IGT Challenge Tour
Where Good Players become Tour Players

All you need to know about IGT Challenge Tour

IGTGolf
About IGT

Wholly owned and operated by CLG Golf trading as IGTGolf, The IGT Challenge Tour is the only Developmental Tour in the country, to offer a series of events, to include 54 & 72-hole (36-hole cut) tournaments. The IGT Challenge Tour provides players the opportunity to experience all aspects of life as a true touring golf professional with a schedule built around geographical series and different varieties of championship golf courses to subject our players to any type of course they may face at golf's highest levels. The IGT Challenge Tour is operated by knowledgeable staff who are PGA and R&A certified. As evidenced by the success of our alumni, The IGT Challenge Tour is the most proven avenue to the PGA Tours.

Starting in October 2010 and ongoing through today, the Tour has been taken to a plateau where it is no longer viewed as simply a training ground for the PGA Tour. The IGT Challenge Tour, puts a greater emphasis on strong community support, well-organized events and development, has helped more professionals acquire their PGA Tour cards than any other Tour in South Africa.

With professionalism, a focal point of this Tour, the golf community and corporate South Africa continues to be attracted to the high visibility and unique exposure opportunities presented by the IGT Challenge Tour.

Our goal, simply put, is to provide the best tournament conditions to prepare you to compete on golf’s highest levels, as countless IGT Tour members have done before.

IGT is proud to announce that in 2017 we become a proud partner of the Sunshine Tour and the official development tour for the Sunshine and Big Easy Tour.

Our Purpose

To glorify God and enrich lives as we deliver the best game ever played.

Our Values

LOVE. Treat others like you’d want to be treated.

SERVANT’S HEART. Lead with what people need.

EXCELLENCE. Do great things with the gifts you’ve been given.

COURAGE. Learn, improve and boldly drive change that matters.

FUN. Work hard, laugh often.

TEAM. Together, we’re better.

INTEGRITY. Be who you are and live up to your commitments.

IGT Player Vision

One Goal, One Passion; - Take Ownership, - No Excuses, - Just Golf
Africa’s best stage for young talented tour players

Starting in 2010 and ongoing through today, the Tour has been taken to a plateau where it is no longer viewed as simply a training ground for the PGA Tour. The IGT Challenge Tour, puts a greater emphasis on strong community support, well-organized events and development, has helped more professionals acquire their PGA Tour cards than any other Tour in South Africa.

With professionalism, a focal point of this Tour, the golf community and corporate South Africa continues to be attracted to the high visibility and unique exposure opportunities presented by the IGT Challenge Tour.

The IGT main focus is to provide the best tournament conditions to prepare players to compete on golf’s highest levels, as countless IGT Tour members have done before.

The IGT is proud to announce that in 2017 we become a proud partner of the Sunshine Tour and the official development tour for the Sunshine and Big Easy Tour.

The Players who celebrates success here and turns their sport into their profession has to hold their own against very stiff competition. A training environment with contest level is required for this, where the players have to compete with the best week after week in order to constantly improve. We therefore run the IGT Challenge Tour with one clear aim: it is a top-class rehearsal stage for young talented tour players.

Zander compete at the very young age of 15 years and an won 12 times on the IGT Challenge Tour and has in the meantime established himself on the European Tour, says: “To play consistently in higher tours you have to give yourself the time to mature by playing in lots of tournaments. This is exactly the opportunity that the IGT Challenge Tour offers.” An experience which is corroborated by the current situation: 46 players on the current Sunshine Tour started their golf career on the IGT Challenge Tour. We are proud to have been running a satellite tour for seven years now, which is appreciated by the players, where the quality of the sport is constantly increasing, which provides its members with professional organisation and excellent venues and establishes its best alumni at the top of professional golf on the PGA Tours.

Cois du Plooy
Tour Commissioner

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**Forward & Facts**

**2018 Events**

There are 42 tournaments in total at first-class golf courses on the tour calendar between March 2018 and February 2019.

