

## 2024 GPS Spring Newsletter

2024 marks the 4<sup>th</sup> year of senior golf tournaments operating under the official name of **Great Plains Senior (GPS) Tour**. While senior tournaments have been around the area for over 20 years, the past few years have seen a tremendous increase in growth and popularity.

**GROWTH:** In an effort to accommodate this demand in more tournaments, the schedule for 2024 will increase to a total of **47 tournaments** to be held at 27 golf courses; up from 39 at 23 locations in 2023.

FYI – To put this in perspective in 2018 there were only 14 tournaments at 8 locations.

**NEW COURSE LOCATIONS:** Winner, Burke, Elk Point, and Garretson all in South Dakota will join the GPS Tour in 2024.

**GPS STEERING COMMITTEE:** Due to the huge growth in 2023 a steering committee was formed to help oversee the GPS tour. **Harold Hoftzyer** from Orange City, **Dennis Kronaizll** from Scotland, and **Dave Huber** from Mitchell are the committee members.

The primary duties of the steering committee are to organize a yearly schedule, monitor how the tournaments are running, listen to golfer's comments, and provide feedback to courses on tournament play, etc.

**Each course is responsible how they set up the format and run their own tournament.**

**CORPORATE SPONSOR:** Once again, **First Dakota National Bank** will be the overall GPS Tour sponsor. In addition, they will sponsor the "**First Dakota Senior Finale**" tournament to be held at Lakeview in Mitchell on September 24.

**GPS TOUR HOME BASE:** Once again in 2024, [SiouxLinks.com](https://SiouxLinks.com) will be the official website for the GPS tour. This was made possible by the sponsorship of **First Dakota National Bank**.

[SiouxLinks.com](https://SiouxLinks.com) provides the following:

- The 2024 schedule
- Place winners of each tournament
- Spring newsletter
- Any updates that may occur during the season
- Valuable information about various tournaments and area courses across five state area
- Interesting videos and golf tidbits

**GPS HALL OF FAME:** In 2021, the GPS HOF was established. The official HOF “**Wall of Fame**” location is at Dawson Creek Golf Course in Scotland, SD.

HOF members are:

<b>2021</b>	<b>Wayne Bartlett – Scotland</b>	<b>Mike Conklin – Beresford</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>Duane Engel – Parkston</b>	<b>Dick Weidenbach – Parkston (deceased)</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>Rick Dorzok – Omaha</b>	<b>John Polreis – Parkston</b>

The steering committee will be making HOF selections for 2024. They will be recognized at the **First Dakota Senior Finale** tournament in Mitchell in late September.

**TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS BEING DISCONTINUED:** The original thought process with the tournament of champions was to reward place winners a chance to “qualify” to play in a year end tournament. This concept worked fine until the huge increase in tournaments. The numbers became too large to be hosted in one tournament.

**FIRST DAKOTA SENIOR FINALE:** The tournament of champions will be replaced by this tournament in Mitchell on September 24. Here are the guidelines that will be followed by this tournament:

- The course only has 50 carts available to rent
- Once those are filled only teams with carts will be able to sign up
- Will be limited to 76 teams maximum
- No signup will be allowed until July 16
- Those teams that participate in the July 16 tournament in Mitchell will have first chance to sign up
- Call in signup will start July 17

**TATANKA:** August 20<sup>th</sup> is the date for this very popular tournament. Here is how the signup process will be handled:

- The course only has 60 carts to rent
- Once those carts are filled only teams with carts will be able to signup
- Those participants in the Scotland tournament on May 14 will be given the first chance to sign up
- Starting at 8 am on May 15 you may call in to the Scotland golf course to sign up

### Side Notes:

- Senior tournaments are very popular. Many tournaments fill up very quickly. Be sure to sign up early to get into the tournament of your choosing.
- It is also a wise decision to verify that you are actually signed up for a tournament a day or two in advance. **This may avoid issues the day of the tournament for both you and the tournament hosts!**
- One area that has shown good improvement over the years is **Slow Play**. Please be mindful of your fellow golfers and play ready golf as you play in tournaments this season. **SLOW PLAY IS UGLY!!!**

Looking forward to another exciting season of the GPS Tour!