

77TH U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PRESENTED BY PROMEDICA

Conducted by the United States Golf Association®

Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club, Southern Pines, North Carolina | June 2 – 5, 2022



NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19

Each individual player is responsible for understanding and complying with any travel restrictions (including testing, vaccination and quarantine requirements and recommendations) prior to registering for a specific qualifier and at the time of the competition. **Please familiarize yourself with the requirements and guidelines for any state you may be traveling to or from before registering.** Players will generally NOT be allowed to transfer sites after the close of entries (see Transfer Policy in Informational PDF for more information).

Playing and Qualifying Site Protocol

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Allied Golf Association or any other golf associations may implement one or more of the following protocols at a USGA qualifier in order to conduct the qualifier in a safe manner for all players and staff.

- Limited or no practice rounds due to local/state regulations or host facility regulations.
- Temperature check and/or screening questions upon arrival at the host facility.
- A specified arrival time and/or limited use of the practice facility prior to the start of your round.
- Caddies may be prohibited during the competition.
- Bottled water and Food & Beverage may not be available.
- Limited or no access to clubhouse or locker room, or proof of vaccination to access indoor facilities.
- Electronic distribution of paperwork e.g. local rules, hole location sheet, etc...
- Electronic scoring using a mobile device and verbal confirmation of scores.
- Code of Conduct requiring the flagstick to remain in the hole where touching of the flagstick may be prohibited.

Players, caddies and spectators attending may be required to wear a mask in public areas, at registration, at the starting tee, in the scoring area, and any other areas as dictated by the Allied Golf Association or any other golf associations. Some courses may require proof of vaccination to access indoor facilities. Players, caddies and spectators may also be required to sign a waiver as dictated by the Allied Golf Association or any other golf associations.

Failure to adhere to guidelines published by the Allied Golf Association or any other golf associations conducting the qualifier may result in the withdrawal of the players' entry and removal from the course.

Players may be prohibited from participating in a qualifier or USGA championship if they test positive for COVID-19, exhibit COVID-19 symptoms or are identified as a close contact who is advised to quarantine under the CDC guidelines. Players who are unable to participate in a qualifier or USGA championship due to COVID-19 will be refunded their entry fee (less any service charges).

All players who successfully qualify for a USGA championship will be required to follow all mitigation measures implemented by USGA with respect to COVID-19. These requirements are a condition of competition for all players. In particular, players, caddies and others attending a USGA championship may be required to submit to COVID-19 testing prior to arrival and/or on-site upon arrival at the championship, follow on-site protocols established by the USGA and comply with limitations set by the USGA on allowing guests at the championship.

ELIGIBILITY

Entries are open to female professional golfers, amateur golfers, and applicants for reinstatement. Amateurs and applicants for reinstatement must have an up-to-date Handicap Index® not exceeding 2.4 under the Rules of Handicapping. A current Handicap ID number (GHIN) issued through an authorized golf club is required and must be submitted on the entry form. The USGA accepts an up-to-date Handicap Index issued from authorized national and regional associations around the world, that would be equivalent to a Handicap Index within the prescribed limit for entry into the Championship.

Age: Player's date of birth is required on all USGA entry forms.

An application for a player who is a minor must be submitted by a parent/guardian, and must list the parent/guardian's name, phone numbers, and e-mail address. We cannot accept a phone number or email address of any minor. A player is deemed a minor based upon the date of submission and the laws of the state in which they reside (e.g. if a player is a New Jersey resident, the player is a minor if under the age of 18 at the time of submission). The parent/guardian agrees to be bound by all the terms and conditions on their own behalf and on behalf of the minor player. The USGA reserves the right to require submission of an original signature of the parent/guardian in a confirmation copy of the application upon notification by the USGA to the parent/guardian.

Amateur Status: All amateur players must conform to the Rules of Amateur Status as approved by the United States Golf Association and The R&A.

