

The Official Publication of the TGA

LONGSTAR GOLF



Fun and Games

INSIDE: Texas Amateur Qualifying Sites ★ Member Club Spotlight

It's not a stretch to suggest the millions of people who teed it up in 2016 probably weren't playing organized competitive rounds or even what passes for "serious golf." For the vast majority, having fun is the main goal for each trip to the course.

And we think that's a wonderful thing.



Fun and Games

Every golfer plays for his or her own reasons. Some relish the thrill of competition. Others look forward to breaking 100, 90 or 80 for the first time. While one's level of play often impacts the pleasure derived from the experience, there is a secret to the great game that's often lost in the endless quest to improve: Golf is not always about the score.

For most people who play the game, it's as much about enjoying the ancillary aspects of the sport as it is the allure of the game itself. It's about the atmosphere, the natural surroundings and the opportunity to be outside in the fresh air. For them, the joy of hitting the golf ball, going and finding it no matter where it ends up, hitting it again and having fun doing it – while connecting to the people they're with – is as good as life gets.

It's exactly that relaxed philosophy which prompted the Texas Golf Association to launch its Fun Golf Initiative in 2015. At each of our Fun Golf events, we create a welcoming environment for players of all ages and abilities. Fun Golf is an opportunity for TGA Members and their friends to experience great courses they might not normally have a chance to play at discounted rates. There are



The Fun Golf Series gives all golfers chances to play great courses at discounted rates.

terrific formats, too, like 2-Person Scrambles and 2-Person Teams, for those who want to engage in a little competition, but that's just an option. Competition is never mandatory.

Fun Golf's overriding goal is to ease the game's intimidation factor while making it less serious, more dynamic and more fun for our recreational players.

"This is a great idea and helps expand the game," said Laura Wood, a history professor and Fun Golf participant who plays out of the Golf Club of Fossil Creek in Fort Worth. "Recreational golfers will play more and engage more with the TGA if they feel included and see the TGA as providing them with opportunities to play courses that might not otherwise be available to

them."

Though it's not the TGA's first foray into hosting member outings – such activities have been held since the fall of 2010 – it wasn't until 2015 that the TGA got serious about having fun, so to speak. There were nine Play Days that first year and included stops at Lantana GC, Las Colinas CC, River Place CC and the Oaks and Canyons Courses at TPC

San Antonio.

TGA Members were excited about the new initiative from the onset and loved having the ability to visit some of the state's best courses and to meet new people.

"What I like most about Fun Golf Play Days is that the price is extremely reasonable and you have the opportunity to play nice courses all while having a great time with friends," said Jamie Evans, a high school teacher from Lake Jackson who sports a 7.4 GHIN Handicap Index at The Wilderness Golf Club. "The environment at Fun Golf Play Days is relaxed and good vibes are flowing."

It's a sentiment echoed by nearly everyone who has teed it up in a Fun Golf event, especially Mark Bofferding, an electrical engineer who is a member of the Austin Golf Association. "I love meeting other golf enthusiasts and playing a variety of top notch golf courses that are not easily accessible to the public," he said.

In just two short years, TGA Fun Golf has grown from nine to 16 events. There are new formats constantly being added to the schedule, as well as new sites, such as Wolf dancer GC, Timmaron CC, Mira Vista CC and Bentwater Yacht & CC.

“I’m excited to see TGA Fun Golf grow so much in a short amount of time,” said Kelly Kilgo, the TGA’s Senior Director of Membership Services & Course Rating and captain of Fun Golf. “Every year we’re getting more golfers, both men and women, as well as adding more events. Our Texas Shamble is one of the most popular events

on the Fun Golf schedule and even grew to a wait list last year.”

In 2017, Fun Golf events will be held on such highly acclaimed courses as Beaumont Country Club, Old American, Onion Creek Club, Walden on Lake Conroe and Golf Club of Dallas, as well as old favorites like Las Colinas CC, Canyon Creek CC, Tapatio Springs

and TPC San Antonio.

Spring has officially begun, which means the 2017 Fun Golf season is in full swing.

“May is a busy month for TGA Fun Golf,” said Kilgo. “We have an individual stroke play event with Gross and Net Divisions at Old American in The Colony on May 9. Next, we’ll be going to the Houston

area to play a 2-Person Scramble on May 11 at historic Beaumont Country Club. Then we have a brand new event on May 16 at Tenison Park in Dallas with a Play 9, 4-Person Scramble where our members get paired up with TGA staff.”

No matter if you’ve played golf for years or are just taking up the

game, when you sign up for a Fun Golf event you’ll really boost your enjoyment level on the golf course.

By sharing your love of the game with other like-minded people, you’ll develop a true understanding of what the sport is all about – camaraderie, beautiful settings, jovial conversation and, most of all, having FUN. ★



Tapatio Springs Golf Resort will host the 2017 Texas Shamble.

March 2 - Rayburn Country Resort

Brookeland | Entries Opened Feb. 1

March 3 - TPC San Antonio (Oaks)

San Antonio | Entries Opened Feb. 1

March 3 - Rayburn Country Resort

Brookeland | Entries Opened Feb. 1

March 12 - Rayburn Country Resort

Brookeland | Entries Opened Feb. 1

April 9 - Onion Creek GC (North)

Austin | Entries Opened Feb. 2

May 9 - Old American GC

The Colony | Entries Opened March 31

May 9 - Golf Club of Texas

San Antonio | Entries Opened April 5

May 11 - Beaumont CC

Beaumont | Entries Opened March 31

May 16 - Tenison Park GC (Highlands)

Dallas | Entries Opened April 3

July 14 - Golf Club of Dallas

Dallas | Entries Opened March 31

August 9 - Tenison Park GC (Highlands)

Dallas | Entries Open June 30

August 9 - Golf Club of Texas

San Antonio | Entries Open July 7

August 14 - Las Colinas CC

Irving | Entries Open July 3

October 15 - TPC San Antonio (Canyons)

San Antonio | Entries Open Aug. 23

October 21 - Walden on Lake Conroe

Montgomery | Entries Open Sept. 6

October 31 - Canyon Creek CC

Richardson | Entries Open Sept. 20

November 4 - Golf Club of Texas

San Antonio | Entries Open Sept. 27

November 11-12 - Texas Shamble

Tapatio Springs | Boerne | Entries Open Sept. 6

108th Texas Amateur Qualifying Sites

For many of the players who ultimately will comprise the field at the 108th Texas Amateur, their dreams of becoming part of Texas golf history begins with a grinding, do-or-die qualifying tournament.

