

MODELS OF PROFESSIONAL GOLF COMPETITIONS AT VARIOUS STAGES
OF ITS DEVELOPMENT

МОДЕЛІ ПРОФЕСІЙНИХ ЗМАГАНЬ З ГОЛЬФУ НА РІЗНИХ ЕТАПАХ
ЙОГО РОЗВИТКУ

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DOI <https://doi.org/10.32782/2522-1795.2024.18.17>

Abstracts

Competition systems in professional sports are constantly updated under the influence of social, economic, demographic, and political factors. The competition system that developed in professional golf has turned today into a grand spectacle on the one hand and a profitable business on the other. It is important to identify the specifics of the formation of a sport in different age periods and the factors that influenced it. **Objective.** Justify competition models in professional golf for various historical periods of the formation and development of this sport. **Methods.** The main material of the work was data from scientific and popular science sources of information, which highlighted important facts regarding the development of golf and competitions in it in different historical periods, as well as detailed works in which the specifics of the current stage of development of the competition system in professional golf are determined. The key scientific research method is modeling. **Results.** At various stages of the professional golf development, the following groups and competition models were highlighted: a non-systemic group: one-tournament (1860–1894), two-tournament (1895–1920), three-tournament (1921–1933), four-tournament (1934–1941) models; a discrete-systemic group: four-tournament (1946–1967) model; a systemic group: tour (1968–1978), Grand Slam (1979–2014), tour-hierarchical (2015–2019) models; a desystemic-adaptive group: tour-hierarchical model (2020–2021); a resystemic group: tour-hierarchical model (from 2022 up to now). **Conclusion.** The data obtained in this study can supplement the system of knowledge about competition systems in professional sports and, accordingly, allow specialists to acquire new competencies in this field.

Key words: professional golf, model, competition, system, historical period.

Системи змагань у професійному спорті постійно оновлюються під впливом соціальних, економічних, демографічних і політичних факторів. Система змагань, яка склалася в професійному гольфі, нині перетворилася на грандіозне видовище, з одного боку, і прибутковий бізнес – з іншого. Важливо виявити специфіку становлення того чи іншого виду спорту в різні часові періоди та фактори, що на це вплинули. **Мета** – обґрунтувати моделі змагань у професійному гольфі для різних історичних періодів становлення та розвитку виду спорту. **Матеріал та методи.** Основним матеріалом для дослідження були дані з наукових і науково-популярних джерел інформації, в яких висвітлюються важливі факти щодо розвитку гольфу та змагань у ньому в різні історичні періоди, а також роботи, в яких висвітлюється специфіка сучасного етапу розвитку професійного гольфу та наявна інформація щодо компонентів системи змагань у ньому. Основним методом наукового дослідження було моделювання. **Результати.** На різних етапах розвитку професійного гольфу виділялися такі групи та моделі змагань: несистемна група: одотурнірна (1860–1894), двотурнірна (1895–1920), тритурнірна (1921–1933), чотиритурна (1934–1941) моделі; дискретно-системна група: чотиритурнірна (1946–1967) модель; системна група: турова (1968–1978), Grand Slam (1979–2014), турово-ієрархічна (2015–2019) моделі; десистемно-адаптивна група: турово-ієрархічна модель (2020–2021); ресистемна група: турово-ієрархічна модель (з 2022 року і дотепер). **Висновок.** Отримані в цьому дослідженні дані можуть доповнити знання про системи змагань у професійному спорті та, відповідно, дозволити фахівцям набути нових компетенцій у цій галузі.

Ключові слова: професійний гольф, модель, змагання, система, історичний період.

Introduction. In modern society, which in many aspects of its functioning is built on economic relationships, professional sports are developing more and more actively. On the one hand, it is a social practice of sports but, on the other hand, it is a full-fledged direction of commercial activity [1; 15; 21].