**Nationalities**

Since 2011, the tour had players from 30 countries

**350 + Players**

350 + players will compete on the IGT Challenge Tour in 2018

**Prize Money**

Players will compete for over 2.5 Million Rand in 2018

**10 promotion spots**

10 Players will receive promotion to Sunshine Q-School final stage

**Our proud record**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sunshine Cards</th>
<th>IGT Players</th>
<th>IGT %</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Actual event procedures

**Tournament Format**
Most tournaments will consist of 54-holes of stroke play gross. There are a few 72-hole tournaments. Fields will be cut after 36 holes to the top 66% of the starting field, including ties, with a maximum of 60 and ties for fields up to 156.

All events are walking, and Pull/push carts are allowed during all tournament rounds. Players can carry own bag.

**Schedule**
Tournaments are published a year in advance under SCHEDULE on our website www.igtgolf.org

**Tournament entry procedure**
Entries will be taken on a first paid basis.

a) Tournament registration is available through our website under the tournament schedule.
b) Simply click on the register button next to the tournament you wish to sign-up for,
c) Use the Quick Entry on our Home Page Top,
d) Reply on your SMS sent by IGT announcing next event, or
e) Contact IGT on 078 3300 440 or sent email to admin@igtgof.org

**Tee Time procedure**
Official tee times will be posted by 2:00 PM, one day prior to the first round on the IGT Web. Please note ONLY Email is sent to players. No SMS sent to players for Tee Times & Results.

**Withdrawal**
Withdrawals will be accepted for any reason, when notice is given by 10:00 AM on the Sunday before the tournament week. Players MUST call the tour office at 078 3300 440 to withdraw (WhatsApp or SMS can also be used). For withdrawals after the Sunday deadline, the player will waive his entry fee to the tournament.

**On Site Tournament check in**
a) Players MUST register at the IGT Tournament Office (Located in Club House) at least 45 minutes before their Tee-Time on Day 1.
b) Day 2 & 3 players must report to tee 10 minutes before players official tee time.
c) Players must be on tee box 10 minutes before official tee time. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

**Payments**
Payments must be received before you tee up.
- EFT 3 days before event.
- Debit/Credit card at event.
- Cash

**Results**
Live scoring on our website. Day 1 & 2 scoring after 9 & 18 holes. Final day scoring is hole by hole.

**Stats**
Players stats e.g. fairway hits, green in regulations, puts, birdies plus more available 30 minutes after close of day. Stats are available on our website www.igtgolf.org top menu TOUR INFO CENTRE.

**Practice Round**
Preferred rates are negotiated with clubs and players must show their IGT membership cards. Players must book their own practice round and are for own account.

**Caddies**
Play may bring own caddie.

**Srixon Special**
Available on day 1 Only. For only R350 you receive 6 balls, Glove & Cap.
Eligibility
The IGT is open to any professional or amateur golfer. Amateurs must have a handicap of 5 or less. Players are assumed to be pro unless otherwise stated on the membership form. The IGT reserves the right to refuse participation to anyone.

Q-School
The IGT Challenge Tour currently do not have a Qualifying School.

Membership
An eligible member of the IGT Challenge Tour as defined will be regarded as a Member for the current official season upon receipt of the completed Membership application form AND the payment of the Membership fee. Until both the form and payment have been received by the IGT Challenge Tour, a Player has no Membership and he will not be permitted to enter any tournaments.

Tournament Rules of Golf
All competitors should secure a copy of the IGT Challenge Tour Conditions of Competition and Local Rules card (which is referred to as the “Hard Card”). This explains any rule that affects or modifies a rule of golf. They are not reprinted herein as they are subject to change and alteration. The rules governing play shall be:

a) the Rules of Golf as approved by the R & A Rules Ltd;
b) the current IGT Challenge Tour Conditions of Competition and Local Rules;
c) the Additional Local Rules of the host club as approved by the Tournament Director.

Best Effort
In entering a tournament, a member shall for its duration, attempt to exercise his maximum golf skill and to play in a professional manner.

Tournament Format
Most tournaments will consist of 54-holes of stroke play gross. There are a few 72-hole tournaments. Fields will be cut after 36 holes to the top 66% of the starting field, including ties, with a maximum of 60 and ties for fields up to 156.

All events are walking, and Pull/push carts are allowed during all tournament rounds. Players can carry own bag.

