



ALABAMA GOLF ASSOCIATION

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TO: 18th Alabama State Match Play Championship Contestants
FROM: Brian Scheufler, Alabama Golf Association
DATE: January 1, 2018
TOPIC: State Match Play Championship Player Information

The Alabama Golf Association looks forward to seeing you at the 18th playing of the Alabama State Match Play Championship at Burningtrees Country Club in Decatur, AL from Aug 2-5, 2018. 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/2018-championships>

Championship History

This year marks the 18th playing of the Alabama State Match Play Championship and the first time that Burningtrees Country Club has hosted the State Match Play Championship. Matt Gourgeot of Decatur won the title in 2017 at Wynlakes Golf & Country. The Championship was first played in 2001 with Will Swift winning the inaugural event. Patton Kizzire holds the record with 2 victories (2003, 2006).

Championship Registration

Players should sign the host plaque in the clubhouse outside of the Pro Shop on Wednesday, August 1 from 9:00am-5:00pm.

Burningtrees Country Club Information

PGA Golf Professional: Jim Settles
Course Superintendent: Kyle Sheheane
Physical Address: 2521 Burningtrees Drive, Decatur, AL 35603
Club Website: www.btcountryclub.com
Golf Shop Phone: 256-355-5982
Golf Shop Hours: 6:30am-6:00pm
Practice Facility Hours: 7:00am-7:00pm
Food & Beverage Hours: 8:00am-Dusk (Grill Room); 5:00pm-8:00pm (Main Dining Room)
Championship Yardage: 7032 yards, par 35-36--71
Course/Slope Rating: 73.9/123
Course Architect: George Cobb
Course Turfgrass: Tees/Fairways, Rough (419 Bermuda); Putting Greens (Champion)

Food and Beverage

All food and beverage consumed on club grounds must be purchased at Burningtrees Country Club. The Grill will be open to service all food needs beginning at 8:00am each morning.

Directions to Burningtrees Country Club

<https://goo.gl/maps/EiLF5GTapxQ2>

Lodging

Check online for best rate:

<http://post.affinitytravelbenefits.com/v6/home?siteid=36777&theme=tournament>

Host 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.

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.**

Practice Rounds and Practice Facility

You are entitled to one practice round on Wednesday, August 1. You must call the golf shop (256-355-5982) to schedule your practice round. Make sure to identify yourself as an Alabama State Match Play 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 \$30.00 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

Matches and starting times for August 2-3 will be available on June 27 by 5:00pm. Check the AGA website at www.alabamagolf.org or call the AGA office.

Championship Format and Schedule

- Championship Field Size is 84 players.
- Exempt players are accepted at time of registration (See "Exemptions" on page 3). Non-exempt players will be accepted after close of entries to fill the championship field. If the championship field is oversubscribed, field will be determined by player ranking, past performance and Handicap Index as of July 15, 2018. Players not gaining entry will be placed on the alternate wait list. Wait list alternates are ranked according to date/time an entry is received and processed.
- 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 on a hole determined by the Committee and (b) the stipulated round is deemed to extend to as many holes as are required for a match to be decided.

Wednesday, August 1	All Day: Practice rounds. 9:00am-5:00pm: Player Registration in the Clubhouse Foyer adjacent to the golf shop.
Thursday, August 2	1 st Round, 18 holes Stroke Play: Tee times at 7:30am off #1 and #10.
Friday, August 3	2 nd Round, 18 holes Stroke Play: Tee times at 7:30am off #1 and #10.
Saturday, August 4	Round of 16: Tee times at 7:30am off #1. Quarterfinals: Tee time off #1 tee as match is finalized.
Sunday, August 5	Semifinals: Tee times at 7:30am off #1. Final: Tee time off #1 tee as match is finalized. Awards ceremony immediately following play at scoreboard.

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

- *Caddies:* Caddies are allowed for championship rounds. Caddies will not be available at host club.
- *Caddie 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.
- Caddies are required to wear an AGA issued caddie bib at the championship proper.

Spectators

- *Spectator Golf Cart Policy:* Due to the limited number of available golf carts, spectator carts may not be available during the championship.
- *Disability Golf Cart Policy:* In consistency with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), AGA will grant an individual with a bona fide disability a golf cart if the following conditions are met:
 - Requesting individual completes and submits a [Disabled Golf Cart Request Form](#) by the close of entries date;
 - Host club has a golf cart available;
 - Requesting individual pays host club the appropriate fee;
 - Requesting individual presents to the AGA staff or AGA representative a disability card issued by a government agency.
- Spectator carts must remain on the cart path at all times and spectators must adhere to the club’s dress code policy.
- Spectators are not allowed to ride in a player’s golf cart at any time. Non-club owned spectator carts are not allowed except as provided in the [AGA Tournament Manual](#).

Prizes

- *Stroke Play Qualifying Rounds:* Lowest Scoring Player for 36 Holes: Silver medal; if a tie, duplicate medals will be awarded.
- *Match Play:* Awards will be presented to the Champion. Merchandise prizes are awarded to top finishers. Champion will have his name engraved on the permanent 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

- Champion receives 10 year exemption into the Alabama State Amateur Championship and Alabama State Match Play Championship (2019-2028).
- Players advancing to the Round of 16 will receive an exemption into the 2018 Alabama State Mid-Amateur Championship (must be 25 years of age or older by first day of Championship).
- Players advancing to the Round of 16 will receive an exemption into the 2019 Alabama State Amateur Championship.
- Players advancing to the Round of 16 will receive an exemption into the 2019 Alabama State Match Play Championship.

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

Course Rating: 73.9/123

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Yardage	418	459	170	435	460	193	554	402	423	3514	421	408	207	521	172	421	547	392	429	3518	7032
Par	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	4	4	35	4	4	3	5	3	4	5	4	4	36	71

*AGA may use the following tee locations in addition to the above yardages as conditions warrant: Hole #2 (470), Hole #3, (201), Hole #6 (172, 140), Hole #9 (393), Hole #10 (521), Hole #11(159), Hole #12 (179), Hole #14 (152)

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 player withdraws before **10:59 P.M., Wednesday, August 1, 2018** 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, August 1, 2018**. 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

Players 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" players 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

Burningtree Country Club: 256-355-5827