



U.S. Open Championship INTERNATIONAL PLAYER TRAVEL

Each player is responsible for his travel to the U.S. Open Championship. International players must arrange for their own passport and visa and must be current on the latest COVID-19 related travel restrictions. The USGA does *not* have any method to provide assistance with passports or visas.

The following information may be helpful as players arrange for passports and visas:

- Entry into the United States is managed by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS); Customs and Border Protection; and the U.S. Department of State.
- All foreign nationals must present a passport and visa to enter the United States.
- Foreign nationals of some countries may be eligible for entry into the United States for less than 90 days through the Visa Waiver Program. Those countries are listed on the State Department's website:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visa-waiver-program.html>

If the player is eligible for entry into the United States via the Visa Waiver Program, they **MUST** apply online and receive electronic confirmation before traveling. The link to that application process is:

<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>

- There is a special type of visa designated for "Internationally Recognized Athletes." Players in the U.S. Open should meet this (P1-A) visa requirement but travel would only be authorized for the championship. Full information on the P1-A Visa can be found at the following link:

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextchannel=1986ob89284a321oVgnVCM1000oob92ca60aRCRD&vgnextoid=1986ob89284a321oVgnVCM1000oob92ca60aRCRD>

If the player is eligible for the P1-A Visa, the USGA may write a letter for the player to confirm his reputation as a highly skilled golfer, his exemption into the U.S. Open Championship, the dates of the championship, and the location of the championship.

- If a player is a student in the United States and plans to travel to the U.S. Open Championship as part of his educational time in the United States, a Student Visa must be obtained. A student may not enter the United States through a P1-A Visa or the Visa Waiver Program and take part in his education. Information on the student visas can be found at the following link:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html>



The following information may be helpful as international players review travel restrictions related to COVID-19:

- On January 31, President Trump issued Proclamation 9984, suspending the entry into the United States by foreign nationals who pose a risk of transmitting COVID-19. This original Proclamation specifically focused on individuals traveling from the Peoples Republic of China.

Additional Proclamations 9992, 9993, and 9996 added the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Brazil, and those countries comprising the Schengen Area (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland).

The overriding key is any foreign national (regardless of country of passport issuance) who had visited any country listed within these Proclamations within a 14-day period is prohibited from entering the United States. The CDC summarizes these travel restrictions at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/from-other-countries.html>

- On May 22, 2020, the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security authorized an exemption to these Proclamations for athletes (and their spouses, dependents, support staff) that compete in major professional sporting events including the PGA TOUR. These athletes are exempt from the travel restrictions contained in the Proclamations and are free to enter the U.S. to compete in their professional sport.

This exception covers athletes at competing in the U.S. Open Championship. To obtain the waiver for this exemption to travel restrictions, please contact Robbie Zalzneck of the USGA at rzalzneck@usga.org.

More information on this exemption can be found at the following link:

https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/20_0522_national-interest-exemption.pdf

NOTE: TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS RELATING TO COVID-19 ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH LITTLE OR NO NOTICE.