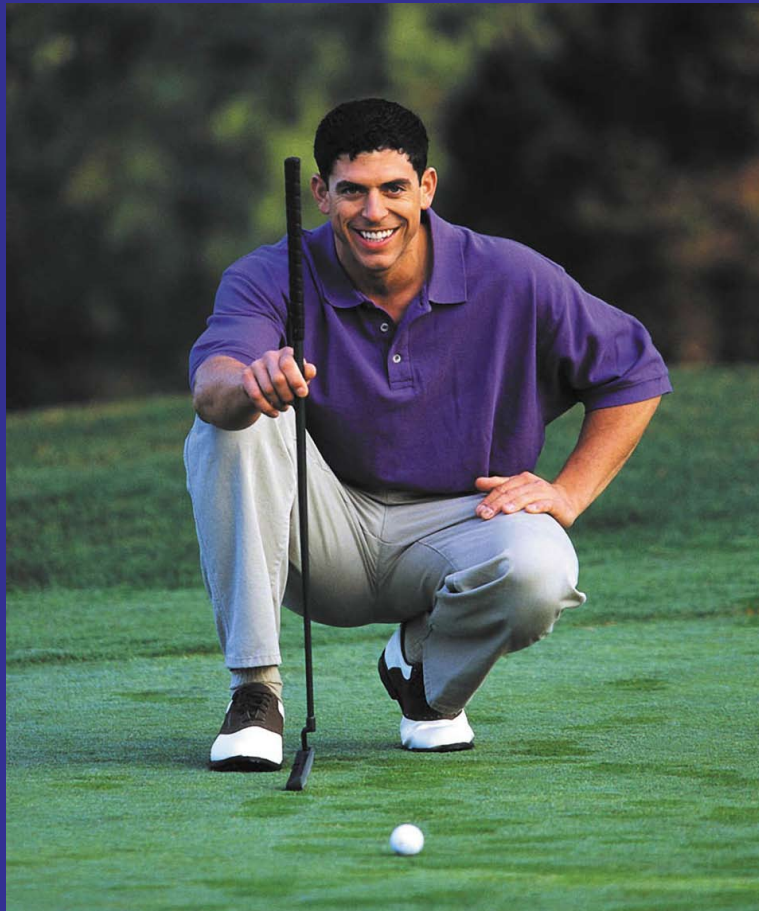


Get paid to play golf!

FabJob Guide to
**Become a
Professional
Golfer**



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1. Life as a Professional Golfer

1.1 Play Golf for a Living; Skip Work for the Rest of Your Life

Put yourself in the following scene —

The sun on your shoulders feels warm and good, but not hot. There is a slight breeze, gentle and pine-scented. Butterflies dance nearby and the sky has that particular look of endless blue that always leaves you feeling as if you are far away from anything that might be wrong in the world today.



You spent last night at one of the country’s most beautiful resort hotels. You started your morning with a short workout on the practice range and a few minutes around the greens. Now it is time for you to really get to work.

There’s no checking in with the boss because you are the one in charge. So you listen for the routine of familiar sounds — the chirping of birds, the announcement of your name and the round of applause as the Starter says, “Ladies and Gentlemen, now on the tee from Any Town, USA is _____” Just fill in the blank with your name.

If you are considering a career in professional golf — consider this: Your place of business would be the golf course and the practice range. You would never be stuck behind a desk or in an office cubicle, and your job description — well, you get to write that yourself.

Golf is one of a limited number of professional sports where you, as the professional athlete, can do much to control your future. In golf, a weak head coach, or the fact that

you did not grow up to be six foot ten never holds you back. Opportunities to compete are incredible for both male and female golfers of all ages.

Best of all, as the prize winnings printed in the sports pages show, if you play well, you can quite possibly become a **millionaire** or **multi-millionaire** along the way. From tournament winnings alone, more than 200 players win in excess of \$100,000 in any one playing season on the PGA Tour. The Nationwide Tour adds another 50 players to that list and the Champions Tour increases it by about 90 more. Each year approximately 70 players win more than a million dollars apiece from play on the PGA or Champions Tours.

