



ALABAMA GOLF ASSOCIATION

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TO: 35th Alabama State Four-Ball Championship Contestants
FROM: Brian Scheufler, Alabama Golf Association
DATE: January 1, 2017
TOPIC: State Four-Ball Championship Player Information

The Alabama Golf Association looks forward to seeing you at the 35th playing of the State Four-Ball Championship at Saugahatchee Country Club in Auburn, AL from May 4-7, 2017. Please review the following championship information. Remember that we are guests of the club, need to conduct ourselves in a proper manner and adhere to all host club policies. Also, make sure to be at your assigned tee ready to play at least five minutes before your starting time. Call me at the AGA office if you have any questions or e-mail me at brian@alabamagolf.org. We hope you have a great championship!

Championship Website: <http://www.alabamagolf.org/2017-championships>

Championship History

This year marks the 35th playing of the Alabama State Four-Ball Championship and the first time Saugahatchee Country Club has hosted the State Four-Ball Championship. Steve Hudson of Birmingham & Robert Nelson of Fairhope won the title in 2016 at Wynlakes Golf & Country Club. The Championship was first played in 1983 with Benjamin Dowdy & Joe Terrell winning the inaugural event. Dowdy & Terrell went on to win a total of 4 times, giving them the most Four-Ball titles in State history.

Championship Registration

Players should sign the host plaque in the clubhouse outside of the Pro Shop on Wednesday, May 3 from 8:00am-4:00pm.

Saugahatchee Country Club Information

PGA Head Golf Professional: Charlie Richardson
Course Superintendent: Arnold Frantz
Physical Address: 3800 Bent Creek Road, Opelika, AL 36804
Club Website: <http://www.saugahatcheecountryclub.com/>
Golf Shop Phone: 334-749-4342
Golf Shop Hours: 7:00am-6:00pm
Practice Facility Hours: 7:00am-7:00pm
Food & Beverage Hours: 10:00am-8:00pm Friday-Sun 8-8
Championship Yardage: 6946 yards. Par 36-36—72
Course/Slope Rating: 73.2/136
Course Turfgrass: Tees/Fairways, Rough (419 Bermuda); Putting Greens (Miniverde)

Food and Beverage

All food and beverage consumed on club grounds must be purchased at Saugahatchee Country Club.

Map to Saugahatchee Country Club

<https://goo.gl/maps/e67kpZszpux>

Lodging

It is Graduation weekend for Auburn University and the best hotel rate is in Lanett, Alabama about 25 minutes from the course.

<http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/alabama/hampton-inn-and-suites-lanett-west-point-AUOLNHX/index.html>

Saugahatchee Country Club Policies

- **Cell Phone Policy:** Cell phones may only be used on the golf course in case of an emergency, to call the golf shop in need of a ruling, view tournament leaderboard or as a distance measuring device. We ask that phones are set to silent while on club grounds. Silent communications (text, email) may be used inside buildings. Verbal communication (phone calls) must be outside buildings.
- **Parking:** There is a limited amount of parking available at the host club and we ask that players, caddies and family members car pool as much as possible.
- **Dress Code:** Appropriate golf attire must be worn. Slacks or Bermuda shorts. No cut-offs, no denim, no cargo pants or cargo shorts. Men must wear shirts with collars and sleeves, tucked in at all times. Non-metal spikes only. Dress code applies to caddies and spectators.
- **Coolers:** Personal coolers are not allowed. All food and beverage consumed on club grounds must be purchased at host club.
- **Personal Items:** Make sure not to leave any valuable personal items unattended such as jewelry, wallets, etc. even if they are tucked away inside your golf bag. It is best to leave your valuables locked in your automobile. Neither the AGA nor the host club will be held responsible for any lost or stolen personal items.
- **Accepted Forms of Payment:** Club accepts **CASH, Credit Card and limited reciprocal.**

Practice Rounds and Practice Facility

You are entitled to one practice round on May 3rd. You may call the golf shop 334-749-4342 to reserve a practice round tee time. Make sure to identify yourself as an Alabama State Four-Ball Championship participant. It would be helpful if you make your own group before calling. Do not just show up at the course and expect to be accommodated for a practice round. There is a mandatory \$25.00 fee for the practice round whether you walk or ride. Players are limited to playing one ball except from the teeing ground. Players are welcome to use the practice range and putting green throughout the championship.

