

SOUTHERN GOLF ASSOCIATION

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TO: 118th Southern Amateur Championship Participants
FROM: Andy Priest/Adam Powell, Southern Golf Association
DATE: **Updated: July 5, 2024**
TOPIC: Southern Amateur Championship Player Information

Congratulations on earning your place into the 118th playing of the Southern Amateur Championship at Idle Hour Country Club in Lexington, KY from July 17-20, 2024. We are the fifth of seven events that comprise the Elite Amateur Golf Series this summer.

Please carefully review the following championship information. Remember that we are guests of the club, need to conduct ourselves in a proper manner, adhere to all host club policies and the SGA Code of Conduct. Also, make sure to be at your assigned tee ready to play at least five minutes before your starting time. Contact us at the SGA office (205-979-4653) or email: Andy Priest (andy@southerngolf.org) and Adam Powell (adam@southerngolf.org) if you have any questions. We hope you have a great championship experience competing against one of the strongest fields in amateur golf!

[Championship Website Portal](#)

Championship History

This year marks the 118th playing of the Southern Amateur Championship and the first time that Idle Hour Country Club has hosted the Southern Amateur Championship. Nicholas Gabrelcik of Trinity, FL won the title in 2023 at The Honors Course in Ooltewah, TN with a score of 205 (-11).

The Championship was first played in 1902 at Nashville Golf & Country Club in Nashville, TN. A.F. Schwartz of New Orleans, LA defeated Percy Whiting 4 and 2 to win the inaugural event. The Championship was not played in 1918 due to World War I and 1942-1945 due to World War II. The format was changed from match play to stroke play in 1964. [Southern Amateur Past Champions](#)

Championship Registration and Tournament Office Location

Formal registration for all competitors will be in the Sports Entrance Foyer of the clubhouse on Monday, July 15th from 12:00pm-6:00pm & Tuesday, July 16th from 7:00am-3:00pm. Register to sign the host plaque, receive your player gift package, and have your photo taken for website and live scoring. If you are not able to register on July 15th or 16th, please notify the SGA in advance so your spot is not given to an alternate. Player Gift Package includes Holderness & Bourne online gift card, Holderness & Bourne golf shirt, Personalized Caddie Bib (to keep), performance hoodie, championship towel, and two (2) yardage books.

The Tournament Office will be in the Ashland Room near the Ballroom if you need anything during the championship.

Locker Room – Players Only

Each player will have a personal locker assigned to them in the Player Locker Room. Due to the limited space in the Locker Room, we ask that only players utilize this area. Showers, restroom facilities and a locker room attendant will be available.

Clubhouse and Parking Lot Access

During registration, players will be provided with a parking pass that must be displayed in your automobile along with credentials for you, your caddie and guests to access the clubhouse during the championship. More information will be provided as the championship approaches on this topic.

Richmond Road entrance will be closed during championship week. Club parking lot entrance is on Holiday Rd. (Use this address for GPS: 306 Holiday Rd., Lexington, KY). Parking will be available on-site at Idle Hour Country Club. However, we request players, caddies, and family members to carpool as much as possible.

Practice Rounds and Practice Facility

- Practice facilities will be open to championship participants on Monday, July 15 from 12:00pm-6:00pm.
- One official practice round is available on Tuesday, July 16. You will schedule a practice round tee time through the link below that opens on July 3 at 8:00am CT for registration. Practice round tee times will run from 8:00am-3:31pm

in 11-minute intervals off #1 tee. Please do not show up at the course and expect to be accommodated for a practice round.

- [Practice Round Tee Time Registration Link](#)
- Players are limited to playing one ball except from the teeing ground. Reminder to replace divots and repair ball marks.
- Players are welcome to use the practice range, short game area and putting greens throughout the championship.
- Idle Hour has a small range with 15 hitting stations and is only 280 yards long with the 16th fairway running behind the back of the range. Therefore, for safety reasons, players will be told not to hit drivers while players are walking past this area.
- Practice facilities will close at 6:00pm on Monday and at 7:00pm from Tuesday-Friday for maintenance.
- To save the bent grass turf areas for pre-round warm-up, post-round practice will be moved to the turf mats and “irons only” policy may go in effect.
- Titleist is providing Yellow Pro-V1 practice balls for the championship.

Idle Hour Country Club Information

Time Zone: Club is in the Eastern Time Zone (EST). Sunrise is 6:30am; Sunset is 9:00pm during championship.

Head Golf Professional: Pete Garvey, PGA

Director of Agronomy: Matthew Wharton, GCSAA

Club Parking Lot Entrance GPS Address: 306 Holiday Rd., Lexington, KY 40502

Club Physical and Mailing Address: 1815 Richmond Rd., Lexington, KY 40502

Club Website: www.idlehourky.com

Golf Professional Shop Phone: 859-266-1121

Golf Shop Hours: 6:00am-8:00pm

Practice Facility Hours: 7:00am-7:00pm (Driving Range Closes at 5:00pm daily; short game area and putting green remain open)

Food & Beverage Hours: 6:30am-9:00am (Breakfast); 11:00am-3:00pm (Lunch)

Championship Yardage: 7010 yards (Par 35-35—70). Rating: 73.8/131

Course Architect: Donald Ross (1924), Ron Prichard (2004)

Course Turfgrass: Tees/Fairways (Bent); Putting Greens (Bent); Rough (Bluegrass/Fescue/Rye)

Hosted Player Breakfast and Lunch

The SGA will provide lunch for players from 11:00am-3:00pm (Tuesday thru Saturday) and breakfast from 6:30am-9:00am (Wednesday thru Saturday) in the Family and Men’s Grill.

