Greater Cleveland Skins Game Rules (Originated in 1990 at Fairway Pines Golf Course) Rules adopted at Skins Game Planning Meeting on Feb 17, 2014

Officers for 2014

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1. $30.00 will be the weekly Entry Fee. Players are on the honor system and will pay as they finish their round. $23.00 goes to the Skins Pot and $7.00 to the Pin shot pot for the 2 pin shots ($3.50 each). These can be adjusted as needed if there are more than 2 par 3’s on that night. Both pin shots are paid out even if only 1 green is hit. Pin shot money does get refunded if both greens are missed.
2. The golfer at the end of the season with the most total winnings will be declared the Greater Cleveland Skins Game Champion and be awarded the “Thompson Cup.”
3. Conditions the evening of play will dictate what set of tees to use that given night and if “summer” or other rules will be used. A determination will be made before play begins by a consensus of those players at the course at the time play begins.
4. Senior and handicap player rule: Golfers age 55 and over and players with a documented handicap of 12 or higher may choose to play from the next forward tee. (Exception on par 3’s where all players must hit from the same tee marker.)
5. Pro Rule: The Greater Cleveland Skins Game is an amateur event. Pros can only play under certain conditions as outlined below. First, the definition of a pro as used for this game is as follows:
6. A pro is defined as any player that has entered a golf tournament over the past 2 years and when given a choice to enter as a pro or an amateur has elected to enter the professional division, that player is considered a pro. (A simple example would be if a player played in the Ohio Open or other organized Tournament in the Professional Division, then that player is a Pro. However if a player played in the Ohio Open or other organized tournament in the Amateur Division, then that player is still an amateur. The only exceptions to this rule are the handful of players that have been “grandfathered” into the game as they participated and helped form the game back in the early 1990’s at Fairway Pines. The names of these individuals are available by asking the Skins Game Commissioner. Players playing in such events as cash scrambles and other cash events deemed to be “amateur events” are not considered Pros for the purpose of this game.
7. Pros as defined above may participate but only if they are voted in by the players participating that evening. To avoid any embarrassing situations, it is advised by the Skins Game Commissioner to notify the Commissioner prior to the event if they plan to bring a pro and also the player inviting the pro needs to take the responsible for notifying the pro of this rule. A pro voted in to play that evening is required to pay a $50 skins game entry fee instead of the $30 fee for amateurs. All pros voted in that evening regardless of age are required to hit from the back tees that other amateurs under the age of 55 are playing that evening.

Any pro voted in 3 or more times in one season can continue to play out the season without a new vote.

1. Double Down Rule: 3 Nights will be featured as “Double Down Thursday” nights where the $30 entry is doubled to $60. These special events will occur near the one-third mark of the season, 2/3 mark and at the final scheduled night.
2. Players must meet special qualifications to participate in the Double Down events. The following is used to determine qualifying for “Double Down Events:”
3. To compete in the first “Double Down” event of the year, the player must have played in 2 or more previous Greater Cleveland Skins Game events that year. To compete in the second “Double Down” event of the year, the player must have played in 4 or more previous Greater Cleveland Skins Game events that year. To compete in the 3rd and final “Double Down” event of the year, the player must have played in 6 or more previous Greater Cleveland Skins Game events that year.
4. Rain-Out Rule: Skins will be paid on a pro-rated basis on a weather-shortened evening. The entry is reduced and total skins paid based on the following rules on such a night:
5. Skins and pins are paid out based on what hole the last group has completely finished playing that evening. In such an instance, the skins pot is worth $2.50 for each hole the last group plays. For example, if the last group has finished 6 holes when the event ends due to weather, then it becomes a six hole skins game and the normal $23.00 skins pot entry will be reduced to $15.00 per person. Pin shots get paid in a similar manner where the entire field must play the par 3 hole for the pin shot winner to be paid. The pin shot winner will receive the full $3.50 per pin shot. In the case where the field does not finish one or more of the par 3’s, then there is no entry to be paid into the pin shot pot for that hole which is not played by the entire field.
6. A determination of what constitutes a weather shortened event is made by consensus vote by the players participating that evening. A player is responsible for paying their entry even if they decide to leave the course early due to their own personal perception of the weather or course conditions.
7. Qualifying for the Greater Cleveland Shoot-Out: The “Greater Cleveland Shoot-Out” golf tournament is a one day event with a history dating back to the early 1990’s where course owner Ed Tresger of Fairway Pines sponsored a great paying event for competitors. This event continues today with private sponsorship funding and is held in conjunction with the Greater Cleveland Skins Game. It is likely the best paying tournament for amateurs in the region. Because sponsorship funds come from within the game and the great purse, there is now a strict qualifying requirement to play which is as follows:
8. Participants playing in the “Greater Cleveland Shoot-Out”must play in 5 or more Greater Cleveland Skins Game Events prior to the Shoot-Out that year. Past year’s winners must compete in 3 or more events and meet Pro rules as defined in these rules. Note that players are responsible for sending in their entry forms and entry fee by the due date listed on the “Shoot-Out” entry form. No late entries will be considered. This is just a way of respecting the sponsors.
9. Final night and awarding of the “Thompson Cup” to determine the Greater Cleveland Skins Game Champion: The player winning the championship has the responsibility of engraving their name and winnings on the cup and keeping the “Cup” over the winter and making sure it is polished and available for the first night of play the following year. That player also gets to pay for the “Champagne Toast” that evening. The player winning the Greater Cleveland Skins Game also has the honor of hitting the first tee shot to begin play the following year. Note that if the final night or nights are cancelled due to weather, the player leading at the time is declared the champion. Cancelled nights are not made up. If the final night is cancelled, the award ceremony will occur at another social gathering where players will be invited. Please note the Skins Game is an event where players play on their honor and give recognition to the winner. It is a long season and a fitting tribute for players to try to attend the Final Night Award Ceremony and congratulate the winner. Give the “Man” some credit.

10) Qualifying for the Greater Cleveland Amateur: Cleveland Metroparks has been gracious enough to grant the top 5 players on the Greater Cleveland Skins Game money list as of a specific midseason date to gain entry into the finals of the Greater Cleveland Amateur held in August. Note that players are responsible for sending in their own entry forms and entry fee to Cleveland Metroparks by the deadline date that they have dictated. Players competing in the Greater Cleveland Amateur Golf Tournament through this qualifying mechanism represent the Greater Cleveland Skins Game as a whole and deserve all the player’s backing. Good luck to all that qualify. Please note that in the case where a player in the top five position qualifies through another means for the Greater Cleveland Amateur, that does not open up more spots of qualifying. Only the “Top Five” are taken regardless if they qualify through other means.