

Hero Women's Professional Golf Tour

January 2022

*Rules and Regulations for members of the Players' Division
of the Women's Golf Association of India (Professional Golf)*

Section 1:

a) ABBREVIATIONS:

1. **WGAI** - **Women's Golf Association of India**
2. **LET** - **Ladies European Tour**
3. **WPD** - **WGAI Players' Division**
4. **TC** - **Tournament Committee**
5. **HWP GT** - **Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour**
6. **TD** - **Tournament Director**
7. **IGU** - **Indian Golf Union**
8. **OOM** - **Order of Merit**
9. **PR** - **Players' Representative**
10. **AC** - **Appeals Committee**
11. **DC** - **Disciplinary Committee**
12. **EXCOM** - **Executive Committee**
13. **CC** - **Conditional Card**
14. **WAGR** - **World Amateur Golf Ranking**
15. **WADA** - **World Anti - Doping Agency**
16. **IOA** - **Indian Olympic Association**
17. **RWR** - **Rolex World Ranking**
18. **PAT** - **Playing Ability Test**

b) MEMBERS SHALL ADHERE TO A CODE OF ETHICS:

The Association enjoins upon its membership rigid observation of the following Code of Ethics: the name "Professional Golfer" or "Golf Professional" is and must remain a pledge of - and synonym for - honor, service and fair dealing. Her professional integrity and fidelity to the game of golf and sense of responsibility towards employers and employees, manufacturers, clients and sister professionals must transcend thought of material gain.

c) MEMBERS SHALL BE BOUND BY THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS OF CONDUCT:

1. Make only constructive comments regarding fellow professionals, the Association, its tournaments, sponsors and other affiliated parties, and deal with all persons in a fair manner.
2. Meet all financial obligations promptly.
3. Publicize and promote attendance at programs and scheduled

tournaments.

4. Accept the responsibilities necessary to enhance the image of the Association by willingly playing an active role on its Committees and by responding immediately to all inquiries necessary for fulfillment of the Association's objectives.
5. Present a positive image through conduct and dress; this will enhance respect as well as elevate the profession.
6. Comply with normally accepted standards of courtesy and golf etiquette.
7. Act at all times in the best interests of WGAI and the game of golf, and try to enhance the goodwill attached to the same.

Section 2:

APPLICATIONS:

A. FOR EXISTING MEMBERS :

A completed / updated official application form accompanied by the stated fee and relevant annexures must be submitted to the WGAI office on or before the due date. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE.

B. FOR NEW MEMBERS FROM 2022:

In addition to A above, first-time applicants must:

- a) Submit evidence of having attained the age of 16 as on date of submission of application. Applicants who have completed 16 years of age as on the date of submission of their application can apply for membership of WGAI, provided their application is accompanied by a consent form signed by at least 1 parent, along with a waiver form absolving WGAI of any responsibility towards their minor wards. Such minor players MUST always be accompanied by a parent / guardian at all events. These provisions will not apply to applicants who have attained the age of 18 years.
- b) Furnish Bank Account & PAN Card details
- c) Establish that their names appear in the current IGU Ladies Order of Merit OR
- d) Establish that they are members of a Foreign Amateur Tour OR
- e) Establish that their names appear in the WAGR
- f) Provide a copy of their Handicap Certificate, preferably from the World Handicapping Service (WHS) verifying a single-digit handicap in support of their eligibility.
- g) If already a professional, provide proof of membership of any National / International Professional Golf Association / Tour. Such certification / proof should not be more than 2 years old.

New applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria listed under 'c' to 'g' above, as well as existing professionals who have not played any competitive golf for a period of 2 years, will be required to

undergo and pass the PAT before they are admitted / re-admitted as members. Such players will be required to submit to WGAI details of their clubs for conformity check based on the Equipments & Standards of the R&A. PAT can be undertaken only with conforming clubs. WGAI will conduct 2 PATs each year, 1 in each half of the season. Applicants will be informed beforehand, and post submission of their application, will be required to travel at their own cost to the designated venue and attain the qualifying score. To qualify, the applicant(s) will need to score a maximum aggregate total of +14 or better in two consecutive rounds. A maximum of 3 attempts shall be allowed in any season. All expenses incurred during the qualification process shall be borne by the applicants themselves. WGAI shall have the right to postpone the test if logistics and other conditions are not conducive for the same at any particular venue. In such a case the concerned applicants shall be informed prior to their travel. Such players MAY also be required to:

- Pay reasonable fees for services provided during the qualification process.
- Satisfactorily complete an examination on the USGA / R&A Rules of Golf.
- Give an undertaking that they have been a female at birth OR have undergone sex reassignment (male to female). For the avoidance of doubt, the WGAI reserves the right to carry out a confidential case-by-case evaluation at any time either prior to or after the grant of membership if in its reasonable opinion such an evaluation is or becomes necessary.

