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PGA Tour announces membership criteria and eligibility for new competitive structure

Performance benefits determined for 2027 season, setting up 2028 membership

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida – The PGA Tour today announced membership categories for the PGA Tour Championship Series and eligibility for the PGA Tour Challenger Series, which will replace the Tour's current competitive system beginning in 2028. Additionally, the PGA Tour Boards approved eligibility for a "last chance" series, a new PGA Tour Championship Series points system, and performance benefits for the 2027 season that will determine membership composition for the 2028 season.

"From the beginning, we set out to preserve the meritocracy that makes our sport unique by creating a system where performance dictates opportunity," said PGA Tour CEO Brian Rolapp. "Through new eligibility criteria and supporting pathways into the PGA Tour, the new competitive model is designed to reward excellence and ensure there is always a clear path for top performers at every stage of their career. For fans, this means a clear understanding of what is at stake during each PGA Tour competition, whether that is at an event or across a season."

The PGA Tour will feature two series of events running concurrently – the PGA Tour Championship Series and the PGA Tour Challenger Series – with players moving between each series annually based on performance. Players will compete within their respective series, with the PGA Tour Championship Series featuring the Tour's top performers, driving a season narrative that identifies the best golfer in the world. The PGA Tour Challenger Series – with fields consisting of PGA Tour winners, accomplished players fighting their way back to the top, rising talent right out of college and breakout stars from the developmental system – will annually promote the top 20 players to the PGA Tour Championship Series.

The new system will ensure upward mobility for top-performing players at each level. The annual promotion and relegation between the two series will be complemented by additional properties, including PGA Tour University and a "last chance" series.

Access available to top performers from the DP World Tour is being considered as part of the ongoing discussions regarding the future of the Strategic Alliance.

Additionally, the Boards aligned on the Korn Ferry Tour continuing to serve as the primary path to the PGA Tour and annually promote players to the PGA Tour Challenger Series. Details on the full developmental system are set to be finalized at the November 16 Board Meeting.

As the Tour transitions to the new competitive system, top performers who, by the end of the 2026 season, have earned exemptions through the 2028 season and beyond will have access to the PGA Tour Championship Series for the duration of that exemption. This includes players who have tournament winner exemptions and those who earned a two-year exemption by finishing in the top 30 of the 2026 FedExCup Points List.

Membership categories for 2028 are outlined below, as well as transition-year performance benefits.

PGA Tour Championship Series Membership Categories

The PGA Tour Championship Series will be made up of eligible players based on the following membership categories. These players will be eligible to compete in all PGA Tour Championship Series events (note: events such as THE PLAYERS and majors may maintain eligibility criteria specific to their respective events). There will be no alternate list and field sizes will vary based on the number of players committed. The membership criteria include:

- **Retained Players** – Top 90 players who retain PGA Tour Championship Series membership.
- **Promoted Players** – Top 20 players who are promoted from the PGA Tour Challenger Series.
- **Two-Time Winners** – Players who win twice during the PGA Tour Challenger Series season.
- **Two-Year Winner Exemptions** – Winners of PGA Tour Championship Series events, inclusive of THE PLAYERS and majors, receive PGA Tour Championship Series membership for the current season and the following two seasons. Winner exemptions do not extend beyond two years for multiple wins in a season.
- **Medical Extensions** – Medical Extensions will be granted on a limited basis for injury or conditions that materially prevent competition, as determined by an outside review committee of independent medical experts.
- **Career Milestone Exemptions** – Players with exceptional PGA Tour careers – currently recognized through the Career Money List – will be eligible to use a one-time exemption on the PGA Tour Championship Series in 2029 and beyond. In order to do so, (1) the player must hold PGA Tour Championship Series membership the season prior and (2) the exemption must be used in the year immediately following loss of PGA Tour Championship Series membership. Career Milestone Exemptions for 2028 are listed below in transition-year eligibility.
- **Pathways** – Future stars of the PGA Tour Championship Series will be captured through the Tour's Pathways, including PGA Tour University and a "last chance" series.
 - The No. 1 player from PGA Tour University following that season's NCAA Championship will be eligible for the PGA Tour Championship Series that season and the following season.
 - Three cards will be available via a "last chance" series.

