group, but an appeal may be made to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director may empower non-certified officials to act as spotters for a specific spotting purpose. The ruling of such a spotter supersedes the ruling of the group.

Section 2: Division Qualifications

2.1 General

A. Players are not allowed to enter a division for which they are ineligible. Please see the online Divisions, Ratings, and Point Factors table for specifics.

B. A player is solely responsible for knowing what division(s) they are eligible to compete in. Entry into an ineligible division may result in disqualification from the event and/or suspension from PDGA events.

C. Players are allowed to compete in only one division per event unless the event has divisions competing on a different day or weekend and is listed as two distinct entries in the PDGA calendar.

D. A player must properly identify themselves when competing in a PDGA sanctioned event. Players who wish to remain anonymous or who assume a false identity will be disqualified from the event and face potential suspension from the PDGA tour.

E. Professional players entering into a Professional division compete for money and Amateur players entering into a Professional division may accept merchandise in lieu of cash.

F. Players entering into an Amateur division compete for trophies and/or prizes.

G. Female players may compete in male divisions if they wish, but male players may not compete in female divisions.

H. A player registered as an Amateur may compete in any Professional division for which they are eligible based on age and sex.

I. A player registered as a Professional may only compete in Amateur divisions in select cases. (See Section 2.4 for specifics)

J. A Tournament Director may, by giving adequate public notice, restrict the divisions offered. Absent such notice, the Tournament Director shall offer for competition any division which has four or more players that are eligible and wishing to compete. Tournament Directors may offer divisions with less than four players at their discretion.

K. All "Bump" rules are invalid and not allowed at PDGA sanctioned events. Players shall be allowed to play in any divisions they might be eligible for, if those divisions are offered by the Tournament Director.

2.2 Exceptions

A. Players are allowed to enter a ratings based division they would otherwise be ineligible to participate only under the following circumstances

- (1) If approved before the event by the PDGA Tour Manager.
- (2) Players who have become ineligible for a division due to a ratings update may participate for two weeks following the update, provided they were pre-registered for the event in question, at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- (3) If competing in an applicable points series (see Section 2.2 B for specifics)

B. Players may be allowed to enter a ratings based division they would otherwise be ineligible to participate in as part of a points Series provided that:

- (1) The Series Director has contacted the PDGA prior to and received approval from the PDGA Tour Manager.

- (2) The Series allows players to stay in the division for the entire Series.
- (3) The player has not competed in a higher division at any time during the Series.
- (4) The players rating does not exceed 20 points above the rating ceiling for the division they wish to compete in.

2.3 Reclassification

A. Professional to Amateur

- (1) Players registered with the PDGA as Professionals may petition the Tour Manager for reclassification back to Amateur.

B. Amateur to Professional

- (1) An Amateur wishing to change their classification to Professional may do so by contacting the PDGA office.
- (2) An Amateur player is automatically reclassified as Professional when the player has accepted cash while competing in a Professional division. Accepting prizes in lieu of cash payout or accepting money for winning an ancillary contest such as an ace pool, top-of-the-card round prize, or CTP contest does not cause a player to relinquish his or her amateur status.

2.4 Pros Playing Am

A. Professionals may compete in Amateur divisions offered at PDGA A, B, and C Tier events, for which they qualify based on player rating, age, and sex as detailed in the PROS PLAYING AM section of the online Divisions, Ratings, Points Factors table.

B. Players are awarded Amateur points for their performance but these points are not eligible for year-end awards or Worlds invitations.

2.5 Trophy Only

A. At the option of the Tournament Director, Amateur players are allowed to play in Professional divisions for which they are eligible according to age and sex at a reduced entry fee.

B. At the option of the Tournament Director, Professional or Amateur players may compete for trophies only in any Amateur division offered by an event that their player rating, age and sex qualifies them for, by paying a reduced entry fee.

C. Players competing under "Trophy Only" are not allowed to accept cash or prizes based upon finish but are allowed to accept trophies.

D. Players paying full price should have priority over players paying the reduced rate. If an event or division is full, a Tournament Director may require trophy only players to pay the full price in order to maintain their position in the tournament.

Section 3: Player Code of Conduct

3.1 General

A. All PDGA members should refrain from any conduct which is detrimental to the game of disc golf and to the PDGA, both on and off of the course.

