

SOUTHERN GOLF ASSOCIATION

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TO: 54th Southern Junior Championship Contestants
FROM: Jeremy Gardner, Southern Golf Association
DATE: March 3, 2026
TOPIC: Southern Junior Championship Player Information

The Southern Golf Association looks forward to seeing you at the 54th playing of the Southern Junior Championship at University of Georgia Golf Course in Athens, Georgia from June 17-19, 2026. Please review the following championship information. Remember that we are guests of the club, need to conduct ourselves in a proper manner and adhere to all host club policies. Also, make sure to be at your assigned tee ready to play at least five minutes before your starting time. Call the SGA office if you have any questions or e-mail jeremy@southerngolf.org. We hope you have a great championship!

[Championship Portal \(Starting Times, Scoring\)](#)

Championship History

This year marks the 54th playing of the Southern Junior Championship and the first time that University of Georgia Golf Course has hosted the Southern Junior Championship. Bailey Sutter, of Cullman, Alabama won the title in 2025 at Dataw Island Club in St. Helena Island, SC with a score of 206 (-10). The Championship was first played in 1973 with Buddy Rountree from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida winning the inaugural event. Charles Howell III, of Augusta, Georgia holds the record with 3 victories (1994-1996).

Championship Registration

Championship registration for all competitors will be held in the dining area on Tuesday, June 16 from 7:00am-3:00pm. Please register to sign the host plaque, receive your player gift package, and have your photo taken for website scoring.

University of Georgia Golf Course – Course Information

- Director of Golf: Matt Peterson
- Golf Course Superintendent: David Fleming
- Club Address: 2600 Riverbend Road, Athens, GA, 30605
- Club Website: <https://golfcourse.uga.edu/>
- Golf Professional Shop Phone: 706-369-4833
- Golf Shop Hours: 7:30am-7:00pm
- Practice Facility Hours: 6:30am-2:30pm
- Food & Beverage Hours: 6:30 a.m. – 7:00p.m.
- Championship Yardage: 6970 yards, Par 35-35—70. Rating: 74.4/137
- Course Architect: Robert Trent Jones, Sr.
- [Directions to University of Georgia Golf Course](#)

Food and Beverage

All food and beverage consumed on club grounds must be purchased at University of Georgia Golf Course. The Cafe will be open to service all snack and beverage needs beginning at 6:30am each morning. Club accepts credit cards only for food purchases. Complimentary bottled water will be available throughout the course for players and spectators.

Hosted Player Food Functions

The SGA will provide championship contestants lunch from 11:00am-3:00pm for each round of the championship (Wednesday-Friday) in the Hospitality Tent right of #9 green. The hosted lunch is for players only. Parents and spectators may purchase items in Cafe.

Host Club Policies

Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones may only be used on the golf course in case of an emergency, for 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) must be outside buildings.

Dress Code: This is a soft-spike facility. The penalty for non-compliance is disqualification. Appropriate golf attire must be worn. No cut-offs, no denim, no cargo pants, or cargo shorts. Men must wear shirts with collars and sleeves that are always tucked in. Hats must not be worn inside the clubhouse. Dress code applies to players and spectators.

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 University of Georgia Golf Course. 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: Cash and Credit Card Payments only.

Practice Rounds and Practice Facility

One official practice round is on Tuesday, June 16. Facilities are closed to championship participants on June 15. You will schedule a practice round through an online registration link to be sent to the final field after closing of entries. Practice round tee times will run from 8:00am-3:31pm off #1 tee. Please do not show up at the course and expect to be accommodated for a practice round. Players are limited to playing one ball except from the teeing ground. Players are welcome to use the practice ranges, putting green and short game areas throughout the championship as detailed in the "Course Information" section.

Course Set-Up/Yardage (*All yardage is subject to change based upon wind direction and weather conditions)

University of Georgia Golf Course: SGA Tees

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Yards	436	440	193	440	455	356	556	190	443	3509	440	356	450	191	400	422	180	567	455	3492	6970
Par	4	4	3	4	4	4	5	3	4	35	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	4	35	70

*Alternate tees: All Par 3 tee platforms forward of above yardages.

