

70TH U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP®

Conducted by the United States Golf Association®

Lancaster Country Club, Lancaster, Pennsylvania | July 9 – 12, 2015



ELIGIBILITY

Entries are open to professional and amateur female golfers. Amateurs must have an up-to-date Handicap Index® not exceeding 2.4 under the USGA Handicap System™. A Handicap Index must be issued from a "golf club" (as defined in the *USGA Handicap System Manual*) which is licensed to use the USGA Handicap System. The USGA accepts an up-to-date handicap issued from the international body of golf that would be equivalent to a USGA Handicap Index® within the prescribed limit for entry into the Championship. If you are a transgendered individual, please refer to the USGA policy and entry application procedures for transgendered individuals at www.usga.org/championships/transgendered or contact our legal department at (908) 234-2300 for the additional entry application procedures. A player seeking a golf cart due to disability must submit additional information for evaluation (see Transportation). For players who wish to request permission to use items on the List of Equipment Permitted Conditionally for Medical Reasons or proceed under Exception 1 to Rule 14-3, please refer to www.usga.org/equipment/medical/guidelines/Equipment-Permitted-for-Medical-Reasons for details. Important information regarding the USGA Anti-Doping Policy and drug testing at the Championship proper may be found at www.usga.org/championships/antidopingpolicy.

The USGA may reject an entry application, revoke an accepted application, expel from the Championship and/or suspend a player from future championships if the player engages in conduct detrimental to the integrity and image of the game of golf and/or public confidence in the USGA. Such conduct may include, but is not limited to, damage to the golf course or the player's equipment, verbal or physical abuse of spectators, officials, volunteers, or staff, blatant or excessive profanity, disorderly behavior, failure to abide by club rules, or any other unbecoming conduct.

Age: Player's date of birth is required on all USGA entry forms.

An application for a player who is a minor upon the date of submission, in the state in which she resides (e.g., New Jersey, under the age of 18) must be submitted by a parent/guardian, and list parent/guardian's name, phone number, and email address. The parent/guardian must agree to be bound by all terms and conditions on their behalf and on behalf of the minor player.

Amateur Status: All amateur players must conform to the *USGA Rules of Amateur Status*. If the player will be participating in this competition as an amateur or applicant for reinstatement and will be receiving expenses from sources other than family members to participate in this competition, please refer to Rule 4 of the *Rules of Amateur Status*.

ENTRIES: FORM, FEE, CLOSING DATE

All players, including those exempt, must file an entry application. Players must file online at the USGA website (www.usga.org). Only those players for whom blank entries are filed by the USGA as noted in the section on exemptions will not be required to submit entry applications. *Only one entry may be filed per player. The USGA reserves the right to disqualify anyone who submits more than one entry.*

Entry fee of \$175 must be paid by every player. Entry fee will be refunded regardless of reason if the USGA is notified (908-326-1950 or via e-mail at champs@usga.org) before the close of entries. After the close of entries, fee will be refunded in the event of injury or illness, if requested by July 9. No refund for any reason after July 9. A \$30 service charge will be deducted from all refunds.

**ENTRY APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY USGA
NO LATER THAN 5 P.M. E.D.T. ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015**

Entry applications must be filed online at:

www.usga.org/champs/apply

**Late applications are not acceptable
and will be automatically rejected.**

(Entries by telephone, telegraph, mail or FAX are not acceptable.)

Time limit for entries means time of receipt at USGA (not time entry is transmitted to USGA). Entries should be submitted early to allow ample time for delay or error in transmission. The risk of delay or error in transmission lies solely with the entrant and the USGA will have no liability with respect to any such delay or error and the consequences therefrom, including rejection of the entry.

SCHEDULE

Competition will be in two stages, at stroke play:

1. Sectional Qualifying – 36 holes. For all except exempt players listed herein. See schedule.

2. Championship – 72 holes. 156 players eligible, comprised of place-winners in Sectional Qualifying Rounds and those exempt from sectional qualifying.

THURSDAY, JULY 9: – First round, 18 holes.

