



TO: 31<sup>st</sup> Alabama State Mid-Amateur Championship Contestants  
FROM: Brian Scheufler, Alabama Golf Association  
DATE: January 1, 2019  
TOPIC: State Mid-Amateur Championship Player Information

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The Alabama Golf Association looks forward to seeing you at the 31<sup>st</sup> playing of the Alabama State Mid-Amateur Championship at Pine Tree Country Club in Birmingham, AL from September 27-29, 2019. 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](mailto:brian@alabamagolf.org). We hope you have a great championship!

**Championship Website:** <http://www.alabamagolf.org/2019-championships>

#### **Championship History**

This year marks the 31<sup>st</sup> playing of the Alabama State Mid-Amateur Championship and the first time Pine Tree Country Club has hosted the State Mid-Amateur Championship. Stewart Whitt of Athens won the 2018 title at Willow Point Golf & Country Club. The Championship was first played in 1989 with Emile Vaughn winning the inaugural event. Mike Greer and Scott Weaver each have 3 victories, with Weaver winning his consecutively (2001-2003).

#### **Championship Registration**

Players should sign the host plaque in the clubhouse outside of the Pro Shop on Thursday, September 26 from 9:00am-4:00pm.

#### **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://pinetreec.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.

#### **Directions to Pine Tree Country Club**

<https://goo.gl/maps/g1kxpjWstAv>

#### **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**

*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 cards and reciprocal.

### Practice Rounds and Practice Facility

You are entitled to **one** practice round on Thursday, September 26. You must call the golf shop 205-956-1599 to schedule your practice round. Make sure to identify yourself as an Alabama State Mid-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 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 September 27-28 will be available on September 20 by 5:00pm. Check the AGA website at [www.alabamagolf.org](http://www.alabamagolf.org) or call the AGA office.

### Championship Format and Schedule

- Limited to the first 132 players.
- Exempt players are accepted at time of entry (See page 3 of Entry Form for "EXEMPTIONS"). 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 September 15, 2018. Players not gaining entry will be placed on the alternate wait list. Wait list alternates are ranked in the same way as the field. The AGA reserves the right to conduct a sectional qualifying round to determine the final field and alternate order.
- 54 holes of gross individual stroke play.
- The field will be cut to the low 60 players and ties after 36 holes.
- The lowest score for 54 holes will be the Champion.
- In the event of a tie for the Championship, a hole-by-hole play-off will be held immediately following play. 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.

<b>Thursday, September 26</b>	All Day: Practice rounds. 9:00am-4:00pm: Player Registration in the Clubhouse Foyer adjacent to the golf shop.
<b>Friday, September 27</b>	Round 1: Tee times at 7:30am & 12:30pm off #1 & #10 tees.
<b>Saturday, September 28</b>	Round 2: Tee times at 7:30am & 12:30pm off #1 & #10 tees. Cut to low 60 scores and ties. Field re-grouped according to score.
<b>Sunday, September 29</b>	Round 3: Tee times at 7:30am off #1 & #10 tees. 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. Following the lead of the USGA, the AGA has developed a pace of play policy, based on Rule 5.6b and Model Local Rule 8K that is fair to every competitor.

\*Note: a group may receive a "friendly reminder" of their position regardless of pace of play guidelines.

### Maximum Allowable Time

The maximum allowable time is the maximum time considered necessary by the Committee for a group to complete its round. This is expressed in a per-hole and aggregate time format and includes all time associated with playing the game, e.g., for rulings and walking times between holes.

Both the specific maximum time allotted per hole and for the completion of 18 holes at AGA championships will be denoted on each player's AGA issued scorecard.

See the complete [AGA Pace of Play Policy](#) for the procedure if a group is "out of position" and penalty for breach of Pace of Play Policy.

### 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 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

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 *Elbert S. Jemison Jr., Trophy* and may take possession of the trophy for the ensuing year.

### Exemptions Earned

- Champion receives a 5 year exemption into the Alabama State Amateur Championship and the Alabama State Match Play Championship (2020-2024).
- Players finishing in the Top 10 (and ties) will receive an exemption into the 2020 Alabama State Amateur Championship.
- Players finishing in the Top 8 (and ties) will receive an exemption into the 2020 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	528	409	576	180	400	418	3572	7026
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 # 3 (304), Hole #10 (421), Hole #15 (527). Multiple tees may be played on par-3 holes.

### Championship Policies

- [AGA Code of Conduct](#)
- [AGA Tournament Manual](#)
- This is a soft-spike facility. The penalty for non-compliance is disqualification.

### Withdrawals

If an accepted player withdraws for any reason before the close of registration at 11:59pm on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, the entry fee will be refunded, subject to a \$30.00 service fee. If an accepted player withdraws for any reason after the close of registration and before 11:59pm on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 50% of the entry fee will be refunded. No refunds will be made for withdrawals after Tuesday, September 24, 2019.

To withdraw from the event before the close of registration, follow these steps:

- 1) Navigate to the [Championship Website Portal](#).
- 2) Sign In to your AGA Tournament Registration Account.
- 3) Click "Edit Registration" from left side of the page.
- 4) Choose "Cancel Registration" under dropdown menu on right side of page.

To withdraw from the event after the close of registration, complete the [Online Tournament Withdrawal Form](#).

\*Note: AGA will process your withdrawal and applicable refund within 72 hours.

### 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

Pine Tree Country Club: 205-956-1599  
Alabama Golf Association: 205-979-1234