Pairing Procedures
a) Pairings for first and second rounds pairings are grouped based on the OFFICIAL MONEY LIST. The actual groupings are established by computer.
b) These will be available after 2:00 pm on Sunday. All third round pairings are by score. These will be available approximately one hour after completion of round 2.
c) Preferred Tee Times (Please note that a player must play one morning and one afternoon for round 1 & 2)
d) Travel Partners draw

Late To The Tee
a) Rule 6-3 Provides: “The player shall start at the time laid down by the Committee.” The IGT Challenge Tour incorporates the Note under 6-3 that allows the player to be up to 5 minutes late with a 2 stroke penalty.
b) After 5 minutes, he shall be disqualified.

Caddies
Players may use their own caddies. Caddies are not compulsory.

Dress Code
Slacks are preferred during tournament play, especially during the final round. However, shorts are allowed. Shirts are to be tucked in and hats must be worn forward.

Distance Measuring Devices
a) A player may obtain distance information by using a laser device or Cell Phone app that measures distance only
b) However, if, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind-speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification.

Mobile Telephones
a) A mobile phone may be used to call in rulings to the IGT Challenge Tour scoring desk.
b) Cell phones must be off at all times except if been used for yardage only.

Pace of Play
A player or member who receives a total of three bad times under IGT Challenge Tour approved Pace of Play conditions, will incur a fine of R1,000 on receiving his third ‘bad time’ (unless this coincides with a fine or breach of the Pace of Play conditions). Each subsequent ‘bad time’ will incur a fine double that of the previous fine.

Scoring Area
As players make the turn after 9 holes, must provide their scorecards to be recorded for scoreboard use, as well as get a drink and snack for the remainder of the round, if desired. No sit down.

Conflicting Sunshine & Big Easy Tournaments
Sunshine and Big Easy Tour players are not allowed to play on an IGT Challenge Tour event when there is a Sunshine or Big Easy event in the same week. Week runs from Monday to Sunday. No exceptions will be made from The IGT Challenge Tour or the Sunshine Tour.
Foundation of the IGT Challenge Tour.
Danie van Tonder dominate the Tour with 10 wins and is now a successful Sunshine Tour player and also played in the Million Dollar event at Sun City.

Darren Fichardt also competed on the IGT Tour after losing his European card through injuries. Darren regained his European card 6 months later.

26 events played in Gauteng.

Player of the Year; Danie van Tonder

At the Sunshine Q-School 18 IGT players gained their Sunshine Tour Card.

40 events, all in Gauteng

Player of the Year; Bradley Sinnett

Sunshine Rookie of the Year IGT Player Danie van Tonder

Launching the slogan “Where Good Players become Tour Players”

48 events, 40 in Gauteng and 8 in Kwazulu-Natal

Player of the Year; Callum Mowat

Sunshine Rookie of the Year IGT Player Dylan Frittelli

Ladies are now also playing on the IGT Challenge Tour

61 events, 39 in Gauteng and 22 in Kwazulu-Natal

Player of the Year; Coert Groenewald

Sunshine Rookie of the Year IGT Player Haydn Porteous

IGT race to USA winner; Lean Boezaart

72 events, 40 in Gauteng, 20 in Kwazulu-Natal and 12 in Cape

Player of the Year; Christiaan Bezuidenhout. Christiaan finish 2nd at the SA Open 2016 in his first year on Sunshine Tour.

Sunshine Rookie of the Year IGT Player Rourke van der Spuy

Anton Haig stroke average 67.88

41 events, all in Gauteng

Official recognition of the tour by the Sunshine Tour

IGT Player Nobuhle Dlamini gain USA LPGA Tour Card.

Player of the Year; Pieter Kruger

Sunshine Rookie of the Year IGT Player Christiaan Bezuidenhout

37 events, all in Gauteng

Launch of the new IGT Challenge Tour Logo.

Official partner for Gary Player Class of 2017.

Sunshine Tour Partner and official development Tour for the Sunshine & Big Easy Tour.

Matias Calderon (Chile) plays a IGT Tour record at the Waterkloof Challenge with a 60 round.
IGT Info

Tour Policies
All policies are subject to change and it is the players' responsibility to know and understand these policies. Player regulation handbooks available at tournament offices.

Major player regulation changes
The IGT Challenge Tour has adopted the Sunshine Big Easy Tour player regulation and will be in effect from January 2017.

