

2016 USGA Championship Media Credential Regulations

The United States Golf Association (USGA) has exclusive media rights to all USGA championships, including the exclusive right to license live play-by-play coverage and to transmit comprehensive coverage of the championships.

To simultaneously provide the best competitive environment for the players and the best possible working environment for media at USGA championships, media credentials will be issued only to individuals regularly employed by and on assignment from newspapers, golf publications, golf and sports websites, radio and television stations, networks and wire services, as determined by the USGA in its sole discretion. Individuals representing multiple interests (such as a recognized golf magazine and a website) must agree to be bound by all applicable media regulations.

CREDENTIALS WILL BE ISSUED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF MEDIA OUTLETS WHICH WILL PROVIDE IMMEDIATE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF NEWS COVERAGE. *“Immediate national championship golf news coverage” for purposes of these criteria shall mean that the editorial, audio and/or visual deadlines for the championship action being documented occur no later than 48 hours after the completion of competition at the site. Exceptions for monthly and weekly publications may be at the sole discretion of USGA Communications. No other use by the media organization and or individual granted a credential may be made without the prior written approval of the USGA. Members of the media who hold USGA permanent badges are welcome to attend the championship, but must apply for working media credentials by the deadline set by USGA Communications. Members with permanent badges must still meet credentialing criteria and are bound by the same terms and conditions as set forth in these Regulations and are required to acknowledge their agreement to these Regulations.*

Coverage is welcomed and permitted under the following terms and conditions which may not be modified without the prior written consent of the USGA.

General Guidelines

1. Only personnel with appropriate credentials will be permitted into the media center.
2. USGA media marshals will escort marquee groupings to assist designated members of the media and photographers so they can perform their duties without distraction to the player. Please follow directions from these officials and the hole marshals.
3. When working on the golf course, do not interfere with or distract players during the championship or the practice rounds. Please be respectful to the officials, marshals, spectators and the golf course at all times.
4. No on-site signage will be permitted (i.e., banners) except for call letters painted on station vehicles which may need to be covered at the discretion of USGA.
5. The use of golf carts is strictly prohibited at all times.

USGA MOBILE DEVICE POLICY FOR MEDIA

Accredited members of the media at the U.S. Open will be allowed to use their mobile devices while on course or in the media center but will be asked to follow the spectator guidelines (see below) for usage and protocols when *on the golf course*. However, given that media use their mobile devices to accomplish their work during the U.S. Open, modifications (detailed below) will be in place:

- Phone calls away from play **only**
- **Silent** mode NOT vibrate
- No photography while near play
- No video (based on TV regulations)
- Social media encouraged but no play-by-play or activity that competes with live scoring
- Texting or emailing allowed for coverage/business needs

USGA SPECTATOR GUIDELINES ON MOBILE DEVICES

Spectators may carry mobile devices smaller than 7” in length and/or height including cellphones, smartphones, PDAs. All device volume controls must be set to “silent” or “vibrate” at all times. Phone calls must be received or placed only in designated “Phone Zones” located around the golf course. Phone calls must not be received or placed in any area that may disrupt play, including grandstands. Use of approved devices for photographs is subject to the camera/photography policy. Video/audio recording or live streaming are not permitted at any time with any device. Texting and email are permissible throughout all areas of the golf course but should not disrupt players. Violation of the above policy may result in immediate expulsion.

Regulations for ‘Inside The Ropes’ Access

A limited number of appropriate inside-the-ropes IDs will be issued by USGA Communications for credentialed media. A special release form, signed by the credentialed media member may, at the USGA’s sole discretion, be required. A breach of any of the media credential regulations may result in forfeiture of the media credentials for both the individual and media organization including, but not limited to the right to work at the current and future USGA championships. Such determination is in the sole discretion of the USGA.

GUIDELINES FOR INSIDE THE ROPES ACCESS (violations will result in suspension of credential privileges – no exceptions)

1. Inside the ropes lanyards will be issued to a limited number of individuals who may work inside (but only immediately up against the gallery ropes). All others must stay outside the gallery ropes.

2. Inside the ropes lanyards are not transferable and will not be replaced if lost.
 - a. Inside the ropes lanyard must be visible at all times.
 - b. Media with inside the ropes lanyards must only bring equipment which is allowed by regulations.
 - c. Media must station themselves immediately inside the gallery ropes not more than an arm's length from the ropes, so as to blend into and appear to be part of the gallery.
 - d. Media must not take conspicuous positions in the open.
 - e. Media are not permitted behind the players at the teeing ground.
 - f. If the need arises, a limited number of inside the ropes lanyards will be issued for coverage of specially-designated groups.
 - g. In the event of a playoff, a limited number of newly issued separate inside the ropes lanyards will be distributed.

