

# 2017 USGA Championship Media Credential Regulations

Coverage is welcomed and permitted under the following terms and conditions which may not be modified without the prior written consent of the United States Golf Association (USGA). Your written acknowledgement and agreement to the terms and conditions are required.

CREDENTIALS WILL BE ISSUED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF MEDIA OUTLETS (including print and digital newspapers, print and digital golf and sports publications, golf and sports websites, radio and television stations, networks and wire services, at the sole discretion of the USGA), WHICH WILL PROVIDE IMMEDIATE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF NEWS COVERAGE FOR EDITORIAL, AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL DEADLINES FOR THE SPECIFIC CHAMPIONSHIP BEING DOCUMENTED, FOR COVERAGE WHICH WILL OCCUR NO LATER THAN 48 HOURS AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE COMPETITION. FREELANCE MEDIA WORKING ON SPECULATION WILL NOT BE GRANTED CREDENTIALS. NO OTHER USE, ESPECIALLY COMMERCIAL USE, BY EITHER THE MEDIA ORGANIZATION OR CREDENTIALLED INDIVIDUAL MAY BE MADE WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION OF THE USGA. Email [photorequests@usga.org](mailto:photorequests@usga.org)

Exceptions for monthly and weekly publications may be made at the sole discretion of the USGA. Every individual and organization must apply annually for working credentials, meet all criteria and follow all regulations, regardless of the possession of permanent badges.

**Each media category has unique regulations in addition to the general regulations applicable to all media categories identified below. A breach of any of the media credential regulations may result in forfeiture of the media credentials for both the individual and media organization including, but not limited to, the right to work at the current and at future USGA championships. Such determination is in the sole discretion of the USGA.**

## A.: REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL MEDIA CATEGORIES

**Category 1: INSIDE-THE-ROPES**

**Category 2: STILL PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Category 3: REMOTE PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Category 4: WEBSITE/DIGITAL APPLICATIONS/BLOGS**

**Category 5: TELEVISION AND RADIO COVERAGE**

## **A. REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL MEDIA CATEGORIES**

1. Appropriate media credentials are required at all times for access to the media center.
2. Player interviews are prohibited during play and/or after the round until after the scorecard is signed by the player.
3. Interference with and/or distraction of players is prohibited at all times.
4. Media must be respectful of the players, officials, marshals, spectators and the golf course at all times.
5. On-site signage is prohibited (i.e., banners) except for call letters painted on station vehicles, which may be covered at the discretion of USGA.
6. Audio transmissions may not exceed two minutes in length and there may be no more than two audio reports per hour.
7. The use of golf carts is strictly prohibited at all times.
8. The credentialed person/entity has rights only with respect to the specific credentialed type of media (see categories below).
9. The USGA assumes no liability for any loss or damage to cameras and equipment.
10. Anyone using a frequency modulated communications device (two-way radios, remote triggering device, etc.) must have information on file with the local frequency coordinator of the FCC, and it must be approved on-site by USGA frequency coordinator (Louis Libin - U.S. Open only).
11. Regardless of format, media reports shall not purport to be exclusive, live, play-by-play or official coverage.
12. The championship logo may only be used in a report during regularly scheduled news programs, and is otherwise prohibited.
13. During practice rounds (Monday-Wednesday) all television/video cameras may shoot golf action on all 18 holes, but must stay outside the ropes and must not shoot footage during the rights-holding television production time of 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday. A limited number of inside the ropes access lanyards will be provided on practice round days.
14. **MOBILE DEVICES:** *Note:* Media must also comply with spectator guidelines outside of their work schedule.
  - Phone calls allowed away from play **only and/or in Phone Zones**;
  - Phone must be in **Silent** mode, NOT vibrate;
  - No photography while near play (except as otherwise approved through proper credentials);

- **On non-competition days**, photography and live video capture allowed on the property, but not on the golf course.
  - No live video or streaming inside the ropes,
  - No live video or streaming outside the ropes
- **On competition days** (including any playoff), photography and video reporting are allowed on the property and from the flash area and Media Center interview room, but not on the golf course. Video is limited to three minutes per day.
- Any media outlet shooting video will be subject to Category 5: Television and Radio Coverage.
  - **Social media** reporting is permitted, except (i) no play-by-play; (ii) no other activity that competes with live scoring and (iii) no other use of USGA intellectual property are permitted;
  - Texting and emailing permitted for coverage/business needs in locations where players will not be disrupted;
  - Media must immediately comply with all on-course requests made by USGA staff and others designated by the USGA to enforce Media Regulations.