PGA Tour Challenger Series Eligibility

The PGA Tour Challenger Series will feature fields of 144 players, with the ability to reduce when necessary (e.g. daylight), and with an alternate list. The membership criteria include:

- **PGA Tour Championship Series Relegated** – Players relegated from the PGA Tour Championship Series in the previous season.
- **PGA Tour Challenger Series Retained** – Nos. 21-90 on the previous season's PGA Tour Challenger Series Points List.
- **20 Players Promoted from Korn Ferry Tour**

- The top 20 finishers from the previous season's Korn Ferry Tour Points List.
- **Tournament Winners Exemptions**
 - Winners of PGA Tour Challenger Series events receive PGA Tour Challenger Series membership for the current season and the following season. Winner exemptions do not extend beyond one year for multiple wins in a season.
 - In addition to their two-year exemption on the PGA Tour Championship Series, winners of PGA Tour Championship Series events, inclusive of THE PLAYERS and majors, in the previous four years are exempt on the PGA Tour Challenger Series.
 - Players who win multiple PGA Tour Championship Series events in the same season will have their winner's exemption on the PGA Tour Challenger Series extended for each additional win, up to a maximum of five seasons. Exemptions for multiple wins on the PGA Tour Challenger Series do not extend.
- **PGA Tour University**
 - Nos. 2-5 in the PGA Tour University Ranking earn PGA Tour Challenger Series membership following the conclusion of the NCAA Championship through the following season.
 - Players who achieve and accept PGA Tour University Accelerated earn PGA Tour Challenger Series membership and can join at the start of a future season.
- **Q-School**
 - The top five finishers from the previous season's PGA Tour Qualifying Tournament (Q-School).
- **Open Qualifying**
 - The top two finishers at Open Qualifying for PGA Tour Challenger Series events played the same week as PGA Tour Championship Series events.
 - There is no Open Qualifying for standalone PGA Tour Challenger Series events.
- **Designated Exemptions**
 - Up to two designated exemptions.
- **Medical Extensions**
 - Medical Extensions will be granted on a limited basis for injury or conditions that materially prevent competition, as determined by an outside review committee of independent medical experts.

“Last Chance” Series Eligibility

The PGA Tour will develop a “last chance” series of a minimum of four events in the fall with three cards available for the PGA Tour Championship Series. All eligible players will be eligible for every event, with no alternate list. Players will be required to participate in all events in the series in order to earn a PGA Tour Championship Series card, pending any medical exclusion. The series will be contested after the annual Qualifying Tournament (Q-School) and will begin in the fall of 2028.

Eligible players are as follows:

- **PGA Tour Championship Series Relegated**
 - Players relegated from the PGA Tour Championship Series the season immediately preceding a “last chance” series.
- **PGA Tour Challenger Series Retained**
 - Nos. 21-90 from the PGA Tour Challenger Series Points List in the season immediately preceding a “last chance” series.
- **20 Players Promoted from Korn Ferry Tour**
 - The 20 players promoted from the Korn Ferry Tour.

- **PGA Tour University Current Season**
 - Nos. 2-5 in the PGA Tour University Ranking in the current season, following the conclusion of NCAA Championship.
- **PGA Tour Qualifying Tournament (Q-School)**
 - The top 5 finishers from the PGA Tour Qualifying Tournament immediately preceding a “last chance” series.

Transition-Year Eligibility

In order to determine membership for 2028, the following transition-year eligibility has been set.

- **Tournament Winners**
 - PGA Tour Tournament Winner exemptions earned by the conclusion of the 2026 season will be honored through the duration of its term on the PGA Tour Championship Series.
 - Winners of THE PLAYERS, majors and Signature Events in 2027 will earn:
 - PGA Tour Championship Series membership through 2029
 - PGA Tour Challenger Series membership through 2031
 - Winners of Full-Field Events in 2027 during the regular season will earn:
 - PGA Tour Championship Series membership through 2028
 - PGA Tour Challenger Series membership through 2029
 - Winners of FedExCup Fall Events and Opposite Events in 2027 will earn:
 - PGA Tour Challenger Series membership through 2029
- **FedExCup Points List**
 - Players who earned a two-year exemption by finishing in the top 30 of the 2026 FedExCup Points List will have PGA Tour Championship Series membership for the 2028 season. This two-year exemption will not be awarded for the top 30 finishers in 2027.
 - The top 70 players in the final 2027 FedExCup Points List (through the FedExCup Playoffs) will earn PGA Tour Championship Series membership for 2028. Note: The top 70 will be locked following the 2027 TOUR Championship.
 - The top 95 players in the final 2027 FedExCup Fall Points List will earn PGA Tour Championship Series membership for 2028.
 - Nos. 96-175 in the final 2027 FedExCup Fall Points List will earn PGA Tour Challenger Series membership for 2028.
- **Career Milestones**
 - The top 25 and top 50 members on the PGA Tour Career Money List at the end of the 2027 season may elect a one-time, one-season PGA Tour Championship Series exemption for 2028. Members utilizing a Career Money Exemption must have played in 15 or more PGA Tour events in 2027.
- **Korn Ferry Tour Points List**
 - The top 10 players in the final 2027 Korn Ferry Tour Points List will earn PGA Tour Championship Series membership for 2028.
 - The next 30 players in the final 2027 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, not otherwise exempt for the PGA Tour Championship Series or PGA Tour Challenger Series, beginning with No. 11, will earn PGA Tour Challenger Series membership for 2028.
- **PGA Tour University**
 - The No. 1 player in the final 2027 PGA Tour University Ranking will earn PGA Tour membership for the remainder of the current season, following the conclusion of

the NCAA Championship, and PGA Tour Championship Series membership for 2028.