There is a number of professional sports, which bring significant income and develop in different way. The main product and, accordingly, the commodity in any sport is competition. All involved sports organizations strive to improve this component to the greatest extent [14; 19]. This caused and continues to cause the evolution of the phenomenon throughout its existence and, accordingly, to the emergence, progress, reformatting, and change of models of competitive practice in various sports in accordance with the factors and conditions of society development in a specific period.

Today, competitive practice in professional golf is a great example of such evolution. This sport has been developing for about three centuries (XIX–XXI), and during this time its playing tournaments have undergone significant changes [17; 19; 24].

The history of professional golf is filled with many events that contributed to the emergence and functioning of an effective organizational and economic competition system. This sport is actively developing and being popularized in the world today and brings great profits to both athletes and golf organizations.

Speaking about the scientific and theoretical basis, it should be noted that not many works and studies are devoted to this type of sport. In particular, the following issues were considered: historical aspects of the development of professional golf tournaments [2; 4; 24]; competitive activity and performance of players [8; 9; 13]; factors determining the profitability of golf tournaments [20; 22] etc. However, having analyzed the available data, we did not find enough substantiated scientific materials that would fully reveal the essence of the formation and development of the competition, as a key factor in the existence of professional golf; their organizational and economic component

and the subsequent formation and development of a complete system of competitions at the international level.

Thus, for a more qualitative justification of peculiarities of the golf competition system formation, it is necessary to structure this process and find out the stages of this sport development and, more importantly, to identify the key models of this system formation in the historical context.

The purpose is to justify competition models in professional golf for various historical periods of the formation and development of this sport.

Materials and methods. The basis for our research was the data of scientific and popular science publications, information resources of the Internet, containing actual data on historical and modern events in the golf tournaments organization.

While defining competition models, we identified a key factor allowing distinguishing and justifying them for different time stages of golf development. In the study, we singled out an organizational factor from a viewpoint of prestige, which focuses on the popularity of specific golf tournaments in different periods and the evolution of the format of their holding.

In addition, the analysis of historical development of professional golf helped to identify groups of models based on the systemic nature of the phenomenon, namely the presence/absence of the competition system as such.

Applied research methods: analysis and synthesis (identification of important historical facts regarding the development of professional golf, competitions within it, systematization of material and derivation of key results); modelling (formation of competition models in professional golf, groups of models based on the presence or absence of systematic phenomena); comparison (identification of common and distinctive features of the development of professional golf in different historical periods; comparison of characteristic features of competition models in professional golf of different periods); systematic approach (search for signs of systematicity in professional golf competitions in different historical periods).

While analyzing the history of golf tournaments development and studying in detail

the key dates and events, the following stages and models of professional golf competitions were detected.

Results

Professional Golf Competition in 1860–1915

The period of 1860–1915 can be characterized as initial in the development of professional golf. Nonetheless, its amateur and professional directions developed simultaneously. It is interesting that initially golf was popularized on the territory of Great Britain (mostly in Scotland). British society at that time promoted amateurism in sports [6; 10; 20], and its professional usage was considered low-status.

In most sports developing in this country at that time, amateur and professional directions were implemented separately, while in golf, the professional tournaments immediately took precedence, although amateur and professional golfers competed in the same competitions [11; 24].

This stage is characterized by the lack of a coherent system of golf competitions. As it was just beginning to develop, the trial and error method was mostly used. However, two key models of professional golf tournaments could be identified in this period.

One-tournament non-systemic competition model (1860–1894).

The claim of the existence of such model is related to the fact that at this stage there was only one tournament that was key for professional golfers—the British Open (1860) [3]. This does not mean that there were no other competitions, but they were not systematic, usually spontaneous. Nevertheless, the British Open became the first annual professional golf tournament, and the performance at these competitions was considered the most significant and prestigious, that is why leading sportsmen were preparing to take part in it [9].

The British Open did not have a single format; it was constantly changing at the initial stages of competition development. The number of competitive days (from one to three), the duration of the rounds, and the number of holes that the participants must play (from 36 to 72) have undergone certain

changes. In addition, in 1907, qualifying rounds were introduced [5; 25].

