

THE PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS'  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

PLAYING ABILITY TEST  
RULES AND  
REGULATIONS



**PGA**™

July 1, 2017





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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 two 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 two 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 two 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 age 50 and under target score. The golf course is set with the flagsticks 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 be adhered to at all times. **At no time are preferred lies to be allowed. “Lift, clean and place” cannot be invoked during a PAT. If conditions do not warrant playing the ball down, the PAT must be canceled and should be rescheduled. If a PAT is played under “lift, clean and place,” that PAT will be invalidated and all scores will be null and void.** You should check the facility prior to the day of the PAT.
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 age 50 and under 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, 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 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. At the first tee, all players should receive both the hard card of rules and a 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 [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.

## PAT EXAMINER CHECKLIST

- Contact the Host Professional to discuss:
  - 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
  - Rules and Policies Governing the use of Automotive Transportation
  - Local Rules Addendum
  - Pace of Play Policy
  - PGA of America Rules of Play (Hard Card)
  - 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:  
[http://www.usga.org/ConformingGolfClub/conforming\\_golf\\_club.asp](http://www.usga.org/ConformingGolfClub/conforming_golf_club.asp)
  
- Check picture identification of all competitors
  
- Make sure all competitors receive:
  - PGA of America Rules of Play (Hard Card)
  - 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
  
- Inform competitors that after successful completion of the PAT, visit [www.PGA.org](http://www.PGA.org) for more information regarding the PGA PGM Program.

# 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 age 50 and under target score. The golf course is set with the flagsticks in a generally flat area of the green.
2. Be sure that the hole locations should be 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 hazards, ground under repair, 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 marked, including:
  - All hazards
  - All ground under repair
  - Out of bounds
  - Dropping Zones

**NOTE: If the ball cannot be played as it lies due to the condition of the golf course, the PAT should be rescheduled.**

- Create a 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 age 50 and under target score. The golf course is set with the flagsticks in a generally flat area of the green.
- 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, tee 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:
  - Tee Times
  - Competitor Compliance Form
  - Local Rules Addendum
  - PGA of America Rules of Play (Hard Card)
  - Rules & Policies Governing the use of Automotive Transportation
  - Pace of Play Policy
  - Target Score
  
- Distribute Rules of Play (Hard Cards), 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 age 50 and under target score. The golf course is set with the flagsticks 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 six 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 14 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 fourteen-day registration deadline. All competitors must register for the PAT with the National Office prior to the fourteen-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 six PAT sites by December 1<sup>st</sup>/ December 31st 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 tee 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 Hard Card of Rules and the Competitor Compliance Form will be mailed to the Host Professional at the registered site for distribution to the PAT Examiner prior to the start of the PAT.

### WEATHER CONDITIONS

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

- **At no time are preferred lies to be allowed. “Lift, clean and place” cannot be invoked during a PAT. If conditions do not warrant playing the ball down, the PAT must be canceled and should be rescheduled. If a PAT is played under “lift, clean and place,” that PAT will be invalidated and all scores will be null and void.**

### **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 tee off from Hole #1, or can they be started from the tenth hole or shot-gunned?
- A. Participants may be started from the first tee, the tenth tee, or they may 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 Hard Card of the Rules, what should the PAT Examiner do?
- A. The PAT Examiner should make copies of the Competitor Compliance Form or PGA Hard Card of the Rules, furnished by the National Office or from this book, and pass them out to the PAT participants. The forms are also located online at <http://pgasms.com/materials/>, under PAT Policies and Forms.**

**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 hard card for more information.**
- Q. If contestants arrive at the PAT golf course prior to their scheduled tee time, should they be allowed or required to tee off at an earlier time?
- A. The PAT Examiner may allow them to tee off earlier at his/her discretion. However, the PAT Examiner should not require the participant to tee off before the scheduled 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 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 14-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 14-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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## SUPPLEMENTARY RULES OF PLAY

### STANDARD WORDING FOR DEVELOPING LOCAL RULES

Play is governed by the USGA Rules of Golf, the PGA of America Rules of Play Card (Hard Card), the Local Rule for this event regarding Pace of Play (available at the starting tee), and the Rules Addendum which applies to this golf course.

1. Out of Bounds:

In addition to item # \_\_\_\_ on the PGA of America Rules of Play Card, out of bounds is defined by the following:

- a. White lines
- b. Inside edge of street curbing on holes # \_\_\_\_
- c. The water's edge on the opposite side of the hazard on holes # \_\_\_\_ . Optional: (when tied into the out of bounds stakes.)
- d. Wall and fence surrounding the maintenance building.

2. Dropping Zone(s) for Temporary Immovable Obstructions: (Holes # \_\_\_\_).

If a player is entitled to relief from the temporary immovable obstructions at Hole # \_\_\_\_ (green tee, etc.), he/she may take relief under Appendix I, or he/she may drop the ball without penalty in the drop zone area. Optional: (provided that the dropping zone area is no nearer the hole than the original position of the ball.)

