

9TH U.S. AMATEUR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP[®]



Conducted by the United States Golf Association[®]

Philadelphia Cricket Club, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | May 25 – 29, 2024

LANGUAGE

The official language of the U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship is English. It is the responsibility of the player to obtain appropriate translation services as needed.

NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19

In order to conduct USGA qualifiers and championships in a safe manner for all players and staff, the USGA, the Allied Golf Associations, and any other golf associations reserve the right to institute COVID-19 protocols. Such COVID-19 protocols may be instituted in accordance with CDC guidelines, including but not limited to testing prior to arrival and/or on-site, for any specific qualifier and/or the championship. Failure to comply with such COVID-19 protocols may result in the withdrawal of the players' entry and removal from the course.

Adherence to any COVID-19 protocols is a condition of competition for all players. Players may be prohibited from participating in a qualifier or USGA championship if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms. Players who are unable to participate in a qualifier or USGA championship due to COVID-19 will receive 75% of the entry fee.

ELIGIBILITY

Entries are open to sides of amateur golfers with an individual up-to-date Handicap Index[®] based on ratings for men not exceeding 5.4 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. Two players who play as partners comprise a side. Partners are not required to be from the same club, state, country, etc. For this Championship, any reference to gender applies to all genders.

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

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 Betting Policy or other championship policy or any other unbecoming conduct. The USGA Championship Betting Policy can be found at the USGA website, located at the following link: <https://champ-admin.usga.org/player/articles/usga-championship-betting-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>.

Performance in Qualifying: If a side fails to return a score within eight strokes of the Course Rating[™], future entries for U.S. Amateur Four-Ball, U.S. Open, U.S. Amateur, U.S. Mid-Amateur or U.S. Senior Open Championships may be declined if documentation is not provided demonstrating that the player is capable of competing at the national championship level. Please note that sides 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 eight 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 sides, including those who are exempt, must file an entry application online at the USGA website (champ-admin.usga.org). The first player of the side (Player A) must complete an entry application. A \$2 fee will be charged and immediately refunded to the credit card used, which serves to securely validate and hold the credit card. The \$180 entry or \$10 waitlist fee will be charged for both players when Player B completes their application.

Once Player A completes an application, he will receive two emails:

1. Confirmation e-mail

2. Registration e-mail to be forwarded to the partner (Player B)

Player B will use the registration email from Player A to access and complete their entry application. Player B will select the exemption category and/or qualifying location and/or waitlist site to complete the side.

Once the side is complete, both players will be charged the entry or waitlist fee and will be sent an e-mail notification confirming their applications have been received. If there is an issue with charging the credit card, the USGA will email the player with a link to submit payment.

The entry of a side is deemed complete once both players have completed their portion of the entry process. Only completed sides will be accepted at the close of entries.

Only one entry may be filed per player. The USGA reserves the right to disqualify any player who submits more than one entry.

Teams can withdraw by logging into their account and clicking on the WITHDRAW tab:

- Teams who withdraw prior to the close of entries will receive a refund of \$135 regardless of reason.
- Teams who withdraw after the close of entries and by 11:59 PM EDT two days prior of the qualifier will receive a refund of \$95 regardless of reason.
- Teams who withdraw after 11:59 PM EDT two days prior of the qualifier will not receive a refund.
- Teams who withdraw after the date of the qualifier will not receive a refund.

**ENTRY APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY USGA
NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM EDT ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023.**

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:

1. **Qualifying – 18 holes Four-Ball stroke play** for all except exempt sides listed herein.

2. **Championship – 128 sides (256 players)**, including exempt sides, will advance to the Championship.

(A) **STROKE PLAY** – 36 holes four-ball stroke play to determine 32 sides for match play. All qualifiers and exempt players must compete. A tie for last qualifier's place will be decided immediately by a hole-by-hole play-off.

SATURDAY, MAY 25: Round 1, 18 holes.

SUNDAY, MAY 26: Round 2, 18 holes.

(B) **MATCH PLAY** – A draw based on qualifying scores will be used. Ties in stroke play will be decided by blind draw, except that places of those participating in the play-off to determine the final spot(s) in the match-play field will be determined by performance in the play-off and then by the order they are listed for tee times of Round 2.

MONDAY, MAY 27: A.M. Round of 32, 18 holes.

TUESDAY, MAY 28: A.M. Round of 16, 18 holes.

P.M. Quarterfinals, 18 holes.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29: A.M. Semifinals, 18 holes.

P.M. Final, 18 holes.

PRIZES

CHAMPIONSHIP

WINNER: Gold medals and custody of the U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship Trophy for the ensuing year, subject to such conditions as the USGA may establish.

RUNNER-UP: Silver medals.

SEMIFINALISTS: Bronze medals.

LOWEST QUALIFYING SIDE: Bronze medals; if a tie, duplicate medals will be awarded.

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

QUALIFYING ROUNDS

LOWEST SCORING SIDE FOR 18 HOLES IN EACH LOCATION: Silver medals; if a tie, duplicate medals will be awarded.

