



Championship Changes for 2017

In an effort to better serve our members needs and enhance our AGA State Championships, the Alabama Golf Association is pleased to announce the following changes for the 2017 Season:

- AGA will adopt the new **Local Rule for Accidental Movement of a Ball on a Putting Green** in all State Championships, AGA qualifiers and USGA qualifiers. Go to <http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/2017-local-rule/2017-local-rule-resources.html> for more information on this new Rule.
- Cart fees are now included in the entry fee for all for all AGA Championship and AGA sectional qualifying rounds (excluding Boys and Girls State Junior).
- Merchandise prizes will be awarded to top finishers at select championships (See below)
- Entries for all events will now be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. Once the number of entries exceeds the field limit, players will be placed on an alternate list.
- The AJGA ACE Grant financial assistance program has recently approved juniors to receive expense reimbursement (up to \$250) when they play in either the Boys or Girls Alabama State Junior Championship. The purpose of the ACE Grant is to make the opportunity of earning a college scholarship through the game of golf available to **ALL**, no matter their financial situation. See respective Entry Forms for details on how to apply.

Additionally, we have made the following tournament specific changes for 2017:

Women's State Senior

- Date has been moved from its traditional April date to October 25-27, 2017
- Player lunch provided each day of Championship
- Super Senior Division will now be 3 days instead of 2

Men's State Four-Ball

- Merchandise prizes will be awarded

Men's State Senior

- For the purpose of applying the cut, the 50-56 and 57-64 Age Divisions will be treated as one division (overall)
- Merchandise prizes will be awarded

Men's State Amateur (Qualifying)

- All ties at the last qualifying spot will be accepted into the Championship
- Players who successfully qualify will only pay the difference between the qualifying entry fee and the Championship entry fee (\$160)

Men's State Amateur (Championship)

- Player lunch will be provided for both Round 3 and Round 4
- Merchandise prizes will be awarded

Women's State Amateur

- Senior Division added. Will now be 3 divisions: Championship, Tournament and Senior
- Championship bracket=16 players. All other brackets=4 players
- Championship ~ 6000 yards
- Tournament ~ 5500 yards
- Senior ~ 5000 yards
- Player lunch provided each day of Championship

Girls State Junior

- Players will be allowed to have caddies, provided the caddie is 18 years old or younger

Women's Stroke Play

- Senior Division added. Will now be 3 divisions: Championship, Tournament and Senior
- Championship ~ 6000 yards
- Tournament ~ 5500 yards
- Senior ~ 5000 yards
- Player lunch provided each day of Championship

Boys State Junior

- Players will be allowed to have caddies, provided the caddie is 18 years old or younger
- For the purpose of applying the cut, the 14-15 and 16-18 Age Divisions will be treated as one division (overall).
- No cut for the 9-11 and 12-13 AGA Divisions.

Women's State Four-Ball

- Date has been moved from its tradition September date to July 27-28, 2017
- Championship ~ 6000 yards
- Tournament ~ 5500 yards
- Senior ~ 5000 yards
- Player lunch provided each day of Championship

State Match Play (New Format)

- Changed from 3 day, match play only to 4 day, stroke play qualifying to match play
- Limited to the first 84 players
- Stroke Play - 36 holes of gross individual stroke play to determine 16 players for match play. 18 holes each day on Thursday and Friday. A tie for the last qualifier's place will be decided immediately by a hole-by-hole playoff
- Match Play – General numerical draw will be used. For purposes of determining places in the draw, ties in qualifying rounds will be decided by lot
- In the event of a tied match, (a) the winner will be decided immediately by a hole-by-hole play-off and (b) the stipulated round is deemed to extend to as many holes as are required for a match to be won.
- The round of 16 will be played on Saturday morning followed by the quarter-finals that afternoon.
- The semi-finals will be played on Sunday morning and the finals will be held on Sunday afternoon.
- Merchandise prizes will be awarded

State Senior Four-Ball

- Super Senior Division added (both players must be at least 65 years old by the first day of the competition)
- Merchandise prizes will be awarded