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18 *Poulter, Peter Uihlein, and LIV Golf Inc.*

19 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
20 SAN JOSE DIVISION

21 PHIL MICKELSON, TALOR GOOCH,  
HUDSON SWAFFORD, MATT JONES,  
22 BRYSON DECHAMBEAU, IAN POULTER,  
PETER UIHLEIN, and LIV GOLF INC.

CASE NO. 5:22-cv-04486-BLF  
**AMENDED COMPLAINT**  
**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

23 Plaintiffs,

24 v.

25 PGA TOUR, INC.,

26 Defendant.  
27  
28

1 With knowledge as to their own conduct and on information and belief as to all other matters,  
2 Plaintiffs Phil Mickelson, Talor Gooch, Hudson Swafford, Matt Jones, Bryson DeChambeau, Ian  
3 Poulter, Peter Uihlein, and LIV Golf Inc. (“LIV Golf”) (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) allege:

#### 4 INTRODUCTION

5 1. The PGA Tour, Inc. (sometimes “the Tour”) began when Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer,  
6 and other elite golfers in the 1960s determined the PGA of America was not compensating them their  
7 market value; they split off the Players Tournament Division and formed the Tour, a tax-exempt entity  
8 organized ostensibly to “promote the common interests of professional tournament golfers.” From that  
9 seemingly laudable origin, the Tour has evolved into an entrenched monopolist with a vice-grip on  
10 professional golf. As the Tour’s monopoly power has grown, it has employed its dominance to craft  
11 an arsenal of anticompetitive restraints to protect its long-standing monopoly. Now, threatened by the  
12 entry of LIV Golf, and opposed to its founding mission, the Tour has ventured to harm the careers and  
13 livelihoods of any golfers, including Plaintiffs Phil Mickelson, Talor Gooch, Hudson Swafford, Matt  
14 Jones, Bryson DeChambeau, Ian Poulter, and Peter Uihlein (“Player Plaintiffs”), who have the temerity  
15 to defy the Tour and play in tournaments sponsored by the new entrant. The Tour has done so to crush  
16 nascent competition before it threatens the Tour’s monopoly.

17 2. Before LIV Golf’s entry, golfers who sold their services in the elite professional golf  
18 services market had no meaningful option but to play on the Tour if they wanted to pursue their  
19 profession at the highest levels. This provided the Tour with enormous power over the players,  
20 including the ability to force players into restrictive terms that foreclose them from playing in  
21 competing events and the ability to suppress player compensation below competitive levels. Members  
22 of the Tour receive a lower percentage of the Tour’s revenues than professional athletes in other major  
23 sports, even though the Tour is a tax-exempt non-profit corporation and other major sports leagues are  
24 for-profit enterprises. This control has also given the Tour the power to impose restrictions on  
25 players—who are independent contractors but are denied independence by the Tour—that make it risky  
26 and costly for players to affiliate with another promoter and prohibitively difficult for any would-be  
27 entrant to challenge the Tour’s monopoly. And, in its response to LIV Golf’s competitive challenge,  
28 the Tour has exercised this power by punishing the players to choke off the supply of elite professional

1 golfers—an essential input to LIV Golf’s competitive challenge—and cement its dominance over the  
2 sport. The Tour’s monopoly power has also allowed it to weaken golf itself, by its failure to innovate  
3 and broaden the game’s appeal and bring the game into the 21st century.

4 3. As part of its orchestrated plan to defeat competition, the Tour has threatened lifetime  
5 bans on players who play in even a single LIV Golf event. It has backed up these threats by imposing  
6 unprecedented suspensions on players (including the Player Plaintiffs) that threaten irreparable harm  
7 to the players and their ability to pursue their profession. It has threatened sponsors, vendors,  
8 broadcasters, and agents to coerce players to abandon opportunities to play in LIV Golf events. And it  
9 has orchestrated a group boycott with the European Tour,<sup>1</sup> which is unlawful under either the *per se*  
10 rule or the Rule of Reason, to amplify the Tour’s anticompetitive attacks and foreclose LIV Golf from  
11 having access to players. The PGA Tour also has leaned on other entities in the so-called golf  
12 “ecosystem,” including certain entities that put on golf’s “Majors,” to do its bidding in its effort to  
13 maximize the threats and harm to any golfer who defies the Tour’s monopsonistic requirements and  
14 plays in LIV Golf events.

15 4. The Tour’s unlawful strategy has been both harmful to the players and harmful to LIV  
16 Golf in threatening its otherwise-promising launch. For example, the Tour’s conduct caused LIV Golf  
17 to cancel its 2022 business plan to launch its full competing League. LIV Golf was not deterred,  
18 however, and it changed its 2022 strategy and launched a smaller version of its concept—the LIV Golf  
19 Invitational Series—with no League, no franchises, no broadcast deal, fewer elite players, and fewer  
20 tournaments. Some players (including Player Plaintiffs) were interested nonetheless. So, in response,  
21 the Tour ratcheted up its strategy and doubled-down on its efforts to punish Plaintiffs and to protect its  
22 monopoly. The Tour (1) enforced its unlawful player restrictions that deny players (including Player  
23 Plaintiffs) the ability to sell their services to others, (2) imposed lengthy suspensions on players for  
24 exercising their right as independent contractors to play in a competing promoter’s events, and (3)

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<sup>1</sup> The European Tour recently changed its name to DP World Tour, but, because it was called  
European Tour for most of the time period relevant to this case and in most of the relevant  
documents, it is referred to herein as the European Tour for consistency and clarity.

1 ramped up its threats targeting Player Plaintiffs and others. The Tour has likewise threatened and  
2 blacklisted numerous other third parties with whom LIV Golf has sought to contract, in its effort to  
3 defeat LIV Golf's entry and entrench its monopoly.

4 5. The Tour's conduct serves no purpose other than to cause harm to players and LIV Golf,  
5 and foreclose the entry of the most meaningful competitive threat the Tour has ever faced. Banning  
6 Player Plaintiffs and other top professional golfers from its own events degrades the Tour's strength of  
7 field and diminishes the quality of the product that it offers to golf fans by depriving them from seeing  
8 many top golfers participate in Tour events. The only conceivable benefit to the Tour from degrading  
9 its own product in this manner is the destruction of competition. Indeed, the Tour has conceded its  
10 anticompetitive purpose in attacking and injuring the players. When the Tour adjusted its rules to  
11 render them more effective in defeating competitive entry, a memorandum authored by PGA Tour  
12 Commissioner Jay Monahan made clear that the rule change was expressly designed to enable the Tour  
13 to foreclose competition. And when the Tour imposed unprecedented punishments on the players for  
14 playing in LIV Golf events, the Tour explained to the players that it was doing so precisely because  
15 LIV Golf is attempting to compete with the Tour.

16 6. Player Plaintiffs have devoted the bulk of their professional careers to growing the PGA  
17 Tour. Yet the Tour has repaid them of late with suspensions, punishments, threats, and disparagement  
18 for merely playing professional golf for another promoter and embracing competition for their services.  
19 The Tour has denied them income-earning opportunities, attacked their goodwill and reputation,  
20 interfered with their businesses, attacked their business partners, threatened them with multiple  
21 punishments—including threats to deny them from participating in golf's marquee events, even when  
22 they have earned placement or exemptions to participate in those tournaments—and unlawfully  
23 prevented them from exercising their independent contractor rights. And, at every step, the Tour has  
24 repeatedly admitted that it has done this to destroy nascent competition.

25 7. The Tour long stood alone as the only tour anywhere in the world that features the best  
26 golfers in the world. The PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan boasted on June 22, 2022 that the  
27 "Tour is doing everything it possibly can . . . [to] mak[e] certain that the best players in the world are  
28 competing on the best Tour in the world, the PGA Tour." The Tour has ensured that remains the case

1 through its anticompetitive PGA Tour Player Regulations. First, the Tour’s Conflicting Events  
2 Regulation prohibits its members from participating “in any other golf tournament or event” in North  
3 America, without exception, if a Tour-sanctioned event is scheduled in the same week, regardless of  
4 whether the players would otherwise have any plans to participate in the Tour’s sanctioned event. The  
5 Tour has a sanctioned event almost every week of the year, hence the Conflicting Event Regulation  
6 effectively prohibits Tour members from playing in any non-Tour golf event in North America. The  
7 effect is both a naked restraint on competition and a reduction in output, as Tour members are  
8 foreclosed from playing anywhere else when they are not playing in Tour events. For international  
9 tours or events, a player may request up to three exemptions a year, but the Tour Commissioner has  
10 complete discretion whether to grant these exemptions, something he has refused to do for each of the  
11 LIV Golf events. The Conflicting Events Regulation thus invests the leader of the incumbent  
12 monopolist with unbridled discretion to foreclose players from participating in any competing events.  
13 And while the Tour has historically granted releases to players that allow them to compete in other  
14 events throughout the world, Tour Commissioner Monahan has taken a different stance regarding LIV  
15 Golf, denying event releases even for LIV Golf events overseas. As Commissioner Monahan admitted,  
16 he has departed from past practice in prohibiting members from participating in LIV Golf events  
17 outside North America *because* LIV Golf plans to compete with the Tour. And he has enforced the  
18 Conflicting Events Regulation to deny players permission to participate in LIV Golf events in North  
19 America *because* LIV Golf’s North American events compete with the Tour.

20 8. Second, the Tour uses its Media Rights Regulation as an additional means of foreclosing  
21 players from participating in competing events. This regulation prohibits any members from appearing  
22 in any “golf program” (“any golf contest, exhibition or play”) that takes place “*anywhere in the world*”  
23 and is shown on any media of any type. It is fundamental for any organizer of elite-level professional  
24 golf tournaments to broadcast the tournament on television and other media, yet the Tour contends no  
25 PGA Tour members may participate in any such televised non-Tour golf event anywhere in the world.  
26 This broad prohibition is no accident, as the PGA Tour specifically broadened this provision to prevent  
27 competitive entry of leagues such as LIV Golf. The provision serves no procompetitive purpose nor  
28 benefits consumers, but rather restricts output and forecloses competition, as it prevents all Tour

1 members from playing golf, even casually, if it is recorded for distribution over any media anywhere  
2 in the world during weeks when they are not participating in PGA Tour events.

3 9. In short, these regulations—the Media Rights Regulation and the Conflicting Event  
4 Regulation—foreclose the players, who are independent contractors, from participating in any golf  
5 event that the PGA Tour deems to be a competitive threat. These provisions limit output by keeping  
6 golfers on the sidelines when not playing on the Tour. And these provisions, in turn, foreclose  
7 competition and entrench the PGA Tour’s monopoly power. If these provisions are not enjoined, they  
8 will foreclose LIV Golf’s nascent entry into the markets and prevent LIV Golf from fulfilling its  
9 competitive promise, thus harming LIV Golf, the Player Plaintiffs, golf fans, the game of golf, and  
10 competition itself.

11 10. It is no secret that the PGA Tour is targeting players in order to defeat the threat of  
12 competitive entry. The PGA Tour has been clear since the threat of competitive entry emerged that its  
13 most powerful weapon to defeat competition is to target its members—who comprise virtually all of  
14 the elite professional golfers in the world—to prevent them from playing on a competing tour. For  
15 example, PGA Tour Commissioner Monahan wrote in a January 2020 strategy memorandum that the  
16 best way to prevent a competitor from emerging is to prevent PGA Tour members (including Player  
17 Plaintiffs) from supporting the new promoter:

18 The impact that [the new league] could have on the PGA TOUR is dependent on the level  
19 of support it may receive from these players. Without this support, [the new league’s]  
20 ability to attract media and corporate partners will be significantly marginalized and its  
21 impact on the TOUR diminished.

22 A nascent golf league without the golfers necessary to put on elite events is no threat at all. Deprive  
23 the new league of access to virtually all of the top golfers in the world, and it will pose no challenge to  
24 the Tour’s dominance.

25 11. Accordingly, the Tour set out to destroy competition in its infancy by doing everything  
26 in its power to lock up its members (including Player Plaintiffs) and deny them the opportunity for  
27 sustained competition for their services. The Tour’s conduct has included at least seven practices, each  
28 of which is exclusionary, anticompetitive and unlawful under the Sherman Act:

a. The Tour has repeatedly threatened its members (including Player Plaintiffs) with

1 devastating consequences if they join LIV Golf. On multiple occasions, the Tour  
2 threatened a *lifetime ban* for any player who joins or participates in LIV Golf. Then,  
3 in June and July 2022, the Tour imposed a *career-threatening ban* on Player  
4 Plaintiffs (and others) for playing in LIV Golf events. For other golfers who  
5 resigned their Tour membership because they did not want to be subject to the  
6 Tour’s punishments, the Tour responded by actually imposing a *lifetime ban*.

7 b. The Tour amended and expanded its Media Rights and Conflicting Events  
8 Regulations in response to the threat of competitive entry. And it then enforced  
9 these unlawful provisions to foreclose members from participating in LIV Golf  
10 events.

11 c. The Tour orchestrated a group boycott with the European Tour to ensure that any  
12 golfer who considers defying the Tour’s threats by playing in any LIV Golf events  
13 (including Player Plaintiffs) cannot pursue his career and livelihood anywhere in the  
14 global golf “ecosystem.” The Tour’s agreement is established through the  
15 statements of its partners. For example, during a meeting in Malta in July 2021,  
16 representatives of the entity that sponsored LIV Golf met with the CEO and other  
17 representatives of the European Tour to seek a partnership with the European Tour  
18 in launching the new league. The minutes from that meeting prepared by the  
19 European Tour’s title sponsor state that the CEO of the European Tour, Mr. Keith  
20 Pelley, “Confirmed new series appeal and fit, however, stated main issue is US PGA  
21 mighty power and need to avoid a collision course between ET [European Tour] and  
22 PGA.” Under pressure from the “mighty power” of the PGA Tour, the European  
23 Tour agreed to boycott and rejected the opportunity to partner with the new entrant,  
24 and instead strengthened its strategic alliance with the PGA Tour. As part of this  
25 illegal partnership, the PGA Tour pressured the European Tour to amend its  
26 Regulations to restrict European Tour golfers from playing in LIV Golf events, and  
27 it pressured the European Tour to punish its members who played in LIV Golf events  
28 with ~\$125,000 fines and suspension from any tournaments the PGA Tour and the

1 European Tour co-sanction. The European Tour agreed to all of the PGA Tour's  
2 demands to implement the group boycott.

3 d. Similarly, the PGA Tour has encouraged the PGA of America (a separate entity) to  
4 threaten to disallow LIV Golf players from playing both in the Major tournament it  
5 sponsors (the PGA Championship) and the Ryder Cup, one of golf's marquee  
6 events. And it has leaned on other golfing entities to do its bidding. The Tour leaned  
7 on Augusta National to pressure golfers against joining LIV Golf. The Tour has  
8 also leaned on the Royal & Ancient ("R&A") (sponsor of The Open) to publicly  
9 question whether LIV Golf players could play in their respective tournaments. And  
10 the Tour has leaned on the Official World Golf Ranking ("OWGR") to call into  
11 question whether LIV Golf tournaments would be eligible for OWGR ranking  
12 points. This conduct serves no beneficial purpose, but rather serves to harm the  
13 careers of the players (including Player Plaintiffs) who play in LIV Golf events, and  
14 to deter other players from joining LIV Golf to avoid career destruction at the hands  
15 of the Tour.

16 e. At various points, the Tour has threatened Tour members' agents and business  
17 partners with punishment if the players joined LIV Golf. In addition, the Tour has  
18 threatened numerous vendors and small companies in the golf and sports production  
19 industry that they will be blacklisted from working with the Tour if they work with  
20 LIV Golf.

21 f. The Tour has threatened non-member golfers with exclusion from the golf  
22 "ecosystem" if they participate in any LIV Golf events. For example, the Tour  
23 threatened college golfers (who are not PGA Tour members and have no obligation  
24 to conform to the Tour's rules for its members) that if they played in any LIV Golf  
25 events they would be banned from entry into the PGA Tour University program,  
26 which provides top college golfers entry into the Tour's developmental tour (Korn  
27 Ferry Tour).

28 g. The Tour has also threatened sponsors and broadcasters that they must sever their



1 relationships with players who join LIV Golf, or be cut off from having any  
2 opportunities with the PGA Tour. Based on these threats, several sponsors have cut  
3 ties with players who have joined LIV Golf (including the Player Plaintiffs),  
4 sometimes ending years-long relationships. The Tour has also intimidated sponsors  
5 and vendors into not doing business with LIV Golf, lest they lose the opportunity to  
6 do business with the dominant golf tour in North America, the PGA Tour.

7 12. These restraints have damaged competition and harmed Plaintiffs. They have harmed  
8 Player Plaintiffs by, for example, (1) diminishing competition for their services and reinforcing the  
9 Tour's monopsony power in the markets in which the Plaintiffs sell those services; (2) denying them  
10 income-earning opportunities, tournament performance opportunities (including denying them  
11 opportunities to participate in tournaments in which they have qualified), sponsorship revenue, and  
12 independent contractor rights; and (3) harming their reputations, goodwill, and brands. These restraints  
13 have likewise proved effective at harming competition in the relevant markets by preventing other  
14 players from joining LIV Golf who would have joined the new league but for these competitive  
15 restraints, thus threatening the competitive viability of LIV Golf and any other potential competitor by  
16 protecting the PGA Tour's monopoly power and monopsony power over the purchase of services from  
17 professional golfers to participate in elite golf events. The Tour's restraints have harmed LIV Golf by,  
18 for example, (i) raising to supracompetitive levels its costs to recruit players who are subject to the  
19 Tour's threats; (ii) completely preventing LIV Golf from securing the services of many players who  
20 have been subjected to the Tour's threats of severe punishments should they participate in LIV Golf  
21 events; (iii) forcing LIV Golf to scrap its launch plans for 2022, and instead launch a smaller-scale  
22 series; and (iv) preventing LIV Golf from entering into agreements with third parties and raising to  
23 supracompetitive levels its costs for contracting with those third parties who are willing to defy the  
24 Tour's threats, thus raising LIV Golf's costs and degrading its product offerings. The impacts of the  
25 Tour's continuing restraints threaten LIV Golf's competitive viability and existence.

26 13. Without fair process, PGA Tour Commissioner Monahan—who is necessarily partial—  
27 imposed a 21-month Tour suspension on some Player Plaintiffs, through March 31, 2024 (other Player  
28 Plaintiffs' suspensions are indefinite or 9 months as of this Complaint), for exercising their independent

1 contractor rights to play in the first two LIV Golf events. After imposing these suspensions, the Tour  
2 followed its procedurally and substantively unconscionable appeals process to maintain the suspension  
3 without giving Player Plaintiffs fair proceedings to be heard by neutral and independent decision-  
4 makers. Plaintiffs Gooch, Swafford and Jones (among other Player Plaintiffs) had earned the right to  
5 play in the FedEx Cup Playoffs (a series of lucrative and high-profile events scheduled at the end of  
6 the PGA Tour's 2022 season) through strong performance and dedication to the Tour, but the Tour  
7 banned them from playing in those tournaments, diminishing the strength of its own fields and harming  
8 these Plaintiffs. The injury to these players extended beyond mere foreclosure from these tournaments  
9 (itself a substantial and irreparable injury), but also crippled their chances of qualifying for both the  
10 Majors and the Tour's premier invitationals in future seasons. The punishment that accrued to these  
11 players from not being able to play in the FedEx Cup Playoffs is substantial, and involves both  
12 monetary injury (as the Tour has maintained) as well as irreparable injuries.

13 14. The Tour has argued that the Player Plaintiffs have already been fully compensated by  
14 LIV Golf for all suspensions the Tour might impose and all of the consequential harms that may flow  
15 from those suspensions (including exclusions from the Majors and other important professional golf  
16 tournaments and lost sponsorship opportunities). That is simply not true. While the supracompetitive  
17 payments LIV Golf was required to make in order to attract players in the face of the Tour's  
18 anticompetitive threats were in many cases above the compensation levels that would have been  
19 required in the absence of the Tour's anticompetitive conduct, it is also true that (a) many of the injuries  
20 the players will suffer are not compensable through money, (b) the monetary injuries the players have  
21 suffered and/or will suffer have exceeded and will exceed substantially the amounts they have been  
22 paid by LIV Golf, and (c) the negotiated amounts reflect a mutual understanding by the parties that at  
23 some point the PGA Tour would adjust its position and allow fair competition from LIV Golf. None  
24 of these Player Plaintiffs has agreed to a potential ban from the Majors or other important tournaments,  
25 or a long-term ban from the Tour should the Tour succeed in blocking successful long-term entry by  
26 LIV Golf.

27 15. Without injunctive relief prohibiting the PGA Tour's anticompetitive conduct, the  
28 Tour's antitrust violations will continue. Without injunctive relief prohibiting the PGA Tour's

1 anticompetitive conduct, Player Plaintiffs will be irreparably harmed, including by the Tour’s unlawful  
2 suspensions that have denied and will continue to deny them income earning opportunities, tournament  
3 performance opportunities, sponsorship revenue, and independent contractor rights that they have  
4 earned, as well as by the actions of the Tour and the European Tour that deny them the opportunity to  
5 participate in events sponsored by others throughout the golf “ecosystem.” LIV Golf will also be  
6 irreparably harmed if the Tour’s anticompetitive conduct is not abated. While LIV Golf has been able  
7 to pursue the launch of its business in the face of supracompetitive costs and artificially reduced access  
8 to supply (i.e. players), facing headwinds of this nature is not sustainable. As a result, if the Tour’s  
9 anticompetitive conduct is not enjoined, LIV Golf’s entry will be thwarted and its ability to maintain a  
10 meaningful competitive presence in the markets will be destroyed, which will harm not only LIV Golf,  
11 but also competition. The Tour will continue to enforce its unlawful Regulations and take  
12 anticompetitive actions unless and until a Court enjoins the Tour’s unenforceable Regulations and  
13 unlawful conduct. Moreover, the Player Plaintiffs will be irreparably harmed in that the Tour’s  
14 unreasonable control over their media rights and their participation in non-Tour events will continue  
15 unless enjoined permanently. And, if LIV Golf’s entry into the relevant markets is thwarted by the  
16 PGA Tour’s anticompetitive conduct, Player Plaintiffs’ careers will be detrimentally impacted, they  
17 will lose the most significant avenue to gain entry into the Majors, they will lose the platform to display  
18 their craft, and they will lose the opportunity to sell their advertising and sponsorship space and sell or  
19 license their name image and likeness for their branding, reputation and businesses. On the other hand,  
20 with an injunction, the anticompetitive conduct of the PGA Tour will be lifted, LIV Golf will have the  
21 opportunity to compete on the merits, and Player Plaintiffs and other professional tournament golfers  
22 will enjoy the benefits of competition for their services that the antitrust and other laws protect.

### 23 **PARTIES**

24 16. Plaintiff Phil Mickelson is a Hall of Fame American professional golfer who resides in  
25 San Diego, California. Mr. Mickelson was a three-time NCAA Champion at Arizona State University.  
26 In 1991, he won the Northern Telecom Open, which was the last time an amateur won a tournament  
27 on the PGA Tour. He is a 30-year veteran of the PGA Tour who has won 57 worldwide professional  
28 events, including six Majors—the most recent in 2021, which earned him the title of the oldest Major

1 winner in the game's history. He spent over 26 consecutive years in the top 50 of the Official World  
2 Golf Ranking (the only player in the history of the sport to ever do so), including over 700 weeks  
3 ranked in the top 10 in the world. Mr. Mickelson has represented the United States as a professional  
4 golfer in 24 team tournaments, which includes 12 Presidents Cups and 12 Ryder Cups, both American  
5 records. He participated as a vice captain in additional United States team tournaments, and played in  
6 the Dunhill Cup, World Amateur Team Championship and two Walker Cups for the United States as  
7 an amateur. Mr. Mickelson also has a strong commitment to giving back through the Phil and Amy  
8 Mickelson Foundation. Since its inception in 2004, the Foundation has focused primarily on supporting  
9 a variety of youth and family initiatives. He also founded Birdies for the Brave, the PGA Tour's  
10 national military outreach initiative, which raises money for a variety of charities supporting veterans  
11 and military families. Mr. Mickelson dedicated his entire professional career, 30 years, to the PGA  
12 Tour. He has hosted tournaments on the Tour and engaged in countless endeavors to advance the Tour,  
13 its purpose, and the game of golf. Mr. Mickelson has invested in himself and his investment has  
14 benefited the Tour's business tremendously over the last 30 years. As a lifetime member—a hard-  
15 earned accomplishment and honor, requiring 20 PGA Tour wins and 15 years of membership on the  
16 Tour—Mr. Mickelson desires to continue being a member of the Tour and to play in events on the  
17 Tour.

18 17. Plaintiff Talor Gooch is a 30-year-old professional golfer who resides in Texas. He is  
19 a member of the Tour. Mr. Gooch played golf at Oklahoma State University until 2014 when he began  
20 his professional career. He joined the PGA Tour Canada in 2015 and earned his way onto the Korn  
21 Ferry Tour in 2016. In 2017, Mr. Gooch won the News Sentinel Open (which later became the Visit  
22 Knoxville Open on the Korn Ferry Tour) and then earned his way onto the PGA Tour in 2018. In 2021,  
23 he won his first PGA Tour tournament at the RSM Classic. Mr. Gooch was on top of the PGA Tour's  
24 FedEx Cup Rankings for the 2021-22 season following the RSM Classic. Mr. Gooch has played in  
25 over one hundred PGA Tour events. As of the filing of the Complaint in this Action, he was the 20th  
26 ranked golfer on the FedEx Cup rankings. Mr. Gooch played in 21 PGA Tour events in the 2021-22  
27 PGA Tour season and qualified for the FedEx Cup Playoffs, but was denied the opportunity to compete  
28 in the Playoffs by the Tour's anticompetitive conduct. Mr. Gooch desires to continue to be a member

1 of the Tour and to play in events on the Tour.

2 18. Plaintiff Hudson Swafford is a 34-year-old professional golfer who resides in Georgia.  
3 He is a member of the Tour. He started his professional golf career in 2011 after graduating with a  
4 B.S. in Consumer Economics from the University of Georgia. Mr. Swafford joined the Nationwide  
5 Tour in 2012, and, that same year, won the Stadion Classic at UGA, a golf tournament on the Web.com  
6 Tour (which became known as the Korn Ferry Tour in 2019). In 2013, Mr. Swafford finished 21st in  
7 the Web.Com Tour Finals to earn his PGA Tour card for 2014. Mr. Swafford won his first PGA Tour  
8 victory in 2017 at the CareerBuilder Challenge. In 2018, Mr. Swafford suffered a rib injury and then,  
9 in 2019, Mr. Swafford had to undergo a surgery to remove a small bone from the bottom of his foot,  
10 forcing him to miss four months of play. In September 2020, Mr. Swafford won his second PGA Tour  
11 victory at the Corales Puntacana Resort and Club Championship. In 2022, Mr. Swafford earned his  
12 third PGA Tour victory at the American Express. Since the start of his career, Mr. Swafford has played  
13 in over 250 Tour events. Mr. Swafford played in 21 PGA Tour events in the 2021-22 season, and as  
14 of the filing of the Complaint in this Action was 67th in the FedEx Cup rankings, and qualified for the  
15 FedEx Cup Playoffs. Mr. Swafford was denied the opportunity to compete in the Playoffs by the Tour's  
16 anticompetitive conduct. Mr. Swafford desires to continue to be a member of the Tour and to play in  
17 events on the Tour.

18 19. Plaintiff Matt Jones is a 42-year-old professional golfer who resides in Arizona. He is  
19 a member of the Tour. He was born in Sydney, Australia, and upon meeting fellow Australian Greg  
20 Norman at six years old became determined to become a professional golfer. Mr. Jones moved to the  
21 United States to attend Arizona State University where he was a first-team All-American golfer. Mr.  
22 Jones joined the Nationwide Tour in 2004 and earned his PGA Tour card in 2008. In 2014, Mr. Jones  
23 won the PGA Tour's Shell Houston Open. In 2015, and again in 2019, he won the Emirates Australian  
24 Open on the PGA Tour of Australasia. In 2021, Mr. Jones won the PGA Tour Honda Classic. Mr.  
25 Jones has played in over 350 Tour events. Mr. Jones played in 20 PGA Tour events in the 2021-22  
26 season, and as of the filing of the Complaint in this Action was ranked 65th in the FedEx Cup rankings,  
27 and qualified for the FedEx Cup Playoffs. Mr. Jones was denied the opportunity to compete in the  
28 Playoffs by the Tour's anticompetitive conduct. Mr. Jones desires to continue to be a member of the

1 Tour and to play in events on the Tour.

2 20. Plaintiff Bryson DeChambeau is a 28-year-old professional golfer who resides in Texas.  
3 He is a member of the Tour. Mr. DeChambeau grew up in California and played golf at Southern  
4 Methodist University while majoring in physics. In 2015, Mr. DeChambeau became just the fifth  
5 person to win both the NCAA individual championship and the U.S. Amateur title. He made his PGA  
6 tour debut in 2015 at the FedEx St. Jude Classic. In 2015, while still an amateur, he was the runner-up  
7 in the Australian Masters. He began his professional career in 2016 at the RBC Heritage event,  
8 finishing fourth. That year, Mr. DeChambeau won the Korn Ferry DAP Championship, earning his  
9 Tour card. In 2017, Mr. DeChambeau won his first PGA Tour event at the John Deere Classic. In  
10 2018, Mr. DeChambeau won the Memorial Tournament. He then won the first two FedEx Cup Playoff  
11 events at the Northern Trust and Dell Technologies Championship. Mr. DeChambeau was picked for  
12 the U.S. team in the 2018 Ryder Cup. In 2019, Mr. DeChambeau won the Shriners Hospitals for  
13 Children Open and the Omega Dubai Desert Classic. In 2020, Mr. DeChambeau won the Rocket  
14 Mortgage Classic and won the U.S. Open, his first Major. In 2021, he won the Arnold Palmer  
15 Invitational and played on the winning U.S. team at the 2021 Ryder Cup. In 2022, Mr. DeChambeau  
16 underwent surgery on his left wrist from a fracture. Mr. DeChambeau desires to continue to be a  
17 member of the Tour and to play in events on the Tour.

18 21. Plaintiff Ian Poulter is a 46-year-old professional golfer who splits his residence  
19 between Florida and England. He is a member of the Tour. He was born in England, and began playing  
20 golf at just four years old before turning professional in 1994. Mr. Poulter won the 1999 Open de Côte  
21 d'Ivoire on the Challenge Tour and was promoted to the European Tour. He was a member of the  
22 victorious 2004 European Ryder Cup team and then joined the PGA Tour in 2005. In addition to his  
23 many international victories, Mr. Poulter won the 2010 World Golf Championship-Accenture Match  
24 Play Championship, the 2012 World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions, and the 2018 Houston  
25 Open. Mr. Poulter has played in over 300 Tour events. Mr. Poulter played in 16 PGA Tour events in  
26 the 2021-22 season and, as of the filing of the Complaint in this Action, was ranked 168th in the FedEx  
27 Cup rankings. Mr. Poulter desires to continue to be a member of the Tour and to play in events on the  
28 Tour.