B. All players must abide by the PDGA Official Rules of Disc Golf and the PDGA Competition Manual.

C. Players are not permitted to have audible mobile phones or audible pagers on the course during any competitive round. In addition, personal music players and other devices must be used exclusively with personal headphones

and the volume must be kept at a level so as not to be heard by other players, prevent the player from effectively interacting with his group during scorekeeping tasks, or provide a safety hazard for the player by not hearing "Fore!" calls from other players or warning blasts by the Tournament Director.

D. Animals, with the exception of accredited service animals, may not accompany players during competition.

E. All players will be required to take and pass an online tournament rules assessment test before being able to compete in any Elite Series/National Tour or Major PDGA sanctioned event. This test will be based upon the PDGA Official Rules of Disc Golf and the PDGA Competition Manual.

F. The PDGA reserves the right to determine and enforce further disciplinary action upon its players and members, which may result in probation or suspension from PDGA sanctioned events or permanent loss of PDGA membership. For more information on the PDGA disciplinary policies and procedures, see the documents posted at www.pdga.com.

3.2 Pace of Play

A. All competitors shall play without undue delay and will make every effort to keep up with the group in front of them. Players are required to quickly move from the completion of one hole to the tee area of the next hole. Also, while advancing down the fairway, the player shall not unduly delay play by his or her actions.

B. A player causing undue delays may be issued an excessive time violation by tournament officials. Please see PDGA Rules of Play 801.03B Excessive Time regarding specific penalties..

3.3 Player Misconduct

A. The PDGA adopts a strict policy of appropriate behavior during events, as well as appropriate comments to the media. Any conduct deemed to be unprofessional is subject to disqualification by the Tournament Director, and may also be subject to further disciplinary actions from the PDGA.

B. Players are expected to behave in a professional and sportsmanlike manner while participating in a PDGA sanctioned event. Actions that are in violation of this conduct include but are not limited to:

- (1) Repeated and overt use of abusive or profane language
- (2) Throwing items in anger (other than discs in play)
- (3) Overt rudeness to anyone present
- (4) Willful and overt destruction, abuse or vandalism of property, including animal and plant life
- (5) Cheating: a willful attempt to circumvent the rules of play
- (6) Physical attacks or threatening behavior to anyone present
- (7) Activities which are in violation of Federal, State or Local laws or ordinances, park regulation or disc golf course rule. Tournament Directors are granted the discretion to disqualify a player based on the severity of the offending conduct. An official warning prior to disqualification may be issued by a Tournament Director where appropriate.

- (8) The possession of illegal substances in violation of Federal, State or Local laws. The use of marijuana is not permitted at PDGA events, regardless of the possession of a medical marijuana card.
- (9) Excessive use of alcohol at the tournament site.
- (10) Possession of alcohol from the start of play until the player is scorecard is submitted is not allowed. Such possession shall result in immediate disqualification at PDGA events sanctioned at B-Tier or higher. The Tournament Director may, at his sole discretion, elect to issue a warning to the offending player in lieu of disqualification solely at PDGA events sanctioned at C-tier and below. If a player has been previously issued a warning for alcohol possession at the same event, all subsequent violations shall result in immediate disqualification.
- (11) Overt failure or refusal to enforce the rules of disc golf during competition.
- (12) Failure or refusal to cooperate with, or obstruction of any investigation by an official into the competitor's conduct or the conduct of another competitor.
- (13) Deliberately seeking to manipulate one's player rating through intentional misplay or withdrawal.

C. Tournament Directors are required to report any disqualifications to the PDGA as quickly as possible.

D. Disqualified players shall forfeit any prize money or merchandise and shall not receive a refund of entry fees.

E. Players who commit Player Misconduct may also be subject to disciplinary actions. To find out more information about the Disciplinary Process please visit www.pdga.com/discipline.

3.4 Dress Code

A. All violations of the Dress Code Policy shall be considered a Courtesy Violation under Section 801.01 of the PDGA Official Rules of Play.

B. All competitors and staff are required to wear a shirt.

C. All competitors, caddies, and staff are required to wear shoes or other foot coverings. Players will not be allowed to play in bare feet. Sandals or slides are allowed.