Tournaments per Year
IGT plays average 40 events per year. Players can start anytime during the season and there is no minimum or maximum events to be played.

Withdrawals & No Shows
Withdrawals will be accepted for any reason, when notice is given by 10:00 AM on the Sunday before the tournament week. Players MUST call the tour office at 078 3300 440 to withdraw (WhatsApp or SMS can also be used). For withdrawals after the Sunday deadline, the player will waive his entry fee to the tournament. Medical and personal withdrawals after the Sunday deadline will be evaluated case-by-case and, if accepted, there will be a R100 administrative fee. The player must submit written documentation to the tour office within 48 hours of withdrawal, and medical withdrawal documentation must be on doctor's letterhead. No Shows will NOT receive a refund or credit for any reason. No refund or credit will be given for any reason once a player has teed off.

How to become a Member
Apply for Membership
Membership form is on our website or Register online at http://igtgolf.org/membership/

IGT Membership option is on home page at the bottom. See picture

- R2,000 membership fee for 2018/19
- Member Programs with; Srixon, Rhode Island plus more to come
- Member Tournament Entry Fees will be R1600 per event Non Member R1850.(R250 saving over non-members)
- Non Members can play maximum 5 events.
- Preferred Tee Times (Please note that players must play one morning and one afternoon for round 1 & 2)
- Travel Partners draw

Contact 078 3300 440 to request Membership Form
Code of Behavior

The Code of Behavior set out herein is designed to help the management of the IGT Challenge Tour and its members to identify the conduct and ethics that are expected from the IGT Challenge Tour’s members and to set out the procedure to be followed where there may have been a breach of the same.

a) General
On becoming a member of the IGT Challenge Tour each person voluntarily submits himself to the standards of behaviour and ethical conduct beyond those required of ordinary golfers and members of the public. The IGT Challenge Tour has been the hallmark of honesty, fair dealings, courtesy and sportsmanship and each member is bound to honour and uphold that tradition at all times, whether on or off the golf course.

It would be impossible to define exactly the standard of conduct expected from a member in all circumstances, or to list all acts which would amount to a breach of the Code of Behaviour and lead to disciplinary sanctions. In most cases common sense should tell the member the standard of behaviour that is required. Any member who has any doubts as to the conduct which is expected of him, should contact the IGT Challenge Tour’s offices or the Tournament Director for advice.

b) Anti Doping Policy
All players participating in IGT Challenge Tour sanctioned tournaments shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the IGT Challenge Tour Anti-Doping Programme.

Scoring Area
As players make the turn after 9 holes, must provide their scorecards to be recorded for scoreboard use, as well as get a drink and snack for the remainder of the round, if desired. After completion of the competitive round, the players are to bring their scorecards directly to the designated scoring area, verify their scores, sign scorecards, and turn them in to the scoring officials. Once the player has turned in his scorecard and left any boundary of the designated scoring area, the scorecard is considered official.
The only Tour for Amateurs to compete for prize money

At all times you enjoy the following

The IGT card offers you free debit transactions at any shop/store that accepts MasterCard.

For the latest balance enquiries on your card go to www.whatsonmycard.com or SMS* your 16-digit card number, without spaces to 34543.

The card cannot be used for cash withdrawals at an ATM.

The maximum an Amateur can win is R6,000 for 2016

The Card

The card can only be used in South Africa
Your card will not have a personal identification number (PIN)

You will not be able to use the card to purchase goods & services over the telephone, internet, pay toll fees or at parking garages.

Card cannot be used on any ATM’s

For your added protection

Call 086 1122 267 immediately to stop your card if it is stolen or lost.

Your card is only valid if it is signed.

