

# About the USGA

The United States Golf Association has served as the national governing body of golf since its formation in 1894. A nonprofit organization, the USGA sponsors programs that serve everyone who loves and respects the game of golf. These essential services affect all golfers, whether they are amateurs or professionals, public or private course players.

More than 8,200 private and public courses, clubs and facilities comprise the USGA. An Executive Committee of 15 volunteers, the organization's policy-making board, oversees the Association. Close to 1,200 volunteers from all parts of the country serve on the USGA committee. All donate their services and pay most of their own expenses. A professional staff of approximately 320 directs the Association's day-to-day functions from the USGA's headquarters in Liberty Corner, N.J. In 1975, the Association formed the USGA Members Program to help support the game and the USGA. Today, more than 650,000 golfers around the world are USGA Members.

The USGA acts in cooperation with national, regional, state, and local golf associations in areas of common interest. The Association also represents the USA in relations with golf associations of other countries.

Based on a shared love and respect for golf between the USGA and golfers, the USGA preserves the game's past, fosters its future, and champions its best interests for everyone who enjoys the game.

In the 1890s, a dispute arose over the question of a national amateur champion. In 1894, Saint Andrew's Golf Club in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., and Newport (R.I.) Golf Club each staged invitational tournaments, and each declared its winner to be the national amateur champion.

The confusion made it clear that an impartial governing body was needed to administer golf, conduct national championships, and oversee the codification and interpretation of the game's rules, as well as the rules of amateur status.

The United States Golf Association was the result of a meeting of delegates from Newport, Saint Andrew's, Shinnecock Hills Golf Club (Southampton, N.Y.), The Country Club (Brookline, Mass.) and Chicago Golf Club (Wheaton, Ill.) in New York City on Dec. 22, 1894. Theodore A. Havemeyer was elected as the first president.

The 14 national championships conducted by the United States Golf Association are:

1. U.S. Open	8. U.S. Women's Open
2. U.S. Senior Open	9. U.S. Senior Women's Open
3. U.S. Junior Amateur	10. U.S. Girls' Junior
4. U.S. Amateur Four-Ball	11. U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball
5. U.S. Amateur	12. U.S. Women's Amateur
6. U.S. Mid-Amateur	13. U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur
7. U.S. Senior Amateur	14. U.S. Senior Women's Amateur

Since 1922, in cooperation with The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland (The R&A), the USGA conducts the Walker Cup Match, a biennial competition between teams of amateur golfers, the United States on one side and Great Britain and Ireland on the other. Similarly, since 1932, the USGA with the Ladies' Golf Union – which merged with the R&A in 2017 – has conducted the Curtis Cup Match, played between teams of female amateur golfers. The USGA conducts both matches when they are played in the U.S.

Along with the R&A, the USGA conducts the World Amateur Team Championships on behalf of the International Golf Federation (IGF), formerly known as the World Amateur Golf Council. The IGF has conducted the World Amateur Team Championship since 1958 and the Women's World Amateur Team Championship since 1964 and is the recognized international federation for golf for the International Olympic Committee.

In addition to conducting national championships, the USGA:

- Writes and interprets the Rules of Golf to protect the integrity of the game
  - The USGA and the R&A together govern the game worldwide, including joint administration of the Rules of Golf to safeguard the tradition and integrity of the game.
- Regulates and tests equipment to ensure that skill determines success in the game
  - The USGA continually tests golf equipment for conformance to the Rules of Golf. Without such rigorous equipment-testing and research programs, advances in technology could overtake skill as the major factor in success.
- Maintains Handicap and Course Rating systems to foster fairness in the game
  - The USGA Handicap System™ helps to ensure that all golfers can compete on an equitable basis. The USGA Course Rating System (TM) ensures that golf courses are rated in relation to all other courses. The USGA Slope System® adjusts a player's Handicap Index® according to the difficulty of a course. As a result, no matter whom golfers play with – or where they play – they can enjoy a fair game. These systems are used in more than 50 countries on six continents.
- Advocates for a more sustainable game
  - Since 1920, the USGA has been a global leader in funding research that benefits turf grass and resource management, sustainable development, and environmental protection.

- Celebrates and preserves the history of the game
  - To help celebrate and preserve the game’s heritage, the USGA collects and displays golf artifacts, memorabilia, images, books, and artwork at the USGA Golf Museum and Arnold Palmer Center for Golf History at the USGA’s headquarters in Liberty Corner, NJ.

## About The Country Club

**COURSE FOUNDED:** The Country Club was founded in 1882, but golf was not established until 10 years later in 1892.

**COURSE ARCHITECT:** Willie Campbell at its inception and restored by Rees Jones in 1985

### USGA EVENTS HOSTED:

1902 U.S. Women’s Amateur	1953 Girls Junior
1910 U.S. Amateur	1963 U.S. Open
1913 U.S. Open	1968 Junior Amateur
1922 U.S. Amateur	1973 Walker Cup
1932 Walker Cup	1982 U.S. Amateur
1934 U.S. Amateur	1988 U.S. Open
1941 U.S. Women’s Amateur	1995 U.S. Women’s Amateur
1957 U.S. Amateur	2013 U.S. Amateur

### THE COURSE

The Country Club is a 27-hole facility including a traditional 18-hole course along with a 9-hole course called the “Primrose.” The championship course configuration will include holes from both the 18-hole course and the 9-hole course. The Country Club is a private, old school golf course that looks the same as it did at its inception.