1.2 The Evolution of Professional Golf

Professional golf in today's world is not the same sport that the late **Sam Snead** or **Ben Hogan** or even **Jack Nicklaus** and **Arnie Palmer** started out to play. The great players who built tournament golf in America did not play on manicured golf courses that are the standard now. They played fairways that bore the damages of weather, insects, and disease and on greens that never saw hybrid turf grass or daily inspections by an agronomist.

As recently as the 1960's professional players traveled between tournaments more by car than by plane or personal jet. If they drove all night and teed off at 8:00 a.m., that was just part of the game. And unless they managed to win most of the tournaments in which they played, they probably spent their off season — not just practicing — but working their second job, in order to have enough money to go back out there next season and play again.

Sam Snead won more than 80 PGA Tour events between 1936 and 1965, with hundreds of top five and top ten finishes. He won the Masters three times, the PGA Championship twice and the British Open once. His prize money from all of his PGA Tour tournament winnings combined, totaled a yearly earnings average of only \$20,000. **Arnold Palmer** won less money from his entire career in PGA Tour play — a total including more than 60 Tour wins — than **Tiger Woods** made in his first full year in professional golf.

As you can see, the sport has changed. While golf today is both competitive and demanding, it is also a game of tremendous opportunities. Determination and your willingness to work hard can help you achieve your goal. Add good advice like the valuable suggestions you'll find in this guide, and the game you love could become the career of a lifetime. When all of the factors come together, it is clear why professional golfers say,

“Play golf for a living and never work a day in your life.”

1.3 Benefits Beyond the Prize Money

Playing professional golf means the chance to play a game you love, to earn big dollars doing it, and to possibly write your name in the pages of sports history. Such incredible rewards are certainly sufficient for most players but, in fact, the game can give you even **more**.

Golf is as demanding mentally as physically. Your mastered skills of concentration and disciplines of practice will reflect positively in everything you attempt throughout your life. Because of golf, you will sharpen your **decision-making** skills, build your **courage**, and, over and over again, relearn **humility**.



You will have the privilege to share the game with other players who love it as well. As you travel from tournament to tournament, your competitors will become your **friends** and, in a way, your family. Together you and other touring pros will see the world and share a game with a legendary heritage.

Golf will give you the opportunity to play professionally for more years than any other sport. Long after you have stopped competing, you will enjoy spending time on the fairway for the sunshine, the exercise, and the pleasure of seeing that little white ball drop in the hole again.

But perhaps the single greatest reward of the game is that every round begins with a new scorecard. Each time you walk onto the course, you play with the prospect that it is your day to be a champion.

If this sounds like the career of your dreams, the **FabJob Guide to Become a Professional Golfer** is the book to help get you there!

1.4 Overview of This Guide

The **FabJob Guide to Become a Professional Golfer** takes an in-depth look at the different pathways that can be followed to professional golf success.

Chapter 2, **Getting Ready**, covers important preliminary steps to prepare you for becoming a professional golfer. You will discover that it is never too soon – or too late – to get started. You will find the best resources for improving your skills and learning to play golf, get advice on choosing your clubs and other equipment, and gain an understanding of how the professional golf industry operates.

Chapter 3 focuses on **Playing on the Major Tours**. This chapter tells you what is required to compete on the major professional tours – PGA, Nationwide, Champions, and LPGA. You will learn about the prize money, who gets to play, and how beginners can break in by doing well at a National Qualifying Tournament (also known as “Q School”). You will learn what goes on behind the scenes during tournament weeks.

Chapter 4, **Other Opportunities**, provides information about things you can do while working your way to the top. In this chapter you will learn about developmental tours, international tours, and part-time professional golf. This chapter also shows you options for being part of the world of professional golf through related careers and internships.

Finally, Chapter 5 offers helpful advice on **Your Team**. You will discover how to get an agent and sponsors. You will also learn about other team members including your caddie, swing coach, fitness trainer, and sports psychologist.

And throughout the guide, you will find the stories of **actual players**, their struggles, their successes, and the **insider tips** that most of them had to learn the hard way. **This comprehensive book explains all the things your father would have told you, if only he had been a member of the PGA Tour.**