This year the TGA has single-day, 18-hole qualifiers at

18 sites across the state. The top finishers at each qualifier advance to Lakewood Country Club for the 108th Texas Amateur on June 15-18. Some of the qualifiers have been completed; others begin soon.

Over the next few pages, we wanted to highlight all the

qualifier venues. We greatly appreciate their participation and assistance. The Texas Amateur wouldn't be the prestigious, highly competitive event it is each year without the generous help of the TGA Member Clubs that host qualifiers.



River Crossing GC

Spring Branch, April 10th

Architect: Larry Hawkins (2001)

Par: 72

Yardage: 6,838

[Click here for results](#)



Bear Creek GC

Dallas, April 10th

Architect: Ted Robinson (1980)

Par: 72

Yardage: 6,690

[Click here for results](#)



Crown Colony CC

Lufkin, April 26th

Architects: Robert von Hagge & Bruce Devlin (1979)

Par: 72

Yardage: 6,800

[Click here for more information](#)



Great Hills CC

Austin, April 13th

Architects: Don January & Billy Martindale (1973)

Par: 71

Yardage: 6,637

[Click here for results](#)





Corpus Christi CC

Corpus Christi, April 13th

Architect: John Bredemus (1922);
Robert T. Jones Sr. (1964)

Par: 72

Yardage: 6,605

[Click here for results](#)



Eagle Pointe GC

Mont Belvieu, April 19th

Architect: Rick Forester (1999)

Par: 71

Yardage: 7,168

[Click here for results](#)



Amarillo CC

Amarillo, April 20th

Architects: William McConnell (1919);
D.A. Weibring & Steve Wolfard (2012)

Par: 71

Yardage: 6,937

[Click here for more information](#)



DALLAS ATHLETIC CLUB



Dallas Athletic Club (Gold)

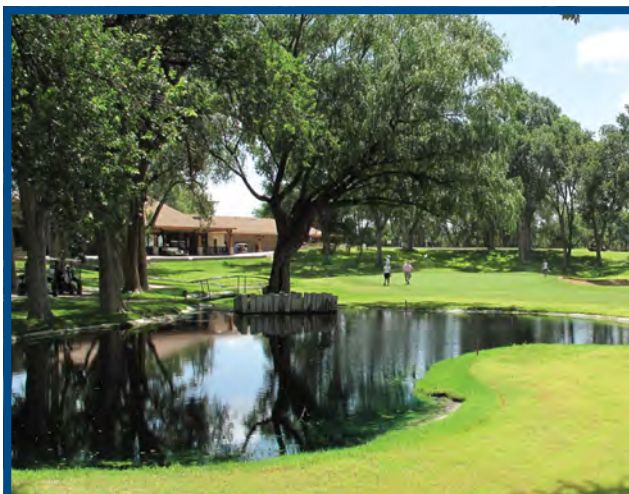
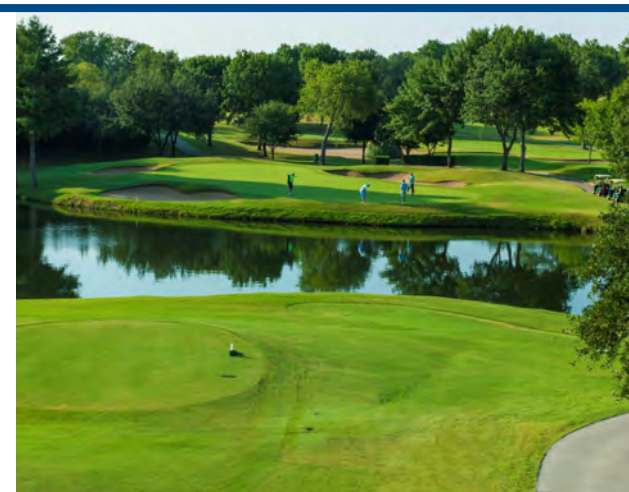
Dallas, April 25th

Architects: Ralph Plummer (1919);
Jack Nicklaus (1963)

Par: 72

Yardage: 7,169

[Click here for more information](#)



HILLCREST



GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Hillcrest CC

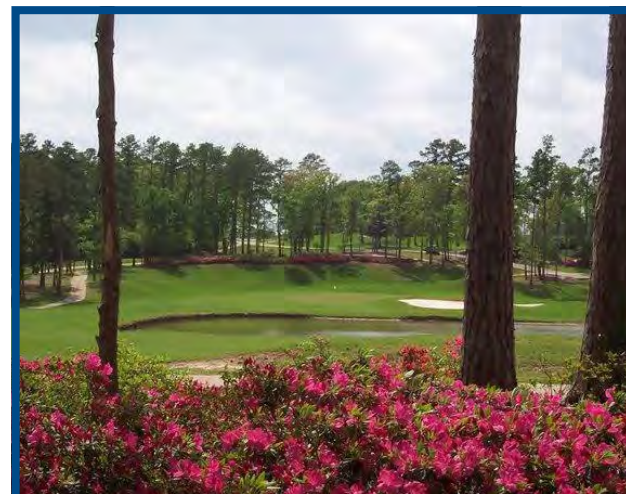
Lubbock, April 27th

Architect: William D. Cantrell (1953)