1 Park and TPC Stonebrae) in this District and employs dozens of individuals who work there. It  
2 organizes and promotes annually at least six golf tournaments throughout California (Fortinet  
3 Championship, The American Express, Farmers Insurance Open, AT&T Pebble Beach Open, The  
4 Genesis Invitational, and the Barracuda Championship), two of which are within the Northern District  
5 of California. California hosts more PGA Tour golf tournaments than any other state. The Tour issued  
6 the first of its known anticompetitive threats to Player Plaintiffs and other players that is at issue in this  
7 lawsuit in La Jolla, California in January 2020. The PGA Tour also threatened Player Plaintiffs and  
8 other players with lifetime bans in Los Angeles, California in February 2022. The Tour has unlawfully  
9 restricted Player Plaintiffs from participating in events that compete against the PGA Tour, and its  
10 conduct has already hindered—and threatens to irrevocably harm—LIV Golf’s ability to compete in  
11 the market.

12 27. This Court also may exercise personal jurisdiction over the PGA Tour under California  
13 Code of Civil Procedure § 410.10. The Tour operated, conducted, engaged in, and carried on a business  
14 venture in this state; committed tortious acts within this state that harmed Plaintiffs; and is engaged in  
15 substantial and not isolated activity within this state.

16 28. Venue is proper in this district under Sections 4 and 12 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C.  
17 §§ 15, 22) because the Tour may be found in this District and transacts business in this District through  
18 the management or operation of two golf courses, hosting and promoting two golf tournaments, and  
19 employing individuals in this District.

## 20 **BACKGROUND AND FACTS**

### 21 **Overview of Professional Golf**

22 29. The business and sport of professional golf are organized around tours and tournaments  
23 that combine players of comparable skill levels. These tours and tournaments bring golf competition  
24 to fans, financially compensate players, and provide opportunities for sponsors and advertisers to  
25 market their products to golf fans of these events.

26 30. The elite level of men’s professional golf is comprised of (1) the PGA Tour, which  
27 sponsors and co-sponsors a series of tournaments scheduled from September to September each season;  
28 (2) four annual standalone “Major” tournaments sponsored by entities other than the Tour: the Masters,



1 the U.S. Open, The Open (or The British Open), and the PGA Championship; (3) two bi-annual team  
2 events (Ryder Cup and the Presidents Cup); (4) quadrennial Olympic competition; and (5) a handful  
3 of standalone events in which Tour members are only permitted to compete if they are given permission  
4 by the Tour Commissioner.

5 31. Until LIV Golf's nascent entry, the Tour was the sole elite golf tour in the United States  
6 and the world. Other elite professional golf events are standalone events (such as the Majors) that are  
7 not part of an organized tour that extends throughout a season. Professional golfers who qualify for  
8 membership on the Tour invariably compete on it, as it offers by far the largest tournament purses, the  
9 greatest opportunities to qualify for the Majors, the greatest opportunities for exposure in the golf world  
10 and beyond, and the most expansive opportunities to secure large endorsements from sponsors. As of  
11 the filing of the Complaint in this Action, all of the top 30 golfers in the world were active members of  
12 the Tour, except those golfers whom PGA Commissioner Monahan suspended or forced to resign. No  
13 other golf tour in the world is a reasonable competitive substitute for the PGA Tour. For example, the  
14 average purse of a PGA Tour event is roughly two-and-a-half times the average purse of a European  
15 Tour event, roughly nine times the average purse of an Asian Tour event, and 13 times the average  
16 purse of a Korn Ferry Tour event. The PGA Tour is the only golf tour shown regularly on broadcast  
17 television in the United States, and it earns vastly more in sponsorship, advertising, and broadcast  
18 revenue than any other golf tour.

19 32. The Tour and the four Majors are complements, not competitors. The Tour schedules  
20 no events during the weeks of three of the Majors and schedules only a minor event with a lower prize  
21 pool the week of The Open. Conversely, the Majors do not compete with the Tour; rather, they  
22 encourage and incentivize players to participate on certain tours (the PGA Tour in particular) by  
23 adopting eligibility requirements that open playing spots to golfers who have performed well on those  
24 tours. Similarly, LIV Golf does not compete with the Majors, as it schedules its Series and will  
25 schedule its League around the Majors.

26 33. The European Tour is a purchaser of professional golfers' services and a promoter of  
27 professional golf events, but it is effectively a feeder into and only a potential competitor to the PGA  
28 Tour. In the 1980s and early 1990s, the European Tour exerted some competitive pressure on the Tour

1 for certain star international players, including Seve Ballesteros, Nick Faldo, and Bernhard Langer, but  
2 that has not been the case for many years. Instead, when European Tour members qualify for Tour  
3 membership, they almost invariably elect to immediately become PGA Tour members. None of the  
4 Top 30 golfers in the world are only members of the European Tour. PGA Tour superstar Rory  
5 McIlroy, originally from Northern Ireland who began his career on the European Tour, has described  
6 the European Tour as “a stepping stone,” explaining “you can go to America and play for more money  
7 and more ranking points. I think as well with the world ranking points, everyone out here, all of their  
8 contracts with sponsors, it’s all about world ranking points. If players are getting paid more and earning  
9 more world ranking points, why would you play over there [European Tour]?” The actions of other  
10 European players who qualify for the Tour are consistent with McIlroy’s views: they join the PGA  
11 Tour when they qualify.

12 34. European Tour Board Member Paul McGinley told *The Independent* that “the  
13 [European] Tour has accepted it is a junior partner to the PGA Tour now and will act as a feeder tour  
14 with more and more co-sanctioned events on both sides of the pond.” McGinley continued: “We are  
15 there to enhance that and enable the PGA Tour to become the premier golf tour in the world. We  
16 realise that the [European] Tour will not be that, but we want to be very much . . . a kind of international  
17 arm and create pathways for players to come into the ecosystem via the European Tour and perhaps  
18 the Korn Ferry Tour and then graduate onto the premier tour in the world which is the PGA Tour.”  
19 Likewise, European Tour Commissioner Keith Pelley told *The New York Times* that the European Tour  
20 agreed not to compete with the PGA Tour for player services as of November 2020.

21 35. Nonetheless, the European Tour remained a potential competitor to the PGA Tour,  
22 particularly as a potential partner of a new entrant that could challenge the Tour’s dominance.  
23 Recognizing this potential competition from the European Tour and the substantial threat that a new  
24 entrant partnered with the European Tour would pose, the Tour entered into an illegal agreement with  
25 the European Tour as part of its scheme to ensure that the European Tour does not partner with any  
26 entrant (including LIV Golf) that might seek to become part of the golf “ecosystem.” In a January  
27 2020 strategy memorandum describing the PGA Tour’s plan to foreclose new entry, Commissioner  
28 Monahan explained that this alliance with the European Tour was aimed at removing the European

1 Tour as a potential partner for a new entrant: “We have continued discussions with the European Tour  
2 about the potential to work more closely together, thereby removing the European Tour as a potential  
3 partner of” a new entrant. The Tour’s strategy was thus designed to ensure no new potential competitor  
4 could emerge to challenge its monopoly.

5 36. The Tour executed Monahan’s plan in November 2020, when it announced that it had  
6 purchased a minority stake in the European Tour’s media production company, and that the two tours  
7 would work in concert with one another. As detailed below, since that alliance was formed, the  
8 European Tour has joined the PGA Tour in a group boycott aimed at punishing players to foreclose  
9 LIV Golf’s entry. As set forth in more detail below, that group boycott violates Section 1 of the  
10 Sherman Act, under either a *per se* analysis or a Rule of Reason analysis, because it has harmed (and  
11 will continue to harm) competition and has no redeeming procompetitive virtue.

12 37. There are also a number of more limited lower-level tours that operate in the U.S. and  
13 throughout the world, but none is a meaningful competitor to the Tour. In fact, the Tour owns, operates,  
14 or controls a number of these lower-level tours, ensuring that they do not become meaningful  
15 competitors to the PGA Tour and that any bans imposed by the PGA Tour (and its co-conspirator, the  
16 European Tour) have a widespread impact on any affected players. These tours include:

- 17 • PGA Tour Champions – A tour for players over the age of 50, organized and  
18 managed by the Tour;
- 19 • Korn Ferry Tour – The PGA Tour’s development tour in North America, through  
20 which players (like Plaintiff Uihlein) can qualify for the PGA Tour; organized and  
21 managed by the PGA Tour and described by the Tour as “the path to the PGA Tour”;
- 22 • PGA Tour Latinoamerica – A tour with events in Latin America, through which  
23 players can qualify for promotion to the Tour, organized and managed by the Tour;
- 24 • Mackenzie Tour-PGA Tour Canada – A tour with events in Canada, through which  
25 players can qualify for promotion to the Tour, organized and managed by the Tour;
- 26 • PGA Tour Series-China – A tour with events in China, organized and managed by  
27 the Tour;
- 28 • Asian Tour – A tour with events principally in Asia;

- 1           • Japan Tour – A tour with events in Japan;
- 2           • Sunshine Tour – A tour with events in Africa; and
- 3           • KPGA Korean Tour – A tour with events in South Korea.

4           38.     These tours offer considerably lower levels of competition, far lower prize pools, far  
5 smaller sponsorship and income opportunities, and far less, if any, broadcast exposure and viewership  
6 throughout most of the world. As a result, players who qualify for the PGA Tour join the PGA Tour.  
7 Simply put, until LIV Golf’s entry, the PGA Tour had no competition as the premier professional golf  
8 tour in the United States and the world. If the PGA Tour succeeds in thwarting LIV Golf’s entry, it  
9 will once again face no meaningful competition in the United States or the world.

10          39.     While the on-course competition among participants in the elite professional golf  
11 services market is intense, the Tour itself faces no meaningful competition in the relevant markets.  
12 Until LIV Golf arrived on the scene, no other tour came close to the PGA Tour in terms of the money,  
13 exposure, quality of on-course competition for players, fan interest, advertising or sponsorship  
14 opportunities.

15          40.     In addition, players in Tour events have a significantly greater opportunity than players  
16 in the lower-tier tours to qualify for spots in the Majors, Ryder Cup, Presidents Cup, and the Olympics  
17 by winning tournaments that provide entry into the Majors and that provide greater opportunity to earn  
18 more points in the world golf ranking system. A common way for players to qualify for the Majors is  
19 by being ranked within the Top 50 of the OWGR. While players in any tournament recognized by the  
20 OWGR can qualify for points, the OWGR awards points based on a tournament’s competitive strength  
21 and the player’s finishing position. Thus, players on the Tour are eligible to earn far more points than  
22 players on lower-tier tours. In addition, OWGR points are often used to determine the amount of  
23 money players receive from sponsors. Qualification for the Olympics is determined solely by OWGR  
24 rankings. Again, as PGA Tour player Rory McIlroy explained “it’s all about world ranking points,”  
25 and players can earn the most points on the PGA Tour.

26          41.     The OWGR’s Governing Board includes PGA Tour Commissioner Monahan, as well  
27 as the top executives from a number of the other bodies: the CEO of the European Tour (Keith Pelley),  
28 the General Counsel of the European Tour (Ben Bye), the COO of the European Tour (Keith Waters),

1 the CEO of the PGA of America (Seth Waugh), the Executive Director of the United States Golf  
2 Association (Mike Whan), the Senior Director of the Masters Tournament of the Augusta National  
3 Golf Club (Will Jones), the CEO of the R&A (Martin Slumbers), and the former CEO of the R&A  
4 (Peter Dawson). As set forth in detail below, the PGA Tour has entered into an unlawful agreement  
5 with the European Tour to foreclose competitive entry by locking arms in a group boycott to exclude  
6 from the world golf “ecosystem” LIV Golf, any players who play in LIV Golf events (including the  
7 Plaintiffs), and any other vendor, tour promoter, or other entity that partners with LIV Golf. And the  
8 Tour has leaned on the other world golfing bodies that have representatives on the OWGR Governing  
9 Board to do its bidding to heighten threats for associating with LIV Golf.

### 10 **PGA Tour Structure**

11 42. The Tour’s charter promises it will act to “promote the common interests of professional  
12 tournament golfers.” The Tour certified to the Internal Revenue Service that its non-profit purpose is  
13 to promote the sport of professional golf and the common interests of touring golf professionals.

14 43. The professional golfers who have earned the right to compete on the Tour are the most  
15 skilled and popular professional golfers in the United States and the world. Player Plaintiffs were  
16 active members of the Tour until they were given lengthy suspensions for playing in LIV Golf events.  
17 Players from the United States who are members of the Tour include Tiger Woods, Plaintiff Mickelson  
18 (now suspended), Justin Thomas, Jordan Spieth, Plaintiff DeChambeau (now suspended), Dustin  
19 Johnson (now resigned), Scottie Scheffler, Bubba Watson, and Brooks Koepka (now suspended). The  
20 PGA Tour’s Media Guide also states that its membership includes 94 international players from 29  
21 countries and territories outside the United States, including Justin Rose, Rory McIlroy, Sergio Garcia  
22 (now resigned), Jon Rahm, Adam Scott, Henrik Stenson (now suspended), Louis Oosthuizen (now  
23 resigned), Hideki Matsuyama, and Cameron Smith. They include some of the biggest names in sports  
24 and popular culture in the United States and the world.

25 44. All member golfers on the Tour are independent contractors, not employees of the Tour.  
26 There is no team or other employer to cover their many and substantial expenses as a professional  
27 athlete (e.g., coaches, caddies, trainers, therapists, travel, and lodging).

28 45. The Tour is managed by its Commissioner, Jay Monahan, who assumed the role on

1 January 2, 2017. Commissioner Monahan sits on the Board of the European Tour, the Governing  
2 Board of the OWGR, and the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the International Golf  
3 Federation. Through these various roles, Commissioner Monahan assures that the Tour controls what  
4 it terms the world golf “ecosystem.” Being blacklisted by the PGA Tour means effective expulsion  
5 from the golf “ecosystem” anywhere in the world.

### 6 **Elite Professional Golf Has Stagnated Under the PGA Tour’s Monopoly**

7 46. As Commissioner Monahan acknowledged in a memorandum to the PGA Tour Policy  
8 Board (the “January 2020 Monahan Memorandum”), the PGA Tour is “the world’s leading  
9 professional golf tour” and “is second to none due to the strength of its members.” Thus, not  
10 surprisingly, virtually every golfer of public prominence worldwide is a member of the PGA Tour.

11 47. While the quality of play on the PGA Tour continues to flourish, the business of  
12 professional golf has stagnated under the Tour’s monopoly. In the age of social media, the accessibility  
13 and relatability of elite professional golfers should lend itself to a boom in fan interest and viewership,  
14 as it has with other sports. The opposite has happened. Without any meaningful competition (prior to  
15 LIV Golf’s entry), the Tour has failed to innovate and its product has grown stale. At the same time,  
16 the Tour’s fanbase has shrunk and continues to age (the *average* age of a PGA Tour fan is 64), a trend  
17 sharply at odds with other major sports. Likewise, the Tour’s compensation to its members fell behind  
18 compensation to other professional athletes, as measured by the share of revenue the players receive,  
19 reflecting the Tour’s monopsony power over players’ services.

20 48. Despite offering a stagnant product with a shrinking and aging fanbase, the Tour has  
21 used its monopoly position to extract substantially increased revenues from broadcasters and  
22 advertisers. As a monopsonist, however, the Tour has not passed those increased revenues through to  
23 its members. For example, the Tour’s revenue has increased between 2011 and 2019 by 163 percent,  
24 yet the share of revenue it provided its members fell substantially. This is because there is no  
25 competition for players’ services, allowing the Tour to direct its increased revenues into its bloated  
26 bureaucracy, extravagant facilities, and multimillion-dollar compensation and lavish perks for  
27 Commissioner Monahan and the other executives who run the monopoly, rather than sharing them with  
28 players. Tour data shows that average Tour purses grew an anemic 2.5 percent per year on average

1 from 2014 through 2019—from \$6.62 million in 2014 to \$7.47 million in 2019. By comparison, the  
2 total salary pool for other major professional sports leagues grew at much stronger rates over the same  
3 period—15 percent per year for the NFL, eight percent per year for the NBA, and four percent per year  
4 for the NHL, even though the 2014 base levels for the other professional sports were substantially  
5 higher.

6 49. The Tour has failed to offer its members compensation on par with professional athletes  
7 in other sports. The number one player on the Tour money list in 2019 was Brooks Koepka, with \$9.68  
8 million in tournament winnings. His winnings were the equivalent to the 129th highest paid NFL  
9 player, the 121st highest paid NBA player, and the 128th highest paid MLB player.

10 50. It is incongruous that Tour members' share of revenue lags so significantly behind those  
11 of players in other sports over the same period, because the Tour is a nonprofit entity that does not  
12 compensate players for their travel and other expenses, while the other major professional sports are  
13 for-profit enterprises with franchise owners. Unlike those other sports, however, which have free-  
14 agency systems that establish competition among franchise owners for players' services, the PGA Tour  
15 faced no viable competition before LIV Golf's entry. If LIV Golf's entry is foreclosed, the Tour will  
16 once again face no viable competition. As a monopolist, the PGA Tour does not compete for players'  
17 services, and the Player Plaintiffs' earnings have been and are suppressed.

18 51. The lagging compensation the Tour pays to its members is also striking in light of the  
19 expenses and risks that the players bear. Unlike professional athletes in other sports, professional  
20 golfers have to pay out-of-pocket to play on the Tour. Tour members pay for their own travel to and  
21 lodging at Tour events, and they pay for their coaches, therapists, trainers, and caddies. In addition,  
22 the players have no guarantees from the Tour—they earn nothing if they get injured, and they get  
23 nothing if they miss the cut. As a result, Tour members can end up with *negative* earnings for the year.

24 52. For example, Pat Perez described a fellow Tour member that “one year ma[d]e \$22,000  
25 on the Tour. He lost, he was in the hole about 90 grand. Mind you, he didn't play well and I get it, but  
26 how can he be out money? He earned his card and he was out like \$90 grand that year.”

27 53. A Tour player agent was quoted as saying: “What I think the average fan doesn't know  
28 is how much a player spends to go to work. . . . [T]hey spend so much money or reinvest so much

1 money in themselves and what they pay their team and what they spend on private airfare, renting  
2 homes and [paying] chefs and trainers and physical therapists and everything that goes into it. It's a  
3 very lucrative sport, but it's also a very expensive sport for them, unlike team-sport athletes who are  
4 flown around every place and supplied all those things." But without competition, elite professional  
5 golfers have historically had no option other than the Tour.

6 54. The Tour's monopoly (and monopsony) hold over elite professional golf is also  
7 reflected in its failure to innovate or retain (let alone expand) its audience. The Tour's television ratings  
8 have struggled. Out of 27 PGA Tour tournaments for which data are available, 16 tournaments (almost  
9 60 percent) had viewership in 2019 that was below the five-year average for that tournament. In 2020  
10 (before the COVID outbreak shut down the Tour), six out of seven tournaments had viewership that  
11 was below the five-year average for that tournament. The PGA Tour's fanbase is aging faster than any  
12 other sport, because it has failed to capture the attention of younger viewers. As Rory McIlroy (a PGA  
13 Tour Member, President of the Players Advisory Council, and PGA Tour Board Member) recognized,  
14 "competition is a good thing" and "any business needs competition for things to progress and move  
15 on." But the PGA Tour has faced no competition for many years, it has had no reason to innovate and  
16 grow its fan base, and its product has grown stale.

17 55. LIV Golf promises to bring competition and innovation to the market for the promotion  
18 of elite professional golf, which will benefit fans, broadcasters, advertisers, players, and all other  
19 stakeholders. As the long-standing monopolist facing competition for the first time in at least decades,  
20 the Tour has responded not by competing on the merits, but rather by engaging in a course of  
21 anticompetitive conduct designed to choke off LIV Golf's nascent competition, to the detriment of LIV  
22 Golf, the players (including Player Plaintiffs), fans, broadcasters, advertisers, and others.

### 23 **Anticompetitive PGA Tour Player Regulations**

24 56. Membership on the Tour is governed by the PGA Tour Player Regulations &  
25 Tournament Regulations ("Regulations"). Exhibit 1. Several interrelated provisions of the Regulations  
26 unreasonably restrict the independent contractor-players' ability to participate in competing events.

27 57. **Media Rights Regulation.** The Regulations contain two provisions relevant to this  
28 case that govern players' media rights. First, Section V.B.1.a. of the Regulations purports to grant to



1 the PGA Tour the media rights for players when they are participating in Tour-sponsored tournaments.  
2 Plaintiffs do not challenge that provision on the understanding that the Tour interprets it to apply to  
3 golfers only when they are playing in Tour-sponsored events. However, if the Tour relies on that  
4 provision to support its position that it can control Tour members' golf media rights even when they  
5 are not participating in a Tour event, the Plaintiffs would challenge that provision as being  
6 anticompetitive.

7 58. A second provision in the Regulations, Section V.B.1.b. (the "Media Rights  
8 Regulation") provides that "[n]o PGA Tour member shall participate in any live or recorded golf  
9 program without the prior written approval of the Commissioner, except that this requirement shall not  
10 apply to PGA Tour cosponsored, coordinated or approved tournaments, wholly instructional programs  
11 or personal appearances on interview or guest shows." Exhibit 1. The Tour broadly defines "golf  
12 program" to cover "any golf contest, exhibition or play that is shown anywhere in the world in any  
13 form of media now known or hereinafter developed." *Id.* According to the PGA Tour, this provision  
14 prevents all Tour members from participating in any golf program anywhere in the world, during any  
15 time of the year, *even when they are not participating in a Tour event.* According to the PGA Tour,  
16 the effect is a year-round prohibition on all Tour-member independent contractors from participating  
17 in any competing golf event anywhere in the world that is broadcast on any media. For example, when  
18 the Player Plaintiffs participated in a LIV Golf event in London that was streamed on the Internet (but  
19 not shown on any television network in the United States), the PGA Tour declared that the Player  
20 Plaintiffs had violated this rule.

21 59. The global prohibition on playing in competing events is not needed to create or improve  
22 any product or offering by the Tour, or to improve any aspect of any product for fans. For example,  
23 other provisions purportedly grant the Tour the media rights for Tour events in which the players are  
24 participating. The global prohibition serves only to prohibit the Tour's independent contractor players  
25 from playing in any competing events during weeks when they are not playing in Tour events.

26 60. The Media Rights Regulation is fundamentally inconsistent with the rights of the Player  
27 Plaintiffs as independent contractors, denying them the right to sell their own media rights to other  
28 bidders for their services. As a result, the Tour has deprived and continues to deprive the Player

1 Plaintiffs of the opportunity to pursue their profession, thus depriving them of income-earning,  
2 marketing, branding, and charitable opportunities.

3 61. Furthermore, this provision has injured and foreclosed entry by LIV Golf at its planned  
4 scale and harmed LIV Golf by imposing on it a cost basis that the Tour itself describes as “irrational.”  
5 In addition, and critically, the Tour has compromised LIV Golf’s ability to secure a television broadcast  
6 contract, a critical component of any sustainable elite golf tour. Even though LIV Golf has been able  
7 to convince some players to defy the Tour’s threatened lifetime bans and to participate in LIV Golf  
8 events, the Media Rights Regulation has precluded LIV Golf from securing agreements to broadcast  
9 its tournaments because United States platforms are disinclined to sign a broadcast contract with LIV  
10 Golf while the Tour claims to control the media rights of the players participating in LIV Golf  
11 tournaments. As the PGA Tour has maintained, the Media Rights Regulation purportedly denies any  
12 competing tour the opportunity to broadcast tournaments to fans, an essential element of the business  
13 plan of LIV Golf or any other elite professional golf promoter. Unless it is enjoined, this provision  
14 will threaten the competitive entry of LIV Golf or any other potential competitor, which would both  
15 harm LIV Golf and also the Player Plaintiffs by denying them the opportunity to sell their services in  
16 a competitive market.

17 62. The anticompetitive intent of the Media Rights Regulation is exposed by the Tour’s  
18 amendment of the definition of “golf program” in the provision in November 2019 in response to  
19 rumors of potential competitive entry. Whereas the prohibition had previously applied to “any golf  
20 contest, exhibition or play that is shown *in the United States*,” the prohibition was expanded to cover  
21 “any golf contest, exhibition or play that is shown *anywhere in the world*.” Exhibit 1 (emphasis added).  
22 Commissioner Monahan admitted this anticompetitive purpose in his January 2020 Memorandum:  
23 “Our current Tournament Regulations provide a significant hurdle for PGA Tour members with respect  
24 to contracting with Private Equity Golf under its proposed structure. . . . In particular, the Tournament  
25 Regulations governing Conflicting Events and Media Rights/Releases would be applicable. . . . [I]n  
26 November 2019 the Policy Board ratified a revised Media Rights/Release regulation to ensure that all  
27 golf events are unequivocally covered on a global basis.” The Tour did not negotiate with the Player  
28 Plaintiffs or any other Tour Member over its unilateral expansion of the Media Rights Regulation and

1 does not compensate them for the Tour’s purported exclusionary control over their year-round global  
2 media rights. The expansion ensures that players are restricted from participating with a competing  
3 golf tour anywhere in the world.

4 63. The anticompetitive purpose of the Media Rights Regulation is further illustrated by  
5 comparison with the European Tour. The European Tour does not prohibit its independent contractor  
6 golfers from using their media rights when they are not playing in European Tour events. Rather, the  
7 European Tour’s rules make clear that the players’ grant of media rights applies *only* when they  
8 participate in European Tour events. During other weeks of the year, that grant of media rights “does  
9 not otherwise affect the Member’s rights as an independent contractor in respect of their own image  
10 except as set out in these Regulations, including Regulation E5(c) [Ryder Cup] below.” The European  
11 Tour also “recognises the individual rights of all Members operating as independent contractors. . . and  
12 will not unreasonably seek to restrain its Members from Participating in certain golf tournaments or  
13 events which are not sanctioned by the European Tour. . . .”

14 64. Some Player Plaintiffs requested releases from the Media Rights Regulation to play in  
15 the LIV Golf London Invitational. The PGA Tour denied their request (as well as those of other Tour  
16 members) and instead imposed lengthy suspensions on all players who participated in the event.

17 65. The Tour’s anticompetitive use of the Media Rights Regulation is further demonstrated  
18 through its selective enforcement of the provision against other events that it does not deem to be  
19 competitive threats. For example, the Tour did not require members to obtain releases to participate in  
20 a Pro-Am golf competition called the JP McManus held in the Republic of Ireland from July 4–5, 2022,  
21 even though the event was broadcast in the United States, Europe, and throughout the world. In  
22 contrast, days earlier the Tour enforced the provision with draconian punishments when the Player  
23 Plaintiffs and others played in the LIV Golf Portland Invitational from June 30 – July 2, 2022. The  
24 key difference between the LIV Golf event and the JP McManus event is that the Tour views only LIV  
25 Golf as a competitive threat.

26 66. The anticompetitive purpose and effect of the Media Rights Regulation is clear. The  
27 incumbent monopolist has granted itself the right to foreclose the best golfers in the world from playing  
28 in events that create real competition, at its own discretion. And if golfers defy the Tour’s threats, the

1 competitor that is able to secure the players' services is nonetheless foreclosed from securing contracts  
2 to broadcast the event on television or any other media.

3       67.     **Conflicting Events Regulation.** A second exclusionary provision in the Regulations  
4 (Section V.A.2–3, the “Conflicting Events Regulation”) grants Tour Commissioner Monahan with the  
5 discretion to prohibit the Player Plaintiffs and all other Tour members from playing in any other golf  
6 tournament anywhere in the world. Exhibit 1. Commissioner Monahan has exercised his discretion to  
7 foreclose competition from LIV Golf by preventing any Tour members from participating in any LIV  
8 Golf events, under penalty of career-threatening suspensions.

9       68.     The Conflicting Events Regulation contains two components, each of which the Tour  
10 has employed to attack the Player Plaintiffs in its effort to foreclose LIV Golf's entry. First, the  
11 provision prohibits any Tour member from playing in any other golf tournament in North America  
12 during any week when the Tour sponsors or co-sponsors an event—without exception, even when the  
13 player is not playing in the Tour event. Because the Tour typically sponsors or co-sponsors events  
14 approximately 48 weeks per year, the Conflicting Events Regulation effectively prevents independent  
15 contractor Tour members from ever playing in non-PGA Tour events in North America. Second, the  
16 Regulations also prohibit the Player Plaintiffs and all other Tour members from playing in any events  
17 *outside* North America during weeks in which the Tour is sponsoring or co-sponsoring an event, unless  
18 the Commissioner grants a release. These releases are limited to three per year, and the Commissioner  
19 has complete discretion to deny them.

20       69.     The releases the Commissioner can choose to grant do not permit meaningful  
21 competition by other tours. No releases are permitted for any event in North America. Even as to  
22 international events, the Commissioner retains “sole discretion” to deny a release. Exhibit 1. While  
23 the Tour has historically granted releases for international events, the Tour changed its practice once  
24 the threat of potential competitive entry became evident. For the LIV Golf London Invitational, the  
25 Tour denied releases for all members. In doing so, Commissioner Monahan clarified that the Tour  
26 denied the requested relief because LIV Golf is organizing a tour that competes with the PGA Tour in  
27 North America. The Commissioner's vice president wrote, “While releases have been granted in  
28 limited circumstances for one-off events outside North America or for events outside of North America

1 on tours based exclusively outside of North America, the event for which you have requested a release  
2 is the first in an eight-event “2022 LIV Golf Invitational Series” season, and more than half of them  
3 will be held in the United States.” Furthermore, even if the Commissioner did not exercise his  
4 discretion to attack competition, the Regulation provides that a player may obtain only three  
5 Conflicting Event releases per season, and may do so only if he also plays in a minimum of 15 Tour  
6 cosponsored or approved tournaments. Also, the PGA Tour Commissioner is only required to give a  
7 player a decision 30 days in advance of the event, which makes it difficult for those planning  
8 international events to know which players will be permitted by the Tour Commissioner to play in the  
9 field.

10 70. The scope of this Conflicting Events Regulation is expanded by another provision in the  
11 Regulations which provides that in any week in which a Tour, PGA Tour Champions, Korn Ferry Tour,  
12 PGA Tour *Latinoamerica*, PGA Tour Canada, or PGA Tour China cosponsored tournament is  
13 scheduled, no Tour member may participate in any golf activity (including public exhibitions, clinics,  
14 and pro-ams) in the same geographic area without the prior approval of the Commissioner.

15 71. The Tour has made clear that it will weaponize the Conflicting Events and the Media  
16 Rights Regulation to attack competition. In January 2020, Commissioner Monahan told a meeting of  
17 PGA Tour members that the Tour will impose “strict enforcement of the Conflicting Event and Media  
18 Rights/Release rules” on players to prevent them from playing golf on a competing tour. When Player  
19 Plaintiffs participated in the LIV Golf London Invitational, Commissioner Monahan summarily  
20 suspended them within an hour of tee-off. Then, to expand the *in terrorem* effect of the suspension on  
21 all other Tour members, Commissioner Monahan immediately notified all PGA Tour members of his  
22 action.

23 72. The Tour has forced members of the Korn Ferry Tour—the developmental tour—like  
24 Plaintiff Uihlein, to be bound by the same Regulations and has enforced them to punish young  
25 developing professional golfers who play in LIV Golf events.

