



Alabama Golf Association

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Who We Are

Alabama Golf Association

Founded: 1915

Staff: 7 Staff, 5 Interns

Board of Directors: 33 Individuals,
including 7 Executive Committee Members

Located: Hoover

Total Individual Members: 28,711

Total Member Clubs: 118



a letter from the **AGA President**

Dear Alabama Golf Association Membership,

I am honored to address you for the first time as the President of the Alabama Golf Association (AGA), representing the dedicated staff, volunteers, and, most importantly, the 28,000+ members at our 118 member clubs. It is a privilege to reflect on the hard work, growth, and unwavering passion for golf within our Alabama golf community over the last year contained in this report.

Alabama golfers have demonstrated remarkable talent and determination both on the world stage and locally here in their native state this year. The golf course, as a haven for joy and connection with friends and family, remains a pivotal part of our lives. Amid these moments, the Alabama Golf Association is thriving, steadfast in our commitment to championing the greatest game in our state.

As the USGA's allied partner to deliver core services such as the GHIN handicap service, course rating administration, national championship qualifying, and education on the Rules of Golf and Handicapping, the AGA is dedicated to advancing the game and enhancing your golf experience whether in-person or digitally. We've been diligently working on elevating benefits and services, introducing our innovative programs for junior golfers through Junior Golf Alabama and Youth on Course, providing additional playing opportunities while investing in the future via the Alabama Golf Foundation with college scholarships and turfgrass research funding.

In the upcoming year, we are thrilled to present a full schedule of tournaments and championships for players of all ages and skill levels, blending the charm of clubs you know and love with the excitement of new venues. Among the major championship highlights are the 108th Alabama State Amateur at Shoal Creek Club, the 92nd Alabama Women's State Amateur at Anniston Country Club, the 79th Alabama Boys State Junior at RTJ Golf Trail at Silver Lakes, and the 61st Alabama Girls State Junior at GlenLakes Golf Club. If you haven't participated in an AGA event yet, I urge you to explore the opportunities at alabamagolf.org – there's truly something for everyone. We will soon announce exciting changes and additions to our championship line-up that promise to elevate those competitions.



I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the AGA staff for their outstanding leadership in managing the various moving parts of the organization each year. A special thank you goes out to our loyal volunteers and board members for their continued commitment to the game we hold dear. To every individual AGA member and member club, your unwavering support is the essence of our association, and I am sincerely grateful for your dedication.

As we step into 2024, rest assured that the Alabama Golf Association is prepared to build on this year's great successes and further enrich your golf experience for individuals of all ages and abilities. With your continued commitment and support, we look forward to a brighter future for the entire Alabama golf community.

