



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR DRIVE, CHIP AND PUTT QUALIFIERS

Parents Can Register Their Junior Golfers, Get More Information at DriveChipandPutt.com

AUGUSTA, Ga. – The USGA, Masters Tournament and the PGA of America announced that qualifying registration for Drive, Chip and Putt is now officially open on DriveChipandPutt.com.

This fun, free and nationwide youth golf development initiative invites boys and girls, ages 7-15, to participate in local qualifying opportunities in all 50 states throughout the months of May, June, July and August. Entrants will play in girls' and boys' divisions in four age categories, with scoring centered around golf's three fundamental skills (Driving, Chipping and Putting). Top performers at the local level will advance through subregional and regional qualifiers in July/August and September, respectively, at some of the nation's most acclaimed venues and championship sites. From these qualifiers, 80 finalists – 40 boys and 40 girls – will earn an invitation to compete in the National Finals at Augusta National Golf Club on Sunday, April 7, the eve of the 2019 Masters Tournament.

“The future of our game can be seen in each junior golfer that participates in the 350 Drive, Chip and Putt events across the country,” said Diana Murphy, president of the USGA. “We are grateful for the communities, golf clubs, parents, families and volunteers that encourage each young golfer to participate and chase their dream to compete at the national level.”

“We continue to celebrate the early popularity of Drive, Chip and Putt, and we remain energized by the smiles this program brings to thousands of kids from around the country,” said Fred Ridley, Chairman of Augusta National Golf Club and the Masters Tournament. “We are fortunate to partner with two organizations – the USGA and PGA of America – who take a leadership role in the successful management and growth of this initiative and share our enthusiasm for golf's future.”

“Drive, Chip and Putt is a special opportunity for the game's new generation, as tens of thousands of girls and boys are able to showcase their golf skills in a fun, exciting and dynamic format,” said PGA President Paul Levy. “Over the past five years, the unique partnership between the PGA of America, USGA and Masters Tournament has provided a sustained impact on these junior golfers at the grassroots level, as they pursue their passion and dream for playing the game. PGA Professionals and our 41 PGA Sections host qualifying events, as we proudly welcome the future of our game to play a game they will love for a lifetime.”

– MORE –

Local qualifying begins Saturday, May 5, 2018. The full breakdown and schedule of 2018 Drive, Chip and Putt qualifying is as follows:

Local (May/June/July/August):	288 host sites throughout all 50 states 3 juniors advance in each age/gender category from every venue
Subregional (July/August):	57 host sites throughout 33 states 2 juniors advance in each age/gender category from every venue
Regional (September):	10 host sites in 10 regions 1 junior advances in each age/gender category from every venue
National Finals (April 7, 2019):	80 total participants at Augusta National Golf Club

The current fifth season of Drive, Chip and Putt will conclude on the eve of the upcoming Masters Tournament, with 80 junior golfers competing in the National Finals at Augusta National on Sunday, April 1. Golf Channel will broadcast the event live.

For more information about Drive, Chip and Putt, including official rules and a full listing of qualifying sites, please visit DriveChipandPutt.com.

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About Drive, Chip and Putt

A joint initiative founded in 2013 by the Masters Tournament, United States Golf Association and the PGA of America, Drive, Chip and Putt is a free, nationwide junior golf development competition aimed at growing the game by focusing on the three fundamental skills employed in golf. By tapping the creative and competitive spirit of girls and boys ages 7-15, Drive, Chip and Putt provides aspiring junior golfers an opportunity to play with their peers in qualifiers around the country. Participants who advance through local, subregional and regional qualifying in each age/gender category earn a place in the National Finals, which is conducted at Augusta National Golf Club the Sunday before the Masters Tournament and is broadcast live by Golf Channel. For more information, visit DriveChipandPutt.com.

About the USGA

The USGA celebrates, serves and advances the game of golf worldwide. Founded in 1894, we conduct golf's premier professional and amateur championships, including the U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open. With The R&A, we govern the sport via a global set of playing, equipment and amateur status rules. Our operating jurisdiction for these governance functions includes the United States, its territories and Mexico. The USGA Handicap System is utilized in more than 40 countries and our Course Rating System covers 95 percent of the world's golf courses, enabling all golfers to play on an equitable basis. The USGA campus in Liberty Corner, New Jersey, is home to the Association's Research and Test Center, where science and innovation are fueling a healthy and sustainable game for the future. The campus is also home to the USGA Golf Museum, where we honor the game by curating the world's most comprehensive archive of golf artifacts. To learn more, visit usga.org.