Par: 72

Yardage: 6,992

[Click here for more information](#)



Eagle's Bluff CC

Bullard, April 27th

Architect: Carlton Gipson (1999)

Par: 71

Yardage: 7,150

[Click here for more information](#)



WILDFLOWER

A Member of the ClubCorp Family

Wildflower CC

Temple, April 28th

Architect: Leon Howard (1987)

Par: 72

Yardage: 7,010

[Click here for information](#)



Club at Falcon Point

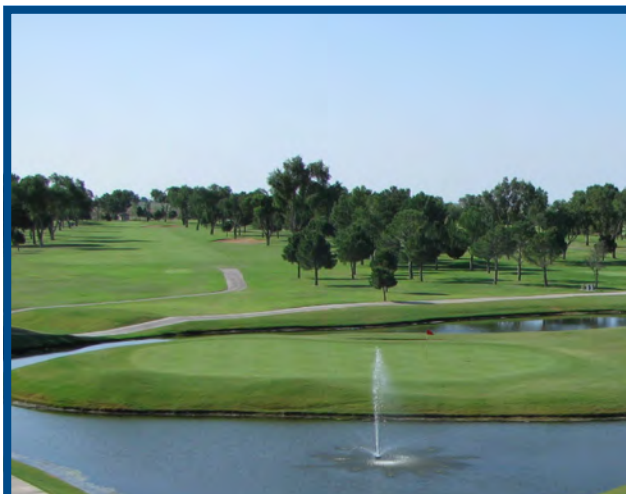
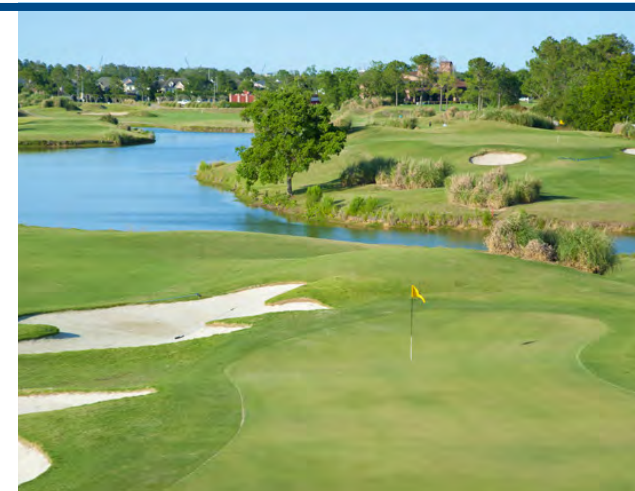
Katy, May 7th

Architects: Bruce Devlin & Robert von Hagge (1984)

Par: 72

Yardage: 6,771

[Click here for information](#)



Odessa CC (Links)

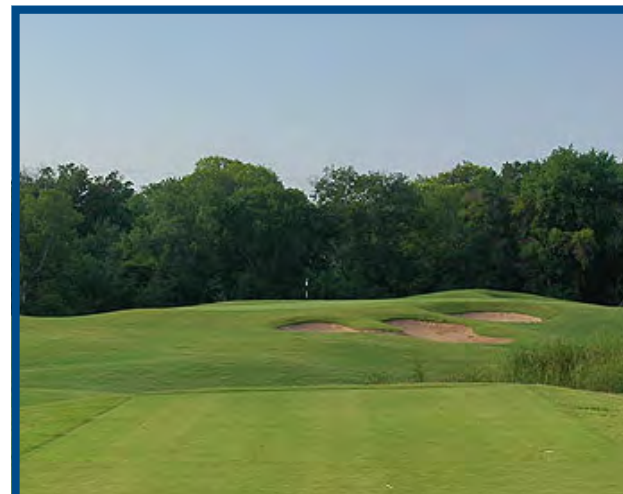
Odessa, May 10th

Architect: John Bredemus (1939)

Par: 72

Yardage: 7,039

[Click here for information](#)



Firewheel GP (Bridges)

Garland, May 13th

Architect: Dick Phelps (2001)

Par: 72

Yardage: 7,027

[Click here for information](#)



Wichita Falls CC

Wichita Falls, May 17th

Architects: Fred Cooper (1914);
D.A. Weibring & Scott Wolfard (2008)

Par: 72

Yardage: 6,838

[Click here for information](#)



Thorntree CC

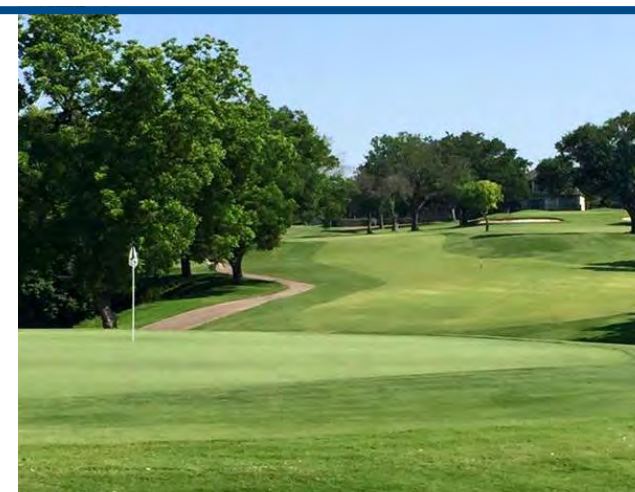
DeSoto, May 23rd

Architects: Richard Mai Family (1984)

Par: 72

Yardage: 7,042

[Click here for information](#)





Quail Valley GC (El Dorado)

