



## 75th U.S. Women's Open Championship – Fact Sheet

December 10-13, 2020, Champions Golf Club, Houston, Texas

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### COURSE SETUP

Champions Golf Club will use two courses for the 2020 U.S. Women's Open. The Jackrabbit Course will co-host Rounds 1 and 2, while the Cypress Creek Course will be used for all four rounds.

The Cypress Creek Course will be set up at 6,686 yards and will play to a par of 36-35-71. Par and yardage of the Jackrabbit Course will be released at a later date.

### CYPRESS CREEK COURSE HOLE BY HOLE

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Par	4	4	4	3	5	4	4	3	5	36
Yards	419	401	388	177	485	406	411	158	505	3350

Hole	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Par	4	4	3	5	4	4	3	4	4	35
Yards	405	429	208	516	415	410	168	399	386	3336

*Note: Yardages subject to change.*

### ABOUT CHAMPIONS GOLF CLUB

Champions Golf Club was founded in 1957 by multiple major champions Jackie Burke Jr. and Jimmy Demaret in their hometown of Houston, Texas. They enlisted fellow Houstonian Ralph Plummer to be the architect of the esteemed Cypress Creek Course, which opened in 1959. Cypress Creek was craved into a beautiful forest with over 70,000 trees, wide fairways and enormous greens. The Jackrabbit Course, designed by George Fazio, opened for play in 1964.

The first high-profile event the club hosted was the 1967 Ryder Cup when Ben Hogan captained the United States team to a 15-point victory. It has since held the 1969 U.S. Open, 1993 U.S. Amateur, two U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur championships and four PGA Tour Championships.

### ENTRIES

The championship is open to any female professional, and any female amateur golfer with a Handicap Index®

not exceeding 2.4. The 2015 championship at Lancaster (Pa.) Country Club holds the entry record with 1,873. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 U.S. Women's Open will feature a fully exempt field.

### **QUALIFYING**

For the first time in 45 years, the U.S. Women's Open will be contested without pre-championship qualifying. Due to health and safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the championship field will be comprised entirely of exempt players.

### **CHAMPIONSHIP FIELD**

A starting field of 156 golfers will be cut after 36 holes to the low 60 scorers and ties.

### **SCHEDULE OF PLAY**

Practice rounds will be played Monday, Dec. 7 through Wednesday, Dec. 9. Eighteen holes of stroke play are scheduled each day from Thursday, Dec. 10, through Sunday, Dec. 13. If the championship is tied after four rounds, a two-hole aggregate playoff will take place immediately following the conclusion of the fourth round. If the playoff results in a tie, play will immediately continue hole by hole until a champion is determined.

### **TELEVISION COVERAGE**

In June 2020, the United States media rights for USGA championships transferred from FOX Sports to NBCUniversal effective immediately through 2026. NBCUniversal will broadcast all four USGA championships in 2020. Broadcast schedule and details for the 75th U.S. Women's Open will be announced later this summer.

### **WHAT THE WINNER RECEIVES**

The champion will receive the Mickey Wright Medal, custody of the Harton S. Semple Trophy for the ensuing year and an exemption from qualifying for the next 10 U.S. Women's Open Championships.

In 2019, the purse for the U.S. Women's Open increased to \$5.5 million, the largest in women's golf, with the champion receiving \$1 million, provided she is a professional.

### **2019 CHAMPION**

Jeongeun Lee6 of the Republic of Korea broke out of a crowded leader board with three back-nine birdies and withstood some late struggles to shoot 1-under-par 70 and win the 74th U.S. Women's Open Championship by two strokes over a trio of players at the Country Club of Charleston. Lee6 earned \$1 million in notching her first victory in the United States. The six-time winner in three seasons on the Korea LPGA Tour shot 70-69-69-70 for a 6-under-par total of 278.