Starting Times

Starting times for May 4-5 will be available by April 28 by 5:00pm. Check the AGA website at www.Alabamagolf.org or call the AGA office.

Championship Format and Schedule

- 36 holes of gross four-ball stroke play to determine 16 sides for match play. A tie for the last qualifier's place (16th seed) will be decided immediately by a hole-by-hole play-off. Players are responsible for making themselves available at the scoreboard for play-off instructions. Play-off holes and their order of play will be determined by the Committee.
- Match Play Seeding: General numerical draw will be used. For purposes of determining places in the draw, ties in qualifying rounds will be decided by lot.
- Match Play stipulated round is 18 holes. In the event of a match standing all square after 18 holes, the stipulated round is deemed to extend on a hole-by-hole basis until a winner is determined.

Wednesday, May 3	Tee times available for practice.
Thursday, May 4	7:30 AM - First round of four-ball stroke play qualifying.
Friday, May 5	7:30 AM - Second round of four-ball stroke play qualifying. Field cut to low 16 sides for match play.
Saturday, May 6	7:30 AM - Round of 16 four-ball match play. 12:00 PM - Quarterfinals of four-ball match play.
Sunday, May 7	7:30 AM - Semifinal round of four-ball match play. 12:00 PM - Final round of four-ball match play.

Pace of Play: The AGA wants all players to enjoy competing in our events. Pace of play may differ depending upon the venue, weather and course conditions. Every player is accountable for playing at an acceptable pace, therefore we need your help. Please observe the following guidelines to help ensure a pleasant tournament experience for all:

- Make sure to keep pace with the group in FRONT of you. The group behind should keep pace with your group and so forth.
- Go directly to your ball. If sharing a golf cart, drop-off the player farthest from the hole then proceed to the other ball.
- Be ready to play when it is your turn.
- Keep practice strokes and time taken to read putts to a minimum.
- Play a provisional ball if your original ball may be lost or out of bounds.
- Keep time taken at the snack bar or between nines to a minimum.

If everyone does their part, then 4½ hours should be the maximum time taken to play a round of golf at an AGA tournament. Your AGA issued score card will have the acceptable pace of play per hole printed on it.

Pace of Play Policy

A group that is out of position will be advised of the situation and the individuals may be timed.

- Any competitor who is discovered taking more than 40 seconds to play a stroke is subject to a warning for slow play and will be advised of the fact.
- The competitor will be notified that exceeding 40 seconds on one more occasion will result in a penalty of one stroke in stroke play or loss of hole in match play. A third violation will result in a two stroke penalty in stroke play or loss of hole in match play, followed by disqualification for a fourth violation.
- A warning is any notice given to a competitor regarding pace of play.
- A competitor's time to play begins when the competitor has had a reasonable opportunity to reach his or her ball and when it is the competitor's turn to play and can do so without interference or distraction. Penalties are applied individually, but more than one competitor in a group may be penalized.
- In general, competitors in a group are subject to being timed at any time but specifically when the group is deemed to be out of position and over the allotted pace of play guidelines.

Note that a group that is out of position at any time may be asked to close the gap regardless of pace of play guidelines. A group is out of position if they are over their maximum acceptable pace of play and more than 15 minutes behind the group ahead of them. The first group off either side is out of position if they are over their maximum acceptable pace of play.

Cart/Range Fees; Push Carts

- *Practice Rounds:* Cart/range fees are not included in the entry fee. Cart rental is mandatory for practice rounds payable at the host club.

