



THE 2016 EUROPEAN TOUR QUALIFYING SCHOOL



Rules and Conditions of Entry and Participation

First Qualifying Stage (Section A)	13th - 16th September 2016
First Qualifying Stage (Section B)	20th - 23rd September 2016
First Qualifying Stage (Section C)	27th - 30th September 2016
First Qualifying Stage (Section D)	4th - 7th October 2016
Second Qualifying Stage	4th - 7th November 2016
Final Qualifying Stage	12th - 17th November 2016

(For closing dates see rule 4. Entry Deadlines)

1. FORMAT

The Qualifying School will be conducted in three stages of stroke play as follows:

(A) FIRST QUALIFYING STAGE (72 holes scheduled)

The First Stage is divided into four Sections (**Sections A, B, C and D**) each Section to be played in a different week as detailed above. Applicants may only participate in one Section but are able to select their preferred venue.

This applies to all applicants **except** those who have automatically qualified for the **Second Stage** or the **Final Stage**.

The First Stage (Section A) – 13th - 16th September 2016

- **Golf & Country Club Fleesensee (TUI Golf Course)**, Göhren-Lebbin, Nr Berlin, Germany (nearest airports, Berlin-Tegel – 90 min, Hamburg – 120 min)
- **The Roxburghe Hotel & Golf Course**, Kelso, Scotland (nearest airport, Edinburgh - 60 minutes)

The First Stage (Section B) – 20th - 23rd September 2016

- **Collingtree Park Golf Course**, Northampton, England (nearest airports, Heathrow 60 minutes, Birmingham 60 minutes)
- **GolfClub Schloss Ebreichsdorf, Ebreichsdorf**, Nr Vienna, Austria (nearest airport, Vienna - 40 minutes)

The First Stage (Section C) – 27th - 30th September 2016

- **Golf d'Hardelot (Les Pins)**, Hardelot, France (nearest airport, Beauvais - 75 minutes)
- **Ribagolfe (Ribagolfe 1)**, Vargem Fresca, near Lisbon, Portugal (nearest airport, Lisbon - 30 minutes)

The First Stage (Section D) – 4th - 7th October 2016

- **Golf Club Bogogno (Conte Course)**, Bogogno, Nr. Milan, Italy (nearest airport, Milan Malpensa - 30 minutes)
- **Frilford Heath Golf Club (Red Course)**, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, England (nearest airports, Heathrow - 60 minutes, Birmingham – 60 minutes)

In the event of a delay in completing the First Stage, applicants are advised that the Saturday after the scheduled dates of each Section may be used as a full playing day in order to complete the relevant Section.

Applicants must indicate on the attached application form their **venue preferences** in order from 1 to 4. An Applicant may select both venues in any Section provided that only four venues are selected in total. The European Tour will take account of each applicant's venue preference where possible but **the primary objective is to balance the number of applicants playing at each venue**. In the event of any venue being oversubscribed, priority will initially be determined by the payment date of the entry fee. **The first 102 paid up entries received by the European Tour for each venue will be allocated to that venue**. Thereafter, applicants will be allocated the venue which is highest in their list of preferences and which has availability at the time the application form and payment are received. **Field sizes will be restricted to a maximum of 102 players at each venue**.

After 54 holes of each **Section** of the **First Stage**, only those players within **7 shots** of the final qualifying place will be permitted to contest the final round. The number of players who are able to qualify for the **Second Stage** will be announced as soon as is reasonably possible once all the participants have teed off in the first round of the appropriate Section. Players who are tied on the final qualifying place score will proceed to the **Second Stage**.

(B) SECOND QUALIFYING STAGE (72 holes scheduled) – 4th - 7th November 2016

The following players are exempt from the **First Stage** and are automatically eligible to participate in the **Second Stage**:

1. All European Tour Members in Categories 1 - 21 as at 31st August 2016.
2. 2016 Challenge Tour Members in positions 1 - 90 in the Challenge Tour Rankings on 31st August 2016.
3. 2016 Challenge Tour Members in positions 46-90 in the Final 2016 Challenge Tour Rankings.
4. Winners of the Qualifying School in 2012, 2013 and 2014.
5. Winners of the Challenge Tour Rankings in 2012, 2013 and 2014.
6. Winners of a PGA European Tour Order of Merit event prior to 1st January 2007.
7. European Tour Members in positions 76-100 in the European Tour Career Money List on 31st August 2016.
8. The leading player (i.e. ranked 1st) in each of the following Satellite Tour Final Orders of Merit for 2016, unless already exempt under category 10. below:
 - The PGA Europro Tour. • Pro Golf Tour.
 - The Nordic League. • ALPS Tour.
9. The leading 4th – 10th placed entrants as at 31st August to a limit of 25th place in the following Orders of Merit provided that the relevant applicants have applied to enter the First Stage by 31st August 2016:
 - The Asian Tour. • PGA Tour of Australasia (Final 2015 Order of Merit).
 - The Japan Golf Tour. • The Sunshine Tour (Final 2015 Order of Merit).
10. The leading 6 entrants as at 31st August to a limit of 10th place in the following Satellite Tour Orders of Merit provided that the relevant applicants have applied to enter the First Stage by 31st August 2016:
 - The PGA Europro Tour. • Pro Golf Tour.
 - The Nordic League. • ALPS Tour.