Fairways and greens,

Walker Grant
President
Alabama Golf Association

2023

by the numbers

28,711 Total Members

+12.7% Growth; +21% more junior golfers and +10.7% adults

5,979 junior golfers

618,806 total scores posted by members

28.53 average rounds posted per player

47 total events





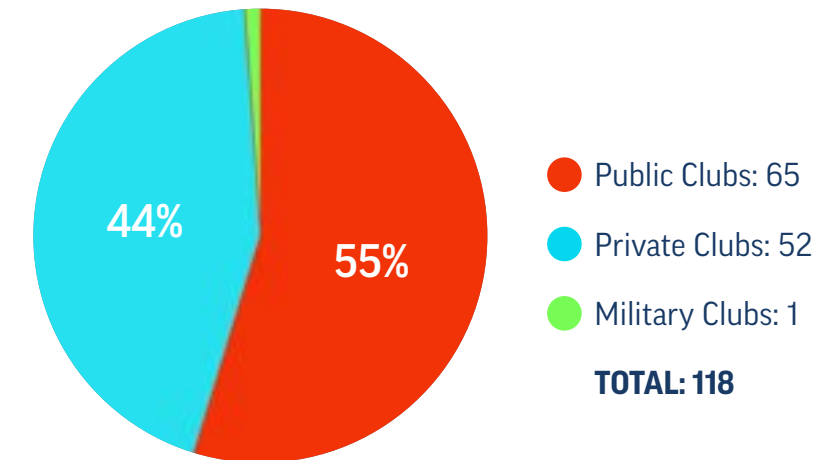
Our Clubs

2023

118 Member Clubs

28 Courses Rated

CLUB TYPE



- Public Clubs: 65
- Private Clubs: 52
- Military Clubs: 1

TOTAL: 118

RULES OF HANDICAPPING CHANGES FOR 2024

Inclusion of Shorter-Length Golf Courses Within the Course Rating System: The overall length requirements for Course Rating in the WHS will be significantly reduced. This change is intended to expand the WHS to thousands of shorter length courses, including par-3 courses, and enable more golfers to obtain and use a Handicap Index.

Use of an Expected Score for a Hole Not Played: Improvements have been made to the method used to handle holes not played, which will now be based on a player's expected