To participate in the tournament, the athlete had to receive a certificate from his club. It is worth noting that only the top three athletes could represent their club at the British Open. At that time, exclusively Scottish and British golfers could participate in this tournament [9].

Monetary rewards were provided for athletes since the first tournament. Initially it was insignificant (£10 in 1863), but every year the prize fund of the competition increased (£110 in 1892).

It should be emphasized that within the framework of a one-tournament model it is still inappropriate to talk about a formed system of competitions. However, the British Open tournament had its components, which theoretically can also be combined into a system.

Two-tournament non-systemic competition model (1895–1920)

The appearance of another big tournament marked the beginning of this model of professional golf competition. Thus, in 1895, an open golf tournament was held on the territory of the United States – the US Open, which immediately became quite popular among professional golfers, not only from the United States, but also from Great Britain. At the same time, British golfers dominated for a long time, since the USA did not have properly prepared athletes in this sport [9].

The British Open and the US Open were not consistent with each other in this model. The organizations that supervised the tournaments did not cooperate in any way. The athletes themselves planned to participate in the desired start. However, this to a certain extent dispersed the British golfers, who were able to choose a priority tournament. At the same time, the highest prize fund of the competition in 1895 was offered at the US Open (£90 – British Open, \$335 – US Open) [17; 19].

As for the format of holding the tournament, its instability was observed in both competitions. There was a constant search for components that could optimize or partially complicate the participation of athletes. Both competitions

were held using the method of determining the winner by stroke play (strokes are added on each hole and the athlete who made the fewest strokes wins). The competition took place on 72 holes (since 1898 in the US Open). A playoff round was also added (British Open – in 1888, US Open – in 1901), which was held later if the champion was not determined in the final round.

In 1904, cuts were introduced in the main competitions after 36 holes in the US Open. That is, a part of the participants was screened out. Instead, the British Open introduced qualifying rounds in 1907 as there increased the number of golfers who wanted to participate. Subsequently, these initiatives will be implemented mutually in the specified tournaments [7; 18].

That is, despite the inconsistency in the format of holding tournaments, new components were gradually added after being tracked to unify the requirements.

Summarizing the factual material obtained regarding this stage of professional golf development, it is worth pointing out the rapid development of its popularity in Great Britain and the United States. However, there was no coordinated cooperation between the organizers of key tournaments, which led to the isolated development of golf competitions on the territory of these countries.

Professional Golf Competition in 1916–1920

During 1916–1920, the development of golf, in particular on the territory of the United States, was going on quite intensively, despite the fact that this is the time of the First World War and the post-war period. In Europe this process was temporarily suspended (the British Open was not held during this time, other tournaments were not started) [9; 12].

Speaking about golf development in the USA it should be mentioned that in 1916 the first and one of the leading managing organizations of professional golf was created. It was the PGA of America, which was engaged only in professional golf development. The same year it founded the third big golf tournament – the PGA Championship, where only professional golfers were allowed to participate [5].

The two-tournament non-systemic competition model continues to take place at this stage.

Taking into account the fact that the British tournament was not held, the US Open and the newly created PGA Championship remained in the arena. These tournaments were not coordinated with each other at that time. Both of them were held by different organizations that did not communicate about the coordination and unification of the competition system and the calendar, but continued to hold tournaments somewhat chaotically, albeit annually (except for 1917 and 1918) [20].

Thus, at this stage, the format of both competitions was updated every year. The US Open continued to be held in three rounds (3 days) using stroke play, while the PGA Championship was held in 5 rounds (5 days) using match play system.

However, there were some common components of the tournaments: the qualification to the main starts (on 36 holes), the main rounds are held on 72 holes with a cut after 36 holes, a playoff round is allowed if necessary, but its formats differ in each competition.

Despite a rather difficult period of the world history and, in particular, the complications of social development in general and sport in particular, the number of participants in professional golf tournaments was growing significantly. At the same time, the number of players from the USA started to prevail, but the leadership remained with the British golfers [23].