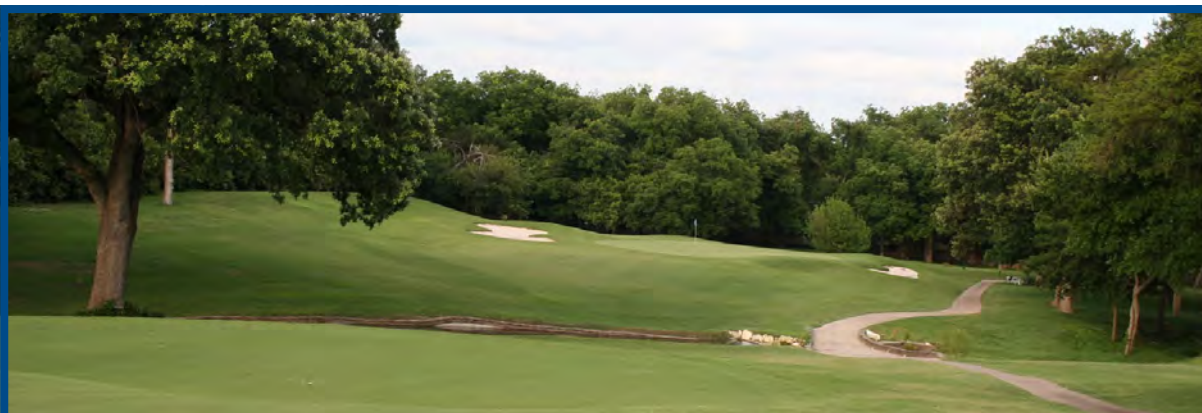
Missouri City, May 24th

Architects: Jack Miller (1970); Jeff Blume (2009)

Par: 71

Yardage: 6,931

[Click here for more information](#)



Golf Club of Dallas

Dallas, June 6th

Architects: Perry & Press Maxwell (1953)

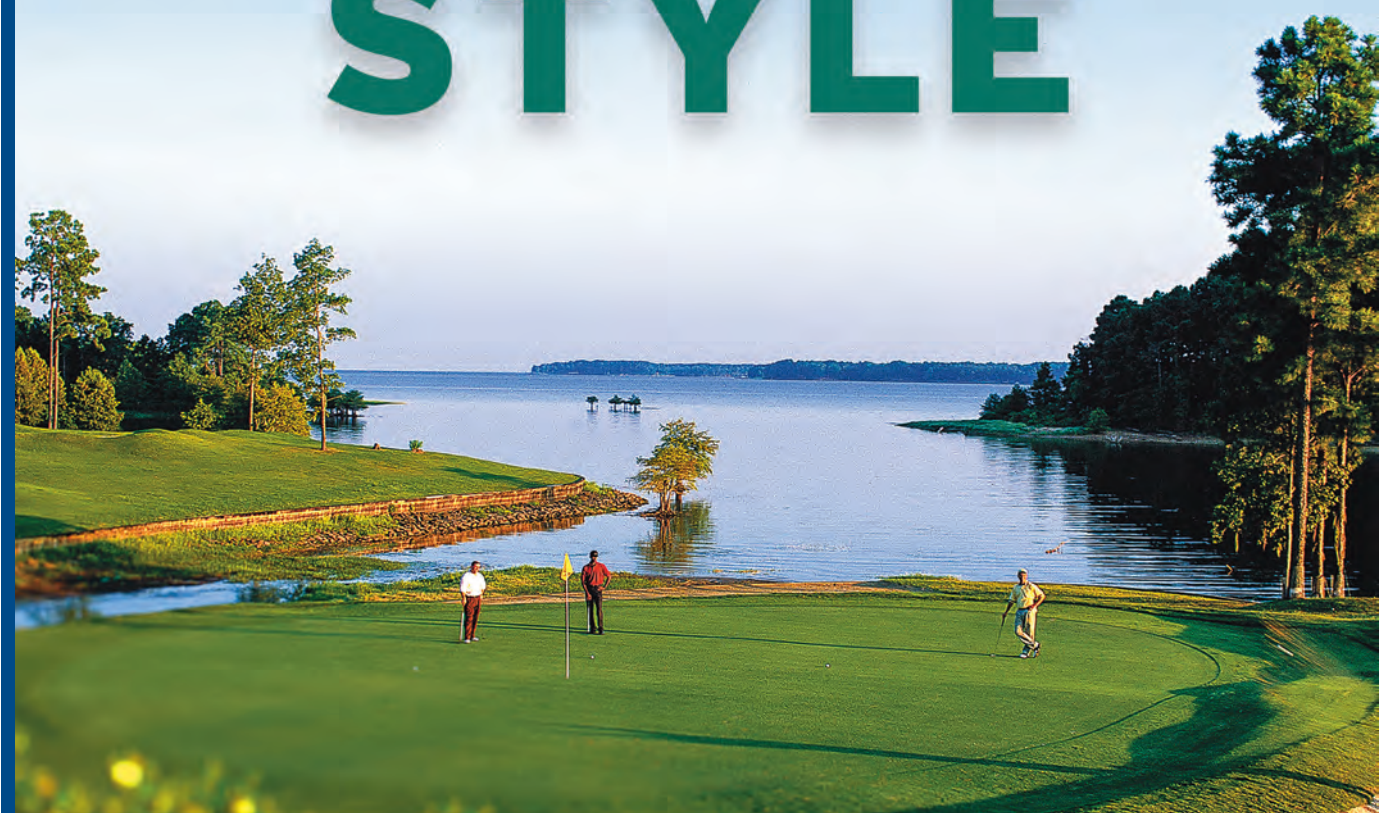
Par: 70

Yardage: 6,719

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Texas Super Senior Set for April 25-27

Pine Dunes Resort & Golf Club in Frankston will be the host site for the 2017 Texas Super Senior Amateur. Scheduled for April 25-27, this will be the second TGA championship contested at Pine Dunes, which previously hosted the 2005 North Regional Amateur.