### Category 1: Inside-the-Ropes

1. A limited number of inside-the-ropes ID/lanyards will be issued.
2. The inside-the-ropes ID/lanyards permit only the specific individual assigned that lanyard to work inside-the-ropes during the specified days and will be issued to specific outlets not individuals.
3. Inside-the-ropes lanyards are not transferable and will not be replaced if lost or stolen and:
  - a. Inside-the-ropes lanyard must be visible at all times;
  - b. Media with inside-the-ropes lanyards must only bring equipment permitted by USGA (see category 3);
  - c. Media must station themselves immediately inside the gallery ropes not more than an arm's length from the ropes, and must blend into and appear to be part of the gallery;
  - d. Media must not take conspicuous positions;
  - e. Media are not permitted behind the players at the teeing ground;
  - f. A limited number of inside-the-ropes lanyards may be issued for coverage of specifically designated groups;

### Category 2: Still Photography

1. Photographers authorized for inside-the-ropes lanyards must use professional grade cameras and equipment at all times with a minimum of a 300mm f/2.8 lens at check in.
  - a. Photographers must station themselves at locations designated by USGA media marshals to blend into and appear to be part of the gallery.
  - b. Photographers must not take conspicuous positions.
  - c. Photographers are not permitted behind the players.
  - d. Photographers may not take photographs from behind the teeing ground.
  - e. All photographs must be taken at appreciable distances, as far from the players as possible, and from angles that are not acute to the line of play.
  - f. Remote controlled drones/helicopters and other devices are strictly **prohibited**.
  - g. When working at the green, photographers must not position themselves directly in a player's putting line.
1. Photographers must not release the camera shutter after the player stands over the ball and before the player has completed the **stroke**.
2. A limited number of photo runners/couriers/assistants will be credentialed but are **prohibited** from taking photographs on the golf course at any time.
3. Photographers are not permitted access to the players' locker room.
4. Still photographers are not permitted on TV towers during play.
5. Tripods and ladders are prohibited on the course.
6. The use of strobes or flash photography is prohibited on the course. However, flashes may be used only during the prize ceremony and trophy presentation.
7. Media must remain off the green at the completion of the championship.

- a. Access to the prize ceremony and trophy presentation will be granted to those with special access badges. Not all photographers issued inside-the-ropes lanyards during the championship will receive authorization to receive special access badges for the prize ceremony and trophy presentation.
- b. Marshals will escort authorized photographers onto the green to a predetermined area to photograph the prize ceremony and trophy presentation.
- c. After the prize ceremony and trophy presentation, the champion will be moved away from the table to a predetermined spot on the 18th green to enable authorized still photographers to photograph the champion with the trophy.

### **Category 3: Remote Still Photography**

The primary locations for installing remote still cameras will be on TV towers and grandstands located around the 18th green. The USGA must be contacted in advance of the championship week for prior approval to install remote still cameras. Remote cameras are not permitted near any teeing grounds. Remote video cameras are not permitted.

1. Contact John Mummert ([jmummert@usga.org](mailto:jmummert@usga.org)) for prior written approval to install/set up remote cameras on or near the championship property and for clearance for the location.
2. Any organization requesting authorization to install/set up a remote camera must provide the USGA with a certificate of liability insurance prior to the championship and it must include a minimum per incident coverage of \$2 million. The certificate of insurance must be provided prior to receipt of the necessary stickers for authorized remote cameras.
3. All remote cameras must be in place and photographers must be removed from TV towers no later than 8 a.m., without exception. TV towers may not be re-accessed until play has ended.
4. Cameras and grip equipment must be marked with the photographer's name, organization's name and contact number.
5. Cameras may not be placed on any scoring device (leaderboard, monster board or otherwise) or its platforms/safety rails.
6. Cameras must be placed as close as possible to the structure and must not interfere with the TV cameras or the view of spectators.
7. Cameras, transmitters, and grip equipment must be secured to the structure with steel safety cables.
8. Cameras and grip equipment may be removed by the USGA or Fox/rights-holding TV if necessary and/or if the individual and/or entity fails to comply with all regulations.

### **Category 4: Website/Digital Applications/Blogs**

1. Reports, statistical data and scoring updates shall be used solely in connection with the news portion of the media organization's regular golf coverage but not to compete with USGA scoring and/or TV rights.
2. Scoring and statistical information may be provided on the media organization's website/digital applications no sooner than 15 minutes after the actual occurrence of the shots, or after the time such information is legally available as public information if sooner than 15 minutes after the actual occurrence of the shots but only if licensed through the USGA.
3. Reports must not be inserted into any commercial announcement, or purport to be sponsored or endorsed by a third party.
4. Reports must not include any proprietary material owned by the USGA, inclusive of, but not limited to, the USGA trademark, the championship trademark and/or championship logo, player interview transcripts, audio transmissions, video transmissions, photographs, USGA Media Guide, or any other copyright or trademark owned by the USGA without prior written authorization of the USGA. Use of the USGA or championship trademarks without the design logo may be used only for identification of the event.
5. Video re-transmissions of the television coverage is prohibited.
6. All website/digital media applications must also obtain additional credentials for Photography, TV and Radio, and abide by the regulations. Inside-the-ropes IDs will not be issued.