*Each SMS charged at R2

Youngest winner:
Zander Lombard (AM) – 16 years, 10 months, at 2011 IGT CMR Challenge November 10

Oldest winner:
Michael Scholz – 43 years, 10 months, at 2014 Race to USA Irene Country Club 7 May

Most wins in a year:
Ten – Danie van Tonder (2011)

Most wins:
Eleven– Ockie Strydom (45 events)

Consecutive wins:
Three – Danie van Tonder (two times)

Multiple winners on IGT & other PGA Tours:
Allan Versfeld
Alex Haindl
Danie van Tonder
Darren Fichardt
Desvonde Botes
Jaco Prinsloo
Jacques Blaauw
Jean Hugo
JC Ritchie
Louis De Jager
Merrick Bremner
MJ Viljoen
Ph McIntyre
Rourke vd Spuy
Toto Thimba Jnr
Tyrone Ryan

Lowest 18-hole score:
60 (twelve-under) – Matias Calderon (Waterkloof Golf Club 2017)

Lowest winning score:
72Holes – 267 (21-under par) – Mark van As (CMR Golf Club 2011)

54Holes – 194 (22-under par) – Danie van Tonder (Houghton Golf Club 2016)
IGT Players Stats (Tour Info Centre)

The IGT Tour Info Centre is available on IGT home page at Top Menu. See Picture below.

The IGT Challenge Tour information centre is an authoritative collection of tournament data and statistics presented on a season by season basis.

**Individual Tournaments**

**Information:** Entries, draws, scoreboard, live scoring, final results, course statistics, scoring statistics and detail players statistics for event.

**Orders of Merit & Statistics Tables**

Current orders of merit and statistics tables based on this season’s events.

**Season Archives**

Reload the Information Centre using an alternative season database.

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**Players**

- Tournaments Entered or Played this Season results & stats
- Order of Merit Rankings
- Statistics Table Rankings

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**Statistics Table Rankings**

| Statistics Table | Pos. | Strokes | Rounds | Tournaments | Scoring
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<tr>
<td>Stroke Average</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>Putting Ave per Hole</td>
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<td>Scrambling %</td>
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**Tournament Schedule:**

- **28-Mar-17** Wanderers Better Ball Challenge
- **Winner:** - Dylan Mostert (JAM) & Kyle Barker (RSA)
- **03-Apr-17** Waterloo Challenge
- **Winner:** - Merrick Bremner (RSA)
- **20-Apr-17** Kyelami Challenge
- **Winner:** - Merrick Bremner (RSA)
- **24-Apr-17** Killarney Challenge
- **Winner:** - Anton Haig (RSA)
- **06-May-17** State Mines Challenge
- **Winner:** - Anton Haig (RSA)
- **15-May-17** Parnrout Challenge
- **Winner:** - Roberto Lupini (RSA)
- **22-May-17** Randpark Firethorn Challenge
- **Winner:** - Esaan Conradie (RSA)
Sunshine & Q-School

Sunshine Partner

IGT Challenge Tour become the official development tour partner for the Sunshine & Big Easy Tour.

Sunshine Q-School

The Top 10 Players on the IGT Race to Q-School Order of Merit will advance to the final stage of the Sunshine Q-School.

Gary Player Class of 2017/18

IGT Challenge Tour is the official developmental tour for the Gary Player Class of 2017/18

The Gary Player Class of 2017/18 is the Sunshine Tour’s main development squad for previously disadvantaged professional golfers and benefits from the longstanding and continued support of the South African Golf Development Board (SAGDB), that was founded in 1999 by Mr. Johann Rupert and has become the official body for golf development in South Africa, as well as the Ernie Els & Fancourt Foundation (EEFF) in the collective effort to use golf to improve the lives of disadvantaged South Africans.

IGT Players receiving Sunshine cards for last 5 years is average 80%

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Sunshine Rookie of the Year since 2012

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Player</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Christian Bezuidenhout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Rourke van der Spuy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Haydn Porteous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Dylan Fritelli</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2012 | Danie van Tonder *

* IGT Player

The standard on the Sunshine Q-School has dramatically improved since 2012.

The top 30 to earn cards has improved with 7.12 strokes.

The top 60 to make cut for final round has improved with 10.40 strokes

Sunshine Q-School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 30</th>
<th>CUT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-2017</td>
<td>-7.12</td>
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Strokes improved 2013-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 30</th>
<th>CUT</th>
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<tr>
<td>2012-2017</td>
<td>-3.83</td>
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Average

<table>
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<th>CUT</th>
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<tr>
<td>2005-2011</td>
<td>3.29</td>
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Average

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<tr>
<th>Top 60</th>
<th>CUT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-2017</td>
<td>-10.40</td>
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Strokes improved 2013-2017

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Top 60</th>
<th>CUT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-2017</td>
<td>1.17</td>
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Average

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Top 60</th>
<th>CUT</th>
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<tr>
<td>2005-2011</td>
<td>11.57</td>
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Management system, Website, app & social media: the IGT Challenge Tour online

**IGT Tournament management System**

IGT is using the OCS Tour Management system which is the same system Sunshine Tour and various other major Tours are using.