Designed by Jay Morrish and son



Carter, Pine Dunes formally opened in June 2001. The 7,117-yard, par-72 layout in bucolic East Texas takes players on a scenic yet challenging journey through a dense pine forest dotted with dogwoods, around rolling mounds and over bunkers with rust-colored sand, reminiscent of the famed Pinehurst region of North Carolina.

Now in its third year, the Texas Super Senior is a stand-alone statewide championship for senior amateurs over the age of 65. Longtime TGA stalwarts John Grace and Jerry Hudgins captured the first two events and set a lofty standard for the nascent championship. TGA tournament officials are looking forward to hosting another distinguished field in 2017.

“The TGA is thrilled to have the opportunity to return to Pine Dunes,” said Ryan Finn, Managing Director of TGA Championships. “The Texas Super Senior attracts the state’s best senior amateur players and we have no doubt that Pine Dunes, with its magnificent course, will provide a fair and comprehensive test that identifies a worthy champion.”

The format for the championship is 54 holes of individual stroke play with no cut. Two age divisions will be competing for separate titles: Super Senior (65 or older as of April 25) and Legends (75 or older).

Round One begins at 8 a.m. on April 25 off both No. 1 and 10 tees.

For more information about the Texas Super Senior, [click here](#). ★



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Crown Colony To Host Texas Four-Ball

The 2017 Texas Four-Ball, the first TGA major of the season, will be played May 19-21 at tournament-tested Crown Colony Country Club in Lufkin.

This is the second Texas Four-Ball contested at Crown Colony and the fourth TGA major championship to be held at the club. Previously, Crown Colony hosted the 2012 Texas Four-Ball and the 1998 and 1982 Texas Amateur. In total, Crown Colony over the years has been the site of 12 TGA Men's and Women's championships, as well as numerous Texas Amateur and Mid-Amateur qualifiers.

Opened in 1978, Crown Colony was designed by Bruce Devlin and Robert Von Hagge and has consistently been rated as one of the top courses in Texas. Though not overly long, measuring just 6,692

yards from the back tees, Crown Colony has many defenses other than length.

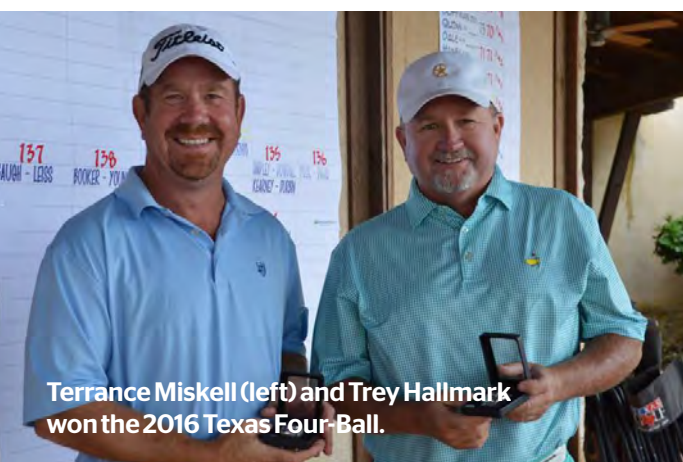
While trees, fairway bunkers and water hazards must be avoided on nearly every hole, it's the supremely difficult green complexes that can trounce a player. They are small, fast and come in various shapes from oblong to plateaued and even turtle-topped. Accurate approach shots and a well-honed short game are key ingredients to scoring well on this East Texas gem.

The Texas Four-Ball features three age divisions, with each division playing from separate tees and yardages: Championship, Senior and Super Senior.

The event is open to male amateur golfers age 25 or older as of May 19, 2017. 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.

Registration opened at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 4, and will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10.

The tournament format for the 80-team starting field is 54 hole four-ball stroke play. After the completion of 36 holes, the field is cut to the low 40 teams and ties. ★



Terrance Miskell (left) and Trey Hallmark won the 2016 Texas Four-Ball.

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Member Club Spotlight: Lubbock Country Club



The land on which Lubbock Country Club sits belies its surrounding. The epicenter of the South Plains, Lubbock has a reputation of being flat. That’s true, but there are spots that boast rolling hills covered with mature trees. Lubbock Country Club resides in one such aberration.

“Our topography helps make us unique,” said Mark Vinson, the longtime Head Professional at Lubbock Country Club. “We have

numerous elevations changes, lots of trees and the course sits in a valley that is part of the Black Water Draw.”

The surprising undulation and excessive timber give Lubbock Country Club its character. They’re also the parkland-style track’s main defense. Not a long course by today’s standards, the tight fairways mandate precision over power.

Vinson said placement – not length – is a priority because

many of the greens have portions blocked out by strategically placed trees. Competitors in the **2017 West Texas Amateur**, headed to Lubbock Country Club from July 14-16, will be wise to arrive early.

“Practice rounds will help,” Vinson said. “The better player will use all the clubs in his bag. It’s not the kind of course you want to try and overpower. If you get offline a little bit, it’s going to punish you.”

Lubbock Country Club hosted

the inaugural Women’s West Texas Amateur in 1935 and again in 1951 and ’85. The club also welcomed the 1946 Texas PGA Championship, a 1937 exhibition between Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson, the 1992 Southwest Conference

Championship and the 2000 Big 12 Women’s Championship.

As Lubbock Country Club did in each of those instances, the old school venue will test the mettle of the West Texas Amateur competitors. ★

Lubbock Country Club
Lubbock, TX

Par: 72

Member Club Since: 2008

Architects: Warren D. Cantrell (1955); George Williams (1995); Craig Schreiner (2008)

Greens: Bentgrass

Fairways: Common & 419 Bermuda

Head Golf Professional: Mark Vinson

Site of **West Texas Amateur**, July 14-16

To register, [click here](#).