- Nos. 2-10 in the final 2027 PGA Tour University Ranking will earn Korn Ferry Tour membership for the remainder of the current season, following the conclusion of the NCAA Championship, and the top five performers on the 2027 total points list will earn PGA Tour Challenger Series membership for 2028.
- **PGA Tour Americas**
 - The No. 1 player in the final 2027 PGA Tour Americas Points List will earn PGA Tour Challenger Series membership for 2028.
- **Medical Extensions**
 - Players who are injured in 2027 and require a Major Medical Extension in 2028 will receive a medical on the PGA Tour Championship Series if:
 - Competing in a tournament winner category at the time of their injury OR
 - Competing out of the top 70 category at the time of their injury OR
 - Maintained a 3-year average of top 70 points at the time of their injury
 - Major Medical Extensions for players who do not meet that criteria, as well as all Conditional Medical Extensions, will be played out on the PGA Tour Challenger Series.
 - All medical extensions for injuries prior to 2027 will be played out on the PGA Tour Challenger Series in 2028.
- **Final Stage of Q-School**
 - Top 10 finishers from Final Stage of Q-School in 2027 receive PGA Tour Challenger Series membership in 2028.
 - Final Stage exemptions include:
 - Players in fully exempt categories on the PGA Tour in 2027 (through top 30 FedExCup Points Year 2)
 - Nos. 176-200 on the final 2027 FedExCup Fall Points List
 - Players within the top 75 on the 2027 Korn Ferry Tour Points List
 - Top 100 in the Official World Golf Ranking as of the Final Stage entry deadline
 - Nos. 2-10 in the 2027 PGA Tour University Ranking
 - Top 10 on the 2027 PGA Tour Americas Points List
 - Leading player from International Tour partners
 - Medical Exemptions/Extensions

PGA Tour Championship Series Points List

In 2028, each PGA Tour series will operate its own season-long points system. To make it easier for fans to understand, all PGA Tour Championship Series events will use the same points distribution, including THE PLAYERS Championship and majors. Additionally, the points list will be easier to follow over the course of the season, as players are competing head-to-head throughout the year and only earn points within their respective series.

The new points distribution model will feature a flatter curve, rewarding winning and top finishes while emphasizing the importance of making the cut. This will create clearer and more compelling storylines on an event-by-event and season-long basis as players are accurately ranked based on performance, with sustained performance over the course of the season rewarded.

Points for a finish position by a player who is not a member of the PGA Tour Championship Series will not be distributed.

A non-member who wins a major championship and/or a player promoted following two wins in the same season on the PGA Tour Challenger Series will earn membership on the PGA Tour Championship Series, but will only be eligible to earn points moving forward following the win.

PGA Tour Championship Series Points Distribution									
1st	300	14th	81	27th	68	40th	55	53rd	42
2nd	200	15th	80	28th	67	41st	54	54th	41
3rd	150	16th	79	29th	66	42nd	53	55th	40
4th	130	17th	78	30th	65	43rd	52	56th	39
5th	125	18th	77	31st	64	44th	51	57th	38
6th	120	19th	76	32nd	63	45th	50	58th	37
7th	115	20th	75	33rd	62	46th	49	59th	36
8th	110	21st	74	34th	61	47th	48	60th	35
9th	105	22nd	73	35th	60	48th	47	61st	34
10th	100	23rd	72	36th	59	49th	46	62nd	33
11th	84	24th	71	37th	58	50th	45	63rd	32
12th	83	25th	70	38th	57	51st	44	64th	31
13th	82	26th	69	39th	56	52nd	43	65th	30

The PGA Tour Challenger Series points system is set to be finalized at the November 16 Board Meeting.

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About PGA Tour

The PGA Tour's mission is to deliver the world's most compelling professional golf competition, featuring the sport's greatest players, for fans, partners and communities. The PGA Tour, headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, operates the PGA Tour, PGA Tour Champions, Korn Ferry Tour, PGA Tour Americas and PGA Tour University. To date, events across all Tours have generated more than \$4.4 billion in charitable giving.