**Website**

Tournament reports and previews, pictures and results: the IGT Challenge Tour keeps members and fans informed on its own website and uses the social media channels Facebook, YouTube and Twitter for communication and interaction. The IGT website was updated in April 2017 and is in line with the latest technology. All the important information about the tour’s tournaments and events is available there at www.igtgolf.org

**Press Releases**

The tour also has a presence in national and international print and online media with up to 120 press releases per season thanks to extensive PR work. Press releases per event per day gets published on www.supersport home page and under the section Golf. Press releases are also published on DSTV golf section.

**Social Media**

The IGT Challenge Tour has been using the social media channels Facebook and Twitter for communication with members and fans since 2011. More than 5000 likes on Facebook (status as of: 1 Dec 2017) and more than 1,000 Twitter follows are testament to the high demand for faster information and exclusive image material. The post’s reach on tournament days is up to 15,000 readers. The posts report on the IGT Challenge Tour tournaments and on players’ outstanding performances.

**IGT Cell App**

The IGT Cellphone app also offers a convenient live scoring module on tournament days plus more.

IGT App is available at [http://m.appcatch.com/](http://m.appcatch.com/)

Search for IGT Challenge and load IGT Challenge T

**Player Photos**

The tour takes photos of each player every round and publish them on Facebook & IGT Website under GALLERY.

**IGT Links**

MOBILE WEB: [http://igtgolf.info/mob/](http://igtgolf.info/mob/)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/IGTChallengeTour](http://www.facebook.com/IGTChallengeTour)

TWITTER: [https://twitter.com/igtgolf](https://twitter.com/igtgolf)

YOUTUBE: [www.youtube.com/igtgolfsa](http://www.youtube.com/igtgolfsa)

![IGT Challenge Tour Website](image-url)
Zander how do you rate the IGT Challenge Tour as a springboard into professional golf?
The IGT Challenge Tour is an important stop for every aspiring young pro. As the tournaments take you to different courses and conditions, they don't just include sporting elements but also organisational factors. The players have to learn how to organise and manage themselves. These are two very important areas. The playing standard is also very sound. There are enough good players to produce a sporting atmosphere.

Is it an all-round successful tour for young talent?
For what the IGT Challenge Tour wants to be: Yes! You move around a great deal, can play full season and also learn a lot about touring life. The prize money is also distributed similarly to the major tournaments so that you are forced to play well and hold your own over a longer period of time.

Has the tour helped you in your personal sporting career?
Yes. In my opinion it is important to learn to play a full season, to hold your own and also cope with fluctuations in performance. In comparison to this, for example, the Sunshine Tour Qualifying School shows time and time again that one good week in a year does not qualify a player to play consistently on the next level of tour. To learn this you have to give yourself the time to mature by playing in lots of tournaments. That is exactly what the IGT Challenge Tour offers.

What are your fondest memories with regard to the tour?
The camaraderie. We were all pretty broke and even the top five cannot actually finance a season with the prize money won. In this respect you have to find ways to keep costs down. This leads to you all pulling together and helping each other out. Resulting in great friendships that I would not want to be without.

What, would you say, distinguishes the IGT Challenge Tour?
I think the tour is really successful in trying to prepare young players for the next level of tours. From the prize money breakdown to the ranking and regular processes, the tour is very similar to the Big Easy Tour and Sunshine Tour. That's the biggest sporting advantage of the IGT Challenge Tour.

What do you advise young players just starting their career on the Pro Golf Tour?
Patience is important and a good team around you. And you should take the tour as what it is: a development tour to achieve great things later on.
How Do You Know If You Are a Good Enough Golfer to Go to Tour School?

1. Score Average is the Big Deal

2. It’s Not About Mental Toughness

3. Develop Your ‘Tour Skills’ to Tour Grade

4. Finally you will need to be a full time golfer to consider going to tour school.

So How Good Do You Really Have to Be?