FIRST TIME ENTRANTS WILL BE EXEMPTED FROM PAYMENT OF LATE FEE

WGAI may deny membership to any player whose admission may, in its opinion, bring disrepute to the Association or its sponsors, cause disruption in the staging of the tournaments, or create disturbance for other players on the Tour.

Section 3:

PLAYER DECLARATION:

Once a player signs a WPD application form, she is agreeing to the following conditions:

- a) The applicant acknowledges the sole authority of the WGAI to establish Rules and Conditions as published in the annual handbook of Rules & Regulations, and agrees to abide by these and any amendments that may, from time to time, be made by WGAI.
- b) The applicant accepts that in any tournament(s) in which she participates, she will abide by the decisions of the TC. In case of any escalation, the decision of WGAI's designated Committees shall be final and binding.

- c) The applicant undertakes to conduct herself in accordance with the code of ethics of the WGAI.
- d) The applicant agrees to submit to drug testing, which will be conducted by or on behalf of WGAI in accordance with WADA rules as approved by IOA. Applicant agrees that all and any disciplinary proceedings and / or disputes that may arise as a result of any such drug testing shall be resolved in accordance with the terms of the policy.
- e) In case of any disputes, courts in New Delhi shall have sole jurisdiction.

Section 4:

A. RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP:

- a) Applications for the following season (1st January-31st December) will be accepted by no later than the date notified to the members via email at any time of the year for the following season. **The annual membership fee for the 2022 season is Rs.7500.00.**
- b) To be eligible for renewal of membership, an applicant must be an existing female member not currently under any suspension or owing any outstanding debt to the Tour. In the latter case, renewal of membership will be considered only after all outstanding dues have been received.
- c) No member shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of membership until the fee is paid and renewal of the membership is ratified by WGAI.
- d) Intimation for renewal of membership shall not be sent to players who have not played on the Tour for a continuous period of 2 or more years. Players absent from the HWPGE but playing overseas in RWR events will be exempted from PAT.

B. LATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

Late applications for renewal of membership may be considered subject to the following conditions:

- a) Payment of double the current annual membership fee.
- b) Receipt of correctly completed forms.

C. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:

A player eligible to be a member of the WPD as defined above may be refused membership or may cease to be a member on the occurrence of one or more of the following:

- a) Failure to renew membership and pay the appropriate fees or any outstanding fine by the due date in the relevant year.
- b) Resignation by the member.
- c) Expulsion by WGAI as a result of breach of the code of ethics following standard disciplinary proceedings.
- d) Death of a member.

NOTE: A PLAYER WHO WITHDRAWS FROM A WGAI SCHEDULED / SANCTIONED EVENT DUE TO A MEDICAL REASON BUT SUBSEQUENTLY PARTICIPATES IN ANOTHER EVENT ON THE SAME DATES WILL BE IN SERIOUS BREACH AND LIABLE TO HAVE HER MEMBERSHIP INVALIDATED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

Section 5:

PLAYING STANDARDS OF MAX SCORING:

- a) Any tournament participant who records a score of +16 or over in the first round of a tournament must retire from the tournament.
- b) This regulation may be revoked at the tournament venue by TC prior to the start of the tournament after considering prevailing conditions. The decision of the TC shall be final.

Section 6:

ENTRY / WITHDRAWAL REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURE:

METHOD OF ENTRY

Members must enter and withdraw personally. No proxies are allowed. A player MUST communicate her intention to play by sending an email to the Tour Manager or WGAI office. For avoidance of disputes, telephonic confirmations, SMS or whatsapp messages shall not be accepted. Receipt of entry fee in WGAI's designated bank account shall not be treated as a confirmed entry unless accompanied by an email specifying the event applied for.

ABSENCE OF COMMUNICATION CANNOT BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR CONFIRMATION.

Players arriving at venues with an intention to participate shall be denied entry if their email confirmations have not been received. The onus is on the player to make sure her entry has been received by the WGAI on or before the closing date.

