

# UTAH GOLF ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION AND POLICIES

*The following information is for all Utah Golf Association championship seasons and applies to all tournaments which are conducted by the UGA.*

The Utah Golf Association Championship program was created to offer all UGA members the opportunity to compete in state championships against players of the same ability. As you enjoy the opportunity of competing in UGA events at various clubs throughout the state we ask that you take the time to thank the host club's manager, professional staff and superintendent. Without each host club's efforts and generousities, the UGA's extensive schedule would not be possible.

## UGA EVENT EMERGENCY INFORMATION

**Eligibility.** UGA Championships are open to all amateur members of the UGA in good standing who meet the tournament specific eligibility criteria. The UGA board of governors reserves the right to reject an entry at any time (including during the competition). The Mary Lou Baker Open and Utah Senior Open are open to all UGA members regardless of amateur status.

**Tournament Registration.** All registrations must be received by the UGA with payment in full as of the registration deadline (post marked registrations will not guarantee a player's spot in the field). In the event of the field filling up before the entry deadline, players may be added to the wait list. The wait list will be in the order in which entries are received prior to the entry deadline. Late entries will not be accepted after the deadline. All UGA tournaments are filled on a first come first serve basis based upon the date which a registration accompanied with payment in full is received by the UGA.

**Refunds and withdrawals.** Given the unpredictability of weather, any postponement of play may resume at the discretion of the committee in charge, which may include the following day, or another day. In the event you are unable to return to play, no refunds will be issued, and it will be considered a withdraw from the Championship or Qualifier. If player withdrawals prior to the registration deadline the player will receive a refund minus a \$20 cancellation fee. After the deadline the player will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be issued if a player withdraws/no-shows on the day of the event. A business day starts at 12:01 am of that day. In team competitions, if a player needs a substitute for his original partner after the field has closed; he must arrange to get the substitute. Any substitute must meet all eligibility requirements of the specified competition. The UGA must be notified of any substitutions prior to the start of the tournament.

**Age eligibility.** *Senior* - A player must be 50 years of age or older as of the first day of the tournament. For those events with a super-senior category the player must be 65 years of age or older as of the first day of the tournament. In team events, both partners must meet the meet age requirements to play in the senior division or the team must play in the open division. A player may qualify for an event prior to his 50th birthday. *Mid-Amateur* - A player must be 25 years of age or older as of the first day of the tournament.

**Gender Policy** - The Utah Golf Association follows the USGA gender policy for its championships - [Click Here](#)

**Handicaps.** The players USGA Handicap Index as determined through the USGA's GHIN System and will be used in the calculation of the player's course handicap for all UGA events. Handicaps which are calculated using software other than the GHIN System will not be used for UGA tournament purposes. The UGA uses the threshold limitation level for net events in section 9-2b in the USGA Handicap Manual. All scores that are below a -3 net differential may be reviewed by the UGA Rules Committee and be subject for modification for the remaining rounds of any UGA Championship.

**Dress Code.** Players and their caddies must abide by the dress code of the hosting facility. The UGA encourages appropriate golf attire. Each player is responsible to know the dress code and is subject to review by the tournament committee.

**Shoes:** Shall comply with the host course policy. Metal spikes are prohibited.

**Students.** High school or college golf team members should check with their coaches and/or their leagues governing body (UHSA, NCAA, etc.) regarding participation and the effect, if any, on their eligibility.

**Amateur Status.** The UGA abides by all Rules of Amateur Status as set forth by the USGA.

**Spectators.** The following policies are in effect for any UGA Championship and/or qualifying events:

Spectators should maintain a reasonable distance from the players and their caddies to avoid the appearance of imparting advice or assisting the player in any way. Please walk ahead or with the group you are watching and stay in the rough or near the cart paths. Spectators must stay off the greens and out of the bunkers at all times. The use of electronic communication devices should be limited to areas where their use will not distract players on the course. Please be respectful of this policy for the benefit of ALL players. Everyone on the course must meet the dress code requirements for the course. Spectators attend UGA events at their own risk. Transportation: The use of spectator carts is permitted at all UGA events. Spectator carts will be given out at the courses' discretion and subject to availability. Exception: Utah State Amateur Championship. Carts will not be available during the stroke play portion of the State Amateur due to availability, this includes spectators with an ADA handicap. Additionally, carts will be prohibited during the quarterfinal matches through the conclusion of the Championship, where players are required to walk. Spectators with an ADA handicap may ride in a cart during this portion of the championship with approval from the UGA staff and are subject to availability.

**ADA Cart Request Form** Requests for a golf cart due to a permanent disability (as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which for these purposes is a permanent disability which substantially limits the ability to walk the course must follow the USGA process and procedure. All requests for a golf cart for a spectator, caddie or contestant must be submitted by the player for whom the spectator or caddie has relation in each championship to the UGA Director of Rules and Competitions. [Click here](#) to download the Disabilities/Cart Use Form which will guide you on the procedures for submitting all golf cart requests.

**Failure to Complete/No Show.** In stroke play, failure by a player to return his scorecard to the scoreboard official, or withdraws during play without notifying an official and surrendering his scorecard to that official, is considered a serious breach of etiquette and unbecoming conduct. This can result in the player being suspended from future UGA events. This also applies in match play if both players leave the course without notifying the scoreboard official of the match result. If a player fails to show up for a starting time without first contacting the UGA or host course, he/she will be considered a no show. A player who is a habitual no-show will be suspended from all future UGA events until a letter of explanation is drafted to the UGA tournament committee.

