



FAQ on the Sunshine Tour's Qualifying School

Q. Can I choose which first stage venue I would like to play?

No – you will be allocated to a venue by the Sunshine Tour

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 24th February 2020 and Final Stage entrants must register by no later than 10am on Sunday 1st March 2020.

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 **Failure to register timeously will result in a player being withdrawn from the event and removed from the draw.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. All players will play 72 holes at First Stage and the leading 15 players and ties from each venue will advance to Final Stage.

More players **may** qualify through to Final Stage, pending the number of Final Stage entries received, after the closing date. In the event of this happening, all players finishing outside of the Top 15 & ties will be ranked by a count out, and not necessarily all players tying on a score will go through

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

A. The leading 25 players and ties at Final Stage will gain a Sunshine Tour card In Category 9 for the 2020/2021 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 2020/2021 season will run from March 2020 – Feb 2021. The first event of the season most likely take place in the first week of April 2020 in Zimbabwe. At this time of this document, this date has not yet been confirmed.

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. How is Category 9 broken down?

- A. The final breakdown of Category 9 has not been signed off yet, but it will look something like this.
- 9a) Players finishing in positions 51 – 100 on the Final 2019/2020 Sunshine Tour OoM
 - 9b) Career Money Category (TBC)
 - 9c) Players who, due to participation on another Tour, who did not participate in the required minimum number of tournaments to be ranked on the Final 2019/2020 Sunshine Tour OoM, and who finished within the positions 51 – 100 on the Final 2018/2019 Sunshine Tour OoM.
 - 9d) **Top 5 players from QS** and Top 5 players from the Vusi QS staggered
 - 9e) **Balance of the QS players**, balance of the Vusi QS Players, Top 6 from the 2019 BET OoM and Top 3 TP players from the 2019 BET OoM staggered
 - 9f) Career Money Category (TBC)
 - 9g) Players who have been Regular Members in good standing with the Sunshine Tour for at least five years
 - 9h) One 2020/2021 Affiliate Member from each African country hosting a Sunshine Tour tournament in the current season
 - 9i) Leading 3 players and 3 TP players on the Final 2019 IGT Tour OoM

These players will be reranked after every 4 – 5 tournaments throughout the season in order of money won

Q. Which events would I get into if I finish top 25 at Q School?

- A. Assuming that the tournament cut offs work out the same as they have for the past 2 years, then most Q School graduates should get into the first few events of the season (the Zimbabwe and Zambia tournaments), but probably not the Investec Royal Swazi Open and the Lombard Insurance Classic, being played at Arabella. These tournaments will have qualifying rounds for 10 spots, which Q school graduates will be entered for should they enter the tournament

The first re rank will probably be after the Lombard Insurance Classic in late May, so depending on how well you play, this will determine your ranking for the rest of the season.

For the events after Swaziland players who were ranked within the Top 100 in category 9 got into all tournaments between June and October with the exception of one – the Kings Cup, which also had a qualifying round for 10 spots. This tournament cut off at 50th in Cat 9

Most events between April and November do not have qualifying rounds, which means that players ranked low down in the category might not get into some tournaments early in the season. The events forming the “Summer Swing” from November /December – February will have qualifiers, and there are 10 spots in all qualifiers, except for the SA Open Championship which has it’s own exemption criteria, and Mauritius, which has 5.

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

- A. Yes there are. There are 10 spots in these qualifiers (except for the SA Open Championship which has it’s own exemption criteria, and Mauritius has 5 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 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. Non Sunshine Tour members **entering online** pay R8 000
All players submitting a “hard copy” application form (instead of entering online) – R8 500

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, you will be refunded your entry fee, less a R500 admin fee. 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. Again, most events between April and November do not have qualifiers and the fields are filled straight off the rankings, which means that players with a low category might not get into some tournaments

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

A. To retain membership, a member must participate in a minimum of 5 tournaments, or 2 more tournaments than the total number of tournaments that are co-sanctioned or tri sanctioned in that season, whichever is the greater, and earn enough money to finish in the top 100* positions on the Final Sunshine Tour Order of Merit.

**This might change at the end of next season to a lower number of cards*

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 OoM from the previous season during the current season, then you will move into a higher Category 8.

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 R600 and events with prize money over R1 000 000 are R850. This includes a yardage book.

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 700 to the Sunshine Tour which is a once off payment before you play in your first event of the season.

Q. If I miss my card at Q School, will I still be allowed to try and qualify for Sunshine Tour events?

A. No – if you miss your card 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 Sunshine Tour tournaments or their 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. Is the “one ball rule” in effect and what does this mean?

A. Yes it is. During an entire round, each ball at which the player makes a stroke must be the same brand and model as found in a single entry on the current List of Conforming Balls.

If a different brand and/or model is dropped, replaced or placed but has not yet been played, the player may correct the mistake by stopping use of that ball, without penalty, under Rule 14.5. The Player must drop, replace or place a ball of the same brand and model as used at the start of the round.

When the player discovers he or she has played a ball in breach of this Local Rule, he or she must stop using that ball before playing from the next teeing area and complete the round with a ball of the same brand and model as used at the start of the round; **otherwise the player is disqualified.**

If the discovery is made during the play of a hole, the player may complete play of this hole with the ball played in breach or place a ball of the correct brand and model on the spot where the ball played in breach of this Local Rule was lifted from.

Penalty for Making a Stroke at a Ball in Breach of Local Rule:

The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which he or she is in breach of this Local Rule.

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 2019/2020 Sunshine Tour members or 2019 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 unless advertised otherwise

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