- *Championship Rounds:* Championship site cart/range fees are paid by the AGA and included in the entry fee. Competitors have the option to either walk or use a golf cart during championship rounds. Personal push carts are allowed.

Caddies/Spectators

- *Caddies:* Caddies are allowed for championship rounds and will be denoted by wearing an AGA issued caddie bib. Caddies will not be available at host club.
- *Spectators:* Spectators are welcome at AGA championships. Club owned spectator carts are not allowed. Spectators are asked to remain on or near cart paths and adhere to the club's dress code policy.
- *Caddie/Spectator Cart Policy:* During the play of a hole, either the player or his caddie may ride in a golf cart but not both at the same time. Spectators are not allowed to ride in a player's golf cart at any time. Club owned spectator carts are not allowed except as provided in the [AGA Tournament Manual](#). Due to the limited number of available carts, spectator carts may not be available during the championship.

Prizes

- *Stroke Play Qualifying Rounds:* Lowest Scoring Side for 36 Holes: Silver medals; if a tie, duplicate medals will be awarded.
- *Match Play:* Awards will be presented to the Champions. Merchandise prizes are awarded to top finishers. Champions will have their names engraved on the *Harry Pritchett Trophy* and may take possession of the trophy for the ensuing year.
- Prizes in AGA amateur championships comply with USGA Rules of Amateur Status (see USGA Rules of Golf).
- High School or collegiate players should check with their institution compliance department regarding High School or NCAA regulations relating to accepting prizes or merchandise.

Exemptions Earned

- Champions receive a 5-year exemption into the Alabama State Amateur (2017-2021).
- Runners-Up receive an exemption into 2017 Alabama State Amateur.

Course Set-Up/Yardage (*All yardage is subject to change based upon wind direction and weather conditions)

Course Rating: 73.2/136

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Yards	560	408	444	210	349	421	176	530	385	3483	550	393	430	186	378	515	157	420	434	3463	6946
Par	5	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	4	36	5	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	36	72

*AGA may use the following tee locations in addition to the above yardages as conditions warrant: Hole #1 (535), Hole #3 (408), Hole #4 (190), Hole #5 (313), Hole #7 (120, 143), Hole #10 (524), Hole #12 (401), Hole #13 (134), Hole #16 (134, 172), Hole #18 (404)

Championship Policies

- This is a soft-spike facility. The penalty for non-compliance is disqualification.
- Local Rule allowing the use of conforming distance measuring devices will be in effect (i.e. measure distance only) in this competition. A player may use a device to measure distance only. However, if, during a stipulated round, a player uses a function to measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind-speed, temperature, etc.); the player is in breach of Rule 14-3. Compass and weather applications are now permitted on the device.
- Local Rule for accidental movement of a ball on the putting green will be in effect. When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced. **Note:** If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced.

Withdrawals

If an accepted side withdraws before **10:59 P.M., Wednesday, May 3, 2017** for any reason, the entry fee will be refunded, subject to a \$30.00 service fee. No refunds will be made for any reason after **10:59 P.M., Wednesday, May 3, 2017**. To withdraw from the event click on link below and follow steps 2-4 or email Brian@alabamagolf.org:

- 1) <http://www.ghintpp.com/bamagolf/TPPOnlineGolfer/TournamentPlayerList.aspx>
- 2) Log into your TPP account.
- 3) Click "Events Registered For".
- 4) Click "Withdraw" under "Actions" column

No Shows

Sides that fail to notify the AGA of their withdrawal and "No Show" their starting time will not receive a refund for any reason. "No Show" sides may be subject to suspension from future AGA events.

Tournament Delays and Updates

The AGA will text players with any tournament delays or schedule changes. Notices will also be posted our Twitter account. Follow @bamagolf.

Phone Numbers

Alabama Golf Association: 205-979-1234
Saugahatchee Country Club: 334-273-8406