

110th Western Amateur Championship

July 30 – August 4, 2012 Exmoor Country Club, Highland Park, Illinois



Entries Close 5 p.m. (CDT) on Friday, June 22, 2012

ELIGIBILITY — This Championship is open to male amateur golfers with an official and verified handicap index not exceeding **3.0**. In addition, WGA reserves the right to invite players of national and international reputation to participate. Such formal invitations are extended only in writing by WGA. (**Receiving this application does not in itself constitute an invitation.**) All entries are subject to approval or rejection by the WGA at any time before or after the start of play.

FIELD — The field may be limited by WGA to a maximum of 156 contestants. WGA shall determine the players who are exempt in accordance with the exemption list printed on page 3. Players not exempt are advised to apply for a D-1 exemption.

ENTRY PROCEDURE

1. All entries must be submitted online at www.thewesternamateur.com. Late, incomplete, or inaccurate entry forms are not acceptable. There is a \$25 application fee for all applications.
2. All entries and application fees of \$25 must be submitted online prior to 5 p.m. (CDT) on Friday, June 22, 2012. Only one entry may be filed per player.
3. If an entrant who has paid the entire entry fee (\$240) withdraws before 5 p.m. (CDT) on June 22, the entry fee will automatically be refunded following the tournament. The \$25 application fee will be deducted from all refunds. If an entrant withdraws for any reason after 5 p.m. (CDT) on June 22, **no refunds** will be given. If you cannot compete and do not officially withdraw **prior** to the tournament, you will be treated as a “no-show” and will be subject to exclusion from future WGA sponsored events.
4. The application fee of \$25 (credit card payment submitted online) must accompany each entry.
5. Upon acceptance into the tournament field, the balance of the entry fee (\$215 - credit card payment submitted online) must be paid to confirm each applicant's acceptance into the event. Each applicant who is accepted into the field will receive instructions on how to pay the remaining balance of \$205.

WITHDRAWAL — If an entrant withdraws after 5 p.m. (CDT) on June 22, **no refunds** will be given.

SCHEDULE — Tuesday & Wednesday, July 31 & August 1 — 36 holes of qualifying, 18 holes each day; the low 44 players and ties after 36 holes enter the final 36 holes of qualifying on Thursday; low 16 players after 72 holes enter match play. In event of a tie for the 16th position, a sudden-death playoff shall be held to determine the qualifiers. The playoff will begin as soon as the last player has completed 72 holes of qualifying and all scores are posted. All players in the playoff are required to be at the tee where the playoff is to commence.

Monday, July 30	Registration (7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) Practice Rounds First tee will close at 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 31	First Round Stroke Play Player Cookout
Wednesday, August 1	Second Round Stroke Play; low 44 plus ties enter final 36 holes of qualifying
Thursday, August 2	Final 36 holes of Qualifying; low 16 enter Match Play
Friday, August 3	First Round (Match Play) Quarterfinal Round (Match Play)
Saturday, August 4	Semifinal Round (Match Play) Final Round (Match Play)

2012 Host Venue - Exmoor Country Club

Future Sites:	2013	-	The Alotian Club, Roland, Arkansas
	2014	-	The Beverly Country Club, Chicago, Illinois
	2015	-	Rich Harvest Farms, Sugar Grove, Illinois
	2016	-	The Knollwood Club, Lake Forest, Illinois

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TOURNAMENT ACCEPTANCE — Players qualifying for an exemption into the tournament in categories A, B and C will be notified of their acceptance into the tournament after receipt of the application and application fee, provided there are spaces available. All players applying for a D-1 Exemption will be emailed notification of their status by July 2, 2012.

REGISTRATION — Exempt players must register by 5 p.m. (CDT) on Monday, July 30, or state arrival time by phone. Registration is located in the Exmoor Country Club clubhouse and is open Monday, July 30, starting at 7 a.m. A player's place in the tournament may be forfeited if he fails to register.

AWARDS — The name of the champion will be engraved on the George R. Thorne trophy and the name of the medalist will be engraved on the Cameron Eddy trophy. The WGA will present Western Amateur trophies to the champion and medalist, with medals also being presented to all match play qualifiers.

PRACTICE — Exmoor Country Club will be available for practice on Monday, July 30; however, each player must register for the tournament prior to any practice. Practice rounds can be scheduled for July 30, by calling the **Marty Norris** at WGA Headquarters - (847) 724-4600 **PLEASE NOTE:** Exmoor Country Club's golf course and practice facilities will be unavailable prior to Monday, July 30.

STARTING TIMES — Pairings and starting times for the first two rounds of qualifying will be posted outside the tournament office in the Exmoor Country Club clubhouse and golf shop by 12 noon on Monday, July 30.

ACCOMMODATIONS — The host hotel for the 2012 Western Amateur is the Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, 933 Skokie Blvd., Northbrook, IL 60062. The special tournament rate is **\$95.00** per night. Contestants are expected to make their own reservations for hotel accommodations by calling (847) 498-6500.

