

# 73RD U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP®

Conducted by the United States Golf Association®

Shoal Creek, Shoal Creek, Alabama | May 31 – June 3, 2018



## ELIGIBILITY

Entries are open to female professional golfers, amateur golfers, and applicants for reinstatement. Amateurs and applicants for reinstatement must have an up-to-date Handicap Index® not exceeding 2.4 under the USGA Handicap System™. A Handicap Index must be issued from a "golf club" (as defined in the *USGA Handicap System Manual*) which is authorized to use the USGA Handicap System. The USGA accepts an up-to-date handicap issued from the international body of golf that would be equivalent to a USGA Handicap Index® within the prescribed limit for entry into the Championship.

**Age:** Player's date of birth is required on all USGA entry forms.

An application for a player who is a minor upon the date of submission, in the state in which she resides (e.g., New Jersey, under the age of 18) must be submitted by a parent/guardian, and list parent/guardian's name, phone number, and email address. The parent/guardian must agree to be bound by all terms and conditions on their behalf and on behalf of the minor player.

**Amateur Status:** All amateur players must conform to the *USGA Rules of Amateur Status*. If the player will be participating in this competition as an amateur or applicant for reinstatement and will be receiving expenses from sources other than family members to participate in this competition, please refer to Rule 4 of the *Rules of Amateur Status*.

**Anti-Doping Policy:** Important information regarding the USGA Anti-Doping Policy and drug testing at the Championship proper may be found at [www.usga.org/championships/antidopingpolicy](http://www.usga.org/championships/antidopingpolicy).

**Code of Conduct:** The USGA may reject an entry application, revoke an accepted application, expel from the Championship and/or suspend a player from future championships if the player engages in conduct detrimental to the integrity and image of the game of golf and/or public confidence in the USGA. Such conduct may include, but is not limited to, damage to the golf course or the player's equipment, verbal or physical abuse of spectators, officials, volunteers, or staff, blatant or excessive profanity, disorderly behavior, failure to abide by club rules, or any other unbecoming conduct.

**Equipment Permitted Conditionally for Medical Reasons:** Players who wish to request permission to use a medical device due to a medical condition or injury and proceed under Exception 1 to Rule 14-3, should refer to [www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/championships-hub/additional-entry-resources/equipment-permitted-for-medical-reasons.html](http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/championships-hub/additional-entry-resources/equipment-permitted-for-medical-reasons.html).

**Gender Policy:** Information regarding the USGA Gender Policy and additional entry requirements may be found at [www.usga.org/championships/transgendered](http://www.usga.org/championships/transgendered).

**Performance in Sectional Qualifying:** If a player fails to return a score within 12 strokes of the USGA Course Rating™, future entries for a U.S. Women's Open Championship may be declined if documentation is not provided demonstrating that the player is capable of competing at the national championship level. Please note that players who "no card" are subject to receive a letter from the USGA under the same guidelines as those who do not return a score within 12 strokes of the course rating.

**Withdrawal from Qualifying:** Entrant who wishes to withdraw from Qualifying must notify the USGA (908-326-1950 or via e-mail at [champs@usga.org](mailto:champs@usga.org)) and the Official in Charge prior to their scheduled qualifying round. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from future USGA competitions.

## ENTRIES: FORM, FEE, CLOSING DATE

All players, including those exempt, must file an entry application. Players must file online at the USGA website ([www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org)). Only those players for whom blank entries are filed by the USGA as noted in the section on exemptions will not be required to submit entry applications. *Only one entry may be filed per player. The USGA reserves the right to disqualify anyone who submits more than one entry.*

*Entry fee of \$200 must be paid by every player. Entry fee will be refunded regardless of reason if the USGA is notified (908-326-1950 or via e-mail at [champs@usga.org](mailto:champs@usga.org)) before the close of entries. After the close of entries, fee will be refunded in the event of medical condition, if requested by May 31 and the player has not already participated in qualifying. No refund for any reason after May 31. A \$35 service charge will be deducted from all refunds.*

