

# MGA Open Championship Conditions & Regulations

## ELIGIBILITY

Entries are open to professional golfers and amateur golfers with an up-to-date MGA/USGA GHIN Handicap Index not exceeding 2.4 (as determined by the April 15, 2009 Handicap Revision), or who have completed their handicap certification as defined on the Entry Form.

## EXEMPTIONS

Exemption under categories reserved for amateurs will be granted only to players who have remained amateurs.

Upon receipt of the Entry Form and fee, the players in the following categories are exempt from Sectional Qualifying:

1. Twenty (20) lowest scorers and ties in the 2008 Massachusetts Open Championship.
2. Past Massachusetts Open Champions (Effective in 1993, Champions earn a 10-year exemption; pre-1993 Champions are exempt for life).
3. NEPGA Section Champions 2004 to 2007, and the top five (5) finishers and ties in the 2008 NEPGA Championship.
4. Top twenty (20) finishers and ties in the 2008 Skip Wogan point standings.
5. 2008 NEPGA Assistants Champion.
6. 2008 Berkshire Chapter Champion of the NENY PGA.
7. 2008 State Open Champions from the New England States.
8. MGA State Amateur Champions of the last five (5) years.
9. 2008 MGA State Amateur Semifinalists.
10. 2008 MGA Junior, Senior, Mid-Amateur and Public Links Champions.
11. Top five (5) finishers and ties in the 2008 MGA Player of the Year standings.
12. 2008 MGA Player of the Year, Junior Player of the Year and Senior Player of the Year
13. Special exemptions as selected by the MGA.

## ENTRY PROCEDURES

Entrants shall apply on the MGA Entry Form attached. Entry fee of \$225.00 for Professionals and \$150.00 for Amateurs shall be paid by every player.

Refund Policy: Entry fee will be refunded, regardless of reason, if the MGA is notified in writing before the close of entries. After the close of entries, regardless of schedule changes, entry fee will be refunded only in the event of injury or illness, and if requested in writing by May 18, 2009, subject to MGA Championship Committee approval. Refunds will be issued, less a \$20.00 service charge, after completion of the Championship.

Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted. Entries by telephone, e-mail or fax will not be accepted. Deadline for entry means time of receipt at MGA office - not time of postmark. Entry should be mailed early to allow ample time for delay.

Entrants in the Sectional Qualifying and Championship Proper will be notified by mail or e-mail of their starting time, course assignment, and availability of practice privileges. If a qualifying location has more players than can be accommodated, some players will be transferred to another location. Transfers are final. Courtesy practice privileges are at the discretion of the host club.

A tie for the final qualifying place or any alternate places in Sectional Qualifying shall be decided by a hole-by-hole play-off whenever possible. Alternates for the Championship Proper will be notified of their playing status by the MGA office.

## NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

A player who decides not to participate must notify the MGA office (1-800-356-2201) by phone promptly. Failure to comply may result in a player's entry being rejected from future MGA competition.

## SCHEDULE

Competition will be in two (2) stages at Stroke Play:

### 1. Sectional Qualifying - 18 Holes

For all except Exempt entrants.

#### Tuesday, May 19

- Berkshire Hills CC, Pittsfield
- Hopkinton CC, Hopkinton

#### Thursday, May 21

- Green Hill Municipal GC, Worcester

#### Tuesday, May 26

- The Captains GC (Port), Brewster

#### Wednesday, May 27

- CC of Halifax, Halifax

#### Thursday, May 28

- Indian Ridge CC, Andover

### 2. Championship Proper - 54 Holes.

The field is limited to 150 players.

#### Monday, June 22

First Round, 18 Holes.

#### Tuesday, June 23

Second Round, 18 Holes.

*The forty (40) lowest scorers and ties or anyone within 7 strokes of the leader for the first 36 holes will continue play on June 24.*

#### Wednesday, June 24

Final Round, 18 Holes.

*Any tie for first place will be decided immediately by a three-hole aggregate playoff. In the event there is still a tie after three holes, a hole-by-hole playoff will determine the champion.*

*There will be no playoff for low amateur honors.*

## RULES OF GOLF

Play will be governed by the Rules of Golf as approved by the USGA. Questions shall be settled by the Committee in charge of the competition consisting of those officials assigned by the MGA, whose decision shall be final.

## CADDIES & AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Players may use caddies, pull carts and/or automotive transportation during Sectional Qualifying and Championship Proper.

## DRESS CODE

Proper dress code for all stages of the competition will be strictly observed.

## CELLULAR TELEPHONES

The use of cellular telephones is prohibited

## GOLF SHOE POLICY

Shoes with traditionally-designed spikes (regardless of composition, i.e., ceramic, plastic, etc.) or spikes, regardless of design, comprised either entirely or partially of metal (if such metal may come in contact with the course) are prohibited. Penalty for breach of this condition: **Disqualification.**

## DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES

In this competition, a player may use devices that measure or gauge distance only (see the Note to Rule 14-3). However, the use of a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect a player's play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.) is not permitted regardless of whether such an additional function is used.

## PRIZES

The Clarence G. Cochrane Memorial Trophy will be presented to the Champion. A professional purse of \$75,000 will be distributed to the low forty (40) finishers and ties. The Commonwealth Cup will be presented to the low amateur. Gold and Silver medals will also be awarded.

## CONDITIONS/SCHEDULES

The MGA Executive Committee reserves the right to alter any of the conditions and schedules herein. The decision of the Executive Committee in any matter shall be final.

**ENTRY FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE MGA OFFICE BY 5:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009**