How good do you have to be to really have a good chance of earning your tour card? It’s the only question that you need to truly consider and quite honestly unless you have a competitive score average of par or better in national ranked tournaments over a whole season playing at least 50 rounds of golf, you are best to keep working at your game. The simple fact is that every tour school is geared to this minimum standard of excellence.

Think about this for a moment, you will play a minimum of eight rounds to qualify for a small tour like the Australasian Tour, and as many as 17 rounds to qualify for a major tour like the Web.com Tour, and you will be required to play to much better than par in all kinds of weather conditions on the bigger tours to secure your card.

The majority of players entering tour schools are not nearly at this standard, and the results show in the final analysis every year. Yes many of these tour hopefuls can score well around their home course, and maybe even around the local courses in their district, but tour school is a different animal altogether.

At the 2013 Web.Com Tour School final stage Zach Fischer finished 31 under par for 6 rounds, (averaging 5.1 under par per round) and won the tour school earning his card to play on the Web.Com Tour in 2014 which was a phenomenal effort.

Now you would think with that standard of play he would do really well on the Web.Com Tour but as of the end of August 2014 he had earned just US $65,000 dollars, ranking him 77th on the money list, (from the 18 events he had competed in) and he made the cut in 11 events and missed the cut in 7 (61 percent).

His score average (actual) at the end of August 2014 was 70.68 ranking him 87th in this category. So it just goes to show that even qualifying for the Web.Com tour in spectacular fashion doesn’t guarantee you anything, as you still have to play to a very high standard every day you compete, if you want to learn how to become a successful tournament professional.

To give you an idea of just how good you have to be, to earn last card at the Web.Com Tour School in 2013, you needed to finish at 16 under par for the final 6 rounds, which is averaging 2.6 under par each day. This is after successfully qualifying through the first 3 stages.

4 Tour School Tactics

So how do you develop you game to a high enough standard that you give yourself the very best chance of playing on a pro tour, and more importantly, to develop your game to a level where you can stay on tour for years to come?

Here are our 4 tour school tips for any serious amateur or professional golfer considering developing their game with the sole purpose of competing at a tour school, and winning a card to play on a professional golf tour.

Tour School Tactic 1. Score Average is the Big Deal

Understand that your competitive score average over at least one full season (and a minimum of 50 rounds) in national and international ranked tournaments (amateur or pro events) is the only real barometer of whether your standard is good enough to go to tour school.

Playing to par or better in local club events, and district tournaments, is just not going to be nearly good enough for a serious crack at tour school; you need to compete and consistently contend in major amateur tournaments to be sure.

Don’t be misled by well-meaning family and friends who tell you that because you hit the ball like a top tour player, and you play great on your home courses that it is your guarantee of success at tour school. Over the years many home town hero’s have
gone to tour school and come home with their tail between their legs. Let me say it again, your long-term competitive score average playing hundreds of holes at lots of different golf course venues, on different golf course styles, in all kinds of conditions, and to a very high standard, is all that matters. Tour school and tour golf will always be about how well you can score over hundreds of holes, and it’s not about anything else.

Tour School Tactic 2. It’s Not About Mental Toughness
You don’t just need ‘Mental Toughness’ to succeed in qualifying and playing successfully on a pro tour, what you really need is The Mental Toughness Endurance Factor, which is not exactly the same thing. Any golfer can be mentally tough enough to play decently for a round or two, but the true test of whether you can make it on a pro tour is going to get down to your emotional endurance and grit over hundreds of holes. Emotional endurance describes your ability to completely maintain and manage your emotional state to no more than a slightly frustrated level in every type of condition imaginable, over hundreds of holes. How many holes can you play when things are not going the way you want before you get frustrated and angry? Can you play at least 90 holes of competitive golf without letting poor performances derail your scoring ability? Emotional endurance is the key tour player factor that helps you to keep your score around par over long periods of time, and many miles of golf course traveled.