**ENTRY APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY USGA  
NO LATER THAN 5 P.M. E.D.T. ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018**

Entry applications must be filed online at:

[www.usga.org/champs/apply](http://www.usga.org/champs/apply)

**Late applications are not acceptable  
and will be automatically rejected.**

**(Entries by telephone, telegraph, mail or FAX are not acceptable.)**

**Time limit for entries means time of receipt at USGA (not time entry is transmitted to USGA). Entries should be submitted early to allow ample time for delay or error in transmission. The risk of delay or error in transmission lies solely with the entrant and the USGA will have no liability with respect to any such delay or error and the consequences therefrom, including rejection of the entry.**

## SCHEDULE

Competition will be in two stages, at stroke play:

**1. Sectional Qualifying – 36 holes.** For all except exempt players listed herein. See schedule.

**2. Championship – 72 holes.** 156 players eligible, comprised of place-winners in Sectional Qualifying Rounds and those exempt from sectional qualifying.

THURSDAY, MAY 31: – First round, 18 holes.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1: – Second round, 18 holes.

60 lowest scorers and any tying for 60th place for first 36 holes continues play; remainder eliminated after 36 holes.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2: – Third round, 18 holes.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3: – Fourth round, 18 holes.

Lowest scorer for 72 holes will be champion. In the event of a tie for the Championship, a two hole play-off will be held immediately following play. The winner will be the player with the lowest aggregate score for the play-off holes. In the event of a further tie, play will immediately continue hole by hole until a champion is determined. The play-off holes and their order of play will be determined by the USGA and posted not later than Sunday, June 3, 2018.

## PRIZES

### CHAMPIONSHIP

**WINNER:** Gold medal and custody of the Bud Semple Trophy for the ensuing year, subject to such conditions as the USGA may establish.

**RUNNER-UP:** Silver medal.

**PROFESSIONALS ONLY:** To be announced.

**AMATEURS RETURNING 72-HOLE SCORES:** Lowest scorer-gold medal.

Prize money will be divided equally among those tied, except that if a professional wins a play-off for the Championship she will receive first prize money.

If amateurs finish in the first or first and second places, the prize money allocated to those players will be re-distributed to the professionals who return a 72-hole score.

If ties occur for medals, duplicates will be awarded, except that only the winner will receive a Championship gold medal.

**NO OTHER REMUNERATION:** By her application, the player acknowledges that she is not entitled to remuneration of any kind for participation in the Championship other than prizes listed herein.

**PRIZE-SHARING PROHIBITED:** By her application, the player certifies that she has not entered into and will not enter into any arrangement whereby she could have a financial interest in any other player's prize money (such as through prize-splitting or prize money "insurance").

### SECTIONAL QUALIFYING ROUNDS

**LOWEST SCORER:** Silver medal; if a tie, duplicate medals will be awarded.

**LOWEST AMATEUR SCORER** (if not lowest scorer): Silver medal; if a tie, duplicate medals will be awarded.

## RULES OF GOLF; CLOSE OF COMPETITION

Play will be governed by *The Rules of Golf* as approved by the United States Golf Association and The R & A. Questions will be settled by the on-site Rules Committee, whose decision will be final. The competition is deemed to be closed when the Championship trophy has been presented.

## GOLF BALLS; DRIVER HEADS

Only brands of golf balls on the most current USGA List of Conforming Golf Balls and driver heads on the most current USGA List of Conforming Driver Heads may be used. Updated lists may be found on the USGA website at [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org) or by contacting the USGA Technical Department at (908) 234-2300. The so-called "One-Ball Rule," the optional condition prescribed in Appendix I of *The Rules of Golf*, will be in effect.

## CLUBS: GROOVES

In Sectional qualifying and in the Championship proper, the player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in *The Rules of Golf* that are effective from January 1, 2010.