Course Fees: Push/Pull Carts

- *Practice Round Fees:* Practice round fees are included in the entry fee.
- *Championship Round Fees:* All course fees during the championship rounds are paid by the SGA and included in the entry fee.
- *Push/Pull Carts:* Competitors must walk during practice and championship rounds. Private push/pull carts are permitted. Host club will not have carts available.

Starting Times

Starting times for June 17-18 will be available on Sunday, June 14th by 8:00pm ET. Players will be notified via text message and available at 54th Southern Junior Championship [Website](#).

Lodging:

Holiday Inn Express Athens

- Rate: \$124+ per night
- Cut-Off Date: May 15th
- Booking Link: [Click Here](#)

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

Championship Format

- 54 holes of individual stroke play.
- The field will be cut to the low 50 players and ties after 36 holes.
- The lowest score for 54 holes will be the Champion.
- In the event of a tie for the overall Championship only, a 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 Rounds 1 and 2; the field will be cut and grouped by score after Round 2 for Round 3.

Championship Schedule

Tuesday, June 16

7:00am-3:00pm: Player Registration.
8:00am-3:31pm: Practice rounds off #1 tee.

Wednesday, June 17

Round 1: Tee times from 8:00am-10:00am & 1:00pm-3:00pm off #1 & #10 tee.
11:00am-3:00pm: Hosted Player Lunch.

Thursday, June 18

Round 2: Tee times from 8:00am-10:00am & 1:00pm-3:00pm off #1 & #10 tee.
11:00am-3:00pm: Hosted Player Lunch.
Cut field to top 50 + ties
Field re-grouped according to score.

Friday, June 19

Round 3: Tee times from 8:00am-10:00am off #1 & #10 tee.
11:00am-3:00pm: Hosted Player Lunch.
The awards ceremony immediately following play on back lawn of golf shop.

Prizes & Awards

Awards will be presented to the top three finishers. The champion will have his name engraved on the *Perry Adair Trophy* that is housed in the SGA Office. Ties for second and third place will be determined using the USGA recommended scorecard playoff procedure to break ties (last 9 (Holes 10-18), last 6 (Holes 13-18), last 3 (Holes 16-18), 18th hole, 1st hole, 2nd hole, etc. until the tie is broken).

Exemptions and Rankings Earned

- Champion receives one exemption into the 2027 Southern Amateur Championship.
- Champion receives an exemption into all future Southern Junior Championships in which he is eligible to compete.
- Top 5 finishers receive Fully Exempt Status with AJGA for 2 seasons (2026 & 2027) if eligible to compete.
- 1st-25th places receive AJGA Stars (see AJGA.org website).
- Players making the 36-hole cut receive Rolex AJGA Ranking points.

Caddies and Spectators

- *Caddies*: Caddies are not allowed.
- *Spectators*: SGA welcomes spectators at our championships. For your safety, we request that spectators always walk near the cart path. Reminder that parents and 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. Bottled water is available throughout the course for everyone to drink.
- *Spectator Carts*: Due to the limited number of golf carts at the host club, **spectator carts will not be available for anyone**. The cart fleet will be utilized for staff, officials and evacuation plan purposes.

Pace of Play: The SGA wants all players to enjoy competing in our events. Pace of play may differ depending upon the venue, weather, and course conditions. Every player is accountable for playing at an acceptable pace; therefore, we need your help. Please observe the following guidelines to help ensure a pleasant tournament experience for all:

- Make sure to keep pace with the group in FRONT of you. The group behind should keep pace with your group and so forth.
- Go directly to your ball.
- Be ready to play when it is your turn or request to play out of turn if it is safe to do so.
- Keep practice strokes and time taken to read putts to a minimum.
- Play a provisional ball if your original ball may be lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds.
- Keep time taken between nines to a minimum.
- Your SGA issued scorecard will have the maximum pace of play per hole printed on it.

Pace of Play Policy

A group that is out of position will be advised of the situation and the individuals may be timed.