score rather than a score of net par. This new method will produce a 9-hole or 18-hole Score Differential that more accurately reflects a player's ability.

Playing Conditions Calculation Adjustments Made More Frequent: The Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC) has been modified to increase the likelihood of an adjustment for abnormal playing conditions. National associations were given discretion, beginning in July 2022, to introduce this revision in their computation platforms, which will be complete by April 1, 2024.

Enhanced Guidance on Conducting a Handicap Review: New reporting tools have been developed that national associations can incorporate into their handicapping software to assist Committees in conducting the review process effectively and consistently.

For more information, visit www.usga.org/whs.

Our Golfers

2023

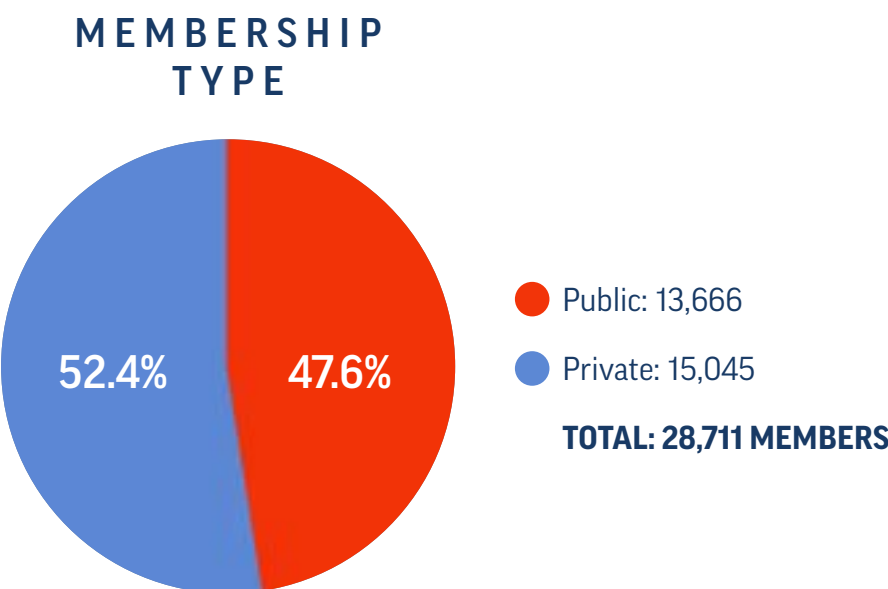
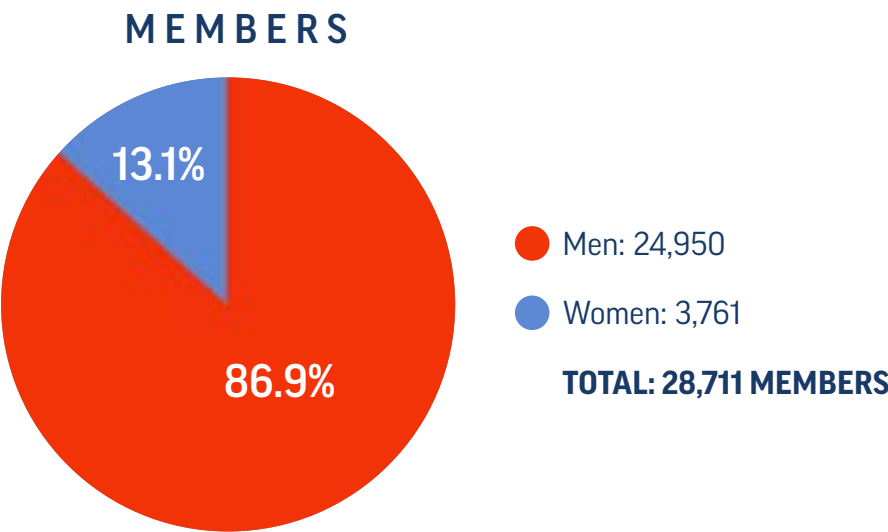
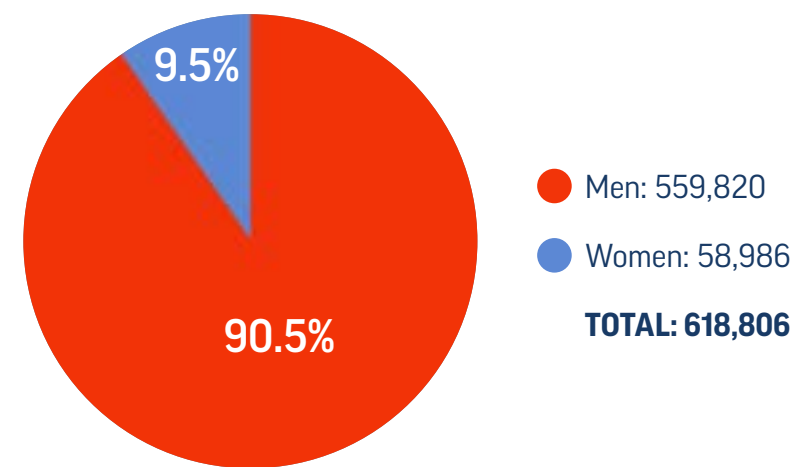
11.4 Men's Average Handicap Index