Anti-Doping Policy: Important information regarding the USGA Anti-Doping Policy and drug testing at the Championship proper may be found at <https://champ-admin.usga.org/player/articles/Anti-Doping>.

ELIGIBILITY (CONT.)

Code of Conduct: The USGA may reject an entry application, revoke an accepted application, expel from the Championship and/or suspend a player or caddie from any current or future championships if the player or caddie engages in conduct that is deemed abusive, derogatory, aggressive or detrimental to the integrity and image of the Championship, the game of golf and/or public confidence in the USGA. Such conduct may include, but is not limited to, damage to the golf course, club facilities or the player's equipment; verbal or physical abuse of spectators, officials, volunteers or staff; blatant or excessive profanity; disorderly behavior; conduct which is disruptive to competition; conduct which could result in an unfair advantage to a player or disadvantage to another player; failure to abide by club rules; violation of the USGA Championship Integrity Policy or other championship policy or any other unbecoming conduct. The USGA Championship Integrity Policy can be found at the USGA website, located at the following link:

<https://champ-admin.usga.org/player/articles/usga-championship-integrity-policy>.

Equipment Used for Medical Reasons: Players who wish to request permission to use a medical device due to a medical condition or injury and proceed under Rule 4.3b(1) of the Rules of Golf should refer to:

<https://champ-admin.usga.org/player/articles/equipment-permitted-for-medical-reasons>.

Gender Policy: Information regarding the USGA Gender Policy and additional entry requirements may be found at:

<https://champ-admin.usga.org/player/articles/Gender-Policy>.

Performance in Qualifying: If a player fails to return a score within 12 strokes of the Course Rating™, future entries for a U.S. Women's Open Championship may be declined if documentation is not provided demonstrating that the player is capable of competing at the national championship level. Please note that players who "no card" are subject to receive a letter from the USGA under the same guidelines as those who do not return a score within 12 strokes of the Course Rating.

Withdrawal from Qualifying: Players can withdraw by logging into their account and clicking on the WITHDRAW tab. They must also notify the Official in Charge prior to their scheduled Qualifying round. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from future USGA competitions.

ENTRIES: FEE, REFUNDS, CLOSING DATE

All players, including those who are exempt, must file an entry application. Players must file online at the USGA website (champ-admin.usga.org). Entry fee of \$200 must be paid by every player. Only those players for whom blank entries are filed by the USGA as noted in the section on exemptions will not be required to submit entry applications. Only one entry may be filed per player. The USGA reserves the right to disqualify anyone who submits more than one entry.

Players can withdraw by logging into their account and clicking on the WITHDRAW tab. **Please note the updated refund policy:**

- Players who withdraw prior to the close of entries will receive a refund of \$150 regardless of reason.
- Players who withdraw after the close of entries and prior to 48 hours of the qualifier will receive a refund of \$100 regardless of reason.
- Players who withdraw within 48 hours of the qualifier or after will not receive a refund.

**ENTRY APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY USGA
NO LATER THAN 5 P.M. E.D.T. on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022**
Entry applications must be filed online at:
<https://champ-admin.usga.org/player#/apply>
**Late applications are not acceptable
and will be automatically rejected.**

(Entries by telephone, telegraph, mail or FAX are not acceptable.)

Time limit for entries means time of receipt at USGA (not time entry is transmitted to USGA). Entries should be submitted early to allow ample time for delay or error in transmission. The risk of delay or error in transmission lies solely with the entrant and the USGA will have no liability with respect to any such delay or error and the consequences therefrom, including rejection of the entry.

SCHEDULE

Competition will be in two stages, at stroke play:

1. Qualifying–36 holes: For all except exempt players listed herein. See schedule.

2. Championship–72 holes: 156 players eligible, comprised of place-winners in Qualifying Rounds and those exempt from qualifying.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2: Round 1, 18 holes.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3: Round 2, 18 holes.

60 lowest scorers and any tying for 60th place for first 36 holes continues play; remainder eliminated after 36 holes.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4: Round 3, 18 holes.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5: Round 4, 18 holes.

