



ALABAMA GOLF ASSOCIATION

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TO: 2026 U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship Sectional Qualifying Contestants at Opelika, AL
FROM: Brian Scheufler, Alabama Golf Association
DATE: January 1, 2026
TOPIC: Saugahatchee Country Club, Opelika, AL Qualifying Contestant Information

Please review the following information for the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship Sectional Qualifier on August 13, 2026 at Saugahatchee Country Club in Auburn, AL. Remember that we are guests of the club and we need to conduct ourselves in a proper manner. Call me at 205-979-1234 or email: brian@alabamagolf.org if you have any questions.

Model Local Rule G-2 Groove and Punch Mark Specifications

"In making a *stroke*, the player must use clubs that conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the *Equipment Rules* that took effect on 1 January 2010.

An Informational Club Database of fairway woods, hybrids, irons and wedges which have been tested for conformance to the current *Equipment Rules* is found at USGA.org.

Exception – Ping Eye2 Irons Manufactured before 31 March 1990: Ping Eye2 irons manufactured before 31 March 1990 with a groove spacing to groove width ratio of 2.3 to 1 are allowed for play under the Rules of Golf, even when this Local Rule is in effect. In using this Exception, the player is responsible for proving when the club was manufactured. If the player cannot do so, the club must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications that took effect on 1 January 2010.

Penalty For Making a Stroke with Club in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.

There is no penalty under this Local Rule for carrying but not making a *stroke* with a club which does not conform to these groove and punch mark specifications."

Transportation (Players Required to Walk)

Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-6. During a round, a player must not ride on any form of motorized transportation except as authorized or later approved by the Committee. Players may carry their own bag during the qualifying round. **Pull-carts are allowed.**

Caddies

A player may provide his own caddie. Caddies will NOT be available at Saugahatchee CC.

Caddies will be allowed to rent a cart for the qualifying round at this site. However, caddies may have to share carts during the qualifying round as not more than two carts are allowed per group. Any caddie that rents a cart is subject to a \$30.00 daily cart fee.

Qualifier Website, Starting Times and Scoring

<https://www.golfgenius.com/pages/5678686>

Format

U.S. Mid-Amateur Sectional qualifying is 18 holes of stroke play.

USGA Policies

The USGA does not allow spectator carts or spectators to ride in a caddie cart during qualifying rounds or the championship proper. Traditional metal spikes are NOT allowed (the penalty for non-compliance is disqualification). USGA Hard Card rules sheet is available online at:

http://www.alabamagolf.org/Images/alabamagolf/documents/2026_USGA_Hard_Card_Final_.pdf

Saugahatchee Country Club Information

GPS Address: 3800 Bent Creek Road, Opelika, AL 36804

PGA Head Golf Professional: Charlie Richardson

Course Superintendent: Justin Lowery

Golf Shop Phone: 334-749-4342. Golf Shop Hours: 6:30am-6:00pm

Practice Facility Hours: 6:00am-7:00pm; Website: <http://www.saugahatcheecountryclub.com/>

Dress Code: Shirts must have collars and be tucked-in; shorts are allowed but must be Bermuda length, and no denim. The policy is for both players and caddies.

Accepted Forms of Payment: CASH, Credit Card and limited reciprocal.

Map to Saugahatchee Country Club

<https://goo.gl/maps/e67kpZszpux>

Lodging

There are a number of hotels near the course. Check online for best rate.

Practice Round and Qualifying Round Fees

You are entitled to one practice round when tee times are available. There is a **mandatory** \$60.00 cart/range fee for the practice round. You must call the golf shop 334-749-4342 in advance to schedule a practice round tee time. Do not show-up and expect to be accommodated for a practice round without calling first. Make sure to identify yourself as a U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship qualifying participant. It would be helpful if you make your own game before calling.

On the qualifying days, there are no other fees due to the host club unless a caddie rents a cart. Range balls are complimentary.

Qualifying Spots and Playoffs

An on-course playoff is used to determine the last qualifying spot or an alternate position. Holes to be used will be determined by the Committee based on availability and daylight. Players are responsible for making themselves available at the scoreboard for playoff instructions.

Course Yardage (Course Rating: 73.2/136) Note: Yardage is subject to change.

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Yards	555	408	444	190	349	421	176	555	385	3483	550	393	390	186	378	537	172	420	434	3460	6943
Par	5	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	4	36	5	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	36	72

Qualifying Schedule

Wednesday, August 12

Tee times available for practice round. Call golf shop in advance for a starting time.

Thursday, August 13

Qualifying Round: 18 holes of stroke play.

Playoffs for qualifying spots and alternates immediately following play.

Friday, August 14

Rain Date (if necessary)

Withdrawals

Contact the USGA Championship Administration Department at 908-234-2300 or go to <http://champwithdrawals.usga.org/> to officially withdraw.

Pace of Play Policy

A group that is out of position will be advised of the situation and the individuals may be timed. Your AGA issued score card will have the acceptable pace of play per hole printed on it.

- 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.

Important Phone Numbers

Saugahatchee Country Club	334-749-4342
United States Golf Association	908-234-2300
Alabama Golf Association	205-979-1234