7. Video re-transmission of on-course golf highlights may not exceed three minutes per day and can be used only when USGA right-holding TV and/or its platforms are not on the air and may not purport to be live play-by-play coverage.
8. Social media/blogs and similar outlets, if granted credentials, must be conducted only from the on-site Media Center.
9. The determination of whether a blog or use of any social media outlet is a real-time description shall be in the USGA's sole discretion. Real-time postings are a breach of the terms and conditions of the regulations and the USGA reserves the right to revoke the credential and all other rights set forth in the foregoing regulations.
10. All media entities posting a blog or using social media outlets during the championship must submit a direct link from the blog or social media account to USGA Communications and provide it free of charge to all readers.
11. Tripods and ladders are prohibited on the course.
12. Audio highlights from a USGA rights-holding station or network may not be used without the prior written consent of the USGA.
13. Media organizations' websites/digital applications may link to usopen.com for press conferences/post-round interviews only.
14. Special Reports which include any proprietary materials owned by the USGA inclusive of but not limited to, the USGA trademark, the U.S. Open trademark and/or championship logo, player interview transcripts, audio transmissions, video transmissions, photographs, USGA Media Guide or any other copyright or trademark owned or controlled by the USGA may only include such materials with prior written authorization of the USGA.
15. Sponsored Reports may not suggest such sponsor is a sponsor of the USGA championship, and such report must be distinguished in a manner which conveys it is solely a sponsor of the report.

### **Category 5: Television and Radio Coverage**

1. Televised reports with golf action highlights may **not** be aired until that day's live television coverage has concluded.
2. Reports with golf actions highlights shall be used solely in connection with regularly scheduled radio and television news programming.
3. Video re-transmission of on-course golf highlights or radio reports may not exceed three minutes per day and can be used only when USGA rights-holding TV and/or its platforms are not on the air and may not purport to be live play-by-play coverage.
4. All television highlights of the USGA championship must come from the Fox satellite/internal feeds.
5. From Thursday through Sunday and any playoff day, television cameras are not permitted to shoot golf course live competition or players walking between green and tee and may only shoot non-competition footage (for example: galleries, concession areas, merchandise tent, practice range, practice putting green, parking lots, main public entrance and volunteer check-in tent).
6. Access to the practice range and practice putting green is subject to the access codes on each media credential.
7. Tripods and ladders are prohibited on the course.
8. No report will be inserted into any commercial announcement, or endorsed by a third party.
9. Special Reports which include any proprietary materials owned by the USGA inclusive of but not limited to, the USGA trademark, the U.S. Open trademark and/or championship logo, player interview transcripts, audio transmissions, video transmissions, photographs, USGA Media Guide or any other copyright or trademark owned by the USGA may only include such materials with prior written authorization of the USGA.

10. Sponsored Reports may not suggest such sponsor is a sponsor of the USGA Championships, and must be distinguished in a manner which conveys it is solely a sponsor of the report.

The USGA has exclusive media rights to all USGA championships, including the exclusive right to license live play-by-play coverage and to transmit comprehensive coverage of the championships. The USGA retains the exclusive right to real-time transmission of streaming video, digital images, and real-time audio of the Championship on the USGA website or a site designated by the USGA. "Real-time" is defined by the USGA as continuous play-by-play account or live, extended live/real-time statistics, or detailed descriptions of the championship. Periodic updates of scores, statistics or other brief descriptions are acceptable and must be in compliance with all regulations.

Credentials are granted at the sole discretion of the USGA and may not be sold or distributed to any other entity, party or individual. The credentialed individual and media organization assumes all risk and danger incidental to and associated with attendance at the USGA championships and hereby waives, releases and discharges the USGA, participating players, host entity, and affiliated companies, vendors, and their respective employees, officers, directors, agents, representatives, volunteers, and/or volunteers associated with the USGA championships, and agrees to hold harmless all of the persons, associations and entities listed above, from any and all claims for damages, for death, personal injury or property loss or damage, including all costs and expenses which result from such attendance at the USGA championships. The foregoing waiver, release and assumption of risk shall be binding on the media organization, its successors and assigns as well as the credentialed individual and the credentialed individual's heirs and assigns. Anyone granted media credentials shall be bound by the regulations set forth herein as well as the terms and conditions of the ticket holder/credential holder license agreement.

The credentialed media organization and credentialed individual shall jointly and severally indemnify, defend and hold the USGA, participating players, the host entity, vendors and their respective employees, officers, directors, agents, representatives, volunteers, successors and assigns harmless from and against any and all expenses, claims, lawsuits, damages, costs and liabilities (including reasonable legal fees and expenses) incurred by, arising from, or in connection with any actions of the credentialed entity and/or credentialed individual including, but not limited to, the unauthorized use of any photograph, highlight or other coverage of the USGA championships.

Each credentialed organization and each credentialed individual must acknowledge that they have read and agree to these terms and conditions prior to being granted credentials.

We hereby apply for media credentials to cover this USGA championship and accept and agree to the foregoing terms and conditions. Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions of the regulations set forth above may result in loss of credentials for this event and/or future USGA championships and the denial of credentials for the media outlet identified below at this event and/or at any future USGA championship at the USGA's sole discretion.

NAME (print) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MEDIA OUTLET \_\_\_\_\_