

# Frequently Asked Questions Concerning PGA National PAT Policies

- 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 PGA participants may wear culottes, walking shorts, or golf shorts 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 considered to be 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 a 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 PGA Headquarters. PGA Headquarters 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 carts be utilized by PAT contestants and a contestant uses a caddie, may both the contestant and the caddie ride in the golf cart at the same time?
- A. **No, only the contestant may ride. 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.**

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 the PAT, requiring him/her to withdraw, will their PAT entry fee be refunded?

**A. No; however, if a doctor's statement is submitted to the National Office within three business days, the individual will be allowed 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, 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 one 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>, under PAT Policies and Forms.**

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 putting on a hole when they have completed play during a PAT?

**A. No, practice at putting greens on a 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 participants to tee off before the scheduled time.**

Q. If PAT contestants are paired in threesomes or foursomes and the number of contestants in that pairing 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**
- 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 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 another PAT is 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 canceled due to rain and rescheduled, 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, National 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. However, the entry fee for the weather-delayed PAT will be transferred to the next site.**

Q. Are distance measuring devices allowed during the PAT?

**A. Yes, distance measuring devices that measure distance only may be used during a PAT.**