



2024 TOURNAMENT POLICIES & PROCEDURES

1. ELIGIBILITY

This event is open to professionals and amateurs. Entries are accepted on a first-come, first-accepted basis and the tournament committee reserves the right to reject any entry.

Amateurs must have an active USGA handicap of 5 or less. All amateurs must conform to the USGA Rules of Amateur Status as specified in the USGA Rules of Golf. Players are required to list their age and date of birth on all entry forms.

2. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play. Local rules of the host course do not apply. The tournament staff will provide a local rules sheet and conditions of competition prior to the first round.

Tournament field is limited to 168 players.

The tournament format is 54 holes of stroke play and will have a cut after 36 holes to the low 50 participant scores plus ties. 36 holes must be completed for the tournament to stand as concluded, as play will not exceed the final scheduled round. In the event the tournament cannot be completed due to weather or an unforeseen circumstance, the purse will be distributed evenly to the players, less tournament expenses (i.e. green fees, staff, etc.).

3. ENTRY FEES & DEADLINE

Professional and Amateur entry fees are the same. Tournament entry fees and exemptions are nontransferable, have no cash value, may not be purchased, and are not redeemable for cash under any circumstances.

Entry Fees vary based on the early registration incentive program as outlined below:

<i>Registrations 1-75</i>	<i>\$895</i>
<i>Registrations 76-103</i>	<i>\$995</i>
<i>Registrations 104+</i>	<i>\$1095</i>

Registrations are processed and accepted in order received. Online registrations and payments are processed immediately. Registration forms and payments submitted via mail will be processed upon delivery, not by postmark date. Registrations will not be accepted via phone, email, text, or fax.

Players will be notified of their official tournament entry status. A full list of participants will be posted on the tournament website and updated daily. It is the sole responsibility of the player to know their entry status.

4. QUALIFIER GUIDELINE – NO QUALIFIER FOR 2024

Each qualifying round has a field limit of 84 players. The fields are filled on a first-come, first-accepted basis until full. The number of Desert Financial Open qualifying spots for each qualifier will be determined by the percentage of players in a qualifier in relation to the total number trying to qualify (Example: if one qualifier has 56 players in the qualifier the low 40 of the 56 will be entered in the tournament). If a qualifying time has more players than can be accommodated some players may be transferred to another date and time than the original requested time and date. Transfer will be based on the date of receipt of entry application. No qualifying time is final until after entries close.

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In the event the initial qualifying round does not exceed 40 participants; all players registered will be accepted to play in the Desert Financial Open at the appropriate entry fee rate of \$1095.

Alternates: Participants from each qualifier with the lowest scores not qualifying will comprise the Desert Financial Open alternate list. Alternates will be ranked in order based on a blind draw. If a registered player withdraws from the tournament, alternates will be admitted in rank order and must pay the difference in entry fee owed.

Tie Breaking: A hole-by-hole playoff will decide ties for the last qualifying position as well as alternates. The playoff will be conducted immediately following completion of the Qualifying Round at a hole determined by the Committee.

5. ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PAYMENT

Credit Cards: Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover Card are all accepted. A 4% transaction fee will apply at the time of processing.

Checks: Personal checks, cashier's checks and money orders are accepted. A returned check automatically forfeits your entry. A \$30 fee will apply to any check that is returned for insufficient funds.

Wire Transfers: A wire transfer may be made by contacting the tournament office for the proper account information. A \$30 fee applies to all wire transfers.

6. PRACTICE ROUNDS

Qualifiers: Qualifying round entrants may schedule non-complimentary practice rounds by calling the tournament sites directly.

Tournament: Each tournament participant will receive one complimentary practice round. The practice round will take place on Monday, May 13, 2024 in a 7:30 am shotgun. Confirmed player names will be provided to the golf course. Participants are responsible for contacting the golf course to sign up for the complimentary practice round. Additional practice round options will be made available at a discounted rate to all participants the week prior to the tournament; times and days may vary. Participants are responsible for reserving additional practice round tee times and any fees that may apply.

7. REFUNDS & WITHDRAWALS

Refund: Tournament and qualifier entrants may request a full refund for any reason prior to May 1, 2024. All refunds will incur a \$50 administrative charge. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a forfeit of any monies paid.

Medical: If a player is unable to participate due to a medical reason the Tournament Director must be notified at least 48 hours in advance for a medical refund to be considered. A doctor's note must be submitted to the tournament office before a refund check will be issued. Once a player hits an official shot in an event, there are no refunds, regardless of medical reasons. All medical refunds will incur a \$100 administrative charge.

