

February 2, 2017

## The 2017 Virginia PPA Tour

The 2017 putting season is set to tee it up the weekend of March 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> with the first tournament of the year, the Commissioner's Open in Lynchburg, Va. This year the Virginia tournament schedule again features six weekends and a National Tour event with the \$10,000 Eastern Open in Richmond July 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. Each tournament weekend will feature a Saturday double header and four of the six weekends scheduled will be a major. Additionally, the Richmond course will host a Thursday evening tour event prior to the Eastern Open. Please take a few minutes to review this year's newsletter and schedule as well as the prize money breakdown.

For complete information on all the National and State events and to get 2017 membership information, visit the Official Web Site of the Professional Putter's Association, [www.proputters.org](http://www.proputters.org). This year you can register your membership online through the website. A complete PPA schedule is listed there under the calendar tab. **The PPA Facebook page, The Professional Putters Association is a page dedicated to give more current tournament updates and changes as well as tournament results. If any changes to the Virginia tour schedule are made, they will be posted on the Facebook page first.**

Enclosed in this newsletter, please find your schedule of tournaments for the Virginia PPA tour for 2017. Scheduled tournaments for the National tour are noted.

Your tournament committee held a conference call in January to plan our tour for 2017 and report 2016 financial results. Elected members for 2017 are Rick Baird, Bill Baus, Brad Lebo, Jeff Spainhour, Thomas Rawles, and APA reps. Bill Petrie and Clayton Craft.

### The 2017 Schedule

- 15 Virginia PPA tour events
- 4 Major Tournaments

### Major Events

- The Dogwood Festival Open
- The Virginia Putting Classic
- The Virginia Open
- The State Championship
- The State Team Championship

### General Rules of Play and Etiquette

All tournament play on the Virginia tour is governed by the rules as stated in the Official Rules and Regulations of the Professional Putters Association. As a member of the PPA and APA everyone pledges "to uphold the rules and regulations of the PPA and APA; to display proper character and good sportsmanship while participating **OR** practicing on a PPA sanctioned golf course..."

The 2017 Official Rule Book is available online at [proputters.org](http://proputters.org). Even if you have played for several years, it is always a good idea to review the rule book prior to the new season.

Please read through your rule book and review your Membership Contract and Code of Conduct which you sign when submitting your application for membership. As members of a professional organization, it is up to the integrity of the players to see that all rules are enforced. Of concern to the committee is the self enforcement of dress code, player conduct and pace of play. Please familiarize yourself with these rules as well as all rules of play. A New rule for 2017 increases the fine for failure to pay appropriate greens fee or entry fee to \$100.

The committee asks that all players place a special emphasis on projecting a professional and positive image going forward. To that end, any acts of unsportsmanship that are witnessed or reported will be dealt with and we will reserve the right to fine players even on a first offense a maximum of \$500.00. This includes practice time as well as during tournament play. Please remember that, especially during practice times, conversations and banter amongst players is often more boisterous and while in general good natured, it might be offensive to other guests who might be visiting the course. Please be advised that warnings or fines may be delayed if actions are reported after an event.

At each tournament site, the course owner or representative will act, if it is their desire, as the tournament official to make rulings during play and enforce any rules of sportsmanship and dress. In the event that the course does not wish to provide this service, then the committee, which is elected by the players, will serve. All decisions that might need to be addressed specific to that day's events will be up to those committee members present. All committee members present will be available to assist with collection of entry fees, make pairings, make rulings during play, pay out prize money, record and report all tournament results, and be responsible for any remaining funds.

Please remember that we are playing as invited guests of the local course owners and managers. Please take a moment when you arrive at a site and again before you leave to thank the owner or manager and staff for hosting our tournament. Also, do all you can to help keep the facility clean during our tournament(s). We have had some problems reported by course personnel that a few of our players have been less

than respectful to staff members and customers and not attentive to the fact that once a tournament is over there is a need by the course to continue on with business.