	7,183 yards (73.5/138)
	6,861 yards (72.5/135)
	6,537 yards (71.1/133)
	6,079 yards (68.8/129)
	5,293 (64.4/120)

Anticipation Builds for Texas League Play Championship Playoffs



With the regular season of Texas League Play drawing to a close, teams in their respective conferences are grinding away in hopes of securing a spot in the Championship Playoffs to be held June 1-4 at the Horseshoe Bay Resort.

Now in its 12th year, a record 52 TGA Member Clubs signed up to play in the engaging team match play competition in 2017, a considerable jump from previous League Play's highest participation and popularity numbers.

Member Clubs participating in League Play this year, including 11 newcomers, were arranged in groups of four, based on their shared geographic location and proximity to one another. A total of 13 conferences were set up around the state to accommodate the incredible turnout.

During the regular season, which runs from March 9 through May 7, each team plays a home-and-away series against the three other teams in its conference for a

total of six matches over the eight-week span. Each team match consists of four separate four-ball matches using a Nassau point system. Three points are available for each match - front nine, back nine and overall 18 holes - and the team which accumulates 6.5 points or more wins the team match.

As the regular season begins to wind down over the next few weeks, several teams are still in contention for spots in the playoffs. This is the time of the year during which teams make a final push to win their conference and score the coveted "work trip" to Horseshoe Bay Resort.

The 13 conference winners are seeded into the Championship Playoffs based on the total number of points accumulated during the regular season.

The first round matches and quarter-finals will be played June 1-2 on Horseshoe Bay Resort's Slick Rock Course. Teams seeded Nos. 4-13 will square off against each other on Day One; the three top-seeded teams earned byes. All teams will be in action on the second day.

The semifinal matches on June 3 and championship final match on June 4 will be contested on the resort's Apple Rock Course. Live scoring updates will be available throughout the playoffs.

Dallas Athletic Club looks to defend its 2016 championship title and surpass Arlington's Tierra Verde Golf Club for most titles. Each has three. ★



Old Greenwood



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TGA Foundation's Winners' Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary

In 2008, the Women's Texas Golf Association launched the Winners' Program as part of several new initiatives to reach girls through golf. Now a part of the Texas Golf Association and TGA Foundation's Women's Initiatives, the Winners' Program, celebrates its 10th anniversary.

The program serves as an introduction to golf for grade school-aged girls and works as an instrument to encourage them to excel academically, too. Girls are urged to make good grades and turn in report cards throughout the year. The Winners' Program awards a technology gift, such as iPads, to the elected scholar at each of the six statewide LPGA/USGA Girls Golf sites.

During the past decade, about 1,800 young girls across Texas have been impacted by the Winners' Program, which also has invested more than \$100,000 in the program and worthy recipients. Each year, TGA staff members and volunteers visit sites in Austin, Dallas, Houston, Longview, San Antonio and Waco to interact with young girls.

The goal is to inspire them to work hard in school, while at the same time providing hands-on education and instruction to

make golf a part of their lives.

"The importance of providing opportunities for the next generation of golfers should be tantamount by all who love this game," said Marlene Summers, a former WTGA Director from Montgomery who led the program for several years. "The integrity, etiquette, social, physical and mental skills taught in the Winners' Program are byproducts of the core values learned from the game of golf. I'm not sure of a better way to impact the next generation."

In addition to encouraging academic competitiveness with prizes for top students, playing golf also is a major component of the Winners' Program. The Texas Challenge is an annual statewide competition between selected chapters of the Winners' Program sites.

The competition honors the late Toni Wiesner by awarding the Toni Wiesner Cup to the Texas Challenge's winning site. Wiesner, a longtime friend to Women's Golf in Texas and five-time winner of the WTGA State Amateur, passed away in 2009. One of the state's best examples of positivity and strong character, Wiesner left behind a legacy of class and



The Winners' Program 2016 Texas Challenge team from Longview consisted of Faith Anna Chinn, Kinley Pessel, Connor Howard and Zoe Mayfield.

competitive spirit.

"Toni was a member of the USGA Junior Golf Committee and loved to give back to the game," said Katie O'Donnell, the TGA's Director of Women's Operations. "She was a mentor and role model for so many women in Texas. She embodied so many of the traits we try to instill in young girls through the Winners' Program."

This year, the TGA plans to visit all six Winners' Program sites. They'll engage with girls in fun games and golf matches, while at the same time educate them about the golf-and-grades initiatives.

"In 10 years, we've met so many great kids along with dedicated coaches and parents," said Susan Knox, a TGA Director, Past WTGA President and creator

of the Winners' Program. "I get so excited just thinking about what these girls can accomplish. If we're encouraging these girls to dream and never give up on that dream, we're doing our part - not only for golf, but for humanity."

To learn more about the Winners' Program and how you can help, [click here](#). ★

Meet Our Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone of the TGA. More than 220 tireless men and women from all over Texas comprise our talented and dedicated support staff. Not only are these great people beyond generous with their time, they're also experts in critical areas such as the Rules of Golf and Course Rating.

We can't thank our volunteers enough, and this year we want to shine a light on several of these hardworking individuals. We hope you enjoy getting to know the stars behind the scenes who work to ensure success for our Championships and Member Clubs.

Woody Fail

Conroe

Home Club (GHIN Index):

The Village Golf Club
("I'm too embarrassed to advertise my Index in print.")

How long have you been a Volunteer?

13 years

Why do you volunteer?

"Being a Rules Official is not for everyone. It's not easy to do. But for me, it is an opportunity to give back to the game that has provided me with a lifetime of pleasure."

Favorite event to work?

"I enjoy them all so much but, if pressed, I'd have to say the Texas Amateur. A close second would be the biennial Spirit International at Whispering Pines."

Favorite golf course in Texas?