FRIDAY, JULY 10: – Second round, 18 holes.

60 lowest scorers and any tying for 60th place for first 36 holes continues play; remainder eliminated after 36 holes.

SATURDAY, JULY 11: – Third round, 18 holes.

SUNDAY, JULY 12: – Fourth round, 18 holes.

Lowest scorer for 72 holes will be champion. In the event of a tie for the Championship, a three hole play-off will be held immediately following play. The winner will be the player with the lowest aggregate score for the play-off holes. In the event of a further tie, play will immediately continue hole by hole until champion is determined. The play-off holes and their order of play will be determined by the USGA and posted not later than Sunday, July 12.

PRIZES

CHAMPIONSHIP

WINNER: Gold medal and custody of the Bud Semple Trophy for the ensuing year, subject to such conditions as the USGA may establish.

RUNNER-UP: Silver medal.

PROFESSIONALS ONLY: To be announced.

Professionals who start in Championship but do not return scores for 72 holes.....\$2,000 each.

AMATEURS RETURNING 72-HOLE SCORES: Lowest scorer—gold medal.

TIES: Prize money will be divided equally among those tied, except that if a professional wins a play-off for the Championship she will receive first prize money. If ties occur for medals, duplicates will be awarded, except that only the winner will receive a Championship gold medal.

NO OTHER REMUNERATION: By her application, the player acknowledges that she is not entitled to remuneration of any kind for participation in the Championship other than prizes listed herein.

PRIZE-SHARING PROHIBITED: By her application, the player certifies that she has not entered into and will not enter into any arrangement whereby she could have a financial interest in any other player's prize money (such as through prize-splitting or prize money "insurance").

SECTIONAL QUALIFYING ROUNDS

LOWEST SCORER: Silver medal; if a tie, duplicate medals will be awarded.

LOWEST AMATEUR SCORER (if not lowest scorer): Silver medal; if a tie, duplicate medals will be awarded.

RULES OF GOLF; CLOSE OF COMPETITION

Play will be governed by *The Rules of Golf* as approved by the USGA. Questions will be settled by the on-site Rules Committee, whose decision will be final. The competition is deemed to be closed when the Championship trophy has been presented.

GOLF BALLS; DRIVER HEADS

Only brands of golf balls on the most current USGA List of Conforming Golf Balls and driver heads on the most current USGA List of Conforming Driver Heads may be used. Updated lists may be found on the USGA website at www.usga.org or by contacting the USGA Technical Department at (908) 234-2300. The so-called "One-Ball Rule," the optional condition prescribed in Appendix I of *The Rules of Golf*, will be in effect.

CLUBS: GROOVES

In Sectional qualifying and in the Championship proper, 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.

***PENALTY FOR CARRYING, BUT NOT MAKING STROKE WITH, CLUB OR CLUBS IN BREACH OF CONDITION:** Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – four strokes. If a breach is discovered between the play of two holes, it is deemed to have been discovered during play of the next hole, and the penalty must be applied accordingly.

*Any club or clubs carried in breach of this condition must be declared out of play by the player to her marker or a fellow-competitor in stroke play immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. If the player fails to do so, she is disqualified.

PENALTY FOR MAKING STROKE WITH CLUB IN BREACH OF CONDITION: Disqualification.

FOOTWEAR

It is a condition at all qualifying sites unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk on this entry application that shoes with traditionally-designed spikes (regardless of composition, i.e., ceramic, plastic, etc.) or spikes, regardless of design, comprised either entirely or partially of metal (if such metal may come in contact with the course) are prohibited during the stipulated round. Penalty for breach of this condition: DISQUALIFICATION.

CADDIES

Qualifying Rounds – A player may provide her own caddie. If she wishes to have the host club furnish a caddie, she should ask the Official in Charge because sufficient caddies may not be available at the host club.

Championship proper – A player may provide her own caddie. If she wishes to have a caddie provided to her by the host club, she must complete the information as outlined in the Memorandum to Players.

