

ALTERNATE FACILITY PRACTICE AREAS

The practice area(s) at the U.S. Amateur Championship is a vital component to a successful championship. The Host Club and the USGA will mutually review and determine the area(s) that will be utilized for practice. In most cases, the Host Club's existing practice facility will be sufficient, but the length and width of the facility will be determining factors. In a year with a separate Stroke Play Co-Host, that course's practice facilities will also be reviewed and determined if the practice areas are sufficient.

In a given year, the Host Club and the USGA may determine that the existing practice facilities are not sufficient and will seek to use an alternate facility that will allow players to practice. The Host Club/USGA should enter into a formal agreement to confirm the use of these alternate facilities. The following arrangements should be made at that alternate facility.

TEEING GROUND

The alternate facility should be prepared, in advance, to save a portion of their practice range to provide a pristine area for players. The average minimum space needed for the practice range is a depth of 45 feet. The first day the practice facility opens to players, the players should begin practicing at the rear end of the total depth and then move forward by three yards each day. If needed, a single rope can be placed to determine the front line for the day, thus players would stay behind the rope while practicing.

PRACTICE RANGE TARGETS

The Host Club and the USGA will also review the target areas on the practice range itself. Targets should be placed to give a wide range of distances. Targets should resemble course conditions as much as possible. As such, we recommend using the same color flags (red) and flagsticks. The USGA can provide flags if the club does not have any red available.

PRACTICE SHORT GAME AREA

The alternate facility may need to provide areas that can be used to practice short game shots such as chipping, pitching and bunker shots. The short game practice area should resemble championship course conditions as much as possible. As such, the green(s) should be at championship speed and firmness if possible. Again, we recommend using the same color flag(s) and flagstick(s) on the short game area as you would use for the practice range.

PRACTICE PUTTING GREEN

Any putting greens at the alternate facility should generally not be used as practice putting greens. If practice putting greens are made available, the players should be notified that the types of grass, mowing heights, green speeds, etc. may not be prepped to championship conditions.

PRACTICE RANGE TENT

The USGA suggests that a 10'x10' tent be erected at the practice range. This tent should serve as the entrance to the range and the place where practice golf balls are distributed. Within this tent, supplies such as tees, sunscreen, etc. should be available. Water Coolers stocked with bottled water should be placed and replenished in this area as necessary.

TRANSPORTATION

The Host Club should provide transportation to/from the alternate facility and the player hotels and the Host Club.

HOURS OF OPERATION

In most scenarios, the alternate facility is only being used to accommodate players during stroke play. As such, the facility should be available beginning on Friday, the first day of Player Registration. The practice areas should remain available each day throughout the stroke play portion of the championship. Typical hours of operation are:

Friday (Player Registration)	8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday (1 st Practice Round)	6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Sunday (2 nd Practice Round)	6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Monday-Tuesday (Stroke Play)	6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday*	Closed unless Stroke Play is delayed.

PRACTICE GOLF BALLS

By Championship Agreement, the Host Club is responsible for acquiring top quality practice golf balls for the championship. Realizing this is a big undertaking and can be expensive, the USGA has tried to assist Host Clubs. For the last several years, the USGA has developed a relationship with Titleist. This relationship is a year to year arrangement in which Titleist will provide practice golf balls for all USGA championships, including the (championship).

Whether provided by the Host Club or the USGA, the same top quality practice golf balls should be used at the alternate facility. This may require an increase of the overall number of balls needed. Practice balls should be provided at no cost to the player and distributed using 40 count baskets. Bags may be used in lieu of baskets. Pyramids should not be used as keeping them filled depletes the inventory in an inefficient way. Golf balls should be constantly picked from the range area (while players are practicing) to keep the inventory moving. They should be washed and ready for re-distribution as needed throughout the day.

NAME PLACARDS

Generally, name placards will not be used at an alternate practice facility.

CLUBHOUSE FACILITIES

In general, the alternate site does not need to make clubhouse facilities available except that players should have reasonable access to restrooms, drinking water, etc. In the event of inclement weather or any dangerous situation, the players will need to be able to seek safe shelter.