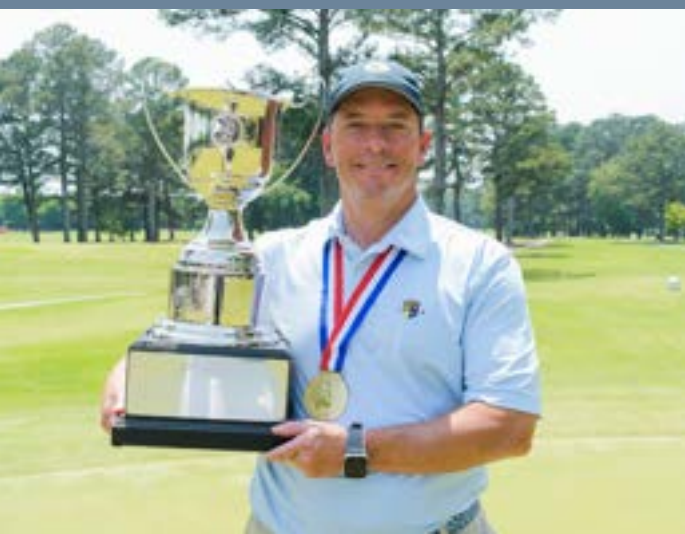
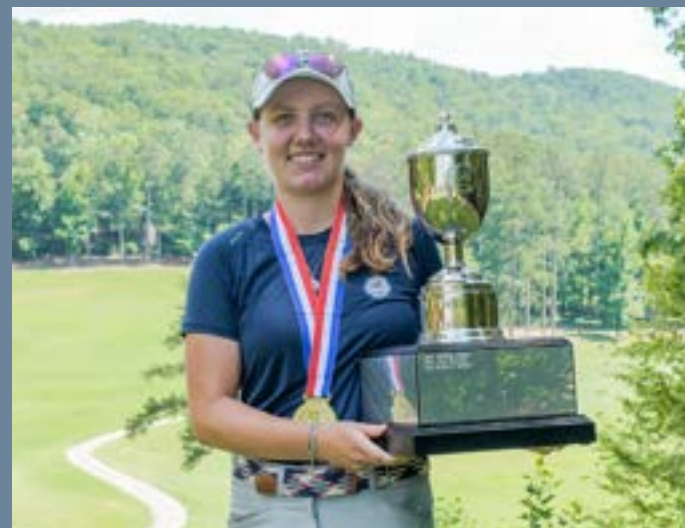
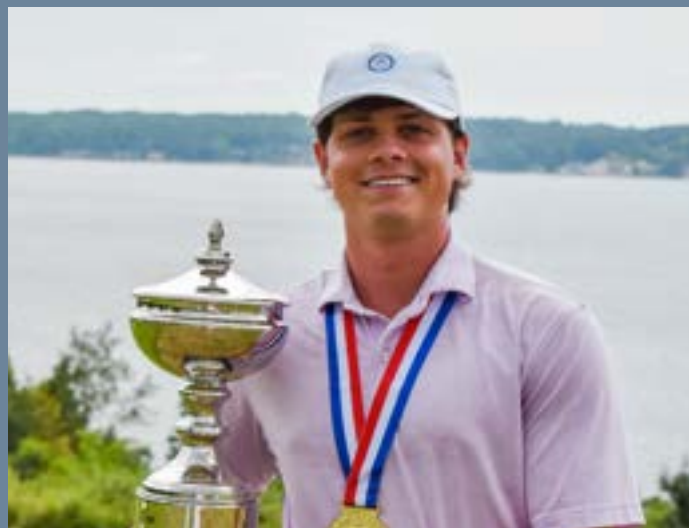
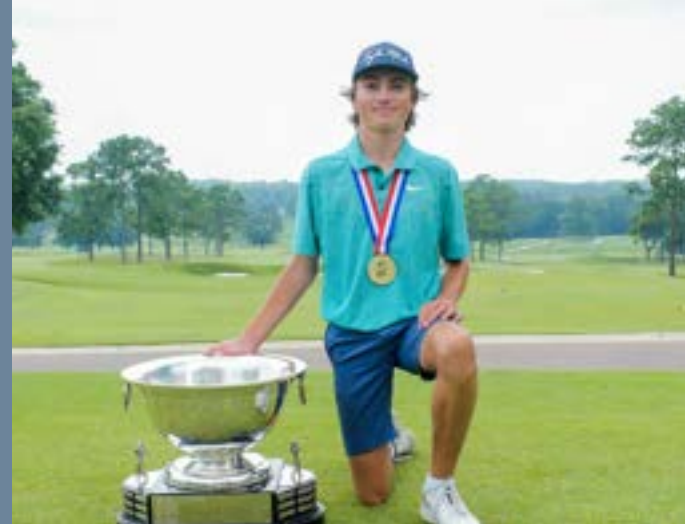
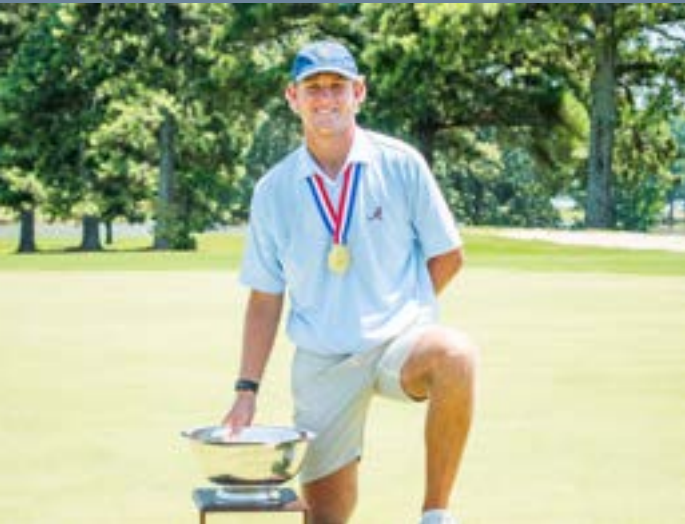
24.8 Women's Average Handicap Index