WGAI may, at its discretion, relax this rule if under exceptional circumstances the mandatory 15 day period is not available to players. Last minute entry may be considered for players returning from an overseas event. Players planning to go abroad to participate in overseas events but not getting their visa in time may be allowed late entry into HWPGT events against payment of the normal fee. Such players may be required to submit the necessary supporting documents.

NON-MEMBER / GUEST PLAYER :

A professional who is a member of a recognized professional golfing body but not a member of the WPD is allowed to participate in HWPGT ranking events without becoming its member. Any Non-Member / Guest Player who wishes to participate in HWPGT events must pay the required entry fee of Rs.5000.00. The currently applicable levy / withholding tax will be deducted from any prize money won. She will not

be eligible for inclusion in the Dynamic OOM.

A. CONFIRMATION OF THE ENTRY / ENTRY FEE:

Tour Manager will send out a confirmed tournament schedule. For all entries received by Tour Manager a confirmation of entry will be sent to the member by return email. Members are required to retain entry fee receipts as proof of entry.

The entry fee for tour members is Rs.3000.00 per event. This must be paid latest upon registration at the tournament venue. IN CASE OF MEDICAL WITHDRAWAL, EVENT ENTRY FEE WILL NOT BE REFUNDED BUT MAY BE ADJUSTED AGAINST FUTURE EVENT(S) WITHIN THE CURRENT FISCAL, PROVIDED IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE RELEVANT MEDICAL CERTIFICATE FROM A REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

Late entry Fee: Players who miss the 15 day deadline can still enter by sending in their confirmations upto 5 days before the scheduled practice round. In such cases entries will be accepted against payment of a late entry fee of Rs.5000.00. Confirmation must be sent by email.

A player unable to reach the venue in time for registration may either through a telephone call or an email confirm her participation to the WGAI staff at the venue. Her entry fee will then be accepted before start of round 1. Breach will be subject to penalty as follows:

- a) Failure to inform will be treated as "withdrawal" and will attract a minor penalty (refer "f" of Minor Penalty).
- b) Failure to reach venue will be treated as "no show" and will attract an intermediate penalty (refer "d" of Intermediate Penalty).

B. WITHDRAWALS / CONFIRMATION OF WITHDRAWAL:

Withdrawal must be communicated in writing. For all withdrawals received at the WGAI office, a confirmation of withdrawal will be sent to the member by return e-mail to her latest address as communicated to the WGAI. Members are required to retain the confirmation as proof of withdrawal.

Any member who has previously confirmed her entry and subsequently wishes to withdraw must do so prior to relevant closing date as published in one of the following ways:

- a) Via email to official email ID no later than 17:00 hours on the closing date published (15 days prior to the event).
- b) Via telephone call to the WGAI office during working hours on weekdays, within 72 hours before scheduled close of entries, in case member has no access to internet facility.

Official Contact Details:

Telephone : +91 11 40545083, 26328503

Email : info@wgai.co.in

- I. A player who withdraws her entry after the closing date for entries will be fined unless such withdrawal is supported by a medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner within 10 days of the date of withdrawal. This certificate must be sent to the WGAI office or Tour Manager at the earliest. A player who withdraws on medical grounds and then wishes to compete within the period of illness specified by the doctor on the official medical form will be required to submit a certificate of fitness before her entry is accepted for a tournament that falls within the period of the illness. Players who have entered an HWPGT event and have simultaneously also applied for a visa to travel for an overseas event, may be allowed to withdraw late without penalty if their visa is issued at the last minute. Such players may be required to submit the necessary supporting documents.
- II. A player who fails to notify her withdrawal in writing before 17:00 hours on the closing date for entries will be fined Rs.5000.00 (Minor Penalty), which must be paid before her entry is accepted for the next event in which she wishes to participate.

C. CONFLICTING EVENTS:

- I. In order to contribute to the success of golfing events co-sponsored or approved by the Association on days when any such event is scheduled, no member of the WPD can participate in any tournament or other golfing event which is not approved by the WGAI, except as provided in II & III below. Any member who fails to comply may be subject to Minor Penalty.
- II. Players intending to participate in international events who have given prior intimation of the same to the WGAI office.
- III. Players holding Conditional Card of any international tour and gaining last minute entry.
- IV. A player failing the 80 percent criteria for Dynamic OOM will retain her place in the Dynamic OOM, if such player has participated in international events clashing with HWPGT calendar. Such player will be given credit for the number of international events in which she has participated for fulfillment of 80 percent criteria, provided she has played in at least 50 percent of HWPGT scheduled events. Such credits shall not be considered for purposes of Annual Awards u/s 7 and Welfare Disbursement u/s 19.

