

USGA METEOROLOGIST

METEOROLOGIST OFFICE SPACE

The Host Club will provide dedicated office space for use by the USGA Meteorologist. The specifications for the office are:

- Minimum of 10'x10' dedicated office space with access to roof of building.
- Office space should have an unobstructed view of the surrounding sky.
- Office space should have strong cell phone signal.
- One (1) table or desk and two (2) chairs.
- Cable access and one (1) television set to be used to monitor championship coverage and The Weather Channel.
- Two (2) DSL internet connections, preferably not wireless. (USGA expense)
- Four (4) well-grounded electrical outlets.
- The meteorologist will be bringing his own sandbags but would appreciate assistance in getting them filled.

Please note: The USGA Meteorologist needs to run the Thor Guard cable from the office to an acceptable mounting location on the roof.

At most USGA championships, the meteorologist is located in or near the clubhouse. The cable that they carry with their Thor Guard is 125 feet in length. This means that the distance between their office and an acceptable location on the roof cannot exceed 125 feet. This does not mean that the Thor Guard has to be on a roof, but it does need to be in an open area preferably away from public access. There should be no obstructions (trees, towers, buildings, AC units, etc) close to the sensor. Also, it is important to have an access point for the cable to run from the office to the acceptable sensor location. It is preferable to run the cable through a window or conduit from the office to the sensor. We would like to avoid running the cable through doorways whenever possible since the door can damage the cable.

This can be difficult from site to site but the absolute worst place is in an area without windows and without quick access to the outside. It is important to either have a view of the outside (window) or have quick access to the outside where they can see the sky. In most situations, the meteorologist can see dangerous weather developing much faster by observing the sky rather than relying on radar.

For security purposes, if they are not located in the USGA office, they prefer to be able to lock their office or have the office located in an area with limited access. They use expensive equipment and software that is not easy to replace.

WEATHER SERVICES

Once the Meteorologist is operation, his/her service will be the weather service for the championship. He/she will produce a 7-day forecast and then daily updates (morning and afternoon).

If inclement weather is likely, the Meteorologist will notify the USGA who then notifies the Host Club to jointly take the appropriate actions regarding the competition and safety of fans.

It is the USGA's intent to safeguard all players, caddies, walking referees, walking scorers and standard bearers whenever possible from dangerous weather. As such, a detailed Evacuation Plan will be created by the Host Club and approved by the USGA (See Evacuation Section) to direct these groups to the appropriate place during inclement weather.

It is also the USGA's intent to notify fans and volunteers in advance, if possible, of approaching inclement weather. Since providing shelter for thousands of fans over hundreds of acres is not practical, the USGA will use a system whereby "Weather Warning" signs (see below) will be hung at all status boards when inclement weather is detected within a potentially dangerous range. The intent behind this action is to notify fans and volunteers, when possible, of potentially dangerous weather before play is suspended, so time is given for fans to move in the direction of shelter. When "Weather Warning" signs go up, marshals are instructed to "spread the word" to fans on their hole that dangerous weather is in the area. The "Weather Warning" signs should not affect play on the golf course as players will utilize evacuation vehicles when play is suspended or delayed. Marshals will notify fans to avoid other dangerous areas such as wire fences, hill tops and single trees. All volunteers are advised to use their best judgment about when to take cover. The USGA does not expect any volunteer to take undue risks.



Weather Information required in the Groupings and Starting Times Sheet:

“The USGA will have meteorology staff on-site monitoring the possibility of inclement weather. If inclement weather approaches, special “weather warning” signs will be posted on status boards around the course. When the sign appears, fans are advised to take immediate precautions PRIOR to play being suspended, which will be indicated by one prolonged air-horn blast.

Please avoid open areas, hilltops, high places, isolated trees, golf carts, wire fences and seek shelter if possible.”