



---

## **USGA ACCEPTS SECOND-HIGHEST NUMBER OF U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRIES**

### **More Than 9,800 Will Attempt to Qualify for 115th Championship at Chambers Bay**

FAR HILLS, N.J. (April 30, 2015) – The United States Golf Association (USGA) has accepted a total of 9,882 entries for the 2015 U.S. Open Championship at Chambers Bay in University Place, Wash.

The number of entries is second to the 10,127 accepted for last year's U.S. Open at Pinehurst Resort & Country Club's Course No. 2, and is 22 more than the 9,860 accepted for the 2013 championship at Merion Golf Club, in Ardmore, Pa. Among this year's total are 49 players, including 11 past champions, who are currently fully exempt into the field (see list below).

"We are thrilled with the interest demonstrated by the 9,882 entries, the most we have ever accepted for a U.S. Open held on the West Coast," said Diana Murphy, USGA vice president and chairman of the Championship Committee. "That Chambers Bay, a public course which has never held an Open, could have this kind of impact proves that our national championship knows no state, regional or national bounds. We look forward to local and sectional qualifying and to conducting the 115th U.S. Open on June 18-21."

To be eligible, a player must have a Handicap Index® not exceeding 1.4, or be a professional. Local qualifying, which will be played over 18 holes at 111 sites in the United States, will take place between May 4-21.

Sectional qualifying, played over 36 holes, will be conducted on Monday, May 25 at two international sites (Japan and England) and on Monday, June 8, at 10 sites in the United States, ranging from New York to California. This will be the 11th year with two international qualifiers, which were established in 2005.

Martin Kaymer, the 2014 champion, and 10 other champions are fully exempt from having to qualify for the championship. They are: Angel Cabrera (2007), Ernie Els (1994, 1997), Jim Furyk (2003), Lucas Glover (2009), Graeme McDowell (2010), Rory McIlroy (2011), Geoff Ogilvy (2006), Justin Rose (2013), Webb Simpson (2012) and Tiger Woods (2000, 2002, 2008).

The USGA accepted entries for the 115th U.S. Open from golfers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 63 foreign countries.

For the fifth consecutive year, only online entries were accepted. The USGA received 535 entries on the last day applications were accepted (April 29), including 97 applications in the final hour. Josh Williamowsky, a 30-year-old amateur from Bethesda, Md., submitted his entry just 21 seconds before the deadline of 5 p.m. EDT. Darren Ernst, a 42-year-old amateur from Trabuco Canyon, Calif., was the first entrant when entries opened on March 4.

The number of fully exempt players will increase with the inclusion of the top 60 point leaders and ties from the Official World Golf Ranking®, as of May 25 and June 15. The winners of The Players Championship (May 7-10) and European Tour BMW PGA Championship (May 21-24) will also earn exemptions.

This year marks the seventh time that the USGA has accepted more than 9,000 entries for the U.S. Open. The first time was in 2005, when 9,048 entries were accepted for the championship at Pinehurst No. 2. A total of 9,086 golfers entered the 2009 championship at Bethpage State Park's



Black Course in Farmingdale, N.Y. In 2010, 9,052 golfers entered the championship at Pebble Beach (Calif.) Golf Links. In 2012, the USGA accepted 9,006 entries for the U.S. Open at The Olympic Club in San Francisco.

More information about the U.S. Open before, during and after the 2015 championship at Chambers Bay is available at [www.usopen.com](http://www.usopen.com).

The list of the 49 golfers who are fully exempt into the 2015 U.S. Open (as of April 29):

Keegan Bradley  
**Angel Cabrera**  
Darren Clarke  
Erik Compton  
Jason Day  
Jason Dufner  
**Ernie Els**  
Rickie Fowler  
**Jim Furyk**  
Sergio Garcia  
**Lucas Glover**  
Bill Haas  
Russell Henley  
Morgan Hoffmann  
Billy Horschel  
Dustin Johnson  
Zach Johnson

**Martin Kaymer**  
Chris Kirk  
Brooks Koepka  
Matt Kuchar  
Hunter Mahan  
Hideki Matsuyama  
**Graeme McDowell**  
**Rory McIlroy**  
Phil Mickelson  
Colin Montgomerie  
Kevin Na  
a-Bradley Neil  
**Geoff Ogilvy**  
Louis Oosthuizen  
Ryan Palmer  
Patrick Reed  
**Justin Rose**

a-Oliver Schniederjans  
Charl Schwartzel  
Adam Scott  
John Senden  
**Webb Simpson**  
Brandt Snedeker  
Jordan Spieth  
Henrik Stenson  
Brendon Todd  
Cameron Tringale  
Jimmy Walker  
Bubba Watson  
Gary Woodland  
**Tiger Woods**  
a-Gunn Yang

**Bold** – U.S. Open champion      a-amateur