About the Masters Tournament

The Masters Tournament, inspired by the enduring philosophies of Masters Tournament founders Bobby Jones and Clifford Roberts, is committed to promoting golf's domestic and international development through financial investment and active participation in initiatives aimed at preserving the traditions of the game and sharing its many virtues.

The Masters Tournament – since its very beginning – strives to provide added exposure to the game of golf and inspire interest in the sport worldwide. For more information about the Masters, visit masters.com.

About the PGA of America

The PGA of America represents the very best in golf. For more information about the PGA of America, visit PGA.org, follow [@PGAofAmerica](https://twitter.com/PGAofAmerica) on Twitter and find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pgapga).

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FACT SHEET

ELIGIBILITY

1. Drive, Chip and Putt is open to boys and girls ages 7-15. Boys and girls compete in separate divisions in four age categories: 7-9 years old; 10-11 years old; 12-13 years old; and 14-15 years old.
2. Participants will be grouped based on their age as of the National Finals Sunday, April 7, 2019. Participants must be at least 7 years of age on Sunday, April 7, 2019, and may not be older than 15 years of age on Sunday, April 7, 2019. Please note: a player may participate in local, subregional and regional qualifying if he/she is 6 years old provided that he/she turn 7 years old prior to April 7, 2019. A 15-year-old who will turn 16 years of age prior to April 7, 2019, is not eligible to participate.
3. Participants may register to compete in only one local qualifier.
4. All competitors must conform to the USGA Rules of Amateur Status.
5. The player's clubs and golf balls must conform with the Rules of Golf and the provisions, specifications and interpretations set forth in Appendices II (for golf clubs) and III (for golf balls). The optional Conditions of Competition requiring that the driver the player carries is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads, the ball the player plays is named on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls, and the player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from January 1, 2010 are **NOT** in effect. However, new models of irons, wedges, hybrids and fairway woods manufactured on or after January 1, 2010 must conform to the current groove and punch mark specifications.

ENTRIES

1. For local qualifying, parents/guardians must complete an online entry application – available starting January 25, 2018 – on behalf of participants at DriveChipandPutt.com.
2. Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis and must be received no later than 5 p.m. EDT on the date five (5) days prior to the local qualifier.
3. There is no entry fee for Drive, Chip and Putt.

SCHEDULE OF COMPETITION

1. Drive, Chip and Putt will be conducted in four stages. [Click here](#) for a full schedule:
 - a. Local qualifying – 288 qualifying events will be conducted in May, June, July and August at courses throughout all 50 States.
 - b. Subregional qualifying – 57 qualifying events to be conducted in July and August in 33 States.
 - c. Regional qualifying – 10 qualifying events to be conducted in September in 10 States.
 - d. National Finals – To be conducted Sunday, April 7, 2019, at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga.

SCORING / COMPETING

1. Each participant will compete in all three skills (Drive, Chip and Putt). An individual rules sheet for each skill competition is available on DriveChipandPutt.com.
2. Participants will accumulate points in each skill. The participant with the highest number of accumulated points will be declared the overall champion of their age category.
3. All participants must begin the competition at the local qualifying level.
4. From local qualifying, the three overall point earners in each of the boys and girls divisions from the four age brackets will advance to the subregional qualifying level of the competition.
5. The subregional competition is a new competition with no carryover from the local competition. The top two performers in each of the boys and girls division from the four age categories will advance to the regional qualifiers.
6. The regional competition is a new competition with no carryover from the subregional competition. The top performer in each of the boys and girls division from the four age categories will advance to the National Finals to be held the Sunday before the Masters Tournament (April 7, 2019).
7. The National Finals will take place at Augusta National Golf Club and be staged on its Tournament Practice Facility (Driving / Chipping) and 18th green (Putting). The National Finals is a new competition with no carryover from the regional competition.