**\*PENALTY FOR CARRYING, BUT NOT MAKING STROKE WITH, CLUB OR CLUBS IN BREACH OF CONDITION:** Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round - four strokes. If a breach is discovered between the play of two holes, it is deemed to have been discovered during play of the next hole, and the penalty must be applied accordingly.

\*Any club or clubs carried in breach of this condition must be declared out of play by the player to her marker or a fellow-competitor in stroke play immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. If the player fails to do so, she is disqualified.

**PENALTY FOR MAKING STROKE WITH CLUB IN BREACH OF CONDITION:** Disqualification.

## FOOTWEAR

It is a condition at all qualifying sites unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk on this entry application that shoes with traditionally-designed spikes (regardless of composition, i.e., ceramic, plastic, etc.) or spikes, regardless of design, comprised either entirely or partially of metal (if such metal may come in contact with the course) are prohibited during the stipulated round. Penalty for breach of this condition: DISQUALIFICATION.

## CADDIES

Qualifying Rounds - A player may provide her own caddie. If she wishes to have the host club furnish a caddie, she should ask the Official in Charge because sufficient caddies may not be available at the host club.

Championship proper - A player may provide her own caddie. If she wishes to have a caddie provided to her by the host club, she must complete the information as outlined in the Memorandum to Players.

A player is not required to employ a caddie for any stage of the Championship.

## TRANSPORTATION/CART REQUESTS

Players must not ride on any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorized by the Committee. The optional condition prescribed in Appendix I of *The Rules of Golf* will be in effect.

As a general rule, players and their caddies must walk the course at USGA Championships and at most qualifying rounds. But consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a disabled player or caddie may be permitted to use a golf cart as an accommodation to his or her disability for those events where golf carts are not allowed. As required by the ADA, the USGA will evaluate such requests on a case-by-case basis.

In order for the USGA to properly evaluate the merits of such requests, while maintaining the fundamental fairness of the golf competition, it is necessary for players requesting this accommodation (whether submitted by the player, by the player for the player's caddie or by the parent/legal guardian of a minor player) to submit medical documentation to facilitate that analysis. The documentation provided must demonstrate: (1) a player's (or caddie's) disability as defined by the ADA; (2) the medical need for the golf cart that results from that disability; and (3) that by providing a golf cart to a player or caddie in that particular circumstance, the USGA would not be fundamentally altering the fairness of the competition by providing a player with an advantage over other players. The required form entitled **Golf Cart Request Form (as well as additional important information for first time and subsequent requests for a cart)** is available at the following link: [www.usga.org/championships-hub/additional-entry-resources/requesting-a-golf-cart.html](http://www.usga.org/championships-hub/additional-entry-resources/requesting-a-golf-cart.html).

## PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION; BROADCASTING

I understand that the USGA or its designees, may record, film, photograph, or otherwise capture my likeness, image, voice, biography, references to me, my quoted statements, and my play in the Championship (the foregoing, together with my name, my "Appearance"). In consideration of the opportunity to participate in the Championship, by submitting this Application, I grant (and/or have the authority to grant to the USGA in the case of a parent/guardian of a minor or other authorized representative submitting the Application on my behalf) to the USGA, and its licensees, successors and assigns, the perpetual, transferable, assignable, worldwide, royalty-free, irrevocable right to use my Appearance, in whole or in part, in all manner (including exhibition, distribution, reproduction, publication, display, broadcast, transmission or otherwise), and media now known or hereafter invented or discovered, and for any purpose whatsoever. The rights granted herein include, without limitation, the right to use the Appearance, or portions thereof, in promotion of the Championship and future championships through any of the foregoing means of distribution, as well as in the design, manufacture and distribution of merchandise related to the Championship or other championships, that include elements of my Appearance.

## LOCATION; TRANSFERRING

Players' preferences for Sectional Qualifying locations must be designated on the entry.

If a Sectional Qualifying location has more players than can be accommodated, some players may be transferred to another location and the date for qualifying may be different than the original requested date. Transfer will be based on the date of receipt of entry application. Transfers are final. Qualifying sites are final after entries close. Transfer from one qualifying location to another is not permissible after entries close. Qualifying sites may be cancelled due to lack of participation. In the event of inclement weather, qualifying will take place as soon as possible following the originally scheduled date.