84 Men's Average 18-Hole Score

95 Women's Average 18-Hole Score

TOTAL SCORES POSTED





Our Events

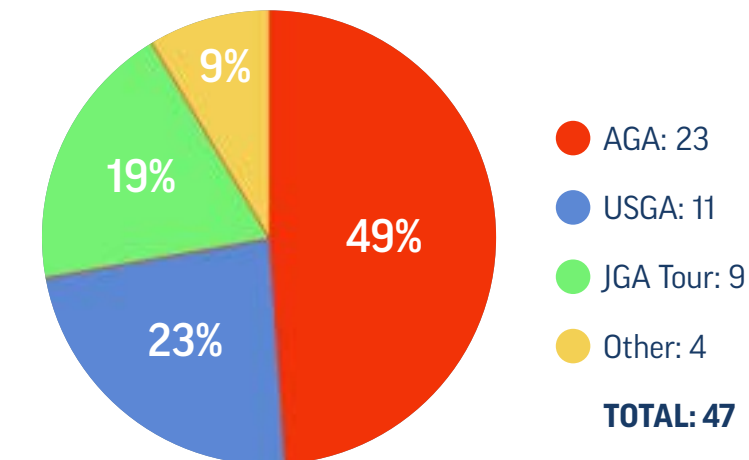
2023

The AGA annually conducts 24 championships; team match competitions for men, women, junior and seniors; AHSAA high school golf championship and the SEC Men's Golf Championship. The AGA manages the Junior Golf Alabama program that is a joint venture between the AGA and Alabama-NW Florida PGA Section.

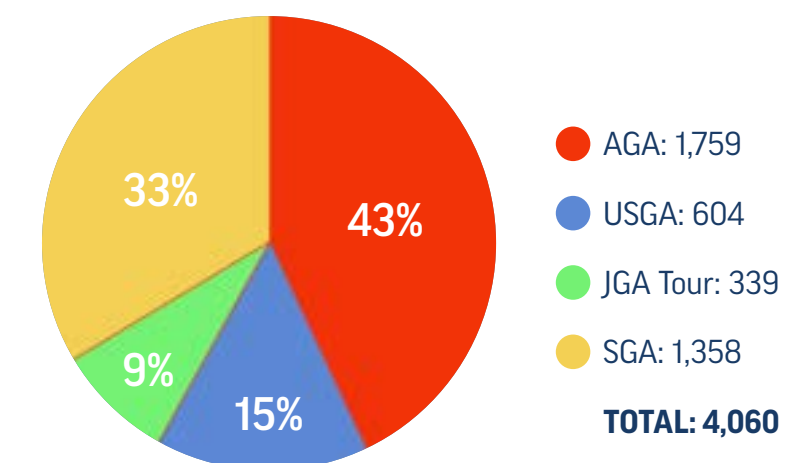
Since 1980, the AGA has managed the affairs of the Southern Golf Association which includes conducting the historic Southern Amateur Championship and Southern Junior Championship.

24 Unique Competition Sites
7,128 Event Rounds Played
90 Total Competition Days

EVENT TYPE



EVENT ENTRIES



Our Volunteers

2023

29 Volunteers Serving At Least One Day

221 Days On Site

GET INVOLVED AS AN AGA VOLUNTEER

The Alabama Golf Association needs your help! The AGA is largely a volunteer based organization. Outside of the professional staff, the organization is led by a volunteer-based Board of Directors.

The AGA is continuously seeking willing and capable persons to assist us in the areas of Rules Officiating, Tournament Volunteers and Course Raters.

