



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 11, 2016

**DRIVE, CHIP & PUTT CHAMPIONSHIP
ANNOUNCES 2017 QUALIFYING SCHEDULE**

Registration for Drive, Chip and Putt Qualifying to Open January 26

AUGUSTA, Ga. – Today the United States Golf Association (USGA), Masters Tournament and the PGA of America officially launched the 2017 Drive, Chip and Putt Championship by announcing the local qualifying schedule for the upcoming year. The schedule includes dates and locations for participants to play in local qualifiers across the country with the opportunity to advance and earn an invitation to next year's National Finals at Augusta National Golf Club. The [qualifying schedule is available here](#) on the event's website. Online registration will also be available at www.DriveChipandPutt.com, starting Tuesday, January 26, 2016.

Now in its fourth year, the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship aims to help younger generations begin their lifelong connection with golf by providing a fun, interactive platform for participants of all skill levels. This free youth golf development initiative welcomes boys and girls ages 7-15 to participate in separate divisions in four age categories. Local qualifying will take place throughout all 50 states during the months of May, June, July and August. Top performers at the local level will advance through sub-regional and regional qualifiers in July/August and September, respectively. The top 80 performers – 40 boys and 40 girls – will earn an invitation to the National Finals at Augusta National on Sunday, April 2, the eve of the 2017 Masters.

Local qualifying will begin Sunday, May 8 at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., and continue through the summer in all 50 states. The breakdown and schedule of the 2017 Drive, Chip and Putt Championship qualifying is as follows:

Local (May/June/July/August):	256 host sites throughout all 50 states <i>3 juniors advance in each age/gender category from every venue</i>
Sub-Regional (July/August):	50 host sites throughout 31 states <i>2 juniors advance in each age/gender category from every venue</i>
Regional (September):	10 host sites in 10 regions <i>1 junior advances in each age/gender category from every venue</i>
National Finals (April 2, 2017):	80 total participants at Augusta National Golf Club

For a full list of qualifying venues at the local and sub-regional level, or for more information about the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship, including official rules, registration, and ticket information, please visit www.DriveChipandPutt.com.

###

About the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship

A joint initiative founded in 2013 by the Masters Tournament, United States Golf Association and the PGA of America, the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship is a free nationwide junior golf development competition aimed at growing the game by focusing on the three fundamental skills employed in golf. By tapping the creative and competitive spirit of girls and boys ages 7-15, the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship provides aspiring junior golfers an opportunity to play with their peers in qualifiers around the country. Participants who advance through local, sub-regional and regional qualifying in each age/gender category earn a place in the National Finals, which is conducted at Augusta National Golf Club the Sunday before the Masters Tournament and is broadcast live by Golf Channel. For more information about the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship, please visit: www.DriveChipandPutt.com.

About the United States Golf Association

The USGA conducts the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Senior Open, as well as 10 national amateur championships, two state team championships and international matches, attracting players and fans from more than 160 countries. Together with The R&A, the USGA governs the game worldwide, jointly administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, equipment standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings. The USGA's reach is global with a working jurisdiction in the United States, its territories and Mexico, serving more than 25 million golfers and actively engaging 150 golf associations.

The USGA is one of the world's foremost authorities on research, development and support of sustainable golf course management practices. It serves as a primary steward for the game's history and invests in the development of the game through the delivery of its services and its ongoing "For the Good of the Game" grants program. Additionally, the USGA's Course Rating and Handicap systems are used on six continents in more than 50 countries. For more information about the USGA, visit www.usga.org.

About the Masters Tournament

The Masters Tournament Foundation, inspired by the enduring philosophies of Masters Tournament founders Bobby Jones and Clifford Roberts, is committed to promoting golf's domestic and international development through financial investment and active participation in initiatives aimed at preserving the traditions of the game and sharing its many virtues.

The Masters Tournament – since its very beginning – strives to provide added exposure to the game of golf and inspire interest in the sport worldwide. For more information about the Masters, visit www.masters.com.