Section 7:

OFFICIAL PRIZE MONEY AND RANKING OF PLAYERS:

Prize money won in official WGAI sanctioned tournaments of the HWPGT shall be distributed in accordance with the formula adopted by the WGAI, unless otherwise determined by the WGAI for particular tournaments.

- a) For an HWPGT event to be held, a minimum of 10 professional players must constitute the field. In case less than 10 players report at the registration desk for the tournament, the tournament may be cancelled without any liability on WGAI, or may be conducted after reduction in prize money.
- b) Prize Money payout is as follows:

No. of Pro Players	Payout Spots	No. of Pro Players	Payout Spots
10 - 11	7 + ties	16 - 17	11 + ties
12	8 + ties	18	12 + ties
13 - 14	9 + ties	19 - 20	13 + ties
15	10 + ties	21	14 + ties

For 22 or more pro players in the field, a cut will be applied after second round as per details below:

No. of Pro Players	Cut at	No. of Pro Players	Cut at
22 - 23	15 + ties	41 - 45	28 + ties
24 - 28	18 + ties	46 - 50	32 + ties
29 - 34	21 + ties	51 - 55	35 + ties
35 - 40	24 + ties	55 - 60	38 + ties

- c) Playing field: Professional golf players who have registered at the venue to play the event are to be considered for prize money payouts.
- d) Applicable withholding tax as per Govt. of India rules will be deducted from prize money. Tax Certificates (Form 16A) will be issued after the respective quarter of fiscal year.
- e) Prize money won by players under the following categories in foreign / invitational tournaments as determined by WGAI will not count for the OOM.
- Any prize money won in Pro-Am events.
 - Any prize money won in a tournament played as a partnership with only one score.
- f) **Minimum participation in 80% of total scheduled HWPGT events in the season is mandatory to be eligible for the Dynamic Order of Merit. For exemptions to this rule please refer to Section 6 C (IV)**
- g) Prize Money for Annual Awards will be given out after tour season 2022 in the following categories:
- Hero Player of the year
 - Hero Rookie of the year
 - Hero Best Stroke Average of the year
- (Based on Dynamic Order of Merit. Exemption u/s 6 C (IV) will not apply.)**

- h) Prize Money transaction will be undertaken by Electronic Fund Transfer.

Section 8:

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENTS:

- a) All 72 / 54 hole events, with one practice round.
- b) All events will be governed under the rules and regulations of the R&A.
- c) Dynamic Order of Merit will be considered for all international tournament exemptions.
- d) As far as possible, R&A certified / accredited TDs / Referees approved by IGU will officiate at all events. The WGAI TD will be responsible for technical conduct of the championship. An additional referee will be recruited for all events subject to availability.
- e) Players to arrange and pay for their own accommodation / f&b at tournament venues.
- f) At certain venues, WGAI may offer professional players a subsidy on f&b. A transport subsidy to and from the venue or transport facility between venues may also be offered on a case to case basis. While only professional players shall be entitled for disbursement of subsidies, WGAI may, at its discretion, extend certain other facilities to amateurs, accompanying parents, guests, caddies etc. In all such matters WGAI's decision shall be final.

Section 9:

CONFLICTING ADVERTISING:

- a) During the tournament, no competitor or her caddie will be permitted to wear or display any advertising matter which, in the opinion of the TC, may compromise a sponsor by conflicting with the product of the sponsor or place in jeopardy the conduct of the tournament. It is the responsibility of the player to check with the TC as to whether her clothing or equipment is permissible. The TC shall be entitled to make a player remove the offending article or cover up the conflicting advertising. However, WGAI will endeavor to ensure that the players fulfill their personal sponsorship contracts within this guideline.
- b) Member's advertising standard:
When members are negotiating contracts with individual sponsors, the following guidelines are suggested
 - i. Any advertising patches should not be larger than or in conflict with the HWPGE sponsor logos.
 - ii. The size of any individual patch on apparel should not be larger than 4x6 inches in dimension.

