



3rd U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship – Fact Sheet

May 27-31, 2017, Pinehurst Resort & Country Club (Course Nos. 2 and 8), Village of Pinehurst, N.C.
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Course Setup

Pinehurst Resort & Country Club's Course No. 2 will be set up at 7,161 yards and will play to a par of 35-35-70, and its Course No. 8, which will serve as the stroke-play co-host course for the first two rounds, will be set up at 7,073 yards and play to a par of 36-35-71. Based on the setup, the Course Rating™ for Course No. 2 is 74.8 and the Slope Rating® is 138. The Course Rating™ for Course No. 8 is 74.0 and the Slope Rating® is 141.

Pinehurst Resort & Country Club (No. 2) Hole by Hole

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Par	4	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	3	35
Yards	397	470	383	474	554	216	420	451	163	3,528

Hole	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Par	5	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	35
Yards	601	448	419	385	468	180	485	201	446	3,633

Pinehurst Resort & Country Club (No. 8) Hole by Hole

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Par	4	5	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	36
Yards	361	556	379	462	147	605	370	229	438	3,547

Hole	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Par	4	5	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	35
Yards	440	575	369	208	405	187	400	495	447	3,526

Note: Yardages subject to change.

About Pinehurst

Donald Ross designed the course, which opened in 1907. The first nine holes were completed in 1901. Ross fine-tuned the layout several times through 1946. Rees Jones completed renovations prior to the 1999 U.S. Open. Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw restored the course to Ross' original design, bringing back many of Ross' original design characteristics over a yearlong project that included work on every hole. The restoration was completed in March 2011.

Admission

Admission is free. Tickets are not required for this USGA championship and spectators are encouraged to attend.

Entries

The championship is open to teams (or sides) of amateurs, with each player's Handicap Index® not exceeding 5.4. The deadline for entries was Aug. 10, 2016. Partners on a team (or side) do not have age restrictions and are not required to be from the same club, state or country. The USGA accepted 2,412 team entries for the 2017 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship.

Championship Field

The starting field of 128 sides (256 players) will play 18 holes of stroke play on May 27 and May 28, with the low 32 sides (64 players) after 36 holes advancing to match play. Five 18-hole rounds of match play will determine the champion.

Sectional Qualifying

Sectional qualifying, played over 18 holes, is being conducted at 51 sites nationwide between Aug. 25, 2016 and April 17, 2017. These qualifying sites are located in 37 states, including five in California and three in Florida and New York.

Exempt Players

The following seven sides – 14 players – are fully exempt into the 2017 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball:

- **Sherrill Britt/Greg Earnhardt** (2015 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball runners-up)
- **Brandon Cigna/Ben Warnquist** (2016 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball runners-up)
- **Patrick Christovich/Garrett Rank** (2016 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball semifinalists)
- **Clark Engle/Will Grimmer** (Top 400 WAGR)
- **Wilson Furr/Davis Shore** (Top 400 WAGR)
- **David Kocher/William Rainey** (Top 400 WAGR)
- **Nathan Smith/Todd White** (2015 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball champions)

Schedule of Play

Practice rounds will take place May 25-26, and the championship schedule is as follows:

May 27 (Saturday): First round, stroke play

May 28 (Sunday): Second round, stroke play

May 29 (Monday): First round, match play

May 30 (Tuesday): Second and quarterfinal rounds, match play

May 31 (Wednesday): Semifinal and championship rounds, match play

What the Winners Receive

- A 10-year exemption from qualifying for the U.S. Amateur Four-Ball, provided the side remains intact
- A gold medal and custody of the U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Trophy for one year

2016 Championship

Benjamin Baxter and Andrew Buchanan, teammates at Southern Methodist University, defeated Brandon Cigna and Ben Warnquist, 3 and 2, in the final match to win the 2nd U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship on the East Course at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, N.Y. Baxter, 20, of Flower Mound, Texas, and Buchanan, 21, of Los Altos, Calif., found themselves all square through 11 holes against Cigna, 30, of Arlington, Va., and Warnquist, 23, of Olney, Md., but sprinted to the finish line with wins on 12, 14 and 15. Throughout the five match-play rounds, Baxter and Buchanan played 40 holes on the inward nine in 14 under par, given match-play concessions.