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PGA, Web.com, Champions & European Tour: Any player who qualifies for a PGA Tour, Korn Ferry, Champions Tour, or European Tour event before the first day of play will receive a full refund of their entry fee if the events coincide. Once a player hits an official shot in an event, there are no refunds, regardless of whether they enter that week's PGA, Web.com, Champions or European Tour event.

Withdrawals: Any player who withdraws from a qualifier or tournament, after the stipulated deadline and without an approved reason, automatically forfeits their entry fee. All players needing to withdraw from an active qualifier or tournament round must notify a member of the tournament committee in person and return his scorecard to an official prior to leaving the tournament site. Failure to do so will result in a one-year suspension. No-shows will not be tolerated and will result in a forfeit of any monies paid.

8. CODE OF CONDUCT

Desert Financial Open will maintain a strict no-tolerance policy on any behavior unbecoming of a professional. Professionals are expected to always treat fellow professionals and amateurs with courtesy and respect.

Conduct such as vulgar language, club throwing, golf course damage, property damage, cheating, withdrawing without good cause, improper dress, not maintaining financial responsibility, and any other unprofessional behavior are all considered violations.

Use of alcohol, illegal drugs, abuse of prescription drugs, and gambling at the tournament site during a stipulated round is strictly prohibited and are considered violations. Following completion of the stipulated round, consumption of alcohol should be limited to the clubhouse lounge and locker room areas only.

Any serious violations, as determined by the tournament committee, can result in automatic suspension and fines at any time. The tournament committee shall determine the length of any suspension. If a course(s) has been damaged due to a violation, the cost of repairing the damage must be paid in addition to any fines. If the tournament committee cannot determine who caused the damage, the purse will be deducted to cover the expense. Any conduct disputes will go before the tournament committee in which the decision of the tournament committee shall be final.

Desert Financial Open reserves the right to disqualify a player at any time for breach of conduct. The player will forfeit all earnings from the stipulated tournament in that case.

9. ATTIRE

Players and their caddies must be neat in appearance with respect to clothing and personal grooming. This policy is in effect whenever players and/or their caddies are on the event property. Players are responsible for their caddies.

Shorts are acceptable during tournament rounds. No denim is allowed. **Players must wear slacks in the Desert Financial Open Pro-Am.**

Shirts must reflect appropriate attire and must be tucked in always. Collared golf or mock-neck shirts are preferred.

Hats must be worn forward.

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Footwear is required for both players and caddies. Sandals, flip flops, or golf shoes with spikes are prohibited. This is a "soft-spikes" only tournament; no metal spikes are permitted. Tennis shoes or teaching shoes are preferred.

10. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell Phones are prohibited on the golf course during the tournament round. Any breach is subject to disqualification from the tournament.

I-Pods will only be permitted on the driving range and putting green before and after tournament rounds. I-Pods are not allowed during competition. Any breach is subject to possible disqualification from the tournament.

Range Finders will be allowed during tournament rounds. Players may not use devices that measure slope, wind, or anything other than distance. Electronic devices that have slope measuring capabilities must be turned off prior to the round. Yardage books will be available at the golf course for a cost of \$20.00.

11. CARTS AND CADDIES

Carts are permitted for use by all players. Two carts per group and two people per cart allowed. * All carts must be kept on the path around tees and greens; failure to do so will be subject to disqualification from the tournament. Please note that when play has been suspended and the golf course is being evacuated this rule does not apply. Walking is acceptable if pace of play guidelines is being followed. Spectator golf carts are not allowed unless approved by the Tournament Director. Pull carts are not permitted.

Caddies are permitted and may ride on carts based on availability; players have priority on riding.

**Any person riding in a cart other than the player is considered the player's caddie; and with such, will be subject to all caddie stipulations stated in the official USGA Rules of Golf.*

12. PAIRINGS

Pairings will be a random draw for the first two (2) rounds with the final round being paired by score. The first two rounds will have a morning and afternoon wave of tee times off 1 and 10 tee. The final round will be off 1 tee. Tee times will be posted on the website 36 hours in advance and in the golf shop 24 hours in advance. No requests will be taken for tee times.

13. PACE OF PLAY

Rule 6-7 states, in part: The player shall play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines which may be laid down by the Committee. The following pace of play guidelines, penalties and fines for stroke play competitions have been adopted:

Definition of "Out of Position"

The first threesome or foursome to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to play, as detailed on the applicable course's Pace of Play Chart.