Section 10:

GENERAL:

a) **Draws:**

- i. Play in the first two rounds will be normally in three-balls. Starting time after the first round will be according to scores - leaders out last.
- ii. Where a special format or two tee starts is involved, draw procedures may vary.
- iii. An email shall be sent informing all competitors of their tee-off times. However, the onus is on each member to confirm her correct start time with the tournament office.

b) **Official Events / Mandatory Events:** Where events are stated to be “Official” or “Mandatory” as contained in the player fact sheets then attendance is a must, unless prior information is given to the WGAI Office / TC. It is requested that members interact with the invited guests in order to enhance public relations and thereby promote the Tour's image.

c) **Member Contact Details:** Players are responsible for the accuracy of their contact information available with the Tour. They should promptly update any changes in their mobile number, email and postal address.

d) **General Complaints and Suggestions:** These should be made in writing to the PR for discussions at the next meeting. If a member has a problem or a query to discuss it is requested that the member waits until the tournament round is completed.

e) **WGAI Player Meetings:** It is mandatory to attend player meetings when scheduled by PR. Non attendance without prior information is subject to Minor Penalty as stated in Section 12-Minor Penalty—g.

f) **Election of PR:** Only HWP GT players who have played in a minimum of 50 percent of HWP GT events in the previous season are eligible to vote and / or contest in the PR's election. Voting is mandatory. A member not exercising her vote will be deemed to have cast a negative vote opposing the candidate(s). A candidate to be declared elected MUST secure at least 51 percent of the total votes. In case of a tie, the voting process shall be repeated on a suitable date and time notified by the WGAI office. Post the election of the PR, the players may choose two other members from amongst the WPD to assist the PR in the discharge of her responsibilities.

The WGAI office shall notify commencement of the electoral process 1 month before the incumbent PR demits office, and the procedures and rules governing the voting shall be communicated to all members. The successful candidate will hold the position of PR for 2 years.

In case players are unable to elect the PR, or the election cannot be held for any reason, the Board reserves the right to nominate a PR and fix her tenure.

- g) **Pre Qualifying Rounds Status:** May be announced after completion of a Tour season. Players whose names do not appear on the Hero OOM money list in a season may be required to play 54 holes qualifying rounds to secure following season's Tour Card.
- h) **Media & Public Relations:** The importance of full cooperation with press, radio and television cannot be over-emphasized. Players must make themselves available for media / sponsor / Tour related activities at each tournament and must comply with all reasonable requests from WGAI's public relations company and media consultants. Players must agree to attend to the press / media personnel immediately after completion of tournament round.
- i) **Promotional Activities:** Personal situations permitting, professional players may be called upon to volunteer for conducting clinics at specific tournament venues as promotional activity of the WGAI.
- j) **Etiquette / Behaviour on the course:** All players must familiarize themselves with the provisions of Rule 1.2a. A Committee may disqualify a player for serious misconduct for acting contrary to the spirit of the game. Repeated breach of this condition will attract disqualification / penalty at the discretion of TC and possible suspension from HWPGT with immediate effect after referral to WGAI DC. The TC is empowered to disallow at any time the participation of a player who exhibits symptoms of any psychotic disorder which may cause inconvenience to other players and compromise the tournament.
- k) **Prize Presentations:** It is mandatory for the winner(s), runner(s) up and any other category of prize winner(s) to be present at the prize presentation ceremony. For others players, while attendance at prize presentation is optional, it is highly recommended that they attend to support and encourage the winners. All players present at the prize presentation must be properly attired. Slippers / jeans are not allowed.

Section 11:

CADDIE REGULATIONS:

- a) Contestants in HWPGT sanctioned events shall employ caddies for all practice rounds, Pro-Am rounds and tournament rounds. Hand-pulled golf trolleys are permitted.
- b) Players who wish to bring their own caddies to an event sanctioned by the WGAI shall be responsible for the conduct and behavior of such caddies.
- c) A WPD member may caddie for another member during WGAI sanctioned tournaments.
- d) Caddies must wear smooth rubber- soled shoes, preferably Tennis shoes. Flip flop sandals and open toed shoes are not allowed. Players may contact club venues to determine caddie dress code.

- e) **Caddies MUST NOT (Breach will be subjected to Minor Penalty)**
1. Use practice facilities.
 2. Play golf at tournament venues whether by invitation, payment or otherwise.
 3. Walk on greens if wearing spiked footwear.
 4. Wear tracksuit / jogging suit / sweat suit bottoms at tournament venues.
 5. Wear cut off shorts, swimming trunks or beach shorts at tournament site. Tailored shorts may be worn.
 6. Carry, or have consumed alcohol beverages at tournament site during stipulated rounds.
 7. Use the courtesy car service unless accompanied by a player nor take a seat if required by another player.
 8. Mark player's scorecards.
 9. Use a mobile phone during the stipulated round.
 10. Use motorized transport during the stipulated round.
 11. Test surface of a putting green by rolling a ball during the stipulated round.
- f) Bibs or other official clothing issued to caddies on the first tee must be worn and returned when leaving the 18th green or as otherwise directed.
- g) Any breach of caddie regulations will be subject to Minor Penalty but after the 2nd offence the caddie will be suspended from the Tour.
- h) A major breach of the caddie regulation will be dealt with separately by the TC and any penalty imposed may take effect immediately or later at the discretion of the TC.

