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# PGA TOUR announces revisions to Anti-Doping Program

## Revisions to take effect with the start of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season

**PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida** – The PGA TOUR today announced revisions to its Anti-Doping Program, which will take effect with the start of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season. The revisions, approved by the PGA TOUR Policy Board, include the implementation of blood testing, supplementation of TOUR's Prohibited List to include all of the substances and methods currently on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Prohibited List of Substances and Methods, and the reporting of suspensions related to drugs of abuse (recreational drugs).

The TOUR will begin a comprehensive education program to ensure that all players understand the changes to the testing procedures, the Prohibited List and the adjudication process in advance of the 2017-18 season.

"While we are extremely pleased with the implementation and results of the PGA TOUR Anti-Doping Program to date, we believe that these changes to our program are prudent in that they further our objectives of protecting the well-being of our members and better substantiate the integrity of golf as a clean sport," said PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan.

## **Blood Testing**

Blood testing will be added to the Anti-Doping Program as one of the TOUR's regular testing protocols, beginning next season. Urine testing will continue to be the predominant method.

While the vast majority of the substances on the Prohibited List are best detected through urine testing, there are some, like Human Growth Hormone, that are only detectable through blood. To date, the PGA TOUR has not implemented blood testing, although those substances have been prohibited. The scientific community has made substantial advancements with the creation of new detection methods, which have been successfully implemented throughout the world of sport. In addition, golfers who competed in the Olympic Games underwent blood testing with no issues.

## **Prohibited List**

The PGA TOUR Prohibited List will include all of the banned substances and methods from the current WADA Prohibited List of Substances and Methods and be reviewed annually, by calendar year, to determine what (if any) changes TOUR deems advisable to make to the PGA TOUR Prohibited List based upon any changes to the WADA List.

Since the inception of the Program, the PGA TOUR Prohibited List has differed slightly from the WADA Prohibited List, primarily in three categories: asthma medications; allergy and anti-inflammatory medications, such as corticosteroids; and pseudoephedrine over a designated threshold level. Although not a signatory to the WADA

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Code and not required to consult with WADA on the TOUR Prohibited List, given the global nature of professional golf, consistency with the WADA list ensures professional golfers need to comply with just one list in competition around the world as well as in Olympic competition.

The TOUR has maintained a comprehensive Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) program, which enables players with legitimate medical conditions to use prohibited substances as prescribed by their physicians and under the advisement of the TUE Committee. The application, review and monitoring of TUEs has been successfully functioning since 2008, and the addition of three new categories of medication will be implemented for the TUE program beginning with the 2017-18 season.

## Reporting

Reporting of suspensions related to violations of the Program for performance enhancing substances have been part of the TOUR's protocol since the inception of the Anti-Doping Program in 2008. Beginning with the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season, suspensions related to violations of the Program, whether for performance enhancing substances or drugs of abuse, will be reported publicly. Once the adjudication process has been completed, the TOUR will issue a statement containing the name of the player, the fact that a violation for either a performance enhancing substance or a drug of abuse has occurred and the length of the suspension.

Currently, violations for drugs of abuse are handled under the PGA TOUR Tournament Regulations as Conduct Unbecoming a Professional. Disciplinary matters related to Conduct Unbecoming a Professional are not reported to the public; thus, violations related to drugs of abuse have been treated confidentially.

## Background

The PGA TOUR Anti-Doping Program was established in 2008 after discussions with many of the world's foremost authorities in the anti-doping field, including representatives from WADA and the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA). While such input was critical to the development of a respected and robust policy, the PGA TOUR and its advisors determined that a policy more specifically catered to golf was appropriate and consistent with other professional sports. Accordingly, the PGA TOUR Anti-Doping Program differed in certain areas from the WADA Code that governs activities such as the Olympic Games.

Over time, updates have been made to the PGA TOUR Anti-Doping Program, particularly with respect to the Prohibited List, to ensure that the Program was in line with advancements in anti-doping science. With golf's return to the Olympics, the PGA TOUR worked closely with WADA and USADA to sufficiently educate and prepare athletes for the policies and procedures of the WADA Code. This included blood testing and whereabouts (at home) testing. The Olympic golf anti-doping program led by the International Golf Federation (IGF) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) went smoothly and was considered a success by WADA and other anti-doping authorities.

## About PGA TOUR

The PGA TOUR is the leading global platform in professional golf, showcasing the highest expression of excellence, both on and off the course. The PGA TOUR's mission is to entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back, generate significant charitable and

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economic impact in the communities in which it plays, grow and protect the game of golf and provide financial opportunities for TOUR players.

The PGA TOUR co-sanctions more than 130 tournaments on the PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions, Web.com Tour, PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada and PGA TOUR China. Its members represent the world's best players, hailing from 24 countries (89 members are from outside the United States). Worldwide, PGA TOUR tournaments are broadcast to more than 1.1 billion households in 227 countries and territories in 23 languages. Virtually all tournaments are organized as non-profit organizations in order to maximize charitable giving. In 2016, tournaments across all Tours generated a record of more than \$166 million for local and national charitable organizations, bringing the all-time total to \$2.46 billion.

The PGA TOUR's web site is <u>PGATOUR.COM</u>, the No. 1 site in golf, and the organization is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

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