Print Publication Regulations

1. See above General Guidelines and Regulations for Inside-the-Ropes access.
2. Players shall not be interviewed during play or after the round until they have signed their scorecards.
3. The credentialed entity has rights only with respect to print publication media and has no rights with respect to any other media unless proper and valid credentials for such media have been obtained.
4. Video for the publication's website is limited by USGA Television and Radio Regulations. Inside the ropes lanyards will not be issued.
5. Reports in whatever form, regardless of format, shall not purport to be exclusive, live, play-by-play or official coverage.

Photography Regulations

1. See above General Guidelines..
2. See above for Inside-the-Ropes Regulations. In addition, for a photographer to receive a photo inside the ropes lanyard, they are required to use professional grade cameras and equipment at all times and present a minimum of a 300mm f/2.8 lens at check in.
3. Photography is restricted to news-use only. Commercial photography is prohibited at all times. Freelance photographers shooting on speculation will not be granted credentials.
4. In the event you or your media outlet would like the opportunity to provide a photograph taken at the USGA championship to a third party for commercial purposes, written permission must be obtained from the USGA prior to entering any such agreement. If the USGA grants such permission, a separate agreement between you and the USGA must be entered into covering the terms and conditions of such use. Email photorequests@usga.org for further information.
5. The photographer must not release the camera shutter after the player stands over his ball and before he has completed his **stroke**.
6. All still photographers who have been approved for inside-the-gallery-ropes access will be issued an inside the ropes lanyard. These lanyards are not transferable. Inside the ropes lanyards will not be replaced if lost.

Inside the ropes lanyards must be visible at all times.

- a. Photographers must station themselves at locations designated by USGA media marshals so as to blend into and appear to be part of the gallery.
 - b. Photographers must not take conspicuous positions in the open.
 - c. Photographers are not permitted behind the players or to take photographs from behind the teeing ground.
 - d. All pictures must be taken at appreciable distances, as far from the players as possible, and from angles that are not acute to the line of play, however the use of remote controlled drones/helicopters and other devices are strictly **prohibited**.
 - e. When working at the green, photographers must not position themselves directly in a player's putting line.
 - f. A limited number of newly issued separate inside-the-ropes lanyards will be distributed for the trophy presentation ceremony.
7. Still photographers and assistants and runners who have not been issued Inside-the-Ropes lanyards are not allowed inside gallery ropes under any circumstances. A limited number of photo runners/couriers/assistants will be credentialed. Photo runners/couriers/assistants are prohibited from taking photographs on the golf course at any time.
 8. There is no access to the players' locker room for still photographers.
 9. Still photographers are not allowed on TV towers during play.
 10. Tripods and ladders are prohibited on the course.
 11. The use of strobes or flash photography is prohibited on the course. Flashes may only be used during the prize ceremony and trophy presentation.
 12. Please remain off the green at the completion of the championship.
 - a. Access to the ceremony will be granted to those with ceremony Inside-the-Ropes lanyards or special access badges.

- b. Shortly after the player signs his scorecard, a prize presentation ceremony will be conducted on the 18th green.
 - c. Prior to the ceremony, photo marshals will escort the still photographers onto the green to a predetermined area to shoot both the trophy ceremony and a photo of the champion with the trophy.
 - d. After the prize ceremony the champion will be moved away from the table to a predetermined spot on the 18th green so that still photographers can capture the champion with the trophy.
13. Anyone using a frequency modulated communications device (two-way radios, remote triggering device, etc.) must have information on file with the local frequency coordinator of the FCC, and it must be approved on-site by USGA frequency coordinator Louis Libin (U.S. Open only).
 14. The USGA assumes no liability for any loss or damage to cameras and equipment.

Remote Still Camera Regulations

The primary locations for installing remote cameras shall be on TV towers and grandstands located around the 18th green. Remote cameras are not permitted near any teeing grounds.