26 73. Furthermore, the Tour’s argument that it is merely enforcing its membership rules and  
27 its assertion that there is some legitimate justification for those rules in preventing simultaneous Tour  
28 membership and participation in LIV Golf events are betrayed as mere pretext by the Tour’s attacks on

1 golfers who play in LIV Golf events but are not PGA Tour members. For example, The PGA Tour has  
2 even banned golfers who are members in good-standing of the European Tour from the European Tour  
3 events it co-sanctions with the PGA Tour simply because they played in a LIV Golf event, including  
4 members of the European Tour who were granted permission to play in the LIV Golf event. Those  
5 golfers were not bound by the PGA Tour’s membership rules (because they were not Tour members)  
6 and did not violate any Tour rule, and yet they were punished by the Tour for playing in a LIV Golf  
7 event. Similarly, the Tour has threatened college golfers—who are not Tour members and are not  
8 bound by any Tour rule—that they will not be permitted to participate in the pathway onto the Korn  
9 Ferry Tour or the PGA Tour if they play in any LIV Golf events.

10 74. The Tour’s attack on LIV Golf is not the first time the Tour has used the Media Rights  
11 and Conflicting Events Regulations to attack nascent competitive entry. Before LIV Golf, the last  
12 meaningful threat of competitive entry to challenge the PGA Tour was the World Golf Tour, led by  
13 Greg Norman, which attempted to launch in 1994. In response, then-Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem  
14 wrote to Mr. Norman that the Tour would not grant conflicting event releases for “events held within  
15 the United States” and that it would only grant a media rights release if the World Golf Tour would  
16 pay a prohibitive sum to the PGA Tour. And even then, the Tour’s releases would only be granted for  
17 events held on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. The Commissioner also threatened Tour members  
18 that they would lose PGA Tour membership cards if they joined the competing tour. Within days, the  
19 World Golf Tour collapsed. No other meaningful competitive threat emerged for more than a quarter  
20 century.

21 75. The Player Plaintiffs are members of the Tour (albeit now subject to lengthy  
22 suspensions) and remain subject to the Regulations. They requested releases from the Media Rights  
23 and Conflicting Events Regulations to participate in one or more LIV Golf events. The Tour denied  
24 their requests and imposed severe punishment when they exercised their rights as independent  
25 contractors to play in the LIV Golf events (detailed further below). While the PGA Tour’s charter  
26 requires that the PGA Tour’s acquisition of players’ media rights be used “to promote the common  
27 interests of professional golfers,” the Tour uses its acquisition of players’ media rights to prevent other  
28 promoters from competing for its members’ services.

1           76. Furthermore, after dozens of Tour members (including the Player Plaintiffs) sought  
2 Conflicting Events releases to participate in a LIV Golf event in London, the Tour amended its  
3 Conflicting Events Release request form to require its members to verify the event would not be shown  
4 on any medium in the United States—an impossible verification given modern technology. As the  
5 sequence of events makes clear, the Tour added that provision (the Contractual Assurance  
6 Confirmation) in response to LIV Golf’s attempted competitive entry. This amendment makes it even  
7 harder for the Player Plaintiffs to exercise their independent contractor right to play for other promoters  
8 during their off-weeks.

9           **The PGA Tour’s Anticompetitive Response to Potential Competitive Entry in 2020**

10           77. After the PGA Tour used its Media Rights and Conflicting Events Regulations to deter  
11 entry by the World Golf Tour in 1994, there was no attempted entry into professional golf for over 25  
12 years. Then, in late 2019 and into 2020, a number of individuals and entities, some of whom later  
13 became involved with LIV Golf, attempted to launch a competing tour known as the Premier Golf  
14 League (“PGL”). The Tour orchestrated an anticompetitive response that blocked PGL’s attempted  
15 entry.

16           78. PGL was a venture involving the Raine Investor Group SPV, World Golf Group  
17 (“WGG”), the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia, and Performance 54. PGL developed a  
18 proposal for a new golf league, and it approached various golf stakeholders as part of its effort to launch  
19 a new elite professional golf tour to compete with the Tour.

20           79. PGL had discussions with player representatives in the fourth quarter of 2019 and began  
21 offering contracts to players in January 2020.

22           80. In January 2020, the Tour obtained copies of PGL’s marketing materials and the  
23 packages the PGL offered Tour players.

24           81. In response, Commissioner Monahan distributed his January 2020 Memorandum  
25 acknowledging that the PGL “would be competitive to the PGA TOUR,” and detailed the PGA Tour’s  
26 “response” to “mitigate any impact” from this potential competitive threat.

27           82. In his January 2020 Memorandum, Commissioner Monahan explained that the principal  
28 means to defeat the threat of competition was to prevent players from joining the new league. As

1 Commissioner Monahan wrote, “[t]he impact that [the new league] can have on the PGA TOUR is  
2 dependent on the level of support it may receive from these players. Without this support, [the new  
3 league’s] ability to attract media and corporate partners will be significantly marginalized and its  
4 impact on the TOUR diminished.”

5 83. Commissioner Monahan pointed out that PGA Tour members would have “a significant  
6 hurdle” to join the new league because the Regulations prohibit players from joining a competing tour.  
7 In addition, Commissioner Monahan pointed to a rule he claimed would prevent players from  
8 competing in the team format proposed by the new league (based on a rule prohibiting “players having  
9 a financial interest in another player”) and prevent players from competing in “conflicting events”  
10 except under limited circumstances.

11 84. In the 2020 memorandum, Commissioner Monahan also informed the Tour Policy  
12 Board that in November 2019, in response to rumors about potential competitive entry of an upstart  
13 international golf tour, the Tour had amended the Regulations to expand the Media Rights Regulation  
14 “to ensure that all golf events are unequivocally covered on a global basis.” He also detailed plans to  
15 “further crystallize[] these restrictions.”

16 85. Commissioner Monahan proposed two additional revisions to the Regulations, one that  
17 would tighten restrictions on conflicting events and a second that would prohibit players from having  
18 an equity interest in another’s performance, a direct response to the PGL’s team concept. On  
19 information and belief, these revisions were later adopted.

20 86. In addition, Commissioner Monahan stated that the PGA Tour has “communicated with  
21 key members of the Tournament Advisory Council,” a group of PGA Tour tournament directors who  
22 advise the PGA Tour on its business conditions, “to prepare for a possible entrance of the [new league]  
23 to the marketplace.” Commissioner Monahan similarly detailed that the PGA Tour has “liaised with  
24 each [Major Championships and Governing Bodies] organization to learn of its position regarding [the  
25 new league].” And the PGA Tour communicated with the OWGR regarding the new league’s  
26 eligibility for OWGR ranking points.

27 87. The January 2020 Monahan Memorandum described the PGA Tour’s efforts to secure  
28 commitments from across the global golf ecosystem to foreclose potential competitive entry.



1 Recognizing that the competitive threat from the new league would be greatly strengthened through a  
2 partnership with the European Tour, Commissioner Monahan stated that the PGA Tour has “continued  
3 discussions with the European Tour about the potential to work more closely together, thereby  
4 removing the European Tour as a potential partner of [the upstart competitor].” As described, the PGA  
5 Tour did in fact partner with the European Tour to prevent competitive entry.

6 88. Commissioner Monahan and the PGA Tour executed this anticompetitive plan to  
7 prevent players from joining the PGL and “remov[e]” others in the ecosystem as potential partners of  
8 the PGL, ensuring that the competitive threat from the PGL was thwarted before it could launch.

### 9 **The PGA Tour Threatens Players Considering Joining The PGL**

10 89. At a Tour players’ meeting in January 2020 at Torrey Pines in La Jolla, California,  
11 Commissioner Monahan read aloud a message to Tour players similarly detailing some of his messages  
12 from his January 2020 Memorandum. In that meeting, Commissioner Monahan told PGA Tour  
13 players, “[t]he schedule for the [PGL] is designed to directly compete and conflict with the PGA Tour’s  
14 FedExCup schedule, and to not conflict with [and be in addition to] the Masters, PGA Championship,  
15 U.S. Open and The Open Championship.” Then, Commissioner Monahan threatened the Tour  
16 members with a ban from the PGA Tour if they joined the PGL or any other new league, stating: “If  
17 the Team Golf Concept or another iteration of this structure becomes a reality in 2022 or at any time  
18 before or after, our members will have to decide whether they want to continue to be a member of the  
19 PGA Tour or play on a new series.”

20 90. As Commissioner Monahan made clear, the Tour demanded exclusivity from its  
21 independent contractor members, under penalty of a ban from the Tour.

22 91. In March 2020, Monahan repeated his threats to the players, stating that the Tour would  
23 “vigilantly protect [the Tour’s] business model” from the competitive entrance of a new league.

24 92. The Tour’s threats to the players’ livelihoods had their intended effect. As one player  
25 was quoted anonymously in a leading golf publication in early 2020, “the risk of getting banned by the  
26 PGA Tour has to be an obvious concern.” Many other Tour Members felt the same. As of 2020, the  
27 potential harm to the Player Plaintiffs resulting from a ban from the Tour made the idea of signing on  
28 to a new start-up too risky to bear. Nonetheless, many Tour members—recognizing that they were

1 disadvantaged by the Tour's monopsonistic control over the market—remained very interested in new  
2 playing opportunities in addition to the Tour.

### 3 **The Tour Induces The European Tour Into a Group Boycott**

4 93. As Commissioner Monahan admitted in his January 2020 Memorandum, the PGA Tour  
5 agreed with the European Tour to remove the European Tour as a potential partner of any new entrant.

6 94. Throughout 2020, the PGL had been negotiating with the European Tour to develop a  
7 partnership to co-sponsor events, which would have been a key step toward enabling the PGL to launch.

8 95. The co-sponsorship was important because it would have assured that PGL events  
9 would qualify players to earn points under the OWGR system. OWGR rankings are used to determine  
10 qualification for the Majors. Professional golfers are reluctant to join any tour that does not provide a  
11 path to qualify for the Majors.

12 96. Under the rules of the OWGR (on whose board Commissioner Monahan sits), a brand  
13 new tour purportedly cannot qualify for OWGR points for at least three years and must be sponsored  
14 by one of the six full members of the International Federation of PGA Tours (PGA Tour, European  
15 Tour, Asian Tour, Japan Tour, Australasia Tour, and Sunshine Tour). This establishes a barrier to the  
16 entry of any new tour: No elite professional tour can sustain in the long-term unless it provides players  
17 with a path to earn OWGR points, but no professional tour can secure points until it has existed for at  
18 least three years (absent an OWGR waiver of that requirement) and has sponsorship from one of the  
19 established International Federation members. To navigate through this Catch-22, the PGL sought to  
20 partner with the European Tour as part of its plan to enter and obtain a sponsor for its OWGR  
21 application.

22 97. Recognizing the PGL's need for a partnership with the European Tour, the PGA Tour  
23 forged an alliance with the European Tour through threats and financial incentives to put a bearhug  
24 around the European Tour and cut off a potential partner of the PGL. To obtain this agreement, the  
25 Tour threatened rule changes that would have made it more difficult for top European players who  
26 participate on the PGA Tour to play in European Tour events.

27 98. The PGA Tour's approach proved highly effective. In November 2020, the European  
28 Tour announced that it would not partner with the PGL, but instead it would enter into an alliance with

1 the PGA Tour. One condition of the agreement was that the European Tour not partner with or sponsor  
2 the PGL, thereby removing a key partner for the PGL's planned entry. Additionally, through the  
3 alliance with the European Tour, PGA Tour Commissioner Monahan secured a seat on the Board of  
4 Directors of the European Tour and the PGA Tour made a massive investment in the European Tour  
5 and its subsidiaries. The Tour's illegal alliance with the European Tour enabled it to require the  
6 European Tour to work in concert with the PGA Tour to prevent competitive entry. The Tour used its  
7 strategic alliance with the European Tour throughout the next two years to carry out its anticompetitive  
8 scheme to thwart LIV Golf's entry. The Tour entered into the illegal agreement with the illegal purpose  
9 to eliminate a competitor and future potential entrants.

10 99. The PGA Tour's efforts to thwart the PGL's entry were successful. The PGL never got  
11 off the ground, the venture as it existed disbanded, and the PGL was left with no real prospect of  
12 viability. In 2022, the PGL offered to partner with the PGA Tour, but under the Tour's control. The  
13 Tour summarily rejected the proposal.

14 100. And through its campaign to destroy the PGL, the PGA Tour had secured an  
15 anticompetitive agreement with the European Tour to foreclose any future potential competitive  
16 entrants.

### 17 **LIV Golf Promises Long-Needed Competition**

18 101. After the Tour destroyed PGL's viability and the venture disbanded, LIV Golf formed  
19 in 2021. LIV Golf is a new golf company whose goal is to improve professional golf for all  
20 stakeholders: fans, players, broadcasters, sponsors, and tournament hosts. It seeks to offer more of  
21 what fans, broadcasters, and sponsors want, including an exciting new format that will ensure  
22 heightened competition among golf's star players. LIV Golf seeks to modernize the professional game  
23 by allowing the game's superstars to realize their true market potential, while enhancing the  
24 professional golf marketplace with a dynamic, team-inspired format that will complement individual  
25 competition.

26 102. LIV Golf developed a new golf tour (the League) that would include 48 top golfers who  
27 would compete both as individuals and on 12 teams of four. The LIV Golf League's format is inspired  
28

1 by the globally successful format for Formula 1 racing.<sup>2</sup> Twelve headline players would be player-  
2 owners, each holding an equity interest in their team and having substantial opportunities to guide their  
3 team to on-course and commercial success. Each LIV Golf League team of four was also set to have  
4 two substitute players, thereby offering 72 total players the opportunity to play. The player-owner of  
5 each team was to select four of the six players to play in a given week. By introducing an innovative  
6 format highlighting weekly head-to-head competition among the top players in the game, LIV Golf  
7 League's format would have created a more desirable product offering than the PGA Tour format,  
8 which has not changed for decades and has the lowest youth viewership of any North American major  
9 sport. LIV Golf League was going to include 54-hole tournaments with shotgun starts<sup>3</sup> and no cut,  
10 offering a faster-paced format with high levels of competition in every tournament, dramatically  
11 improving the fan experience.

12 103. The LIV Golf League format was designed as a fan-friendly alternative to the PGA  
13 Tour. The proposed "shotgun" format would reduce the number of hours required to watch a  
14 tournament and increase the excitement of the viewer experience. The team format would provide  
15 opportunities for team allegiances among fans and lead to multiple levels of competition within any  
16 given tournament. The LIV Golf League would also benefit sponsors, advertisers, and other  
17 stakeholders, as each team was to be independently commercialized with freedom to develop and select  
18 team sponsors and a home city or region. LIV Golf had strategies for improved broadcast output and  
19 an entertainment experience with more storylines and content.

20 104. The LIV Golf League was also set to improve conditions for players. In contrast to the  
21 PGA Tour's stagnating tournament purses (until LIV Golf emerged), with about half the players not  
22 making the cut and earning nothing in any given tournament, LIV Golf League was set to introduce  
23 the benefits of competition to players, including offering players greater economic benefits more  
24

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>2</sup> Formula 1 is the world's premier international auto racing series.

27 <sup>3</sup> Shotgun starts are when all golfers in a tournament tee off of different holes at the same time so that  
28 they finish their rounds around the same time, as compared to tournaments where all golfers tee off of  
the first hole and proceed to the eighteenth hole in consecutive fashion.

1 commensurate with their ability to attract revenue, equity ownership opportunities in their own success,  
2 and guaranteed income for every tournament in which they participated. LIV Golf would not require  
3 players to sign away their name, image and likeness rights for non-LIV Golf events. LIV Golf also  
4 would not foreclose players from playing in other tournaments during weeks in which LIV Golf is not  
5 playing, which would respect players' independent contractor status and allow them to participate in  
6 other tournaments and tours (to the extent not banned by the Tour).

7 105. The introduction of competition from the LIV Golf League would provide new and  
8 improved options for players, fans, and other stakeholders. Innovation would replace stagnation.  
9 Players, fans, sponsors, advertisers, and broadcasters would all benefit. The introduction of the LIV  
10 Golf franchise model to the sport of golf—with city, country, and regional affiliations—would engage  
11 more fans and increase commercial opportunities.

12 106. The LIV Golf League also aspired to enhance player opportunities more broadly and  
13 add meaningfully to the playing opportunities for professional golfers worldwide. It planned to provide  
14 qualification opportunities for players not initially selected and to embrace other tours, providing their  
15 players with pathways into the League. This format was designed to ensure a high level of competition  
16 throughout each season, as well as a fair and inclusive platform for golfers throughout the world,  
17 including younger development golfers.

18 107. If not for the anticompetitive conduct of the Tour, the LIV Golf League would have  
19 launched in 2022. LIV Golf had developed a ground-breaking business plan. It secured a chief  
20 executive officer and Commissioner—Greg Norman, a giant in the world of golf and a highly  
21 successful businessman in multiple industries—hired an experienced team of executives, assembled a  
22 board, and built out a full front office with dozens of employees and numerous industry consultants  
23 and contractors. LIV Golf partnered with the Asian Tour and invested several hundred million dollars  
24 in the Asian Tour to sponsor marquee events throughout the world and develop the sport at multiple  
25 levels on a worldwide basis. LIV Golf negotiated with broadcast companies, sponsors, venues,  
26 advertisers, vendors, and several other business partners who expressed interest in LIV Golf League.  
27 All these successful stakeholders indicated, however, that they would commit only when LIV Golf  
28 League had signed up the players needed to launch LIV Golf *and*, critically, secured the players' media

1 rights.

2 108. LIV Golf also sought to cultivate relationships with other tours in the existing golf  
3 “ecosystem,” in order to ensure that there were further player pathways into and out of LIV Golf events  
4 (both within and across seasons) and to ensure that LIV Golf’s entry would be additive and beneficial  
5 to the sport of golf throughout the world. For example, LIV Golf made offers to the Ladies European  
6 Tour and the LPGA, which rejected those offers due to the PGA Tour’s opposition to LIV Golf, and  
7 due to the PGA Tour’s board seats in those organizations and its control over the golfing world. As  
8 described below, the PGA Tour has thwarted LIV Golf’s efforts by spearheading a group boycott  
9 designed to exclude LIV Golf from the “ecosystem” and punish any player who plays in any LIV Golf  
10 events.

### 11 **The Tour’s Anticompetitive Response to the Potential Entry of LIV Golf**

12 109. In response to the potential entry of LIV Golf, the PGA Tour has used a carrot-and-stick  
13 approach to prevent the Player Plaintiffs and other PGA Tour Members from playing with LIV Golf.

14 110. The carrot is a loosening of the PGA Tour’s purse strings to make somewhat greater  
15 compensation available to players than the Tour historically provided. This increased compensation to  
16 players in response to competitive entry is direct proof of the PGA Tour’s monopsony power and the  
17 anticompetitive effects on players (including the Player Plaintiffs) from excluding competition. When  
18 the PGA Tour faced the meaningful threat of competitive entry for the first time in a quarter-century,  
19 it suddenly and substantially increased player compensation, thus providing direct proof of the Tour’s  
20 monopsony power in suppressing player compensation below competitive levels.<sup>4</sup> These changes in  
21 the Tour’s practices made only in response to nascent competitive entry are also indicative of the  
22 anticompetitive effects that will be imposed on the markets if the Tour is successful in defeating LIV  
23 Golf’s nascent entry—once the Tour is free from competitive pressures, it will have both the ability  
24 and incentive to suppress player payments, as it did for many years before LIV Golf’s nascent entry.

25 111. The stick used by the Tour is an array of anticompetitive actions by the PGA Tour to  
26

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27 <sup>4</sup> Despite these increases in compensation in response to LIV Golf’s entry, PGA Tour compensation  
28 for players remains well below competitive levels.

1 destroy the careers and livelihood of players who participate in any LIV Golf events (including the  
2 Player Plaintiffs), their business partners and agents, and anyone who associates with LIV Golf or its  
3 players. It is particularly notable that as LIV Golf’s threat of entry grew, and as the press reported  
4 increased player interest and player signings, the Tour ramped up the intensity of its punishment and  
5 threats. As Commissioner Monahan made clear in his January 2020 Memorandum, the Tour knew that  
6 if it could deter players from joining a new league, the new league’s “ability to attract media and  
7 corporate partners will be significantly marginalized” and “its impact on the [Tour] diminished.”  
8 Particularly for a 501(c)(6) organization that is required to further the interests of its members, the  
9 Tour’s commitment to attack and destroy the careers of its members in order to defeat competition is  
10 striking. The Tour’s conduct is also blatantly anticompetitive, serves no purpose but to harm  
11 competition, and cannot be justified under the antitrust laws.

12       112. **The carrot.** In April 2021, in direct response to rumors of LIV Golf’s potential entry  
13 into the marketplace, the PGA Tour announced the “Player Impact Program,” a \$40 million bonus pool  
14 for the top 10 players on the PGA Tour who drive engagement with sponsors and fans. This new bonus  
15 pool, announced by the PGA Tour in response to potential competitive entry, is a clear indicator of the  
16 benefits of competition for players. As the PGA Tour recognized, competition in the labor market from  
17 LIV Golf will force it to raise compensation to the players or it will lose its talent to the new entrant.  
18 The PGA Tour’s “Player Impact Program,” however, was a half-measure, and offered far less than the  
19 compensation the players would earn in a competitive labor market.

20       113. In August 2021, in response to reports that LIV Golf’s efforts to secure player  
21 commitments were gaining momentum and that the new entrant would offer substantially greater  
22 compensation, the Tour announced it would increase the purse sizes for tournaments and bonus pools  
23 for the 2021–2022 PGA Tour season by 18 percent compared to the purse size and bonus pools for the  
24 2020–2021 PGA Tour season. As noted above, PGA Tour purse sizes had grown at an anemic low-  
25 single-digit rate for years, but when competitive entry was rumored, the Tour responded with an 18  
26 percent increase for the next season. This is clear and direct proof of the Tour’s monopsony power,  
27 the benefits of LIV Golf’s competitive entry, and the harm to competition and the Player Plaintiffs if  
28 the Tour is permitted to destroy LIV Golf’s nascent entry.

1           114. In October 2021, the Tour announced it would increase the purse size for the Players  
2 Championship by \$5 million (from \$15 to \$20 million) and would provide players with a \$50,000  
3 bonus if they compete in 15 PGA Tour events.

4           115. In December 2021, the Tour published its increased purse size for 2022 (increasing from  
5 \$367 million to \$427 million in aggregate) including: (1) increasing FedEx Cup bonus pool from \$60  
6 million to \$75 million; (2) increasing Top 10 Comcast Business Tour bonus from \$10 million to \$20  
7 million; (3) increasing the Player Impact Program prize pool from \$40 million to \$50 million; and (4)  
8 making official the October 2021 compensation announcements.

9           116. In December 2021, the Tour also disclosed initial plans to copy LIV Golf's team-golf,  
10 international, prestigious, exclusive, no-cut, high purse, tournament format. Whereas the Tour and its  
11 spokespersons had previously used LIV Golf's new format as an excuse for justifying their opposition  
12 to the new entrant, the Tour's announcement that it planned to knock off LIV Golf's format revealed  
13 that any opposition based on the new format was merely pretext. And again, the Tour's response to  
14 LIV Golf's innovations demonstrates the benefits of competition.

15           117. In February 2022, the Tour leaked further information about its plan to copy LIV Golf's  
16 ideas in creating a fall series of team events with high purses and no cuts. With that announcement,  
17 the Tour also discussed further plans to increase player compensation, reflecting further competitive  
18 benefits of LIV Golf's nascent entry.

19           118. The increased purses and bonuses that the Tour offered in response to LIV Golf's  
20 anticipated entry were, however, a half-measure. They are materially less than the compensation the  
21 players would earn in a competitive labor market. In a nutshell: before LIV Golf's anticipated entry,  
22 the Tour's market power and the barriers to entry it had created allowed the Tour to compensate its  
23 players at levels substantially below what would exist in a competitive market. In response to LIV  
24 Golf's attempted entry, the Tour increased player compensation on numerous occasions, but still at less  
25 than competitive levels. For example, LIV Golf offers tournament purses between 200 percent to 300  
26 percent higher than PGA Tour's purses, including guaranteed income to all participants. The lowest  
27 purse on the LIV Golf tour is millions of dollars greater than the largest purse ever offered by the PGA  
28 Tour. The point at which compensation becomes competitive will be determined only when the Tour



1 is enjoined from using its anticompetitive threats, retaliations, and restrictive contractual provisions,  
2 and has to compete on a level playing field with LIV Golf to secure players' services.

3 119. Nonetheless, even the early effects of the threat of competitive entry were striking. The  
4 Tour increased player compensation several times in response to the potential competitive entry of LIV  
5 Golf, totaling *\$135 million* in a matter of a few months. This is clear and direct evidence of the Tour's  
6 monopsony power and the benefits of competition from LIV Golf. It is also direct evidence of the  
7 harm to competition that will result if LIV Golf's competitive entry is thwarted. Without the threat of  
8 competition from LIV Golf, the Tour would again face neither competition nor any reasonable  
9 likelihood of competition in the future. The Tour would then have both the ability and incentive to  
10 suppress player compensation to the sub-competitive levels that existed in the decades before LIV Golf  
11 launched.

12 120. In response to the increased compensation from the PGA Tour, players recognized that  
13 the threat of competitive entry prompted the changes:

- 14 i. Plaintiff Mickelson: "I'm appreciative of the fact that there is competition, and  
15 that leverage has allowed for a much better environment on the PGA Tour,  
16 meaning we would not have an incentive program like the PIP [Player Impact  
17 Program] for the top players without this type of competition. We would not  
18 have the increase in the FedEx Cup money. We would not have the increase in  
19 the Players Championship to \$20 million this year if it wasn't for this threat."  
20 ii. Joel Dahmen: "The PGA Tour . . . magically come up with \$40 million for PIP  
21 and then there paying us all 50 grand to play 15 events, which is another X  
22 million dollars. That's like, \$50 million they just magically found laying  
23 around overnight. The money is there. There's a way to do it."  
24 iii. Jason Kokrak: "I'm curious to see if the PGA Tour would've ever increased  
25 any of that without this competition."

26 121. As PGA Tour Member and then-PGA Tour Policy Board Member Jordan Spieth said,  
27 "I think as a player overall it [competition from LIV Golf] will benefit us . . . . I can only say from my  
28 point of view I think that it's been beneficial to the players to have competition." PGA Tour member

1 Rickie Fowler said, “I think competition is a good thing, and in business, whatever it may be. . . . if  
2 you’re trying to be the best, you want to find ways that you can be better than your competitors. It goes  
3 through sport, business, tours, whatever it may be.” And Mr. Fowler noted that these new tours are  
4 coming about because the PGA Tour’s stale product left players frustrated: “These tours or leagues,  
5 however you want to classify or call them, they wouldn’t really be coming up if they didn’t see that  
6 there was more opportunity out there. I’ve always looked at competition being a good thing. It’s the  
7 driving force of our game.”

8 122. Then, after LIV Golf had achieved some success with its first LIV Golf Invitational  
9 Series event and contracting with some popular golfers, the Tour managed to come up with yet more  
10 money to try to deter golfers from leaving the Tour for LIV Golf. On June 21, 2022, just days after  
11 LIV Golf London Invitational, the Tour copied LIV Golf’s concept of limited field, no cut, team events  
12 with high purses, and announced its version of the events to begin in 2023. In that announcement, the  
13 Tour announced another increase of approximately \$54 million to existing events and, in total, over  
14 \$100 million purse increases across all of its events. In its announcement to its players, the Tour  
15 admitted the increase came from its “reserves.” The Tour had the money, but didn’t compensate the  
16 athletes or seek to offer innovative tournament ideas until LIV Golf introduced actual—albeit fragile—  
17 competition in the relevant market. On August 1, 2022, the Tour announced the purse amounts for the  
18 entire 2022–2023 schedule, which totaled a record \$415 million in prize money in official events and  
19 another \$145 million in bonuses—further showing how competition from LIV Golf caused the Tour to  
20 increase compensation for players.

21 123. **The stick.** The Tour’s increased purses were not successful in deterring player interest  
22 in LIV Golf. As noted, the Player Plaintiffs and other players recognized that competition was good  
23 for the game of golf and for them, and the promise of true competition for their services fueled player  
24 interest in LIV Golf, which offered a more desirable format, more favorable terms for the Player  
25 Plaintiffs and other players (such as owning their media rights), and far greater compensation than the  
26 Tour was offering even with the recent increases in compensation. As a result, in a desperate effort to  
27 thwart competitive entry and protect its monopoly position, the Tour launched a campaign of threats  
28 against its own members, including the Player Plaintiffs, that promised career destruction for any

1 players who joined LIV Golf.

2 124. After news broke in April 2021 that LIV Golf made formal offers to a number of the  
3 top players in the world, on May 4, 2021, Commissioner Monahan addressed a meeting of Tour players  
4 (including the Player Plaintiffs) and informed the players that any golfer who joined LIV Golf would  
5 immediately lose their status as a PGA Tour member and face *a lifetime ban from the PGA Tour*. The  
6 players, including the Player Plaintiffs, were understandably intimidated by the Tour’s threat.

7 125. The Tour intended its threat of lifetime ban to be a serious deterrent. It was. The  
8 prospect of leaving the Tour for an upstart golf promoter that could not guarantee its long-term  
9 existence, under threat of a lifetime ban from the incumbent monopsonist, was prohibitively risky. If  
10 banned from the Tour, the player would face a serious risk of being foreclosed from pursuing his chosen  
11 profession, a harrowing prospect for any golfer, and particularly younger golfers capable of 20 or more  
12 years of elite play.

13 126. In the 24 hours after the Tour announced that it would impose a lifetime ban on players  
14 who join LIV Golf, and after the Tour leaned on them for support, other entities in the golf “ecosystem”  
15 issued public statements reinforcing and expanding the Tour’s threat:

- 16 • Seth Waugh, the CEO of the PGA of America, which sponsors the PGA  
17 Championship, publicly indicated the PGA of America’s support for the PGA Tour  
18 and the European Tour in excluding competition from the “ecosystem of the  
19 professional game.” He stated: “We are in full support of the PGA Tour and the  
20 European Tour regarding the current ecosystem of the professional game.”
- 21 • Augusta National, which sponsors the Masters, issued a statement that “[t]he PGA  
22 Tour and European Tour have each served the global game of golf with honor and  
23 distinction. . . . As it has for many decades, the Masters Tournament proudly  
24 supports both organizations in their pursuit to promote the game and world’s best  
25 players.”
- 26 • A spokesperson for the R&A, which sponsors The Open, stated, “we have deep  
27 relationships with the [PGA Tour and the European Tour] and are supportive of  
28 them.”

1           127. When the Tour learned that LIV Golf was continuing to talk with players’  
2 representatives (including the Player Plaintiffs’ representatives) despite the threat of lifetime bans, the  
3 Tour threatened certain of the players’ representatives, saying that it would harm the representatives’  
4 and the players’ business interests if they continued to engage in discussions with LIV Golf. These  
5 threats to players’ representatives highlight the pretext in the Tour’s assertions that it is merely  
6 enforcing its own rules. No Tour rule grants it the authority to threaten the business of a player’s agent  
7 or representative if a player participates in a LIV Golf tournament. And there is no conceivable  
8 procompetitive justification that could support such bullying. The Tour’s actions are transparently  
9 anticompetitive, as they are aimed purely at kneecapping competition from LIV Golf before it can get  
10 off the ground and threaten the Tour’s monopoly.

11           128. Furthermore, the Tour threatened—without basis—the Player Plaintiffs, their  
12 representatives, and other players and their representatives, that the Tour would withhold players’  
13 vested retirement funds if they were to join LIV Golf. Again, this threat is not justified under any Tour  
14 rule, but rather is targeted purely at undermining LIV Golf’s competitive entry.

