



FAQ on the Sunshine Tour's Qualifying School

Q. How do I enter the Sunshine Tour Q School?

A. You will need to complete the Q School Entry Form and return it to the Sunshine Tour **along with the entry fee**. The form is available from the Sunshine Tour Membership Department or players can do online entries at – www.sunshinetour.com.

Q. Who can enter the Sunshine Tour Q School?

A. All male professionals and male amateurs with a handicap of scratch or better are eligible to enter. See paragraph 2 of the entry form for further stipulations on eligibility

Q. Do I need to register for Q School if I have already entered?

A. YES! First Stage entrants must register by no later than 10am on Monday 5 March 2018 and Final Stage entrants must register by no later than 10am on Sunday 18 March 2018.

Registration can be done in person, or by a person designated by the player to act on his behalf, at the tournament office or by telephone or email to the tournament office. **Failure to register timeously will result in a player being withdrawn from the event and removed from the draw. His entry fee will be refunded, but an admin fee of R500 will be withheld**

Q. There are 2 stages to the Q School. How does this work and who is exempt for Final Stage?

A. The Final Stage exemptions are listed in paragraph 1 of the entry form. Any players who do not meet these requirements will be placed into one of the First Stage venues. Players may not select a venue. All players will play 72 holes at First Stage and the number of players to advance to Final Stage will be advertised by Friday 2 March 2018.

Q. How many players get a 'Tour Card' through the Q School?

A. The leading 30 players and ties at Final Stage will gain a Sunshine Tour card In Category 9 for the 2018/2019 season and all players in this category will be re-ranked after every 4 – 5 events of the season

Q. When does the Sunshine Tour season run from?

A. The 2018/2019 season will run from April 2018 – March 2019. The first event of the season will take place roughly 2 weeks after Q School in Zimbabwe or Zambia

Q. What does it mean to be ranked in Category 9 on the Sunshine Tour?

A. All members of the Sunshine Tour are ranked in a particular Category. There are 10 Categories in total. Players in Categories 1 – 9 are regarded as ranked members, and those in category 10 are unranked. When filling a tournament field, players are exempt in order of ranking. The cut off point for players getting into events all depends on the field size and which players enter the tournament

Q. Which events would I get into if I finish top 30 at Q School?

A. Assuming that the tournament cut offs work out the same as they have for the past 2 years, then if you get your card, you should get into most events from April until November, except for the 2

events in Swaziland (the Investec Royal Swazi Sun Classic and the Lombard Insurance Classic) and possibly another 2-3 events in the Gauteng area. The first re rank usually takes place after the African swing, so depending on how you play there, will determine your position for the next block of 4 events

There will be qualifying rounds staged for most events with the exception of the Zimbabwe and Zambia events. There are also no pre q's for most of the Vodacom Origins and Sun International events because the majority of fields are filled off the rankings for these. The pre q's for the co-sanctioned events offer 10 spots (7 for Mauritius) and the others offer 15 spots.

Q. Are there qualifying rounds for co-sanctioned events?

A. Yes there are. These qualifying rounds are treated exactly the same as all others on the Sunshine Tour. There are 10 spots in these qualifiers (except for the SA Open Championship which has it's own exemption criteria, and Mauritius has 7 spots)

Q. What is the process to get into the European Tour events?

A. There will be regular re ranks of all players in Category 9, so if you have played well through the season, you stand a chance of playing yourself into the bigger (co-sanctioned) events towards the end of the season. If you finish in the Top 50 positions on the Final 2018/2019 OoM, then you should be exempt for the co-sanctioned events the FOLLOWING season

Q. Do I lose my amateur status if I enter the Q School?

A. It is not a breach of the Rules of Amateur Status to file an entry for and participate in any stage of the Q School, provided that you waive your right to prize money by completing the prize money waiver form attached to the entry form

Q. What does it mean to sign the prize money waiver form?

A. You have two options of entering Q School:

You can enter as an amateur and **MUST** sign the prize money waiver form. This means that should you win prize money at Q School, you are NOT eligible to receive it. If you get a card at Q School, then when you sign a membership form to the Sunshine Tour, you lose your amateur status and become a member of the Sunshine Tour and a professional. Should you miss your card at Q School, then you still remain an amateur – you do not forfeit your amateur status

You can enter as a professional and **NOT** sign the prize money waiver form. This means that should you win prize money at Q School, you can take it. If you get a card at Q School, then when you sign a membership form to the Sunshine Tour, you become a member of the Sunshine Tour . Should you miss your card at Q School, then you lose your amateur status and it could take 6 months to 1 year for you to be re-instated. In this time, you are in limbo and cannot play amateur or professional tournaments

Q. Are there age restrictions on entering the Sunshine Tour Q School?

A. The Sunshine Tour will not accept entries from anyone under 18 at the commencement date of the Q School.

Q. How much does it cost to go to Q School?

A. The entry fee is R7 000 for all entrants. The entry fee does not include travel and accommodation,

which are the responsibility of each participant.