**Photos/Video.** By applying, the player agrees to allow the UGA to use the player's photographic/video image for any UGA media related use.

**E-Mail/Texts.** By applying, the player agrees to allow the UGA to communicate championship or UGA information via these methods.

**Liability.** By submitting an entry form and subsequently playing in a UGA event, players agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the UGA and its respective affiliates, directors, officers, employees, agents, and assigns from and against any and all claims, damages, liabilities and losses, including without limitation reasonable attorney's fees and costs and expenses of litigation, arising out of any act of God, negligent act or omission of the indemnifying party in connection with this competition. Contingent upon successful entry into this tournament the participant agrees to all conditions, policies, procedures and terms set forth in this booklet.

**Group Pace of Play Policy:** [Click here](#) for details.

**UGA 40-Second Pace of Play Policy:** [Click here](#) for an explanation of the UGA 40-Second Pace of Play Policy.

**UGA Championship Cart Policy:** Carts are permitted in all UGA Championships, unless otherwise noted on the event's notice to competitors, and may be included in the entry fee for a selection of UGA tournaments. A limit of 2 carts per group will be enforced. Caddies may ride with competitors as long as caddies do not take the seat of another competitor. If a competitor and his/her caddie wish to ride alone, they may do so with permission of the host course as long as they do not exceed the 2 carts per group rule. Please note that a fee may be incurred for the additional seat in the cart at the course's discretion. Please note the definition of caddie and equipment when using carts. If a course's hosting agreement requires paying cart fees, players may still walk and/or use a caddie. All drivers must have a valid driver's license. All players, both walkers and riders, are required to maintain the pace set for the competition.

**UGA Music Policy:** The listening of music or other media is prohibited at all UGA Championships, whether by speaker or any other listening device.

**State Amateur Exception:**

- **Stroke Play Qualifying through the Round of 16 in Match Play:** Automotive transportation is permissible for players and caddies during these rounds of the competition.
- **Match Play Quarterfinals through the Final Match:** Players must not ride on any form of transportation during a stipulated round starting unless authorized by the Committee during these rounds of the competition.
- **The optional condition prescribed in Local Rule G6 of The Rules of Golf will be in effect. Requests for a golf cart due to a permanent disability (as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which for these purposes is a permanent disability which substantially limits the ability to walk the course must follow the USGA process and procedure.**
  - All requests for a golf cart for a caddie must be submitted by the player for whom the caddie is working in each championship. Requests directly from a caddie will not be accepted. [Click here](#) to download the Disabilities/Cart Use Form which will guide you on the procedures for submitting all golf cart requests.
  - All required information must be submitted in writing to UGA Director of Rules and Competitions within five business days of submitting your entry application. Phone submissions not accepted. Requests due to temporary injuries or impairments will not be granted.
  - In the event of a change in your medical condition or your caddie's, which occurs after submission of the entry application, written submission of all documentation must be received by the UGA no later than 7 days before the qualifier or championship proper as applicable. At certain qualifying sites, there may be carts available only for caddies on a first-come, first-served basis (See schedule).
  - Except as noted in the preceding sentence, cart availability for caddies and/or for players at any stage are available only for those who have complied with the USGA process and the procedures noted in the above referenced link and have met all the USGA requirements to demonstrate a permanent disability that prevents the person from walking the course.

**Score Posting.** For handicap purposes, the UGA will post all applicable UGA tournament scores to the GHIN handicap service. In most match play or four-ball events, players should return a scorecard with actual or most likely scores for holes played (when a stroke or hole is conceded, or when a player picks up). Holes not played will be scored at par plus any handicap strokes. The computer will calculate this automatically, allowing the score to be posted.

**Caddies.** Players may bring their own caddie. UGA dress code and conduct requirements apply to caddies. Caddies are not necessarily extended all the courtesies of the host golf club.

## SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT

The Conduct Policy of the Utah Golf Association is predicated upon the Spirit of the Game as defined by the United States Golf Association: The Spirit of the Game

Golf is played, for the most part, without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship always, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf.

The Utah Golf Association's conduct policy is in force before, during and after (prior to the time the competitor leaves the site of the competition) a competition conducted by the Utah Golf Association. This policy is also in force whenever and wherever a competitor is representing or sponsored by the UGA at a state, regional, national or international championship.

Conduct that is detrimental to the spirit of the game and its overriding principle that consideration should be shown to others during the defined times and at the defined places is in violation of this policy. Such detrimental conduct includes but is not limited to: Cheating, Destruction, abuse, or theft of host site or host organization property, Abusive language or conduct toward the UGA, host association staff, competition volunteers, or other players, Club throwing, Physical endangerment of others, including spectators, Alcohol or substance impaired behavior, Other conduct of in violation of the spirit of the game.

A player is responsible for the conduct of his or her caddie. One or more of the following sanctions may be imposed for a violation of this policy: Oral warning, Written warning, Disqualification from the competition pursuant to Rule 1-2, Suspension from UGA Championships with duration of the suspension to be determined by the UGA Board of Directors, Revocation of UGA Membership to be determined by UGA Board of Directors, Prohibition representing the UGA at any traveling team event as determined by the UGA Board of Directors, Report to the USGA for any action it deems appropriate.