Section 12:

PENALTIES:

MINOR PENALTY:

A Minor Penalty is a fine of Rupees Rs.5000.00. A minor penalty will be imposed by the TD or the WGA Official at the venue.

- a) Caddies not wearing Sponsors Caps
- b) Caddies not wearing Sponsors Bibs
- c) Throwing or breaking of Clubs
- d) Not raking bunkers, not repairing pitch marks or divots
- e) Wearing slippers / jeans to Prize Distributions
- f) Withdrawing from tournament less than 15 days before practice round (For exemptions, refer to section 6C)
- g) Non attendance at players meeting

INTERMEDIATE PENALTY:

An Intermediate Penalty is a fine of Rs.10000.00 and / or suspension from

play for one tournament. Intermediate penalty will be imposed by the TD or the WGAI Official at the venue.

- a) Drunken behavior at Pro-Am party or in Club House
- b) Condescending remarks about WGAI /officials/players
- c) Damage to Course or Club House property
- d) No Show
- e) Breach of Dress Code of Clubs
- g) Failure to play in a Pro-Am
- g) Reported for giving unsolicited advice to TD / Referees
- h) Loud and unbecoming conduct in the premises of a Golf Club
- i) Player withdrawal after closing date for second offence in season
- j) No player of WGAI can contract, host or stage any promotional activity / Pro-Am Charity Event at the tournament venue without written permission from the EXCOM.

6 fine cards in one season will debar the player from continuing in the Tour. A ban may be enforced for the following season.

MAJOR PENALTY:

A Major Penalty is a fine of Rs.25000.00, immediate suspension from tournament play for a minimum of two events and / or suspension / revocation of membership. If suspension or revocation is a part of the penalty imposed, and if the member chooses to appeal, the suspension or revocation will not be effective until after the appeal is heard and upheld by the AC. A major penalty will be referred by the TD to the DC.

- a) Cheating
- b) Drug abuse
- c) Criminal activities
- d) Player withdrawal after closing date for third offence in season
- e) Player in breach of etiquette / behavior on the course and using abusive language during the event (against TD, WGAI / Club official, media, fellow competitor, caddie, visitors). PROFANITY OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OF ANY SORT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS:

In the event that the authority imposing the penalty is faced with a conflict of interest, he / she shall remove herself / himself from consideration of that penalty, and the decision as to that penalty shall be made by WGAI's appointed Committee who will be guided by a legal officer. If a player chooses to appeal after a decision is received from the appointed DC, she may appear before the appointed AC.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE:

The DC shall consist of three members appointed by the President of WGAI, of which at least two may be sitting members of the Board. Within a period of 15 days from receipt of the complaint, the Committee shall meet at a time and place of its choosing, and consider any major penalty recommended by the TD, by taking into account the following:

- a) Any evidence submitted by the TD
- b) Any complaints by the Referee
- c) Any material submitted by the concerned player in her defence
- d) Any deposition by witnesses

The decision of the DC shall be communicated to the concerned player within a period of 7 days. The concerned player may, if she so chooses, appeal to the AC against the decision of the DC. Such appeal must be made within a period of 7 days of receipt of the DC's decision.

APPEALS COMMITTEE:

- a) There shall be an AC consisting of the President of WGAI plus a professional tour golfer (female or male) who has not actively participated in Tour events in the preceding 5 years and one other non-member of the WGAI, both of whom will be designated by the WGAI Board. The AC shall have the power to fix the time and place of any hearing to review decisions, and shall prescribe its own rules of procedure provided the time, place and procedures afford due process to the appealing member.
- b) All persons involved in the proposed imposition of a Major Penalty shall use their best efforts to prevent any publicity with respect to the proposed imposition of such a penalty.
- c) Such appeal shall stay the effective date of any penalty until after the decision of AC.
- d) Payment of any prize money won, or any other dues payable to the offending player in the intervening period shall be suspended till the final disposal of the appeal. The AC will send a decision within 15 days of their meeting to WGAI official for a final imposition of a Major Penalty.
- e) In the case of an unsuccessful appeal, the fine must be paid within a period of 7 days of receipt of the decision of the AC. Failure to pay the fine within the stipulated period may lead to suspension / revocation of membership.

Section 13:

PLAY FORESHORTENED OR CANCELLED - GUIDELINES:

- a) The general objective in cases of suspended play is to complete as many rounds as possible at the scheduled time. The final objective is to finish the tournament on the scheduled day.

- b) If play is suspended, every effort will be made to resume play the same day, even when that round cannot be completed before dark.
- c) If it is impossible for the entire field to finish a scheduled round, there are two alternatives:
 - i. To cancel the round and play it in its entirety the next day, with the proviso that there is no extension beyond the final day.
 - ii. To finish the suspended round when conditions permit.
- d) If only less than 50 percent of the starting field can complete play on the first scheduled day, the round may be cancelled. The decision whether or not to cancel a round will be at the discretion of the TC.
- e) The prize money declared for the event shall be distributed in full if a minimum of 2 rounds have been completed. 75 percent of the Prize Money will be distributed in case only 1 round can be completed. In adverse conditions where the tournament is threatened by inclement weather, the TC may, before commencement of a round, reduce the number of holes to be played and declare the shortened round to be the stipulated round. The shortened round will then constitute a full round in accordance with the rules of golf.
- f) The WGAI will endeavor to run the HWP GT under the best possible circumstances available at all venues.
- g) The WGAI will not be liable in any manner whatsoever in case an event is cancelled or rescheduled or if a venue has to be changed due to sudden imposition of lockdown by Central/State governments or any other statutory authority.

Section 14:

PRACTICE REGULATIONS:

- a) Players are responsible for maintaining their position on the course with respect to the group ahead of them.
- b) In a situation in which a member of a group behind the player is waiting to play, no practice putting, chipping shots or bunker shots are permitted. This regulation supersedes anything to the contrary herein.
- c) Practice putting is permitted.
- d) One other ball may be played from a tee or to a green in addition to the original ball. Only two chip shots or two bunker shots may be played on a given hole.
- e) In general all practice rounds must begin on hole #1
- f) Local club rules are to be strictly adhered to (unless otherwise posted).
- g) When starting a practice round, players should wait until the group in front has reached the putting green of the hole before teeing off.
- h) Players may practice at the site during non stipulated practice round / slots without specific approval of the WGAI officials, entirely at

their own expense by making arrangements with the concerned club authorities and paying the applicable green fees.

- i) Use of carts or other motorized transport is not allowed during practice round.
- j) Any additional practice regulations shall be posted on the notice board.
- k) On day of practice round, practice outside designated practice times, with or without club members / guests, is not allowed.

Section 15:

GOLF CLUB REGULATIONS:

All players must make sure that their golf clubs are in conformity with the R&A specifications as updated from time to time, and as mentioned in the HWPGT Hard Card. If a breach is proved after culmination of the event, any prize money earned in that event shall be forfeited / refunded by the player along with disqualification.

Section 16:

TOURNAMENT CLASSIFICATIONS:

- a) **Sanctioned Tournament:** A tournament which is conducted by the WGAI or contracted for by the WGAI with a tournament sponsor.
- b) **Approved Tournament:** A tournament which is endorsed and supported by the WGAI but for which there may be no contract between the WGAI and the tournament sponsor.
- c) **Open Tournament:** A co-sanctioned tournament for which all players are eligible internationally as well.
- d) **Invitational Tournament:** A co-sponsored tournament whose participants are invited by the sponsors in accordance with categories fixed through an agreement with the WGAI.
- e) **Foreign Official Tournament:** An official tournament which is not a domestic tournament.

Section 17:

APPEARANCE OF PLAYERS:

Players in events sanctioned or approved by the WGAI shall present a neat appearance, appropriate to the game of golf, in both clothing and grooming. Dress code as prescribed by the host venue MUST be strictly adhered to at all times.

Section 18:

HERO WOMEN'S INDIAN OPEN:

1. **Category A - Dynamic Order of Merit:** Top 9 from the dynamic Hero Order of Merit. **For exemptions to this rule please refer to Section 6 C (IV)**

2. **Category B - Winner Exemption:** Current season HWPGT event winner(s), if not already qualifying through Category A. This spot will be open to both professionals and amateurs.
3. **Category C - Season Exemption:** Previous season HWPGT Order of Merit winner, if not already qualifying through Categories A or B. Participation in minimum 6 Tour events in current season is mandatory to avail of this exemption, of which minimum 3 events should be on HWPGT and balance may be through credits for overseas clashing events.
4. **Category D - Reciprocal Exemption:** WGAI currently has reciprocal understanding with ALPG, CLPGA, KLPGA, Morocco, Switzerland, Japan etc. This may vary from year to year. A maximum of 10 spots will be reserved under this category.
5. **Category E - General Exemption:** Exemptions not utilized under categories B, C and D will revert to this pool. All remaining exemptions will be given under this category. Players with higher RWR will get preference. The EXCOM may grant a discretionary exemption to any player(s) after reviewing their performance record.
6. Post allocation of spots through above categories, the next 2 players who do not qualify for the Championship shall be on the WGAI reserve list for the event. A WGAI spot(s) vacated up to the midnight of start of the event week will be offered to the first player on the WGAI reserve list. Post midnight, last minute vacancies will be offered to LET and WGAI on alternating basis, as per standard practice in LET sanctioned events. Reserve players will travel to the venue at their own cost. The first player on the reserve list must communicate her availability immediately on being notified by the tournament office, failing which the spot shall be given to the next eligible player. Post confirmation, a 'no show' for any reason shall attract the appropriate penalty under LET regulations.

Section 19:

WELFARE DISBURSEMENT:

Players who participate in all the scheduled events of HWPGT 2021 will be entitled to an equal share from the welfare fund announced by WGAI for player development, upon culmination of the tour season. 100 percent participation in HWPGT events is mandatory for eligibility. Credits under Section 6 C (IV) shall not apply.

Section 20:

CHANGE IN REGULATIONS:

These regulations may be amended from time to time by the EXCOM of WGAI.

WGAI-January 2022

AMATEUR PLAYERS SECTION - AMATEUR ENTRIES:

1. Participation of amateurs in WGAI tournaments is at the sole discretion of WGAI.
2. WGAI reserves the right to refuse entry to any amateur without assigning any reason whatsoever.
3. Submission of the Form by email / post / courier and transfer of the Entry Fee into the designated bank account of WGAI does not imply acceptance of the entry.
4. All amateurs applying to play their first event on the Tour must submit to WGAI details of their clubs at least a week before the closing date for entries. A club conformity check based on the Equipments & Standards of the R&A will be carried out for all first time amateurs. This will also apply to amateurs who have previously participated in WGAI events but have since acquired new clubs which have not been checked before.
Penalty for playing with non-conforming clubs is **DISQUALIFICATION**.
5. Form & Fee will be accepted only after the Tour Manager's confirmation regarding conformity of clubs.
 - a) Any amateur playing in the WGAI events should have a handicap of -9 or below.
 - b) An amateur should be in the Top 15 of the IGU Amateur Ladies Order of Merit.
 - c) Past winner in the IGU Ladies Circuit current list who also meets the minimum handicap requirement.
 - d) WAGR ranked amateurs can apply to play for amateur spots.
 - e) Maximum of 6 amateur players can participate in any HWPGT events on first come first serve basis.
 - f) Players will tee off from the same tees as professional players.
 - g) Entry for amateur players closes 15 days prior to registration date of the tournament. Entry will be confirmed only on receipt of the applicable fee.
 - h) Entry Fee is Rs.7500.00. Late entries, upto 5 days before scheduled practice round, will be accepted on payment of a late entry fee of Rs.10000.00. Entry fee is non refundable, non adjustable and will not be carried forward.
 - i) Amateurs who have not attained the age of 18 MUST always be accompanied by a parent / guardian at all events, and sign the applicable waiver form.
 - j) Accompanying wards / parents of amateur players will have to pay for facilities as per club rules at all venues.
 - k) Best amateur(s) will receive a token prize, even if there is only one participant, provided she finishes amongst the payout spots as specified in section 7 (b). The prize will be shared in case of ties.

- l) Amateur players will adhere to tournament guidelines Section 5 (a)-Playing standards of max scoring, Section 14-Practice regulations.
- m) Amateur(s) eligible for the prize must be present in person to receive it.
- n) Amateur players must adhere to players guidelines for dress code.
- o) The top 3 Indian amateurs whose names appear in the WAGR, on closing date of entries, will automatically qualify for the Hero Women's Indian Open.