About the PGA of America

Since its founding in 1916, the PGA of America has maintained a twofold mission: to establish and elevate the standards of the profession and to grow interest and participation in the game of golf. By establishing and elevating the standards of the golf profession through world-class education, career services, marketing and research programs, the PGA enables its professionals to maximize their performance in their respective career paths and showcases them as experts in the game and in the multi-billion dollar golf industry. By creating and delivering world-class championships and innovative programs, the PGA of America elevates the public's interest in the game, the desire to play more golf, and ensures accessibility to the game for everyone, everywhere. As the PGA nears its centennial, the PGA brand represents the very best in golf. For more information about the PGA of America, visit www.pgamediacenter.com.

Media Contacts

Masters Tournament

Steve Ethun, Director of Communications

(706) 667-6705; spethun@augustanational.com

United States Golf Association (USGA)

Janeen Driscoll, Director, Public Relations

(908) 326-1978; JDriscoll@USGA.org

PGA of America

Jamie Carbone, Director, Public Relations

(561) 624-8446; jcarbone@pgahq.com

FACT SHEET

ELIGIBILITY

1. The Drive, Chip and Putt Championship is open to boys and girls ages 7-15. Boys and girls compete in separate divisions in four age categories: 7-9 years old; 10-11 years old; 12-13 years old; and 14-15 years old.
2. Participants will be grouped based on their age as of the National Finals Sunday, April 2, 2017. Participants must be at least 7 years of age on Sunday, April 2, 2017, and may not be older than 15 years of age on Sunday, April 2, 2017. Please note: a player may participate in local, sub-regional and regional qualifying if he/she is 6 years old provided that he/she turn 7 years old prior to April 2, 2017. A 15-year-old who will turn 16 years of age prior to April 2, 2017, is not eligible to participate.
3. Participants may register to compete in only one local qualifier.
4. All competitors must conform to the USGA Rules of Amateur Status.
5. The player's clubs and golf balls must conform with the Rules of Golf and the provisions, specifications and interpretations set forth in Appendices II (for golf clubs) and III (for golf balls). The optional Conditions of Competition requiring that the driver the player carries is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads, the ball the player plays is named on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls, and the player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from January 1, 2010 are **NOT** in effect. However, new models of irons, wedges, hybrids and fairway woods manufactured on or after January 1, 2010 must conform to the current groove and punch mark specifications.

ENTRIES

1. For local qualifying, parents/guardians must complete an online entry application – available starting January 26, 2016 – on behalf of participants at the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship website, www.DriveChipandPutt.com.
2. Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis and must be received no later than 5 p.m. EDT on the date five (5) days prior to the local qualifier.
3. There is no entry fee for the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship.

SCHEDULE OF COMPETITION

1. The Drive, Chip and Putt Championship will be conducted in four stages. [Click here](#) for a full schedule:
 - a. Local qualifying – 256 qualifying events will be conducted in May, June, July and August at courses throughout all 50 States.
 - b. Sub-Regional qualifying – 50 qualifying events to be conducted in July and August in 31 States.
 - c. Regional qualifying – 10 qualifying events to be conducted in September in 10 States.

- d. National Finals – To be conducted Sunday, April 2, 2017, at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga.

SCORING / COMPETING

1. Each participant will compete in all three skills (Drive, Chip and Putt). An individual rules sheet for each skill competition is available on the championship website, www.DriveChipandPutt.com.
2. Participants will accumulate points in each skill. The participant with the highest number of accumulated points will be declared the overall champion of their age category.
3. All participants must begin the competition at the local qualifying level.
4. From local qualifying, the three overall point earners in each of the boys and girls divisions from the four age brackets will advance to the sub-regional qualifying level of the competition.
5. The sub-regional competition is a new competition with no carryover from the local competition. The top two performers in each of the boys and girls division from the four age categories will advance to the regional qualifiers.
6. The regional competition is a new competition with no carryover from the sub-regional competition. The top performer in each of the boys and girls division from the four age categories will advance to the National Finals to be held the Sunday before the Masters Tournament (April 2, 2017).
7. The National Finals will take place at Augusta National Golf Club and be staged on its Tournament Practice Facility (Driving / Chipping) and 18th green (Putting). The National Finals is a new competition with no carryover from the regional competition.
8. The National Finals will be produced and broadcasted on national television.