



ALABAMA GOLF ASSOCIATION

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TO: 22nd Alabama State Match Play Championship Contestants
FROM: Brian Scheufler, Alabama Golf Association
DATE: January 1, 2023
TOPIC: State Match Play Championship Player Information

The Alabama Golf Association looks forward to seeing you at the 22nd playing of the Alabama State Match Play Championship at RTJ @ The Shoals (Fighting Joe) in Muscle Shoals, AL from August 3-6, 2023. 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: <https://www.golfgenius.com/pages/3873196>

Championship History

This year marks the 22nd playing of the Alabama State Match Play Championship and the first time that RTJ Golf Trail @ The Shoals has hosted the State Match Play Championship. Jack Goldasich of Birmingham won the title in 2022 at Musgrove Country Club. 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 2 from 9:00am-3:00pm.

RTJ Golf Trail at The Shoals (Fighting Joe) Information

Director of Golf: Cully Gillem, PGA

Course Superintendent: Doug Tinkham

Physical Address: 990 SunBelt Parkway, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

Club Website: www.rtjgolf.com/theshoals

Golf Shop Phone: 256-446-5111

Golf Shop Hours: 6:30am-6:00pm

Practice Facility Hours: 6:30am-6:00pm

Food & Beverage Hours: 10:00am-8:00pm

Championship Yardage; Course/Slope Rating: 7144 yards/74.0/138

Course Architect: Robert Trent Jones

Course Turfgrass: Tees/Fairways (419 Bermuda); Rough (419 Bermuda); Putting Greens (Jones Dwarf Bermuda)

Food and Beverage

All food and beverage consumed on club grounds must be purchased at RTJ Golf Trail at The Shoals.

Directions to the RTJ Golf Trail at The Shoals

<https://www.google.com/maps>

Lodging

Check online for best rate:

[AGAccess Travel & Member Perks](#)

Host Club Policies

- *Cell Phone Policy:* Use of cellular phones is prohibited on the golf course except for emergencies, a ruling, entering hole-by-hole scores, viewing tournament leaderboard or weather forecasts or using 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 and Credit Card.**

Practice Rounds and Practice Facility

You are entitled to **one** practice round on Wednesday, August 2. You must call the golf shop (256-446-5111) 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** \$35.00 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 August 3-4 will be available on July 28 by 5:00pm. Check the AGA website at www.alabamagolf.org.

Championship Format and Schedule

- Championship Field Size is 48 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 18, 2023. 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.
- 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 2	All Day: Practice rounds. 9:00am-3:00pm: Player Registration in the Clubhouse Foyer adjacent to the golf shop.
Thursday, August 3	1 st Round, 18 holes Stroke Play: 9:00am Shotgun Start.
Friday, August 4	2 nd Round, 18 holes Stroke Play: 9:00am Shotgun Start.
Saturday, August 5	Round of 16: Tee times at 7:30am off #1. Quarterfinals: Tee time off #1 tee as match is finalized.
Sunday, August 6	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. 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 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 and Runner-Up. Merchandise prizes are awarded to top finishers. Champion will have his name engraved on the *Grantland Rice Cup*.
- 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 (2024-2033).
- Players advancing to the Quarterfinals will receive an exemption into the 2023 Alabama State Mid-Amateur Championship (must be 25 years of age or older by first day of Championship).
- Players advancing to the Quarterfinals will receive an exemption into the 2024 Alabama State Amateur Championship.
- Players advancing to the Quarterfinals will receive an exemption into the 2024 Alabama State Match Play Championship.

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

Course Rating: 74.0/138

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Yards	540	430	396	360	193	408	524	406	190	3447	428	413	581	223	417	406	437	592	200	3697	7144
Par	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	36	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	5	3	36	72

*AGA may use the following tee locations in addition to the above yardages as conditions warrant: Multiple tees may be used 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 Thursday, July 21, 2022, 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, August 2, 2022, 75% of the entry fee will be refunded. No refunds will be made after that time.

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 on our Twitter account. Follow @bamagolf.

Phone Numbers

Alabama Golf Association: 205-979-1234

RTJ Golf Trail at The Shoals Golf Shop: 256-446-5111