11. The leading 5 entrants as at 31st August 2016 to a limit of 15th place in the World Amateur Golf Ranking provided that the relevant applicants have applied to enter the First Stage by 31st August 2016.

Note: Under the eligibility criteria set out in categories 9, 10 and 11 above, should an exempt player withdraw after the closing date for the First Stage entries, he may be replaced by the next eligible player under that category (subject to the applicable limits as stated above) but any such replacement must take place before the commencement of the Second Stage.

The **Second Stage** will be conducted on **4th - 7th November 2016** at the following venues:

- **Campo de Golf El Saler**, Valencia, Spain (nearest airport, Valencia - 20 minutes)
- **Las Colinas Golf & Country Club**, Orihuela, Alicante, Spain
(nearest airports, Murcia (San Javier) – 20 minutes, Alicante – 45 min)
- **Lumine Golf & Beach Club (Lakes Course)**, Tarragona, Spain (nearest airports, Reus 10 min, Barcelona 60 min)
- **Panoramica Golf & Sport Resort**, Castellon, Spain (nearest airports, Reus, 60 min, Valencia 90 min, Barcelona 120 min)

In the event of a delay in completing the Second Stage, applicants are advised that at all venues 8th November may be used as a full playing day in order to complete the Second Stage. There will be no cut during the **Second Stage**. However, a player is entitled to withdraw at the conclusion of any round provided that notification is given before close of play on the relevant day.

The number of players who are able to qualify for the **Final Stage** will be announced as soon as is reasonably possible once all the participants have teed off in the first round of the Second Stage. Players who are tied on the final qualifying place score shall be required to participate in a play-off to determine who qualifies for the Final Stage. Any play-off will be conducted as soon as reasonably possible after play has concluded on the final day of the Second Stage.

Note: Venue preferences for the Second Stage may not be requested and the venue allocation will be at the discretion of the European Tour.

(C) FINAL QUALIFYING STAGE (108 holes scheduled) – 12th - 17th November 2016

The following players are exempt from the **First and Second Stages** and automatically eligible to participate in the **Final Stage**:

- a. Players eligible for Category 17 or 18 membership of the European Tour for the 2017 season (normally players finishing within positions 111 - 145 on the 2016 Race to Dubai).
- b. Players finishing between 16th and 45th position in the Final 2016 Challenge Tour Rankings.
- c. Winners of a European Tour Order of Merit event after 1st January 2007.
- d. The winner of the last played Qualifying School.
- e. The winner of the Challenge Tour Rankings in 2015.
- f. European Tour Members in 41st - 75th position in the European Tour Career Money list on 31st August 2016.
- g. The 3 leading entrants on 31st August 2016 to a limit of 15th place in the following Orders of Merit provided that the relevant applicants had applied to enter the Qualifying School by 31st August 2016:
 - The Asian Tour.
 - The Japan Golf Tour.
 - PGA Tour of Australasia (Final 2015 Order of Merit).
 - The Sunshine Tour (Final 2015 Order of Merit).

Note: Should an exempt player withdraw under the eligibility criteria set out in category g) above after the closing date for the First Stage entries, he may be replaced by the next eligible player under that category (subject to the applicable limits as stated in category g) but any such replacement must take place before the commencement of the Second Stage.

The **Final Stage** will be conducted on **12th - 17th November 2016** at the following venue:

- **PGA Catalunya Resort (Tour and Stadium Courses)**, near Girona, Spain
(nearest airports, Girona - 10 minutes, Barcelona 90 minutes).

The Final Stage is scheduled to be played over 108 holes. A field of **156** players will play two rounds over each of the Tour and Stadium Courses. After 72 holes, the field will be cut to the leading **70** players and those players tied on the final qualifying place score who will then play two further rounds.

At the conclusion of 108 holes, the leading **25** players (and those players tied on the final qualifying place score) will be ranked according to score. Each of these players will be eligible for membership in Category 16 of the European Tour (and Category 5 of the Challenge Tour) for the 2017 season and will be subject to the 2017 re-rank policy adopted by the Tournament Committee.

Players making the cut and finishing beyond 25th place will be eligible for membership in Category 21 of the European Tour and Category 9 of the Challenge Tour for the 2017 season. Players failing to make the cut will be eligible for membership in Category 15 of the Challenge Tour for the 2017 season.