### FUN FACTS

- The Country Club is one of the five founding clubs of the United States Golf Association.
- The Country Club was founded in 1882 with an equestrian focus. Golf began at The Country Club in 1892 by Willie Campbell who designed 6 holes, then 9 holes, and eventually 18 holes by 1910.
- The Greatest Game Ever Played (Disney Movie) takes place at The Country Club. The film is about an amateur named Francis Ouimet who beat golf superstar Harry Vardon in a playoff at the 1913 U.S. Open.

- Francis Ouimet lived across the street from The Country Club and his little white house is still there, now owned by a member of The Country Club.

## History of the U.S. Open

The U.S. Open was a small operation when it was first played in 1895. In that first decade, the championship was largely staged for amateurs and immigrant professionals, principally from Great Britain. Both the U.S. Open and the U.S. Amateur originally had been scheduled for September, but they were postponed due to a conflict with a more established Newport spectacle, the America's Cup yacht races.

Ten professionals and one amateur comprised the inaugural 36-hole competition. The surprise winner, who carded a 91-82, with a gutta percha ball, was Horace Rawlins, a 21-year-old English professional who migrated to the United States the previous January to be an assistant at Newport Country Club. There were five money prizes totaling \$335. Rawlins won \$150, a gold medal and custody of the U.S. Open Championship Trophy for one year.

The USGA extended the U.S. Open to 72 holes in 1898, its fourth year. Initially, the field played 36 holes on each of the two days. The format was changed in 1926 to 18 holes for two days, then 36 holes on the third day. The format was changed again in 1965 to its current state of four 18-hole daily rounds.

As American golfers continued to develop, the U.S. Open grew in stature as an important world golf event. Young John J. McDermott was the first native-born American to win the U.S. Open, clinching titles in 1911 and 1912. In 1913, Francis Ouimet, a 20-year-old amateur from Brookline, Mass., stunned the golf world with his playoff victory over two of the game's greatest players: English professionals Harry Vardon and Ted Ray. In 1933, John Goodman became the fifth and most recent amateur to win the U.S. Open. Other amateur winners are Jerome D. Travers (1915), Charles Evans, Jr. (1916), and Bob Jones (1923, 1926, 1929 and 1930).

As the U.S. Open gained popularity among eligible players, sectional qualifying was introduced in 1924 to determine the strongest field. In 1959, U.S. Open entries reached what was a record 2,385 entries, causing the USGA to expand the qualifying system to two stages, local and sectional. Since 1959, only two players have advanced through both qualifying stages and won the U.S. Open Championship: Ken Venturi in 1964 and Orville Moody in 1969.

Jack Nicklaus won the 1962 U.S. Open in his first season as a professional. He also won in 1967, 1972 and 1980 to become one of only four golfers to win four U.S. Open Championships. The others are Jones, Willie Anderson (1901, 1903, 1904, and 1905), and Ben Hogan (1948, 1950, 1951, and 1953). At the 2011 U.S. Open at Congressional Country Club, Rory McIlroy shot 2-under-par 69 in the final round for a record-breaking 16-under 268 to claim the 111th U.S. Open Championship by eight strokes. Brooks Koepka tied McIlroy's record for lowest total

under par with his 72-hole total of 16-under 272 to win his first major at the 2017 U.S. Open at Erin Hills.

**HOST SITE:** The Country Club Brookline, MA

**DATES:** June 13 – 19, 2022

**SIZE OF FIELD: CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT:** 156 players, both professionals and amateurs  
Individual stroke play over 72 holes

**PLAYOFF FORMAT:** Two-hole aggregate playoff at the end of 72 holes of stroke play

**PURSE:** \$12.5 million in 2021 (winner received \$2,250,000). The purse for the 2022 U.S. Open will be determined in the spring of 2022.

**DEFENDING CHAMPION:** Jon Rahm

## U.S. Open Fact Sheet

- The U.S. Open is open to any professional or amateur with a USGA Handicap Index of 1.4 or lower.
- The top 10 finishers and ties at the U.S. Open are fully exempt from qualifying for the following year's U.S. Open, and the top four are automatically invited to the following season's Masters Tournament.
- The first U.S. Open was played on a 9-hole course at the Newport Country Club, on Oct. 4, 1895, during the same week and on the same course as the first U.S. Amateur.
- The U.S. Open received its first national television exposure at Baltusrol in 1954. That year also marked the first time a U.S. Open course was roped from tee to green.
- The oldest U.S. Open Champion was Hale Irwin. He was 45 years and 15 days old when he won the U.S. Open in 1990 at Medinah Golf Club.
- The youngest U.S. Open Champion was John McDermott. He was 19 years, 10 months, and 14 days old when he won the U.S. Open in 1911 at the Chicago Golf Club.
- During the 1960 U.S. Open at Cherry Hills Country Club, Arnold Palmer staged the greatest comeback in the history of the Open when he erased a seven-stroke deficit during his final round to win his only U.S. Open Championship.
- For a complete list of past U.S. Open champions, visit the following link: [U.S. Open Champions](#)

# Future Championships

2023 U.S. Open – The Los Angeles Country Club – Los Angeles, California – June 12 – 18

2024 U.S. Open – Pinehurst Resort & Country Club – No. 2 Course - Pinehurst, North Carolina –  
June 10 – 16 2025 U.S. Open – Oakmont Country Club, Oakmont, Pennsylvania – June 9 – 15

2026 U.S. Open – Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, Southampton, New York – June 15 – 21

2027 U.S. Open – Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pebble Beach, California – June 14 – 20