

The Official Publication of the TGA

LONESTAR GOLF

PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION

Everyone wants to play better golf. From the scratch player with professional aspirations to the 30-handicap who only plays in charity scrambles and everyone in between, we all want to lower our scores.

The desire to get better is a bond all golfers share. Another is an openness the best players have about helping others improve. Those who have achieved the moniker of “champion” always seem ready to share some knowledge and experience.

That certainly is true with our group of reigning major champions. They understand the work they put in leading up to their most important tournaments often dictates how they’ll perform. Preparation is vital, and no two players do it exactly the same.

With hopes you can steal an idea or tip for yourself, we asked six of our 2015 champions about how they prepare for major tournaments. In the following pages, you’ll learn how John Grace, Michael Cotton, Annika Clark, Ryan Grider, Mike Booker and Scott Abbot get themselves ready for their biggest events. We hope you can learn something from them that helps you play your best golf this year. »



PLAY

**PLAY LIKE A
CHAMPION**

John Grace | Fort Worth 2015 Texas Super Senior Champion

One Month to Championship: Play rounds of golf, possibly at the site of the tournament. I also work on my short game.

One Week to Championship: Work on the practice tee with any problems I might have with my swing. I continue to work on my short game.

Week of Championship: I play at least one practice round and practice any shots I might need at the tournament course.

Morning of first round: I spend about 45 minutes warming up and 15 minutes putting. My warmup always includes short game practice.

Best tip you've received? I had the opportunity to play several rounds with Ben Hogan in the 1970s. He told me golf is like a chess game, and you need to place the ball in the right position for the next shot. Also never try a shot that could "X you out" if not played perfectly and always play the percentages. Great advice from a great player.

What are the must-haves in your golf bag? Fourteen clubs, six new balls and plenty of tees.

What's the most important Rule of Golf to know during a championship?

Count your clubs on the first tee and make sure you only have 14. There is nothing worse than being penalized for having too many clubs.

PLAY

PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION

Michael Cotton | Katy 106th Texas Amateur Champion

One Month to Championship: I'm working on my swing and putting stroke, trying to correct any issues where I may have gone wrong. This includes many hours on the range and on the few contraptions I use to get my game where it needs to be.

One Week to Championship: I'm spending a lot of time at the course. I will be practicing hard using drills to get sharp.

Week of Championship: The majority of my time is at the course spent playing. This allows me to forget about swing thoughts and drills and just focus on getting the ball in the hole. At this time, I usually play a bunch of matches with buddies.

Morning of first round: I usually wake up fairly early to begin warming up. I go through a dynamic stretching routine and muscle activation. Once at the course, I head to the putting green to get a feel for the speed of the greens. Then I hit pitch shots and bunker shots. After that, I warm up the long game on the range, hit a few more putts, and head to the tee.

Go-to drill for championship preparation? I put an alignment stick about 8-10 feet in front of me and alternate between hitting cuts and draws around it. This usually frees up the swing and gets me back in the zone.

Best tip you've received? One of my instructors, David Goldblum, emphasized only focusing on the shot at hand. Focus on hitting the fairway, then finding the green, then sinking the putt.

What are the must-haves in your golf bag? I always have plenty of snacks and water. If I don't have them, I tend to get a bit grumpy out there. Also, I like to have a few Sharpies, a pen and a few different ball markers just in case one isn't working well.

PLAY

PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION



Annika Clark | Highlands 95th WTGA State Amateur Champion

One Month to Championship: I really focus on the parts of my game that are the weakest. I work on making sure that every part of my game is at its absolute best. I usually focus more on drills and technique.

One Week to Championship: I just play rounds and work on strengthening my mental game for competition.

Week of Championship: I am confident in my golf game and trust the work and preparation I have done leading up to the event.

Morning of first round: I wake up about three hours before my tee time. I eat breakfast and spend time with my family. It is an ordinary morning before an ordinary round of golf.

