

U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship Qualifying
Willow Oaks Country Club
July 27, 2026



in association with
USGA®

QUALIFYING MEMORANDUM TO PLAYERS

HOST CLUB

Willow Oaks Country Club
6228 Forest Hill Ave.
Richmond, VA 23225
Director of Golf: Sean Patterson
(804) 272-1451

FORMAT/QUALIFYING PLACES: Stroke play competition conducted over 18 holes. The field of 120 contestants will compete for a to be determined number of qualifying places and two (2) alternate positions in the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship.

PRACTICE ROUND AVAILABILITY: Each player is entitled to one practice round at a rate of \$50. Practice round starting times are available on Sunday, July 26th beginning at 12:30pm. Sunday practice rounds are for players only. Players must call (804) 272-1451 to reserve a starting time. Additional days/times may be available upon request.

STARTING TIMES: There will be morning and afternoon waves of starting times of hole #1 and #10 (8:00am and 12:30pm). Groupings and starting times will be available on Thursday, July 23rd. If your plans have changed and you will no longer plan to compete in this qualifier, please let us know as soon as possible.

CLUB FACILITIES: The practice facilities and golf shop will open at 7:00am. The club is currently undergoing renovations, so there will be no clubhouse or locker room access, but temporary restrooms will be available.

CADDIES: Players may have a caddie and there are no restrictions on who may serve as a caddie.

CARTS: Players must walk at all times, with the exception of any Committee-provided shuttles. Caddies may rent motorized carts to transport clubs during the qualifying rounds for a fee of \$25. Pull/push carts are allowed for player/caddie use.

FOOD SERVICE: Grab and go food will be available starting at 10:00am in the Oakstream snack bar, located behind hole #9 green. Water will be available on #1 and #10 but players should come prepared with any breakfast or additional snack items prior to 10:00am.

PAYMENT OPTIONS: Credit cards and cash will accepted for payment in the golf shop. Only cash will be accepted in the Oakstream for food and beverage.

PLAYOFF: In the event of a tie for the last qualifying place(s), there will be a hole-by-hole playoff to determine the final qualifiers and the 1st and 2nd alternate, if necessary. All announcements regarding the play-off will be made at the public scoreboard upon completion of the qualifying round.

EVACUATION PLAN: In the event of a discontinuance of play during the qualifier, players must adhere to the evacuation plan posted on the event website.



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DMDS: In qualifying and in the Championship proper, a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4.3. For more information, visit www.usga.org/dmd.

MODEL LOCAL RULES G-11 and G-12: MLR G-11 (Restricting use of Green-Reading Materials) and MLR G-12 (Prohibiting Use of Materials to Help Read the Line of Play for Stroke from Putting Green) are **not** in effect for U.S. Mid-Amateur Qualifying. The interpretation on the limitation of green-reading materials in 4.3a/1, which limits the size and scale of putting green maps, is still in effect as a part of the 2023 Rules of Golf. Additional information can be found at usga.org/GRM.

PACE OF PLAY: It is a condition that players must play without undue delay and in accordance with guidelines established by committee. See below for details on the pace of play policy that will be used for this qualifier.

FOOTWEAR: Rule 4.3 is modified in this way: During a round, a player must not wear shoes with traditionally-designed spikes (regardless of composition, i.e., ceramic, plastic, etc.) or spikes of any design, comprised either entirely or partially of metal (if such metal may come in contact with the course). Penalty for breach of this Local Rule: See Rule 4.3.

GOLF BALLS/DRIVERS/CLUBS: The Local Rule requiring that all golf balls used be on the List of Conforming Golf Balls is in effect. See Model Local Rule G-3. The Local Rule for Conforming Driver Heads is in effect, See Model Local Rule G-1. The players clubs **must conform** to the grooves and punch mark specifications in The Rules of Golf that are effective from January 1, 2010. See Model Local Rule G-2. Please check the USGA website, www.usga.org, for a list of approved golf balls and drivers and complete language on the referenced Model Local Rules.

CODE OF CONDUCT: As set forth in the USGA application, the code of conduct applies to all USGA Qualifying and Championships.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE: Contestants and caddies must be neat in appearance. Short shorts, tee shirts, tank tops and blue jeans are prohibited.

CELL PHONE POLICY: Please keep your cell phone on silent while on the property. If you must take a phone call, please do so in a private manner.

AWARD CEREMONY: The awards ceremony will take place at the scoreboard once the qualifiers and alternates are determined. A silver medal will be awarded to the lowest scorer.

OFFICIAL IN CHARGE:

Josh Coates, Virginia State Golf Association
(804) 378-2300 x19 (office)
jcoates@vsga.org

If it becomes necessary to withdraw prior to the date of the competition, please contact the VSGA and the USGA at (908) 326-1950 or champs@usga.org.



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TENTATIVE YARDAGES

HOLE	PAR	YARDAGE
1	4	329
2	3	165
3	4	463
4	4	411
5	5	577
6	4	420
7	3	178
8	5	520
9	4	390
OUT	36	3453
10	4	318
11	3	187
12	5	477
13	4	431
14	4	349
15	3	232
16	5	590
17	4	467
18	4	434
IN	36	3485
TOTAL	72	6938



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Pace of Play Guidelines

Allotted Time

The allotted time established by the Committee is the maximum amount of time a group should take to complete the play of each hole. This time is adjusted based on the difficulty of the course, travel time between holes, group size and ability of the field. A normal speed of play should result in completing play under the allotted time.

Definition of “Out of Position”

The first group will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, the group takes more than the allotted time as detailed above.

Any following group will be considered out of position if it is taking more than the allotted time and:

- i. reaches a par 3 hole that is clear of all play and all players in the preceding group have played their strokes on the teeing ground of the next hole; or
- ii. reaches a par 4 or 5 hole which is clear of all play.

Note: A group or player that is clearly playing at a pace that is slower than others in the field may be deemed by the Committee to be “Out of Position” even if the group is within the allotted time.

Communication with a Group that is Out of Position

Groups will be monitored throughout the round. If a group is out of position, the players in that group may be monitored more closely and timed. Prior to a group being timed, a referee will issue a verbal warning to the group between the play of two holes.

Timing

When a group is being timed, each player in the group is expected to play all strokes within 40 seconds. Timing begins when it is the player’s turn to play and nothing is obstructing his/her play. An extra 20 seconds will be given to:

- i. the first player to play a stroke on a hole;
- ii. the first to play a second shot on a par 4 or par 5;
- iii. the first player to play a third stroke on a par 5 (provided it is not played from on or within 10 yards of the putting green); or
- iv. the first player to play a stroke from within 10 yards of or on the putting green.

Pace of Play Penalties

One bad time – *Warning*

A second bad time – *One stroke penalty*

A third bad time – *Additional two stroke penalty (three total)*

A fourth bad time – *Disqualification*

Note 1: Bad time(s) will remain with the player for the remainder of the stipulated round.

Note 2: A player is not exempt from penalty under Rule 5.6b simply because he/she takes less than the allotted time to complete a stroke, hole or round.

Rules or Other Incidents

If a ruling or some other legitimate delay occurs which causes the group in question to lose its position, that group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.