Lowest scorer for 72 holes will be the champion. In the event of a tie for the Championship, a two hole 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 a champion is determined.

PRIZES

CHAMPIONSHIP

WINNER: Gold medal and custody of the Bud Semple Trophy for the ensuing year, subject to such conditions as the USGA may establish.

RUNNER-UP: Silver medal.

PROFESSIONALS ONLY: To be announced.

AMATEUR RETURNING LOWEST 72-HOLE SCORE: Gold Medal.

Prize money will be divided equally among those tied, except that if a professional wins a play-off for the Championship she will receive first prize money.

If amateurs finish in the first or first and second places, the prize money allocated to those players will be re-distributed to the professionals who return a 72-hole score.

If ties occur for medals, duplicates will be awarded, except that only the winner will receive a Championship gold medal.

NO OTHER REMUNERATION: By her application, the player acknowledges that she is not entitled to remuneration of any kind for participation in the Championship other than prizes listed herein.

PRIZE-SHARING PROHIBITED: By her application, the player certifies that she has not entered into and will not enter into any arrangement whereby she could have a financial interest in any other player's prize money (such as through prize-splitting or prize money "insurance").

QUALIFYING ROUNDS

LOWEST SCORER: Silver medal; if a tie, duplicate medals will be awarded.

LOWEST AMATEUR SCORER (if not lowest scorer): Silver medal; if a tie, duplicate medals will be awarded.

RULES OF GOLF; WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL

Play will be governed by *The Rules of Golf* as approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Rules Limited. Questions will be settled by the on-site Rules Committee, whose decision will be final. The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.

GOLF BALLS; DRIVER HEADS

Only brands of golf balls on the most current List of Conforming Golf Balls and driver heads on the most current List of Conforming Driver Heads may be used. Updated lists may be found on the USGA website at www.usga.org or by contacting the USGA Equipment Standards Department at (908) 234-2300.

The one ball Rule (Model Local Rule G-4) as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

CLUBS: GROOVES

Model Local Rule G-2 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect, except that the Exception in the Model Local Rule does not apply.

PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TYPES OF SHOES

Model Local Rule G-7 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect at Qualifying sites unless the Qualifying site is indicated by an asterisk on this entry application.

RESTRICTING USE OF GREEN-READING MATERIALS

At the Championship proper only, Model Local Rule G-11 as prescribed in the Clarifications to the 2019 Rules is in effect.

PROHIBITING CLUBS LONGER THAN 46 INCHES

At the Championship proper only, Model Local Rule G-10 as prescribed in the Clarifications to the 2019 Rules is in effect.

CADDIES

Qualifying Rounds: A player may provide her own caddie. If she wishes to have the host club furnish a caddie, she should ask the Official in Charge because sufficient caddies may not be available at the host club.

Championship proper: A player may provide her own caddie. If she wishes to have a caddie provided to her by the host club, she must complete the information as outlined in the Memorandum to Players.

A player is not required to employ a caddie for any stage of the Championship.

TRANSPORTATION/CART REQUESTS

The Local Rule prohibiting the use of motorized transportation as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect, except at certain Qualifying sites as indicated on this entry application where the caddie only is permitted to use motorized transportation. Model Local Rule G-6.

As a general rule, players and their caddies must walk the course at USGA Championships and at most Qualifying rounds. But consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a disabled player or caddie may be permitted to use a golf cart as an accommodation to his or her disability for those events where golf carts are not allowed. As required by the ADA, the USGA will evaluate such requests on a case-by-case basis.

