



LIBERTY CORNER, N.J. (May 2, 2024) – Eleven champions, including two-time winner and defending champion Bernhard Langer, are among the 3,019 entries accepted by the United States Golf Association (USGA) for the 44th U.S. Senior Open Championship. The U.S. Senior Open will be played for the first time at Newport (R.I.) Country Club, from June 27-30.

This year's entry total surpassed the 3,000 mark for the fifth time and is the third-highest in championship history. The record was established in 2002, when 3,101 applied to play. The USGA accepted entries for the 2024 championship from golfers in all 50 U.S. states, including 31 from host state Rhode Island, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 43 foreign countries.

Langer, the 2010 and 2023 titleholder who just returned to competition following an Achilles tear, and 10 other U.S. Senior Open champions are fully exempt from having to qualify for the championship. They are: Olin Browne (2011), Fred Funk (2009), Jim Furyk (2021), Padraig Harrington (2022), Jeff Maggert (2015), Colin Montgomerie (2014), Kenny Perry (2013, 2017), Gene Sauers (2016), Steve Stricker (2019) and David Toms (2018). Last year at SentryWorld in Stevens Point, Wis., Langer, at age 65, became the seventh player to win multiple Senior Opens while becoming the oldest-ever champion.

"The USGA is pleased to return to Newport Country Club, one of the Association's five founding members and the place where the first U.S. Amateur and first U.S. Open were conducted," said USGA Chief Championships Officer John Bodenhamer. "Once again, the number of entries represents the great interest that thousands of golfers worldwide have in competing for a place in senior golf's most prestigious championship and ultimately hoisting the Francis D. Ouimet Trophy as champion."

The U.S. Senior Open is open to professional golfers, and amateurs with a Handicap Index® not exceeding 2.4, who are at least 50 years of age by the start of championship play.

Qualifying will be conducted over 18 holes at 33 sites across the United States between May 13 and June 5. There are qualifying sites in 22 states, including five in California, four in Florida and three in Texas. Additional places in the 156-player field are reserved for eligible winners of official PGA Tour and PGA Tour Champions events in the weeks remaining before the 2024 U.S. Senior Open.

There are five U.S. Open champions among the 81 exempt players. They include two-time champions Ernie Els (1994, 1997), Retief Goosen (2001, 2004) and Lee Janzen (1993, 1998), as well as Michael Campbell (2005) and Furyk (2003). Seven U.S. Open runners-up are also exempt: Els (2000), Furyk (2006, 2007, 2016), Miguel Angel Jimenez (2000), Tom Lehman (1996), Rocco Mediate (2008), Montgomerie (1994, 1997, 2006) and Jeff Sluman (1992).

Major champions are also among the group of exempt players and include Masters winners Langer, Mark O'Meara, Vijay Singh and Mike Weir; PGA champions Harrington, Singh, Sluman, Toms and Y.E. Yang; and winners of The Open Championship: Mark Calcavecchia, Stewart Cink, Darren Clarke, Els, Harrington, Justin Leonard, Lehman and O'Meara.

John Kelley, a 59-year-old amateur from Polson, Mont., submitted his entry 1 minute, 57 seconds before the deadline of 5 p.m. EDT on May 1. Matt Schalk, a 53-year-old professional from Erie, Colo., was the first entrant on Feb. 20. Lawrence Clemons, a professional from Bath Township, Mich., is the oldest entrant at age 74.

Newport Country Club is hosting its first Senior Open and fifth USGA championship. The club was the host site for the inaugural U.S. Open and U.S. Amateur in 1895. Tiger Woods won the 1995 U.S. Amateur and Annika Sorenstam captured the 2006 U.S. Women's Open at the historic venue.

More information about the U.S. Senior Open before, during and after the 2024 championship at Newport Country Club can be found at [ussenioropen.com](https://ussenioropen.com).

The list of the 81 golfers who are fully exempt into the 2024 U.S. Senior Open (as of May 2):

|                    |                           |                          |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Steven Alker       | Steve Flesch              | Katsumasa Miyamoto       |
| Robert Allenby     | Harrison Frazar           | <b>Colin Montgomerie</b> |
| Stephen Ames       | Hiroyuki Fujita           | Mark O'Meara             |
| Billy Andrade      | <b>Fred Funk</b>          | Rod Pampling             |
| Stuart Appleby     | <b>Jim Furyk</b>          | Scott Parel              |
| Phillip Archer     | Brian Gay                 | Tom Pernice Jr.          |
| Woody Austin       | Ricardo Gonzalez          | <b>Kenny Perry</b>       |
| Peter Baker        | Retief Goosen             | Philip Price             |
| Craig Barlow       | Richard Green             | Dicky Pride              |
| Thomas Bjorn       | Jay Haas                  | Brett Quigley            |
| Paul Broadhurst    | Joakim Haeggman           | <b>Gene Sauers</b>       |
| <b>Olin Browne</b> | <b>Padraig Harrington</b> | Vijay Singh              |
| Mark Calcavecchia  | Mark Hensby               | Patrik Sjoland           |
| Michael Campbell   | Greig Hutcheon            | Jeff Sluman              |
| Alex Cejka         | Thongchai Jaidee          | Paul Stankowski          |
| K.J. Choi          | Lee Janzen                | <b>Steve Stricker</b>    |
| Stewart Cink       | Miguel Angel Jimenez      | a-Mark Strickland        |

|                  |                        |                   |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Darren Clarke    | Michael Jonzon         | Kevin Sutherland  |
| Adilson da Silva | Robert Karlsson        | Ken Tanigawa      |
| Marco Dawson     | Jerry Kelly            | <b>David Toms</b> |
| Stephen Dodd     | Rob Labritz            | Kirk Triplett     |
| Ken Duke         | <b>Bernhard Langer</b> | Scott Verplank    |
| Stephen Dundas   | Tom Lehman             | Mike Weir         |
| Joe Durant       | Justin Leonard         | Lee Westwood      |
| Ernie Els        | <b>Jeff Maggert</b>    | a-Todd White      |
| Bob Estes        | Nobuhiro Masuda        | Charlie Wi        |
| a-Jody Fanagan   | Rocco Mediate          | Y.E. Yang         |

**BOLD** - U.S. Senior Open champion

a-amateur

#### **About the USGA**

The USGA is a mission-based golf organization whose purpose is to unify the golf community through handicapping and grassroots programs; to showcase the game's best talent through the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open Presented by Ally and 13 other national championships and our museum; to provide unbiased global governance with The R&A through the playing, equipment and Amateur Status rules; and to advance issues important to golf's future, with a focus on driving sustainability, accessibility and inclusion. As a nonprofit association, our work and our team are driven to act for the good of the game. For more, visit [usga.org](https://usga.org)

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