15           129. Several player representatives, including those of the Plaintiffs, were threatened that the  
16 Tour would use its connections to pressure their sponsors to revoke sponsorship agreements were they  
17 to join LIV Golf. Upon information and belief, the Tour successfully pressured sponsors to revoke  
18 player sponsorships. This conduct is not justifiable as the enforcement of any Tour rule, but instead is  
19 a transparent use of the Tour’s muscle to attack players in order to undermine LIV Golf’s competitive  
20 entry.

21           130. Through all of these actions, the Tour has harmed both the Player Plaintiffs and LIV  
22 Golf. Furthermore, the Tour’s continued anticompetitive bullying aimed at any players or other parties  
23 who do business with LIV Golf (including the Player Plaintiffs) presents a severe threat of thwarting  
24 LIV Golf’s nascent competitive entry. If not enjoined by the Court, the Tour’s ongoing anticompetitive  
25 conduct threatens to irreparably harm LIV Golf, the Player Plaintiffs (both as direct targets of the Tour’s  
26 anticompetitive conduct and as sellers into the market in which the Tour aims to secure its monopsony  
27 power), and competition itself.

28

1           **The Tour Uses Its Strategic Alliance with the European Tour to Exclude LIV Golf and Its**  
2           **Partners from the “Ecosystem”**

3           131. Before the PGA Tour formed an illegal alliance with the European Tour, the European  
4 Tour was a willing partner for prospective innovators and entrants into the global golf ecosystem. This  
5 included Golf Saudi and the Saudi investors who ultimately sponsored LIV Golf. For example, in a  
6 panel discussion in 2019, European Tour CEO Keith Pelley asserted that Saudi Arabia “are at the  
7 forefront of helping us develop the game.” In fact, the European Tour partnered with Golf Saudi in  
8 launching the Saudi International, co-sanctioning the tournament for three years from 2019 to 2021.

9           132. While the Tour and those it has leaned on now use the Saudi sponsorship of LIV Golf  
10 as a weapon to smear LIV Golf and the golfers (including the Player Plaintiffs) who play in LIV Golf  
11 events and justify their attacks on the golfers, Mr. Pelley’s statements reveal that attacks on the Saudi  
12 sponsorship of LIV Golf are pure pretext. The Tour had no problem entering into a partnership with  
13 the European Tour at the same time that the European Tour co-sanctioned the Saudi International and  
14 while Mr. Pelley gushed about the prospect of partnering with Golf Saudi to grow the sport. And the  
15 Tour has no problem accepting its own sponsorship money from companies that do billions of dollars  
16 in business with Saudi Arabia each year. An estimated 23 PGA Tour sponsors conduct regular business  
17 with Saudi Arabia each year—an estimated \$40 billion dollars of business with Saudi Arabia. That the  
18 PGA Tour eagerly does business with these companies while criticizing golfers for playing on a tour  
19 primarily sponsored by the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia is simply hypocrisy. And it  
20 exposes as pretext any notion that the Tour is orchestrating an attack on the players because the Tour  
21 is somehow unable to do business with anyone who has business connections to Saudi Arabia. The  
22 Tour’s campaign to destroy these players is about defeating competition even at the cost of punishing  
23 its own members.

24           133. The European Tour’s support for Golf Saudi changed starkly once the European Tour  
25 entered into its alliance with the PGA Tour and when Golf Saudi supported a potential competitive  
26 entrant to the PGA Tour.

27           134. The Tour’s agreement with the European Tour to form a group boycott to block  
28 competitive entry that could challenge the PGA Tour’s dominance is a matter of public record. For  
example, on May 4, 2021, the European Tour released a statement that “we are aligned with the PGA

1 Tour in opposing an alternative golf league, in the strongest possible terms.”

2 135. Just over a week later, on May 12, 2021, European Tour Commissioner Keith Pelley  
3 wrote to representatives of Golf Saudi, noting its understanding that “Golf Saudi appears to be leading  
4 the current pursuit of a new golfing enterprise, referred to widely as the Super Golf League or [LIV  
5 Golf].” Commissioner Pelley wrote that the European Tour believed Golf Saudi was “talking to our  
6 members about joining this **rebel enterprise**.” In an effort to deter Golf Saudi from supporting a new  
7 entrant, Commissioner Pelley threatened that the European Tour would refuse to co-sanction the Saudi  
8 International (which the European Tour had co-sanctioned since 2019) unless Golf Saudi “publicly  
9 denounce[d] [LIV Golf].”

10 136. Commissioner Pelley also made clear that his threats to Golf Saudi were in furtherance  
11 of the European Tour’s anticompetitive agreement with the Tour to lock arms in a global “ecosystem”  
12 to foreclose LIV Golf’s entry:

13 We had, and indeed still have, aspirations of working with Golf Saudi in  
14 continuing to build the Saudi International into a world class event, and indeed  
15 look for other opportunities and have shared this view with our Strategic  
Alliance partners at the PGA TOUR.

16 It is, however, impossible for us to continue those discussions while Golf Saudi  
17 is championing an alternative Tour that we believe is detrimental to both the  
European Tour, the PGA TOUR and global professional golf. I know PGA  
TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan feels the same.

18 We would therefore encourage you in the strongest possible terms to publicly  
19 denounce SGL as soon as possible which would allow us to reopen dialogue  
20 about the Saudi International and how Golf Saudi, operating *inside* the  
ecosystem, could resume the joint vision we began in 2017.<sup>5</sup>

21 137. The Tour and the European Tour also threatened other prospective partners of LIV Golf,  
22 making clear that they will seek to punish those who support LIV Golf by excluding them from the so-  
23 called world golf “ecosystem.” For example, LIV Golf sought to enter into a relationship with the  
24 Asian Tour to co-sanction LIV Golf’s tournaments to ensure that players would qualify for OWGR  
25 points (which, as described above, is essential to the long-term success of an elite level tour) and to  
26 establish a broader relationship for investment in the Asian Tour to grow the sport globally. In

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>5</sup> “SGL” in Commissioner Pelley’s email stands for Super Golf League and refers to the entity and  
potential entrant that is now known as LIV Golf.

1 response, the European Tour sent a list of “Consequences” to the CEO of the Asian Tour—under the  
2 logos of the European Tour and the PGA Tour—that the Asian Tour would suffer if it entered into any  
3 partnership with LIV Golf. Those consequences included (1) eliminating a “[p]athway for Asian Tour  
4 members onto European Tour,” (2) taking away “[e]xisting tournaments we co-sanction, totaling in  
5 excess of US\$10m of prize money and 250 playing opportunities,” (3) eliminating all future “co-  
6 sanctioned tournaments between the European Tour/PGA TOUR and Asian Tour” and (4) the Asian  
7 Tour would lose its “[p]osition within existing global golf ecosystem.” Notably, the European Tour  
8 and Tour threatened not only to punish the Asian Tour directly, but to punish golfers on the Asian Tour  
9 by eliminating a “pathway for Asian Tour members onto [the] European Tour” and by removing prize  
10 money that had previously been available to Asian Tour members. Despite these threats, LIV Golf  
11 was able to offer constructive collaboration and investment in the Asian Tour sufficient to convince  
12 the Asian Tour to partner with LIV Golf in the face of the threats from the European Tour and Tour.

13 138. Despite these threats, LIV Golf and its sponsors continued in the effort to work  
14 constructively with existing golfing bodies to grow the sport. For example, on July 5, 2021,  
15 representatives of the entities that would sponsor LIV Golf met in Malta with leaders of European Tour.  
16 They presented an offer that would have made the European Tour a partner in innovating in the sport  
17 worth up to \$1 billion for the European Tour. As reflected in the meeting minutes provided by a  
18 representative of the European Tour’s title sponsor (DP World), the representatives from European  
19 Tour were “[g]rateful for the detailed work and preparation” and “[c]onfirmed” the LIV Golf series  
20 had “appeal and fit.” However, the European Tour representatives “**stated main issue is US PGA**  
21 **mighty power and need to avoid a collision course between ET and PGA.**” Simply put, partnering  
22 with LIV Golf was good for the European Tour, its members, and the sport of golf, but the European  
23 Tour feared the “mighty power” of the PGA Tour, turning down the opportunity to partner with LIV  
24 Golf because of its “need to avoid a collision course between ET and PGA.”

25 139. When Golf Saudi did not yield to Commissioner Pelley’s May 2021 demand that it  
26 “publicly denounce” LIV Golf, the European Tour followed through on its threat to refuse to continue  
27 sanctioning the Saudi International. Then, in August 2021, the Tour announced through the press that  
28 it would not grant any PGA Tour members conflict releases for the Saudi International as it had done

1 since 2019, because the Saudi International was no longer sanctioned by the European Tour.

2 140. In response to the PGA Tour’s threats to deny releases to play in the Saudi International,  
3 the players expressed their concerns:

- 4 a. Sergio Garcia: “When you get banned from playing, or whatever, it hurts the game. . . .  
5 People want to see us play all around the world and enjoy us wherever we go.”
- 6 b. Rory McIlroy: “My view as a professional golfer is I’m an independent contractor, I  
7 should be able to play where I want if I have the credentials and I have the eligibility to  
8 do so. . . . Just the one thing I would worry about is if guys want to go to Saudi and they  
9 are going to make ten percent of their yearly income just by going and playing and [the  
10 PGA Tour is] restricting them from doing that, punishing them, that creates resentment  
11 for the players and that creates a problem between the tours.”
- 12 c. Xander Schauffele: “I feel like there just needs to be some sort of counter in the way  
13 certain things work. I’ll try and do what I need to do, and they’ll tell me what I can and  
14 can’t do at a certain point, but I feel like they need to counter. They can’t just tell me  
15 no, you can’t do this and then just kick rocks, kid. That’s not really how I’d want to do  
16 things.”

17 141. Despite the Tour’s threat, the demand from the Tour members to play in this non-Tour-  
18 sanctioned event was so strong that over 30 players (including Plaintiffs Mickelson and DeChambeau)  
19 sought releases to play in the Saudi International. In response to this pressure from the players, the  
20 Tour granted the release requests under the Conflicting Events and Media Rights Regulations, but  
21 imposed conditions on the players (including Plaintiffs). The Tour informed players that the  
22 Regulations fully supported the denial of the players’ requests but that it would permit players to play  
23 in the Saudi International provided that: (1) players who have not played in the AT&T Pebble Beach  
24 Pro-Am (a PGA Tour event that takes place annually in this district) at least once in the last five years  
25 must commit to playing Pebble Beach at least twice in the next three years; and (2) players who have  
26 played Pebble Beach at least once in the last five years must commit to play Pebble Beach at least once  
27 in the next two years. The Tour did not impose these conditions and restrictions when it granted past  
28 releases—it did so only after Golf Saudi refused the threat to denounce and boycott LIV Golf.



1           142. In a message to European Tour members, Commissioner Pelley made clear that the  
2 opposition to having players participate in the Saudi International, which the European Tour had co-  
3 sanctioned from 2019 to 2021, was an attack on competition from LIV Golf, which he described as “a  
4 clear existential threat.” As Commissioner Pelley stated, “we have done everything we can to  
5 encourage the Asian Tour and LIV Investments to play within our ecosystem,” letting golfers play for  
6 a partner of LIV Golf would “damage” our business. Commissioner Pelley was blunt in conceding that  
7 the tours are acting to protect their own business interests, which diverge from the interests of the  
8 players whom they are supposed to support: “We want the best for our members but at the same time  
9 will vehemently do everything we can to protect your Tour.”

10           143. Similarly, on December 16, 2021, the PGA Tour and European Tour flexed the muscle  
11 of their group boycott and made good on their threats to the Asian Tour. After the Asian Tour accepted  
12 investment and partnership with LIV Golf, Asian Tour CEO Cho Minn Thant received a call from  
13 Martin Slumbers, the CEO of the R&A, which hosts The Open. Mr. Slumbers told Mr. Thant that the  
14 R&A would end its years-long practice of giving the Asian Tour Order of Merit winner entry into The  
15 Open because the PGA Tour and European Tour, with whom the R&A was aligned, were displeased  
16 about LIV Golf’s investment in the Asian Tour. Days later, the media confirmed the R&A would  
17 revoke the Asian Tour Order of Merit winner’s entry into the Open, identifying punishment of LIV  
18 Golf as the basis for harming individual Asian Tour players. Once again, the Tour and those it was  
19 pressuring were attacking LIV Golf and its partners by punishing golfers who had any association with  
20 LIV Golf.

21           144. As LIV Golf’s player recruitment efforts continued, the Tour encouraged the European  
22 Tour to tighten its grip on its members and ensure they would not leave the “ecosystem” to play with  
23 LIV Golf. In threatening and imposing punishment on European Tour members, Commissioner Pelley  
24 made clear that it was doing so (1) pursuant to its agreement with the PGA Tour, (2) in an effort to  
25 thwart competition from LIV Golf, and (3) that the punishments were aimed at coercing players to act  
26 contrary to their individual interests. For example, on April 19, 2022, Commissioner Pelley wrote to  
27 European Tour members, reminding them of the European Tour’s Conflicting Events Regulation. He  
28 stated: “Conflicting events, regardless of how attractive they might appear to you personally,

1 potentially compromise our efforts in these areas and could significantly hurt your Tour in both the  
2 short and long term.” He continued: “Please, therefore, continue to bear this bigger picture in mind,  
3 particularly considering some of these conflicting events in 2022 are scheduled directly opposite some  
4 of our most prestigious ‘heritage events.’” He also stated: “We are unwavering in our belief that  
5 working together with PGA Tour . . . will make our sport less fractured and benefit global golf.”

6 145. As part of their concerted efforts to tighten the reins, on June 24, 2022, the PGA Tour  
7 and European Tour suspended golfers who participated in the initial LIV Golf tournament from their  
8 three co-sanctioned events—the Scottish Open, Barbasol, and Barracuda Championships—and fined  
9 the suspended golfers €100,000. They further threatened to double the sanctions for future violations  
10 (which all participants in the second LIV Golf tournament in Portland, Oregon had already committed).

11 146. Just four days later, on June 28, 2022, the PGA Tour and the European Tour announced  
12 a further agreement to solidify their strategic alliance whereby: (1) the PGA Tour invested more in the  
13 European Tour Productions (the European Tour’s media arm) to take a 40 percent share; and (2) the  
14 PGA Tour arranged for the European Tour to be a direct feeder tour into the PGA Tour, with the top  
15 10 performing golfers on the European Tour earning PGA Tour cards. In a press conference  
16 announcing the agreement, when asked whether players who play in LIV Golf events could earn the  
17 tour cards, European Tour Commissioner Pelley and PGA Tour Commissioner Monahan both  
18 struggled to answer, until Commissioner Pelley conceded their plan to impose total bans on golfers  
19 who participate in LIV Golf events: “This won’t come into place until next year and I honestly don’t  
20 think we’ll have that problem by then” because LIV Golf players will not be permitted to play on the  
21 European Tour to earn a PGA Tour card.

22 147. The PGA Tour’s agreement with the European Tour to form a group boycott against  
23 LIV Golf and its players is further reflected in the punishments the European Tour imposed on its  
24 members who participated in LIV Golf events. The European Tour has historically considered playing  
25 in a competing event without a release to be a minor breach of its Regulations, with a punishment of  
26 €12,000 for a violation. In contrast, when its members participated in the first LIV Golf event, the  
27 European Tour issued punitive sanctions at the behest of the Tour, including fines of approximately  
28 €100,000 and suspensions from the three events the European Tour co-sanctions with the PGA Tour

1 (but not other European Tour events not co-sanctioned by the PGA Tour), and threatened that  
2 participating in further LIV Golf events would lead to double fines and suspensions. To engineer these  
3 punishments, the European Tour first amended its regulations twice—after entering into the illegal  
4 alliance with the PGA Tour—to make the relevant violation of the European Tour’s Regulation a  
5 “Serious Breach,” which would give the Commissioner discretion to punish players and expand the  
6 scope of the Regulation.

7 148. On July 1, 2022 three of the golfers suspended from the co-sanctioned events, Ian  
8 Poulter, Adrian Otaegui, and Justin Harding, sued the European Tour to stay their suspensions and  
9 allow them to participate in the Scottish Open. The players challenged the European Tour’s sanction  
10 process as unfair and partial, and challenged the legality of its regulations. They also challenged the  
11 sanctions as contrary to the European Tour’s interest, as it was clear the European Tour was acting in  
12 concert with the PGA Tour.

13 149. The matter was referred to an arbitrator (pursuant to European Tour rules and an  
14 agreement between the players and the European Tour to stay the players’ suit), who granted the  
15 players’ request to stay their suspension from the Scottish Open until the merits of their appeal could  
16 be heard before an independent panel. The arbitrator reasoned that European Tour CEO and  
17 Commissioner Keith Pelley undertook “no process . . . close to replicating the guidelines for a  
18 disciplinary hearing” and “was on record as having made strong adverse public statements on LIV,”  
19 and, as the European Tour stated itself, he was “necessarily partial.”

20 150. On July 1, 2022, the PGA Tour demonstrated its power over the European Tour, and  
21 laid bare its anticompetitive motives in banning participants in LIV Golf events from its tournaments,  
22 by banning from the co-sanctioned events in the United States (the Barbasol and the Barracuda) all  
23 European Tour golfers in good standing who had played in the LIV Golf London Invitational. These  
24 golfers were not members of the PGA Tour, and thus could not have violated any PGA Tour rule. And  
25 even though they are members of the European Tour, they had not violated any European Tour rule  
26  
27  
28

1 because they were permitted by the European Tour to participate in the LIV Golf event.<sup>6</sup> Nonetheless,  
2 the PGA Tour barred these golfers from playing in co-sanctioned events, because the PGA Tour has a  
3 policy of total foreclosure of LIV Golf players from any of its events.

4 151. On July 20, 2022, in furtherance of its agreement with the Tour to boycott LIV Golf and  
5 those who associate with it, the European Tour removed Henrik Stenson as the European Team's 2023  
6 Ryder Cup Captain because he joined LIV Golf.

### 7 **PGA Tour Leans on the Majors to Do Its Bidding Against LIV Golf**

8 152. The Tour's threats to impose bans on players who join LIV Golf are vastly strengthened  
9 if the ban encompasses not only PGA Tour events, but also the four annual Major Championships—  
10 the PGA Championship, the Masters, the Open, and the U.S. Open—as well as the biannual Ryder  
11 Cup. Participating in and winning the Majors and the Ryder Cup are the ultimate goal of most top  
12 professional golfers. And, in turn, one of the goals of playing on a tour each year is to secure  
13 qualification to the Majors and the Ryder Cup. The Tour is aware that if it can foreclose LIV Golf  
14 players from having access to these events—or even create enough credible doubt about whether  
15 participation in LIV Golf will end a player's chance of playing in those events—LIV Golf will find it  
16 prohibitively difficult to sign and sustain a critical mass of players to field a competitive elite-level  
17 tour. Accordingly, the Tour has pressured and encouraged the Major organizations to join its group  
18 boycott and to prevent LIV Golf from entering the global golf ecosystem.

19 153. For example, PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan wrote in his January 2020  
20 Memorandum: “We have liaised with each [Major] organization to learn of its position regarding  
21 Private Equity Golf.”

22 154. As with the Tour's ramping up of its player threats over time as the threat of LIV Golf's  
23 competitive entry has grown, the Tour's pressure on the Major organizations has grown over time as  
24 well. For example, as part of its strategy to pressure the Majors into doing its bidding, in July 2022,  
25 the Tour had its 2022 Presidents Cup Captain and Hall of Fame Golfer Davis Love III use his position

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>6</sup> The golfers did not need a release from the European Tour to play in the LIV Golf London event  
28 because they had not qualified for the conflicting event on the European Tour. Thus, the golfers had  
not breached any European Tour rule and were not subject to any discipline from the European Tour.

1 and influence to publicly encourage Tour members to enter into a group boycott of the Majors if the  
2 Majors do not ban all players who have played in LIV Golf. As Mr. Love stated, in encouraging a *per*  
3 *se* unlawful group boycott among Tour members: “Well, here’s the biggest lever; and it’s not the nice  
4 lever. But if a group of veterans and a group of top current players align with 150 guys on the Tour,  
5 and we say, ‘Guess what? We’re not playing,’ that solves it, right? If LIV guys play in the U.S. Open,  
6 we’re not playing. If they sue in court, and they win, well, we’re not playing. You know, there won’t  
7 be a U.S. Open. It’s just like a baseball strike.” As Mr. Love’s comments make clear, the Tour and its  
8 representatives view themselves as being above the law, exempt from the requirements of the Sherman  
9 Act, and free to engineer a self-help group boycott aimed at frustrating any injunction entered by this  
10 Court.

11 155. *The PGA Championship and the Ryder Cup.* The PGA of America is a separate entity  
12 from the PGA Tour, which organizes the PGA Championship and co-organizes the Ryder Cup along  
13 with the European Tour. The PGA of America has a representative, President Jim Richerson, on the  
14 PGA Tour Policy Board. On May 4, 2021, during a time when LIV Golf was gaining momentum in  
15 attracting players’ interest and on the eve of the PGA Championship in South Carolina, the CEO of the  
16 PGA of America, Seth Waugh, stated publicly that the PGA of America was aligned with the Tour in  
17 opposing LIV Golf’s competitive entry. Specifically, he said, “We [PGA of America] are in full  
18 support of the PGA Tour and the European Tour regarding the current ecosystem of the professional  
19 game.” Then, two weeks later, Mr. Waugh said that the PGA of America would ban players from  
20 future PGA Championships and the Ryder Cup if they joined LIV Golf. Specifically, Mr. Waugh said,  
21 “If someone wants to play on a Ryder Cup for the U.S., they’re going to need to be a member of the  
22 PGA TOUR—excuse me, a member of the PGA of America, and they get that membership through  
23 being a member of the TOUR. . . . It’s a little murkier in our championship, but to play from a U.S.  
24 perspective you also have to be a member of the TOUR and the PGA of America to play in our  
25 championship, and we don’t see that changing.” Mr. Waugh went on to state, “I believe the Europeans  
26 feel the same way. And so I don’t know that we can be more clear than that.” Mr. Waugh’s public  
27 threat inaccurately characterized the PGA of America’s Constitution, as there are many ways to be a  
28 member of the PGA of America beyond being a member on the PGA Tour.

1           156. At the September 2021 Ryder Cup, PGA of America representatives privately  
2 threatened golfers and their representatives that they would be banned from future Ryder Cups and the  
3 PGA Championship if they joined LIV Golf.

4           157. Mr. Waugh repeated the threat a year later at the 2022 PGA Championship. He said,  
5 “As I said, we’re a fan of the current ecosystem and world golf ranking system and everything else that  
6 goes into creating the best field in golf. Right now we really—I don’t know what it’ll look like next  
7 year. We don’t think this [LIV Golf] is good for the game and we are supportive of that ecosystem.  
8 We have our own bylaws that we will follow towards those fields.” He was then asked by the media,  
9 “I’m sorry do your bylaws preclude letting those players [players who played in LIV Golf] play?” Mr.  
10 Waugh responded, “Not specifically, but our bylaws do say that you have to be a recognized member  
11 of a recognized Tour in order to be a PGA member somewhere, and therefore eligible to play.”

12           158. And then, in June 2022, the 2023 PGA of America Ryder Cup Captain Zach Johnson  
13 repeated the same unfounded threat and expanded it to suggest that Plaintiffs will not be eligible for  
14 the 2023 Ryder Cup. When he was asked by the media whether a player who plays in LIV Golf will  
15 be eligible for his 2023 Captain Picks, he responded, “The way that we’re members of the PGA of  
16 America is through the PGA Tour. I’ll let you connect the dots from there.”

17           159. *The Open*. The R&A, the global golf rules organization and promoter of The Open  
18 Championship, has taken multiple actions to support the PGA Tour’s efforts to exclude LIV Golf. For  
19 example, the R&A has taken away the Asian Tour’s Order of Merit winner’s entry into the Open  
20 Championship in order to deter the Asian Tour from partnering with LIV Golf. Similarly, the CEO of  
21 the R&A (Martin Slumbers) and the Chairman of Augusta National (Fred Ridley) called the CEO of  
22 the Asian Tour (Cho Minn Thant) to threaten consequences relating to the Asian Tour’s position in the  
23 current “ecosystem” if the Asian Tour continued to support LIV Golf and its LIV Golf Invitational  
24 Series. More recently, in July 2022, the R&A demonstrated its alignment with the PGA Tour by  
25 publicly disinviting two-time Open Championship winner Greg Norman from champions events at the  
26 150th Open Championship because he is the CEO of LIV Golf. The R&A also informed Mr. Mickelson  
27 he was not welcome. And, at the Open Championship in July 2022, R&A CEO Martin Slumbers  
28 suggested that players who play in LIV Golf may not be eligible or qualify for future Open

1 Championships, and that it would be harder for them to make it in the tournaments.

2 160. *The Masters*. Augusta National, the promoter of The Masters, has taken multiple actions  
3 to indicate its alignment with the PGA Tour, thus seeding doubt among top professional golfers whether  
4 they would be banned from future Masters Tournaments. As an initial matter, the links between the  
5 PGA Tour and Augusta National run deep. The actions by Augusta National indicate that the PGA  
6 Tour has used these channels to pressure Augusta National to do its bidding. For example, in February,  
7 2022 Augusta National representatives threatened to disinvite players from The Masters if they joined  
8 LIV Golf. In addition, Augusta National Chairman Fred Ridley personally instructed a number of  
9 participants in the 2022 Masters not to play in the LIV Golf Invitational Series. Plainly, these threats  
10 to top players served no beneficial purpose, as they would only serve to weaken the field in the Masters.

11 161. In May, 2022 the PGA Tour also encouraged Augusta National representatives to attend  
12 Tour Player Advisory Council meetings to discuss ramifications for players participating in LIV Golf  
13 events, further demonstrating how the Tour has leaned on Augusta National to aid it in dissuading  
14 golfers from joining LIV Golf.

15 162. And, when LIV Golf CEO Greg Norman asked Mr. Ridley if he would meet with him  
16 to understand LIV Golf's business model and discuss how LIV Golf could operate in the existing  
17 professional golf world, Mr. Ridley declined the invitation—another example of LIV Golf trying to  
18 work with existing golfing entities and being turned away before even getting an opportunity to show  
19 them what LIV Golf is about.

20 163. In addition, the Tour and others are utilizing their positions on the Governing Board of  
21 the OWGR to create enough credible doubt about whether LIV Golf will be eligible for OWGR points  
22 and whether players who participate in OWGR will be able to earn points playing in LIV Golf  
23 tournaments.

24 **The Tour Announces Policy to Permanently Ban Players Who Join LIV Golf**

25 164. Between January 2020 and February 2022, the Tour increased the severity of its threats  
26 of punishment to any player who would consider joining LIV Golf, as well as threats to the players'  
27 representatives and entities involved in golf sponsorship and advertisement. These threats, both  
28 individually and in combination, were anticompetitive acts that harmed Plaintiffs and tortiously

1 interfered with the Plaintiffs' business relationships.

2 165. With multiple press reports in early 2022 describing LIV Golf's forward momentum  
3 and reporting that LIV Golf was nearing the critical mass needed to launch its tour, the Tour once again  
4 increased its threats to the players. In February 2022, the Tour gathered the agents of players (including  
5 the Player Plaintiffs' agents) who were assembled for a Tour event in Los Angeles, California and  
6 informed them that the Tour would impose a lifetime ban on any player who signed with LIV Golf.  
7 This threat was a significant deterrent for players to take the risk to join LIV Golf. At that time, LIV  
8 Golf had not held its first tournament, and there was simply too great of a risk of career destruction in  
9 the face of such unlawful and brazen threats. For example, one star player, who had been in favor of  
10 joining the LIV Golf League before the threat, stated that younger players were "s\*\*\*ting in [their]  
11 pants" in response to this threat, and that he was not sure how LIV Golf could get the players it needed  
12 with the Tour's lifetime ban threat.

13 166. On February 22, 2022, Commissioner Monahan addressed a meeting of Tour players at  
14 the Honda Classic and reiterated that any player who joined LIV Golf would receive a lifetime ban  
15 from the Tour. According to an article quoting an anonymous player present at the meeting,  
16 Commissioner Monahan told players that if they were going to play in the league operated by LIV Golf  
17 to "walk out that door now" and "made the ban seem like it was in all capital letters."

18 167. The Tour's threats of punishment and career destruction greatly affected LIV Golf's  
19 ability to sign enough elite professional golfers to fill out its League. Some players (including Plaintiff  
20 DeChambeau) who had previously signed contracts with LIV Golf were forced to publicly profess  
21 loyalty to the Tour. Other players who had previously agreed in principle to all terms with LIV Golf  
22 informed LIV Golf that they now could not sign, and instead publicly professed loyalty to the Tour.  
23 Players who had been enthusiastic about joining LIV Golf informed LIV Golf that they regrettably  
24 could not join in light of these threats. Just as Commissioner Monahan had predicted in his 2020  
25 Memorandum outlining the PGA Tour's plan to attack a new entrant, a competing tour without player  
26 support would prove unable to pose a competitive threat to the PGA Tour.

27 168. The Tour's lifetime ban policy had its desired effect, as LIV Golf League's 2022 launch  
28 plan died. LIV Golf was injured by having its launch plans derailed. And Player Plaintiffs were injured



1 by losing the opportunity for increased playing and income opportunities and sustained competition for  
2 their services.

### 3 **LIV Golf Invitational Series**

4 169. Forced to scrap its plans for a 2022 launch of the League, LIV Golf regrouped and  
5 developed a substantially scaled-down launch plan that became known as the LIV Golf Invitational  
6 Series. The Invitational Series did not include franchised teams or other planned League features, and  
7 promised two fewer events in 2022. Instead, on March 16, 2022, LIV Golf announced that the  
8 Invitational Series would feature an eight-event series showcasing a new golf format starting in June  
9 2022. The format features both individual and team play, and offers more than \$250 million in prize  
10 purses. The first seven LIV Golf Invitational Series events each carry a purse of \$25 million, comprised  
11 of \$20 million in individual prizes (all players in the field earn a share) and \$5 million, split among the  
12 top three teams. Following the first seven LIV Golf Invitational Series events, an Individual Champion  
13 will be crowned and a \$30 million bonus prize will be split among the top three individual performers  
14 throughout the series. The eighth LIV Golf Invitational Series event will be a Team Championship  
15 that will provide an additional \$50 million in total prize funds. The LIV Golf Invitational 2022  
16 schedule started with the LIV Golf London Invitational on June 9–11, 2022, the LIV Golf Portland  
17 Invitational at the Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club on June 30–July 2, 2022, and the LIV Golf New York  
18 Invitational in Bedminster, New Jersey on July 29–31, 2022. The remaining LIV Golf scheduled events  
19 are:

- 20 • Sept. 2–4: The International – Boston, Massachusetts
- 21 • Sept. 16–18: Rich Harvest Farms – Chicago, Illinois
- 22 • Oct. 7–9: Stonehill Golf Club – Bangkok, Thailand
- 23 • Oct. 14–16: Royal Greens Golf Club – Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- 24 • Oct. 28–30: Trump Doral Golf Course – Miami, Florida

25 170. During weeks in which there is no LIV Golf Invitational Series tournament, LIV Golf  
26 encourages players to play wherever they choose, including Tour events, other events on other tours,  
27 or events that might be created in the future (and which are currently prevented from developing  
28 because of the Tour's restrictive rules).

