



## 2015 PDGA Tour Standards



**NOTE: This document applies to PDGA Tour events in the USA and Canada. For the PDGA event standards for all other International countries please see the 2015 PDGA International Program Guide.**

### **Goals are to:**

- Provide a set of event standards so that Tournament Directors are familiar with expectations and players can expect consistency at each tier level.
- Ensure PDGA events are classified into their appropriate tiers.
- Increase the professionalism and marketability of PDGA sanctioned events.

### **A summary of changes for this year include:**

- The Tournament Director is no longer allowed to play if the event is an A-Tier or above. The Tournament Director of these higher level events is expected to be a non-playing official who can make rulings for all divisions and player groups while concentrating on running a quality event.
- The addition of requirements for the minimum time that courses must be setup in their first round configuration prior to the start of Worlds, Majors, NTs and A-Tiers.
- There have been further enhancements to the online version of the Certified Officials Exam. The official's exam must now be taken online at [www.pdga.com](http://www.pdga.com). The exam may be taken an unlimited number of times until it is passed. Once passed, the member must pay the \$10 fee to be certified.
- Table 1 (PDGA Tier Standards Chart) has had additional notations added to make the requirements clearer
- Table 3 (PDGA Tour Player Divisions, Ratings & Point Factors) has been updated to include all available divisions and had its Additional Information section updated with color coding to be more clear.

### **A summary of changes from previous years that continue this year include:**

Requirements for uploading unofficial results via PDGA Tournament Manager:

- NT – upload after each Round of competition.
- A-Tier – upload after each Day of competition.
- B-Tier – upload within 4 hours of the completion of the Awards Ceremony.
- C-Tier – upload within 24 hours of the completion of the Event.
- Leagues – upload within 24 hours of the completion of each Weekly Round.

Requirements for submission of the electronic TD Report to the PDGA Office via email to [tdreport@pdga.com](mailto:tdreport@pdga.com)

- NT – 24 hours after event completion.
- A-Tier – 48 hours after event completion.
- B-Tier – One week after event completion.
- C-Tier – Two weeks after event completion.
- Leagues – Two weeks after event completion.

Continuation of the use of a new result code (888) that TDs will enter on the TD report for the round score when players or TD wish to report their consensus that a player clearly attempted to have their round dropped to protect their rating by either not completing a round or by padding their score with extra throws. This code is also used should a player discontinue play in a tournament without alerting the TD that they are leaving or that they are not returning for subsequent rounds.

Note: All of the TD Package documents are available for download online for your convenience. You can help the environment and reduce the cost of printing and postage by opting out of receiving a printed TD Package via USPS.

All competitors competing in a National Tour Elite Series or a PDGA Major are required to be a current member of the PDGA and a Certified Official.

All competitors competing in an A-Tier (SuperTour) are required to be a current member of the PDGA.

## Tier Requirements

Please see the Tier Standards Chart (Table 1) and the accompanying notes below for the specific requirements of the different tier events.

### Majors

- Complimentary PDGA Tour Insurance Certificate
- PDGA current membership mandatory
- Amateur/Junior Worlds will be run as True Amateur with larger player packages and either a limited or no purse
- 125+ % minimum payout in all pro divisions

### Experimental Events X-Tier

- Created to accommodate alternate or experimental formats such as doubles, team events, non-basket courses, winner-take-all, skins, match play, vintage, and overall events.
- The X designation may also be used for Singles events where eligibility is limited based on citizenship and/or residence (example: a state decides to have their State Championships open to only players from that state.)
- X Tier events are sanctioned as XA, XB, and XC in accordance with tier guidelines and player points are awarded accordingly.
- All X-Tier event formats must be pre-approved by the PDGA Tour Manager.
- Formats at B-tier and above limited to Doubles, Team, and Match Play. Other event formats will be considered by Tour Manager upon submission of written request.
- Regardless of the format used, results must be easily convertible to PDGA divisions for player point calculation and data entry. For this reason divisional doubles (pro, advanced, etc) and mixed doubles (male/female) cannot be combined within the same event and will require separate sanctioning agreements.