Any pre-round or in-round superstitions? I always pray before my round. When my parents are at my tournaments, they pray with me as well. I get a feeling of peace and calmness and it helps me start my round with a clear mind. My in-round superstition has to do with the five ball markers I always have on my hat. If I'm not happy with my putting while using one of the markers, then I move to the next one.

Best tip you've received? Play in the present and don't worry about the outcome. My TCU golf coach, Angie Ravaioli-Larkin, taught me to focus on the shot at hand and nothing else. One other tip that my dad, Jody Clark, has always told me is to just have fun and never give up. This tip has helped me persevere through tough rounds.

PLAY

PLAY LIKE A
CHAMPION

Ryan Grider | Lewisville

2015 Byron Nelson Junior Champion

One Month to Championship: I start to think about the course and come up with the shots I'll need to hit off of every tee and try to come up with a good game plan.

One Week to Championship: This is an intense week of training on and off the course. I will work hard on my short game and putting, as well as focusing on my fitness, including balance and flexibility.

Week of Championship: This is a low intensity week in which I focus on quality over quantity in my practice and time spent in the gym. The main necessities during the week of the championship are confidence and getting rest. I've already put in the hours the weeks prior to now, so it is time to refresh and get focused.

Morning of first round: This is essential to how the day will play out. I try to eat a healthy breakfast, typically eggs, yogurt, toast and some berries to get the fuel needed for the day. Also stretching prior to the round will help you feel loose, as well as prevent injuries.

Best tip you've received? The most important tip I've come across was in a book by Dr. Bob Rotella. He says, "When you step out into the competition round, you have two goals: 1) have fun and 2) have a game plan for every shot you face that day."

Best advice to someone preparing for their first championship? Enjoy the experience and have fun. If you have a positive attitude, you'll have a greater percentage to play better. It is tough to be happy after a bad shot or hole, but you will most likely bounce back faster than by getting down on yourself.

What are must-haves in your golf bag? I always have a couple of protein bars and electrolyte drinks. You have to maintain your energy level to play your best golf.

PLAY

PLAY LIKE A
CHAMPION

Mike Booker | The Woodlands 78th Texas Senior Amateur Champion

One Month to Championship: Make sure I have my hotel room, practice round booked and begin to identify what part of my game needs the most work and spend some more time on that during practice.

One Week to Championship: At 1-2 weeks out, begin to schedule myself out of the office a couple hours early for a couple of days a week so I can hit the practice range.

Week of Championship: Get to the city of the event plenty early, a day or two. Discuss with other players that I respect what their thoughts on particular holes and how they intend to play them and why.

Morning of first round: I make sure to have breakfast and get to the course in plenty of time. I like to start out chipping or putting before full swings. I'm focused on staying centered, in the present and reviewing my game plan for this particular course. I never pick a score to try to shoot because that just pulls me somewhere into the future and pulls me out of the present, out of the moment.

Best tip you've received? Mr. Jackie Burke told me, "Never try to make a putt. Your only task is to send the ball on the line you have chosen. Filling your mind with a result just gets in the way."

Best advice to someone preparing for their first championship? 100 years from now, no one will know whether you won the event or finished dead last. So focus on the golf, not what someone might think of what you shot.

What's the most important Rule of Golf to know during a championship? Always let the players in your group know what you plan to do or what situation just happened that might cause your next action to be subject to a ruling.



PLAY

PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION

Scott Abbott | Dallas 2015 Texas Mid-Amateur Champion

One Month to Championship: I like to just play a couple rounds here and there. Not to perfect my game, but be familiar with it. I like to remind the body and brain what they're supposed to do.

One Week to Championship: I put very few reps in on the range. For one, my body can't take an hour of pounding balls. I spend as much time as possible putting/chipping. I usually putt 3-5 footers to practice my line, then proceed to 30-40 feet for feel. A 15-foot putt to practice isn't that helpful because you are not likely to make it, nor can you affirm your intended line. If I have the time, I play as many holes as possible. Forget the swing, just feel shots and practice using my mind on the course.