Food and Beverage Service for Caddies and Spectators

Caddies and spectators may purchase food and beverage items in the clubhouse and The Café located behind #1 tee. Note that bottled water is complimentary for everyone and available throughout the golf course.

Hotels and Area Lodging

There are several hotels located within a few miles of Idle Hour Country Club. Below are the hotels in the area that are offering SGA discounted group rates or available at prevailing rates.

Host Hotel for Players and Nearest to Idle Hour (2 miles/8 minutes):

[DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Lexington](#)

- Use Group Code: **90J**
- Rate: \$129.00 per night
- Rate based upon availability
- On-site restaurant and bar
- Address: 2601 Richmond Rd., Lexington, KY 40509
- Phone: 859-268-0060

Other local hotels:

[Staybridge Suites: Lexington South](#) (7 miles/15 minutes)

- Rates online start at: \$109.00 per night
- Address: 209 Ruccio Way, Lexington, KY 40503
- Phone: 859-710-9888
- Located next to Fayette Mall with several restaurants such as Cheesecake Factory and Olive Garden

[Homewood Suites by Hilton Lexington Fayette Mall](#) (7 miles/15 minutes)

- Rates online start at: \$109.00 per night
- Address: 249 Ruccio Way, Lexington, KY 40503
- Phone: 859-223-0880

- Located next to Fayette Mall with several restaurants such as Cheesecake Factory and Olive Garden

*Please note that players are responsible for their own accommodation and transportation.

Championship Schedule

Monday, July 15	8:00am-10:10am (#1 & #10 tees): On-Site Qualifier for 4 Qualifying Spots. 12:00pm-6:00pm: Player Registration in Clubhouse Foyer; Practice facilities open.
Tuesday, July 16	7:00am-7:00pm: Practice Facilities open. 7:00am-3:00pm: Player Registration in Clubhouse Foyer 8:00am-3:31pm: Practice rounds. 11:00am-3:00pm: Hosted Player Lunch – Family Grill
Wednesday, July 17	6:30am-9:00am: Hosted Player Breakfast – Family Grill 7:00am-7:00pm: Practice Facilities open. Round 1: Tee times begin at 8:00am & 1:00pm off #1 & #10 tees. 18 holes of Stroke Play. 11:00am-3:00pm: Hosted Player Lunch – Family Grill
Thursday, July 18	6:30am-9:00am: Hosted Player Breakfast – Family Grill 7:00am-7:00pm: Practice Facilities open. Round 2: Tee times begin at 8:00am & 1:00pm off #1 & #10 tees. 18 holes of Stroke Play. 11:00am-3:00pm: Hosted Player Lunch – Family Grill *NEW: Field cut to low 50 scores and ties after 36 holes.
Friday, July 19	6:30am-9:00am: Hosted Player Breakfast – Family Grill 7:00am-7:00pm: Practice Facilities open. Round 3: Tee times begin at 8:00am off #1 tee. 18 holes of Stroke Play. 11:00am- 3:00pm: Hosted Player Lunch – Family Grill Field re-grouped according to score.
Saturday, July 20	6:30am-9:00am: Hosted Player Breakfast – Family Grill 7:00am: Practice Facilities open. Round 4: Tee times begin at 8:00am off #1 tee. 18 holes of Stroke Play. 11:00am-3:00pm: Hosted Player Lunch – Family Grill Awards ceremony immediately following play (weather permitting).

Idle Hour Country Club Policies

Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones may only be used on the golf course in case of an emergency, entering scores into live scoring, to call the golf shop in need of a ruling, view tournament leaderboard or as a distance measuring device. We ask that phones are set to silent while on club grounds. Silent communications (text, email) may be used inside buildings. Verbal communication (phone calls) should be conducted outside buildings.

Dress Code: Appropriate golf attire must be worn. Slacks or Bermuda shorts. No cut-offs, no denim, no cargo pants, or cargo shorts. Men must wear shirts with collars and sleeves, always tucked in. Non-metal spikes only. The dress code applies to caddies and spectators. Please remove hats while inside the clubhouse.

Coolers: A small backpack cooler is permitted. Spectators may carry food and drinks for players. Reminder that outside food and beverages are prohibited. All food and beverages must be purchased from Idle Hour Country Club. Complimentary bottled water will be available throughout the course for players and spectators. Otherwise, traditional personal coolers are not allowed.