Visit www.alabamagolf.org for more information.





“The AGA Foundation is proud to serve the next generation of golfers through Youth on Course Alabama, as well as college students in Alabama through its AGA scholarship. Golf is an expensive sport, but one that provides opportunities that can lead youth to a successful life.”

Our Impact

2023



Youth on Course provides funds to subsidize \$5 rounds of golf for juniors

1,077 current members

+88% growth

3,769 discounted rounds played

\$35,000 raised in 100 Hole Hike

AGA College Scholarship
now open to male and female applicants

7 students currently supported

\$31,875 tuition awarded

2 new recipients in 2023, one of which was the first male recipient

On the National Stage

2023



3 Alabama golfers competed on
3 teams representing the U.S.

In 2023, three Alabama natives represented their country on the national stage while competing in prestigious international events. Gordon Sargent of Birmingham and Nick Dunlap of Huntsville both were members of the U.S. Walker Cup and World Amateur Teams, and Molly Brown Davidson of Springville competed as one of three United States representatives at the World Junior Girls Golf Championship.

In addition to competing on the victorious U.S. Walker Cup and World Amateur Team, Nick Dunlap claimed the 123rd U.S. Amateur Championship title.



Gordon Sargent
Birmingham



Nick Dunlap
Huntsville



Molly Brown Davidson
Springville

Junior Golf Alabama

2023



9 Total Events

339 total event entries

678 total rounds played

33 players participated in First on Course programming

**junior
golf**
ALABAMA





AGA License Plate

2023

383 License Plates Sold Thru November

\$15,800 Raised For the AGA Foundation



If **1,000** license plates are sold, we get the opportunity to create a new design with custom artwork. Visit your local vehicle licensing office today to help us reach out goal!

GET YOUR TAG TODAY

The AGA is proud to have launched Alabama's first-ever and only golf-themed license plate. Now, Alabamians will have the option to drive off the path and support the Alabama Golf Foundation by Driving Fore the Game!

For each plate issued, the Alabama Golf Association receives \$41.25 to directly support our junior golf initiatives, including but not limited to Youth on Course and the AGA College Scholarship.

You can get the tag any time, regardless of your renewal month--and you can have it personalized at no extra cost.

Changes For 2024

State Amateur and Junior Champions Receive USGA Championship Exemptions

Starting this season, champions of the following four Alabama State championships will earn an exemption into their corresponding USGA championship:

- 2024 Alabama State Amateur Champion exempt into 2024 U.S. Amateur
- 2024 Alabama Women's State Amateur Champion exempt into 2024 U.S. Women's Amateur
- 2024 Alabama Girls State Junior Champion exempt into 2024 U.S. Girls' Junior
- 2024 Alabama Boys State Junior Champion exempt into 2024 U.S. Junior Amateur

Format Change for Alabama Women's Amateur Championship

After 91 years, the Alabama Women's State Amateur Championship will change its format from match play to stroke play. Over the last several years, the Alabama Women's Stroke Play Championship has played a stronger field versus the Women's State Amateur match play format. As part of the USGA exemption opportunity, the stroke play format event met the WAGR Power threshold in order to be eligible for the exemption.

Inaugural Alabama Women's Mid-Amateur Championship

The AGA is adding a new championship aimed at offering women ages 22 and up, who are not a member of a college golf team, with an additional opportunity to continue playing competitively. The Inaugural Alabama Women's Mid-Amateur Championship is a 54-hole stroke play WAGR ranked tournament that will be played concurrently with the Alabama Girls State Junior from June 3-5 at GlenLakes Golf Club in Foley.

Expanded Alabama State Parent-Child Championship

Responding to the overwhelming demand and to accommodate more participants at Highland Park Golf Course, the AGA is expanding the Alabama State Parent-Child Championship field. Based upon division, teams will be assigned to either Tuesday, June 25 or Wednesday, June 26 to compete in the 18 hole competition using a modified alternate shot format.