29 171. While LIV Golf has moved forward with its scaled-down plans for the Invitational

1 Series, it has incurred financial losses that were far more severe than it would have incurred if its  
2 original launch plans had not been derailed by the Tour's anticompetitive conduct. These losses are  
3 partly due to the supracompetitive increases to player-acquisition costs it has incurred in light of the  
4 Tour's anticompetitive conduct, and partly due to the loss in revenue-generating opportunities as a  
5 result of the scaled-down nature of the Invitational Series in comparison to the original plans for the  
6 League.

#### 7 **Efforts to Prevent and Harm LIV Golf's Invitational Series**

8 172. On March 15, 2022, LIV Golf Commissioner and CEO Greg Norman sent emails  
9 regarding the LIV Golf Invitational Series to approximately 250 top professional golfers (including  
10 Plaintiffs). The Player Plaintiffs were excited that LIV Golf was going to host tournaments despite the  
11 obstacles the Tour put in its path. On March 23, 2022, LIV Golf formally invited the same group of  
12 players to participate in the LIV Golf Invitational Series. Several players (including the Player  
13 Plaintiffs) reached out to LIV Golf to say that they were interested in playing in the Invitationals, but  
14 they were concerned about doing so in light of the Tour's threats to players. The Player Plaintiffs  
15 remained interested in LIV Golf and continued discussions, as did others.

16 173. The Player Plaintiffs and many other players (at least 170 golfers) filed entry  
17 applications for LIV Golf Invitational Series' first event. The Player Plaintiffs and, on information and  
18 belief, some 80 Tour members sought conflicting events and media rights releases from the PGA Tour  
19 under the Conflicting Events and Media Rights Regulations.

20 174. In furtherance of its monopoly and its monopsony and its illegal agreement with the  
21 European Tour, on May 10, 2022, the Tour denied *all* requests from Tour members to participate in  
22 LIV Golf Invitational Series events. The denials were striking, because the Tour has historically  
23 granted releases to players to permit them to participate in events outside the U.S., but in this case the  
24 Tour issued an across-the-board denial for an event taking place in London. In its letter to the players  
25 denying the release requests, the Tour made clear that the reason it was departing from past practice  
26 was that LIV Golf planned to compete against the PGA Tour in North America:

27 While releases have been granted in limited circumstances for one off-events  
28 outside North America or for events outside of North America on tours based  
exclusively outside of North America, the event for which you have requested

1 a release is the first in an eight-event “2022 LIV Golf Invitational Series”  
2 season, and more than half of them will be held in the United States.

3 175. There is no possible procompetitive justification for the denial, particularly because—  
4 as the Tour acknowledged—it would have granted the release for another event or tour that was not  
5 trying to compete against the Tour. This was simply an effort to defeat competition.

6 176. Then, unsatisfied with prohibiting all current Tour members from participating in LIV  
7 Golf events, the Tour extended its threat college golfers, explaining that if they played in any LIV Golf  
8 events they would be banned from entry into the PGA Tour University program, which provides top  
9 college golfers entry into the Tour’s developmental tour (Korn Ferry Tour). Again, this action served  
10 no procompetitive purpose, nor could it plausibly be justified as an enforcement of any Tour member  
11 regulations, because the college golfers threatened by the Tour are not Tour members and are not bound  
12 by any Tour rules or regulations. Instead, this was simply aimed at thwarting competition by preventing  
13 LIV Golf from being able to secure top golfers to participate in its tournaments.

14 177. On May 17, 2022, the European Tour acted in concert with the Tour and sent notices to  
15 its members denying them permission to participate in the LIV Golf Invitational Series event in  
16 London. The European Tour stated that the basis for the denial is that the LIV Golf Invitational Series  
17 event will compete with its European Tour event. Notably, however, the European Tour historically  
18 did not deny golfers’ requests to participate in conflicting events.

19 178. In response to these threats, LIV Golf was forced to commit to substantial up-front  
20 payments to a number of top golfers to convince the players to take on the risk of punishment from the  
21 Tour, as well as the risk of lost sponsorships and other injuries orchestrated by the Tour. These  
22 substantial payments have greatly increased LIV Golf’s costs of launching its Invitational Series, and,  
23 if the Tour’s conduct is not enjoined, the ongoing cash outlays significantly threaten the long-term  
24 viability of LIV Golf. Notably, however, while the increased payments have harmed LIV Golf, they  
25 also have not fully compensated the Player Plaintiffs for all of the injuries they have suffered as a result  
26 of the Tour’s anticompetitive conduct, including both uncompensated monetary injury and ongoing  
27 irreparable injury in the form of lost professional playing and other opportunities that cannot be  
28 compensated through monetary relief. As such, both the Player Plaintiffs and LIV Golf have been  
injured and continue to suffer irreparable injury as a result of the Tour’s anticompetitive conduct.

1           179. On May 31, 2022, LIV Golf announced the field for its London Invitational. In that  
2 announcement, the field included 16 PGA Tour players, 22 European Tour players, three promising  
3 young amateurs, and a number of other top players from across the world. Players were very interested  
4 in the product. But it was not the quality of field LIV Golf set out to have and was not the field of  
5 players LIV Golf would have had but for the PGA Tour’s unlawful regulations and threats.

6           180. Tour members who agreed to participate in the LIV Golf London Invitational publicly  
7 expressed the difficulty of doing so in light of the Tour’s conduct.

8           a. For example, the agent for PGA Tour member Dustin Johnson released a  
9 statement that: “Dustin has been contemplating this opportunity off-and-on for  
10 the past couple of years. Ultimately, he decided it was in his and his family’s  
11 best interest to pursue it. Dustin has never had any issue with the PGA Tour and  
12 is grateful for all it has given him, but in the end felt this was too compelling to  
13 pass up.”

14           b. Plaintiff Matt Jones averred that participating in the LIV Golf Invitational Series  
15 “was a good business opportunity for me and my family. I like the concept, the  
16 idea of the three-day tournaments, [and] the team format aspect of things is great.  
17 I have thought about that [threat of punishment from the PGA Tour], which is  
18 something I had to weigh. I don’t think banning players is a good look for the  
19 PGA Tour, or for golf in general.”

20           c. PGA Tour member Graeme McDowell stated, “[t]he perceived consequences  
21 are definitely concerning. It was an exceedingly difficult decision. It is a  
22 difficult decision as a player when there’s so many unknowns. We do not know  
23 what the reaction is going to be. It just boils down to the fact that I am a business  
24 and I have operated all over the world for 20 years. This is a compelling  
25 opportunity.”

26           181. Other Tour members who agreed to compete in the LIV Golf London Invitational  
27 welcomed the innovations LIV Golf brought to the game. Player Plaintiff Swafford stated that LIV  
28 Golf’s “[s]chedule is very enticing to a guy who has two small kids. I think the format, the team aspect,

1 is going to be incredible. Look at Zurich [the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, which is a two-man team  
2 event], putting teams together turned an event that was in a tough part of the schedule into one that gets  
3 some incredible fields. I'm really looking forward to seeing how that works.”

4 182. After the LIV Golf field was announced, the PGA Tour Player Advisory Council held  
5 an emergency meeting with representatives from Augusta National present. They informed the golfers  
6 in attendance that the PGA Tour and Augusta National had agreed to work together to address LIV  
7 Golf. As described above, the threat of exclusion from the Masters (and the other Majors) is a powerful  
8 weapon in the Tour's arsenal to deter players from joining LIV Golf.

9 183. On information and belief, the Tour also ramped up its pressure on sponsors to prevent  
10 them from doing business with players who join LIV Golf, including pressuring a number of sponsors  
11 to sever longstanding relationships with players.

12 184. The Tour also continued its campaign of direct pressure on players to seek to convince  
13 them to withdraw from the LIV Golf event. The Tour sent letters to all Tour members listed in LIV  
14 Golf's May 31, 2022 press release, notifying them they were in violation of the PGA Tour Member  
15 Regulations and that the Tour Commissioner would take “appropriate course of action” against the  
16 players unless they withdrew from the LIV Golf Invitational Series event “in a manner reasonably  
17 satisfactory to the [PGA] Tour within forty-eight (48) hours.” The European Tour sent similar notices  
18 to its members who were included in the LIV Golf Invitational Series field.

19 185. The PGA Tour also enforced its Regulations on players agreeing to participate in LIV  
20 Golf Invitational Series who had not even qualified for the Tour but are members of the developmental  
21 Korn Ferry Tour owned by the PGA Tour (and subject to nearly identical Regulations). For example,  
22 the PGA Tour applied its Regulations to prohibit Korn Ferry Tour members Mr. Uihlein and Turk Pettit  
23 from participating in LIV Golf Invitational Series.

24 186. The PGA Tour also sent a letter to Andy Ogletree, a Korn Ferry Tour Member,  
25 threatening him with punishment if he played in the LIV Golf event. In response, Mr. Ogletree reached  
26 out to Tour Vice President of Competition Administration Kristen Burgess regarding the Tour's denial  
27 of his release request. Mr. Ogletree explained that he had not qualified for the conflicting event on the  
28 Korn Ferry Tour taking place the same weekend as the London LIV Golf Invitational Series. Thus, his

1 participation in the London LIV Golf Invitational Series event did not keep him from otherwise  
2 participating in a Korn Ferry Tour event (or, for that matter, a PGA Tour events). Mr. Ogletree  
3 informed the Tour that he had “spent thousands and thousands of dollars” in his unsuccessful effort to  
4 play in Korn Ferry Tour and PGA Tour events. He asked the PGA Tour: “Should I just sit at home on  
5 my couch next week and not make any money? It seems like this is your stance.” Mr. Ogletree also  
6 noted the inconsistency of the Tour’s stance since it had given Mr. Ogletree a release to participate in  
7 the Asian Tour International Series event from June 2–5, 2022 sponsored by LIV Golf. In response,  
8 the Tour cited the fact the LIV Golf Invitational Series will host events in the United States—  
9 specifically, that the LIV Golf Invitational Series competes with the Tour—as the basis for his event  
10 release denial.

11 187. This episode highlights that there is no conceivable procompetitive justification for the  
12 Tour’s punishment of players for participating in LIV Golf events. Mr. Ogletree was not going to play  
13 in any PGA Tour or Korn Ferry Tour event that weekend, because he was not qualified by those tours  
14 to participate in their events. The LIV Golf event thus did not pull Mr. Ogletree away from any PGA  
15 Tour event. Instead, it simply provided an opportunity for a player to pursue his trade and earn  
16 compensation, along with increasing overall output in the market. And yet the PGA Tour denied a  
17 release for Mr. Ogletree and subjected him to discipline for the offense of playing in a tournament  
18 when he otherwise would have been “just sit[ting] at home on [his] couch.”

19 188. It also demonstrates that the PGA Tour’s opposition to LIV Golf is not based on the  
20 source of capital for LIV Golf events. The Tour granted a release to Mr. Ogletree to play in the Asian  
21 Tour event that was funded by LIV Golf, because the Asian Tour is not competing with the PGA Tour.  
22 But when Mr. Ogletree sought to participate in an event that the PGA Tour deemed a competitive  
23 threat, the Tour denied the release and threatened punishment against him.

24 189. The Tour then went further to contact individually players who had chosen to play in  
25 the LIV Golf Invitational Series. Among them was Player Plaintiff Gooch. PGA Tour Chief  
26 Tournament & Competitions Officer Andy Pazder texted Mr. Gooch on June 2: “Just want to make  
27 sure you understand the implications of playing without an approved conflicting event release.” Mr.  
28 Gooch responded, “Davis [Love III] called yesterday and said jay [Monahan, PGA Tour

1 Commissioner] is going to suspend, is this true?” In response, Mr. Pazder told Mr. Gooch that he  
2 would be banned from the Tour for life if he played in *one* LIV Golf Invitational Series event: “Our  
3 position has been that a player may choose to be a member of the Tour or to play in the Saudi/LIV  
4 events, but he can’t do both. If the player chooses the latter, he should not expect to be welcomed  
5 back.”

6 190. On June 3, 2022, the PGA Tour sent an additional letter to all its members who had  
7 agreed to participate in the LIV Golf London Invitational, informing them: “pursuant to Article VII,  
8 Section C, you are being placed on probation until further notice. Specifically, as reflected in the  
9 Notice of Disciplinary Inquiry to you dated June 1, 2022, the rule infraction triggering your probation  
10 is violation of Article V, Section A.2 of the PGA Tour Player Handbook & Tournament Regulations  
11 (“Regulations”). Accordingly, if you violate any other rule of the PGA Tour while on probation  
12 including, but not limited to, violating Article V, Section B.1, which prohibits your participation in a  
13 live or recorded golf program, such as the LIV Golf Invitational London, for which a media release has  
14 been denied, the Commissioner may immediately suspend your playing privileges.” Article VII,  
15 Section C of the PGA Tour Regulations relates to “conduct unbecoming a professional.” Thus, the  
16 Tour told its members that the act of playing in a professional golf tournament constituted “conduct  
17 unbecoming a professional golfer.”

18 191. Simply put, the Tour’s position that merely playing professional golf for another  
19 promoter constitutes “conduct unbecoming a professional” golfer is breathtaking. And it reveals the  
20 threat to competition that underlies the PGA Tour’s Regulations giving the PGA Tour Commissioner  
21 absolute discretion to interpret the Regulations and punish its Members.

22 192. On June 4, 2022, former Tour member Kevin Na resigned his PGA Tour membership  
23 due to the PGA Tour’s refusal to permit him to participate in the LIV Golf Invitational Series. Mr. Na  
24 expressed his desire as an independent contractor to “exercise[e] my right as a free agent” to have “the  
25 freedom to play wherever I want,” noting that he “cannot remain a PGA Tour member” and exercise  
26 his independent contractor rights due to the Tour’s Regulations and threats. He expressed his  
27 “sad[ness]” and his desire that PGA Tour Regulations change to enable him to play on the PGA Tour  
28 again.

1           193. In total, 10 Tour members who agreed to participate in the LIV Golf London Invitational  
2 resigned from the PGA Tour in response to these threats to avoid Tour punishment.

3           194. When the Tour learned that members were considering resignation to avoid the  
4 punishments it had threatened, it informed them that “should a member resign in an effort to avoid  
5 disciplinary action for future violations of the Regulations, the member would still be subject to  
6 disciplinary actions for violations prior to the date of Resignation. In addition, a player should not  
7 expect that he will be able to rejoin membership or play in any events without membership at any  
8 particular time, as such matters would be governed by the Regulations and event requirements in effect  
9 at the time, as they may be amended from time to time.” Most PGA Tour tournaments are managed  
10 by other nonprofit organizations and offer sponsorship exemptions to PGA Tour and non-PGA Tour  
11 golfers. Thus, in order for the PGA Tour’s written threat to play out it requires agreement from other  
12 economic actors (the sponsors and tournament hosts).

13           195. Minutes after the golfers teed off at the LIV Golf London Invitational on June 9, 2022,  
14 the Tour distributed letters to its current and former members immediately suspending them and  
15 promising “the same fate [would] hold” for any Tour member playing in future LIV Golf events.

16           196. Also on June 9, 2022, Commissioner Monahan sent a letter to all PGA Tour Members  
17 and released the letter to the public identifying the golfers the PGA Tour was punishing. Contrary to  
18 its historical practices, the Tour sought to expose and malign these golfers for pursuing their profession.  
19 In particular, the PGA Tour Commissioner wrote:

- 20           a. Tour members, including the Player Plaintiffs and former members “are  
21 suspended or otherwise no longer eligible to participate in PGA Tour tournament  
22 play, including the Presidents Cup;”
- 23           b. The suspension applies to all tours sanctioned by the PGA Tour (Korn Ferry,  
24 Champions, Canada, Latinoamerica);
- 25           c. The golfers participating in the LIV Golf London Invitational Series “did not  
26 receive the necessary conflicting events and media rights releases—or did not  
27 apply for releases at all—and their participation . . . is in violation” of the  
28 Regulations;



- 1 d. The Tour Commissioner made clear that any players “who participate in future  
2 [LIV Golf Invitational Series] events in violation of our Regulations” will suffer  
3 the “same fate” of suspension;
- 4 e. Non-PGA Tour members who participated in LIV Golf Invitational Series “will  
5 not be permitted to play in PGA Tour tournaments as a non-member via a  
6 sponsor exemption or any other eligibility category;”
- 7 f. The Commissioner tried to embarrass the Player Plaintiffs by claiming that they  
8 and others made “their own financial-based” choice and they cannot demand the  
9 same “PGA Tour membership benefits” as other golfers;
- 10 g. The Commissioner further acknowledged that “there are true consequences for  
11 every shot” taken on the PGA Tour where a golfer could earn no compensation  
12 while paying for his travel to the event, whereas LIV Golf compensates its  
13 participants; and
- 14 h. The Commissioner embraced the notion that the PGA Tour is the “preeminent  
15 organization in the world of professional golf.”

16 197. Also on June 9, 2022, the PGA Tour Vice President of Competition Administration,  
17 Kristen Burgess, sent letters to all former PGA Tour Members who participated in the LIV Golf London  
18 Invitational Series but had resigned from the Tour, informing them they “remain subject to disciplinary  
19 action for violations prior to the date of resignation” and they “should not expect that [they] will be  
20 able to rejoin membership or play in any events without membership at any particular time.”

21 198. The Tour expanded its punishments by threatening to revoke the agency credentials for  
22 agencies that represent golfers who join LIV Golf—thereby threatening to injure the agents’ business  
23 for merely representing golfers who chose to join LIV Golf.

24 199. The Tour also enlisted Tiger Woods to do its bidding and publicly criticize golfers—  
25 particularly younger golfers—for joining LIV Golf by suggesting they would never play in The  
26 Masters, The Open, or other Majors and would not earn OWGR points: “Some of these players may  
27 not ever get a chance to play in major championships. That is a possibility. We don’t know that for  
28 sure yet. It’s up to all the major championship bodies to make that determination. But that is a

1 possibility, that some players will never, ever get a chance to play in a major championship, never get  
2 a chance to experience this right here, walk down the fairways at Augusta National. . . , especially if  
3 the LIV organization doesn't get world-ranking points and the major championship change their criteria  
4 for entering the events." Mr. Woods' comments echoed earlier evidence indicating that the Tour was  
5 continuing to pressure the Majors to join the Tour's unlawful group boycott to exclude LIV Golf and  
6 punish any players who played in any LIV events.

### 7 **PGA Tour Disciplinary Process**

8 200. On June 9, 2022, PGA Tour Senior Vice President of Tournament Administration Andy  
9 Levinson sent letters to all PGA Tour Members who participated in the LIV Golf London Invitational  
10 Series event, including the Player Plaintiffs. In that Letter, Mr. Levinson informed golfers that (1) the  
11 PGA Tour considered them in violation of the Media Rights Regulation (V.B.1.b), (2) the PGA Tour  
12 considered them in violation of a PGA Tour Regulation against Public Attacks (V.I.E.), (3) they were  
13 suspended immediately from playing in PGA Tour events "until further notice," and (4) they had 14  
14 days to submit written statements and/or evidence that the PGA Tour Commissioner should consider  
15 "before determining an appropriate course of action separate from your current suspension."

16 201. The PGA Tour's Regulations detail its Disciplinary Procedures and Appeals, which  
17 provide an unconscionable and unfair process by which the players have no legitimate chance of getting  
18 fair treatment as it relates to punishments having anything to do with LIV Golf. Exhibit 1. The Tour's  
19 Regulations provide that the Commissioner has discretion to hear the appeal in the first instance. The  
20 Commissioner can also transfer the appeal to a panel of three Tour policy board members. The  
21 procedures do not give the player a hearing as a matter of right. After the procedures conclude, the  
22 Regulations provide that a player has released any and all claims against "the PGA TOUR Policy  
23 Board, the Commissioner or the Appeals Committee, PGA TOUR, Inc., the Professional Golfers'  
24 Association of America, and each director, officer, member, employee, agent or representative of any  
25 of the foregoing." Thus, the Tour's Regulations are set up as follows: (1) the Tour sets the Regulations  
26 which bind any player member, including changing those Regulations from time to time without input  
27 or consent from the player members, (2) the Regulations give the Commissioner the sole authority to  
28 interpret the Regulations in his discretion, (3) the Regulations demand that the biased Commissioner

1 serve as judge, (4) the Regulations allow that same biased Commissioner to hear any appeals, (5) the  
2 Regulations provide no independent review process, as the Tour Board is put in the position of  
3 reviewing a Tour commercial policy that it approved and executed over the last few years, and (6) at  
4 the end of it all, the Regulations purportedly provide that the player has no right to challenge the  
5 punishment having released all involved. That release is unenforceable and the Regulations’  
6 Disciplinary Procedures are procedurally and substantively unconscionable.

7 202. Several golfers submitted letters to the Tour challenging the Tour’s indefinite  
8 suspension and objecting to any further course of action punishing the golfers.

9 203. On June 29, 2022, and various other dates, the PGA Tour suspended the Player Plaintiffs  
10 until March 31, 2023, issued threats to extend the suspensions based on further violations of the  
11 Regulations, including (in the Tour’s view) continuing to play in LIV Golf events or even to talk  
12 favorably about LIV Golf. Commissioner Monahan considered the golfers in violation of the  
13 Conflicting Events Regulation and Media Rights Regulation. Additionally, Commissioner Monahan  
14 considered the golfers in violation of the PGA Tour’s Regulation Section VI.E (“Public Comments,  
15 Public Attacks”) provision which provides that:

16 The favorable public reputation of PGA TOUR, its players and its tournaments are  
17 valuable assets and create tangible benefits for all PGA TOUR members.  
18 Accordingly, it is an obligation of membership to refrain from making comments  
19 that unreasonably attack or disparage others, including, but not limited to  
20 tournaments, sponsors, fellow members/players and/ or PGA TOUR. Speech that  
21 could be reasonably viewed as hateful, abusive, obscene and/ or divisive is  
22 expressly prohibited. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with  
PGA TOUR policies are not prohibited. However, public comments that a member  
knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation or financial best  
interest of PGA TOUR, a fellow member/player, a tournament sponsor or a charity  
are expressly covered by this section. Any violation of this section shall be  
considered conduct unbecoming a professional.

23 Commissioner Monahan deemed the golfers’ reasonable statements of opinion and compliments of  
24 LIV Golf in violation of this provision merely because favorable comments regarding a competitor to  
25 the PGA Tour supposedly could cause the Tour financial harm.

26 204. The Tour’s punishments put the players in an untenable position: They were banned  
27 for roughly nine months, which prevents them from playing in PGA Tour events (and its subsidiary  
28 tours) and they have been told that if they play in any LIV Golf events while the suspensions are in

1 effect, the Tour will deem that an additional violation and impose event greater punishments. In effect,  
2 the Tour’s punishments amount to a lifetime ban, because the only chance for a player to be clear of  
3 the PGA Tour’s suspensions is to refrain from playing in any elite professional events—and thus  
4 essentially drop out of his profession.

5 205. On July 6, 2022, PGA Tour Board Member and President of the PGA Player Advisory  
6 Council Rory McIlroy said that golfers who join LIV Golf are “basically leaving all [their] peers behind  
7 to go make more money, which is fine. But just go over there. Don’t try and come back and play over  
8 here again.” Several years ago, Mr. McIlroy left the European Tour to play predominantly on the PGA  
9 Tour, and was still permitted by the PGA Tour to remain a European Tour member through his  
10 participation in the minimum number of events required by each tour.

11 206. On July 13, 2022, the Player Plaintiffs appealed their nine-month suspension (and career  
12 threatening ban from the PGA Tour). The grounds for the players’ appeals were:

- 13 a. Provisions of Sections V.A.2, V.A.3, and V.B.1.b are plainly unlawful restraints  
14 of trade that violate Section 2 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2, and various  
15 state laws, and therefore (1) no punishment for purportedly violating those  
16 unlawful provisions may issue and (2) any purported agreement by any person  
17 to adhere to those unlawful provisions is void and unenforceable;
- 18 b. Commissioner Monahan and the PGA Tour (the “Tour”) violate Section 2 of the  
19 Sherman Act by applying Sections VII.E. and VII.C to unlawfully punish golfers  
20 to thwart LIV Golf’s competitive entry, and therefore no punishment for  
21 purportedly violating those provisions may issue;
- 22 c. Provisions of Sections V.A.2, V.A.3, and V.B.1.b enable Commissioner  
23 Monahan to unlawfully control what independent contractor-golfers do when  
24 they are not playing on the PGA Tour (the “Tour”), and thus no punishment for  
25 purportedly violating those provisions may issue;
- 26 d. The Tour has unlawfully agreed with other entities in the purported golf  
27 “ecosystem,” including the European Tour, to establish a group boycott to  
28 prevent LIV Golf from succeeding and has targeted its Regulations to

1 impermissibly punish golfers to carry out its coordinated dealings with others in  
2 violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1;

3 e. Commissioner Monahan has violated the Tour’s purported nonprofit purpose  
4 and violated his fiduciary duties to the Tour and its members by punishing  
5 golfers in this way;

6 f. There was patent injustice and a lack of fair process because Commissioner  
7 Monahan cannot be impartial in his determination whether to sanction golfers  
8 because he has engaged in a two-year vendetta against prospective and new  
9 competitor professional golf promoter(s) and golfers are being punished for  
10 participating in a competitive promoter’s events;

11 g. There was injustice and a lack of fair process because the Regulations’  
12 Disciplinary Process is procedurally and substantively unconscionable; and

13 h. In the alternative, the sanction imposed by Commissioner Monahan is grossly  
14 disproportionate to the seriousness of the alleged breaches of the Regulations  
15 that the Tour contends the players committed.

16 i. In their appeal letters, Player Plaintiffs indicated their belief that their  
17 suspensions would be abated pending appeal of their suspensions.

18 207. While some of the Player Plaintiffs’ appeals of the Commissioner’s disciplinary action  
19 were pending, on July 23, 2022, Mr. Levinson sent them a letter informing that: (1) the PGA Tour  
20 Commissioner believed they violated the Conflicting Events and Media Rights Regulations (Article V,  
21 Sections A.2 and B.1) by participating in the June 30 – July 2, 2022 LIV Golf Invitational Portland  
22 event; (2) the PGA Tour Commissioner imposed a Major Penalty of suspension from participation in  
23 any PGA Tour-affiliated tournaments, including PGA Tour, PGA Tour Champions, Korn Ferry Tour,  
24 PGA Tour Latinoamérica, and PGA Tour Canada, and a suspension of their privileges at Tournament  
25 Players Clubs, for a period ending no earlier than March 31, 2024 (an additional year suspension), at  
26 which time they may seek in writing to have their suspension lifted; (3) the PGA Tour Commissioner  
27 may impose further disciplinary action for any additional violation of the Regulations; and (4) they  
28 may appeal the sanctions by written notice to the PGA Tour Commissioner within 14 days of the letter.

1 In other words, the PGA Tour Commissioner unilaterally imposed further sanctions—a full additional  
2 year of suspension for playing in a second LIV Golf tournament—while the appeal of the first Notice  
3 of Disciplinary Action was still pending.

4 208. On July 25, 2022, the Tour informed the Player Advisory Council that golfers who were  
5 suspended for playing in LIV Golf would not be permitted to play in the FedEx Cup, even though some  
6 of their appeals of the suspensions were pending and should have been abated under the Tour’s  
7 Regulations.

8 209. On July 27, 2022, Commissioner Monahan referred some of the Player Plaintiffs’  
9 appeals to the Appeals Committee and requested that any materials in support of appeal be submitted  
10 by August 10, 2022. In response, Plaintiff Gooch requested confirmation that the Tour would abate  
11 their suspensions pending appeal to the Appeals Committee. In response, Commissioner Monahan  
12 indicated he would not abate the Player Plaintiffs’ suspensions pending appeal.

13 210. On July 29, 2022, Mr. Levinson informed some Player Plaintiffs that the Tour would  
14 no longer send them Notice of Disciplinary Inquiry letters for “ongoing violations.” The Tour thus  
15 chose to abandon its disciplinary process.

16 211. And, then on August 2, 2022, the Tour informed Mr. Gooch that the Tour would not  
17 abate suspensions pending appeals in violation of the Tour’s regulations.

18 212. The Tour historically abated players’ suspensions pending their appeal of their  
19 suspensions, consistent with Section VII.E.2 of the Regulations.

20 213. The Player Plaintiffs’ suspensions were a critical means employed by the Tour to  
21 achieve its anticompetitive end. Punishing the players is essential to the scheme to eliminate  
22 competition in the market. Absent participants in elite professional golf events, no nascent league can  
23 enter the market. By suspending the Player Plaintiffs and threatening to suspend other players, the  
24 Tour endeavored to eliminate competition.

#### 25 **Specific Player Plaintiffs’ PGA Tour Disciplinary Proceedings and Harm**

26 214. **Phil Mickelson:** The Tour’s anticompetitive scheme is apparent from the disciplinary  
27 action levied against Plaintiff Mickelson. On March 22, 2022, the Commissioner suspended Plaintiff  
28 Mickelson (with the opportunity to apply for reinstatement in May of 2022) for, among other alleged

1 reasons, “attempting to recruit players to join [LIV Golf].” Following an appeal, the appeals committee  
2 (a three-person committee comprised of members of the Tour Policy Board) affirmed the  
3 Commissioner’s two-month suspension. On June 20, 2022, Mr. Mickelson applied for reinstatement  
4 from the two-month suspension. The Tour denied his request, stating that Plaintiff Mickelson violated  
5 Tour regulations by participating in the LIV Golf London Invitational. In addition to denying his  
6 request for reinstatement, the Tour extended Plaintiff Mickelson’s suspension, forbidding him from  
7 seeking reinstatement to play professional golf with the Tour until March 31, 2023. While Plaintiff  
8 Mickelson was suspended from tournament play, the Tour continued to levy suspensions. On July 23,  
9 2022, the Tour imposed additional sanctions on him for participating in the LIV Golf Invitational in  
10 Portland. Specifically, the Tour extended Plaintiff Mickelson’s suspension once again, deferring even  
11 the mere opportunity to apply for reinstatement until after March 31, 2024.

12 215. Mr. Mickelson’s unlawful two-year suspension from the PGA Tour has caused him  
13 irreparable professional harm, as well as financial, and commercial harm. The Tour’s unlawful  
14 suspensions are denying Mr. Mickelson the right he has earned to play in events on the Tour, to earn  
15 compensation playing on the Tour, and to have the opportunities that come with such play. The Tour’s  
16 suspension has denied Mr. Mickelson the right to the platform and the public exposure provided by  
17 playing on the Tour. The Tour’s suspension has denied Mr. Mickelson the opportunity to hone and  
18 maintain his golf game by playing professional golf in the tournaments that he would choose to play.  
19 The Tour’s suspension has denied Mr. Mickelson access to play professional golf before his fans via  
20 live attendance and video broadcast of Tour events. The Tour’s unlawful conduct cost Plaintiff  
21 Mickelson endorsement deals and sponsorships. Notably, the Tour is the only golf tour shown  
22 regularly on broadcast television in the United States, and it earns vastly more in sponsorship,  
23 advertising, and broadcast revenue than any other golf tour. The Tour’s unlawful conduct eliminated  
24 Plaintiff Mickelson’s opportunity to earn up to \$10 million annually in the Player Impact Program, a  
25 program that measures player impact by, among other things, calculating the player’s Nielsen score  
26 (how often a player is featured during PGA Tour tournament broadcasts). The Tour’s suspension has  
27 denied Mr. Mickelson the opportunity to earn FedEx Cup rankings and OWGR rankings. The Tour’s  
28 suspensions have denied Mr. Mickelson the opportunity to earn deferred compensation pursuant to the

1 PGA Tour Player Retirement Plan—which is his right as a member of the Tour and which he earns for  
2 each tournament cut he makes. The Tour’s unlawful suspensions have damaged Mr. Mickelson’s  
3 goodwill and caused him substantial reputational harm. The Tour’s unlawful Conflicting Events and  
4 Media Rights Regulations have denied Mr. Mickelson competition for his services for years, have  
5 depressed his earnings, and have decreased output of professional golf earning opportunities. The  
6 Tour’s unlawful Conflicting Events and Media Rights Regulations Tour’s unlawful control of Mr.  
7 Mickelson and his use of his media rights are causing him irreparable, financial and commercial harm  
8 that have denied him income and playing opportunities in the past and as long as the Regulations that  
9 give the Tour such purported control remain in place, Mr. Mickelson will be financially and irreparably  
10 harmed. As a lifetime member of the Tour, Mr. Mickelson is particularly harmed by the Tour  
11 wrongfully taking away what he has rightfully earned—opportunity to play in Tour events for the  
12 remainder of his golfing career.