"Champions, Whispering Pines, Golf Club of Houston, Miramont...all beautiful courses. But for the pure enjoyment of playing...The Village."



D.R. Richardson

Benbrook

Home Club (GHIN Index):

Ridglea CC and
Squaw Creek GC
(9.7)

How long have you been a Volunteer?

14 years

Why do you volunteer?

"I competed in many golf tournaments over the past 50 years and giving back for all the pleasant experiences of the past seemed a natural. I enjoy the opportunity to be around competitions and to contribute when I can."

Favorite event to work?

"I enjoy all of them but I identify more with the older players. Working the TGA Senior events are my favorites."

Favorite golf course in Texas? "I have played many good courses all over Texas, but Whispering Pines GC in Trinity is the best (and favorite) I have played."

Interested in becoming a TGA Volunteer?

[Click here](#) for more information. ★



WHAT'S IN THE BAG?



PRECISION GOLF

WITH EDDIE ROWE

DRIVER

2017 Callaway GBB Epic Sub Zero 9° Driver
Project X Hzdus Yellow 63gram 6.0 Flex
Spine Aligned at 45.25° NS Setting at D4 Swing Weight

Driver ball speed increased from 146 mph to 151 mph, which increased his smash factor from 1.41 to 1.49. We lowered his launch from 15.1° to 12.6° and his spin from 2800 to 2300 on average. With all these changes Eddie was able to increase his carry distance and total distance from 242 yards carry to 249 yards carry and 262 yards total to 276 yards total distance.



FAIRWAY WOOD

2017 Callaway GBB Epic 15° 3 Wood
Fujikura Pro XLR8 71gram Stiff Flex
Spine Aligned at 43° NS setting at D4 Swing Weight

The new fairway wood increased ball speed from 139 mph to 145 mph and his smash factor from 1.44 to 1.48. Launch angle increased from 12.5° to 13° and spin remained from 3200 to 3300 on averages. With all these changes in his fairway wood, his distance increased from 220 yards of carry to 230 yards of carry and total distance of 240 yards to 247 yards off the ground.

HYBRID

Adams 9031 Prototype 20° Hybrid
Matrix Ozik Altus Hybrid Shaft Stiff Flex
40° at D4 Swing Weight.

Nothing was done to his current hybrid as the specs fit right into the gap he needed for his new setup.

WEDGES

Fourteen RM Tour Raw Wedges
Project X LZ 6.0 Spine Aligned
at D6 Swing Weight

With the wedges he was looking for more versatility around the greens to be able to hit a variety of different shots and pitches.

PUTTER

Odyssey O Works
2 Ball, 33" long
Winn Midsize Grip

We analyzed his stroke with SAM Putt Lab we determined this putter was best for his stroke. Loft was adjusted to 2° and the lie angle to 70°.

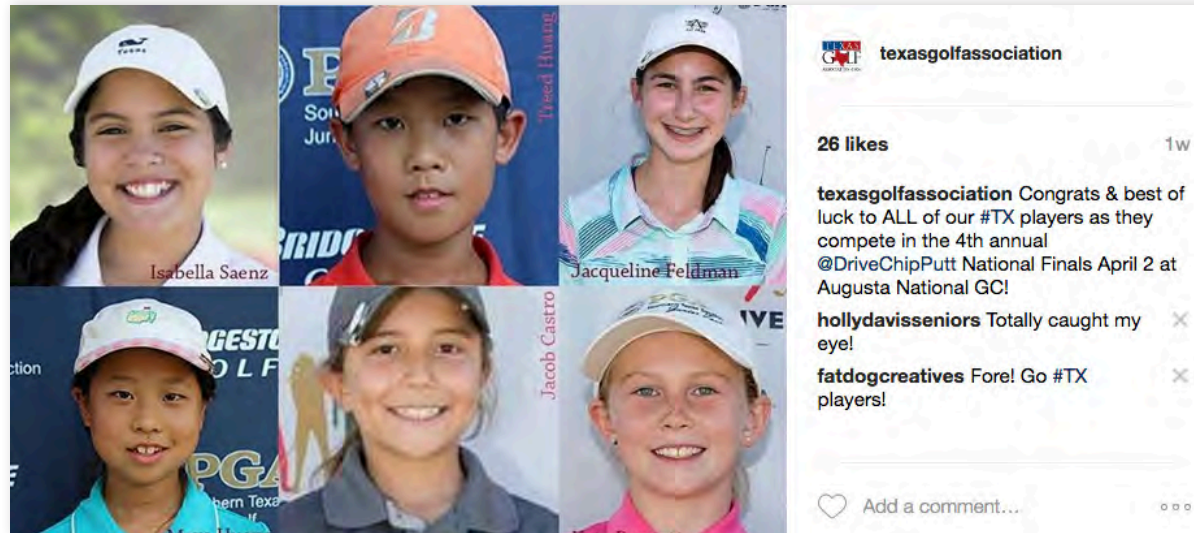
IRONS

Miura CB501 Irons 4-PW
Project X LZ 6.0
Spine Aligned at 37.5° long at D4 Swing Weight

With the new irons and shafts we increased his ball speed from 116 mph to 119 mph and his smash factor from 1.35 to 1.38. We were also able to lower his launch from 18° to 16.9° on average and his spin rate from 5900 to 5100 based off his 6 iron, which lead to more distance and a much tighter dispersion for his irons from 164 yards of carry on average to 171 yards of carry on average.