Week of Championship: I try and feel that I'm ready and there is nothing last minute to do. I chip, putt and hit sand shots because those are the only aspects of my game that change per week. I try and get one practice round in. More than one for me is overload. I don't want to find places I don't want to hit it.

Morning of first round: I stretch, eat a good, big breakfast and get to the putting green. I love to practice putting before rounds. It calms me. Then 30 minutes on the range and I'm ready.

Best tip you've received? The best tip I ever received in my golf swing was to rotate. Not much bad can happen when I think "rotation." The best advice I've received was from a friend when I was tied for the lead in a tournament going into the last day. I was extremely nervous. He said, "No matter if you win or lose today; nobody really cares." At first I was shocked, but I slowly realized he was spot-on. I felt people judged me on how I played, but I was wrong. I didn't have to "perform" for friends and family because they don't judge me. I happened to make a 15-foot putt to win on the last hole.

Best advice to someone preparing for their first championship? Don't over-prepare. I see this all the time. People practice so hard, they become very mechanical. They expect so much of themselves that it becomes hard to fulfill the expectations.

LEARN

The 5 Rules You Should Know

Part of playing like a champion includes knowing how to utilize the [Rules of Golf](#). Many believe the Rules are harsh and meant to punish golfers.

The truth is in many circumstances the Rules can help you shoot lower scores.

While all 34 Rules, Appendices and Decisions are significant, we've highlighted five Rules golfers should know in order to protect themselves and the field. Click on each Rule to get the USGA's full text.

- [Rule 3-3](#) - Properly Play a Second Ball
Provides guidance to a player in stroke play who is

unsure of how to proceed. This Rule allows you to play a second ball when doubt arises while encountering a situation involving the Rules.

- [Rule 6-6](#) - Scorecard: sign, attest
Overlooking any of the four key elements of Rule 6-6 could result in an incorrect score for a competitor or even disqualification. Ensuring the player and their marker know how to record scores, sign and return the scorecard helps avoid costly mistakes.

- [Rule 16-1\(c\)](#) - Position on spike marks
Provides clarity on what damage and irregularities might be repaired on the green. Knowing when an old hole plug, ball mark or other damage may be repaired is imperative to avoiding a penalty.

- [Rule 20-2\(c\)](#) - When to re-drop
Even when a drop is made properly there are seven situations in which a re-drop is necessary.

- [Rule 2-5](#) - Match Play: dispute and claims
Similar to Rule 3-3 in stroke play, Rule 2-5 applies in match play. When a referee is not present, a player can lodge a claim or dispute when in doubt of a proper ruling.

Golf Bag Essentials

To play your best requires physical and mental preparation. That means not only time on the practice range, but also diligent thought on what to eat, what to wear and what to carry in your golf bag.

Think of your golf bag as your tool box, not just a place to store your wallet, phone and keys. It's best to have all your tools with you. If not, you might run into an unexpected situation and wish you had prepared better.

The Obvious Stuff

- Golf Balls
- Tees
- Gloves
- Ball Markers
- Sharpie and pencils
- Divot repair tool
- GPS device/rangefinder
- Clean towel

Other Essentials

- First Aid Kit
- Snacks
- Bottle of water
- USGA Rules of Golf book
- Extra spikes, shoelaces, pair of socks
- Rain Gear



What are your Golf Bag Essentials?
Tell us at [@TexasGolfAssn](#) or <https://www.facebook.com/TexasGolfAssociation>.

Rules of Golf

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THE GOLF CLUB
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UPDATE

Welcome, Welcome!

TGA Continues to Grow with New Member Clubs

At a rate of nearly two clubs per month, the TGA continues to grow with the addition of 15 new Member Clubs since last August. That brings our total to more than 500 Member Clubs across Texas. The size and types of clubs run the gamut, and we're happy to welcome all the new clubs below into the TGA family.