A player is not required to employ a caddie for any stage of the Championship.

TRANSPORTATION

Players must not ride on any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorized by the Committee. The optional condition prescribed in Appendix I of *The Rules of Golf* will be in effect.

As a general rule, players and their caddies must walk the course at USGA Championships and at most qualifying rounds. But consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a disabled player or caddie may be permitted to use a golf cart as an accommodation to his or her disability for those events where golf carts are not allowed. As required by the ADA, the USGA will evaluate such requests on a case-by-case basis.

In order for the USGA to properly evaluate the merits of such requests, while maintaining the fundamental fairness of the golf competition, it is necessary for players requesting this accommodation (whether submitted by the player, by the player for the player's caddie or by the parent/legal guardian of a minor player) to submit medical documentation to facilitate that analysis. The documentation provided must demonstrate: (1) a player's (or caddie's) disability as defined by the ADA; (2) the medical need for the golf cart that results from that disability; and (3) that by providing a golf cart to a player or caddie in that particular circumstance, the USGA would not be fundamentally altering the fairness of the competition by providing a player with an advantage over other players. The required form entitled **Golf Cart Request Form (as well as additional important information for first time and subsequent requests for a cart)** is available at the following link: www.usga.org/champs/ada.

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION; BROADCASTING

The USGA may arrange for (i) promotion of the Championship, for radio, internet and television broadcasting and other exhibition and publication of the Championship or excerpts thereof in any and all media throughout the world, whether now known or hereafter developed, and (ii) the design, manufacture and sale of merchandise which commemorates or memorializes the Championship, throughout the world. By this application, the player consents to the use by the USGA, or persons authorized by the USGA, of her name, likeness, voice and references to her and photographs and other images of her and her play connected with her appearance in the Championship, or any portion(s) thereof, in connection with such media promotion, broadcasting and other exhibition and publication of the Championship and design, manufacture and sale of commemorative merchandise. The USGA may utilize the rights granted it hereunder in connection with the promotion and/or commemoration of the 2015 Championship as well as future Championships, other USGA Championships and the USGA.

The cooperation of players with authorized representatives of the media is required, provided that no pre-Championship activities outside of those activities which are part of the Championship will be required and provided that the player's Championship play is not unreasonably interfered with.

REGISTRATION

By 10 A.M. on TUESDAY, JULY 7, eligible players must:

1. Register in person at location listed in the Memorandum to Players; or
2. All players arriving late should notify the Championship Administration Department at the USGA (908) 326-1950 or via e-mail at champs@usga.org (if before July 1). After July 1, please contact the USGA Director of the U.S. Women's Open Championship. (Please see Memorandum to Players for contact information.) Place may be forfeited by a player from whom no word has been received by 10 A.M. on TUESDAY, JULY 7.

PRACTICE PRIVILEGES

Lancaster Country Club are extended to qualified players in the Championship from July 6 through July 8.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Information concerning accommodations will be provided upon completion of Sectional Qualifying rounds. Exempt players will receive this information from the USGA.

CONDITIONS; SCHEDULES

The USGA Championship Committee/on-site Rules Committee reserves the right to alter any of the conditions, provisions and/or schedules herein. The decision of the Championship Committee/on-site Rules Committee in any matter will be final.

SECTIONAL QUALIFYING

LOCATION; TRANSFERRING

Players' preferences for Sectional Qualifying locations must be designated on the entry.

If a Sectional Qualifying location has more players than can be accommodated, some players may be transferred to another location and the date for qualifying may be different than the original requested date. Transfer will be based on the date of receipt of entry application. Transfers are final. No qualifying site is final until after entries close. Qualifying sites may be cancelled due to lack of participation. Transfer to another location is not permissible after entries close. In the event of inclement weather, qualifying will take place as soon as possible following the originally scheduled date.

QUALIFIERS' PLACES; TIES; SUBSTITUTIONS

The number of qualifiers' places in each location will be determined by the USGA after entries close, based on size and playing quality of the field.