13 216. The Tour’s unlawful conduct has also denied Mr. Mickelson the opportunity to play in  
14 PGL tournaments and to earn compensation he foreseeably would have received competing in PGL  
15 tournaments.

16 217. The Tour’s unlawful conduct has harmed Mr. Mickelson by denying him access to fans,  
17 viewers and playing opportunities in Tour events.

18 218. **Talor Gooch.** On June 9, 2022, the Tour unlawfully suspended Mr. Gooch on an  
19 indefinite basis from playing on the Tour. On June 30, 2022, the Tour unlawfully suspended Mr. Gooch  
20 from playing on the Tour (or any affiliated tours) through at least March 31, 2023. On July 23, 2022,  
21 the Tour unlawfully extended Mr. Gooch’s suspension through at least March 31, 2024. The PGA  
22 Tour has threatened to impose further disciplinary sanction on Mr. Gooch if he continues to play in  
23 LIV Golf events when he is not playing on the Tour.

24 219. Mr. Gooch’s unlawful two-year suspension from the PGA Tour has caused him  
25 irreparable professional harm, as well as financial, and commercial harm. The Tour’s unlawful  
26 suspensions are denying Mr. Gooch the right he has earned to play in events on the Tour, to earn  
27 compensation playing on the Tour, and to have the opportunities that come with such play. The Tour’s  
28 suspension has denied Mr. Gooch the strong chance to qualify for the 2023 Major Championships by



1 placing in the Top 30 of the 2022 FedEx Cup Rankings. The Tour's suspension has denied Mr. Gooch  
2 the right to the platform and the public exposure provided by playing on the Tour. The Tour's  
3 suspension has denied Mr. Gooch the opportunity to hone and maintain his golf game by playing  
4 professional golf in the tournaments that he would choose to play. The Tour's suspension has denied  
5 Mr. Gooch access to play professional golf before his fans via live attendance and video broadcast of  
6 Tour events. The Tour's unlawful conduct cost Plaintiff Gooch endorsement deals and sponsorships.  
7 Notably, the Tour is the only golf tour shown regularly on broadcast television in the United States,  
8 and it earns vastly more in sponsorship, advertising, and broadcast revenue than any other golf tour.  
9 The Tour's unlawful conduct eliminated Plaintiff Gooch's opportunity to earn up to \$10 million  
10 annually in the Player Impact Program, a program that measures player impact by, among other things,  
11 calculating the player's Nielsen score (how often a player is featured during PGA Tour tournament  
12 broadcasts). The Tour's suspension has denied Mr. Gooch the opportunity to earn FedEx Cup rankings  
13 and OWGR rankings. The Tour's suspensions have denied Mr. Gooch the opportunity to earn deferred  
14 compensation pursuant to the PGA Tour Player Retirement Plan—which is his right as a member of  
15 the Tour and which he earns for each tournament cut he makes. The Tour's unlawful suspensions have  
16 damaged Mr. Gooch's goodwill and caused him substantial reputational harm. The Tour's unlawful  
17 Conflicting Events and Media Rights Regulations have denied Mr. Gooch competition for his services  
18 for years, have depressed his earnings, and have decreased output of professional golf earning  
19 opportunities. The Tour's unlawful Conflicting Events and Media Rights Regulations Tour's unlawful  
20 control of Mr. Gooch and his use of his media rights are causing him irreparable, financial and  
21 commercial harm that have denied him income and playing opportunities in the past and as long as the  
22 Regulations that give the Tour such purported control remain in place, Mr. Gooch will be financially  
23 and irreparably harmed.

24           220. The Tour's unlawful conduct has also denied Mr. Gooch the opportunity to play in PGL  
25 tournaments and to earn compensation he foreseeably would have received competing in PGL  
26 tournaments.

27           221. The Tour's unlawful conduct has harmed Mr. Gooch by denying him access to fans,  
28 viewers and playing opportunities in Tour events.

1           222.   **Hudson Swafford.** On June 9, 2022, the Tour unlawfully suspended Mr. Swafford on  
2 an indefinite basis from playing on the Tour. On June 29, 2022, the Tour unlawfully suspended Mr.  
3 Swafford from playing on the Tour (or any affiliated tours) through at least March 31, 2023. On July  
4 23, 2022, the Tour unlawfully extended Mr. Swafford’s suspension through at least March 31, 2024.  
5 The PGA Tour has threatened to impose further disciplinary sanction on Mr. Swafford if he continues  
6 to play in LIV Golf events when he is not playing on the Tour.

7           223.   Mr. Swafford’s unlawful two-year suspension from the PGA Tour has caused him  
8 irreparable professional harm, as well as financial, and commercial harm. The Tour’s unlawful  
9 suspensions are denying Mr. Swafford the right he has earned to play in events on the Tour, to earn  
10 compensation playing on the Tour, and to have the opportunities that come with such play. The Tour’s  
11 suspension has denied Mr. Swafford the chance to qualify for the 2023 Major Championships by  
12 placing in the Top 30 of the 2022 FedEx Cup Rankings. The Tour’s suspension has denied Mr.  
13 Swafford the strong chance to qualify for the 2023 premier Invitationals on the Tour by placing in the  
14 Top 70 of the 2022 FedEx Cup Rankings. The Tour’s suspension has denied Mr. Swafford the right  
15 to the platform and the public exposure provided by playing on the Tour. The Tour’s suspension has  
16 denied Mr. Swafford the opportunity to hone and maintain his golf game by playing professional golf  
17 in the tournaments that he would choose to play. The Tour’s suspension has denied Mr. Swafford  
18 access to play professional golf before his fans via live attendance and video broadcast of Tour events.  
19 The Tour’s unlawful conduct cost Plaintiff Swafford endorsement deals and sponsorships. Notably,  
20 the Tour is the only golf tour shown regularly on broadcast television in the United States, and it earns  
21 vastly more in sponsorship, advertising, and broadcast revenue than any other golf tour. The Tour’s  
22 unlawful conduct eliminated Plaintiff Swafford’s opportunity to earn up to \$10 million annually in the  
23 Player Impact Program, a program that measures player impact by, among other things, calculating the  
24 player’s Nielsen score (how often a player is featured during PGA Tour tournament broadcasts). The  
25 Tour’s suspension has denied Mr. Swafford the opportunity to earn FedEx Cup rankings and OWGR  
26 rankings. The Tour’s suspensions have denied Mr. Swafford the opportunity to earn deferred  
27 compensation pursuant to the PGA Tour Player Retirement Plan—which is his right as a member of  
28 the Tour and which he earns for each tournament cut he makes. The Tour’s unlawful suspensions have

1 damaged Mr. Swafford's goodwill and caused him substantial reputational harm. The Tour's unlawful  
2 Conflicting Events and Media Rights Regulations have denied Mr. Swafford competition for his  
3 services for years, have depressed his earnings, and have decreased output of professional golf earning  
4 opportunities. The Tour's unlawful Conflicting Events and Media Rights Regulations Tour's unlawful  
5 control of Mr. Swafford and his use of his media rights are causing him irreparable, financial and  
6 commercial harm that have denied him income and playing opportunities in the past and as long as the  
7 Regulations that give the Tour such purported control remain in place, Mr. Swafford will be financially  
8 and irreparably harmed.

9 224. The Tour's unlawful conduct has also denied Mr. Swafford the opportunity to play in  
10 PGL tournaments and to earn compensation he foreseeably would have received competing in PGL  
11 tournaments.

12 225. The Tour's unlawful conduct has harmed Mr. Swafford by denying him access to fans,  
13 viewers and playing opportunities in Tour events.

14 226. **Matt Jones.** On June 9, 2022, the Tour unlawfully suspended Mr. Jones on an indefinite  
15 basis from playing on the Tour. On June 30, 2022, the Tour unlawfully suspended Mr. Jones from  
16 playing on the Tour (or any affiliated tours) through at least March 31, 2023. On July 23, 2022, the  
17 Tour unlawfully extended Mr. Jones's suspension through at least March 31, 2024. The PGA Tour has  
18 threatened to impose further disciplinary sanction on Mr. Jones if he continues to play in LIV Golf  
19 events when he is not playing on the Tour.

20 227. Mr. Jones's unlawful two-year suspension from the PGA Tour has caused him  
21 irreparable professional harm, as well as financial, and commercial harm. The Tour's unlawful  
22 suspensions are denying Mr. Jones the right he has earned to play in events on the Tour, to earn  
23 compensation playing on the Tour, and to have the opportunities that come with such play. The Tour's  
24 suspension has denied Mr. Jones the chance to qualify for the 2023 Major Championships by placing  
25 in the Top 30 of the 2022 FedEx Cup Rankings. The Tour's suspension has denied Mr. Jones the strong  
26 chance to qualify for the 2023 premier Invitationals on the Tour by placing in the Top 70 of the 2022  
27 FedEx Cup Rankings. The Tour's suspension has denied Mr. Jones the right to the platform and the  
28 public exposure provided by playing on the Tour. The Tour's suspension has denied Mr. Jones the

1 opportunity to hone and maintain his golf game by playing professional golf in the tournaments that he  
2 would choose to play. The Tour's suspension has denied Mr. Jones access to play professional golf  
3 before his fans via live attendance and video broadcast of Tour events. The Tour's unlawful conduct  
4 cost Plaintiff Jones endorsement deals and sponsorships. Notably, the Tour is the only golf tour shown  
5 regularly on broadcast television in the United States, and it earns vastly more in sponsorship,  
6 advertising, and broadcast revenue than any other golf tour. The Tour's unlawful conduct eliminated  
7 Plaintiff Jones's opportunity to earn up to \$10 million annually in the Player Impact Program, a  
8 program that measures player impact by, among other things, calculating the player's Nielsen score  
9 (how often a player is featured during PGA Tour tournament broadcasts). The Tour's suspension has  
10 denied Mr. Jones the opportunity to earn FedEx Cup rankings and OWGR rankings. The Tour's  
11 suspensions have denied Mr. Jones the opportunity to earn deferred compensation pursuant to the PGA  
12 Tour Player Retirement Plan—which is his right as a member of the Tour and which he earns for each  
13 tournament cut he makes. The Tour's unlawful suspensions have damaged Mr. Jones's goodwill and  
14 caused him substantial reputational harm. The Tour's unlawful Conflicting Events and Media Rights  
15 Regulations have denied Mr. Jones competition for his services for years, have depressed his earnings,  
16 and have decreased output of professional golf earning opportunities. The Tour's unlawful Conflicting  
17 Events and Media Rights Regulations Tour's unlawful control of Mr. Jones and his use of his media  
18 rights are causing him irreparable, financial and commercial harm that have denied him income and  
19 playing opportunities in the past and as long as the Regulations that give the Tour such purported  
20 control remain in place, Mr. Jones will be financially and irreparably harmed.

21       228. The Tour's unlawful conduct has also denied Mr. Jones the opportunity to play in PGL  
22 tournaments and to earn compensation he foreseeably would have received competing in PGL  
23 tournaments.

24       229. The Tour's unlawful conduct has harmed Mr. Jones by denying him access to fans,  
25 viewers and playing opportunities in Tour events.

26       230. **Bryson DeChambeau.** On June 30, 2022, the Tour unlawfully suspended Mr.  
27 DeChambeau on an indefinite basis from playing on the Tour. On July 8, 2022, the Tour unlawfully  
28 suspended Mr. DeChambeau from playing on the Tour (or any affiliated tours) through at least March

1 31, 2023. The PGA Tour has threatened to impose further disciplinary sanction on Mr. DeChambeau  
2 if he continues to play in LIV Golf events when he is not playing on the Tour. On July 29, 2022, the  
3 Tour sent notice to Mr. DeChambeau that it was sanctioning him for talking to other Tour members  
4 about the positive experience he had had with LIV Golf.

5 231. Mr. DeChambeau's unlawful suspension from the PGA Tour has caused him irreparable  
6 professional harm, as well as financial, and commercial harm. The Tour's unlawful suspensions are  
7 denying Mr. DeChambeau the right he has earned to play in events on the Tour, to earn compensation  
8 playing on the Tour, and to have the opportunities that come with such play. The Tour's suspension  
9 has denied Mr. DeChambeau the right to the platform and the public exposure provided by playing on  
10 the Tour. The Tour's suspension has denied Mr. DeChambeau the opportunity to hone and maintain  
11 his golf game by playing professional golf in the tournaments that he would choose to play. The Tour's  
12 suspension has denied Mr. DeChambeau access to play professional golf before his fans via live  
13 attendance and video broadcast of Tour events. The Tour's unlawful conduct cost Plaintiff  
14 DeChambeau endorsement deals and sponsorships. Notably, the Tour is the only golf tour shown  
15 regularly on broadcast television in the United States, and it earns vastly more in sponsorship,  
16 advertising, and broadcast revenue than any other golf tour. The Tour's unlawful conduct eliminated  
17 Plaintiff DeChambeau's opportunity to earn up to \$10 million annually in the Player Impact Program,  
18 a program that measures player impact by, among other things, calculating the player's Nielsen score  
19 (how often a player is featured during PGA Tour tournament broadcasts). The Tour's suspension has  
20 denied Mr. DeChambeau the opportunity to earn FedEx Cup rankings and OWGR rankings. The  
21 Tour's suspensions have denied Mr. DeChambeau the opportunity to earn deferred compensation  
22 pursuant to the PGA Tour Player Retirement Plan—which is his right as a member of the Tour and  
23 which he earns for each tournament cut he makes. The Tour's unlawful suspensions have damaged  
24 Mr. DeChambeau's goodwill and caused him substantial reputational harm. The Tour's unlawful  
25 Conflicting Events and Media Rights Regulations have denied Mr. DeChambeau competition for his  
26 services for years, have depressed his earnings, and have decreased output of professional golf earning  
27 opportunities. The Tour's unlawful Conflicting Events and Media Rights Regulations Tour's unlawful  
28 control of Mr. DeChambeau and his use of his media rights are causing him irreparable, financial and

1 commercial harm that have denied him income and playing opportunities in the past and as long as the  
2 Regulations that give the Tour such purported control remain in place, Mr. DeChambeau will be  
3 financially and irreparably harmed.

4 232. The Tour's unlawful conduct has also denied Mr. DeChambeau the opportunity to play  
5 in PGL tournaments and to earn compensation he foreseeably would have received competing in PGL  
6 tournaments.

7 233. The Tour's unlawful conduct has harmed Mr. DeChambeau by denying him access to  
8 fans, viewers and playing opportunities in Tour events.

9 234. **Ian Poulter.** On June 9, 2022, the Tour unlawfully suspended Mr. Poulter on an  
10 indefinite basis from playing on the Tour. On June 30, 2022, the Tour unlawfully suspended Mr. Jones  
11 from playing on the Tour (or any affiliated tours) through at least March 31, 2023. On July 23, 2022,  
12 the Tour unlawfully extended Mr. Poulter's suspension through at least March 31, 2024. The PGA  
13 Tour has threatened to impose further disciplinary sanction on Mr. Poulter if he continues to play in  
14 LIV Golf events when he is not playing on the Tour.

15 235. Mr. Poulter's unlawful two-year suspension from the PGA Tour has caused him  
16 irreparable professional harm, as well as financial, and commercial harm. The Tour's unlawful  
17 suspensions are denying Mr. Poulter the right he has earned to play in events on the Tour, to earn  
18 compensation playing on the Tour, and to have the opportunities that come with such play. The Tour's  
19 suspension has denied Mr. Poulter the opportunity to participate in events that would have permitted  
20 him the chance to qualify for the Tour in 2023. The Tour's suspension has denied Mr. Poulter the right  
21 to the platform and the public exposure provided by playing on the Tour. The Tour's suspension has  
22 denied Mr. Poulter the opportunity to hone and maintain his golf game by playing professional golf in  
23 the tournaments that he would choose to play. The Tour's suspension has denied Mr. Poulter access  
24 to play professional golf before his fans via live attendance and video broadcast of Tour events. The  
25 Tour's unlawful conduct cost Plaintiff Poulter endorsement deals and sponsorships. Notably, the Tour  
26 is the only golf tour shown regularly on broadcast television in the United States, and it earns vastly  
27 more in sponsorship, advertising, and broadcast revenue than any other golf tour. The Tour's unlawful  
28 conduct eliminated Plaintiff Poulter's opportunity to earn up to \$10 million annually in the Player

1 Impact Program, a program that measures player impact by, among other things, calculating the  
2 player's Nielsen score (how often a player is featured during PGA Tour tournament broadcasts). The  
3 Tour's suspension has denied Mr. Poulter the opportunity to earn FedEx Cup rankings and OWGR  
4 rankings. The Tour's suspensions have denied Mr. Poulter the opportunity to earn deferred  
5 compensation pursuant to the PGA Tour Player Retirement Plan—which is his right as a member of  
6 the Tour and which he earns for each tournament cut he makes. The Tour's unlawful suspensions have  
7 damaged Mr. Poulter's goodwill and caused him substantial reputational harm. The Tour's unlawful  
8 Conflicting Events and Media Rights Regulations have denied Mr. Poulter competition for his services  
9 for years, have depressed his earnings, and have decreased output of professional golf earning  
10 opportunities. The Tour's unlawful Conflicting Events and Media Rights Regulations Tour's unlawful  
11 control of Mr. Poulter and his use of his media rights are causing him irreparable, financial and  
12 commercial harm that have denied him income and playing opportunities in the past and as long as the  
13 Regulations that give the Tour such purported control remain in place, Mr. Poulter will be financially  
14 and irreparably harmed.

15 236. The Tour's unlawful conduct has also denied Mr. Poulter the opportunity to play in PGL  
16 tournaments and to earn compensation he foreseeably would have received competing in PGL  
17 tournaments.

18 237. The Tour's unlawful conduct has harmed Mr. Poulter by denying him access to fans,  
19 viewers and playing opportunities in Tour events.

20 238. **Peter Uihlein.** On June 9, 2022, the Tour unlawfully suspended Mr. Uihlein on an  
21 indefinite basis from playing on the Tour, the Korn Ferry Tour and any affiliated tours. On June 30,  
22 2022, the Tour unlawfully suspended Mr. Uihlein from playing on the Tour, the Korn Ferry Tour, (or  
23 any affiliated tours) through at least March 31, 2023. On July 23, 2022, the Tour unlawfully extended  
24 Mr. Uihlein's suspension through at least March 31, 2024. The PGA Tour has threatened to impose  
25 further disciplinary sanction on Mr. Uihlein if he continues to play in LIV Golf events when he is not  
26 playing on the Tour or the Korn Ferry Tour.

27 239. Mr. Uihlein's unlawful two-year suspension from the PGA Tour and its affiliated tours,  
28 including but not limited to the Korn Ferry Tour, has caused him irreparable professional harm, as well

1 as financial, and commercial harm. The Tour's unlawful suspensions are denying Mr. Uihlein the right  
2 he has earned to play in events on the Korn Ferry Tour, to earn compensation playing on the Korn  
3 Ferry Tour, and to have the opportunities that come with such play. The Tour's suspension has denied  
4 Mr. Uihlein the opportunity to hone and maintain his golf game by playing professional golf in the  
5 tournaments that he would choose to play. The Tour's unlawful suspensions are denying Mr. Uihlein  
6 to the right he has earned to participate in the Korn Ferry Tour Championship Series finals (three  
7 events) to have a chance to earn a PGA Tour card for the 2022-2023 season. If Mr. Uihlein is prohibited  
8 from playing that series then he will have no other way to qualify for the PGA Tour next season. The  
9 Tour's suspension has denied Mr. Uihlein the right to the platform and the public exposure provided  
10 by playing on the Korn Ferry Tour (and possibly the Tour). The Tour's suspension has denied Mr.  
11 Uihlein access to play professional golf before his fans via live attendance and video broadcast of Korn  
12 Ferry Tour events (and possibly the Tour events). The Tour's suspension has denied Mr. Uihlein the  
13 opportunity to earn Korn Ferry season rankings (and possibly FedEx Cup rankings next season), and  
14 OWGR rankings. The Tour's unlawful suspensions have damaged Mr. Uihlein's goodwill and caused  
15 him substantial reputational harm. The Tour's unlawful Conflicting Events and Media Rights  
16 Regulations, which apply to Korn Ferry Tour members just as they apply to Tour member, have denied  
17 Mr. Uihlein competition for his services for years, have depressed his earnings, and have decreased  
18 output of professional golf earning opportunities. The Tour's unlawful Conflicting Events and Media  
19 Rights Regulations Tour's unlawful control of Mr. Uihlein and his use of his media rights are causing  
20 him irreparable, financial and commercial harm that have denied him income and playing opportunities  
21 in the past and as long as the Regulations that give the Tour such purported control remain in place,  
22 Mr. Uihlein will be financially and irreparably harmed.

23 240. The Tour's unlawful conduct has also denied Mr. Uihlein the opportunity to play in  
24 PGL tournaments and to earn compensation he foreseeably would have received competing in PGL  
25 tournaments.

26 241. The Tour's unlawful conduct has harmed Mr. Uihlein by denying him access to fans,  
27 viewers and playing opportunities in Tour events.

28 **Tour Threatens Small Businesses and Vendors To Boycott LIV Golf**



1           242. As part of its efforts to foreclose competition from LIV Golf and to foreclose  
2 competition for Plaintiffs' services, the Tour has also threatened companies and individuals in the golf  
3 and sports production industry that they will be blacklisted from working with the Tour if they work  
4 with LIV Golf. As a result of these unlawful threats, LIV Golf has suffered (and will continue to suffer)  
5 financial injuries because its offerings in the marketplace have been impaired and because it has been  
6 denied the opportunity to work with the third parties of its choice on terms that could be reached in a  
7 fair and open marketplace. Furthermore, this conduct threatens ongoing and irreparable harm to LIV  
8 Golf, as the headwinds created by the Tour's anticompetitive conduct threaten LIV Golf's competitive  
9 viability.

10           243. In January 2022, LIV Golf was negotiating with a tent vendor, Arena Americas, about  
11 providing tents for LIV Golf events. Arena Americas indicated that it was interested in working with  
12 LIV Golf, and LIV Golf engaged Arena Americas for its LIV Golf Invitational Series. However, Arena  
13 Americas subsequently informed LIV Golf that it could not work with LIV Golf because the Tour had  
14 told Arena Americas that it would cease doing business with Arena Americas if it worked with LIV  
15 Golf.

16           244. LIV Golf had contracted with a technology company to provide live scoring during LIV  
17 Golf events for fans watching and following along on the Internet. On March 23, 2022, LIV Golf  
18 received an email from that technology company that it needed to rescind the contract with LIV Golf  
19 due to a business issue and needed to discuss the issue with its attorney. The company later represented  
20 to LIV Golf that representatives from the PGA Tour had threatened that the Tour would cease doing  
21 business with it if it provided LIV Golf with support. The company also told LIV Golf that the PGA  
22 Tour has a "blacklist" for any vendor that works with LIV Golf. A Tour representative called the  
23 company and threatened to blacklist the company if it worked with LIV Golf.

24           245. LIV Golf was in negotiation with Top Tracer to license its shot-tracing technology for  
25 use during LIV Golf broadcasts. The Chief Executive Officer of Top Tracer was engaged with LIV  
26 Golf on multiple calls, expressed major interest in providing LIV Golf with a license to Top Tracer  
27 technology and developing a broader relationship to deploy and develop innovative products.  
28 Suddenly, however, Top Tracer ceased communication with LIV Golf. After a period of radio silence,

1 Top Tracer informed LIV Golf that it would not be putting itself up for the potential business with LIV  
2 Golf.

3 246. LIV Golf was in negotiation with Levelwear athletic apparel for LIV Golf volunteer  
4 apparel for LIV Golf Invitational Series event staffing. On March 25, 2022, Levelwear informed LIV  
5 that it would not sell LIV Golf any apparel because it did not want to jeopardize its relationship with  
6 the Tour.

7 247. LIV Golf reached out to numerous producer candidates, many of whom are independent  
8 contractors, who have communicated to LIV Golf that NBC and Golf Channel personnel have informed  
9 all producers that they will not be hired or renewed for any work with NBC or Golf Channel moving  
10 forward if they work with LIV Golf.

11 248. Senior programming executives at CBS revealed to LIV Golf that they cannot touch  
12 LIV Golf even for consideration due to its relationship with the PGA Tour.

13 249. LIV Golf tried to retain the Endeavor Company, which includes IMG, IMG Arena, IMG  
14 Media and WME, and despite interest in working with LIV Golf, they have told LIV Golf they cannot  
15 work with it because Tour Commissioner Monahan has impressed upon Ari Emmanuel (Endeavor  
16 CEO) and Mark Shapiro (Endeavor President) that Endeavor cannot work with LIV Golf.

17 250. Other vendors, like Intersport (event management company) and Aggreko  
18 (Power/HVAC) engaged with LIV Golf but backed out without explanation, likely indicating that they  
19 were subjected to pressure from the PGA Tour similar to that expressed by other third-party vendors.

20 251. LIV Golf negotiated with Provision Events, an event management company. On  
21 February 15, 2020 Provision Events told LIV Golf, “we feel like we can provide exactly what you need  
22 and our ambition would be to become your activation partner.” Provision Events and LIV Golf  
23 corresponded regarding scope and arranged for a meeting to occur in March 2022. On March 10, 2022,  
24 Provision Events emailed LIV Golf and informed LIV Golf without explanation that it could no longer  
25 work with LIV Golf.

26 252. To supply drug testing procedures for the competing athletes, LIV Golf contacted Drug  
27 Free Sport. A Drug Free Sport representative informed LIV Golf that it would have to take the prospect  
28 of doing business with LIV Golf to his boss because of Drug Free Sport’s involvement with the Tour,

1 but stated that “we do business with other organizations, not sure why this would be any different.”  
2 After checking with the “boss,” the Drug Free Sport representative responded to LIV Golf, “I’ve spoken  
3 to our CEO and given current headwinds in our space, we won’t be able to engage at this time.”

4 253. LIV Golf tried to negotiate with a golf shot technology company, Hawk Eye. Chris  
5 Wary of Hawk Eye emailed LIV Golf that “[u]pon careful consideration and following internal  
6 discussions, regrettably, at this point in time, we are not in a position to proceed any further with the  
7 potential delivery of these technologies due to conflict of interest with our existing relationships.” The  
8 Tour is a Hawk Eye client.

9 254. LIV Golf tried to schedule events at a premier golf course, Sentosa Golf Club. Bob  
10 Tan, Chairman of Sentosa Golf Club, informed LIV Golf that Dominic Wall of the R&A called him  
11 and informed him that Sentosa Golf Club would be excluded and shunned by the rest of the world of  
12 golf if it worked with LIV Golf.

13 255. LIV Golf tried to engage Ticketmaster for ticketing at its events. Ticketmaster was  
14 prepared to work with LIV Golf until Ticketmaster pulled out of helping LIV Golf with ticket sales in  
15 response to pressure from the PGA Tour.

16 256. LIV Golf tried to engage Pro Secrets, a yardage book company. Michael Etherington  
17 of Pro Secrets informed LIV Golf that the PGA Tour had asked Pro Secrets to not work with LIV Golf.

18 257. LIV Golf tried to engage a company known as Cueto to provide software for organizing  
19 event volunteers. Cueto was prepared to work with LIV Golf until Cueto informed LIV Golf that it  
20 cannot work with LIV Golf “because of the threat it received from the PGA Tour.”

21 258. LIV Golf tried to order custom hats through American Needle hat company, and  
22 American needle informed LIV Golf that it does not want to do business with LIV Golf because of its  
23 relationship with the PGA Tour and Augusta National.

24 259. LIV Golf tried to enter into a business relationship with Dick’s Sporting Goods. In  
25 response, Dick’s Sporting Goods informed LIV Golf that “[g]iven our relationship with the PGA Tour  
26 and our Tournament [PGA Tour Champions tournament], [] [Dick’s Sporting Goods representatives]  
27 agree it’s best to pass right now.”

28 260. The PGA Tour threatened numerous golf courses with adverse consequences if they

1 hosted LIV Golf events. LIV Golf secured commitments from pristine high level courses, but the PGA  
2 Tour and the R&A retaliated against the owners of the venues with which LIV Golf contracted. The  
3 R&A punished one golf course owner by adopting a policy that it would not host The Open at his  
4 course in the future because he is giving LIV Golf “a platform,” and as the R&A is “firmly on the side  
5 of the traditional Tours [PGA Tour and European Tour].” The Tour informed the same golf course  
6 owner that it would never work with the Tour again because it had worked with LIV Golf.

7 261. In July 2022, LIV Golf’s branding team, Czarnowski, terminated its relationship with  
8 LIV Golf due to pressure from the PGA Tour.

9 262. The Tour threatened sponsors that they would lose opportunities to partner with the  
10 Tour if they worked with LIV Golf.

### 11 **Relevant Markets and the PGA Tour’s Monopoly Position**

12 263. The PGA Tour is a monopolist and/or a monopsonist in two relevant product markets:  
13 (1) the market for the services of professional golfers for elite golf events, and (2) the market for the  
14 promotion of elite professional golf events.

15 264. The relevant geographic market for each product market is national; in the alternative,  
16 the market for each product market is global in scope.

### 17 **The Market for Services of Professional Golfers for Elite Golf Events**

18 265. The first relevant product market is the services of professional golfers for elite golf  
19 events. A hypothetical monopsonist in this product market would have the power to suppress  
20 compensation for golfers substantially below competitive levels for a sustained period of time, because  
21 professional golfers who sell their services for elite golf events have no reasonable substitute to which  
22 they could plausibly turn in the event of a suppression of compensation below competitive levels. For  
23 example, non-elite golf events do not offer the level of purse sizes, Major qualifying opportunities,  
24 public platforms, sponsorship opportunities, OWGR ranking opportunities, or the other attributes of  
25 elite events that would make them viable options for professional golfers in the event that a hypothetical  
26 monopsonist controlled the market for the purchase of services of elite golf events. This is  
27 demonstrated in the evidence surrounding the PGA Tour, which has been able to impose sub-  
28 competitive compensation for elite golf events without losing a meaningful number of golfers to

1 another type of sport or event.