Drop Zone location: Hole # \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ yards and location

3. Dropping Zone(s) for Water Hazards: (Hole(s) # \_\_\_\_).

If a ball lies in a water hazard on hole(s) # \_\_\_\_ the player may proceed under Rule 26, or under penalty of one stroke he/she may drop a ball on the dropping zone area.

Optional additional wording - (provided that the drop zone area is no nearer the hole than where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard.)

Drop Zone locations: # \_\_\_\_ - location

# \_\_\_\_ - location

4. Railroad Ties Adjoining Cart Paths:

Railroad ties adjoining cart paths are part of the same obstruction.

## SUPPLEMENTARY RULES OF PLAY (Continued)

5. Edge of the Putting Green Defined:

In certain areas the putting green is defined by a (color) line. A ball is deemed to be on the putting green when any part of it touches the putting green. The line itself is on the putting green.

6. Earth Cracks:

If a ball comes to rest in an earth crack such that any part of the ball lies below ground level it may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole.

7. Interior Boundary Stakes: (Hole # \_\_\_\_).

The white stakes (location) on hole # \_\_\_\_ defines out of bounds during play of the \_\_\_\_ hole only. During the play of any other hole the same white stakes are deemed to be immovable obstructions.

8. Aerification Holes: (lie of ball only)

If a ball comes to rest in an aerification hole the player may without penalty:

Lift, clean and drop the ball as near as possible to where it lay but not nearer the hole.

9. Drop Zone for Ground Under Repair: (Hole # \_\_\_\_).

If a player is entitled to relief from the ground under repair behind # \_\_\_\_ green he/she may proceed under Rule 25-1b or he/she may drop the ball, without penalty, in the drop zone area provided that the drop zone area is no nearer the hole than the original position of the ball.

Drop Zone location: \_\_\_ yards left of \_\_\_ green in the rough.

10. Drop Zone for Immovable Obstruction: ( ).

If a player is entitled to relief from (situation) (location) he/she may proceed under Rule 24-2 or he/she may drop a ball on the drop zone area provided that the drop zone area is no nearer the hole than the original position of the ball.

Drop Zone location: Hole # \_\_\_\_ - (location)

11. Mole Cricket Damage on Putting Green:

Mole Cricket damage on the putting green should be treated as Ground Under Repair. The player may proceed under Rule 25. **NOTE:** The player may not repair the damage.

12. Integral Parts of the Course:

(-----) are deemed to be integral parts of the golf course.

**SUPPLEMENTARY RULES OF PLAY (Continued)**

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

Spanish Moss in the tree is considered fixed and growing therefore it can not be removed. When it has fallen to the ground, it is considered a loose impediment.

14. Flower Beds Enclosed by Cart Paths: (Hole # \_\_\_\_).

Flower beds bordered or totally surrounded by cart paths on holes # \_\_\_\_ are considered part of the same obstruction.

# 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 14-day registration deadline for every PAT and an individual may be registered for only two PATs at any one time. 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.
- Those who are eligibly employed, or registered PGA Golf Management University Program students, may register for a PAT at any time prior to the registration deadline. Those not meeting the above eligibility criteria may only register within the fourteen (14) days prior to the registration deadline.
- If it is found that an individual registered more than fourteen (14) days prior to the registration deadline and did not meet the above eligibility criteria, that individual will be suspended for two years from taking a PAT. If the individual has already played in the PAT, the score will be voided.
- 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 14-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.

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

- 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.
- 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 age 50 and under target score. The golf course is set with the flagsticks 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.)
- "Lift, clean and place" cannot be invoked during a PAT. If conditions do not warrant playing the ball down, the PAT must be canceled and should be rescheduled. If a PAT is played under "lift, clean and place," that PAT will be invalidated and all scores will be null and void.

### **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.

## PLAYING ABILITY TEST INFORMATION (Continued)

- 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.

### OTHER POLICIES

- To enter into the PGA Professional Golf Management Program, the registrant must attempt the PAT at least once within two 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 two 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.
- Tee 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 in Colorado and Washington (States subject to change) 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.
- 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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## RULES, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES GOVERNING PACE OF PLAY

The Rules of Golf require that a player shall at all times play without undue delay. The administering of pace of play will be handled by the PGA Rules Committee.

