

PRACTICE ROUNDS

The Host Club and Co-Host shall make the golf course available for official practice rounds on Thursday and Friday prior to the start of stroke play. No players should be allowed to play a practice round on Wednesday, as the courses are closed. They may walk the golf courses on Wednesday but cannot take practice shots, even on the putting greens. The Host Club and the USGA should discuss and confirm a policy regarding players requesting access to the golf courses prior to the championship. The USGA is generally fine with clubs allowing advance practice rounds but all players must have equal opportunity for practice so that no perceived favoritism is shown towards a few select players. Typically, the club's normal guest policy would prevail.

Starting Times

The USGA has an online practice round sign up system for players to utilize once all qualifying is complete. Practice round starting times are set up the same as the stroke play rounds. Once Registration begins on Wednesday, the USGA will pass the practice round sign up to staff working the Practice Round station for players to confirm their starting times.

On Thursday, attendance at the Players' Reception is strongly encouraged. The USGA will ask that the practice areas be closed at 5:30 p.m. to encourage the player's attendance. The USGA will allow players already on the course to complete their practice rounds but the 1st and 10th tees (TBD) should be closed following the last groups from the p.m. wave making the turns so that no players begin a new round at that time. Use of "Course Closed" signs would be preferable.

Practice Round Starters

The Host Club should work with the USGA to appoint practice round starters for each stroke play course. The practice round starters should receive a copy of the day's tee sheet as a starting point. They should also have direct communication with Player Registration on to handle last minute player arrivals. Practice Round Starters should try to stick with the tee sheet but players have flexibility to change starting times subject to availability.

Starter Procedures and Announcements

- Welcome the players and introduce yourself and introduce the players to each other.
- Remind players that it is the policy of the USGA for players to play only one ball per hole during practice round play. Extra practice around putting greens is permissible as long as they do not delay the following group.
- Remind players that the Tee Markers are there for a reason and they MUST play from the markers.
- Be sure to start players on time, no earlier than scheduled start time regardless of position of group in front.
- Introduce each player casually/softly if the crowd warrants: "John Smith." The USGA does not want any other information to be announced.

The USGA will supply starter's boxes for the practice rounds.