## Miscellaneous

- All ties for first place **MUST be determined by a sudden death playoff and the winner MUST be awarded first place money** and/or prizes. Player's may **NOT** elect to leave a first place tie to stand and split the payout.
- Dual or "Split" Events – Dual events are those which split specific divisions on to separate days of the same weekend. Example: All Amateur divisions play on Saturday and all Pro divisions play on Sunday. Because this format allows a single player to play both days in different divisions (Example: a player plays in MA1 on Saturday and then also plays in MPO on Sunday) this event must be treated as two separate events for the purposes of reporting and proper ratings calculations. TDs who wish to use this format submit only a single sanctioning form and sanctioning fee, but must make note on the sanctioning form of which divisions play on which days. The PDGA Office will then create two separate calendar entries for the event and TDs will receive two sanctioning confirmation emails (the same password will give access to both events in Tournament Manager.) TDs **MUST** treat the event as two separate events for the purposes of uploading pre-reg or unofficial results into Tournament Manager and **MUST** submit two separate TD Reports. Those players competing on both days **MUST** pay the PDGA Player fee **BOTH** days, and if not a current member, also pay the non-member fee **BOTH** days.
- Courses are required to be set up for the first round configuration a minimum of 2 days prior to the start of the event for National Tour Elite Series events and 1 day prior to the start of the event for A-Tier events (SuperTour). For World Championship events, courses must be set no less than 4 days in advance of the start of the event. For other PDGA Majors such as US Masters or USWDGC, the courses must be set no less than 3 days in advance of the start of the event. In the case of temporary holes and/or courses where targets are unavailable, the temporary configuration must be clearly marked for both the Tee and Target locations.

Note: "Start of the Event" means the morning of the first day of competition, so a three-day Friday-Sunday National Tour would need to have its courses ready for practice no later than on Wednesday morning. A Worlds, where the singles competition starts on Tuesday, would need to have its courses ready for practice no later than on Saturday morning.

- It is the responsibility of the tournament director of record to submit all results by emailing a completed TD Report to [tdreport@pdga.com](mailto:tdreport@pdga.com) and paying all fees associated with each event. Tournament directors whose results and/or fees are not received by the deadlines are subject to disciplinary action. TD's with reports or event fees over 90 days late will not be allowed to direct another sanctioned event until all fees are paid in full and may be placed on full membership suspension.
- When events are added to the PDGA calendar a confirmation email will be sent to the TD. This email will include a link and password to the PDGA on-line scoring system (Tournament Manager) used for uploading pre-registered players as well as unofficial event results. ***The uploading of unofficial results does not fulfill the reporting requirements to the PDGA, TDs must still submit an electronic TD Report via email to the PDGA Office at [tdreport@pdga.com](mailto:tdreport@pdga.com)***
- TDs are encouraged to award PDGA memberships as prizes in the amateur and junior divisions for B and C Tier events.
- A single event may sanction under different tiers for pro and amateur players (i.e. a Pro C/Am B tier event) by paying the sanctioning fee for the higher tier.
- Events which fail to meet tier requirements may be demoted in the following year. The PDGA Tour Manager will consider petitions for a waiver of said demotion; events which meet a higher tier's standards may be promoted for the following year by request of the TD.

**Table 1: PDGA Tier Standards Chart**

	National Tour Elite Series	A-Tier (SuperTour)	B Tier	C Tier
<b>Sanctioning Fee</b>	Waived	\$100	\$75	\$50
<b>Sanctioning agreement submission deadline</b>	Not applicable	December 1st	45 days prior	30 days prior
<b>Per player fee</b>	\$5	\$4	\$3	\$2
<b>Membership requirements</b>	Must be current PDGA Member and Certified Official	Must be current PDGA Member	\$10 Non-Member Fee (except players in Junior Divisions)	\$10 Non-Member Fee (except players in Junior Divisions)
<b>Length of event</b>	2 to 4 days	2 or 3 days	1 or 2 days	1 or 2 days
<b>Minimum number of holes</b>	54	54	36	18 (36 Preferred)
<b>Proof of Insurance Certificate<sup>1</sup></b>	Complimentary	Complimentary	\$50	\$50
<b>Minimum Added \$ to Pro Purse</b>	\$4000	\$2000	\$500	None
<b>Pro Purse % (Cash Purse Only)<sup>2</sup></b>	100+% of Net Entry Fees <sup>4</sup>	100+% of Net Entry Fees <sup>4</sup>	100+% of Net Entry Fees <sup>4</sup>	85+% of Net Entry Fees <sup>4</sup>
<b>Amateur Payout % (Prize Purse + Player Pack)<sup>3</sup></b>	Not applicable	110+% of Net Entry Fees <sup>4</sup>	100+% of Net Entry Fees <sup>4</sup>	85+% of Net Entry Fees <sup>4</sup>
<b>Min. Retail value of Amateur Player Pack</b>	Not applicable	\$25 to all Amateurs	\$10 to all Amateurs	None Required
<b>Upload Scores via Tournament Manager</b>	After each round	After each day	Upon completion of event	Within 24 hours of completion of event
<b>Submit Completed TD Report to PDGA Office</b>	24 hours	48 hours	One week	Two weeks
<b>Payment of post-event fees</b>	30 days	30 days	30 days	30 days
<b>Certified official requirements</b>	TD as non-playing official One non-playing official/course	TD as non-playing official One non-playing official/course	One official per course	One official per event

<sup>1</sup> All PDGA sanctioned events in the US & Canada are insured. The certificate fee is only paid if the event requires a Proof of Insurance Certificate to be produced.