2 266. The relevant geographic market for the product market is national; in the alternative,  
3 the market for each product is global in scope. A hypothetical monopsonist in the purchase of services  
4 of professional golfers for elite events in the United States would have the power to suppress  
5 compensation for golfers substantially below competitive levels for a sustained period of time, because  
6 professional golfers would be unlikely to leave the country to pursue their profession in sufficient  
7 numbers to make sub-competitive compensation unprofitable for a hypothetical monopsonist in the  
8 United States. This is also demonstrated in the evidence surrounding the PGA Tour, which has been  
9 able to impose sub-competitive compensation for its elite golf events in the United States without losing  
10 a meaningful number of golfers to golf tours in other countries. In the alternative, the relevant  
11 geographic market is global. Under either formulation, the Tour has unquestioned monopsony power.

12 267. Until LIV Golf's nascent entry, the Tour was the only viable buyer of professional golfer  
13 services in the relevant market for the purchase of services of professional golfers for elite golf events  
14 because there is no reasonable substitute for playing on the Tour. The European Tour's participation  
15 in the market is limited to events it co-sanctions with the Tour and thus, while it could be a purchaser  
16 of services of professional golfers for elite events in the United States, it has entered into an agreement  
17 with the Tour to not even try to compete with it. And, in the alternative global market, the European  
18 Tour is not a viable alternative to the Tour because it cannot compete with the Tour on purse size,  
19 Major qualifying opportunities, OWGR rankings, public platforms, sponsorship opportunities and  
20 other benefits, and, regardless, it has entered into an agreement not to compete with the Tour.

21 268. Until LIV Golf's nascent entry, the Tour offered earnings opportunities for professional  
22 golfers that are many times greater than any other tour in the world through far greater prize pools and  
23 opportunities to secure sponsorships. The Tour offers far greater opportunities for recognition and  
24 exposure, on-course competition, and opportunity to accrue OWGR points than any other tour in the  
25 world. Until LIV Golf's nascent entry, virtually every golfer who qualifies for membership on the  
26 PGA Tour joined it. Until LIV Golf's nascent entry, all of the top 50 golfers in the world were members  
27 of the PGA Tour.

28 269. The Tour's monopsony control of the purchase of services of professional golfers for

1 elite golf events allows it to compensate players at substantially lower levels than professional golfers  
2 would earn in a competitive market, without risk of losing players to other promoters.

3 270. The Tour has used its monopsony power to impose anticompetitive regulations, notably  
4 the Media Rights and Conflicting Events Regulations, which it forces on all of its Members and which  
5 have the intent and effect of excluding competition.

6 271. Until LIV Golf's nascent entry, the Tour controlled the overwhelming share of the  
7 relevant market, as nearly all of the elite professional golfers in the United States (and the world) were  
8 members of the Tour. Even after LIV Golf's entry—which the Tour's Commissioner has characterized  
9 as "irrational"—the Tour's share of the relevant market is dominant, as measured by the Tour's share  
10 of purchases in the services market for elite professional golf events. Indeed, all of the top golfers in  
11 the world, other than those whom the Tour suspended, are locked into the PGA Tour. The Tour's  
12 monopsony power is also reflected in the bonus pool, increased purses, new marquee high-purse events  
13 that the Tour established in response to the threat of entry by LIV Golf. The bonus pool and increased  
14 purses are direct evidence of the Tour's monopsony power, as the Tour significantly raised its prices  
15 in response to LIV Golf's competitive entry. This evidence also shows that compensation for  
16 professional golfers for elite events would be significantly greater in a competitive labor market.

17 272. The Tour excludes competition for independent contractor players to sell their services  
18 to others and manage their own name, image, and likeness because the Tour uses its market power to  
19 prohibit them from doing so. The Tour's Media Rights and Conflicting Events Regulations prevent  
20 competitors from acquiring the services of Tour members. And even when a rival is able to get Tour  
21 members to play in its events, the Media Rights Regulation excludes competition because it prevents  
22 the competing event from securing broadcast partners for its events. That the Tour is able to require  
23 Player Plaintiffs and the Tour's other members to agree to these rules without guaranteed compensation  
24 for doing so is powerful evidence of the Tour's monopsony power.

25 273. The Majors are not substitutes for the PGA Tour in the market for services of elite  
26 professional golfers. The Tour schedules its tournaments around the Majors and most qualifying  
27 opportunities for the Majors are derived from the players' play in the Tour.

28 **The Market for the Promotion of Elite Professional Golf**

1           274. The second relevant product market is the market for the promotion of elite professional  
2 golf events. A hypothetical monopolist in this product market would have the power to raise prices  
3 substantially above competitive levels for a sustained period of time, because advertisers, sponsors,  
4 broadcasters, and fans would not be able to turn to reasonable substitutes in sufficient volumes to make  
5 it unprofitable for the hypothetical monopolist to charge prices above competitive levels. This is  
6 because the promotion of elite professional golf is uniquely attractive to fans of professional golf and  
7 it is uniquely valuable for sponsors, advertisers, broadcast partners, venues, and others who seek to  
8 market to fans of elite professional golf.

9           275. The Tour represents to prospective advertisers that it offers the “most valuable audience  
10 in sports.” According to its Tour’s marketing materials, its audience of golf fans is (a) “affluent,” in  
11 that it is “55% more likely to have household net worth of \$1M+”; (b) “educated,” in that it is “43%  
12 more likely to have a master’s degree”; and (c) comprised of “influencers,” in that it is “63% more  
13 likely to be top management or C-level.” The Tour is differentiated from other sports or entertainment  
14 products by the access it offers to such a valuable audience. Because elite golf events offer a unique  
15 opportunity to reach this valuable audience, TV advertisers and event sponsors would be expected to  
16 continue purchasing elite golf events even with a small but significant nontransitory monopoly  
17 premium in the cost of doing so.

18           276. Furthermore, because the high degree of elite-level competition draws fans to watch  
19 elite golf events, the sponsors and TV broadcasters that pay for those events will not be able to reach  
20 those fans through events that do not provide similar elite-level competition. Thus, a hypothetical  
21 monopolist supplier of elite events (of the sort provided by the Tour) would not be expected to see a  
22 material diversion of sponsor or TV network money to other types of golf events in response to a  
23 monopoly premium for elite golf events.

24           277. Similarly, a substantial proportion of golf fans have a particular affinity for the sport,  
25 which is often tied to their participation in the sport. As players of the sport themselves, golf fans have  
26 a particular connection with golf broadcasts, which cannot readily be replicated by broadcasts of other  
27 sports or entertainment events. For the same reason, golf enthusiasts are a particular target of many  
28 advertisers on elite golf events, who seek to sell particular products and services (such as golf apparel

1 and equipment) to golf enthusiasts. Accordingly, a golf broadcaster, its golf advertisers, and the event  
2 sponsors cannot simply substitute coverage of another sport and expect the same golf fans to tune in.  
3 Thus, replacement of a golf telecast with a baseball game, automobile race, or other sporting event  
4 would likely retain some golf fans, but a substantial portion of golf fans—particularly the golf  
5 enthusiasts who will be the most loyal viewers and the primary targets for advertisers seeking to  
6 advertise to golf enthusiasts—would be lost by substituting to another type of programming.

7 278. From a geographic perspective, the events organized by the PGA Tour occur mostly in  
8 the United States, and the fans who attend those events in person are mostly in the United States. These  
9 events and their live network broadcasts are scheduled to provide convenient time slots for fans in the  
10 United States, and therefore are focused on generating viewership in the United States. Furthermore,  
11 elite golf events taking place in the United States capture the overwhelming share of viewership in the  
12 United States, indicating that elite golf events taking place elsewhere in the world are not a substitute  
13 for events in the United States for fans, broadcasters, and advertisers. The Tour itself has recognized  
14 the national dimension of competition, as it has informed players that they would ordinarily be granted  
15 releases for playing in conflicting events taking place outside the United States, but because LIV Golf  
16 has plans to organize a tour with events taking place in the United States it has denied releases to the  
17 players. This indicates that the Tour itself has far greater concern with competing events in the United  
18 States than for events taking place in other countries, which underscores that the United States  
19 represents a separate geographic market. In the alternative, however, the only other plausible relevant  
20 geographic market would be global. In either potential geographic market, the Tour maintains  
21 monopoly power.

22 279. For all of these reasons, a hypothetical monopolist in the supply of elite golf events in  
23 the United States would be able to profitably raise prices above competitive levels, indicating that the  
24 promotion of elite golf events in the United States is a relevant market.

### 25 **Barriers To Entry To The Relevant Markets**

26 280. The Tour's monopsony power in the market for the services of professional golfers for  
27 elite golf events and its monopoly power in the market for the promotion of elite professional golf  
28 events are protected by high barriers to entry. To enter these markets, a competing elite professional



1 golf promoter needs to raise at least hundreds of millions of dollars in capital, recruit a sufficient  
2 number of elite professional golfers to comprise a credible competing tour, arrange venues and  
3 tournaments, arrange for television coverage of tournaments, recruit sponsors and advertisers, and  
4 overcome the Tour's antitrust violations. It also needs to offer OWGR ranking points.

5 281. As the facts giving rise to this litigation attest, the Tour's Media Rights and Conflicting  
6 Events Regulations restrict a competitor's ability to contract for the services of professional golfers for  
7 elite golf events. Despite offering far greater prize money, and guaranteed compensation for  
8 participating players, LIV Golf was only able to attract a minority of elite golf professionals and had  
9 to pay excessively higher guaranteed payments to recruit a number of marquee players than would be  
10 required in a competitive market. And LIV Golf has been able to capture only a tiny share in the market  
11 for the promotion of elite golf events, as the viewership for LIV Golf events has been dwarfed by that  
12 of the PGA Tour's events, despite the more fan-friendly format and superior fan experience LIV Golf  
13 offers.

14 282. The Tour's threats to the Player Plaintiffs, its members, agencies, small businesses, and  
15 others, and the threats of those acting in concert with it, erect an additional and substantial barrier to  
16 entry. Any entity looking to enter the markets relevant to this litigation now knows what it will face.  
17 As Commissioner Monahan put it, the Tour will impose costs on any potential entrant such that there  
18 will be "no possibility of a return" on the enormous investment it would take to attempt to enter the  
19 market.

20 283. The last prospective entrant before LIV Golf to garner any meaningful support from  
21 players was the World Golf Tour in the mid-1990s. The Tour's Media Rights and Conflicting Events  
22 Regulations precluded its entry in short order. After the World Golf Tour folded, there was no  
23 meaningful threat of competitive entry for roughly a quarter-century. If the Tour's naked exercise of  
24 its market power renders LIV Golf unable to sustain its efforts to enter the market, it would be  
25 unreasonable to expect any attempt at competitive entry for the foreseeable future.

26 284. LIV Golf was able and prepared to enter the markets before the anticompetitive conduct  
27 of the Tour diminished its entry to what Commissioner Monahan dismissed as "exhibition matches"  
28 that were acquired with a cost structure that offered "no possibility of a return." LIV Golf is as serious

1 a nascent entrant as the PGA Tour has ever encountered. And despite all of LIV Golf’s attributes and  
2 efforts, the Tour’s ongoing anticompetitive conduct threatens LIV Golf’s competitive viability. If LIV  
3 Golf fails, there will be no alternatives for the participants in elite professional golf events, fans, and  
4 sponsors of the game. They will be left with whatever the Tour chooses to offer.

5 285. Absent the Tour’s anticompetitive conduct, LIV Golf would be an established and  
6 healthy competitor to the Tour in the markets for the services of professional golfers for elite golf  
7 events and the promotion of elite professional golf events. The Tour recognizes that LIV Golf “would  
8 be competitive to the PGA Tour.” It denied LIV Golf access to the Player Plaintiffs’ and its other  
9 members’ services because it viewed LIV Golf as a competitor. But because of the Tour’s  
10 anticompetitive conduct, LIV Golf is faced with a risk that it will not be able to remain competitively  
11 viable. As such, LIV Golf risks irreparable harm to its business and there is a severe risk of irreparable  
12 harm to competition if the Tour’s conduct is not enjoined.

13 286. The Player Plaintiffs, other professional golfers and Tour members are participants in  
14 the restrained markets because they sell their services to the PGA Tour and are thus subject to its  
15 monopsony power. In addition, the Player Plaintiffs, other professional golfers, and Tour members are  
16 the target of the Tour’s anticompetitive scheme to destroy LIV Golf and monopolize the market.

17 **Anticompetitive Effects of the Tour’s Conduct, Antitrust Injury, and Irreparable Harm**

18 287. The Tour’s conduct, including (1) unreasonably restrictive regulations, (2) threats of  
19 and now imposition of career-threatening bans, (3) suspensions of the Player Plaintiffs and other  
20 members who played at LIV Golf events, (4) the promise it will visit the “same fate” on any member  
21 who follows their example, (5) the Tour’s threats and punishments to non-members who participate in  
22 LIV events and a wide range of other businesses who do business with LIV Golf, and (6) its  
23 exclusionary group boycott with other golfing bodies in the “ecosystem,” all serve no purpose other  
24 than to thwart competitive entry and preserve the Tour’s entrenched monopoly power. Faced with  
25 punishments of this nature, which could cause incalculable damage to players’ careers, the Player  
26 Plaintiffs have been denied their right as independent contractors to sell their services to buyers other  
27 than the PGA Tour. And they have been directly and irreparably harmed by being prevented from  
28 participating in events in which they have already qualified, including the FedEx Cup Playoffs. While

1 some Player Plaintiffs have received higher payments from LIV Golf as a result of the risks they took  
2 by playing in LIV Golf events, they have not been compensated in full for the financial injuries they  
3 have already suffered and will continue to suffer. Nor have the Player Plaintiffs been compensated for  
4 the substantial irreparable injuries they have suffered and will continue to suffer if the Tour’s attacks  
5 on them are allowed to continue unabated. Many other players are effectively prevented from playing  
6 in LIV Golf events due to fear of punishment from the PGA Tour.

7 288. LIV Golf has also suffered and will continue to suffer severe financial injuries as well  
8 as irreparable harms to its business from the Tour’s anticompetitive conduct. The fields LIV Golf has  
9 been able to attract are weaker than would have been the case in the absence of the punishments from  
10 the PGA Tour, because many golfers are simply unwilling to take on the risks of playing in even a  
11 single LIV Golf event. This threatens irreparable harm to all of the Plaintiffs because it threatens to  
12 thwart LIV Golf’s nascent entry and permanently entrench the PGA Tour’s monopsony and monopoly  
13 power.

14 289. The punishments from the PGA Tour and others have forced LIV Golf to concentrate  
15 funds towards increasing upfront payments, and they have caused LIV Golf to scale down its entry  
16 plans and offer fewer tournaments in 2022. This has caused LIV Golf to suffer severe financial injuries  
17 as a result of the Tour’s anticompetitive conduct.

18 290. Furthermore, while LIV Golf has the financial resources to make initial cash outlays to  
19 launch its product, the ongoing cash outlays significantly impact long-term viability of LIV Golf.  
20 Specifically, if the Tour’s anticompetitive conduct continues unabated, it will threaten the competitive  
21 viability of LIV Golf.

22 291. The risk that LIV Golf could be driven out of the marketplace only serves to make it  
23 more difficult for players (including the Player Plaintiffs) to overcome the threat of punishments from  
24 the PGA Tour. It has been suggested that the actions of the PGA Tour and others have simply presented  
25 Plaintiffs with a “choice”—stay within the existing “ecosystem” or choose to switch to the LIV Golf  
26 series. But this is a false choice for several reasons.

27 292. As Commissioner Monahan admitted in his 2020 Memorandum, the Tour’s Media  
28 Rights and Conflicting Events Regulations are intended to restrict its member players from offering

1 their services to others. The Tour's amendments of its Regulations and the procedures for members  
2 being released from them underscore the obvious: the Tour uses these provisions to create a roadblock  
3 to competition. The Conflicting Events and Media Rights Regulation serve no legitimate business  
4 purpose.

5 293. The Tour's unlawful conduct has depressed professional golfer wages, denied the Player  
6 Plaintiffs labor mobility, blunted the effective entry of the potential entrants into the markets that could  
7 challenge the Tour's monopoly, decreased the output of elite professional golf events and tours,  
8 decreased opportunities for broadcast of elite professional golf, decreased opportunities for advertising  
9 and sponsoring surrounding professional golf, decreased output of elite professional golf entertainment  
10 for fans, and diluted LIV Golf's opportunity to compete in the elite professional golf marketplace. The  
11 Tour's unlawful conduct has likewise caused severe financial injuries to LIV Golf in the form of higher  
12 costs and lost revenue, while also threatening to impose irreparable injuries to LIV Golf.

13 294. The Tour's punishments have deprived the Player Plaintiffs' opportunities to continue  
14 playing on the Tour, earning deserved compensation, earning opportunities into Majors, sponsorship  
15 relationships and revenue, and future opportunities to play and earn on the Tour. The Tour's  
16 punishments have also caused irreparable harm to the Player Plaintiffs' goodwill, reputation, and brand.  
17 The Tour denied Player Plaintiff Gooch, Swafford and Jones entry into the FedEx Cup Playoffs, which  
18 they earned through their performance, which has caused and will continue to cause severe injuries to  
19 these Plaintiffs.

20 295. LIV Golf sought to secure commitments from players by March 2022 to establish its  
21 League for the summer 2022. The Tour's anticompetitive conduct caused top professional golfers not  
22 to sign up. The Tour's conduct thus caused severe financial injury to LIV Golf, and it denied the Player  
23 Plaintiffs and other Tour members compensation they would earned from the LIV Golf League. Its  
24 anticompetitive conduct diminished competition, reduced marketwide output, and put LIV Golf League  
25 on the shelf for 2022.

26 296. Moreover, the Tour's threats of possible punishment for violating its Regulations and  
27 its actual punishments have caused even further foreclosure and have caused LIV Golf to employ a  
28 cost structure that significantly impacts its long-term viability.

1           297. The Tour’s Regulations, unilateral and coordinated threats of lifetime bans, and  
2 imposition of career-threatening punishment have scared off the large majority of elite professional  
3 golfers and other participants in elite professional golf events and have caused LIV Golf to employ a  
4 cost structure that significantly impacts its long-term viability.

5           298. The Tour’s conduct has substantially diminished and impaired the entry of the  
6 promoters that could meaningfully threaten the PGA Tour’s monopoly, which has stood unchallenged  
7 for decades. Its conduct has denied LIV Golf the opportunity to pursue its innovative business model  
8 in 2022. Its conduct decreased elite professional golf tournaments in 2022 and 2023 as LIV Golf was  
9 required to change its model and allocate further capital to try to overcome the Tour’s Regulations and  
10 threats.

11           299. The Tour’s conduct has harmed the Player Plaintiffs as they have been suspended from  
12 what the Tour calls the “preeminent” golf association in the world for exercising their right as  
13 independent contractors to pursue their livelihood, sell their services to buyers other than the incumbent  
14 monopolist, and expand their sponsorship opportunities.

15           300. The Tour’s conduct has also harmed the Player Plaintiffs as they have lost sponsorship  
16 opportunities and other business opportunities as a result of the Tour’s pressure on sponsors and other  
17 entities with which the Plaintiffs do business.

18           301. The Tour’s conduct has harmed consumers, giving them less choice, less output, and  
19 less innovation. Fans are unable to watch Player Plaintiffs in Tour events. Fans are unable to watch  
20 LIV Golf on television or other streaming services. Fans suffer from reduced output of elite  
21 professional golf events and suffer from getting fewer opportunities to watch Player Plaintiffs, Dustin  
22 Johnson, Brooks Koepka and many others whom the Tour has excommunicated from its events.

23           302. If the Tour’s unlawful conduct is not enjoined, the harm to Plaintiffs will be permanent  
24 and irreparable. While LIV Golf has partially entered the markets at great expense, it has done so on  
25 terms that the Tour recognizes are “irrational.” If the Tour’s unlawful conduct is not enjoined, LIV  
26 Golf faces a risk that it will not be competitive in the long run. For competition for the Player Plaintiffs’  
27 services, the Tour’s anticompetitive Regulations and other conduct frustrating the labor mobility of its  
28 members and tying up their media rights must be enjoined.

1           303. If the Tour can force LIV Golf out of the relevant markets altogether and/or foreclose  
2 LIV Golf from offering a set of products and services that provides a meaningful competitive constraint  
3 on the Tour, the Tour’s monopoly and monopsony power will be cemented for many years to come,  
4 and immune to even attempted entry. Injunctive relief is necessary to restore competition for Tour  
5 members’ services and to innovate the game that the Tour, only in theory, promises to support. All of  
6 the equities and the public interest support such relief. Otherwise, the harm to competition will be  
7 irreversible and permanent.

### 8                           **The PGA Tour’s Alleged Procompetitive Defenses Are Pretextual**

9           304. To assert a procompetitive justification for its conduct under the antitrust laws, the Tour  
10 must, at a minimum, offer a nonpretextual claim that its conduct is a form of competition on the merits.  
11 As set forth in detail above, the Tour cannot make such a showing, because its conduct is aimed at  
12 foreclosing the only meaningful competitive threat it has faced in a quarter century. Rather than  
13 competing on the merits, the Tour’s conduct is aimed at kneecapping LIV Golf to foreclose nascent  
14 competition.

15           305. The Tour’s purported justifications for its conduct are pretextual. For example, the Tour  
16 asserts that it is merely enforcing its membership rules that have some benign purposes. This argument  
17 is betrayed as pretextual in multiple respects. First, as detailed in the 2020 Monahan Memorandum,  
18 the Tour expressly expanded its membership rules for the purpose of defeating competition from a new  
19 entrant such as LIV Golf. Second, the Tour only enforces its rules to deny releases to players when  
20 they are playing in *competing* events, demonstrating that these rules are aimed at defeating competition.  
21 Third, the Tour has threatened and imposed punishments on a variety of golfers who are not even Tour  
22 members (and therefore are not subject to the Tour’s rules at all), including European Tour members,  
23 college golfers, and Asian Tour members. Instead of enforcing its rules on its members, the Tour  
24 threatens and imposes punishments on any golfer anywhere in the world who participates in LIV Golf  
25 events. There is nothing *procompetitive* about the Tour’s actions—they are aimed at thwarting the  
26 only competition it has faced in decades.

27           306. Similarly, the Tour’s conduct reveals as pretextual its claim that it is acting to prevent  
28 some sort of “free-riding” on investments the Tour supposedly makes in players. As noted, the Tour’s

1 attacks are not limited to those players in whom it has supposedly made some sort of investment, but  
2 instead extend to all golfers anywhere, including college players and members of other tours who have  
3 never been members of the PGA Tour. At the other end of the spectrum, the Tour’s “free-riding” claim  
4 is absurd when applied to golfers such as Plaintiff Mickelson, who has devoted 30 years of his Hall of  
5 Fame career to playing on the Tour, providing massive benefits to the Tour throughout his career. And  
6 any punishments meted out by the Tour to players like Mr. Mickelson (and others) are disproportionate  
7 to the unspecified investments the Tour claims to make in the early stages of golfers’ careers.

8 307. The Tour’s words and conduct also betray as mere pretext its assertion that it is attacking  
9 LIV Golf and any players who participate in its events because the Tour does not want to be associated  
10 with any player who participates in a league that is majority funded by the Public Investment Fund of  
11 Saudi Arabia. Commissioner Monahan’s 2020 Memorandum outlining the Tour’s attacks on a new  
12 entrant says nothing about Saudi Arabia. Instead, it is focused on the competitive threat that the new  
13 entrant—which Commissioner Monahan labeled “Private Equity Golf”—presented to the Tour. The  
14 Tour’s pretextual arguments about Saudi funding are further betrayed by its willingness to do business  
15 with dozens of sponsors who do billions of dollars of business each year in Saudi Arabia. Furthermore,  
16 the Tour’s pretext is exposed by its willingness to have the PGA Tour Fan Shop operated by Fanatics,  
17 which has received substantial funding from the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia—the same  
18 fund that the Tour supposedly finds so objectionable when it sponsors LIV Golf.

19 308. The Tour’s own actions also reveal that the Tour’s various objections to LIV Golf’s  
20 innovative format are pretextual. While the Tour has suggested that there is something about LIV  
21 Golf’s no-cut, high purse tournaments and its team-golf format that justify its opposition to the new  
22 entrant, the Tour itself has disclosed plans to copy LIV Golf’s format.

23 309. Furthermore, the Tour and its spokespersons have asserted that they object to LIV Golf  
24 because LIV Golf is supposedly operating outside the “ecosystem” and is not cooperating with other  
25 existing tours or sanctioning bodies. The facts, however, demonstrate the pretext in any such argument.  
26 For example, the sponsors of LIV Golf sought to work with the European Tour, but in the meeting in  
27 Malta in July 2021, the European Tour revealed that although it recognized the “appeal and fit” of the  
28 new tour, it feared the “mighty power” of the PGA Tour and therefore had to reject the proposed

1 partnership. LIV Golf has likewise sought to partner with others in the golf “ecosystem” and grow the  
 2 game at multiple levels, including through proposed partnerships with entities ranging from the Asian  
 3 Tour, to the LPGA, to the Ladies European Tour. At every turn, the PGA Tour has either directly  
 4 foreclosed LIV Golf’s efforts or exerted extreme pressure on other golfing bodies to exclude LIV Golf.  
 5 For example, the PGA Tour and the European Tour threatened severe consequences on the Asian Tour  
 6 and have punished golfers on the Asian Tour in their effort to prevent the Asian Tour from partnering  
 7 with LIV Golf. The Tour prevented the LPGA and the Ladies European Tour from partnering with  
 8 LIV Golf, thus harming countless women professional golfers by denying them additional playing  
 9 opportunities and much-needed funding for their tours—all for the purpose of foreclosing LIV Golf  
 10 from the “ecosystem.” And, as detailed above, the Tour has leaned on the bodies that sponsor the  
 11 Majors and the OWGR to lock arms with the Tour in excluding LIV Golf. Thus, having used every  
 12 tool at its disposal to prevent LIV Golf from working with other bodies in the golf “ecosystem,” and  
 13 punishing those who make the choice to partner with LIV Golf, it is pure pretext for the Tour to suggest  
 14 that it is somehow justified in opposing LIV Golf because LIV Golf has been left to operate largely  
 15 outside the “ecosystem.”

## 16 CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

### 17 **COUNT I: Unlawful Monopsonization of the market for ELITE GOLF EVENT SERVICES** 18 **in Violation of Sherman Act § 2 (15 U.S.C. § 2)**

19 310. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of all preceding paragraphs as though  
 20 fully set forth in this Count I.

21 311. At all relevant times, the Tour has had monopsony power over the market for the  
 22 services of professional golfers for elite golf events in the United States (or, alternatively, in the world).

23 312. The Tour has willfully maintained and abused its monopsony power through  
 24 anticompetitive conduct, including, among other things, by: (1) threatening to expel and impose a  
 25 lifetime ban on all players who contract with LIV Golf—including both members and non-members of  
 26 the Tour; (2) imposing unreasonable and anticompetitive restrictions on players’ ability to sell their  
 27 independent contractor services, including the Media Rights Regulation and Conflicting Events  
 28 Regulation in the Regulations, which have the effect of foreclosing competition; (3) threatening to



1 enforce the terms of the Regulations beyond their meaning to deny players the freedom to play in  
2 competing tours; (4) enforcing the terms of the Regulations to deny Plaintiffs' competitive  
3 opportunities; (5) threatening to harm other agencies, businesses or individuals who would otherwise  
4 work with Plaintiffs and/or LIV Golf; and (6) suspending and punishing the Player Plaintiffs for playing  
5 in LIV Golf and supporting it, all in order to punish and harm Plaintiffs, to prevent competition for the  
6 players' services, and to prevent LIV Golf from launching a competitive elite professional golf tour.

7 313. The anticompetitive actions of the PGA Tour do not further any procompetitive goals  
8 and are not reasonably necessary to achieve any legitimate procompetitive benefits.

9 314. The PGA Tour's exclusionary conduct has unreasonably restrained competition in the  
10 market for services of professional golfers for elite golf events, including by:

- 11 • Preventing vigorous competition for services of professional golfers for elite golf  
12 events;
- 13 • Suspending the Player Plaintiffs for playing professional golf;
- 14 • Preventing LIV Golf from contracting with agencies, vendors, sponsors, advertisers  
15 and players needed to offer an elite professional golf entertainment product;
- 16 • Impacting competition in contracting for the services of elite professional golfers;
- 17 • Depressing compensation for the services of professional golfers for elite golf events  
18 below competitive levels;
- 19 • Decreasing the output of opportunities for professional golfers for elite golf events;
- 20 • Denying the Player Plaintiffs the right to have free agency for their independent  
21 contractor services;
- 22 • Interfering with the Player Plaintiffs' and others' contractual negotiations with LIV  
23 Golf;
- 24 • Interfering with LIV Golf's contractual negotiations with agencies, sponsors,  
25 venues, vendors, broadcasters, and partners to work with LIV Golf; and
- 26 • Preventing LIV Golf from promoting elite professional golf to fans.

27 315. As a result of the PGA Tour's anticompetitive conduct, Plaintiffs have been and will  
28 continue to be harmed in their business or property; competition in the relevant market will be harmed;

1 the PGA Tour will unlawfully maintain its monopsony position; and players, consumers, and other  
2 stakeholders will be harmed. Each of the injuries suffered by Plaintiffs is of the type the antitrust laws  
3 were intended to prevent, and each flows from Tour's unlawful conduct. Such conduct is inherently  
4 and manifestly anticompetitive and has an injurious effect on competition.

5 316. Plaintiffs have been and will continue to be irreparably harmed by the PGA Tour's  
6 unlawful conduct such that Plaintiffs need injunctive relief in order to stop immediately the PGA Tour's  
7 threats and imposition of onerous punishments on professional athletes to thwart LIV Golf's entry and  
8 maintain the PGA Tour's monopsony and an order enjoining enforcement of the PGA Tour's  
9 anticompetitive Regulations.

10 317. The PGA Tour's anticompetitive acts violate Section 2 of the Sherman Act. Plaintiffs  
11 seek injunctive relief, monetary damages, treble damages, costs of this suit, reasonable attorney's fees,  
12 and interest pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §§ 15(a), 26 and any other relief this Court deems just and proper  
13 under Count I.

14 **COUNT II: Unlawful Monopolization of the market for the PROMOTION OF ELITE**  
15 **PROFESSIONAL GOLF EVENTS in Violation of Sherman Act § 2 (15 U.S.C. § 2)**

16 318. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of all preceding paragraphs as though  
17 fully set forth in this Count II.

18 319. At all relevant times, the PGA Tour has had monopoly power over the market for the  
19 promotion of elite professional golf events in the United States (or, alternatively, in the world). The  
20 only viable competitor to the PGA Tour's dominant market position in this market is LIV Golf.

21 320. The PGA Tour has willfully maintained and abused its monopoly power through  
22 anticompetitive conduct, including by: (1) threatening to expel and impose a lifetime ban on all players  
23 who contract with LIV Golf—including both members and non-members of the Tour; (2) imposing  
24 unreasonable and anticompetitive restrictions on players' ability to sell their independent contractor  
25 services, including the Media Rights Regulation and Conflicting Events Regulation in the Regulations,  
26 which have the effect of foreclosing competition; (3) threatening to enforce the terms of the Regulations  
27 beyond their meaning to deny players the freedom to play in competing tours; (4) enforcing the terms  
28 of the Regulations to deny Plaintiffs' competitive opportunities; (5) threatening to harm other agencies,

1 businesses or individuals who would otherwise work with Plaintiffs and/or LIV Golf; and (6)  
2 suspending and punishing the Player Plaintiffs for playing in LIV Golf and supporting it, all in order  
3 to punish and harm Plaintiffs, to prevent competition for the players' services, and to prevent LIV Golf  
4 from launching a competitive elite professional golf tour.