## QUALIFIERS' PLACES; TIES; SUBSTITUTIONS

The number of qualifiers' places in each location will be determined by the USGA after entries close, based on size and strength of field.

A tie for the last qualifier's place or an alternate's place will be decided immediately by a hole-by-hole play-off.

Alternates in order of qualifying scores will be allowed for qualifiers unable to compete in the Championship.

If a qualifying location cannot fill its qualifiers' places for the next stage, or if an exempt player withdraws, the place made available will be reallocated to another location. A reallocation schedule will be prearranged by the USGA.

If a player withdraws before playing a stroke in the Championship proper, a substitution is allowed. Only the USGA may make such substitutions.

## PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION; BROADCASTING (CONT.)

The USGA is not obligated to use my Appearance in any matter, and materials embodying any aspect of my Appearance do not need be submitted to me for approval. I release and discharge the USGA, its licensees, successors and assigns from any claims arising from use of my Appearance, including claims for misrepresentation of me, my character, or my person by any means. As between the USGA and me, the USGA shall own all right, title and interest, including the copyright(s), in and to any works created by the USGA, its licensees, successors and assigns, that include all or a portion of my Appearance. This grant shall be binding on my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and the successors and assigns of the USGA. I hereby waive all privacy, publicity, defamation, libel, and proprietary rights relating to the Appearance as used by the USGA in conjunction with these terms.

Players are required to cooperate with representatives of the media; however, no pre-Championship activities outside of those activities which are part of the Championship will be required. Authorized representatives of the media will not interfere with the player's Championship play in an unreasonable manner.

## REGISTRATION

**By 6:00 P.M. on MONDAY, MAY 28, eligible players must:**

1. Register in person at location listed in the Memorandum to Players; or
2. All players arriving late should notify the Championship Administration Department at the USGA (908) 326-1950 or via e-mail at [champs@usga.org](mailto:champs@usga.org) (if before May 23). After May 23, please contact the USGA Director of the U.S. Women's Open Championship. (Please see Memorandum to Players for contact information.) Place may be forfeited by a player from whom no word has been received by 6:00 P.M. on MONDAY, MAY 28.

## PRACTICE PRIVILEGES

Privileges of Shoal Creek are extended to qualified players in the Championship from May 28 through May 30.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Information concerning accommodations will be provided upon completion of Sectional Qualifying rounds. Exempt players will receive this information from the USGA.

## PERSONAL APPEARANCE

In Sectional Qualifying and the Championship proper, players must be neat in appearance with respect to clothing and personal grooming.

## CONDITIONS; SCHEDULES

The USGA Championship Committee/on-site Rules Committee reserves the right to alter any of the conditions, provisions and/or schedules herein. The decision of the Championship Committee/on-site Rules Committee in any matter will be final.

## SECTIONAL QUALIFYING

### ACCEPTANCE OF PLACES; NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

On the day of qualifying, every qualifier should inform the Official in Charge whether she will play in the Championship.

If a qualifier or an exempt player withdraws, she must notify the USGA (908-326-1950 or via e-mail at [champs@usga.org](mailto:champs@usga.org)) promptly in order to insure an alternate fair opportunity to play. Failure to comply may result in disqualification from future USGA competition.

### EXEMPTIONS

Exemption categories list herein are applicable for the 2018 Championship only. The USGA reserves the right to revise any of the exemption categories. Exemption under categories reserved for amateurs will be granted only to players who are currently amateurs, unless otherwise indicated. An amateur who is exempt into Sectional Qualifying or the Championship proper through a category reserved for amateurs becomes ineligible if he becomes a professional before beginning play or during the play of the Championship, unless otherwise indicated. Exempt players who wish to participate in the Championship must file an entry, except those players for whom blank entries are filed as noted.