



PGA of South Africa Playing Ability Criteria

In accordance with the standards of the World PGA's the PGA of South Africa has put forward the following Playing Ability criteria:

In order to put in an application form for apprenticeship the applicant must have an official SAGA handicap of 4 for men and 7 for women.

In order to be accepted into the apprenticeship programme a Playing Ability Test (PAT) must be passed as follows:

- One score of 6 over par or better for men and 8 over par for ladies must be achieved.

Or

- One score of 8 over par or better for men and 10 over par for ladies must be achieved. An applicant achieving this but failing to meet the accepted standard is required to sign an Acknowledgement of Playing Ability Deficit form and to abide by the criteria set out therein.

During the 3 year period of apprenticeship the apprentice must score **4 scores that equal or better 6 over par for men and 10 over par for the ladies** and must complete a minimum of 4 PGA approved tournament rounds per year for a total of 12 tournament rounds over the 3 year period.

Should these criteria not be satisfied the apprentice will not be allowed to write the final (third year) exams and will only be entitled to write exams the following year on completion of the playing ability standard.

The following particulars apply:

- All rounds to be medal rounds.
- The following tournaments will count: apprentice pro-am, regional pro-am, national pro-am, Sun International pro-ams, Sunshine Tour, Big Easy Tour event (includes pre-qualifying round and Tour School), IGT events, Apprentice Championships, regional qualifiers as per below. They can also play in an official medal event of one of the PGAs official education providers provided they let the education department know in advance. PGA also holds specific Playing Ability Tests from time to time.

In addition apprentices can set up their own PAT provided they let the education department know in advance and the education department approves it, other apprentices are afforded the chance to play and there is a PGA member in attendance to sign off the score cards.

- Each region will host a quarterly 36 hole qualifying event with dates to be identified in advance. The entry fee will be the applicable greenfee plus a R50 competition fee which will be paid out to the best placed finishers.
- A maximum of two scores may be obtained in a Pro-am, whether it is an apprentice pro-am, regional pro-am or Sun International pro-am. The other two scores must be achieved in a Tour, Apprentice Championships or quarterly qualifying event.
- All four scores need to be obtained prior to writing the final (3rd year) exams. If the scores are not obtained the exams must be written the following year.

An apprentice who fails to get all four scores within the 3 years of studying will be granted an additional 2 years to obtain the final scores. If the scores are not obtained within this additional allocated period, it will be accepted that the PAT has been failed and membership will not be granted.

The applicable membership fees for the additional period for both pending graduates and post graduate apprentices will be 3 x the annual apprentice member fees.

- The course set up guidelines are:

Men: 5900 to 6100m at sea level and 6100 to 6300 inland

Women: 5015 to 5185m at sea-level and 5185 to 5355 inland.

Should you require any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards



Charmaine Arthur
Education & Training Administrator