It is also interesting that in 1920 the prize fund of the newly created professional tournament PGA Championship greatly exceeded the fund of the US Open tournament by 100%, which allowed to lure the best players (\$1,300 in the US Open, \$2,580 in the PGA Championship) [9].

Professional Golf Competition in 1921–1941

1921–1941 is the interwar period in social development, where most spheres of society were gradually regulated and updated. It is natural that there were some changes not only in golf organizations but also in the development of this sport.

At this stage, there was still no common competition calendar. Tournaments were held

randomly, and the choice of date was solely related to the convenience of the organizers. Key tournaments were constantly overlapping, which did not let golf professionals participate in all desired starts, which meant that a consistent competition system still did not exist. However, during this period, tournament organizers gradually started selling tickets, which accordingly gave them a new source of income.

The development of golf competitive activity at this stage was combined into two following models.

Three-tournament non-systemic competition model

This model was relevant during 1921–1933. At this time, the British Open tournament returned to the golf arena, the other two key tournaments – the US Open and the PGA Championship – were also actively developing. Together these three tournaments formed this model, as these competitions were the most prestigious and most profitable for professional golfers. Within the three-tournament non-systemic model of golf competitions, there were other tournaments, but they did not have significant value, were held unsystematically, and therefore could not represent this kind of sport.

Four-tournament non-systemic model

In 1934, the Masters Tournament was added to the three important big golf competitions. It was held by the Augusta National Golf Club situated on the territory of the United States. That is, three out of four main golf tournaments were held by the USA (US Open, PGA Championship, and Masters Tournament) and only one tournament (British Open) was held on the European territory [8; 16].

Thus, during 1934–1941, the development of golf competitions within the four-tournament non-systemic model were highlighted.

We defined both of these models as non-systemic, since there was still no real co-operation between the organizers of key tournaments in terms of planning a joint calendar, a clear agreement on the field of activity in the competitive golf arena. Each of the tournaments developed independently. At the same time, individual components of these tournaments were gradually unified. In all four

professional tournaments, golfers played on 72 holes. In addition, three competitions required 36-hole qualifying (British Open, US Open, PGA Championship), while admission to the Masters Tournament was based solely on invitations from the organizers [16].

However, there were still differences in planning the number of rounds and the way of conducting the competition. The British Open and the US Open were held in 3 days (3 rounds), the PGA Championship lasted 5 days (5 rounds), and the Masters Tournament was held 4 days (4 rounds). The way to determine the winner in the British Open, US Open and Masters Tournament was the stroke play, while the PGA Championship had match play system. There were also differences in the playoff round format, although it was not necessarily provided in all competitions.

As for athletes, in this period there was an alignment of results between British and American golfers. In addition, a characteristic aspect of this period is the constant change in the number of competition participants from a small number immediately after the war to a significant increase in the number in peaceful time.

It is also important to note that the prize fund of the tournaments actually increased by 100% compared to the previous period, as selling tickets worked efficiently enough and allowed to accumulate more funds.

Professional Golf Competition in 1942–1945

In the context of our research from the standpoint of world history and, accordingly, taking into account the events happening in the world, the historical stage of 1942–1945 was highlighted. This is a short, but difficult time. As for golf, at this period its development was suspended, no significant steps were taken due to the events of the Second World War, and key tournaments were frozen (the British Open and the US Open were not held during 1942–1945, Masters Tournament – during 1943–1945, PGA Championship – in 1943). In those competitions that were held, the number of participants significantly decreased [5].

Considering the situation in the world, no golf competition model was singled out for this period.

Professional Golf Competition in 1946–1967

The period of 1946–1967 clearly stands out in the development of professional golf competitions because golf was gradually becoming popular outside the United States and Great Britain. In the second half of this stage, the new tournaments in Europe and Asia were held, which, did a large number of professional golfers in these territories cause. Nevertheless, the same four tournaments (British Open, US Open, PGA Championship, and Masters Tournament) remained the key ones [2; 20].