Gaines County Golf Course is located just north of Seminole, near the New Mexico border. Home to some of the best Bentgrass greens in West Texas, Gaines County opened in 1958 as a 9-hole course.

West Fork Golf & Country Club is a Conroe club formerly known as the Links at West Fork. Opened in 2004, West Fork is now under new ownership, which has its sights set on a full redesign of the 18-hole course.

Mineola Country Club is a semi-private, nine-hole course in Mineola, which is just east of Dallas. The club has a pool, bar and restaurant.

Brazos Valley Golf Association is a Type 2 TGA Member Club (one without real estate) in

College Station. It's operated by Class-A PGA pro Jim Baetge, a teacher who works out of Traditions Club, another TGA Member Club in nearby Bryan. The club serves to develop the golf talents of young boys and girls and is open to juniors-only, ages 18 and under.

Hondo Golf Club is a historic nine-hole course located 40 miles west of San Antonio. The club is managed by the City of Hondo and it opened in 1954 on the Hondo Air Base, which was the largest navigation training base in the world from 1941-54.

PAR Country Club is located in Comanche just southwest of Dallas. You can visit this club on Highway 67/377, between Stephenville and Brownwood (a route well-traveled by the LJT staff). Nestled in the heart of Texas, this club sits on the banks of Proctor Area Recreational Lake, hence the name "PAR" CC.

Gulf Winds Golf Course in Corpus Christi is located on the military grounds of the Naval Air Station. Opened in 1955, the 18-hole course features wide-open fairways, two



Newly added TGA Member Club West Fork Golf & Country Club in Conroe.

ponds and a creek that crosses six holes. At only 5,700 yards, it can offer low scores when the wind cooperates.

April Sound Country Club is a ClubCorp facility located in Montgomery on the shores of Lake Conroe. Opened for play in 1972, April Sound was designed by Carlton Gibson and features 27 holes of championship golf in a pristine setting.

Lakeside Golf Club in Canyon Lake, just northeast of San Antonio, is carved out of the beautiful Texas Hill Country. The layout makes exceptional use of the rolling terrain and the subtle, strategic design elements are a treat for veteran players and newcomers alike, as it tests every club in your bag.

Pro-Duffers Golf Club is a Dallas Chapter of Pro-Duffers Golf Club USA. The Type 2 Club is nationally recognized and was founded in Washington, D.C. The local Dallas chapter was instrumental in establishing The First Tee of Greater Dallas.

Longwood Golf Club is a returning TGA Member Club in Cypress. The Houston-area

club has a new management team and features 27 holes set amid a dense forest. The club was awarded four stars in *Golf Digest* and ranked No. 39 in "Places to Play."

Denison Golf & Country Club is another returning TGA Member Club. This 18-hole course in Denison features a par of 71 and a relaxing, picturesque backdrop. This public golf course is fun for golfers of all skill levels.

Old Brickyard Golf Course in Ferris is carved from the old site of Ferris Brick Co. and offers panoramic views. The course is designed around three quarries dug out by the old brick company.

High Five Golf Club, a Type 2 club in McAllen, was established to provide structure to a growing group of friendly Saturday golfers.

Oak Hollow Golf Course is located in the heart of McKinney. At just over 6,700 yards, the par-70 course at Oak Hollow has become the community's favorite place to host golf leagues, charity events and annual tournaments. ★



Tickets on Sale for Breaking 100 Gala

This year the TGA commemorates a century of Women's Golf in Texas with the **Breaking 100** campaign that culminates on Nov. 1 with the Breaking 100 Gala at Houston Country Club. Tickets are on sale now for the star-studded dinner event, which includes a panel discussion with Hall of Famers Sandra Haynie, Carol Mann, Sandra Palmer and Kathy Whitworth. Houston CC is a five-time host venue of the WTGA State Amateur Championship, and all five champions who won at HCC are in the Texas Golf Hall of Fame.