In order for the USGA to properly evaluate the merits of such requests, while maintaining the fundamental fairness of the golf competition, it is necessary for players requesting this accommodation (whether submitted by the player, by the player for the player's caddie or by the parent/legal guardian of a minor player) to submit medical documentation to facilitate that analysis. The documentation provided must demonstrate: (1) a player's (or caddie's) disability as defined by the ADA; (2) the medical need for the golf cart that results from that disability; and (3) that by providing a golf cart to a player or caddie in that particular circumstance, the USGA would not be fundamentally altering the fairness of the competition by providing a player with an advantage over other players. The required form entitled **Golf Cart Request Form (as well as additional important information for first time and subsequent requests for a cart)** is available at the following link:

<https://champ-admin.usga.org/player/articles/Requesting-Golf-Cart>.

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION; BROADCASTING

I understand that the USGA or its designees, may record, film, photograph, or otherwise capture my likeness, image, voice, biography, references to me, my quoted statements, and my play in the Championship (the foregoing, together with my name, my "Appearance"). In consideration of the opportunity to participate in the Championship, by submitting this Application, I grant (and/or have the authority to grant to the USGA in the case of a parent/guardian of a minor or other legal guardian or authorized representative submitting the Application on my behalf) to the USGA, and its licensees, successors and assigns, the perpetual, transferable, assignable, worldwide, royalty-free, irrevocable right to use my Appearance, in whole or in part, in all manner (including exhibition, distribution, reproduction, publication, display, broadcast, transmission or otherwise), and media now known or hereafter invented or discovered, and for any purpose whatsoever. The rights granted herein include, without limitation, the right to use the Appearance, or portions thereof, in promotion of the Championship and future championships through any of the foregoing means of distribution, as well as in the design, manufacture and distribution of merchandise related to the Championship or other championships, that include elements of my Appearance. The USGA is not obligated to use my Appearance in any matter, and materials embodying any aspect of my Appearance do not need be submitted to me for approval. I release and discharge the USGA, its licensees, successors and assigns from any claims arising from use of my Appearance, including claims for misrepresentation of me, my character, or my person by any means. As between the USGA and me, the USGA shall own all right, title and interest, including the copyright(s), in and to any works created by the USGA, its licensees, successors and assigns, that include all or a portion of my Appearance. This grant shall be binding on my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and the successors and assigns of the USGA. I hereby waive all privacy, publicity, defamation, libel, and proprietary rights relating to the Appearance as used by the USGA in conjunction with these terms.

Players are required to cooperate with representatives of the media; however, no pre-Championship activities outside of those activities which are part of the Championship will be required. Authorized representatives of the media will not interfere with the player's Championship play in an unreasonable manner.

ONSITE CHAMPIONSHIP REGISTRATION

Register in person at location and time listed in the Memorandum to Players or notify the USGA as directed in the Memorandum to Players if a late arrival. Place may be forfeited by a player from whom no word has been received.

PRACTICE PRIVILEGES

Privileges of Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club are extended to qualified players in the Championship from May 30 through June 1.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Information concerning accommodations will be provided upon completion of Qualifying rounds. Exempt players will receive this information from the USGA.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE; LOGO AND MARKS POLICY

In Qualifying and the Championship proper, players must be neat in appearance with respect to clothing and personal grooming.

Players and caddies who are subject to the Logo and Marks Policy for USGA Championships must comply with all terms and conditions of the policy. The Logo and Marks Policy for USGA Championships can be found at the USGA website, located at <https://champ-admin.usga.org/player/articles/usga-logo-marks-policy>.

LOCAL RULES; TERMS OF THE COMPETITION; SCHEDULES

The USGA Championship Committee/on-site Rules Committee reserves the right to alter any of the Local Rules, Terms of the Competition, provisions and/or schedules herein. The decision of the Championship Committee/on-site Rules Committee in any matter will be final. 2022 Local Rules and Terms of the Competition: www.usga.org/hardcard.

QUALIFYING

LOCATION

Players' preferences for Qualifying location must be designated on the entry.

Qualifying sites may be canceled due to lack of participation. Qualifying sites are final after entries close. In the event of inclement weather, Qualifying will take place as soon as possible following the originally scheduled date.