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Any subsequent group will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they (a) exceed the allotted time to play or (b) reach a par-3 hole that is open and free of play or reach a par-4 or par-5 hole and have not cleared the teeing ground before the hole is open and free of play.

NOTE: The Rules Committee reserves the right to time a group when the Rules Committee deems it necessary.

Monitoring Group

When play is in threesomes, the first group in each segment to start will be notified by a Rules Official of monitoring and timing. Any subsequent group out of position will not be informed of monitoring and timing unless asked by the player(s).

When play is in twosomes, all groups will be informed by a Rules Official of monitoring.

Timing

At the discretion of the Rules Committee, once a group is determined to be out of position, players in the group may be timed. Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is his turn to play and he can play without interference or distraction. Time spent determining yardages will count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean, and replace his ball, repair his ball mark and other ball marks on his line of putt and remove loose impediments on his line of putt.

NOTE: A player is permitted 40 seconds to play a stroke, and an extra 20 seconds (for a total of 60 seconds) will be allowed for:

- (a) the first player to play a stroke on a par-3 hole;
- (b) the first player to play a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5 hole;
- (c) the first player to play a third stroke on a par-5 hole;
- (d) the first player to play around the putting green; and
- (e) the first player to play on the putting green

Any player in a group being timed, who exceeds the applicable time to play a stroke, will be informed as soon as practicable.

Penalties During the Round

First Offense: One timing exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke, no penalty.

Second Offense: One more timing (total of two) exceeding the applicable time to play, a one (1) stroke.

Third Offense: One more timing (total of three) exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke, a two (2) stroke penalty.

Fourth Offense: One more timing (total of four) exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke, disqualification from the event.

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NOTE: Any timing exceeding the applicable time to play will be carried over throughout the round.

In the administration of the pace of play guidelines, a member of the Rules Committee shall not tolerate abuse, oral or otherwise, by a player. Such abuse may constitute conduct unbecoming of a professional and disqualification from the tournament without refund.

Appeals

Any appeal of a penalty and fine must be referred to the on-site Tournament Director immediately upon completion of the player in question's round. The Tournament Director's decision shall be final. If the player in question does not appeal immediately upon conclusion of his round, any penalties and fines shall stand.

14. TEE MARKERS

All tournament rounds will be played from official Desert Financial Open Tee Markers.

15. TIME OF STARTING

The official clock will be with the Starter and Head Rules Official. It is up to the participant to know the official time and what hole they are starting on.

16. SCORING

All players are required to return their scorecards to the scoring area immediately following the tournament round. The scoring area will be determined by the committee and defined by a tent, rope, or the specific room in which it is located. A scorecard is deemed returned once the player has left this defined area.

17. SUSPENSION OF PLAY

Due to Dangerous Situation

Play may be suspended due to dangerous situations. A suspension of play for a dangerous situation shall be signaled by one long air horn blast. After a horn or siren has sounded, players must immediately halt play and may not resume until the Committee has ordered to do so. Under suspension, the entire golf course, driving range, putting greens and all practice areas are closed. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

Due to Non-Dangerous Situation

Suspension of play due to fog, excessive rain, ice, wind, or darkness is not considered dangerous and will be signaled by three (3) consecutive air horn blasts. Players in the process of playing the hole may complete the hole. Players in between the play of two holes must stop immediately.

18. PLAYOFFS

All first-place ties will be determined by a sudden-death playoff, which will immediately follow regulation play beginning on a hole chosen by the tournament committee.

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19. PURSE

Prize Money

Checks will be made available to participants following the final round. All checks not collected will be mailed within 48 hours to the address the tournament office has on file. A W-9 Form must be filled out that includes participants U.S. Social Security Number or U.S. Tax ID number. Non-Resident Alien participants, per IRS regulations will have 30% of their earnings withheld. Players are responsible for correct Names, Social Security

Numbers, and Addresses. Any check(s) not cashed by the end of the calendar year will forfeit their earnings, without exception. Fees for reissue of lost check is \$50.00 per issue.

20. DISCLAIMER

Desert Financial Open reserves the right to refuse entry to any player for any reason.

Desert Financial Open is not responsible for items stolen, lost, or damaged at any practice facility, host, or secondary golf courses.

Participants in Desert Financial Open are responsible for any damage they cause to the golf course and/or property of the golf course.