WTGA past-President and world-renowned philanthropist Lyda Hill recently committed to a Platinum Level sponsorship for the Gala. Individual seats and reserved tables are available. To purchase tickets, [click here](#).

The Breaking 100 campaign consists of several progressive programs, such as **100 Holes of Women's Competitions**, in which five Texans pledged to raise funds while competing in at least 100 holes of tournament play. Three of the five women already have completed 36 of their 100 holes.

There's also the **100 Texas Women blog** that tells the stories of some of the most influential and famous people in Texas Golf history, such as **Hill**. The 25 blog entries posted to date have received more than 12,000 page views. Readers can support the campaign with a contribution in honor or memory of a featured woman. To sign up for email notifications, [click here](#). ★

The First Tee of Greater Dallas Hires New Executive Director

The First Tee of Greater Dallas, a youth development non-profit organization, recently announced the selection of David Rambie as Executive Director. The organization restructured its operations more than a year ago and brought David on board to spearhead the organization. The selection was made after a regional search and selection process.



David Rambie

"We are thrilled to announce David as our new executive director," said Jake Sagehorn, The First Tee of Greater Dallas' Board Chair. "David will bring leadership and enthusiasm to the organization and will lead us in our tremendous expansion throughout the Metroplex."

Rambie is a member of The Salesmanship Club of Dallas, Highland Park Presbyterian Church, as well as numerous boards and activities in the community.

"I look forward to working with the staff, donors and participants to continue to grow our reach in the community," Rambie said.

PLAY

Cordillera Ranch To Host Texas Four-Ball Championship

The 2016 Texas Four-Ball Championship, the first TGA major of the season, will be played May 13-15 at the highly acclaimed Cordillera Ranch in Boerne.

This will be the third TGA championship contested at Cordillera Ranch. In previous years, the club has hosted the 2013 Texas Mid-Amateur, won by Clay Hodge, and the 2007 Texas Shootout, an elite season-ending team match play event featuring the top 24 amateurs in Texas.

"The TGA is extremely honored to

have the opportunity to bring another statewide championship to Cordillera Ranch," said Ryan Finn, Managing Director of Championships for the TGA. "The course has already proven to be a formidable test, and it will undoubtedly present yet another stern challenge when it welcomes the state's finest players this spring."

The 80-team starting field for the 2016 Texas Four-Ball will be comprised of three age divisions, with each division playing from separate tees and yardages:

Championship (age 25 and older); Senior (age 55+); and Super Senior (age 65+).

Entries are open to male amateur golfers age 25 or older as of May 13, 2016. To be eligible for the Senior and Super Senior Divisions, both players must be age 55 and 65, respectively, as of the first round of tournament play. All players, regardless of division, must belong to a TGA Member Club and have a GHIN Handicap Index of 8.4 or less.

The format for the championship is 54-hole, four-ball stroke play. After the

completion of 36 holes, the field will be cut to the low 40 teams and ties.

Cordillera Ranch, located approximately 19 miles north of San Antonio, boasts as its centerpiece a stunning 7,464-yard, par-72 Jack Nicklaus Signature Design. Opened in May 2007, the brawny beauty quickly captured the attention of state and national media, earning top rankings from the *Dallas Morning News*, *Golf Digest*, and *Golf, Inc.* In 2014, Cordillera Ranch was named "Course of the Year" by the National Golf Course

Owners Association.

With an abundance of natural elements to work with - gigantic oak trees, elevation changes, dramatic rock outcroppings and bucolic prairieland - Nicklaus had to move very little dirt to create a spectacular course, one that provides for a great diversity of shots and holes. From muscular par 4s and 5s to picturesque par 3s, Cordillera Ranch presents a memorable challenge and experience for players of all ages and abilities. For more information, [click here](#). ★



Aaron Hickman



John Bearrie

PLAY

Unique Team Format Proves Popular for Women's Partnership

Over the past 16 years, the Women's Partnership has become an incredibly popular event. That's because it's a team event that invites golfers of all skill levels to play in an enjoyable format.