Q. Is it easy to withdraw from the Q School and can the entry fee be refunded?

A. You can withdraw by contacting the Sunshine Tour Membership Department by telephone, e-mail or fax indicating your intention.

If you withdraw prior to the closing date of entries, a full refund will be given. If you withdraw after the closing date for entries, and you do not compete, a refund of R6 500 will be given. Once you tee off, or are absent on the tee, you are no longer eligible for any type of refund.

Q. Are there any other ways to qualify for a tournament if you don't get in on your ranking other than through the qualifying rounds?

A. Yes – if you finish in the top 10 positions in the preceding tournament, you get into the next event, provided it is not a co-sanctioned event. For co-sanctioned events, you need a top 5 finish the week before to get in

Q. If I enter a Sunshine Tour tournament, but don't get in on my ranking, can I play the qualifying round and how many spots are there in the qualifiers?

A. Once the entries for a tournament close (3 weeks before the 1st round), the cut off position is determined and communicated to all members. All players who do not get into the event on their ranking are **AUTOMATICALLY** placed into the qualifying round if there is one. There will be NO qualifying rounds for the Zimbabwe Open, Zambia Opens, Vodacom Origins and Sun International events in 2018. The fields for these events will be determined purely off the category rankings

Q. If I obtain a 'Tour Card' at the Q School, how do I retain my Tour Card for the following season?

A. You need to play in a minimum of 5 tournaments and earn enough money to finish in the top 100 positions on the Final Sunshine Tour Order of Merit.

Q. How do I move into a higher Category?

A: There are 2 ways:

- a. You need to win a tournament and then you will move into Category 1, 2 or 3 (depending on which event you win).
- b. If you make more money than the 50th placed player on the Final 2017/2018 OoM during the 2018/2019 season, then you will move into a higher category.

Also, as stated above, all players within Category 9 are re-ranked after every 4 – 5 tournaments during the season, based on their current OoM position.

Q. What are the tournament entry fees?

A. Entry fees for events with prize money of less than R1 000 000 are R100 and events with prize money over R1 000 000 are R250.

Q. Are there any other fees to pay if I get my card?

A. Yes – you need to pay your annual subscriptions of around R1 500 to the Sunshine Tour which is a once off payment before you play in your first event of the season.

Q. If I miss the 4 round cut at Q School, will I still be allowed to try and qualify for Sunshine Tour events?

A. No – if you miss the cut at Q School, you have **NO** playing rights on the Sunshine Tour

Q. Am I eligible to try and pre qualify for events on the Sunshine Tour if I do not play the Q School?

A. No – only Sunshine Tour members are eligible to play the Sunshine Tour qualifying rounds

Q. Do I need to play Q School with conforming clubs?

A. No – however, should you get a card at Q School, your clubs will need to conform before playing your first Sunshine Tour event

Q. What are the rules of golf during Q School?

A. Rules governing play will be the following:

- The Current R&A Rules of Golf
- The current Sunshine Tour Conditions of Competition and Local Rules
- The local rules of the host club as approved by the Tournament Director

In addition, you are required to conduct yourself in accordance with the Sunshine Tour Code of Behaviour as contained within the Members General Regulations Handbook.

Q. Do I need to have a caddie at the Q School?

A. No – entrants may carry their own bags. (The use of golf carts or trollies is prohibited.) Other entrants into the Q School, and 2018/2019 Sunshine Tour members or 2018 Big Easy Tour members may **NOT** act as caddies.

Q. Are there dress regulations for Q School?

A. Players may play practice rounds in short pants, but long pants must be worn for the tournament rounds

Q. May I use a Range Finder at Q School?

A. No – Range Finders may NOT be used during the tournament rounds, but players may use them in practice rounds. **Any player using a Range Finder in the tournament rounds will be disqualified**

Q. Does the Sunshine Tour assist players with travel and accommodation?

A. No – players need to sort out their own travel arrangements. The Sunshine Tour will endeavour to advertise accommodation options on the tournament info sheets published shortly after the close of entries for each tournament

Q. Does the Sunshine Tour have a company to assist foreign players with visas?

A. No – unfortunately we do not. We can provide a letter confirming a players participation in the Q School for visa purposes, but players will need to check with the South African Embassy in their countries as to what the visa requirements are

Please take a look at our Tour Information Centre though our website for information on events, results, OoM's, stats, etc - <http://sst.ocs-sport.com/tic/tmtic.cgi>. Select the season you are looking for in the window at the bottom right hand side of the page