1. Any organization wishing to install/set up remote cameras anywhere on property must obtain approval by the USGA. Please email John Mummert (jmummert@usga.org) for prior approval and clearance of the location prior to the beginning of championship week.
2. Prior to championship, any organization wishing to install a remote camera must provide the USGA with a certificate of liability insurance with a minimum per incident coverage of \$1 million, before being issued stickers for authorized remote cameras. This can be completed by emailing John Mummert at jummert@usga.org
3. All remote cameras must be in place and photographers must be off any TV towers no later than 8 a.m., without exception. TV towers cannot be re-accessed until play has ended.
4. Cameras and grip equipment must be marked with the photographer's name, organization's name and contact number.
5. Cameras may not be placed on any scoring device (monster board or otherwise) or its platforms/safety rails.
6. All remote cameras must be placed as close as possible to the structure and must not interfere with the TV cameras or the view of spectators.
7. All remote cameras, transmitters, and grip equipment must be secured to the structure with steel safety cables.
8. The use of remote camera(s) is intended for coverage of play by media involved in news coverage of the championship.
9. The USGA assumes no liability for any damages done by or to remote cameras and equipment.
10. Cameras and grip equipment may be removed by the USGA or Fox/rights-holding TV if necessary or if the above regulations have not been met.
11. No video cameras permitted.

Website/Digital Applications Regulations

1. See above General Guidelines.
2. Reports in whatever form, regardless of format, shall not purport to be exclusive, live, play-by-play or official coverage.
3. Reports, statistical data and scoring updates shall be used solely in connection with the news portion of the media organization's regular golf coverage.
4. Scoring and statistical information may be provided on the media organization's website/digital applications no sooner than 15 minutes after the actual occurrence of the shots, or after the time such information is legally available as public information if sooner than 15 minutes after the actual occurrence of the shots.
5. No report will be inserted into any commercial announcement or purport to be sponsored or endorsed by a third party.
6. Reports cannot include any proprietary material owned by the USGA, inclusive of but not limited to, the USGA trademark, the championship trademark and/or championship logo, player interview transcripts, audio transmissions, video transmissions, photographs, USGA Media Guide, or any other copyright or trademark owned by the USGA without prior written authorization of the USGA. Use of the USGA or championship trademarks without the design logo may be used only for identification of the event.
7. Audio transmissions may not exceed two minutes in length and there may be no more than two audio reports per hour.
8. No video re-transmissions of the television coverage will be permitted.

9. Video for the media organization's website/digital applications are limited by USGA Television and Radio Regulations. Inside-the-ropes IDs will not be issued.
10. Still photography is permitted only under USGA Photography Regulations set forth above.
11. Video re-transmission of golf highlights and interview room interviews may not exceed two minutes in length for each day.
12. Any modification of these regulations by any party other than the USGA shall be null and void and may result in denial of credentials.
13. Use of the championship logo is prohibited unless used in a report during regularly scheduled news programs, but is otherwise prohibited in such report per #14 below.
14. No report will be inserted into any commercial announcement, or endorsed by a third party.
15. Tripods and ladders are prohibited on the course.
16. No use of audio highlights from a USGA rights-holding station or network may be used without the prior written consent of the USGA.
17. Media organizations' websites/digital applications may link to usopen.com for live and archived streaming of press conferences only.
18. Special Reports which include any proprietary materials owned by the USGA inclusive of but not limited to, the USGA trademark, the U.S. Open trademark and/or championship logo, player interview transcripts, audio transmissions, video transmissions, photographs, USGA Media Guide or any other copyright or trademark owned or controlled by the USGA may only include such materials with prior written authorization of the USGA.
19. Sponsored Reports may not suggest such sponsor is a sponsor of the USGA championship, and such report must be distinguished in a manner which conveys it is solely a sponsor of the report.

Television And Radio Coverage Regulations

1. See above General Guidelines and Regulations.
2. No televised report with golf action highlights may be aired until that day's live television coverage has concluded.
3. Reports with golf actions highlights shall be used solely in connection with regularly scheduled radio and television news programming. Highlights of the USGA championship for television and radio reports shall not exceed two minutes in length and may not purport to be live, play-by-play coverage.
4. All television highlights of the USGA championship must come from the Fox satellite/internal feeds.
5. From Thursday through Sunday and any playoff day, television cameras are not permitted to shoot golf course live competition or players walking between green and tee and may only shoot non-competition footage (for example: galleries, concession areas, merchandise tent, practice range, practice putting green, parking lots, main public entrance and volunteer check-in tent).
6. During practice rounds (Monday-Wednesday) all television/video cameras may shoot golf action on all 18 holes, but must stay outside the ropes. A limited number of inside the ropes access lanyards will be provided on practice round days.
7. Video re-transmission of golf highlights and interview room interviews may not exceed two minutes in length for each day.
8. Access to the practice range and practice putting green is subject to the access codes on each media credential.
9. Tripods and ladders are prohibited on the course.
10. Use of the championship logo is prohibited unless used in a report during regularly scheduled news programs, but is otherwise prohibited per #10 below.
11. No report will be inserted into any commercial announcement, or endorsed by a third party.
12. Special Reports which include any proprietary materials owned by the USGA inclusive of but not limited to, the USGA trademark, the U.S. Open trademark and/or championship logo, player interview transcripts, audio transmissions, video transmissions, photographs, USGA Media Guide or any other copyright or trademark owned by the USGA may only include such materials with prior written authorization of the USGA.
13. Sponsored Reports may not suggest such sponsor is a sponsor of the USGA Championships, and must be distinguished in a manner which conveys it is solely a sponsor of the report.