On April 25-26 at Crown Colony Country Club in Lufkin, a field of 120 women divided into five flights of two-person teams will play 36 holes in a team quota points-based format.

Former WTGA President Becky Spears and Board Member Kris Kurtis came up with the idea for the Women's Partnership after they heard of a similar tournament in Georgia. Spears and Kurtis knew they

needed an event to attract larger fields and one in which ladies of all skill levels could play.

"Back then, unless you were a senior or a low-handicapper, there wasn't a WTGA event for you," Spears said. "We wanted to reach out and get more people involved. Women like two-person team events because if you're not playing well, hopefully your partner is."

The format is similar to a Stableford. Both players' scores count on each hole, and points are earned by each partner to combine for the team total.

A longtime supporter of amateur golf and the Texas Golf Association, this is the fourth women's championship held at Crown Colony. Most recently, Crown Colony hosted the 2014 Women's Four-Ball, won by Anna Schultz and Jewell Malick. Previously, the club has hosted the 1989 and 2007 WTGA State Amateurs and 1993 Women's Senior Stroke Play.

At the 2015 Partnership, Sissy Davies and Diane Dill overcame a tough field and an even tougher Ram Rock Course at Horseshoe Bay Resort to take home the overall title. For more information, [click here](#). ★



Regional Senior Amateurs on the Horizon

The first full week of April gives the 55+ crew a chance to showcase their skills when the North and South Senior Amateurs are held April 5-6 and April 6-7, respectively. Denton Country Club in Argyle hosts the North Senior, while the South Senior will be played on the Tradition Course at Cypresswood Golf Club in Spring.

Both events comprise two age divisions: 55+ (Senior) and 65+ (Super Senior). Each age division plays from different tees with a separate champion crowned.

The Regional Senior Amateurs are open to male amateurs 55 years of age or older by the first round of tournament play (65+ for Super Senior), have a certified GHIN Handicap index of 8.4 or less (10.0 or less for Super Senior), and reside in the region relative to their respective championship. The TGA uses the 31st parallel in Salado as the delineation

between the North and South regions.

The championship format for both is 36 holes individual stroke play. The top 15 and ties earn exemptions into this year's Texas Senior Amateur. For more information, [click here](#). ★



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#FUNGOLF

PLAY



Houston's Cole Hammer won the Boys 15-18 division of the 2015 Bluebonnet Championship

LJT's Best Ready to Bloom at Bluebonnet Championship

For many Texas teenagers, the month of May signals the start of prom season and all the accompanying excitement that surrounds the formal affair. For the state's best young golfers, however, when the calendar flips to May it also means the Legends Junior Tour's popular Bluebonnet Championship is right around the corner.

In one of the Tour's most enduring and endearing traditions, Brownwood Country Club will host the Bluebonnet for the 15th consecutive year. The dates of this year's championship are May 21-22.

The 36-hole stroke play event features 132 golfers who will compete on the par-72 course that stretches to 6,227 yards for the boys and

5,748 yards for the girls. Players compete in three separate divisions: Boys 15-18, Girls 12-18 and Boys 14 & Under.

The Bluebonnet also serves as one of the national qualifying spots for the IMG Academy Junior World Golf Championships. A total of six players from three age group divisions will qualify for the Junior World, which is scheduled for July 12-15 on a variety of courses in the San Diego area.

This year's Bluebonnet is ranked by both Junior Golf Scoreboard and *Golfweek* and is the last chance for boys to earn exemptions into the 2016 Byron Nelson Junior Championship, held at Lakewood Country Club in Dallas from June 28-30. Top

finishers also receive points towards the College Golf Camps Points List, AJGA Stars and exemptions into future LJT invitation-only events such as the Texas Cup, Texas Girls' Invitational and George Hannon Junior Invitational.