A tie for the last qualifier's place or an alternate's place will be decided immediately by a hole-by-hole play-off.

Alternates in order of qualifying scores will be allowed for qualifiers unable to compete in the Championship.

If a qualifying location cannot fill its qualifiers' places for the next stage, or if an exempt player withdraws, the place made available will be reallocated to another location. A reallocation schedule will be prearranged by the USGA.

If a player withdraws before playing a stroke in the Championship proper, a substitution is allowed. Only the USGA may make such substitutions.

ACCEPTANCE OF PLACES; NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

On the day of qualifying, every qualifier should inform the Official in Charge whether she will play in the Championship.

If a qualifier or an exempt player withdraws, she must notify the USGA (908-326-1950 or via e-mail at champs@usga.org) promptly in order to insure an alternate fair opportunity to play. Failure to comply may result in disqualification from future USGA competition.

EXEMPTIONS

EXEMPTIONS FROM SECTIONAL QUALIFYING

Players in the following categories will be eligible for exemption in the 2015 Championship only. The USGA reserves the right to revise any of the exemption categories. Exemption under categories reserved for amateurs will be granted only to players who are currently amateurs, unless otherwise indicated. An amateur who is exempt into the Championship proper through a category reserved for amateurs becomes ineligible if she becomes a professional before beginning play or during the play of the Championship, unless otherwise indicated. Exempt players who wish to participate in the Championship must file an entry, except those players for whom blank entries are filed as noted below.

- S-1. Winners of the U.S. Women's Open Championship for the last ten years (2005-2014):
- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 2005-BIRDIE KIM | 2010-PAULA CREAMER |
| 2006-ANNIKA SORENSTAM | 2011-SO YEON RYU |
| 2007-CRISTIE KERR | 2012-NA YEON CHOI |
| 2008-INBEE PARK | 2013-INBEE PARK |
| 2009-EUN-HEE JI | 2014-MICHELLE WIE |
- S-2. Winner and runner-up of the 2014 U.S. Women's Amateur Championship (must be an amateur):
KRISTEN GILLMAN
- S-3. Winners of the 2014 and 2015 Ladies British Open Amateur Championship (must be an amateur):
2014-EMILY KRISTINE PEDERSEN 2015-
(Note: The USGA will file blank entries for those players who become exempt after the close of entries.)
- S-4. Winner of the 2014 Mark H. McCormack Medal (Women's World Amateur Golf Ranking) (must be an amateur).
- S-5. Winners of the LPGA Championship the last five years:
2011-YANI TSENG 2013-INBEE PARK 2015-
2012-SHANSHAN FENG 2014-INBEE PARK
(Note: The USGA will file blank entries for those players who become exempt after the close of entries.)
- S-6. Winners of the Ricoh Women's British Open Championship the last five years:
2010-YANI TSENG 2013-STACY LEWIS
2011-YANI TSENG 2014-MO MARTIN
2012-JIYAI SHIN

EXEMPTIONS FROM SECTIONAL QUALIFYING (CONT.)