Championship History

The U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship was played for the first time in 2015, along with the U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball. The championships are the first additions to the USGA competition roster since the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur was first conducted in 1987. The addition of the two Amateur Four-Ball championships to the USGA competition schedule was announced on Feb. 11, 2013.

Future U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Sites

May 19-23, 2018: Jupiter Hills Club, Tequesta, Fla.

May 25-29, 2019: Chambers Bay, University Place, Wash.

May 23-27, 2020: Philadelphia (Pa.) Cricket Club

What is the Difference Between Four-Ball and Foursomes?

While each involves four players, four-ball and foursomes are different formats.

- In four-ball, matches are played in pairs (a player and a partner, called a side, against another player and partner), with each golfer playing his or her own ball on each hole. At the end of each hole, the player with the lowest score wins that hole for the side. In stroke play, the low score is the side's score for that hole.
- Foursomes matches are also played in pairs (one side against another side), but each pair only plays with one ball. In this format, each player takes turns hitting the ball from the teeing ground and during play of each hole, with "Player A" hitting the tee shot, "Player B" the second shot, "Player A" the third, and so on. While the side can choose the order, if "Player A" hits the tee shots on odd-numbered holes, "Player B" must hit them on even-numbered holes.

USGA Championships at Pinehurst

1962 U.S. Amateur: Labron E. Harris Jr. def. Downing Gray, 1 up

1989 U.S. Women's Amateur: Vicki Goetze def. Brandie Burton, 4 and 3

1994 U.S. Senior Open: Simon Hobday won by one stroke over Jim Albus and Graham Marsh, 274-275

1999 U.S. Open: Payne Stewart won by one stroke over Phil Mickelson, 279-280

2005 U.S. Open: Michael Campbell won by two strokes over Tiger Woods, 280-282

2008 U.S. Amateur: Danny Lee def. Drew Kittleson, 5 and 4

2014 U.S. Open: Martin Kaymer won by eight strokes over Erik Compton and Rickie Fowler, 271-279

2014 U.S. Women's Open: Michelle Wie won by two strokes over Stacy Lewis, 278-280

2017 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball

2019 U.S. Amateur

2024 U.S. Open

Pinehurst is the only club to have hosted the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open, U.S. Senior Open, U.S. Amateur and U.S. Women's Amateur.

Other Championships at Pinehurst

1936 PGA Championship: Denny Shute def. Jimmy Thompson, 3 and 2

1951 Ryder Cup Matches, the USA team defeated the Great Britain team, 9½ to 2½

1980 Men's and Women's World Amateur Team Championships: the USA team won both the men's and women's competitions (men's team: Jim Holtgrieve, Jay Sigel and Hal Sutton; women's team: Juli Inkster, Patrice Rizzo and Carol Semple Thompson)

1991 Tour Championship: Craig Stadler won in a two-hole playoff over Russ Cochran, 279

1992 Tour Championship: Paul Azinger won by three strokes over Lee Janzen and Corey Pavin, 276-279

USGA Championships in North Carolina

The 2017 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball will be the 29th USGA championship conducted in North Carolina. The last championships played in the Tar Heel State were the 2014 U.S. Open, won by Martin Kaymer, and 2014 U.S. Women's Open, won by Michelle Wie, at Pinehurst No. 2. This will be the first U.S. Amateur Four-Ball played in the state.

Upcoming USGA championships to be conducted in North Carolina are:

- 2018 U.S. Mid-Amateur at Charlotte Country Club (Sept. 22-27)
- 2019 U.S. Senior Women's Open at Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club in Southern Pines (May 16-19)
- 2019 U.S. Amateur at Pinehurst (Aug. 12-18)
- 2019 U.S. Senior Amateur at Old Chatham Golf Club in Durham (Aug. 24-29)
- 2024 U.S. Open at Pinehurst (June 13-16)

Media Information

To apply for media credentials, visit usga.org/media.html. This site also includes important and regularly updated championship information. The USGA will offer daily, complimentary high-resolution photographs during the U.S. Amateur Four-Ball strictly for editorial use. For more information, email photorequests@usga.org. Contact Vanessa Zink for more information regarding U.S. Amateur Four-Ball coverage at vzink@usga.org, 908-326-1848 (office) or 908-217-8197 (mobile).