Credentials are granted solely to the media organization submitting this application once approved by the USGA and may not be sold or distributed to any other entity, party or individual. In order for individuals from these credentialed media organizations to obtain access to the USGA championship, each such individual will be required to review and acknowledge they will abide by the USGA Media Credential Regulations. Any attempt to modify the terms and conditions of these regulations without the prior written consent of the USGA may result in a rejection of or revocation of such credentials.

The rights and privileges granted to the media organization and individuals from these media organizations shall automatically terminate if any terms or conditions of the regulations are breached. The unauthorized use of the credential subjects the individual or news organization to forfeiture of the credential for the championship.

The USGA retains the exclusive right to real-time transmission of streaming video, digital images, and real-time audio of the Championship on the USGA website or a site designated by the USGA. "Real-time" is defined by the USGA as continuous play-by-play account or live, extended live/real-time statistics, or detailed description of the championship. The credential holder may, during the credentialing process, request the opportunity to blog or use social media outlets during the Championship, which, if granted, must be done only from the on-site Media Center; however, the blog or use of social media outlets may not produce any form of "real-time" description of the championship. Periodic updates of scores, statistics or other brief descriptions are acceptable and must be in compliance with the above referenced Website/Digital Applications regulations (e.g. no sooner than 15 minutes after the actual occurrence of the shots or after the time such information is legally available as public information if sooner than 15 minutes after the actual occurrence of the shots). All media entities posting a blog or using social media outlets during the championship must submit a direct link from the blog or social media account to USGA Communications and shall be free of charge to all readers. The credential holder agrees that the determination of whether a blog or using social media is a real-time description shall be in the USGA's sole discretion. If the USGA deems a credential holder is producing a real-time description, such action is considered a breach of the terms and conditions of the credential and the USGA reserves the right to revoke the credential and all other rights set forth in the foregoing regulations.

The credentialed individual and media organization assumes all risk and danger incidental to and associated with attendance at the USGA championships and hereby waives, releases and discharges the USGA, participating players, host entity, and affiliated companies, vendors, and their respective employees, officers, directors, agents, representatives, volunteers, and/or volunteers associated with the USGA championships, and agrees to hold harmless all of the persons, associations and entities listed above, from any and all claim for damages for death, personal injury or property loss or damage, including all costs and expenses which result from such attendance at the USGA championships. The foregoing waiver, release and assumption of risk shall be binding on the media organization, its successors and assigns as well as the individual and the credentialed individual's heirs and assigns. Anyone granted media credentials shall be bound by the regulations set forth herein as well as the terms and conditions of the ticket holder/credential holder license agreement. Media credentials are not transferrable and may not be sold or otherwise transferred without the prior written consent of the USGA.

The credentialed media organization and credentialed individual of the media credentials shall jointly and severally indemnify, defend and hold the USGA, participating players, the host entity, vendors and their respective employees, officers, directors, agents, representatives, volunteers, successors and assigns harmless from and against any and all expenses, lawsuits, damages, costs and liabilities (including reasonable legal fees and expenses) incurred by, arising from, or in connection with any actions of the credentialed entity or individual user or the unauthorized use of any photograph highlight or other coverage of the USGA championships.

Each credentialed organization and each credentialed individual must acknowledge they have read and agree to these terms and conditions prior to being granted credentials.

We hereby apply for credentials to cover this USGA championship and accept and agree to the foregoing terms and conditions. Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions of the regulations set forth above may result in loss of credentials for this event and/or future USGA championships and the denial of credentials for the media outlet identified below at this event and/or at any future USGA championship at the USGA's sole discretion.

NAME (print) _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

MEDIA OUTLET _____