At the 2015 championship, Cole Hammer of Houston, who would go on to qualify for the U.S. Open at Chambers Bay, carded rounds of 68-67 for a 9-under-par 135 total to win the Boys 15-18 division. Greta Bruner of Conroe claimed the Girls 12-18 division title by four strokes, and Junmin Lee of Mission vaulted to the top of the leaderboard in the Boys 14 & Under age group with a sizzling final round 5-under 67. For more information, [click here](#). ★

Fun Golf Swings Through Austin's Onion Creek in April

No one needs a reason to plan an escape to Austin. But if you wanted extra motivation to visit one of the most vibrant cities in Texas, we've got it for you. On April 10 the TGA takes its Fun Golf program to historic Onion Creek Club.

If you're not familiar with Fun Golf (where have you been?), they're a series of non-competitive Play Day opportunities focused on the pure enjoyment of playing the game we all love. Not everyone wants to tee it up in a stuffy, pressure-filled tournament atmosphere. Fun Golf allows recreational golfers access to some of the best courses in Texas without the stress of posting a score.

April 10 at Onion Creek is a perfect example. Home of the inaugural Legends of Golf tournament, the tree-lined track on Austin's south side will host a two-person team Scramble for all TGA Members and their friends.

That's right: you don't even have to be a TGA Member to participate in Fun Golf. All you need is a passion for the game. For those who do want to compete, albeit in a very laid back atmosphere, the April 10 Scramble will have flights for men's, women's and mixed teams, with Net and Gross prizes awarded in each flight.

One of the state's most iconic clubs, Onion Creek was founded in 1974 by World Golf Hall of Famer Jimmy Demaret and noted Austin amateur Jimmie Connolly. Just four years after opening for play, the club hosted the Legends of Golf, an event that featured tournament professionals 50 years and older, such as Demaret, Sam Snead and Billy Casper. The tournament was held at Onion Creek for 11 years and later became known as the "Birthplace of the Senior PGA Tour," the forerunner of today's Champions Tour.

Ready to hit the road and have some Fun (Golf) in Austin? Grab a partner, crank up some Willie Nelson for the ride and join us at Onion Creek for a legendary good time.

For more information, [click here](#). ★



PLAY

LPGA Tour's Biggest Stars Headed to Texas



IRVING — In just four short years, the Volunteers of America Texas Shootout has become one of the premier events on the LPGA Tour. Hosted at Las Colinas Country Club, the tournament benefits from the enthusiastic Dallas-Fort Worth golf market and is the only LPGA Tour event in Texas. It attracts large spectator galleries, exclusive sponsors and elite LPGA Tour players.

This year's Volunteers of America Texas Shootout will be played April 26-May 1. Featuring a \$1.3 million purse, it's the chance for Texas golf fans to see the best female golfers in the world. Last year the tournament attracted 19 of the Rolex Rankings' top 20 players and the top five season money leaders from 2015.

Among the players scheduled to return to Irving this year will be defending champion Inbee Park, Lydia Ko, the 2015 LPGA Player of the Year, as well as Michelle Wie, Morgan Pressel, Paula Creamer, Sandra Gal, Natalie Gulbis, Julieta Granada, Cristie Kerr and Texas favorites Stacy Lewis, Gerina Piller, Angela Stanford and Brittany Lang.

"I love playing an LPGA tournament in Texas, close to my hometown because all of my family and friends come out and watch and I get to stay at home," Lang said. "It's a special week for me, I love that my LPGA girls get to see Dallas and feel the support. It's such a great place to live and we get great crowds so it's very fun for me. Las Colinas has been so great to the LPGA and their greens are some of the best in the Dallas area."

New this year at the Volunteers of America Texas Shootout will be an upgraded amphitheater - behind the 18th green, which will feature the Mustang Club and private skyboxes. Tournament Saturday will be the "Grill and Chill" event held in the afternoon post play, which

features live music, local food and specialty drinks.