- Any competitor who is discovered taking more than 40 seconds to play a stroke is subject to a warning for slow play and will be advised of the fact.
- The competitor will be notified that exceeding 40 seconds on one more occasion will result in a penalty of one stroke. A third violation will result in a two-stroke penalty, followed by disqualification for a fourth violation.
- A warning is any notice given to a competitor regarding pace of play.
- A competitor's time to play begins when the competitor has had a reasonable opportunity to reach his or her ball and when it is the competitor's turn to play and can do so without interference or distraction. Penalties are applied individually, but more than one competitor in a group may be penalized.
- In general, competitors in a group are subject to being timed at any time but specifically when the group is deemed to be out of position and over the allotted pace of play guidelines.
- The policy may provide that at any time, if a player is observed by a referee to take longer than a specified time to play a shot (i.e., 120 seconds), they will be notified of the excessive shot time and be timed, even though the group is in position.

Note that a group that is out of position at any time may be asked to close the gap regardless of pace of play guidelines. A group is out of position if they are over their maximum acceptable pace of play and more than 15 minutes behind the group ahead of them. The first group off either side is out of position if they are over their maximum acceptable pace of play.

Withdrawals and Refunds

If an accepted player withdraws for any reason before **11:59pm CST on Tuesday, May 5, 2026**, the entry fee will be refunded, subject to a \$25.00 service fee in addition to the non-refundable application fee of \$40.00 (i.e., \$285.00 refunded). If an accepted player withdraws for any reason after the close of registration and before **11:59pm CST on Sunday, June 14, 2026**, 50% of the entry fee will be refunded (i.e., \$175.00 refunded). No refunds will be made for withdrawals beginning **Monday, June 15, 2026**. To withdraw from the event, follow the below instructions or email jeremy@southerngolf.org.

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 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 and Instagram accounts. Follow @sgagolf.

Southern Golf Association Code of Conduct

The Southern Golf Association (SGA) takes great pride in the quality of its players, host facilities and volunteer involvement at each tournament. To continue making the SGA experience enjoyable and rewarding for everyone, the SGA requires all tournament participants to adhere to a set of guidelines known as the Code of Conduct.

Violations of Code of Conduct

It is impossible to determine exactly the standard of conduct expected from players and caddies in SGA competitions. It is also impossible to make a list of all the acts in violation of the Code of Conduct. In most circumstances, any of the following actions by a player or their caddie at an SGA event constitutes a violation of the SGA Code of Conduct and could result in sanctions or penalties.

- Unsportsmanlike conduct, including abusive language, cheating, club throwing, disrespect to volunteers, officials or fellow competitors, or abuse and theft of golf course property.
- Not adhering to the dress code at the host facility.
- Conduct not becoming of an SGA player, such as acting in anger or creating other distractions such as loudly playing music or listening to sporting events during a round.
- Use of headphones during a round.
- Failure to treat host golf course with respect by ignoring the responsibility of caring for the course, filling divots and fixing ball marks.
- Physical abuse, threat of physical abuse, verbal abuse, slander or libel towards other players, host golf course staff or members, SGA staff, directors, or volunteers in any medium.
- Incidents of wagering or gambling are considered flagrant or excessive by the Committee.
- Use of cellular phones (except for emergencies, a ruling, viewing tournament leaderboard, viewing weather forecasts, or use as a distance measuring device), laptop and tablet computers, PDA's, and the like.

Code of Conduct Violation Penalties

The SGA Tournament Committee may assess any or all the following penalties based on severity and frequency of the Code of Conduct violation(s):

- First breach = Warning or Committee sanction
- Second breach = One penalty stroke
- Third breach = General Penalty
- Fourth breach or any serious misconduct = Disqualification

Depending on the severity of the violation, a tournament disqualification may also result in disqualification from future SGA event(s).

The SGA reserves the right to suspend or revoke a player's ability to compete in SGA events for a major breach of the Code of Conduct. SGA participants violating the Code of Conduct at non-SGA competitions may also be subject to the penalties above based on severity.