1. Rule 6-7 Undue Delay  
The player shall play without undue delay. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next teeing ground, the player shall not unduly delay play.
2. When play is in groups of four, groups will be required to play at a 4 hour and 21 minute pace for the 18 hole round. When play is in groups of three, groups will be required to play at a 4 hour and 3 minute pace for the 18 hole round. PGA Officials will use discretion concerning Pace of Play of early groups. All groups will be expected to play at a reasonably fast pace, i.e., groups of four – 14 ½ minutes per hole, groups of three – 13 ½ minutes per hole.
3. The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any place during the round, the group is behind the allotted time to play.
4. Any following group will be considered out of position if it (a) is taking more than the allotted time to play and (b) reaches the tee on a par 3 and the preceding group has cleared the next tee, fails to clear the tee of a par 4 hole before the preceding group clears the putting green, **or** arrives at the teeing ground of 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. A group out of position will be notified that they are out of position and will be subject to individual timing.
5. Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when he/she and his/her caddy have had reasonable opportunity to reach his/her ball, it is his/her turn to play, and he/she can play without interference or distraction. Time spent walking backward or forward for determining yardage will count as part of the time taken for that stroke.

On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean, and replace his/her ball. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for that stroke.

A player will be allowed a maximum of **40 seconds** to complete his/her stroke. **NOTE:** An additional 10 seconds will be allowed for a) the first to play from the teeing ground on a par 3 hole; b) the first to play a second stroke on a par 4 or par 5 hole; c) the first to play a third stroke on a par 5 hole; or d) the first to play on or around the putting green.

6. If a player exceeds the time limit on one (1) occasion, he/she will then be cautioned that if he/she exceeds the time limit on one more occasion, (total of 2), he/she will automatically incur a penalty of one stroke, under Rule 6-7. If the player exceeds the time limit on one more occasion (total of 3), he/she will incur an additional two-stroke penalty. If a player exceeds the time limit a total of four (4) times, the penalty is disqualification.

**RULES, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES GOVERNING PACE OF PLAY (Continued)**

<b><u>Penalty for Breach of Rule 6-7:</u></b>	
First Offense	Warning
Second Offense	One (1) Stroke Penalty
Third Offense	Two (2) Stroke Penalty
Fourth Offense	Disqualification

**NOTE:** Timing will discontinue when the group has regained its position. Time previously recorded that may have exceeded the limit, however, will be held over for further occurrence.

**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

A breach of the following Automotive Golf Rules may subject a player to a penalty under the applicable Rule in the USGA Rules of Golf:

"*Equipment*" is anything used, worn or carried by the player or anything carried for the player by his/her [partner](#) or either of their [caddies](#), except any ball he/she has played at the hole being played and any small object, such as a coin or a [tee](#), when used to mark the position of a ball or the extent of an area in which a ball is to be dropped. *Equipment* includes a golf car, whether or not motorized.

**NOTE 1:** A ball played at the hole being played is equipment when it has been lifted and not put back into play.

**NOTE 2:** When a golf car is shared by two or more players, the golf car and everything in it are deemed to be the equipment of one of the players sharing the golf car.

If the golf car is being moved by one of the players (or the [partner](#) of one of the players) sharing it, the golf car and everything in it are deemed to be that player's [equipment](#). Otherwise, the golf car and everything in it are deemed to be the equipment of the player sharing the golf car whose ball (or whose [partner's](#) ball) is involved.

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 the tournament 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.

**1. SUSPENSION OF PLAY DUE TO A DANGEROUS SITUATION:**

When play is suspended for a dangerous situation, if the players in a group are between the play of two holes, they must not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, **they must discontinue play immediately** and must not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:** Disqualification

**NOTE 1:** A suspension for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged siren or horn blast. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three intermittent siren or horn blasts. Resumption of play will be signaled by two intermittent siren or horn blasts..

**NOTE 2:** All practice areas will be closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open for use.

**2. SPECIFICATIONS OF CLUBS AND THE BALL:**

**a) Driver Heads:** Any driver the player carries must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft that is named on the current "List of Conforming Driver Heads" issued by the USGA, which is posted on the starting tees.

**Exception:** A driver with a clubhead that was manufactured prior to 1999 is exempt from this condition.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:** See Appendix I

**b) Grooves and/or Punch Marks:** The player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from January 1, 2010.

**NOTE:** The exception to Decision 4-1/1 is NOT in effect; therefore Ping Eye 2 irons manufactured before March 31, 1990, with a groove spacing to groove width ratio of 2.3 to 1 are NOT permitted.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:** See Decision 4-1/1

**c) Golf Balls:** The ball the player plays must be named on the current "List of Conforming Golf Balls" issued by the USGA, which is posted in the locker room and at the starting tees.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:** Disqualification

**3. PACE OF PLAY:** (Note 2 to Rule 6-7 Undue Delay) A player will be subject to penalty if he/she unduly delays play. The pace of play guidelines which are in effect are posted at the starting tees.

**4. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES:** A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his/her play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:** Two (2) strokes for first offense and for subsequent offense – disqualification

**5. ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF A BALL OR BALL MARKER ON PUTTING GREEN:** Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 are modified as follows:

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment.