All tied scores shall be ranked by card play off as follows:

(a) the best last 18 holes; (b) the best last 36 holes; (c) the best 3rd or 4th round over the Stadium Course; (d) the best last 72 holes; (e) the best 1st or 2nd round over the Stadium Course; and (f) the best last 9, 6, 3, 2 & 1 holes (holes 10 to 18).

For players who fail to make the cut, tied scores will be ranked by card play off as follows:

a) the best 3rd or 4th round over the Stadium Course; b) the best combined 3rd and 4th rounds;
c) the best 1st or 2nd round over the Stadium Course; and d) based on the 3rd or 4th round over the Stadium Course, the best last 9, 6, 3, 2 and 1 holes (10 to 18).

Players who fail to complete 4 rounds will be ranked on the basis of the highest number of rounds completed. In the event of players completing the same number of rounds they will be ranked on aggregate score for the rounds played. If scores are still tied the following criteria will be used:

a) the best 3rd round over the Stadium Course; b) the best 1st or 2nd round over the Stadium Course; c) the best 1st round over the Stadium Course; and d) based on the 1st or 2nd round over the Stadium Course, the best last 9, 6, 3, 2, and 1 holes (10 - 18).

Players are advised that 18th and 19th November may be used as full playing days in order to complete the Final Stage. Every effort will be made to complete six rounds but a result will be declared if only five or four rounds have been completed. In the event that less than four rounds are completed the Final Stage may be rescheduled, in whole or in part.

2. ELIGIBILITY FOR ENTRY

- a) All male professional golfers.
- b) All male amateur golfers with a handicap of scratch (0) under the Handicapping Scheme adopted by the recognised authority controlling golf in the country from which they elect to enter.

Note: It is not a breach of the Rules of Amateur Status for an amateur golfer to file an entry for and play in any stage of the European Tour Qualifying School, provided that the player waives his right to prize money prior to each stage by completing the appropriate forms available at each venue. An amateur golfer who fails to waive his right to prize money is in breach of the Rules of Amateur Status, but if he is unsuccessful at the Qualifying School, he may apply for reinstatement as an amateur.

3. ENTRY FEES

All applicants **€1,800 (or the sterling equivalent of £1,400)**. This payment covers entry to all Stages of the Qualifying School in which the applicant is eligible to participate.

All application forms must be accompanied by the entry fee. Please note that your entry will not be officially accepted until your full entry fee has been received as cleared funds by the European Tour.

For further information please refer to rule 8. below.

4. ENTRY DEADLINES

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| First Stage | - Section A - entries close 31st August 2016 . |
| | - Section B - entries close 31st August 2016 . |
| | - Section C - entries close 31st August 2016 . |
| | - Section D - entries close 31st August 2016 . |
| Second Stage | - Exemption categories 9, 10, or 11 - entries close 31st August 2016 . |
| | - Exemption categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 - entries close 24th October 2016 . |
| Final Stage | - Exemption category g - entries close 31st August 2016 . |
| | - Exemption categories a, b, c, d, e, or f entries close 4th November 2016 . |

5. WITHDRAWALS

All withdrawals must be notified to the European Tour Entries Department or the European Tour office at the player's venue.

If a player withdraws prior to the appropriate closing date his entry fee will be refunded in full.

If a player withdraws (for any reason and without exception) after the appropriate closing date without competing he will be refunded €1,670 (or the Sterling equivalent of £1,300).

If a player is absent on the tee without notification, no refund will be given and he may face disciplinary action subject to the circumstances. **Once an entrant has teed off no refund of his entry fee will be made.**

6. NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF ENTRY/QUALIFYING VENUE

Once an application has been accepted by the European Tour (only after receipt of any relevant documentation and the full entry fee), applicants will be emailed a Confirmation of Entry. Venue allocation and information for First Stage will be available **2 days after the close of entries** (see rule 4. Entry Deadlines). Players who have qualified for or who have entered and are exempt for Second Stage will be advised of their venue allocation by the 14th October 2016.

Allocation of venues is at the discretion of the European Tour and once assigned, a venue may not be changed.

7. REGULATIONS

By submitting a completed Qualifying School application form each applicant:

- a) acknowledges the sole authority of the Tournament Committee and Board of the European Tour to establish the Qualifying School Rules and Conditions of Entry and Participation as published in this application form and any subsequent rules and regulations of which the applicant is notified prior to any stage of the Qualifying School and agrees to abide by these and any amendments made from time to time by them or persons acting with their authority. This may include but not be limited to changes to the format, conditions and schedules referred to above.
- b) accepts and abides by the decisions of the Tournament Committee, Board of Directors, Chief Executive, Qualifying School Director or such other authorised persons of the European Tour.