Personal Items: Make sure not to leave any valuable personal items unattended such as jewelry, wallets, etc. even if they are tucked away inside your golf bag. It is best to leave your valuables locked in your automobile. Neither the SGA nor the host club will be held responsible for any lost or stolen personal items.

Accepted Forms of Payment: Club accepts Credit Card only for Food & Beverage. Golf Shop accepts Credit Card and Cash payments.

Caddies

- Personal caddies are permitted for practice and championship rounds. Caddies and players must always walk during the round.

- A very limited number of club/local caddies are available. Please contact Pete Garvey, Head Golf Professional via email: pgarvey@pga.com to reserve and coordinate a caddie. Caddie fee is \$100.00 plus minimum \$25.00 gratuity per round payable in cash directly to the caddie.
- Caddies are required to wear an SGA issued caddie bib during championship rounds. Personalized bibs will be provided to each player at registration as part of the player gift package.
- Personal push carts are permitted.

Course Set-Up/Yardage (*Maximum Yardage Per Hole)

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Yards	449	201	460	166	315	442	459	501	399	3392	370	206	530	185	435	475	432	485	500	3618	7010
Par	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	5	4	35	4	3	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	35	70

- All yardage is subject to change based upon wind direction and weather conditions.
- Alternate tees: One teeing area forward from above yardages and all Par 3 tee platforms may be utilized.

Starting Times

Starting times for July 17-18 will be available on Monday, July 15th by 8:00pm ET. Players will be notified via text message and email with times publicly available online at [118th Southern Amateur Championship portal](#).

Championship Format

- *NEW for 2024: The field will be cut to the low 50 players and ties after 36 holes.
- The lowest score for 72 holes will be the Champion.
- In the event of a tie for the Championship, a “sudden death” hole-by-hole play-off will be held immediately following play. The play-off holes and their order of play will be determined by the Committee.
- Initial groupings will be for the first two rounds; the field will be cut and re-grouped by score after the second round for the third round; field re-grouped by score for the fourth round.

Prizes

- Champion will have his name engraved on the *George W. Adair Trophy*, which is housed in the Atlanta Athletic Club clubhouse, receives a silver medal and the Calamity Jane Putter.
- Second and third place finishers receive a silver medal. Scorecard playoff to break a tie for a 2nd or 3rd place medal.

Exemptions Earned

- Champion earns an exemption into the 124th U.S. Amateur Championship at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, MN from August 12-18, 2024.
- Champion receives a five-year exemption into the Southern Amateur Championship (2025-2029).

Live Scoring

- A walking scoring volunteer will accompany each group, each round to enter scores into Golf Genius.

Championship Policies

- [Pace of Play Policy](#)
- [Code of Conduct Policy](#)
- [Hard Card Rules Sheet](#)
- This is a soft-spike facility. The penalty for non-compliance is disqualification.

Spectators

- SGA welcomes spectators at our championships. For your safety, we request that spectators always walk near the cart path or in the rough when a cart path is not present.
- **Spectator carts are not available for any reason at this championship.** The cart fleet will be utilized for officials, staff and evacuation plan purposes.
- Idle Hour and SGA will set-up two disabled spectator viewing areas behind the #1 tee and behind the 18th green. The course is in a small footprint with multiple holes viewable in key locations. SGA officials will assist people with mobility issues around the course as best as possible.
- Reminder that spectators must not give a player Advice but can assist in ball searches and permitted to carry food/beverages/umbrella/rain suit, etc. for a player.

Withdrawals and Refunds

Exempt Player Withdrawal: If an exempt player withdraws for any reason before **11:59pm CST on the stated invitation**

deadline, entry fee will be refunded minus \$50.00 administrative fee. Withdrawals after close of registration, 50% of the entry fee will be refunded. No refunds will be made for withdrawals after **Friday, July 5, 2024**.

Successful Qualifier Withdrawal: If a successful qualifier withdraws for any reason after paying his remaining championship balance of \$175.00 and before **11:59pm CST on Sunday, July 14, 2024**, 50% of the remaining championship balance will be refunded. No refunds will be made for withdrawals after **Sunday, July 14, 2024**.

To withdraw from the event before the close of registration, follow these steps:

- 1) Navigate to the Championship Website Portal.
- 2) Sign into your SGA Tournament Registration Account.
- 3) Click "Edit Registration" from left side of page.
- 4) Choose "Cancel Registration" under the dropdown menu on the right side of page.

To withdraw from the event after the close of registration, complete the [Online Tournament Withdrawal Form](#).

*Note: SGA will process your withdrawal and applicable refund within 72 hours.

No Shows

Players that fail to notify the SGA of their withdrawal and "No Show" their starting time will not receive a refund for any reason. "No Show" players may be subject to suspension from future SGA events.

Tournament Delays and Updates

The SGA will text players with any tournament delays or schedule changes. Notices will also be posted on our X (Twitter) account. Follow @sgagolf.

Elite Amateur Golf Series

- [Website and Elite Amateur Cup Standings](#)

Phone Numbers

Southern Golf Association: 205-979-4653

Idle Hour Country Club: 859-266-1121