5 321. The anticompetitive actions of the PGA Tour do not further any procompetitive goals  
6 and are not reasonably necessary to achieve any procompetitive benefits.

7 322. The PGA Tour's exclusionary conduct has unreasonably constrained competition in the  
8 market for the promotion of elite professional golf events, including by:

- 9 • Preventing vigorous competition for the promotion of elite professional golf  
10 entertainment;
- 11 • Preventing LIV Golf from contracting with players regarding their own media rights  
12 needed to promote elite professional golf tournaments;
- 13 • Preventing Player Plaintiffs from contracting with LIV Golf and others regarding  
14 their own media rights;
- 15 • Decreasing the output of elite professional golf tournaments;
- 16 • Suspending Player Plaintiffs and other golfers for playing professional golf;
- 17 • Preventing LIV Golf from contracting with agencies, vendors, sponsors, advertisers  
18 and players need to offer elite professional golf entertainment product;
- 19 • Impacting competition in contracting for the play of elite professional golfers;
- 20 • Depressing compensation for the services of professional golfers in elite events  
21 below competitive levels;
- 22 • Interfering with LIV Golf's contractual negotiations with players to join LIV Golf;
- 23 • Interfering with LIV Golf's contractual negotiations with agencies, sponsors,  
24 venues, vendors, broadcasters and partners to work with LIV Golf; and
- 25 • Preventing LIV Golf from promoting elite professional golf to fans.

26 323. As a result of the PGA Tour's anticompetitive conduct, LIV Golf and Player Plaintiffs  
27 have been and will continue to be harmed in their business or property; competition in the relevant  
28 market will be harmed; the PGA Tour will unlawfully maintain its monopoly position; and players,

1 consumers, and other stakeholders will be harmed. Each of the injuries suffered by Plaintiffs is of the  
2 type the antitrust laws were intended to prevent, and each flows from Tour’s unlawful conduct. Such  
3 conduct is inherently and manifestly anticompetitive and has an injurious effect on competition.

4 324. Plaintiffs have been and will continue to be irreparably harmed by the PGA Tour’s  
5 unlawful conduct such that they need injunctive relief stopping immediately the PGA Tour’s threats  
6 and imposition of onerous punishments on professional athletes designed to thwart LIV Golf’s entry  
7 and maintain the PGA Tour’s monopoly and enjoining enforcement of the PGA Tour’s anticompetitive  
8 player Regulations.

9 325. The PGA Tour’s anticompetitive acts violate Section 2 of the Sherman Act. Plaintiffs  
10 seek injunctive relief, monetary damages, treble damages, costs of this suit, reasonable attorney’s fees,  
11 and interest pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §§ 15(a), 26 and any other relief this Court deems just and proper  
12 under Count II.

13 **COUNT III: Unlawful Attempted Monopolization in Violation of Sherman Act § 2**  
14 **(15 U.S.C. § 2)**

15 326. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of all preceding paragraphs as though  
16 fully set forth in this Count III.

17 327. In the event that the PGA Tour’s position in the relevant markets does not amount to  
18 monopoly and/or monopsony power, either by virtue of LIV Golf’s nascent entry or otherwise,  
19 Plaintiffs plead in the alternative that the Tour’s conduct constitutes unlawful attempted  
20 monopolization and monopsonization in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act.

21 328. The Tour has unlawfully attempted to monopolize and monopsonize the relevant  
22 markets.

23 329. At all relevant times, the Tour has had monopoly and/or monopsony power or, at a  
24 minimum, a dangerous probability of success in acquiring (or re-acquiring) monopoly and/or  
25 monopsony power, over the relevant markets in the United States (or, alternatively, in the world).

26 330. The PGA Tour has engaged in anticompetitive conduct to try to monopolize the relevant  
27 markets, including by: (1) threatening to expel and impose a lifetime ban on all players who contract  
28 with LIV Golf—including both members and non-members of the Tour; (2) imposing unreasonable

1 and anticompetitive restrictions on players' ability to sell their independent contractor services,  
2 including the Media Rights Regulation and Conflicting Events Regulation in the Regulations, which  
3 have the effect of foreclosing competition; (3) threatening to enforce the terms of the Regulations  
4 beyond their meaning to deny players the freedom to play in competing tours; (4) enforcing the terms  
5 of the Regulations to deny Plaintiffs' competitive opportunities; (5) threatening to harm other agencies,  
6 businesses or individuals who would otherwise work with Plaintiffs and/or LIV Golf; and (6)  
7 suspending and punishing the Player Plaintiffs for playing in LIV Golf and supporting it, all in order  
8 to punish and harm Plaintiffs, to prevent competition for the players' services, and to prevent LIV Golf  
9 from launching a competitive elite professional golf tour.

10 331. As set forth in detail above, the Tour's conduct carries a dangerous probability of  
11 destroying the competitive viability of LIV Golf. The Tour's anticompetitive conduct forced LIV Golf  
12 to change its commercial strategy for 2022. LIV Golf was forced to announce a substantially scaled-  
13 down version of its League concept by offering 8 invitationals in 2022 (the LIV Golf Invitational  
14 Series). The Tour then attacked LIV Golf's Invitational Series events. Furthermore, because of the  
15 Tour's anticompetitive conduct, LIV Golf has been unable to broadcast its events in the United States—  
16 an encumbrance that threatens its long-term viability.

17 332. Furthermore, the Tour's conduct has denied and will continue to deny LIV Golf access  
18 to many top players. The Tour's Regulations and unilateral and conspiratorial threats of punishment  
19 have scared off the large majority of elite players as well as the pipeline of future elite players. And  
20 for those players whom LIV Golf has been able to sign, it has had to offer supracompetitive  
21 compensation well above the levels that would prevail in a market not polluted by the Tour's  
22 anticompetitive conduct. This has forced LIV Golf into an unsustainable business model. If the Tour's  
23 anticompetitive conduct is not enjoined, LIV Golf will be unable to sustain a competitively viable tour.

24 333. And, the Tour's attempted monopolization and unlawful exclusionary conduct presents  
25 a dangerous probability that the Tour will succeed, to the extent it has not already, in its attempt to  
26 monopolize the relevant markets, as shown by its willful and intentional efforts and success in:

- 27 • Preventing vigorous competition;
- 28 • Preventing the PGL from entering the markets;

- 1 • Suspending Player Plaintiffs;
- 2 • Preventing Plaintiff LIV Golf from contracting with agencies, vendors, sponsors,
- 3 advertisers and players needed to offer an elite professional golf entertainment
- 4 product;
- 5
- 6 • Impacting competition in contracting for the services of elite professional golfers;
- 7 • Depressing compensation for the services of elite professional golfers below
- 8 competitive levels;
- 9 • Decreasing the output of elite professional golfer services opportunities;
- 10 • Denying Player Plaintiffs the right to have free agency for their independent
- 11 contractor services;
- 12
- 13 • Interfering with Plaintiffs' and others' contractual negotiations;
- 14 • Preventing Plaintiff LIV Golf from promoting elite professional golf to fans;
- 15 • Encouraging other golfing entities to pressure golfers against joining LIV Golf,
- 16 including by threatening to disallow LIV Golf players from playing in various
- 17 tournaments; and
- 18
- 19 • Orchestrating a group boycott of LIV Golf with the European Tour in furtherance
- 20 of their agreement to boycott LIV Golf and golfers who would play for a
- 21 competitive tour.

22 334. Absent injunctive relief halting the Tour's anticompetitive conduct, LIV Golf will be  
23 unable to sustain a competitively viable business, and it will be unable to meaningfully constrain the  
24 Tour's monopoly power.

25 335. The Tour's conduct has substantially diminished and impaired the entry of the only  
26 entrant that could meaningfully threaten the PGA Tour's monopoly and monopsony power in the  
27 relevant markets, which has stood unchallenged for decades. And if it not enjoined, the Tour's conduct  
28 will forever destroy the competitive viability of the only potential challenger to the Tour's monopoly

1 and monopsony power.

2 336. The Tour has acted with the specific intent to monopolize and monopsonize the relevant  
3 markets. The Tour's actions are irrational but for its anticompetitive effect, including by degrading its  
4 own offerings. The Tour's specific intent to monopolize and monopsonize the relevant markets is  
5 shown through its statements and actions, including: (1) the PGA Tour Commissioner's statements in  
6 the January 2020 Monahan Memorandum, (2) the Tour's public and private statements since 2020  
7 related to the Tour's desire to "protect this business model" and prevent a new entrant from contracting  
8 with Tour members through threats and enforcement of unlawful Regulation provisions, (3) statements  
9 of Tour officials and Members related to the Tour's desire to destroy LIV Golf, (4) the Tour's May 10,  
10 2022 denial of Tour members' requests to participate in the LIV Golf London Invitational, (5) the  
11 Tour's coordinated efforts to get others to support its boycott of LIV Golf and those who associate with  
12 LIV Golf, (6) the Tour pressuring small businesses not to work with LIV Golf or be blacklisted by the  
13 Tour, (7) the Tour's application of its Regulations to impose irreparable punishment on Player Plaintiffs  
14 and others for playing professional golf.

15 337. As a result of the PGA Tour's anticompetitive conduct, LIV Golf and the Player  
16 Plaintiffs have been and will continue to be harmed in their business or property; competition in the  
17 relevant markets will be harmed; the PGA Tour will unlawfully monopolize and monopsonize the  
18 relevant markets; and players, consumers, and other stakeholders will be harmed.

19 338. Plaintiffs have been and will continue to be irreparably harmed by the PGA Tour's  
20 unlawful conduct such that they need injunctive relief stopping immediately the PGA Tour's threats  
21 and imposition of onerous punishments on professional athletes designed to thwart LIV Golf's entry  
22 and maintain the PGA Tour's monopoly and enjoining enforcement of the PGA Tour's anticompetitive  
23 player Regulations. Each of the injuries suffered by Plaintiffs is of the type the antitrust laws were  
24 intended to prevent, and each flows from Tour's unlawful conduct. Such conduct is inherently and  
25 manifestly anticompetitive and has an injurious effect on competition.

26 339. Accordingly, to the extent the Tour argues that LIV Golf's nascent entry means the Tour  
27 is not presently a monopolist, the Tour's anticompetitive conduct carries a dangerous probability of  
28 restoring and maintaining the Tour's monopoly and monopsony power in the relevant markets, in

1 violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act.

2 340. Plaintiffs seek injunctive relief, monetary damages, treble damages, costs of this suit,  
3 reasonable attorney's fees, and interest pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §§ 15(a), 26 and any other relief this  
4 Court deems just and proper under Count III.

5 **Count IV: Unlawful Restraint of Trade in Violation of Sherman Act § 1 (15 U.S.C. § 1)**  
6 **[Group Boycott]**

7 341. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of all preceding paragraphs as though  
8 fully set forth in this Count IV.

9 342. The PGA Tour has unlawfully reached an agreement, with the purpose to eliminate  
10 competition, with the European Tour, a potential horizontal competitor, (and possibly others) to not  
11 compete for players' services and to prevent the entry and competitive viability of LIV Golf into the  
12 relevant markets. Specifically, the PGA Tour and the European Tour have agreed to engage in a group  
13 boycott of LIV Golf, other potential competitors, golfers (like Player Plaintiffs) who agree to play in  
14 LIV Golf's events, and any other person or entity who seeks to partner with LIV Golf, to harm  
15 competition for the services of professional golfers for elite golf events and for the promotion of elite  
16 golf events.

17 343. The actions of the Tour and the European Tour make clear that they had a conscious  
18 commitment to a common scheme: to prevent the entry of new competitors into the market. The  
19 unlawful agreement is evidenced by the actions and statements of the Tour and the European Tour, as  
20 set forth in this Complaint, including:

- 21 • The Tour admitted the existence of an unlawful agreement with the European Tour.  
22 In his January 2020 Memorandum describing the PGA Tour's plan to foreclose new  
23 entry, Commissioner Monahan explained that this alliance with the European Tour  
24 was aimed at removing the European Tour as a potential horizontal competitor  
25 through its potential to partner with a new entrant: "We have continued discussions  
26 with the European Tour about the potential to work more closely together, thereby  
27 removing the European Tour as a potential partner of" a new entrant;  
28 • As Mr. Pelley detailed, in November 2020 the European Tour and the PGA Tour



1                   ceased competing with each other for players’ services, and instead formed an illegal  
2                   alliance to eliminate new competition for players’ services;

- 3                   • Following the agreement, in November 2020, the European Tour announced it  
4                   would not partner with PGL;
- 5                   • Pursuant to its illegal alliance, the European Tour agreed not to partner with LIV  
6                   Golf despite recognizing the “fit and appeal” of partnering with LIV Golf because  
7                   the European Tour had contracted with the Tour and could not upset the “US PGA  
8                   mighty power;”
- 9                   • The Tour and the European Tour then took steps in furtherance of their scheme,  
10                  including threatening all players with lifetime bans if they competed in the PGL and,  
11                  later, LIV Golf tournaments; and
- 12                  • In addition, the Tour and European Tour agreed to suspend players who competed  
13                  in LIV Golf tournaments.

14                  344. The Tour used its Regulations to implement the unlawful agreement and achieve the  
15                  anticompetitive purpose of the agreement, harming Plaintiffs and competition.

16                  345. After the agreement was reached, the Tour enforced its unlawful Regulations and  
17                  proceeded to suspend the Player Plaintiffs for violating the Regulations. Further evidencing the  
18                  agreement that was in fact reached, the Tour enforced the Regulations in a way that they had not been  
19                  enforced previously. Historically, the Tour permitted members to associate with multiple tours  
20                  simultaneously and routinely granted releases for golfers to compete in non-Tour affiliated  
21                  tournaments. In contrast, the Tour denied all releases for LIV Golf events and imposed effective career-  
22                  ending suspensions on Plaintiffs. The Tour made clear its enforcement of these Regulations is intended  
23                  to destroy the entry of LIV Golf, harming the Plaintiffs and competition as a whole in the process.  
24                  Likewise, as detailed in this Complaint, the European Tour has departed from its longstanding practices  
25                  regarding conflicting events to align with the Tour in furtherance of their agreement to act jointly to  
26                  exclude LIV Golf and punish the Player Plaintiffs and other golfers who play in LIV Golf events.

27                  346. Professional golfers (including the Player Plaintiffs) are essential to the Tour’s scheme  
28                  to eliminate competition in the market. As Commissioner Monahan admitted: “The impact that [the

1 new league] could have on the PGA TOUR is dependent on the level of support it may receive from  
2 these players. Without this support, [the new league's] ability to attract media and corporate partners  
3 will be significantly marginalized and its impact on the TOUR diminished.”

4 347. The Player Plaintiffs are the pawns (and targets) used to effectuate the group boycott  
5 and eliminate competition in the markets; the Player Plaintiffs' suspensions are a necessary means to  
6 accomplish the Tour's anticompetitive scheme.

7 348. **Per se violation:** The agreements constitute unreasonable restraints of trade that are  
8 *per se* illegal under Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1. The agreement constitutes a group  
9 boycott orchestrated by a monopolist and joined by a potential competitor that is expressly aimed at  
10 foreclosing the entry of the only viable alternative to the Tour into the relevant market. No elaborate  
11 analysis is required to demonstrate the anticompetitive character of this group boycott.

12 349. **Rule of Reason violation:** The agreements are also unreasonable restraints of trade  
13 that are unlawful under Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1, under the rule of reason analytical  
14 framework. The principal tendency of the agreement is to restrain competition, reinforce the market  
15 power of the PGA Tour, defeat the nascent entry of LIV Golf, and eliminate competition in the relevant  
16 markets. This harmed the Player Plaintiffs and other professional golfers by eliminating competition  
17 in the market for their services and also restricted competition in the market generally. It has also  
18 harmed LIV Golf and competition in the relevant markets by hindering LIV Golf's entry and  
19 threatening to destroy its competitive viability. The agreement between the Tour and the European  
20 Tour to lock arms in a joint effort to foreclose competitive entry lacks any legitimate procompetitive  
21 justifications.

22 350. As a result of the PGA Tour's anticompetitive conduct, Plaintiffs have been and will  
23 continue to be harmed in their business or property; competition in the relevant markets will be harmed;  
24 the PGA Tour will unlawfully maintain its monopoly position; and Plaintiffs, consumers, and other  
25 stakeholders will be harmed. Each of the injuries suffered by Plaintiffs is of the type the antitrust laws  
26 were intended to prevent, and each flows from Tour's unlawful conduct. Such conduct is inherently  
27 and manifestly anticompetitive and has an injurious effect on competition.

28 351. Plaintiffs have been and will continue to be irreparably harmed by the PGA Tour's

1 unlawful conduct such that Plaintiffs need injunctive relief in order to stop the PGA Tour’s unlawful  
2 conduct.

3 352. The PGA Tour’s anticompetitive acts violate Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

4 353. Plaintiffs seek injunctive relief, monetary damages, treble damages, costs of this suit,  
5 reasonable attorney’s fees, and interest pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §§ 15(a) and 26, and any other relief this  
6 Court deems just and proper under Count IV.

7 **Count V: Unlawful Agreement to Restrain Trade in Violation of the Cartwright Act**  
8 **(Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 16720(a), 16726) [Group Boycott]**

9 354. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of all preceding paragraphs as though  
10 fully set forth in this Count V.

11 355. The PGA Tour has unlawfully agreed with the European Tour (and potentially others)  
12 “[t]o create or carry out restrictions in trade or commerce.” Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 16720(a), 16726.  
13 Moreover, the Tour’s violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act necessarily constitutes a violation of  
14 the Cartwright Act.

15 356. The Tour operates six annual tournaments in the state of California, owns golf courses  
16 in California, committed multiple acts in furtherance of its unlawful group boycott in California, co-  
17 hosted a tournament with the European Tour in California from which it banned any golfers who  
18 participated in a LIV Golf event, harmed California resident golfers (including Plaintiff Mickelson),  
19 and harmed competition for professional golfers’ services for elite events in California. Moreover, the  
20 law and public policy of other affected states is materially similar to the law of California.

21 357. The Tour has unlawfully agreed with the European Tour to not compete for players’  
22 services and to act jointly to prevent the entry of LIV Golf into the relevant markets. Specifically, the  
23 PGA Tour and the European Tour agreed to boycott LIV Golf, players who work with LIV Golf, and  
24 any other person or entity that seeks to partner with LIV Golf. The Tour entered an agreement with  
25 the European Tour so as to—as Commissioner Monahan vowed—“remov[e] the European Tour as a  
26 potential partner” of a new entrant like LIV Golf.

27 358. The PGA Tour and the European Tour have taken acts in furtherance of their unlawful  
28 boycott. For instance, the European Tour has agreed to suspend and punish golfers for playing in LIV

1 Golf, to no longer compete with the PGA Tour for players' services, and to not partner with LIV Golf  
2 or other potential entrants. The two tours have unlawfully agreed to deny (and taken steps to deny)  
3 golfers who play in LIV Golf events the opportunity to play in the tours' co-sanctioned events  
4 (including the event they co-sanctioned in California), and to unfairly punish independent contractors  
5 for playing with a competitor promoter.

6 359. The Tour's agreement with the European Tour has the illegal purpose to eliminate a  
7 competitor and future potential entrants. In particular, the Tour seeks to deny LIV Golf access to the  
8 services of professional golfers for elite golf events along with the other partners and inputs necessary  
9 to compete for the services of professional golfers for elite golf events. The two tours have also  
10 unlawfully agreed to not compete for players' services in order to suppress wages and decrease output  
11 of opportunities.

12 360. The tours' agreement constitutes an unreasonable restraint of trade that is *per se* illegal  
13 under California Business and Professions Code §§ 16720(a), 16726. The agreement constitutes a  
14 group boycott orchestrated by a monopolist that is expressly aimed at foreclosing the entry of the only  
15 viable alternative to the Tour into the relevant markets. No elaborate analysis is required to demonstrate  
16 the anticompetitive character of this group boycott.

17 361. The agreement also constitutes an unreasonable restraint of trade that is unlawful under  
18 California Business and Professions Code §§ 16720(a), 16726, under a rule-of-reason analysis. The  
19 principal tendency of the agreements is to restrain competition, reinforce the market power of the PGA  
20 Tour, and seriously hamper (or outright defeat) the competitive effectiveness and prospective entry of  
21 LIV Golf—by harming professional golfers like the Player Plaintiffs and thus eliminating competition  
22 for their services—the only viable alternative in the relevant market, and thereby harm competition in  
23 the relevant markets. This harmed the Player Plaintiffs and other professional golfers by eliminating  
24 competition in the market for their services and also restricted competition in the markets generally. It  
25 has also harmed LIV Golf and competition in the market for the promotion of elite events by hindering  
26 LIV Golf's entry and threatening to destroy its competitive viability. The agreement lacks any  
27 legitimate procompetitive justifications, because, among other things, the group boycott deprives  
28 Plaintiff Mickelson and other Player Plaintiffs of means to practice their profession that are so essential

1 that they are necessary to compete effectively in the sport of professional golf.

2 362. As a result of the PGA Tour's anticompetitive conduct, Plaintiffs have been and will  
3 continue to be harmed in their business or property; competition in the relevant markets will be harmed;  
4 the PGA Tour will unlawfully maintain its monopoly position and unlawful boycott; and Plaintiffs,  
5 LIV Golf, consumers, and other stakeholders will be harmed. Each of the injuries suffered by Plaintiffs  
6 is of the type the antitrust laws were intended to prevent, and each flows from Tour's unlawful conduct.  
7 Such conduct is inherently and manifestly anticompetitive and has an injurious effect on competition.

8 363. As a result of the PGA Tour's anticompetitive conduct, Plaintiffs have been and will  
9 continue to be irreparably harmed such that they need injunctive relief in order to stop immediately the  
10 PGA Tour's unlawful conduct.

11 364. The PGA Tour's anticompetitive acts violate the Cartwright Act. Cal. Bus. & Prof.  
12 Code §§ 16720(a), 16726.

13 365. Plaintiffs seek injunctive relief, monetary damages, treble damages, costs of this suit,  
14 reasonable attorney's fees, and interest pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 16750(a), and any other  
15 relief this Court deems just and proper under Count V.

16 **Count VI: Breach of Contract (Player Plaintiffs)**

17 366. Player Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of all preceding paragraphs as  
18 though fully set forth in this Count VI.

19 367. On various dates, Player Plaintiffs and the Tour entered into a contract when the  
20 Plaintiffs submitted their respective membership applications and membership renewal applications  
21 and agreed to be bound by the Tour's Regulations. The Regulations (other than those described in this  
22 Complaint that violate the antitrust laws and therefore are unenforceable) are a legally binding  
23 agreement by and between Player Plaintiffs, respectively and individually, and the Tour. Player  
24 Plaintiffs maintain that provisions within the Regulations are not enforceable, but the provision the  
25 Tour has breached is not one of those provisions.

26 368. Player Plaintiffs performed all enforceable provisions in the Tour's Regulations and  
27 have complied with all obligations under the Tour's Disciplinary Process detailed in the Tour's  
28 Regulations.

1           369. The Tour breached Section VII.E.2 of the Regulations because it failed to abate  
2 Plaintiffs' suspensions pending their appeals of the Tour's Disciplinary Actions. Section VII.E.2  
3 provides that "[a]n appeal shall operate to stay the effective date of any penalty, except suspension  
4 from a tournament then in progress or scheduled for the calendar week in which the alleged violation  
5 occurred, until after the final decision on the appeal." Exhibit 1. The Tour was thus required to honor  
6 some Player Plaintiffs' requests to participate in Tour events, including the FedEx Cup Playoff events,  
7 occurring while Player Plaintiffs' appeals to the Tour's Appeals Committees remained pending.

8           370. The Tour's breach caused Player Plaintiffs to incur substantial damages in the form of  
9 irreparable harm (in the form of loss of FedEx Cup ranking points, loss of OWGR ranking points, loss  
10 of career opportunities, loss of goodwill, and reputational harm), loss of income-earning opportunities,  
11 loss of retirement-plan payments, consequential damages, expenses, and costs.

12           **Count VII: Tortious Interference with LIV Golf's Contractual Relationships (LIV Golf)**

13           371. LIV Golf incorporates by reference the allegations of all preceding paragraphs as though  
14 fully set forth in this Count VII.

15           372. LIV Golf has entered into contractual relationships with professional golfers and other  
16 third parties, such as vendors, sponsors, and broadcasters.

17           373. The PGA Tour knew that LIV Golf had entered into contractual relationships with  
18 professional golfers and other third parties.

19           374. The PGA Tour's unlawful actions detailed herein were intended to prevent professional  
20 golfers and other third parties from performing their contracts with LIV Golf.

21           375. The professional golfers and other third parties have been unable to perform under their  
22 contracts with LIV Golf as a result of the PGA Tour's actions described herein.

23           376. There was no legal justification for the PGA Tour's anticompetitive conduct.

24           377. As a result of the PGA Tour's anticompetitive and wrongful conduct, LIV Golf has  
25 suffered significant and irreparable harm to its business.

26           378. LIV Golf has been and will continue to be irreparably harmed by the PGA Tour's  
27 unlawful conduct such that LIV Golf needs expedited injunctive relief stopping immediately the PGA  
28 Tour's unlawful conduct.



**JURY DEMAND**

389. Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury of all issues so triable.

**RELIEF REQUESTED**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs hereby request that the Honorable Court award the following preliminary injunctive relief against the PGA TOUR:

- a. Stay and enjoin the PGA Tour’s suspension and sanctions imposed on the Player Plaintiffs;
- b. Prevent the PGA Tour from banning or threatening to ban from the PGA Tour (and its affiliated Tour) players who talk to, contract with, play in, or associate with LIV Golf;
- c. Prevent the PGA Tour from expelling players from the PGA Tour (and its affiliated Tours) or PGA Tour tournaments who talk to, contract with, play in, or associate with LIV Golf;
- d. Prevent the PGA Tour from threatening or imposing any other punishments or otherwise harming or threatening to harm anyone who talks to, contracts with, or associates with LIV Golf;
- e. Prevent the PGA Tour from conspiring or unlawfully agreeing with the European Tour to ban or threaten to ban players from participating in European Tour events or participating in the Ryder Cup for talking to, contracting with, playing in, or associating with LIV Golf;
- f. Prevent the PGA Tour from pressuring or coordinating with the R&A, Masters, and/or PGA of America (or others), to punish, exclude or threaten to exclude players otherwise eligible under current eligibility rules from participating in golf events (including the Majors);
- g. Prevent the PGA Tour from amending its rules to prevent players otherwise eligible from playing in PGA Tour events or co-sponsored events, such as the FedEx Cup, the WGC tournaments, the Tournament of Champions, the Players,



1 the Memorial, the Arnold Palmer Invitational, the Genesis Invitational, AT&T  
2 Pebble Beach Open, and the Presidents Cup;

- 3 h. Prevent the PGA Tour from enforcing its unlawful restrictions on independent-  
4 contractor golfers, including the Media Rights Regulation and the Conflicting  
5 Events Regulation;
- 6 i. Prevent the PGA Tour from amending its rules to prevent players otherwise  
7 eligible from playing in PGA Tour events or co-sponsored events;
- 8 j. Prevent the PGA Tour from applying rules beyond their meaning to punish  
9 players who associate with LIV Golf, or otherwise to thwart competition; and
- 10 k. Prevent the PGA Tour from taking any other actions intended to undermine  
11 competition on the merits from LIV Golf.

12 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs hereby request that the Honorable Court award the following  
13 permanent injunctive relief against the PGA TOUR:

- 14 a. Stay and enjoin the PGA Tour's suspension and sanctions imposed on the Player  
15 Plaintiffs;
- 16 b. Enjoin the PGA Tour from banning or threatening to ban from the PGA Tour  
17 (and its affiliated Tour) players who talk to, contract with, play in, or associate  
18 with LIV Golf;
- 19 c. Enjoin the PGA Tour from expelling players from the PGA Tour (and its  
20 affiliated Tour) or PGA Tour tournaments who talk to, contract with, play in, or  
21 associate with LIV Golf;
- 22 d. Enjoin the PGA Tour from threatening or imposing any other punishments or  
23 otherwise harming or threatening to harm anyone who talks to, contracts with,  
24 or associates with LIV Golf;
- 25 e. Enjoin the PGA Tour from conspiring or unlawfully agreeing with the European  
26 Tour to ban or threaten to ban players from participating in European Tour  
27 events or participating in the Ryder Cup for talking to, contracting with, playing  
28 in, or associating with LIV Golf;

- 1 f. Enjoin the PGA Tour from agreeing, contracting or threatening the R&A,  
2 Masters, and/or PGA of America (or others), to punish, exclude or threaten to  
3 exclude players otherwise eligible under current eligibility rules from  
4 participating in golf events (including the Majors);
- 5 g. Enjoin the PGA Tour from amending its rules to prevent players otherwise  
6 eligible from playing in PGA Tour events or co-sponsored events, such as the  
7 FedEx Cup, the WGC tournaments, the Tournament of Champions, the Players,  
8 the Memorial, the Arnold Palmer Invitational, the Genesis Invitational, AT&T  
9 Pebble Beach Open, and the Presidents Cup;
- 10 h. Enjoin the PGA Tour from enforcing its unlawful restrictions on independent-  
11 contractor golfers, including the Media Rights Regulation and the Conflicting  
12 Events Regulation;
- 13 i. Enjoin the PGA Tour from amending its rules to prevent players otherwise  
14 eligible from playing in PGA Tour events or co-sponsored events;
- 15 j. Enjoin the PGA Tour from applying rules beyond their meaning to punish  
16 players who associate with LIV Golf, or otherwise to thwart competition; and
- 17 k. Enjoin the PGA Tour from taking any other actions intended to undermine  
18 competition on the merits from LIV Golf.

19 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that this Honorable Court:

- 20 a. Adjudge and decree that the PGA Tour is unlawfully maintaining its monopoly  
21 over the market for the services of professional golfers for elite golf events in  
22 violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act;
- 23 b. Adjudge and decree that the PGA Tour is unlawfully maintaining its monopoly  
24 over the market for the promotion of elite golf events in violation of Section 2  
25 of the Sherman Act;
- 26 c. In the alternative, adjudge and decree that the PGA Tour is attempting to  
27 monopolize the market for the services of professional golfers for elite golf  
28

1 events and the market for the promotion of elite golf events in violation of  
2 Section 2 of the Sherman Act;

3 d. Adjudge and decree that the PGA Tour unreasonably restrained trade in  
4 violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act when it entered agreement with the  
5 European Tour to boycott LIV Golf and potential competitors and those who  
6 associate with LIV Golf to try to foreclose competition from LIV Golf in the  
7 relevant markets;

8 e. Adjudge and decree that the PGA Tour breached its Regulations when it refused  
9 to abate Player Plaintiffs' suspensions pending their respective appeals;

10 f. Adjudge and decree that the PGA Tour unlawfully and tortiously interfered with  
11 LIV Golf's contractual and prospective business relationships;

12 g. Award Plaintiffs monetary damages, treble damages, and economic damages;

13 h. Award LIV Golf punitive damages for the PGA Tour's bad faith and egregious  
14 interference with LIV Golf's contractual and prospective business relationships;

15 i. Award Plaintiffs their costs in this action, including attorneys' fees; and

16 j. Award Plaintiffs any further relief as may be just and proper.  
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1 DATED: August 26, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

2 By:           /s/ Rachel S. Brass          

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DATED: August 26, 2022

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