



# ALABAMA GOLF ASSOCIATION

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TO: 44<sup>th</sup> Alabama State Four-Ball Championship Contestants  
FROM: JD Venosdel, Alabama Golf Association  
DATE: January 1, 2026  
TOPIC: State Four-Ball Championship Player Information

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The Alabama Golf Association looks forward to seeing you at the 44<sup>th</sup> playing of the State Four-Ball Championship at Canebrake Club in Athens, AL from April 29-May 2 (Wednesday-Saturday), 2026. 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 [jd@alabamagolf.org](mailto:jd@alabamagolf.org). We hope you have a great championship!

**Championship Website:** <https://www.golfgenius.com/pages/5653516>

## **Championship History**

This year marks the 44<sup>th</sup> playing of the Alabama State Four-Ball Championship and the second time Canebrake Club has hosted the State Four-Ball Championship. Ethan Hagood & Blair Hamm of Hoover won the Championship in 2025 at RTJ Cambrian Ridge. 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 outside of the golf shop on Tuesday, April 28 from 9:00am-3:00pm.

## **Canebrake Club Information**

Director of Golf: Micky Wolfe  
Course Superintendent: Mike Smith  
Physical Address: 23015 Founders Cir, Athens, AL  
Club Website: [www.canebrakeclub.com](http://www.canebrakeclub.com)  
Golf Shop Phone: 256-232-2412  
Golf Shop Hours: 7:30am-6:00pm  
Practice Facility Hours: 8:00am-6:00pm  
Food & Beverage Hours: 10:30am-Dusk  
Championship Yardage: 7207 yards, par 36-36--72  
Course/Slope Rating: 74.7/142

## **Food and Beverage**

All food and beverage consumed on club grounds must be purchased at the Host Club.

## **Directions to Canebrake Club**

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/CanebrakeClub>

## **Lodging**

There are a number of hotels near the course. 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.

*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 cash**

### Practice Rounds and Practice Facility

You may call the golf shop (256-232-2412) on or after April 16 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 \$45.00/player 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.

- Order your discounted StrackaLine Yardage book [here](#).

### Starting Times

Starting times for April 29-30 will be available by April 24 by 5:00pm. Check the AGA website at [www.alabamagolf.org](http://www.alabamagolf.org).

### 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 (16<sup>th</sup> seed) will be decided immediately by a hole-by-hole play-off. Players are responsible for making themselves available at the scoring area 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 round is 18 holes. If a match is tied after the final hole, the match is extended one hole at a time until there is a winner.

#### Tuesday, April 28

Tee times available for practice.

#### Wednesday, April 29

7:30 AM - First round of four-ball stroke play qualifying.  
12:00PM - First round of four-ball stroke play qualifying.

#### Thursday, April 30

7:30 AM - Second round of four-ball stroke play qualifying.  
12:00PM - Second round of four-ball stroke play qualifying.  
Field cut to low 16 sides for match play.

#### Friday, May 1

7:30 AM - Round of 16 Matches.  
12:00 PM - Quarterfinal Matches.

#### Saturday, May 2

7:30 AM - Semifinal Matches.  
12:00 PM - Final Match.

### 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 not allowed for championship rounds.

### 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 Side for 36 Holes: Silver medals; if a tie, duplicate medals will be awarded.
- *Match Play:* Awards will be presented to the Champions and Runners-Up. Merchandise prizes are awarded to top finishers. Champions will have their names engraved on the *Harry Pritchett Trophy*.
- 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 (2026-2030).

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

Course Rating: 74.7/142

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Yardage	398	566	215	377	451	378	579	218	440	3622	445	434	569	192	408	423	447	173	537	3628	7250
Par	4	5	3	4	4	4	5	3	4	36	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	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 side withdraws for any reason before the close of registration at 11:59pm on Thursday, April 16, 2026, the entry fee will be refunded, subject to a \$30.00 service fee. If an accepted side withdraws for any reason after the close of registration and before 11:59pm on Monday, April 27, 2026, 75% of the entry fee will be refunded. No refunds will be made for withdrawals after that time.

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

- 1) Navigate to <https://www.golfgenius.com/pages/5653516>
- 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

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 on our Twitter account. Follow @bamagolf.

### Phone Numbers

Alabama Golf Association: 205.979.1234

Canebrake Club: 256-232-2412