

FAR HILLS, N.J. (May 11, 2017) – The United States Golf Association today announced that it has accepted 2,680 entries for the 38th U.S. Senior Open Championship, scheduled for June 29-July 2, 2017 at Salem Country Club in Peabody, Mass. Twelve past champions are among the 83 players who are currently fully exempt into the championship.

“We look forward to bringing the U.S. Senior Open Championship to Salem Country Club for the first time since 2001 and adding another chapter to the club’s storied history,” said Stuart Francis, USGA Championship Committee chairman. “The U.S. Senior Open is considered senior golf’s most coveted championship. The number of entries demonstrates the great interest in competing for the Francis D. Ouimet Memorial Trophy.”

The U.S. Senior Open is open to professional golfers, and amateurs with a Handicap Index® not exceeding 3.4 who are 50 years of age at the start of championship play.

Sectional qualifying will be played over 18 holes at 34 sites across the United States between May 15 and June 12. There are qualifying sites in 27 states, including five in California and three in Florida. In addition, 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 2017 U.S. Senior Open.

The USGA accepted entries from golfers in 48 states, including 81 from Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia, as well as 25 foreign countries. The record for entries was established in 2002, when 3,101 golfers applied to play.

This will be the third U.S. Senior Open in New England and the second at Salem Country Club. Bruce Fleisher won at Salem in 2001, defeating Isao Aoki and Gil Morgan by one stroke. Fleisher, the runner-up in the previous year’s U.S. Senior Open to Hale Irwin, shot a 2-under 68 in the final round. In 1987, Gary Player won by six strokes over Doug Sanders at Brooklawn Country Club in Fairfield, Conn.

Salem Country Club is hosting its sixth USGA championship. Two of the greatest players in golf history have earned the U.S. Women’s Open title at the club. Babe Didrikson Zaharias claimed her third Women’s Open in 1954 while Hollis Stacy also won her third in 1984. Salem also hosted the 1932 U.S. Women’s Amateur (won by Virginia Van Wie) and 1977 U.S. Senior Amateur (won by Dale Morey).

Gene Sauers, the defending champion, and 11 other Senior Open champions are fully exempt from having to qualify for the championship. They are: Olin Browne (2011), Brad Bryant (2007), Roger Chapman (2012), Allen Doyle (2005, 2006), Dave Eichelberger (1999), Hale Irwin (1998, 2000), Peter Jacobsen (2004), Bernhard Langer (2010), Jeff Maggert (2015), Colin Montgomerie (2014), and Kenny Perry (2013).

There are five U.S. Open champions among the 83 exempt players. They are: three-time champion Hale Irwin (1974, 1979, 1990), two-time champion Lee Janzen (1993, 1998), Tom Kite (1992), Corey Pavin (1995) and Tom Watson (1982). There are also nine U.S. Open runners-up entered. They are: Nick Faldo (1988), Miguel Angel Jimenez (2000), Tom Lehman (1996), Rocco Mediate (2008), Colin Montgomerie (1994, 1997, 2006), Loren Roberts (1994), Jeff Sluman (1992), Watson (1983, 1987) and Ian Woosnam (1989).

For the seventh consecutive year, only online entries were accepted, beginning on March 8. Andy Santor, a 52-year-old professional from Youngstown, Ohio, submitted his entry two minutes and 17 seconds before the deadline of 5 p.m. EDT on May 10. Doug Clapp, a 49-year-old amateur (will turn 50 on May 28) from Walpole, Mass., was the first entrant.

More information about the U.S. Senior Open before, during and after the 2017 championship at Salem Country Club can be found at www.usga.org.

The list of the 83 golfers who are fully exempt into the 2017 U.S. Senior Open (as of May 10):

Michael Allen

Stephen Ames

Billy Andrade

Tommy Armour III

Magnus Atlevi

Woody Austin

Andre Bossert

Paul Broadhurst

Olin Browne

Bart Bryant

Brad Bryant

Tom Byrum

Mark Calcavecchia

Roger Chapman

John Cook

Fred Couples

John Daly

Marco Dawson

Allen Doyle

Scott Dunlap

Joe Durant

Dave Eichelberger

Bob Estes

Nick Faldo

Steve Flesch

Peter Fowler

Carlos Franco

David Frost

Doug Garwood

Philip Golding

Mike Goodes

Paul Goydos

Jay Haas

Scott Hoch

John Huston

Kohki Idoki

Hale Irwin

Peter Jacobsen

Lee Janzen

Miguel Angel Jimenez

Brandt Jobe

Jerry Kelly

Tom Kite

Barry Lane

Bernhard Langer

Tom Lehman

Steve Lowery

a-Chip Lutz

Jeff Maggert

Prayad Marksaeng

Billy Mayfair

Scott McCarron

a-Michael McCoy

Rocco Mediate

Colin Montgomerie

Gil Morgan

Jose Maria Olazabal

Mark O'Meara

Jesper Parnevik

Corey Pavin

Tom Pernice Jr.

Kenny Perry

Loren Roberts

a-Dave Ryan

Takeshi Sakiyama

Gene Sauers

Wes Short Jr.

Joey Sindelar

Vijay Singh

Jeff Sluman

Jerry Smith

Steve Stricker

a-Matthew Sughrue

Kevin Sutherland

Esteban Toledo

David Toms

Kirk Triplett

Bob Tway

Scott Verplank

Duffy Waldorf

Tom Watson

Mark Wiebe

Ian Woosnam

Bold – U.S. Senior Open champion a-amateur

About the USGA

The USGA conducts the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Senior Open, as well as 10 annual amateur championships, two state team championships and international matches, attracting players and fans from more than 160 countries. Together with The R&A, the USGA governs the game worldwide, jointly administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, equipment standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings. The USGA's reach is global with a working jurisdiction in the United States, its territories and Mexico, serving more than 25 million golfers and actively engaging 150 golf associations.

The USGA is one of the world's foremost authorities on research, development and support of sustainable golf facility management practices. It serves as a primary steward for the game's history and invests in the development of the game through the delivery of its services and its ongoing "For the Good of the Game" grants program. Additionally, the USGA's Course Rating and Handicap systems are used on six continents

in more than 50 countries.

For more information about the USGA, visit usga.org.

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