MODIFICATIONS FOR PLAYERS WITH DISABILITIES

Players wishing to utilize Rule 25 (Modifications for Players with Disabilities) in USGA Championships or Qualifying should refer to: <https://champ-admin.usga.org/player/articles/rule-25---modifications-for-players-with-disabilities>.

RULES OF GOLF

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.

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.

At the Championship proper only, 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.

PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TYPES OF SHOES

Model Local Rule G-7 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

PROHIBITING CLUBS LONGER THAN 46 INCHES

At the Championship proper only, Model Local Rule G-10 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

PROHIBITING USE OF MATERIALS TO HELP READ LINE OF PLAY ON PUTTING GREEN

At the Championship proper only, Model Local Rule G-12 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. More information can be found at www.usga.org/localrule12.

CADDIES

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

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

A player is not required to employ a caddie during 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. If the USGA does not receive word from a player, their spot in the championship may be forfeited.

ACCOMMODATIONS; PLAYERS DINNER; PRACTICE PRIVILEGES

Information will be provided to qualifying sides upon completion of Qualifying. Exempt sides will receive this information from the USGA office.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE; LOGO AND MARKS POLICY

Players must be neat in appearance with respect to personal grooming and clothing.

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. 2023 Local Rules and Terms of the Competition: www.usga.org/hardcard.

QUALIFYING

LOCATION

Players' preference for Qualifying location must be designated on the entry. Qualifying location will be determined during the entry process by the side's second player.

Qualifying sites may be canceled due to lack of participation. Qualifying sites are final after entries close. Please note that due to weather or other factors, a Qualifying location may need to be delayed or postponed one or more days, and players should be prepared to play on the posted rain date if necessary. Players who withdraw after 11:59 PM EDT two days prior to the qualifier will not receive a refund. Qualifying will be over 18 holes.

WAITLIST

When a Qualifying location has met capacity, Player B may sign up on a waitlist and select up to three Alternate Qualifying Sites.

Prior to the close of entries: If the original waitlist site becomes available, the side will be assigned to that site, charged the entry fee and receive a confirmation email.

At the close of entries: If the original waitlist site is full, the side 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 side 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 applications will be withdrawn.** Priority of each list will be based on the date of receipt of Player B's entry application. The fee to join a waitlist for a qualifying location is \$10 and is non-refundable.

TRANSFERRING

Either player from a completed side 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. Completed sides are limited to two transfers per championship.

Completed sides 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 side 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.

SUBSTITUTIONS

All substitutions must be made by contacting the USGA Championship Administration Department at 908-326-1950 or via e-mail at champs@usga.org.

Withdrawals prior to the close of entries: When one of the players of a completed side is withdrawn, **BOTH** players are withdrawn with a \$135 refund. To create a new side, the remaining player must re-apply and then forward the registration email on to the new Player B. Once the side is complete, both players will be charged the entry or waitlist fee and will be sent an e-mail notification confirming their applications have been received.

Withdrawals after the close of entries: When one of the players of a completed side is withdrawn, **BOTH** players are withdrawn. The player requesting the withdrawal will receive a \$90 refund. The remaining player will receive a full refund of \$180, must re-apply and then forward the registration email on to the new Player B. Once the side is complete, both players will be charged the entry fee and will be sent an e-mail notification confirming their applications have been received. The remaining player will be limited to one substitution and subject to substitution calendar below. After the close of entries, a side is committed to its original Qualifying site regardless of the results of a substitution.

- A substitute can only be a player NOT entered in the Championship upon the close of entries.
- A player withdrawing from the Championship following the close of entries may not subsequently become a substitute.
- Following the substitution deadline (see below), a formal withdrawal on the part of one player would result in the dissolution of the side and subsequently the withdrawal of the side in its entirety.

For an exempt side, all substitutions must be made prior to the last substitution deadline (November 15, 2023):

- The remaining exempt player is required to provide a substitute.
- If the substitute was exempt as of the close of entries, the resulting side remains exempt.
- If the substitute was not exempt as of the close of entries, the side must play in a Qualifying round subject to availability.

Substitution Deadline (5:00PM EDT)

No substitutions permitted
September 20, 2023
October 18, 2023
November 15, 2023

Qualifying Dates

8/21/2023 - 9/30/2023
10/1/2023 - 10/31/2023
11/1/2023 - 11/30/2023
12/1/2023 - 12/31/2023

QUALIFIERS' PLACES; TIES; CHAMPIONSHIP SUBSTITUTIONS

The number of qualifiers' places at 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 sides unable to compete in the Championship.

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

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

Alternates have no status at the Championship.

ACCEPTANCE OF PLACES; NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

On the day of Qualifying, every qualifying side should inform the Official in Charge whether they will play in the Championship.

If a qualifying side or an exempt side withdraws, they must notify the USGA (908-326-1950 or via e-mail at champs@usga.org) promptly in order to insure an alternate side 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

Exemption categories list herein are applicable for the 2024 Championship only. The USGA reserves the right to revise any of the exemption categories. Exempt sides who wish to participate in the Championship must file an entry, except those sides for whom blank entries are filed as noted.