WAITLIST

When a Qualifying location has met capacity, players may sign up on a waitlist and also select up to three Alternate Qualifying Sites. If the original waitlist site becomes available prior to the close of entries, the player will be assigned to that site and charged the entry fee. If the original waitlist site is full at the close of entries, the player will be assigned to their 1st Alternate Qualifying Site dependent on availability. If the 1st Alternate Qualifying Site is full at the close of entries, the player will be assigned to their 2nd Alternate Qualifying Site dependent on availability and so on. If all Alternate Qualifying Sites are full at the close of entries, the application will be withdrawn. Priority of each list will be based on the date of receipt of entry application. The fee to join a waitlist for a qualifying location is \$10 and is non-refundable.

TRANSFERRING

Players can transfer their Waitlist or Alternate Qualifying Sites, or transfer into a qualifying site with availability prior to the close of entries by accessing the championship specific View Qualifying Sites pop out on the Apply to Play page > Upcoming Competitions/Transfer Sites Tab. Players are limited to two transfers per championship.

Players who applied to a Qualifying location and want to transfer to a waitlist site must withdraw their application by contacting the USGA Championship Administration Department at champs@usga.org prior to the close of entries. The full entry fee will be refunded. Once withdrawn, the player can re-apply to sign up on a waitlist site and select up to three Alternate Qualifying Sites.

Transfer from one Qualifying location to another is not permissible after entries close. If a Qualifying location has more players than can be accommodated, some players may be transferred to another location and the date for Qualifying may be different than the original requested date. Transfer will be based on the date of receipt of entry application. Transfers are final.

QUALIFIERS' PLACES; TIES; SUBSTITUTIONS

The number of qualifiers' places in each location will be determined by the USGA after entries close, based on size and strength of field.

A tie for the last qualifier's place or an alternate's place will be decided immediately by a hole-by-hole play-off.

Alternates in order of qualifying scores will be allowed for qualifiers unable to compete in the Championship.

If a qualifying location cannot fill its qualifiers' places for the next stage, or if an exempt player withdraws, the place made available will be reallocated to another location. A reallocation schedule will be prearranged by the USGA.

If a player withdraws before playing a stroke in the Championship proper, a substitution is allowed. Only the USGA may make such substitutions.

ACCEPTANCE OF PLACES; NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

On the day of Qualifying, every qualifier should inform the Official in Charge whether she will play in the Championship.

If a qualifier or an exempt player withdraws, she must notify the USGA (908-326-1950 or via e-mail at champs@usga.org) promptly in order to insure an alternate fair opportunity to play. Failure to comply may result in disqualification from future USGA competitions.

SCORE POSTING

The AGA will post Stroke Play scores for all competitors in the field who have a Handicap Index[®] issued by the USGA. It will be the player's responsibility to post scores for all other formats of play throughout the competition.

In formats of play where a player may not finish a hole (i.e. Match Play or Four-Ball), the player is responsible for recording their score for handicap purposes using the Most Likely Score (MLS) procedure. MLS on a hole includes: the number of strokes already taken, plus the number of strokes most likely required to complete the hole, plus any penalty strokes incurred on the hole.

If a Match is completed on or after the fourteenth hole but prior to the eighteenth hole, the player will record a score of net par for handicap purposes for any holes not played. If a Match is completed prior to the fourteenth hole, the player will post a nine-hole score for handicap purposes.

Players who have a Handicap Index from another authorized golf association should post their scores in accordance with the association's protocols.

EXEMPTIONS FROM QUALIFYING

Exemption categories list herein are applicable for the 2022 Championship only. The USGA reserves the right to revise any of the exemption categories. Exemption under categories reserved for amateurs will be granted only to players who are currently amateurs, unless otherwise indicated. An amateur who is exempt into the Championship proper through a category reserved for amateurs becomes ineligible if she becomes a professional before beginning play or during the play of the Championship, unless otherwise indicated. Exempt players who wish to participate in the Championship must file an entry, except those players for whom blank entries are filed as noted.