

2019 Greater Houston City Amateur Championship

Gus Wortham Park Golf Course, Houston, TX

September 27 – September 29, 2019



Defending Champion: Grant Schroeder

ELIGIBILITY: Entries are open to male amateur golfers who: (a) have current USGA Handicap Indexes issued from a **USGA "Authorized Golf Club"** that do not exceed 15.4 and (b) minimum 6 months permanent residency in the Greater Houston area which includes the following counties: Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller. A list of "**Authorized Golf Clubs**" licensed to use the USGA Handicap System may be found online at www.usga.org under *Handicapping*. **Exempt players must meet these requirements.**

ENTRY FEE: Entry fee for qualifiers is **\$100.00**. Exempt players must pay a one-time entry fee of **\$125.00** and register by July 29th, 2019. Qualifiers will automatically be charged the **\$125.00** Championship entry fee upon qualifying. This fee includes green fees and range balls for all rounds of qualifying and the Championship. Contestants must pay a cart fee if they choose to ride. Any costs not covered by the entry fee are the responsibility of the player.

DEADLINE: Registrations must be submitted online by **11:59 p.m. C.D.T. 5 days before qualifiers or until qualifiers are full.** Entries shall be submitted online at www.hga.org/amateur-golf/. A \$10 cancellation fee will be charged if a cancellation request is submitted before the registration deadline. No refund for any reason after qualifiers registration deadline. Phone entries will not be accepted. Entries should be submitted early to allow ample time for delay or error in transmission. The responsibility of ensuring the entry is received by the HGA lies solely with the applicant. Entries are subject to rejection at any time (including during the Championship) by the HGA.

PAIRINGS: Pairings will be determined approximately 2-5 days prior to the qualifying/championship date and posted online at www.hga.org/amateur-golf/. If a player does not receive his pairings information via email or the HGA website, it is his responsibility to contact the HGA. Players who fail to appear for their assigned starting time without notifying the HGA may be ineligible to participate in the event the next year.

PRACTICE ROUND: Practice rounds for qualifiers are handled through the host facility, not the HGA.

EXEMPTION CATEGORIES: **(1)** Past Champions since 2014; **(2)** 2018 Top Ten Finishers & Ties; **(3)** Texas Statewide Champions -- *2019 Mid-Amateur, 2019 Mid-Amateur Match Play, 2019 Amateur* **(4)** Qualifiers for USGA Championships – *2018 U.S. Mid-Amateur, 2019 U.S. Amateur, 2019 U.S. Open*, **(5)** From the 2019 Medalist Golf Association Point Standings, season ending Points Leader; **(6)** From the 2018 Texas Golf Association South Region Point Standings, top five finishers; **(7)** 2019 TGA South Region Amateur Champion; **(8)** 2019 Houston City Junior Champion (Boys Division); **(9)** 2018 Greater Houston Senior City Amateur Champion (Senior Division).

QUALIFIER: 18-hole stroke play (gross) competition. The number of qualifiers at each site will be based on the size of the field and determined after entries close. Entries are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis for each qualifying site. Sites are limited to the first 78 players.

CHAMPIONSHIP: 72-hole stroke play (gross) competition, including 144 local qualifiers and exempt players. The field will be cut after 36 holes to the top 40 players and ties.

* Friday, September 27: First round, 18 holes * Saturday, September 28: Second round, 18 holes

* Sunday, September 29: A.M. Third round, 18 holes; P.M. Fourth round, 18 holes

RAINDATE: If the course is declared unplayable and as a result it is not possible to complete 36 holes of play in which the Championship is scheduled or if a round in progress has not been completed, the Championship may be extended to **Monday, September 30th, 2019**. The HGA reserves the right to alter any of the conditions and schedules herein. The decision of the HGA in any matter shall be final.

TIES: In the event of a tie for 1st place during the Championship it shall be decided immediately by a hole-by-hole playoff. All other ties will be determined by the USGA recommendation found in Committee Procedures Section 5-7 of the USGA *Rules of Golf*.

AWARDS: Championship - Awards will be given to the top 3 places. The top ten finishers and ties receive an exemption into the 2020 Championship; the champion receives a five-year exemption into the Championship.

ALTERNATES: The HGA will rank all qualifying sites based on the size and quality of the field. Any withdraw coming from players who earned their position through qualifying will be replaced by an alternate from the same qualifying site prior to the pairings being published. The #1 ranked qualifying site alternates will then be used, and so forth. Alternates will be determined by the USGA recommended tie-breaking method.

REFUNDS/WITHDRAWS: Players who withdraw prior to the entry deadline will receive a \$90 refund. **Players who withdraw after the entry deadline will receive no refund.**

RULES OF GOLF: The USGA *Rules of Golf* will govern play in addition to any Local Rules and Conditions of Competition set forth by the HGA Committee. The competition shall be deemed closed when the Championship trophy is presented to the winner.

DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES: In accordance with USGA *Rules of Golf*, the Note under Rule 4.3a for HGA events is in effect. Therefore, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance **only**. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.) the player is in breach of Rule 4.3a, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional information function is actually used.

GOLF BALLS/DRIVER HEADS: Only brands of golf balls on the most current USGA List of Conforming Golf Balls and driver heads on the most current USGA List of Conforming Driver Heads may be used.

PERFORMANCE LOCAL QUALIFYING: If a player fails to return a score within 15 strokes of the qualifying score, an entry filed by him for a future HGA Championship may be declined, unless the player can document that he is capable of competing at the local championship level.

CODE OF CONDUCT: All players shall adhere to the following rules of conduct:

No player or his caddie shall: (1) verbally or physically abuse, threaten or disrespect a fellow player, caddie, official, spectator, employee or other persons competing, conducting or attending an HGA event; (2) use obscene language; (3) or cause physical damage to, or loss of, property or equipment of any of the parties set forth above or of the host facility; or (4) use or be under the influence of alcohol, or an unauthorized controlled substance during an HGA event.

Any violation of the above code of conduct or other rules and regulations of this event is grounds for immediate disqualification and removal from the event, and denial of entry for future HGA events.

SOFT SPIKES AND APPROPRIATE ATTIRE: The HGA honors and requires all players and their caddies to adhere to the golf attire and soft spike policy that is in effect at any host club.

TRANSPORTATION/CADDIES: Players may walk or ride at the discretion of the player. Caddies are permitted. Carts are limited to two (2) carts per group. Players are responsible for cart fee on site.

PUBLICITY/PROMOTION: By submitting the application for entry, players consent to the use by the HGA, or persons authorized by the HGA, of his name, likeness, voice and references to him and photographs and other images of him and his play connected with his appearance in the Championship, or any portion(s) thereof, in promotional materials.

CONTACT: **Houston Golf Association, City Amateur**, 7000 Capitol Street, Houston, TX, 77011. Please call (281) 454-7000 or email amateurgolf@hga.org for more information.