



ALABAMA GOLF ASSOCIATION

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TO: 102nd Alabama Men's State Amateur Championship Contestants
FROM: Brian Scheufler, Alabama Golf Association
DATE: January 1, 2018
TOPIC: State Amateur Championship Player Information

The Alabama Golf Association looks forward to seeing you at the 102nd playing of the Alabama Men's State Amateur Championship Pine Tree Country Club in Birmingham, AL from June 7-10, 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 102nd playing of the Alabama Men's State Amateur Championship and the third time that Pine Tree Country Club has hosted the Men's State Amateur Championship (1983 Sam Farlow of Birmingham, 1995 Jason Brown of Decatur). Taylor Eyster of Birmingham won the title in 2017 at Bent Brook Golf Club. The Championship was first played in 1915 at Montgomery Country Club in Montgomery, AL. Jack Allison of Birmingham, AL defeated Norborne R. Clarke 13 and 12 to win the inaugural event. The Championship was not played in 1917-18 due to World War I. Format was changed from match play to stroke play in 1955.

Championship Registration

There will be a formal registration for all competitors in the clubhouse foyer (next to Golf Shop) on Tuesday, June 5 and Wednesday, June 6 from 9:00am-5:00pm. Please register to sign the host plaque and have your photo taken for website scoring.

Pine Tree Country Club Information

Director of Golf: Paul Whitman
Course Superintendent: Neal Wisdom
Physical Address: 5100 Pine Whispers Dr., Birmingham, AL 35210
Club Website: <http://pinetreecc.memfirstweb.net/>
Golf Shop Phone: 205-956-1599
Golf Shop Hours: 6:30am-7:00pm
Practice Facility Hours: 6:30am-7:00pm
Food & Beverage Hours: 7:00am-7:30pm
Championship Yardage: 7026 yards, par 36-36--72
Course/Slope Rating: 74.2/138
Course Architect: George W. Cobb
Course Turfgrass: Tees/Fairways (419 Bermuda); Rough (419 Bermuda); Putting Greens (A1 Bentgrass)

Food and Beverage

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

Hosted Player Lunch on June 9-10

The AGA will provide lunch for players from 11:00am-3:00pm on Saturday and Sunday in the clubhouse. Lunch is for players only. Caddies and spectators may purchase food and beverage at the Grille.

Directions to Pine Tree Country Club

<https://goo.gl/maps/g1kxpiWstAv>

Lodging

There are a number of hotels near the course. Check online for best rate:
<http://post.affinitytravelbenefits.com/v6/home?siteid=36777&theme=tournament>

Pine Tree Country Club Policies (READ CAREFULLY)

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 credit card and reciprocal.

Practice Rounds and Practice Facility

Official practice rounds will be on Tuesday, June 5 and Wednesday, June 6. You must call the golf shop (205-956-1599) to schedule your practice round(s) for these days. Make sure to identify yourself as an Alabama Men's State Amateur 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 each 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 June 7-8 will be available on June 1 by 5:00pm. Check the AGA website at www.alabamagolf.org.

Championship Format and Schedule

- The field will be cut to the low 60 players and ties after 36 holes.
- The lowest score for 72 holes will be the Champion.
- In the event of a tie for the Championship, a three-hole aggregate 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 Champion is determined. The play-off holes and their order of play will be determined by the Committee.
- Initial groupings will be for two days; the field will be cut and re-paired by score after the second round.

Tuesday, June 5	All Day: Practice rounds. 9:00am-5:00pm: Player Registration in the Clubhouse Foyer adjacent to the golf shop.
Wednesday, June 6	All Day: Practice rounds. 9:00am-5:00pm: Player Registration in the Clubhouse Foyer adjacent to the golf shop.
Thursday, June 7	Round 1: Tee times begin at 7:30am & 12:30pm off #1 & #10 tees. 18 holes Stroke Play.
Friday, June 8	Round 2: Tee times begin at 7:30am & 12:30pm off #1 & #10 tees. 18 holes Stroke Play. Cut to low 60 scores and ties. Field re-grouped according to score.
Saturday, June 9	Round 3: Tee times begin at 7:30am off #1 & #10 tees. 18 holes Stroke Play. 11:00am-3:00pm: Hosted player lunch in the Clubhouse. Field re-grouped according to score.
Sunday, June 10	Round 4: Tee times begin at 7:30am off #1 & #10 tees. 18 holes Stroke Play. 11:00am-3:00pm: Hosted player lunch in the Clubhouse. 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 sectional qualifying and 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 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

- *Sectional Qualifying Rounds:* Lowest Scorer for 18 Holes in each location: Silver medal; if a tie, duplicate medals will be awarded.
- *Championship:* Awards will be presented to the top three finishers. Merchandise prizes are awarded to the top finishers. Champion will have his name engraved on the *Sam Perry 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 a lifetime exemption into the Alabama Men's State Amateur Championship.
- Champion receives 10 year exemption into the Alabama State Match Play Championship (2018-2027).
- Champion receives 10 year exemption into the Alabama State Mid-Amateur Championship (2018-2027) (must be 25 years of age or older by first day of Championship).
- Players finishing in the top 30 (and ties) will receive an exemption into the 2019 Alabama Men's State Amateur Championship and 2018 Alabama State Mid-Amateur Championship (must be 25 years of age or older by first day of Championship).
- Players finishing in the top 16 (and ties) will receive an exemption into the 2018 Alabama State Match Play Championship.

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

Course Rating: 74.2/138

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Yards	572	191	379	427	414	493	210	383	385	3454	437	211	413	538	409	576	180	400	418	3582	7036
Par	5	3	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	36	4	3	4	5	4	5	3	4	4	36	72

*AGA may use the following tee locations in addition to the above yardages as conditions warrant: Hole # 2(171), Hole #7 (160), Hole #11 (195, 163), Hole #16 (170, 142)

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, June 6, 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, June 6, 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

Pine Tree Country Club: 205-956-1599