<sup>2</sup> The Pro Purse % requirement is comprised ONLY of the cash purse paid out at the end of the event based on the finishing places (40% min.) of the players.

<sup>3</sup> The Amateur Payout % requirement is comprised of both the merchandise prizes paid at the end of the event based on the finishing places of the players and the player packs.

<sup>4</sup> Net Entry Fees = Gross Entry Fees minus the pass-through fees ONLY. Pass through Fees are: PDGA Per-Player Fee, Greens Fee, Regional or Series Fee, **NOT** expenses.

**Table 2: PDGA Target Requirements<sup>1</sup>**

	Major	National Tour	A Tier	B Tier	C Tier
<b>PDGA approved Championship<sup>2</sup> targets of same design and manufacturer</b>	P	P	P	P	P
<b>PDGA approved Standard<sup>2</sup> targets. Same design and manufacturer recommended</b>				P	P
<b>PDGA approved Basic<sup>2</sup> target or non-approved target with basket</b>					P
<b>PDGA approved Object<sup>3</sup> target</b>				X-Tier	X-Tier

<sup>1</sup> Please note that events that do not meet the target requirements may request a waiver from the Tour Manager.

<sup>2</sup> Please see Technical Standards document for more information on targets classified as Championship, Standard, Basic or Object at [www.pdga.com/documents/pdga-technical-standards-manufacturers-guidelines](http://www.pdga.com/documents/pdga-technical-standards-manufacturers-guidelines)

<sup>3</sup> Object targets are allowed under XB and XC Tier events but this must be specified when filing the sanctioning agreement.