### ***Pairings for all tournaments, Entry Fees and Prize Money, Starting Times, Greens Fees***

The defending champions, i.e. the winner of the last state tournament held at the site, will tee off first. The current State Champion will tee off second and the reigning National Champion third or fourth. For Saturday tournaments, all other players will be paired by luck of the draw. Sunday tournaments that are non major events and any second tournament of a double header will be paired based on the results of the previous tournament with the defending champion and State Champion still first and second. Committee members who are assigned to work a tournament will be paired in the second, third or fourth pairing, so that they may be finished and able to assist at the end of the tournament. In all major tournaments, the defending champion will be teed off first, followed by the State Champion. All other players will be paired based on the point standings with the player highest on the points standing entered in the tournament being paired next, and so on until all players are paired. Pairing for all doubleheader tournaments pairings will be done in twosomes whenever possible.

If you are a defending champion in either the PPA or APA please volunteer this when you pay your entry fee to insure that you are appropriately paired. Failure to do this might result in you not receiving the recognition due you as the defending champion.

Entry fees for PROS for all 54 hole tournaments will be \$50, \$10 for APA and \$10 for novice. Where requested by the course owner, PPA, APA, and/or novice tournament players will be asked to pay a daily greens fee on tournament days as set forth by the course ownership or management. The course owners individually can choose to have this fee charged or not. The tournament greens fee will **only** be added to the entry fee where it is desired by the course.

For PPA members, entry fee for majors will be \$80, \$15 for APA and \$10 for novice. **The expense reimbursement pay out for the APA is the same as announced for 2015. In the APA division expense reimbursement may not exceed the entry fee with not more than five places being paid or more than 2/3 of the field.** The winner of the tournament will receive expense reimbursement in the amount of the entry fee and a trophy or plaque to recognize the win. All other places will receive an expense reimbursement equal to the entry fee.

Please refer to the enclosed prize money pay-out for the 2017 prize money pay out. In the event that a tournament payout exceeds the entry fees collected, the winner in the pro division will receive prize money in the form of check which will be mailed the following Monday. Entry fees will be taken starting no later than one hour and thirty minutes prior to tee off. A final call to pay entry fees will be made one hour prior to tee off. If you have not paid your entry fee by this time, please do so immediately.

If you are unable to pay your entry fee during the time designated and you wish to play, you may give it to someone to pay for you. However, once an entry fee is paid, it is not refundable without good reason and committee approval, and will not be considered until all tournament play for that day is complete.

As soon as there are no players waiting to pay after the final call, entry fees will be closed. At this time the one ball rule will be in effect. Entry fees will not be taken while pairings are being made and completed. Any rights for pairings are forfeited at this time. Once pairings have been completed, a \$ 5.00 late fee will be charged to any professional member who wishes to compete but has not entered. These players will then be paired at the bottom of the pairings.

If a player who has been practicing on the day of a tournament fails to pay his entry fee on time, and then does not enter the tournament to avoid paying a late fee, that player will be assessed a \$100 fine for violation of the rule regarding practice times, and be required to pay the appropriate greens fee to the local course.

Starting times, unless requested by the course, will be 11 am for all Saturday tournaments, with the second tournament beginning approximately one hour after the completion of the first. Sunday tournaments will tee off at 10AM, with the exception of six round events which will tee off at 9:00AM. **Please note starting time on the schedule sheet for each event.**

### ***Qualifying for the State Championship***

All players, pro or APA, must pay a \$10 administration fee to help offset misc. expenses and awards and trophies, to be eligible to play in the State Championship

Any player who has paid the administration fee may play in the State Championship if he meets the following qualifications. A Pro must pay a minimum of \$400 in entry fees, and pay the entry fee for the State Championship, or he may pay the balance of entry fees due to make up for any deficit in the required minimum entry fee payment for the season, and pay the entry fee for the State Championship. An APA member must pay a minimum \$50 in entry fees and pay the entry fee for the State Championship, or he may pay the balance of the entry fees due to make up for any deficit in the required minimum entry fee payment for the season and pay the entry fee for the State Championship. In agreement with the Southern Tour, one Southern Tour major ( Carolina's Open, Elton Davis Memorial, NC State Championship ) will count as a \$50 credit towards, (\$10 for APA), the Virginia minimum and one Virginia Tour major will count towards the Southern Tour minimum, and in agreement with the Great Lakes Tour and the Indiana tour, the Richmond weekends will count towards one tournament for the GLT qualifying and the Warren, Ohio tournaments will count towards Virginia Tour qualifying and all Fort Wayne tournaments will count towards the VAPPA State finals. In any individual case, no player may count more than two out of Virginia tour