The moved ball or ball marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1.

This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

**NOTE:** If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced.

**6. PRACTICE AT PUTTING GREEN OF HOLE LAST PLAYED IS PROHIBITED:** Between the play of two holes, a player must not make any practice stroke or roll a ball on or near the putting green of the hole last played.

**7. PLAYING THE BALL AS IT LIES:** At no time are preferred lies to be allowed. "Lift, clean and place" cannot be invoked during a PAT. If conditions do not warrant playing the ball down, the PAT must be canceled and should be rescheduled. If a PAT is played under "lift, clean and place," that PAT will be invalidated and all scores will be null and void.

**8. AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION:** Is permitted by the PGA of America Rules Committee. The policies governing the use of automotive transportation are in effect and posted.

**9. RETURNING SCORECARD:** For the purpose of applying Rule 6-6c, a competitor is considered to have returned his/her scorecard when he/she has first left the scoring area.

**10. RESULT OF THE COMPETITION:** When all scores have been posted on the Official Scoreboard and approved by the PAT Examiner, the result of the competition is deemed to have been officially announced.

**11. LIFTING AN EMBEDDED BALL:** The "EMBEDDED BALL RULE" as written in Appendix I is in effect "through the green"

**12. OUT OF BOUNDS:** Defined by the inside edge of white stakes and/or property fence posts at ground level.

**NOTE:** A ball, which crosses a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road, is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course.

**13. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS:**

**a) Asphalt and artificially surfaced roads and paths are immovable obstructions. White lined areas tying into roads or paths have the same status as the roads or paths, and thus they are obstructions and not ground under repair.**

**b) Railroad ties, curbing or the like adjoining cart paths are deemed to be part of the same obstruction.**

**c) Secured mats and plastic cable ramps covering cables are immovable obstructions.**

#### 14. GROUND UNDER REPAIR:

- a) Areas defined by white lines (except dropping zones, out of bounds or white lines listed under item 11 above)
- b) French drains, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones.
- c) Sod covered trenching for temporary cables
- d) Relief is for lie of ball or area of intended swing only for the following (through the green only):
  - (i) Seams of cut turf – All seams within the cut turf area are considered the same seam.
  - (ii) Newly trenched areas.
  - (iii) Painted yardage markings located in any closely mown area.

**15. RETAINING WALLS AND PILINGS:** When located within water hazards or within and/or around bunkers, retaining walls and pilings are integral parts of the course.

**16. TREE WRAPPINGS, ELECTRICAL WIRES AND CABLES:** Closely attached to trees: No relief. Tree wrappings, electrical wires, cables, signs and lightning rods closely attached to trees are not obstructions. They are integral parts of the course.

**17. TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS:** Appendix I is in effect and includes any temporary immovable obstruction installed for the competition.

**18. TURF PLUGS ON PUTTING GREENS:** On the putting green, in addition to Rule 16-1c, the player may repair turf plugs of any size.

**19. CASUAL WATER ON THE PUTTING GREEN:** If a temporary accumulation of casual water exists on the putting green, the following policy will operate when the ball lies on the putting green:

- a) The player may take relief under the Rules of Golf (Rule 25 -1b (iii)); or the player may request the Committee to squeegee the line of putt (but not both). Such squeegeeing may extend beyond the hole at the player's option.

b) The Committee may squeegee the putting green at any time.

c) The Committee may use any combination of a) or b) above.

◆◆◆ PGA OF AMERICA RULES COMMITTEE ◆◆◆



## PLAYING ABILITY TEST RULES OF PLAY

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Play is governed by the most current Rules of Golf of the United States Golf Association, and where applicable, by the following Local Rules, Conditions and Definitions.

Appendix I refers to the Appendix of Local Rules; Conditions of the Competition in the most current USGA Rules of Golf booklet. Unless otherwise provided, penalty for breach of a Local Rule is: Stroke play - Two Strokes.

# 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

## REVISIONS SINCE DECEMBER 7, 2016 UPDATE

### **New Yardage Update:**

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 age 50 and under target score. The golf course is set with the flagsticks in a generally flat area of the green.

### **Previous yardage, no longer in effect as of July 1, 2017:**

~~In order for the competition to take place, the course must have a minimum USGA course rating of 68.0 for both men and women. Men will play from a minimum of 6,350 yards to a maximum of 6,700 yards, while women will play from a minimum of 5,400 yards to a maximum of 5,700 yards. The course must be in good condition to provide for the ball being played as it lies. Failure to assure these conditions are met will result in the entire PAT being voided.~~

### **New Rules of Play**

ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF A BALL OR BALL MARKER ON PUTTING GREEN: Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 are modified as follows:

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment.

The moved ball or ball marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1. This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

**NOTE:** If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced.