



PGA Europro Tour
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Dear Applicant,

The PGA Europro Tour 2012

The PGA Europro Tour is about to start another exciting season and whether you have been a member in the past or are thinking about becoming a member for the first time, this is the most important document you need; please find below all the documentation relating to the PGA Europro Tour Qualifying School 2012.

The PGA Europro Tour is the only officially recognized satellite Tour in the UK, and one of the leading Tours in Europe. We are the only Tour in the UK that offers direct access to the Challenge Tour through our Final Order of Merit. In the forthcoming season there will be up to 16 tournaments between April and October competing for total prize money approaching £600,000. One of the primary goals of the PGA Europro Tour is to enable players to perform at a high level and prepare them for life as a Tour Professional. Every tournament is televised in a two hour highlights package on Sky Sports which gives each player the invaluable experience of playing in front of the cameras.

The PGA Europro Tour also offers several playing opportunities on the European Challenge Tour to its members each year. The top 5 players who are not otherwise exempt from the PGA Europro Tour Order of Merit at the end of the 2012 season will gain Category 10 membership of the European Challenge Tour in 2013. In addition, members also have the opportunity to play for a selected number of invitations to Challenge Tour events throughout the year.

2011 was another great year for PGA Europro Tour graduates with Robert Rock (BMW Italian Open), Lee Slattery (Madrid Masters) and Michael Hoey (Madeira Open & Alfred Dunhill Links) all registering victories on the European Tour. They join an illustrious list of past Members who have gone on to win at the highest level which includes Masters Champion Charl Schwartzel, 2010 Open Champion Louis Oosthuizen and Ryder Cup star Ross Fisher. The PGA Europro Tour has long been a breeding ground for young talent in Europe and we hope that this year will be a stepping stone for you.

For those who will be first time members of the PGA Europro Tour in 2012, the following points will provide you with some general facts about the PGA Europro Tour:

- Each tournament is scheduled for 54 holes of stroke play.
- Each tournament has a 36 hole cut to the top 50 players and ties.
- Prior to each Tournament there is an Official Practice Day and a Pro-Am.
- Regular tournaments have a minimum prizefund of £40,000.
- Each tournament has a 2 hour TV highlights package broadcast on Sky Sports.
- The entry fee for each tournament is £275.
- Every tournament has a maximum field size of either 168 or 156 depending on daylight hours.



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For the time being however, the most important thing is to join the PGA Europro Tour. Upon doing so successfully you will then be able to enter Qualifying School. Full details can be found on the enclosed literature but in the meantime the main points for your consideration include the following:

- This annual Membership fee for the PGA Europro Tour is £250.
- The 2012 Qualifying School entry fee is £145. You must join the Tour before being able to enter Qualifying School.
- Amateurs with an official handicap of 2 or less **are** allowed to play PGA Europro Tour Qualifying School **and** retain their Amateur Status throughout if they wish.
- Having entered Qualifying School, and turned Professional before, during or after playing, you are guaranteed an exemption category for the 2012 season allowing you to enter **all** the tournaments.
- Opportunities to compete on the European Challenge Tour are available to PGA Europro Tour Members through mid-season opportunities **and** final Order of Merit positions.
- All tournament correspondence will be sent to members via text and email.
- All PGA Europro Tour information is available on www.pga.info and www.europrotour.com. Full player and course statistics can also be found on these sites.

For those of you who are new to the PGA Europro Tour I hope that this has provided you with an insight into the Tour and what it has to offer. If you have any enquiries either now or during the season please don't hesitate to contact the Tournament Department at the PGA National Headquarters on the above details.

Your first step to becoming a successful Touring Professional in 2012 starts by logging on to our website and entering Qualifying School. Simply click on the "sign up now" link on the player login section of www.europrotour.com and follow the on screen instructions.

With very best wishes for the forthcoming season.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Higginbottom".

Simon Higginbottom
PGA – Head of Tournaments

QUALIFYING SCHOOL 2012
(Including exempt Player Information)

Qualifying School Stage 1

Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th April

De Vere Mottram Hall, Cheshire
The Players Club, Bristol
Stoke by Nayland Golf Club (Constable), Colchester

Qualifying School Final Stage

Wednesday 11th – Friday 13th April

Frilford Heath Golf Club (Blue and Red), Oxford

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Conditions of Play

Qualifying School Stage 1

- (i) Players **not** exempt for Qualifying School Final Stage under the categories listed under section 3 will be required to play at a Stage 1 venue.
- (ii) Entrants will be allocated to their preferred venue on a first come first serve basis.
- (iii) In the event of a venue being oversubscribed, priority of course nomination will be determined by the payment date of the entry fee via on-line entries.
- (iv) Stage 1 will be contested over 36 holes of stroke play with 18 holes being played each day.
- (v) Each venue (listed above) will have a maximum entry of 108 players.
- (vi) There will be no cut.
- (vii) The number of players qualifying to proceed to the Qualifying School Final Stage will be announced after all competitors have **teed off** at all three venues, i.e. the afternoon of **Tuesday 3rd April**. They will be divided between the qualifying rounds and will be calculated as a percentage of total entries.
- (viii) At each Stage 1 venue, in the event of a tie for the last qualifying place, a 'hole-by-hole' play-off will be held. Competitors not present when called for the play-off will be disqualified from the play-off.
- (ix) Play shall be in accordance with the Rules of Golf of R&A Rules Ltd, PGA Europro Tour Conditions of Competition and Local Rules and the local rules for each venue, as approved by the respective Tournament Director.
- (x) **Thursday 5th April** is held in reserve at all venues for use in the event of bad weather rendering the completion of 2 rounds by the end of Wednesday impossible.

Qualifying School Final Stage

- (i) Players exempt from Stage 1 of the PGA Europro Tour for 2012 may enter the Final Stage in order to improve their ranking.
- (ii) The Qualifying School Final will be contested over 54 holes of stroke play with 18 holes being played each day.
- (iii) Qualifying School Final Stage will have an entry of 240 players competing over both the Red and Blue courses at Frilford Heath Golf Club.
- (iv) The field will play one round on each of the first two days, alternating between Red and Blue courses, after which the leading 120 competitors (and those who tie for 120th place) will go forward to the third and final round over the Blue course.
- (v) After 54 holes all players will be ranked in categories according to score (See category list enclosed). All tied scores will be ranked by card play-off over the best last 18, 36, 9, 6, 3 and 1 holes (in scorecard order) and if still tied, by matchplay from hole 1 of their final round.
- (vi) Play shall be in accordance with the Rules of Golf of R&A Rules Ltd, PGA Europro Tour Conditions of Competition and Local Rules and the local rules for each course, as approved by the respective Tournament Director.
- (vii) In the event of a tie for first place there will be no play-off and the title and all prize money will be shared.

By entering any stage of the Qualifying School, all Professional entrants will automatically become full Members of the PGA Europro Tour for 2012 and thus be able to enter all events on the schedule. Entry into the final field of these events will be based on rankings.

Amateurs who enter Qualifying School and retain their Amateur Status during the event will have the option to either keep their respective category and become a Professional or retain their Amateur Status and forfeit their PGA Europro Tour Membership (for which there will be no refund). An amateur who relinquishes their Membership category at this time may regain it retrospectively at any time on the PGA Europro Tour 2012 schedule, at no further cost.

2. **Eligibility for Entry**

The PGA Europro Tour Qualifying School is open to the following:

- (i) All Professional golfers.
- (ii) All amateur golfers with a playing handicap of two (2) or better as recognised by their respective CONGU or Federation Handicapping Scheme.

Note: Amateur Status

It is not a breach of the Rules of Amateur Status, as approved by R&A Rules Ltd, for an amateur golfer to file an entry for and play in any stage of the PGA Europro Tour Qualifying School provided that, in advance of play, and in writing, he waives his right to any prize money in the competition.

An amateur golfer who fails to waive his right to prizemoney is in breach of the Rules of Amateur Status, but if he is unsuccessful at the Qualifying School, he may apply for reinstatement as an amateur through the R&A.

3. **Exemptions**

The following are exempt from Stage 1 of the PGA Europro Tour Qualifying School:

- (a) Players 61-130 from the PGA Europro Tour Order of Merit 2011.
- (b) Tournament Winners from the PGA Europro Tour between 2005 and 2009.
- (c) Players 2-10 from the seven PGA Regional Orders of Merit 2011.
- (d) Players 1-10 from the PGA Welsh Order of Merit 2011.
- (e) Players 1-50 from the World Amateur Golf Ranking (on Tuesday 20th March 2012).
- (f) Players 4-10 from the 2012 PGA of Australasia Final Qualifying School.

Note: Players wishing to gain an exemption from Stage 1 but play at the Final Stage must enter by the closing date.

4. **Entry Fees**

All parts of the Membership and Entry Process must be done on-line via www.europrotour.com. If you have used this system before, you should log-in with your current details. If you have forgotten these details click the supplied link. New users should click 'sign up here' to be guided through the process of creating an account. Once this is done you will be able to sign in and begin the process of joining the Tour.

When applying to enter the PGA Europro Tour 2012, entrants are reminded that their entry will not be accepted until payment has been received and banked. The entry fees are:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • 2012 PGA Europro Tour Membership fee | £250.00 |
| • Qualifying School Entry Fee (<i>if applicable</i>) | £145.00 |

Note: The Membership is subject to an additional administration fee of £7.50. Furthermore, there are credit card (3%) or debit card (50p) surcharges applicable to the qualifying school entry fee of £145.

Payment may only be made by credit card or debit card. We do not accept AMEX.

If you need more information on how to pay please contact Charles Hine or Matt Rowley, Tournament Entries Administrators on +44 (0) 1675 470 333 or email charles.hine@pga.org.uk or matt.rowley@pga.org.uk

Applicants will be emailed a confirmation of entry once their correctly submitted application has been processed and payment banked. Further to this confirmation it is the applicants' responsibility to verify his entry status in the Qualifying School. This can be monitored on the PGA Europro Tour section of www.pga.info or via www.europrotour.com

Closing Date for Entries

The closing date for all entries to PGA Europro Tour Qualifying School is **Tuesday 20th March 2012.**

Fully exempt players may join the Tour, and therefore receive their Membership Category, at any time.

5. **Withdrawal Policy**

As soon as an application to PGA Europro Tour is received and payment cleared, that person will be a Member of the Tour for 2012 unless an official withdrawal is made as follows:

- (i) If a player withdraws prior to the closing date he will be refunded in full for both his Membership fee and Qualifying School entry.
- (ii) If a player withdraws after the closing date, regardless of reason and without exception, he will be refunded his Membership fee and £50 of his Qualifying School entry fee.
- (iii) If a player is absent on their starting tee without notification of withdrawal, no refund will be given of either fee, however no additional fines under the PGA Europro Tour General Members Regulations will be imposed.

Note: Any player who pre-qualifies for the Qualifying School Final Stage and subsequently withdraws before the first round will not be refunded any of their Membership or entry fees. Such a person will gain the last ranking in Category 12.

6. **Regulations**

All applicants must abide by the provisions of the current PGA Europro Tour General Regulations Booklet. This publication is available from www.europrotour.com, PGA Europro Tour Headquarters or at any Qualifying School venue.

7. **Qualifying School Prizefunds**

Stage 1 (£1,000 at all 4 venues)

- 1. £300
- 2. £250
- 3. £200
- 4. £150
- 5. £100

Final Stage (£16,000)

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1. £2,400 | 6. £1,120 | 11. £640 |
| 2. £2,000 | 7. £960 | 12. £600 |
| 3. £1,600 | 8. £880 | 13. £560 |
| 4. £1,440 | 9. £800 | 14. £520 |
| 5. £1,280 | 10. £720 | 15. £480 |

Non-UK taxpayers (including the Irish Republic) are subject to withholding tax on all prize money won. All prize money is subject to 5% PGA Europro Tour levy.

8. **Addresses**

Stage 1

Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club

Keepers Lane
Leavenheath
Colchester
CO6 4PZ
Tel: +44 (0) 1206 262 836
Web: www.stokebynaylandgolfclub.co.uk

De Vere Mottram Hall

Wilmslow Rd,
Mottram St Andrew
Cheshire
SK10 4QT
Tel: +44 (0) 1625 828135
Web: www.devere.co.uk/our-locations/mottram-hall

The Players Club

Codrington,
Chipping Sodbury,
Bristol,
BS37 6RZ
Tel: +44 (0) 1454 313029
Web: www.theplayersgolfclub.com

Final Stage

Frilford Heath Golf Club

Frilford Heath
Abingdon
OX13 5NW
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 390 864
Web: www.frilfordheath.co.uk



Changes to 2012 PGA Europro Tour Categories and Their Effects

The PGA Europro Tour has made some changes to its Playing Categories for the 2012 season, the details of which are explained below. The principal change has been to put more emphasis on Qualifying School results for those non exempt Members as well as rewarding those players who qualified for the previous year's Tour Championship by extending Category 1. The changes to each Category are;

- Cat 1 – expanded to include players 51-60 from last year's OOM to fall in line with those players who qualify for the Tour Championship.
- Cat 2 – unchanged
- Cat 3 – unchanged
- Cat 4 – unchanged
- Cat 5 – unchanged
- Cat 6 – expanded to include last year's PGA Play Offs winner to recognise status within PGA.
- Cat 7 – unchanged
- Cat 8 – used to be Cat 9 and expanded to include 1-3 from PGA Australasia Q School to in order to honour reciprocal agreement with PGA of Australasia. Cat 7 removed from ET Categories as no longer relevant (players in last named Ryder Cup team)
- Cat 9 – used to be Cat 8 and now split into two (see Cat 11). Only covers players 31-80 now from Q School (previously 31-120).
- Cat 10 – reduced to only include 61-80 from last year's OOM as 51-60 have moved to Cat 1.
- Cat 11 – replaced with 81-120 from Q School
- Cat 12 – old Cat 11 otherwise unchanged
- Cat 13 – old Cat 12 otherwise unchanged
- Cat 14 – old Cat 13 otherwise unchanged
- Cat 15 – old Cat 14 otherwise unchanged

The Effects on Various Members

- ET and CT Categories are now guaranteed a place in the starting field – last year they were right on the cut off point for oversubscribed events.
- Players 51-60 from last year's OOM now guaranteed a place in the starting field as they are included in Cat 1.
- More emphasis has been placed on finishing positions at Final Qualifying School by splitting 31-120 into 31-80 (Cat 9) and 81-120 (Cat 11). The ET and CT Categories have now gone above these Q School Categories as well meaning that now finishing inside the top 80 at Final Q School is far more important than it was previously.
- Players 61-80 from last year's OOM are not guaranteed a place in the starting field, this was the case last year. They are encouraged to go to Final Q School to better their Category however on the plus side they now sit above players 81-120 from Q School.

- Any players missing the cut at Final Q School or failing to qualify at Stage 1 Q School remain in exactly the same position as last year. Although this is a low Category, players within them are Members of the Tour and may therefore enter every tournament and take a chance on getting in. Alternatively they may find it worthwhile asking for invites from the Tour (which can be done via the link on www.europrotour.com).

Last Category in on Closing Date – 2011 PGA Europro Tour

<u>Venue</u>	<u>Category*</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
Wensum Valley	12 (13)	5
Burhill	8 (11)	91
Bovey Castle	12 (13)	3
Longhirst Hall	12 (13)	47
Galgorm Castle	Field not full	
Fota Island	Field not full	
Wychwood Park	12 (13)	19
Players Club	12 (13)	40
Formby Hall	12 (13)	40
Lingfield Park	12 (13)	62
Mottram Hall	12 (13)	5
Hunley Hall	12 (13)	48

* This year's equivalent category in brackets

A full list of the 2012 Categories can be found on the next page but if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the PGA Tournament Department on +44 (0) 1675 470333.



FAQ's

What is BlueGolf?

BlueGolf is the tournament software that is used for online entry and all tournament administration. Each Member will have their own unique profile once they have registered online via www.europrotour.com where they can manage their tournament entries and withdrawals.

Can I enter tournaments by email or by post?

No. All tournament entries must be done online. If the closing date for a tournament has passed then the Member must phone PGA Headquarters on +44 (0) 1675 470333 if he wishes to enter.

What happens if I do not get into my first choice venue for Stage 1 Q School?

If your selected venue is full you will receive an email indicating that you have been placed on the reserve list for that venue. In addition a member of PGA staff will phone you to enter you into another qualifier.

How do I withdraw from a tournament?

Withdrawals can be done by the Member online through their BlueGolf profile up until the Friday before the tournament week. After this time the Member must phone either PGA Headquarters or the Tournament Office at the relevant venue to withdraw. Please note that withdrawals after the closing date for a tournament may incur a withdrawal fee/ fine - please refer to PGA Europro Tour Regulations 2012.

I am not receiving any emails or texts?

If this is the case then please check the details you have given us by logging into your player account and checking your personal details – you can change these at any time. It is the Member's responsibility to keep these details up to date so that you remain contactable.

How many people get a card from Qualifying School for the 2012 season?

Every player that enters qualifying school will become a Member of the Tour for 2012 and will hold a Category. The better you perform at Qualifying School the better your Category. This allows ANY Member to enter ANY tournament during the season regardless of how you perform at Qualifying School. The Qualifying School merely acts as a way of ranking all of the Members which is important when the final field for a tournament is to be decided.

How is the field for a regular tournament determined?

Every Member will fall into one of the Categories listed on Page 6. On the closing date of the tournament all entries will be ranked in Category order and the top 168 (for a max 168 field) will be entered into the tournament. All other entries will be placed on a reserve list, again in Category and ranking order.

I did not qualify from Stage 1 Qualifying School, do I have any chance of playing in a tournament this year?

Yes. Even though you have missed qualification you will still be ranked in Category 13 and can enter any of the tournaments on the schedule. Whilst you may not get into some of the early tournaments, as they are generally heavily subscribed, there is a good chance that you will get in some of the tournaments later on in the season or when entries are low for certain tournaments.

How will I know if I am in the tournament or on the reserve list?

An email will automatically be generated to you on the closing date informing you either that your entry has been successful or that you are on the reserve list. You can also see your tournament status by looking on your player profile and/or looking at the tournament information page for that tournament through the website www.europrotour.com.

What is the groove rule policy for 2012?

Rule 4-1/1 Conforming grooves and punch marks will not be adopted for the 2012 PGA Europro Tour season.

When is payment taken for a tournament?

All entry fees are taken on the closing date for that tournament and will only be taken if you have gained a place in the final field. This allows Members to enter numerous tournaments at one time without the payment for those tournaments all coming out at once.

How will I know if I get into a tournament from the reserve list?

A member of PGA staff will always phone you to inform you that a spot has become available should you wish to take it. You will then be given the choice to either accept the place in the field or turn down the place. If you do not wish to take the place in the field then there will be no withdrawal fee. Please note that at certain times, particularly during the tournament week, the Tournament Director may impose maximum response times from players on the reserve list.

How do sponsor's invites work?

At each tournament there will be 12 sponsor's invites into the tournament. These invites will be decided by the PGA Europro Tour on the closing date. Any player can ask for an invite and should do so by clicking on the "sponsor's invite" link on the europrotour.com homepage. It would help your cause to mention whether you are a Member, why you want an invite and a brief summary of your playing career. The recipients of a sponsor's invite are still required to pay the entry fee of £275 plus a temporary membership fee of £50 if they are not a Member.

How do I find out information relating to a tournament?

Log on to the website www.europrotour.com and click on the schedule tab. Next to each tournament there will be an "info" link which will take you to the tournament information page for each tournament. This will detail everything from practice times, accommodation deals, trolley hire, catering information and other venue details. Here you can also find information regarding reserve lists, starting times and scoring.

Who gets to play in the pro-ams and can I bring my own team?

Generally the pro-am is made up of the highest ranked players i.e. players 1-50 from last year's Order of Merit, Tournament Winners and Sponsors Invites. The selection process is purely at the discretion of the PGA Europro Tour and the Sponsors. If you are selected to play in a pro-am it is a condition of your entry that you must play, however you are allowed release for up to three pro-ams a year.

Most pro-ams are put on by the tournament sponsors and therefore no outside team entries are accepted. However, those pro-ams that are organized by the venue may accept team entries in which case you would need to speak with the venue direct. Details of whether a pro-am is open to entries can be found by phoning PGA Headquarters on +44 (0) 1675 470333.

As a PGA Europro Tour Member can I practice at a tournament venue for free?

No. Being a Member does not entitle you to free golf at any of the tournament venues. However, during every tournament week there will be times allocated for official practice when you will be able to practice for free. These times differ from tournament to tournament so it is important to check the information for each venue. Any practice outside of these official times is at the complete discretion of the venue. As a guide a typical tournament week would consist of Official Practice (Monday), Pro-am (Tuesday), and Tournament Days (Wednesday – Friday).

How is prize money paid?

All prize money is paid via BACS directly into your bank account. You can amend your bank details through your player account. It is essential that your bank details are present and correct in order for you to receive prize money in a timely manner.

I can't see my name on the Order of Merit but I know I have won money?

Only Members can qualify to appear on the Order of Merit so if you are a temporary member this is probably why your name is not featured. It is also within the PGA Europro Tour Regulations that to appear on the Final Order of Merit you must play in a minimum of 5 regular events (not including pro-ams). When it becomes impossible for you to achieve this then your name will be removed from the Order of Merit e.g. if you have played two events and there are only two events remaining.