- c) agrees to conduct themselves in accordance with the Code of Behaviour of the European Tour as specified in the current European Tour Members General Regulations Handbook. Copies are available from the European Tour's offices at Wentworth or from the Tournament Office at any Qualifying School venue.
- d) agrees to the transfer, storing and processing of their personal information as detailed in the PGA European Tour Data Protection Policy and confirms that when they provide personal information which relates to any of their family members, they have obtained the consent of such family members to such transfer, storing and processing of their personal information. The full policy can be found on pages 74 – 78 of the 2016 European Tour Members General Regulations Handbook.
- e) agrees to notify the PGA European Tour of any previous or pending criminal conviction and co-operate with the Criminal Convictions Committee which shall be convened to consider the applicant's eligibility in light of such conviction(s).
- f) agrees to attend a mandatory European Tour Graduate Workshop, if required, following the completion of the Qualifying School Final.

8. METHODS OF PAYMENT AND PAYMENT ADVICE

When considering entering the European Tour Qualifying School it is vital to organise the method of payment of the entry fee in advance as an application for entry will not be processed until the full payment of €1,800 (or the Sterling equivalent of £1,400) has been received as cleared funds by the European Tour.

The following methods of payment are acceptable:

1) Credit or Debit Card - The preferred method of payment is by credit card for which there is no administration charge.

The following card types are accepted: VISA / MASTERCARD / AMERICAN EXPRESS.

It is acceptable for a third party (eg. sponsor, partner) to pay on behalf of the applicant. If this is the case, their address as listed on their credit card statements must be supplied.

VERY IMPORTANT: The applicant must ensure that the credit card account has the funds available and should check the card limit with the credit card company if in any doubt.

Delays in receipt of payment could result in failure for the applicant to be allocated to his preferred venue and the application will not be accepted until cleared funds are received by the European Tour. Once payment has been received, the European Tour will issue a receipt to each applicant advising the exact date when the funds were collected from the credit or debit card account.

In the event of any problems being experienced with credit or debit card payments the applicant should contact the Qualifying School Entries Administrator (Pete Lockett)

Email: qs@europeantour.com or telephone: +44 (0) 1344 840448.

Please remember that the onus is on the applicant to ensure that his entry fee payment is not delayed.

2) Bank Transfer - Bank details are as follows:

	Payment in Sterling	Payment in Euro
Bank:	Barclays Bank plc The Luton & Dunstable Group 28 George Street Luton LU1 2AE UK	Barclays Bank plc The Luton & Dunstable Group 28 George Street Luton LU1 2AE UK
Sort Code:	20-53-30	20-53-30
Swift:	BARC GB 22	BARC GB 22
A/c Name:	PGA European Tour	PGA European Tour
A/c No:	200 155 47	798 230 22
IBAN No:	GB49 BARC 2053 3020 0155 47	GB98 BARC 2053 3079 8230 22

Note: If making payments from an overseas bank it is **VITAL** that you quote the **PGA European Tour's IBAN** number.

To enable the Entries Department to identify the payment on receipt please make sure that your name is quoted in reference by the issuing bank and include proof of payment with your entry form. Failure to do so could result in problems connecting your payment to your entry form and thus being unable to process your entry and allocate you to a venue.

The applicant will be liable for any charges involved.

Please note that payment is not possible with cash or by cheque.

9. GENERAL POLICY

The European Tour reserves the right to reject an application for entry at any time. Conduct unbecoming a professional or non-competitive performance during a previous Qualifying School can be a basis for the rejection of an application to enter. The European Tour also reserves the right to remove a player from a tournament at any time due to conduct or non-competitive performance. An entrant who is removed from a tournament for any of these reasons, after he has commenced play, will not be entitled to any type of refund of his entry fee.

QS ENTRY CHECK LIST

HAVE YOU INCLUDED?

- Your handicap certificate (if still an amateur).
Your entry will not be accepted until your handicap certificate has been received.
- The remittance advice slip if paying by Bank Transfer.

HAVE YOU INFORMED?

- Your bank that the European Tour will be debiting your account.

PLEASE NOTE:

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the form is fully and accurately completed. An entry form which is incomplete, inaccurate or illegible will be treated as INVALID and the applicant will be notified.

NEED HELP OR ADVICE ?

Contact **Pete Lockett**, European Tour - Qualifying School Entries Administrator,
Tel:+44 (0) 1344 840448, or via Email: qs@europeantour.com

Send completed entry form & payment details (by Email, post or fax) to:

Pete Lockett - Entries Department
European Tour, Qualifying School
Wentworth Drive
Virginia Water
Surrey GU25 4LX
England
Email: qs@europeantour.com

Please note that we are unable to accept applications to participate in the Qualifying School by telephone