

OVGA TOUR – 2026 RULES & FORMAT OVERVIEW

As we head into the 2026 season, here is the full overview of how the OVGA Tour will operate. The focus remains on fair competition, transparency, and pace of play while keeping the format fun and competitive for all handicap levels.

QUOTA SCORING (2026)

Points per hole

Hole in One – 10

Albatross – 8

Eagle – 5

Birdie – 3

Par – 2

Bogey – 1

Double Bogey – 0

Triple Bogey – -0.5

Triple bogey is the maximum score per hole.

Quota calculation

Quota = 36 minus Course Handicap

Minimum quota is 8

Quotas adjust weekly based on course difficulty

Win adjustment

A win adds temporary quota points:

+2 the next round

+1 the following round

0 thereafter

Win points reduce by 1 each week, stack if multiple wins occur, and each win expires after three weeks.

PUTTING AND PACE OF PLAY

There are no gimmes. All players must putt out.

The only time a player may pick up without holing a putt is after reaching triple bogey on a hole.

OUT OF BOUNDS AND LOST BALL RULES (2026)

Out of bounds applies to tee shots only.

Tee shot OB options:

Re-tee hitting shot 3, or

Proceed to the fairway on the line of entry (not lateral), hitting shot 4.

Any non-tee shot that goes out of bounds is played as a red-staked lateral hazard with a one-stroke penalty.

Any area not marked with white stakes or white paint is considered a red-staked area.

Gallery drop: if a ball is hit into the fairway, the entire group agrees it plugged, and it cannot be found, a no-penalty drop is allowed at a spot determined by the group.

ROOKIE PROBATIONARY PERIOD

All new players must complete two probationary rounds before receiving a quota.

During probationary rounds:

Players are not flighted

Players are not eligible to win

Players only pay the \$5 season prize pool contribution

Skins and CTP are allowed.

Players with a GHIN handicap are flighted for skins based on GHIN.

Players without a GHIN handicap are placed in A Flight for skins.

Players with a 2025 OVGA quota are exempt.

Gaspar members may use their Gaspar quota if no OVGA quota exists.

TOURNAMENT FLIGHTS (WEEKLY)

Players are split evenly by quota each week.

Top half of the field plays in A Flight.

Bottom half of the field plays in B Flight.

Flights reset weekly. A player may play in A Flight one week and B Flight the next.

TOURNAMENT PAYOUTS

Minimum flight size is 8 players.

If fewer than 16 total players are in the field, the event is played as one flight.

Payout structure:

8–14 players: 65% / 35%

15+ players: 60% / 25% / 15%

Example payouts per flight:

8 players: \$105 / \$55

16 players: \$190 / \$80 / \$50

SEASON FORMAT AND BUY-INS

30 total events

26 regular events and 4 majors

Season points are based on best 10 regular events plus all majors.

Buy-ins:

Regular events – \$25

Majors – \$35

From each buy-in:

\$5 per player goes to the season prize pool

All remaining money is paid back out weekly

There are no administrative holdbacks

Optional side games:

\$10 Gross Skins (flighted)

\$5 Closest-to-the-Pin

All side games are paid out immediately after each round via cash or electronic payment.

TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Top 8 players per flight qualify.

After Day 1, 5th through 8th place are cut and paid equally, maximum \$100.

Final payouts per flight:

50% / 25% / 15% / 10%

Greens fees for both rounds for all 16 qualifiers will be paid by OVGA and taken from the overall prize pool.

TEAM COMPETITION (OPTIONAL)

Player groups (A–D) are assigned before the season.

Teams are drafted and remain fixed for the entire season.

Best two scores per team count each week.

Entry is a \$50 one-time fee per player.

There are no weekly team buy-ins.

Teams with fewer than two players playing in a given week earn zero points for that tournament.