events toward the minimum or a max of \$100 for PPA or \$20 for APA. Prize money for the 2017 State and the State Team Championship will be TBA. The State Championship will be held in Roanoke, VA.

### ***Point Standings***

A point system, as used in previous years, will be used again in 2017. Points will be won and awarded according to place of finish in all tournament play.

Points will be awarded in the following manner; all 54 hole tournaments will award 25 points for first place, 24 for second and so on down to one point for all finishers 25 to the last place. In the APA division, the points will start with 20 for 1st, 18 for 2nd, 17 for 3rd, and so on with all places receiving at least one point.

In all major tournaments, those tournaments that are scheduled for four rounds or more, first place points will be 30 in the pro field and 25 in the APA. Second place will receive 25 points in the pro and 20 points in the APA, and then increment down one point for third to the end with all players receiving at least one point.

### ***Annual Awards***

Awards will be given in the PPA and APA for stroke average, player of the year, and sportsmanship. Congratulations to Rick Culverhouse, PPA, and Randal Smith APA, for their strong performance in 2016 winning Player of the Year and Stroke average awards for their prospective divisions.

The stroke averages will be kept using a weighted average method. The average of all scores in a division of play at each specific site will be used to rate the players by stroke average. For example, if at a site there are 20 players and the total strokes for a 54 hole tournament is 1800, then the average score **per round** for the tournament is 30.

Player one scores an 85. His stroke average is 28.33. His weighted stroke average is -1.67. Player two scores 95. His stroke average is 31.67. His weighted stroke average is +1.67. Weighted stroke averages will be a cumulative average of all tournaments with each tournament round being weighted such that each tournament round for the season is given equal weight in the calculation of the overall weighted stroke average. For example, a four round tournament will have 4/3 the weight of a three round tournament in the calculation of the overall weighted stroke average. Similarly, a 6 round tournament will have twice the weight of a three round tournament in the calculation of the overall weighted stroke average.

To be eligible to win the stroke average award in the pro or APA, a player must play in a minimum of 75% (rounding down for all fractions) of the total tournament rounds. All tournaments through the State Championship will count for stroke average.

#### **The Player of the Year in the PPA award will be based on the following criteria:**

- 1 point will be awarded for each win in a regular tournament
- 2 points for 1st and 1 point for 2<sup>nd</sup> in four round majors
- 3, 2, and 1 point for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the six round Majors.
- 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 points for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5th in the following three statistical categories: stroke average, points and prize money won

#### **The Player of the Year in the APA award will be based on the following criteria:**

- 1 point will be awarded for each win in a regular tournament
- In the Designated Majors, ( 4 or more rounds) 3 for 1<sup>st</sup> and 1 for 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 points for 1<sup>st</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> in the following three statistical categories: stroke average, (Minimum of 75% of tournaments scheduled), average points per tournament and average expense reimbursements won per tournament. To be eligible for player of the year, a player must play in a minimum of 75% of tournament rounds AND the State Championship.

The Sportsmanship Award in the PPA and APA will be voted on by the players at the State Championship and the course owners on the tour if they wish to vote. Pros will vote for pros and APAs will vote for APAs. A plaque will be awarded to the recipients of the sportsmanship award. In 2016 Rick Culverhouse was selected as the first player recipient of the Dave Taylor Sportsmanship Award so named to honor the memory of Dave Taylor. The first Dave Taylor Sportsmanship award was presented, posthumously to the Taylor family. In the APA division, Vanette Block was selected the sportsmanship award winner for 2016.