Engage with the TGA

A Look at What's Been Happening on Social Media



FEATURED FOLLOW



Cooper Dossey

This month's Lone Star Golf Featured Follow is LJT alum and current Baylor standout, Cooper Dossey! Cooper is a multiple LJT champion and is currently a freshman on the golf team at Baylor University. Learn more about Cooper below:

Hometown: Austin **Age:** 19
2017 Big 12 Golfer of the Month, February

[@Cdosseygolf](#)

What's in the bag? Titleist 917 D3 8.5*, Titleist 915 F3 Wood 15*, Titleist 916 H2 Hybrid 19*, Titleist 716 AP2 Irons, Titleist Vokey Wedges (46*, 50*, 56*, 60*), Ping Cadence TR Ketsch Putter

Favorite Course: Sage Valley Golf Club

Favorite Golfer: Steve Stricker

Favorite Follow on Social Media: [@totalgolfmove](#)

Favorite Golf Memory: "Shooting a course record 62 at Riverhill to qualify for the US Junior Amateur with my brother Luke caddying for me."

Favorite Quote: "Isaiah 30:21 'Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying 'This is the way; walk in it.'"

Like and Follow Us!



Modernizing the Rules of Golf

Earlier this year, the USGA and R&A unveiled a preview of proposed new Rules of Golf in an effort to modernize the Rules and make them easier to understand and apply.

We're currently in a six-month feedback and evaluation period, during which all golfers worldwide can learn about the proposed changes and provide input before they are finalized in 2018. The new Rules will take effect Jan. 1, 2019.

The process to modernize and simplify the Rules began in 2012 with a working group of key USGA and R&A Rules administrators, professional tour officials and other Rules experts. While the Rules are revised every four years, this is the first fundamental review since 1984. The goal is to

ensure the Rules fit the needs of today's game and the way it is played around the world.

The proposed 24 new Rules, reduced from the current 34, have been written in a user-friendly style with shorter sentences, commonly used phrases, bulleted lists and explanatory headings. The initiative also focuses on assessing the overall consistency, simplicity and fairness of the Rules for play.

In this and upcoming issues of Lone Star Golf, we'll share videos and graphics that explain the proposed new Rules. You are encouraged to review the changes and submit feedback by [clicking here](#). ★

MODERNIZING GOLF'S RULES: KEY CHANGES

The R&A and the USGA released a preview of golf's proposed Rules, which are due to take effect on January 1, 2019. Here are five of the most significant changes.

How to Drop a Ball

You will be able to drop a ball from any distance above the ground, provided it doesn't touch anything and falls through the air when dropped.



Time for Ball Search



Repairing Spike Marks



Leaving Flagstick in the Hole

If you make a stroke from on the green and your ball hits the flagstick in the hole, there will be no penalty.



Relaxed Rules in Penalty Area

You are allowed to ground your club and move loose impediments in a penalty area (an expanded concept of water hazards).



Tell us what you think about the proposed Rules changes.

We welcome feedback at usga.org and randa.org through August 31, 2017. The new Rules will go into effect January 1, 2019.



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MODERNIZING GOLF’S RULES: PACE OF PLAY IMPROVEMENTS

Implementing Rules changes that have a positive impact on pace of play is an important part of modernizing golf’s Rules.

40 seconds



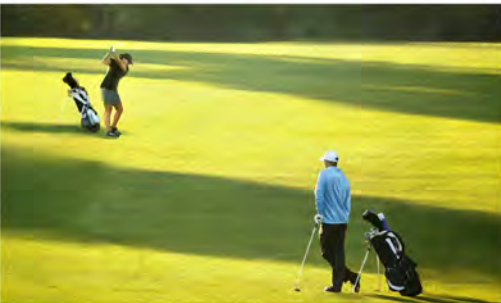
A recommendation in the Rules that you make each stroke in 40 seconds or less.



“Ready Golf”



Playing out of turn in stroke play to save time, also known as ready golf, is encouraged.



Max Score



A new stroke-play format allowing the Committee to set a maximum score for a hole.



Flagstick



If your putt hits an unattended flagstick in the hole, there will be no penalty.



Tell us what you think about the proposed Rules changes.

We welcome feedback at usga.org and randa.org through August 31, 2017. The new Rules will go into effect on January 1, 2019.

MODERNIZING GOLF’S RULES: TIMELINE

The R&A and the USGA are pleased to announce a major set of proposed changes to the Rules of Golf. While these changes are the result of an initiative that began in 2012, it’s now time for you to get involved. Below are a set of key milestones to remember before the new Rules take effect on January 1, 2019.



Be on the lookout for more stories and videos about the USGA and R&A Rules of Golf changes in future issues of Lone Star Golf!

The Big Number

1,711

The total number of birdies made through five events this season on the Legends Junior Tour, where the state's elite young players compete. That's an average of 342.2 birdies per event from the three LJT divisions: Boys 15-18, Boys 14 & Under and Girls 12-18. There also have been a total of 28 eagles recorded.

Jake Kuwitzky, a 17-year-old from McKinney, leads all LJT players with 32 birdies or better. Kuwitzky in March poured in 11 birdies and two eagles at Lakecliff Golf Club when he won the Jimmy Demaret Junior Classic. Mission's Jun Min Lee, also 17, has 29 birdies or better this year. Lee in January jarred eight birdies and an eagle in his Winter Classic victory at Dallas Athletic Club. For more information on the LJT, [click here](#). ★

They Said It

"If it wasn't for my time with the WTGA, I would not be where I am today."

– Pam Murray, who in February was appointed Chairman of the USGA Women's Committee. A longtime supporter of amateur golf from Richardson, Murray served as WTGA President in 2007-08 and was a Director from 2002-11. The USGA Women's Committee advises the USGA Executive Committee on all matters pertaining to women's golf.

Contact Us

Texas Golf Association

16200 Addison Rd., Ste. 150, Addison, TX 75001 | 214-468-8942

MANAGEMENT

Rob Addington *Executive Director*

Stacy Dennis *Managing Director,*

Membership Programs & TGA Foundation

Randy Guillot *Managing Director, Finance*

Kelly Erb *Executive Assistant*

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Mackenzie Brown *Membership Services Admin.*

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