D. The following dress code for all competitors will be enforced at all PDGA Elite Series/National Tour and Major Events. The PDGA also recommends that this dress code be enforced at Super Tour and lower tier events, but this decision lies solely with the Tournament Director:

- (1) All players in PDGA sanctioned competition and tournament staff are expected to dress appropriately and to maintain a clean and well-groomed appearance at all event sites and associated functions.
- (2) All players must wear a shirt covering their upper chest area. A well-tailored shirt with a collar and sleeves covering the upper arm shall be considered acceptable. Tank tops are not allowed for any competitor, but women may wear sleeveless shirts with collars.
- (3) No tee shirts will be allowed, except for competitors in the Junior and Amateur

divisions during preliminary rounds only. Juniors and Amateurs shall not wear tee shirts during semifinal or final rounds. Crew neck or v-neck shirts made of high-performance or high-tech materials, such as Dry-Fit, Cool-Max, and others will be allowed.

- (4) Shirts that hang down lower than the bottom hemline on the player's shorts shall be tucked in.
- (5) No ripped shirts, shorts, or pants will be allowed on the course. This includes unhemmed, torn or cut "vents" at the shirt collar.
- (6) No offensive, profane, or obscene slogans or logos shall be allowed on any clothing. Junior players may not wear slogans or logos referring to alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
- (7) This dress code will be in effect from start to finish at each event, including all tournament rounds.
- (8) Players who do not make a cut, but wish to remain on site through the duration of the tournament, will be considered spectators and will not be required to conform to the Tour's dress code.

3.5 Carts and Caddies

A. Players are required to walk during their tournament rounds at all PDGA events unless alternate transportation such as golf carts are provided to all competitors.

B. Players will have the option to bring a caddie or carrying device during their round of play. A player's caddie is subject to all items within the PDGA Rules of Play and the PDGA Competition Manual including all applicable dress codes.

C. Players choosing to use a caddie will be solely responsible for their caddie's conduct from the two minute warning until the players cards are turned in. Misconduct by a caddie may subject both the player and caddie to disqualification and/or suspension.

D. Players must instruct their caddies to maintain a reasonable distance and not interfere with a competitor attempting his or her shot.

E. For those players wishing to use a carrying device, approved carrying devices include disc golf bags, foldable chairs and push cart companions. No animals, motor driven or bicycle type devices shall be allowed at all PDGA events.

3.6 Tour Player Media and Sponsor Relations

A. All participants agree that the PDGA and its agents may publish photographs and other kinds of images of their participation at PDGA sanctioned events.

B. All players at PDGA Elite Series/National Tour and Major events are requested to be available to any and all media while on site except during or within 30 minutes of the start of a competitive round.

3.7 Tour Vendor Policies

A. The Tournament Director may refuse to allow any vendor access to the tournament venue and its environs at their discretion.

B. If applicable, sponsors/vendors are responsible for obtaining the required permits from the appropriate agencies/ jurisdictions and must make permits available to the Tournament Director upon request.

C. Failure to comply with this policy by a vendor may result in further disciplinary actions by the PDGA.

3.8 Tournament Director Rights and Responsibilities

The PDGA recognizes that the strength of the organization and sustain ability of tournament disc golf is reliant on the partnership between the PDGA and the Tournament Director.

In order to help the Tournament Director to better perform their job, the PDGA has endowed them with certain rights. The Tournament Director also has responsibilities to the PDGA and its players, including but not limited to the following:

A. Any qualified PDGA member interested in running a PDGA sanctioned event may be required to take and pass an online tournament procedures assessment test before being able to direct that event. This test will be based upon the PDGA Rules of Play and Competition Manual.

B. All Tournament Directors may be required to sign a statement acknowledging that they have read the PDGA Rules of Play and Competition Manual, and agree to abide by and enforce its contents before being able to direct any PDGA sanctioned event.

C. Tournament Directors must disclose the financial information on their tournaments as listed in the PDGA Sanctioning Agreement. However, beyond the PDGA required disclosures, any additional release of tournament related financial information is solely at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

D. Tournament Directors may not refuse service to anyone on the basis of discrimination reflecting race, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation and or religion.

E. Tournament Directors must abide by active PDGA player disciplinary actions.

F. Any issues that may arise during a tournament, whether or not covered in any existing PDGA document, including allegations of abuse of responsibilities by a Tournament Director, may be brought to the attention of the PDGA through the PDGA Disciplinary Process.



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