In this period, a gradual adjustment of tournament management was observed because independent golf organizations had understood the need to form a coherent system of competitions. This is evidenced in particular by the relative coordination of the dates of holding three American tournaments in the 50s and 60s (Masters Tournament – in April, US Open – in June, PGA Championship – in July). However, there was still a relative disparity between the organizers of the British Open and the PGA Championship, as both tournaments were held in July, meaning that cooperation did not cross continental boundaries.

Four-Tournament Discrete-Systemic Model of Golf Competition

In this period, the mass media showed great interest to golf tournaments due to its wide spread and popularization. In 1954, the first telecast of the US Open to a wide audience took place. It should be noted that the Masters Tournament was broadcast live on CBS Radio in its first year (1934), but the US Open was the first to hit the screens in 1954. Later, other golf events also began to be shown on the screens [6].

Thus, leading golf organizations started signing contracts with television companies. This, in turn, provided another source of income for golf, as well as its greater popularization.

Regarding consistency within the competitive practice of the leading golf tournaments during 1946–1961, the unification of the method of determining the winners should be noted. Since 1958 (introduced at the PGA Championship in 1958) and until today, the winner of the big tournaments was determined using the stroke

play system. In addition, three of the four tournaments had 36-hole qualifiers to select the best participants in the main events (the PGA Championship introduced a seventh round of main events instead of qualifying starts in 1956).

In 1961, there was a significant breakthrough for the tournament participants. Black players were first admitted to the competitions and immediately demonstrated that they were worthy competitors in golf for Europeans and Americans. In general, the number of people wishing to participate in big golf tournaments was increasing, which led to the expansion of the grid of the main competitions.

The prize fund of all tournaments continued to grow significantly. As of 1967, \$42,000 prize fund was recorded at the British Open, the US Open had \$169,400, \$148,200 fund was at the PGA Championship, and the Masters Tournament had \$162,350 [20].

Professional Golf Competition in 1968–1985

Significant changes indicating the development of a comprehensive system of golf competitions started in 1968.

The stage of 1968–1985 was characterized by a high level of professional golf popularity in the world. In addition, in 1968, the PGA Tour organization was created, which is the first international governing body of professional golf. The PGA Tour established control over the tournaments, and began work on a unified tournament calendar and streamlining the tournament system. At this time, tournaments in different parts of the world were combined into tours [18; 19].

Tour systemic model of competitions

Three key tours were formed during this stage, including the PGA Tour (1968), the European Tour (1972) and the Japan Golf Tour (1973), which still exist today. Each of the tours united a certain number of tournaments (20–30), which changed every year. Moreover, each tour had an orderly calendar, which was consistent with the PGA Tour. The peak of the season continued to be the four big golf tournaments – the British Open, US Open, PGA Championship and Masters Tournament, which were held by the same organizations that had founded them.

During 1968–1985, the format of holding four big golf tournaments did not undergo significant changes and retained the characteristic features of the previous one. In order to become a participant in the tournaments of a certain tour, the golfer had to obtain the so-called “tour card”. To take part in the top-ranked tour, a golfer was to go through four rounds of competition (approximately 150 competitors). After the first two rounds, there was usually a cut and only the top 70 golfers could participate in the championship. However, lower-ranked tour tournaments were open to any registered professional [10; 25].

Systemic Grand Slam competition model

An important event in professional golf occurred in 1979, when the PGA of America, in agreement with other organizations, tentatively combined the four big golf tournaments into the Grand Slam of golf. A new PGA Grand Slam tournament was organized for the four champions of the current year. These competitions were considered the most prestigious in golf during 1979–2014, so, it gave grounds to highlight this competition model.

At that time, it was the most significant golf event of the season. Although the golf tour system and all other competitions, respectively, were kept within this model.

This model, covers two stages in the development of golf, including the described stage and most of the next stage (1986–2019). Taking into account the fact that the PGA Grand Slam tournament was canceled in 2015, the world of golf returned to a slightly modified tour model of the competition [5].