- S-7. Winners of the Kraft Nabisco (ANA Inspiration) Championship the last five years:
2011-STACY LEWIS 2014-LEXI THOMPSON
2012-SUN YOUNG YOO 2015-
2013-INBEE PARK
- S-8. Winners of the 2013 and 2014 Evian Championship:
SUZANN PETTERSEN HYO JOO KIM
- S-9. From the 2014 U.S. Women's Open Championship, the 10 lowest scorers and anyone tying for 10th place:
- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| BROOKE MACKENZIE HENDERSON | STEPHANIE MEADOW | LEXI THOMPSON |
| MEENA LEE | PORNANONG PHATLUM | MICHELLE WIE |
| STACY LEWIS | SO YEON RYU | AMY YANG |
| CATRIONA MATTHEW | JENNY SHIN | SAKURA YOKOMINE |
- S-10. From the 2014 final official LPGA money list, the top 75 money leaders.
- S-11. From the 2015 official LPGA money list, the top 10 money leaders through the close of entries on May 6, 2015. Players must select a qualifying site at the time of entry. (Must have filed an entry by May 6, 2015.)
- S-12. Winners of LPGA co-sponsored events, whose victories are considered official, from the conclusion of the 2014 U.S. Women's Open Championship to the initiation of the 2015 U.S. Women's Open Championship. (NOTE: The USGA will file blank entries for players who become exempt after the close of entries.)
- S-13. Top five money leaders from the 2014 Japan LPGA Tour, Korea LPGA Tour, and Ladies European Tour.
- S-14. Top three money leaders from the 2014 China LPGA Tour.
- S-15. From the current Rolex Rankings, the top 50 point leaders and anyone tying for 50th place as of May 6, 2015. Players must select a qualifying site at the time of entry. (Must have filed an entry by May 6, 2015.)
- S-16. From the current Rolex Rankings, the top 50 point leaders and anyone tying for 50th place as of July 5, 2015, if not previously exempt. Players must select a qualifying site at the time of entry.
- S-17. Special exemptions as selected by the USGA. Must have filed an entry by May 6, 2015. Deadline for submission of request: May 6, 2015. Players must select a qualifying site at the time of entry.

Schedule and Location of Sectional Qualifying Rounds – 36 Holes Stroke Play

USGA reserves the right to revise this schedule

Performance in Sectional Qualifying: If a player fails to return a score within 12 strokes of the USGA Course Rating™, future entries for a U.S. Women's Open Championship may be declined if documentation is not provided demonstrating that the player is capable of competing at the national championship level.

Withdrawal from Qualifying: Entrant who wishes to withdraw from Qualifying must notify the USGA (908-326-1950 or via e-mail at champs@usga.org) and the Official in Charge prior to her scheduled Qualifying round. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from future USGA competitions.

There are no wait lists for qualifying locations that are full.

