

## 2025 GPS Spring Newsletter

2025 marks the 5<sup>th</sup> year of senior golf tournaments operating under the official name of **Great Plains Senior (GPS) Tour**. The “**Tour**” continues to grow and has become very successful and popular amongst senior golfers across a **4 -State** area.

### **2024 Tour in Review:**

- There was a total of 47 tournaments scheduled
- Weather caused the cancellation of 3 tournaments, Freeman, Lennox, and Parker
- New courses that joined the tour were Winner, Burke, Garretson, Elk Point & Rock Valley
- All of these tournaments were well attended and were great additions to the tour

**2025 SCHEDULE:** The schedule for 2025 will increase to a total of **49 tournaments** to be held at **29** golf courses.

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

This year there will be no tournaments on the same date. Please refer to the schedule as a few courses have changed their dates from last year’s schedule.

In addition, Pickstown will host 3 tournaments while Chamberlain will host a second one.

**Please be sure to keep checking the schedule on the Sioux Links website during the season for any changes and updates.**

**ROCK VALLEY GOLF COURSE:** The Iowa Golf Association (IGA) selected the Rock Valley Course as its “2024 9-Hole Course of the Year”. (See the “**Stories**” section to read more about the prestigious award).

Rock Valley was a late addition to the 2024 tour schedule after ParMar in Parker had to cancel their tournament due to the severe flooding issues the course received in June.

There were about 20 teams that participated in the tournament. Comments were very positive about the course and how the tournament was run. A decision was made by the steering committee last August to add Rock Valley to the tour for 2025.

It appears this was a great decision based on the IGA prestigious award. The steering committee encourages you to consider taking advantage of this great golf course tournament opportunity in 2025.

**HAWARDEN GOLF COURSE:** The Iowa Golf Association also selected **Mike Finch** from Hawarden Golf Club as its “2024 9-Hole Superintendent” of the year. (See the “Stories” section to read more about Mike and this very deserving honor).

If you have had the opportunity to participate in one of the GPS Tours events at Hawarden, you can see why Mike was chosen for this prestigious award.

The GPS Tour is blessed to have such fine golf courses as Rock Valley and Hawarden in the circuit.

**TOURNAMENT FORMAT:** Please keep in mind that each course is responsible how they set up the format and run their own tournament.

**CORPORATE SPONSOR:** For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row **First Dakota 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 23.

**GPS STEERING COMMITTEE:** **Harold Hoftyzer** from Orange City, **Dennis Kronaizl** from Scotland, and **Dave Huber** from Mitchell are the steering 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.

Please feel free to reach out to these individuals with questions or concern you may have.

**GPS TOUR WEBSITE:** Once again in 2025 **SiouxLinks.com** will be the official website for the GPS tour. This made possible by sponsorship of **First Dakota Bank**.

**SiouxLinks.com** is your official GPS Tour source for the following:

- The 2025 schedule
- Place winners of each tournament
- Spring newsletter
- Any updates that may occur during the season
- GPS Hall of Fame Members
- Valuable information about various tournaments and area courses across 4 state area
- Interesting videos and golf tid bits

**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.

In 2024 new HOF Inductees were Sherm Cutler of Columbia, SD and Al Sime of Britton, SD

The steering committee will be making HOF selections for 2025. They will be recognized at the **First Dakota Senior Finale** tournament in Mitchell in late September.

**FIRST DAKOTA SENIOR FINALE:** This tournament is always very popular and well attended and once again will be held at Lakeview Golf Course in Mitchell on September 23.

Here are the guidelines that will be followed by this tournament:

- No signup will be allowed until July 15
- Those teams that participate in the July 15 tournament in Mitchell will have first chance to sign up
- 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
- Call in signup will start July 16

**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!**