Table 3: PDGA Tour Player Divisions, Ratings & Points Factors

PROFESSIONAL CLASS	Division Name	Division Code(s)	Ages Eligible	Suggested Minimum Ratings	Pro Points Factor				
					Majors	NT & A Tier	B Tier	C Tier	League (per week)
Pro	Open	MPO	All	970+	15	10	7.5	5	2.5
	Master	MPM	40+ during calendar year	935+	12	8	6	4	2
	Grandmaster	MPG	50+ during calendar year	900+	9	6	4.5	3	1.5
	Senior Grandmaster	MPS	60+ during calendar year	850+	6	4	3	2	1
	Legend	MPL	70+ during calendar year	800+	4.5	3	2.25	1.5	0.75
	Senior Legend	MPE	75+ during calendar year	800+	4.5	3	2.25	1.5	0.75
	Grand Legend	MPR	80+ during calendar year	800+	4.5	3	2.25	1.5	0.75
Pro Women	Open Women	FPO	All	900+	9	6	4.5	3	1.5
	Master Women	FPM	40+ during calendar year	850+	6	4	3	2	1
	Grandmaster Women	FPG	50+ during calendar year	800+	4.5	3	2.25	1.5	0.75
	Senior Grandmaster Women	FPS	60+ during calendar year	750+	3	2	1.5	1	0.5
	Legend Women	FPL	70+ during calendar year	750+	3	2	1.5	1	0.5
AMATEUR CLASS	Division Name	Division Code(s)	Ages Eligible	Ratings Requirement	Amateur Points Factor				
Amateur	Advanced	MA1	All	Any (required for 935+)	15	10	7.5	5	2.5
	Intermediate	MA2	All	< 935	12	8	6	4	2
	Recreational	MA3	All	< 900	9	6	4.5	3	1.5
	Novice	MA4	All	< 850	6	4	3	2	1
	Advanced Master	MM1	40+ during calendar year	Any	12	8	6	4	2
	Advanced Grandmaster	MG1	50+ during calendar year	Any	9	6	4.5	3	1.5
	Advanced Senior Grandmaster	MS1	60+ during calendar year	Any	6	4	3	2	1
	Advanced Legend	ML1	70+ during calendar year	Any	4.5	3	2.25	1.5	0.75
	Amateur Women	Advanced Women	FA1	All	Any (required for 825+)	9	6	4.5	3
Intermediate Women		FA2	All	< 825	6	4	3	2	1
Recreational Women		FA3	All	< 775	4.5	3	2.25	1.5	0.75
Novice Women		FA4	All	<725	3	2	1.5	1	0.5
Advanced Master Women		FM1	40+ during calendar year	Any	6	4	3	2	1
Advanced Grandmaster Women		FG1	50+ during calendar year	Any	4.5	3	2.25	1.5	0.75
Advanced Senior Grandmaster Women		FS1	60+ during calendar year	Any	3	2	1.5	1	0.5
Advanced Legend Women		FL1	70+ during calendar year	Any	1.5	1	0.75	0.5	0.5
Junior Boys & Girls	Junior I - 19 & Under	MJ1 or FJ1	<= 19 during calendar year	Any	6	4	3	2	1
	Junior II - 16 & Under	MJ2 or FJ2	<= 16 during calendar year	Any	4.5	3	2.25	1.5	0.75
	Junior III - 13 & Under	MJ3 or FJ3	<= 13 during calendar year	Any	3	2	1.5	1	0.5
	Junior IV - 10 & Under	MJ4 or FJ4	<= 10 during calendar year	Any	1.5	1	0.75	0.5	0.25
RATINGS EVENTS	Division Name	Division Code(s)	Ages Eligible	Ratings Requirement	Points Factor				
All Players	Gold	RPA	All	970+	15	10	7.5	5	2.5
	Blue	RAH	All	< 970	15	10	7.5	5	2.5
	White	RAD	All	< 935	12	8	6	4	2
	Red	RAE	All	< 900	9	6	4.5	3	1.5
	Green	RAF	All	< 850	6	4	3	2	1
	Purple	RAG	All	< 800	3	2	1.5	1	0.5
PROS PLAYING AM	Allowed To Participate In:	Division Code(s)	Ages Eligible	Player's Rating Requirement	Additional Information				
Pro	Advanced	MA1	All	< 970	A player's official PDGA Age is based on their year of birth, NOT their birthdate. So whatever age they will be on their birthday during the calendar year is their PDGA age for that entire calendar year and determines their eligibility for age-based divisions. Examples: 1) If a 10 year old player will turn 11 at anytime during the calendar year, their PDGA age is 11 so they are not eligible for Junior IV during that entire calendar year, they must play Junior III. 2) If a 39 year old player will turn 40 at anytime during the calendar year, their PDGA age is 40 and they are eligible for Masters during the entire calendar year.				
	Advanced Master	MM1	40+ during calendar year	< 935					
	Advanced Grand Master	MG1	50+ during calendar year	< 900					
	Advanced Senior Grandmaster	MS1	60+ during calendar year	<850					
	Advanced Legend	ML1	70+ during calendar year	<800					
	Intermediate	MA2	All	< 935					
	Recreational	MA3	All	< 900					
Novice	MA4	All	< 850						
Pro Women	Advanced Women	FA1	All	<925					
	Advanced Master Women	FM1	40+ during calendar year	<875					
	Advanced Grandmaster Women	FG1	50+ during calendar year	<825					
	Advanced Senior Grandmaster Women	FS1	60+ during calendar year	< 775					
	Advanced Legend Women	FL1	70+ during calendar year	< 725					
	Intermediate Women	FA2	All	< 825					
	Recreational Women	FA3	All	< 775					
Novice Women	FA4	All	< 725						

**Table 4: Recommended Maximum Net Entry Fees**

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**TDs are strongly urged not to exceed the values listed in this table in determining their PDGA net entry fees.**

Tier	Division	Pro Open Pro Women	All other Pros	Advanced	Intermediate & Recreational	Novice & Juniors
<b>A</b>		\$120	\$100	\$70	\$55	\$35
<b>B</b>		\$90	\$70	\$60	\$35	\$30
<b>C</b>		\$70	\$50	\$40	\$25	\$25

- Table shows net entry fees. PDGA player fees based on event tier, plus any local club or regional series player fees should be added to these figures in order to determine overall entry fees.

**Table 5: Required Minimum Distances Between PDGA Tour Events**

The following table shows the minimum distances required between sanctioned tour events in order to avoid a scheduling conflict. The PDGA gives priority of dates to Majors, National Tours, and SuperTours and handles the scheduling of these events directly. State Coordinators are responsible for the scheduling of B and C Tier events and should give preference to reliable events with traditional weekends, and then to smaller or new events where there is no scheduling conflict and where the basic terms of sanctioning have been met.

**Minimum # of Miles between Tour Events \***

Tier	NT	A	B	C	
<b>Major</b>	***	1250	300	200	* When one event only offers Pro divisions and another only Am divisions on the same weekend, there is no conflict.
<b>National Tour</b>	***	750	250	175	
<b>A</b>	750	300	150	75	* Where events are closer than the distances indicated, the higher tiered TD or Tour Manager may elect to have the protected radius waived.
<b>B</b>	250	150	75	40	
<b>C</b>	175	75	40	0	