### ***State Championship Weekend***

The Saturday tournaments the weekend of the State Championship will be played back to back. Both tournaments will be straight tee off. The State Championship will be a straight tee off at 9:00 am, with three rounds in the morning, a break, and then three rounds in the afternoon. The order of play in the morning will be novice, APA and PPA. This gives everyone equal time between morning and afternoon rounds. Novice will play four rounds in the State Championship without taking a break.

The State Team Championship will be played in conjunction with the State Championship. In both the PPA and APA divisions a two-player team will compete for the State Team Championship. Players may choose their partner. Scores for the individual championship will be used with the better front nine and the better back nine of the two team members counting each round for the team score. See the Old Dominion Cup section for an example. Entry fees will be \$20 per player, \$40 per team, for PPA and \$10 per player and \$20 per team for APA. Prize money will be TBA based on the number of teams that compete.

A tie for the team championship will result in an 18-hole play off with each team member playing and counting the best front nine and best back of the two players for a team score. If the teams are still tied after the playoff, the playoff will continue with sudden death with both players playing and adding strokes together

### ***Rain Delays***

In the event that a course becomes unplayable because of standing water on two or more holes or for torrential rain, or rain with lightening, play will be stopped.

If after a one-hour delay in play it appears that there is no reasonable chance that condition will improve, then the committee members present for that tournament will call the tournament. In order to determine the likelihood of a reasonable chance that conditions will improve the committee will use all available technology to make this decision, whether it is TV weather reports, Internet access to weather reports or other sources. The final decision to cancel remaining rounds or postpone or cancel the tournament will be at the discretion of the designated committee members.

In the event that a tournament is stopped because of weather, and play is unable to continue, then a tournament will be considered official if, by division of play, the following has occurred: for a 3 round tournament, 2 rounds completed, for a 4 round tournament 3 rounds complete, and for a six round tournament 3 or more rounds complete.

If a tournament is canceled without being official, all entry fees will be refunded for that day. Any tournaments that are rained out will be attempted to be made up if the schedule allows.

### ***APA Old Dominion Cup***

Congratulations to Randal Smith and Scott Anderson for winning the 2016 Old Dominion Cup.

The format for the 2017 Old Dominion Cup will be as follows: APA players may form a two player team and compete for the Old Dominion Cup. The competition for the Old Dominion Cup will be part of the regular tour schedule. The tournament dates for the Old Dominion Cup are noted on the schedule. **Remember**, there is no additional charge to form a team and compete.

Each team must register its players. Only one member of each team must compete in a designated tournament for that team total to count, but a team does not have to play in every designated tournament to be eligible to win the cup. A team must play to receive any points for a tournament. A team with one player may still compete counting that player's score.

The score for each team at each site will be the best nine hole score for the front and back nines of each round from the two players. Example if team member one shoots 13-14- 27 and team member two shoots 14-13-27, then the team score for that round is 13-13-26. Scores each round combine for the team total. The team with the lowest combined score at the end of each tournament will be awarded five points, four points for second and so on with each team competing receiving at least one point. For major tournaments, the points awarded will be doubled.

The team with the highest point total after all tournaments designated as an Old Dominion Cup event will win the 2016 Old Dominion Cup which will then be displayed at the team's home course. In addition, each team member will receive a plaque or trophy designating them as a member of the winning team and a \$25 expense reimbursement. If two or more teams tie for the Old Dominion Cup then the State Championship will serve as a playoff for all tied teams. If you are an APA member begin planning your team now so that you can compete.

### ***Committee Member Elections***

Members for 2018 will be elected at the State Championship. Any player who is eligible to play in the State Championship is eligible to vote for committee members. Any player, who has played in at least **eight (8)** Virginia tournaments, will be eligible to be elected to the committee. Committee members will serve a one year term. If a qualified person is not elected who is willing, and has the necessary skills to perform the duties of statistician, then the elected committee members may elect a statistician as an additional committee member. I will remain as course owner liaison and chairman, and five PPA members and two APA members will be elected.

Plan now to tee it up in Lynchburg on March 25th & 26th as we begin the 2017 season.

Hope to see everyone in Lynchburg.

Gary Hinshaw, Virginia PPA Chairman