PRIVATE HOUSING — As in past years, a limited amount of private housing will be provided. This is done on a first-come, first-serve basis only. You must specify on the entry form if you will need housing. Players will be given private housing on a space available basis only.

HEADQUARTERS — All inquiries should be directed to the Vice President, Tournaments or Associate Tournament Director of the Western Golf Association, 1 Briar Road, Golf, IL 60029, telephone: (847) 724-4600. After 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 27, the WGA Tournament Office will be located at Exmoor Country Club, telephone TBD. (Phone number will be published in the Western Amateur Player Handbook).

CADDIE POLICY — Exmoor Country Club caddies are available for the practice round and tournament play on a first-come, first-serve basis for a fee of \$60 per day. Pull carts are not permitted by any player or his caddie during any stage of the Championship. Each caddie is required to carry a player's clubs during the round. A player is not required to employ a caddie for any stage of the Championship. Players that have been eliminated (missed the cut or lost a match) from the tournament are allowed to caddie for a player still in the field. Players still competing for the Championship are not allowed to caddie for another player in the field. **Penalty: Disqualification of both players.**

CONDUCT CODE — The following actions will be considered violations of the Conduct Code: any abusive language, club throwing, cheating, disrespect of volunteers or officials, abuse of the course, leaving the course during your competitive round without permission from a WGA official, any use of or association with drugs or alcohol, not adhering to the dress code during any portion of the tournament, any vandalism at a host hotel, and/or any other conduct not becoming of a Western Amateur contestant. The penalties for Conduct Code violations, based on the severity of misconduct, may be any or all of the following: a warning, disqualification of the player from the tournament, suspension of the player indefinitely from WGA Championships.

DRESS CODE — Golf slacks only. Shorts are not allowed during any portion of the Championship. Golf/Bermuda style shorts will be allowed during **practice rounds only** on Monday, July 30 (Caddies may wear golf/Bermuda style shorts during all rounds of the championship). Colored shirts must be worn during all phases of the tournament. Players in violation of the dress code will not be permitted to start the competition. A violation of the dress code by a player during the stipulated round must be rectified without undue delay or the player will not be allowed to continue play. Proper dress code is required at all times while at the host facility, including in the clubhouse and at all practice facilities before and after play.

FOOTWEAR — It is a condition of the competition at Exmoor Country Club that shoes with metal or traditionally designed spikes are prohibited. Penalty for breach of this condition: **Disqualification.**

RULES OF PLAY — The USGA Rules of Golf, as modified by local rules established by the WGA, will be used. The WGA tournament committee reserves the right to alter any of the conditions and schedules herein. Changes in tournament format caused by force majeure shall be at the sole discretion of WGA officials. The decision of the WGA tournament committee in any manner shall be final. **The one (1) ball condition will be in effect for tournament play. Distance Measuring Devices will not be allowed during competition.**

(Keep for future reference)

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Exemption Categories

Players may be exempt based on one and/or both of the following two categories: *(To become officially entered, every player must file an official entry form with application fee prior to the deadline date.)*

- (1) Qualify under categories A, B, C, D or E, or
- (2) Have received a formal written invitation from the Western Amateur Committee.

A. Exemptions based on WGA Championships

Western Amateur:

- A-1. Any Champion.
- A-2. "Sweet Sixteen" (match-play qualifier) since 2007.
- A-3. Posted 72-hole score in 2011 or last time competed, or twice since 2009.

Western Junior:

- A-4. Champion since 2007.
- A-5. Top three & ties since 2010.

B. Exemptions based on other Amateur events

- B-1. Top 175 Individuals in the Scratch Players World Amateur Ranking (see owagr.com) at time of entry.
- B-2. Playing Members of a Walker Cup and/or Top 5 Men's World Amateur Team since 2007.
- B-3. 2011 Rolex First-Team Junior All American Team members, or a Top 15 Polo Golf Ranking at time of entry.

C. Exemptions based on Collegiate events

- C-1. Top 25 Individuals in the Golfweek/Sagarin or Division-1 Golfstat Men's rankings on or after 6/1/2012.
- C-2. 2011 & 2012 GCAA Division I First Team All-Americans.
- C-3. Medalist in 2012 national championship of NAIA or NCAA (Div. II or III).
- C-4. 2012 medalist of the NCAA Division I Regionals

D. Exemptions based on Special Considerations or Invitation

- D-1. A limited number of exemptions, based on special considerations and/or written invitation, may be granted by the Committee. Requests for a special consideration exemption may be submitted to the Western Amateur Committee by applying online. **If you do not qualify under the exemptions listed in A, B, C or E please apply for a D-1 exemption.**

E. Exemptions based on professional events

- E-1. Posted 72-hole score in a PGA TOUR event, PGA European TOUR event, or Nationwide Tour event since 2010.
- E-2. Posted a 36-hole score in The Masters Tournament, U.S. Open or The Open Championship.