Professional Golf Competition in 1986–2019

This stage begins with the approval of the ranking system of golf competitions (Official World Golf Ranking, OWGR). The rating was based on the individual results of the player’s participation in competitions over a two-year period. Each start of the tour carried a certain number of points that a golfer could receive. The highest rating, respectively, belonged to the four big golf tournaments. Since 1986, the rating has undergone some corrections, but counting points was a determining factor in the admission of athletes to certain starts.

Tour-hierarchical systemic competition model

The system of golf competitions of this period was (and still is) constructed on the basis of tours and tournaments. Simultaneously with the introduction of the ranking of athletes and competitions, the latter received their own level of value, and a peculiar hierarchy of competitions in the calendar of golf events was formed.

At this historical stage, the number of tournaments in the tours was also optimized. The number of tours necessary for determining the rating of golfers increased. Among the important ones, the Asian Tour (1994) was added to the calendar of competitions. It covered all Asia with competitions, except for Japan, which had its own tour [8; 9].

Equally important for this period was a sufficiently close cooperation of all governing bodies of professional golf in the world. Thus, at the end of the 20th century, tour organizers thoroughly coordinated their cooperation, calendar, and ratings. There was a joint sanctioning by rounds of individual tournaments, as well as cross crediting of individual tournaments in different rounds.

A striking event and reflection of this cooperation was the creating the World Golf Championships (WGC) in 1999 – a group of tournaments organized by the PGA Tour for the best players. The Asian Tour, Japan Golf Tour, Sunshine Tour and PGA Tour of Australasia also jointly sanction them. Despite the variation in the number of tournaments in this category within the calendar of golf competitions, they remain in it up to now [5; 9].

In general, golf events of the 1986–2019 were characterized by the moving of some of the most prestigious tours beyond the borders of their continent, that is, for example, the PGA Tour held golf events in Asia and Europe. These steps led accordingly to the expansion of the tours and to an increase in the number of competitions in general. The format of both big golf tournaments and other competitions within the tours remained practically unchanged.

For new players who wanted to become participants of a particular tour, it was necessary to go through the so-called “qualification

school” and only after that they could get an opportunity to obtain a “tour card” for participation in tournaments. The competition calendar became quite saturated with events of various levels in this period, so players had to choose the optimal number of starts for themselves according to their own capabilities and personal rating positions [9].

From the viewpoint of golf development and the optimization of organizations’ activities regarding cooperation, this stage is considered sufficiently productive and effective from an organizational and economic positions. However, there were external factors that had strong influence on any social processes.

Professional Golf Competition in 2020–2021

In 2020, the world faced a global and difficult-to-control situation associated with negative impact on the health of people around the world. It was the COVID pandemic. This affected the development of society in general and sports in particular. Regarding the development of golf, the year 2020 became the extreme point of selecting the next stage of its development (in general, 2020–2021).

Desystemic-adaptive tour-hierarchical model

Tour-hierarchical model was assigned to the desystemic-adaptive group, since the competition system itself underwent certain negative changes (cancellation of individual tournaments, changes in the format of competitions, etc.), which caused a significant decrease in attendance of tournaments, financial losses for organizations, etc.

This model is also characterized by the search for new solutions of conducting competitions using virtual environment technologies. At this period, individual tournaments were held in the online format, which allowed not only to preserve competitive activity of athletes, but also to conquer the audience in such a situation and to establish a new direction for the development of professional golf.

This stage and this model of the golf competition system, on the one hand, should be considered insufficiently effective, but, on the other hand, the decisions that were made at this time allowed preserving the fundamental

components of the competition system, albeit in a slightly modified form.

There were also some difficulties for the participants. For instance, golfers had to adjust to participation in the online format in certain tournaments, the mandatory vaccination and a corresponding certificate were required by the organizers, etc. [5].

At the same time, the game intensification was observed in the world of golf, and therefore, its spectacularity increased. This was facilitated by a decrease in the number of competitions in the calendar and, accordingly, better training of athletes for specific starts.