What Kind of Profile Do You Have When You Play, How Many Holes Can You Play Before You Get to Level 3 or higher? The Sprint Golfer and The Ultra Marathon Golfer
At Pro Tour Golf College we describe to our students the crucial difference between what we call a sprint golfer, and what we call an ultra-marathon golfer. Sprint golfers are good for 18 holes—maybe 36 holes, and then they run out of gas. The true tournament golfer however is someone who can play to a very high standard over 72 holes or more, week-in-and-week-out without suffering from depression or anxiety because of a run of poor play. In our experience you have to be an ultra-marathon golfer than a sprint golfer, and your goal should be to train to become an ultra-marathon golfer if you want to succeed as a professional tour golfer. 18 holes of golf is a walk of roughly 7100 yards from the men’s tee’s which equates to about 4 miles, or 6.4 kilometers of walking. Now how many rounds of golf, and miles of golf holes do you need to walk to become a top tour golfer? Hundreds of miles is the only answer that makes sense, and what this essentially means is that you must learn how to manage and maintain a low golf score average over hundreds of miles of golf holes.

I’m sure that you can see that your emotional endurance combined with well-developed golf skills specifically developed for playing golf on tour is going to be essential for your success?

How Good Would You Be in This Situation?
Tour School Tactic 3. Develop Your ‘Tour Skills’ to Tour Grade
Tour golf skills are the golf skills you will rely on when your tee to green long game is going a little haywire. Tour golfer’s average around 12 greens per round in regulation, from round to round, which means that on their good days they miss about 4 greens in regulation, and on their bad days they miss 8. Believe me when I tell you that you will have more bad tee to green days than good ones. The tour skills you need to develop to what we call tour grade, and they will be the high and soft flop shots, and a variety of spinning and releasing pitch shots, as well as bunker shots from all types of lies to access tight pin placements which are the norm on a pro tour. And you will also need to be able to accomplish this in wet and dry conditions, and from all types of surfaces and lies.

You will need to consider going to tour school. This means that playing golf is your full time job, and playing, practicing and developing your golf skills is what you do for a minimum of 5 to 6 hours per day, for 5 to 6 days per week. Tour school is not for part-time golfers, or for those who “just want to give it a try to see if they’re good enough.” Before you go to a tour school you will have invested literally thousands of hours into.
How Do You Know If You Are a Good Enough Golfer to Go to Tour School?

The odds are against you qualifying unless you have truly got the game to go low often.

A score average of 72.00 just won't cut it on the major golf tours, so getting around your local golf course in even par or slightly better won't be good enough to go to tour school as you will just spend a lot of money to find out that you are not ready yet.

Regularly scoring 72 will seem like a great score to your friends and the members at your golf club but it's simply not good enough to play competitively on a pro tour.

Here's what you need to be able to do, and nothing less...

1. Break par at least 50 percent of the time on difficult layouts over 7000 yards in tournaments
2. Have a high score average of 3 over par or better on difficult layouts over 7000 yards in tournaments
3. Have a low score average of 4 under par or better on difficult layouts over 7000 yards in tournaments

This standard is the minimum standard required for considering becoming a tour golfer and this standard will confirm that you can not only qualify to play on a professional tour but you will also be able to do the 2 things that tour golfers have to be able to do really well;

1. Make a lot more cuts than you miss
2. Make a lot more money than you spend

There's No Mystery, Just Follow the Trail

There's no mystery as to why some professional golfers play better than others over a season.

Successful professional golfers leave a trail of results behind them, just the same way as less than successful golfers.

This trail helps you to understand what is required to produce lower golf score averages so you can make more cuts and larger checks.

So well before you decide to go to tour school you need to get your preparation in order by amongst other things studying the results of successful professional golfers carefully to understand what is required to succeed on tour.

Fortunately golf being a game of numbers means that there is plenty of statistics that you can study that will help you to design relevant and appropriate practice plans that can guide your development safely.

There's nothing we like more than to see a young golfer with ambition who wants to pursue their goal of playing successfully on a professional golf tour. What we see all too often though is an ambitious golfer with a very poor plan (and often no plan) that leads to higher score averages that makes it impossible to become a successful professional golfer.

So don't let this be you.

Credit; Lawrie Montague and David Milne - Pro Tour Golf College

"Becoming a tour player requires a lot more time and effort than most ambitious golfers are willing to put in. Think about it this way; to consider a life as a tour player ask yourself whether you are willing to devote the next 10 to 20 years of your life pursuing this career choice, with at least 5 hours of practice 6 days out of 7, and playing 54 to 72 holes each week."
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Tour Official

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