Tickets to the tournament are \$25 for a daily ticket, \$50 for a weekly ticket and \$200 for a one-day ticket to the Mustang Club private hospitality area on 18th green, which includes food and beverages.

The tournament's title sponsor, [Volunteers of America](#), is a national, nonprofit, faith-based organization dedicated to helping people rebuild their lives and reach their full potential. Founded in 1896, Volunteers of America helps more than 2 million people in over 400 communities each year with human service programs, including housing and healthcare, which total more than \$1 billion annually to help those in need.

The Volunteers of America group is committed to be the title sponsor of the Texas Shootout through 2018. Last year's event marked the first year that Volunteers of America acted as title sponsor of the event after serving as a presenting sponsor for the first two editions.

For more information and to purchase tickets, log on to [www.LPGATexasShootout.com](#). ★



Texas' Only LPGA Event

Pictured top to bottom:
Lexi Thompson
Michelle Wie
Gerina Piller
Morgan Pressel
Brittany Lincicome
Inbee Park
Paula Creamer



In Texas, don't miss your one and only chance this year to see the biggest and brightest LPGA stars.

Tickets

Daily ticket \$25
Weekly ticket \$50
Mustang Club daily ticket \$200

(includes private hospitality skybox seating on #18 and food and beverages, incl. alcohol)

Buy tickets today at
[www.LPGATexasShootout.com](#)



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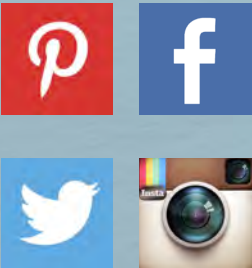


**April 26 - May 1, 2016 | Las Colinas Country Club
Irving, Texas | [www.LPGATexasShootout.com](#)**

ENGAGE

#MastersPrediction

We asked. You answered. Through various forms of social media engagement, we received numerous #MastersPredictions to be featured in this issue of *Lone Star Golf*. In addition, we took the four most mentioned players and polled our followers to see who would be the overall favorite to win the 2016 Masters Tournament. The results below are not surprising.



Texans at the Masters

We also asked which Texan you thought might win their first major at Augusta this year. Here is what you had to say:

- Jimmy Walker: 58%**
- Patrick Reed: 32%**
- Hunter Mahan: 7%**
- Other: 3%**

SHINE

Member Club Logo Spotlight

Spanish Oaks Golf Club has one of the most iconic logos in Texas. It's simple, clean and unmistakable. During construction of the high-end private club, many hundreds of native trees were relocated to help create the course design. The Southern Red Oak, also known as the Spanish Oak, thrives in the Hill Country and is featured on every hole. The seed of the Spanish Oak is the prolific acorn.

Considering the symbolism and history, the club's Founder, Daniel Porter, decided the acorn made a perfect emblem. In Norse mythology, Thor held the

mighty Oak tree as sacred. It represented prosperity and independence, two ideals held by **Spanish Oaks GC**.

In heraldry, the acorn badge is a symbol of life and signifies strength.

"Many of the finest clubs in America have a simple, understated logo that is broadly recognizable," said David von Hoffmann, the Director of Golf at Spanish Oaks. "We feel the acorn

already is recognizable and will prove over time to gain further recognition across the country due to the clean and simple look."

Several design firms, staff members and Porter

all collaborated in the logo design. The club's membership proudly displays the distinctive acorn. In September, 2016 Spanish Oaks is honored to host the Texas Mid-Amateur. ★



SPANISH OAKS
GOLF CLUB

About the TGA

Founded in 1906 as the governing body of amateur golf in Texas, the TGA is an official representative

of the United States Golf Association and the only licensed distributor of USGA GHIN Handicaps. We serve all golfers across Texas with elite competitive championships and recreational playing opportunities for men, women, seniors and juniors. The TGA is represented by hundreds of public and private facility Member Clubs throughout the state. It is our honor and responsibility to promote, protect and grow the game of golf on all levels. To learn more, [click here](#). ★



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