Professional Golf Competition from 2022 up to now

In 2022, a relatively new stage of golf development began. It is characterized by a significant increase in the number of golfers in the world (from 61 to 66.6 million). The competition model for this stage is also tour-hierarchical, as it preserves the key components (tours, tournaments, etc.) with the same structure, but the group is called “resystemic”, since these components are gradually restored to its full spectrum and continue being improved.

It should be noted that the formation of the competition system in professional golf was a long process (Table 1). Today, the system of competitions in this kind of sport keeps on being improved, taking into account modern trends, opportunities and public requests regarding the sports spectacularity. At the initial stages of the golf tournaments development, the competitions did not have a coherent system (1860–1945); therefore, such models of golf competitions as one-tournament, two-tournament, three-tournament and four-tournament are classified as non-systemic. Starting from 1946 and up to 1967, there was a relative coordination of the activities among golf organizations regarding the tournaments holding, that is why they belong to a discrete-systemic group, which includes the four-tournament model of golf competitions.

A clearly formed system of competitions has been used since 1968, when the governing body of international professional golf, the PGA Tour, was formed [5]. PGA Tour took over the

Table 1

Competition models of various stages of professional golf development

Stages	1860–1915	1916–1920	1921–1941		1942–1945
Groups of models	Non-systemic				–
Model	One-tournament (1860–1894)	Two-tournament (1895–1920)	Three-tournament (1921–1933)	Four-tournament (1934–1941)	

Stages	1946–1967	1968–1985	1986–2019	2020–2021	3 2022
Groups of models	Discrete-systemic	Systemic		Desystemic-adaptive	Resystemic
Model	Four-tournament	Tour (1968–1978)	Grand Slam model (1979–2014)	Tour-hierarchical (2015–...)	

patronage of all events, created the optimal competition calendar, determined the priority and other tournaments, and unified the competition format. Therefore, the tour, Grand Slam and tour-hierarchical models (after the appearance of the official rating) are included into the group of systemic models.

In 2020, due to the impact of the COVID pandemic on the world and the processes taking place in it, there was a number of destructive processes in professional golf influencing negatively the competition system development. Some components were breached (cancellation of some tournaments, reformatting of others), that is why the existing tour-hierarchical model in the period of 2020–2021 passed into a group of desystemic-adaptive models.

Starting from 2022, the negative impact of the pandemic has gradually reduced and, accordingly, the restoration of all golf events, the structure and content of the competition system are taking place. The tour-hierarchical model remains relevant and continues being improved.

Competition models that will be formed in the future, particularly in professional golf, can also be assigned to the appropriate group based on the presence or absence of a system in it.

Results concisely and reasonably summarize the findings in form of text, tables and figures arranged in a logical and internally self-consistent manner. The number of tables and figures should be limited to those absolutely needed to confirm or refute the thesis. Data given

in graphs and tables should not be automatically repeated in the text. This section may be divided by subheadings.

Conclusions. The development of the professional golf and its competitive activity in different periods is determined by a number of factors of social (level of social development, attitude towards professional sport in society, etc.), economic (economic situation of society, the level of income in the population, etc.), and political nature (interest of governing bodies of various levels in the development professional sports, etc.).

Under the influence of these factors, the competitive activity in professional golf was gradually formed (since 1860) and became a complete system after almost a century (since 1968).

At various stages of the development of this sport, the following groups and competition models were highlighted:

- a non-systematic group: one-tournament (1860–1894), two-tournament (1895–1920), three-tournament (1921–1933), four-tournament (1934–1941) models;
- a discrete-systematic group: four-tournament (1946–1967) model;
- a systematic group: tour (1968–1978), Grand Slam (1979–2014), tour-hierarchical (2015–2019) models;
- a dissystemic-adapted group: tour-hierarchical model (2020–2021);
- a resystemic group: tour-hierarchical model (from 2022 up to now).

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Отримано: 15.02.2024

Прийнято: 10.03.2024

Опубліковано: 29.04.2024

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Received on: 15.02.2024

Accepted on: 10.03.2024

Published on: 29.04.2024