<u>State/ Country</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Host Club</u>	<u>**Site Capacity</u>	<u>***Practice Dates/ Player Information May</u>	<u>Official in Charge</u>
SATURDAY, MAY 9 AT:					
HI	1. LAHAINA	<i>Ka'anapali G.C.</i> (866)454-4653	78	Contact club; www.hsiga.org	MARY BEA PORTER-KING, Hawaii State Junior Golf Assn.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 AT:					
CHINA	2. SHANDONG	CGA Nanshan Int'l Training Center (Garden View G.C.) 86-535-8717001/86-535-8717066	84	Contact club	T.K. PEN, CLPGA Tour/JIN YAN, China Golf Assn./ MATT SAWICKI, USGA
MONDAY, MAY 18 AT:					
CA	3. EL DORADO HILLS	Serrano C.C. (916)933-5716	90	Info incl. with pairings www.ncga.org	RYAN GREGG, Northern California Golf Assn.
FL	4. BRADENTON	<i>Bradenton C.C.</i> (941)792-4159	78	www.fsga.org	JACK PULTORAK, Florida State Golf Assn.
GA	5. ATLANTA	<i>Druid Hills G.C.</i> (404)377-1768	78	www.gsga.org	C. LAYNE WILLIAMS, Georgia State Golf Assn.
IL	6. WILMETTE	Westmoreland C.C. (847)853-4716	90	Info incl. with pairings www.cdga.org	NICKOLAS SCILLIA, Chicago District Golf Assn.
KOREA	7. CHUNGNAM	Woo Jeong Hills C.C. 011-82-41-557-2902	84	Contact Club www.kgagolf.or.kr	WON KO, Korean Golf Assn./BEN KIMBALL, USGA
MN	8. INDEPENDENCE	Windsong Farm G.C. (763)479-3535	84	Contact club www.mngolf.org	DOUGLAS A. HOFFMANN, Minnesota Golf Assn.
PA	9. BUTLER	Butler C.C. (724)586-6030	78	Contact club	COURTNEY MYHRUM, USGA Women's Com.
VA	10. MANAKIN-SABOT	<i>Hermitage C.C.</i> (804)784-3811	168	Contact club www.vsga.org	MATT SMILEY, Virginia State Golf Assn.
TUESDAY, MAY 19 AT:					
AZ	11. SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN	<i>Superstition Mountain G. & C.C.</i> (480)983-1411	78	11-15 & 18 www.awga.org	MARY POMROY, Arizona Women's Golf Assn.
CA	12. MIRA LOMA	Goose Creek G.C. (951)735-3982	78	Contact club www.womensgolf.org	DEB LONG, Women's Southern California Golf Assn.
FRIDAY, MAY 22 AT:					
FL	13. LAKE WORTH	<i>Fountains C.C. (North C.)</i> (561)642-2719	78	www.fsga.org	JACK PULTORAK, Florida State Golf Assn.
MONDAY, MAY 25 AT:					
ENGLAND	14. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	*Buckinghamshire G.C. 011-44-895-835-777	78	Contact Club	MARK CASEY, Ladies European Tour/SHANNON ROUILLARD, USGA
TUESDAY, MAY 26 AT:					
CA	15. CITY OF INDUSTRY	Industry Hills G.C. (626)810-4653	78	Contact club www.womensgolf.org	DEB LONG, Women's Southern California Golf Assn.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27 AT:					
CO	16. BRIGHTON	Riverdale G.C. (Dunes C.) (303)659-6700	78	Contact club www.cogolf.org	ANN GUIBERSON, Colorado Women's Golf Assn.
NC	17. CHAPEL HILL	Governors C. (919)918-7214	84	26; Contact club www.carolinagolf.org	TIFFANY PRIEST, Carolinas Golf Assn.
FRIDAY, MAY 29 AT:					
FL	18. NEW SMYRNA BEACH	<i>Sugar Mill C.C. (White/Red C.)</i> (386)426-5210	78	www.fsga.org	JACK PULTORAK, Florida State Golf Assn.
MONDAY, JUNE 1 AT:					
NJ	19. GALLOWAY	Galloway Nat'l G.C. (609)748-1000	78	Info incl. with pairings www.njsga.org	MIKE MCANENY, New Jersey State Golf Assn.
TUESDAY, JUNE 2 AT:					
MA	20. MIDDLETOWN	Ferncroft C.C. (978)739-4032	84	Contact club www.mgalinks.org	SCOTT WHITCOMB, Massachusetts Golf Assn.
MO	21. ST. LOUIS (BELLVILLE, IL)	St. Clair C.C. (618)398-3402	78	Contact club www.metga.org	CURT ROHE, Metropolitan Amateur Golf Assn.
OR	22. WOODBURN	OGA G.C. (503)981-4653	78	June 1 www.oga.org	BRENT WHITTAKER, Oregon Golf Assn.
TX	23. THE WOODLANDS	The Woodlands C.C. (Player C.) (281)863-1490	78	Contact club www.txga.org	DELIA NAVA, USGA Women's Com.
THURSDAY, JUNE 4 AT:					
TX	24. DALLAS	Lakewood C.C. (214)821-1491	78	June 2-3 www.txga.org	PAM MURRAY, USGA Women's Com.
MONDAY, JUNE 15 AT:					
JAPAN	25. HYOGO PREF	*Arima Royal G.C. 011-81-789-58-0121	156	Contact club www.jga.or.jp	RYO SHIODA, Japan Golf Assn./MARK HILL, USGA

Only clubs in italics will permit caddies to use carts first-come, first-served.

*Club hosting qualifying will not have footwear policy in effect.

Footwear: It is a condition at all qualifying sites unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk on this entry application that shoes with traditionally-designed spikes (regardless of composition, i.e., ceramic, plastic, etc.) or spikes, regardless of design, comprised either entirely or partially of metal (if such metal may come in contact with the course) are prohibited during the stipulated round. Penalty for breach of this condition: DISQUALIFICATION.

**Some qualifying sites may have limits on the number of players that can be accommodated.

***Some qualifying sites may charge a fee for a practice round.

In the event of inclement weather, qualifying will take place as soon as possible following the originally scheduled date.