In the early going, seven players held a share of the lead, and there were at least five players tightly bunched as Lee6 made the turn in even-par 36, playing in the third-to-last group with Mamiko Higa of Japan. Most of the leaders struggled out of the gate, and as the final group of former Duke University teammates Celine Boutier and Yu Liu played the par-5 fifth hole, the last nine pairings of the day stood a combined 23 over par.

Lee6 assumed control with an impressive up-and-down on No. 10, hitting the flagstick for a tap-in par from 70 feet, then birdieing the difficult par-3 11th (8 feet) and the par-4 12th (5 feet). After solid two-putt pars from about 18 feet on Nos. 13 and 14, Lee6 knocked a 50-yard wedge approach to 4 feet and made birdie on the par-5 15th for a three-stroke lead. That is when she grasped the task ahead of her on the difficult closing holes.

Boutier had the best opportunity to catch Lee6, who slipped to 6 under after missing the green on both Nos. 16 and 18. Boutier stuffed her approach on No. 16 to 3½ feet, but lipped out the birdie putt that would have brought her to 6 under. Boutier came to No. 18 still needing a birdie to tie, but she bunkered her approach, took two shots to reach the green and then lipped out her putt, making a double bogey that dropped her into a tie for fifth.

Lexi Thompson, Angel Yin and 2011 U.S. Women's Open champion So Yeon Ryu finished tied for second place, two strokes back at 4-under 280, while Boutier was in a group of five players at 3-under 281.

Lee6's final round of 70 was her eighth under-par effort in 12 career U.S. Women's Open rounds. Lee6 finished fifth in her championship debut in 2017 at Trump Bedminster and tied for 17th last year at Shoal Creek. Her victory marked the 18th victory in the last 36 major championships for players from the Republic of Korea, and she is also the 11th different player in 11 years to win the U.S. Women's Open and the ninth different player to win a major in the past nine.

### **TITLE DEFENSE**

Since 1991, two players have successfully defended their championship (Annika Sorenstam, 1995 and 1996; Karrie Webb, 2000 and 2001), and only three other players have finished in the top 10 in the championship following their victory (2002 winner Juli Inkster, eighth in 2003; 1992 winner Patty Sheehan, sixth in 1993; 1991 winner Meg Mallon, fourth in 1992).

### **CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY**

This is the 75th U.S. Women's Open Championship. The first U.S. Women's Open, played at Spokane (Wash.) Country Club in 1946, was the only one conducted at match play. The Women's Professional Golfers Association (WPGA) conducted the inaugural championship, won by Patty Berg. The WPGA conducted the Women's Open until 1949, when the newly formed Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) took over operation of the championship. The LPGA ran the Women's Open for four years but in 1953 asked the United States Golf Association to conduct the championship, which it has done ever since.

The youngest winner of the U.S. Women's Open is Inbee Park, who won the 2008 championship at the age of 19 years, 11 months, 18 days. Babe Didrikson Zaharias, who won the 1954 Women's Open at age 43 years, 6 months, is the oldest winner.

In 1967, Catherine Lacoste, daughter of French tennis player Rene Lacoste and 1927 British Ladies Amateur champion Simone Thion de la Chaume, became the only amateur to win the U.S. Women's Open. Seven other amateurs – most recently Hye-Jin Choi in 2017 – have finished as runner(s)-up.

### **A DECEMBER OPEN**

In April 2020, the 75th U.S. Women's Open Championship, originally scheduled for June 4-7, 2020, was postponed to Dec. 10-13 due to evolving dynamics of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

This marks the first time that the U.S. Women's Open will be played in December. Babe Didrikson Zaharias was crowned the 1950 champion on September 30. Since the USGA has conducted the U.S. Women's Open, starting in 1953, the championship has only been played in May, June and July.

### **TWO COURSES**

For the first time in U.S. Women's Open history, the championship will be played on two courses. To account for reduced daylight given the move to December, the Jackrabbit Course at Champions Golf Club will be used

in conjunction with the Cypress Creek Course, which was originally slated to host all four rounds of championship play. The Jackrabbit will co-host Rounds 1 and 2.

#### **USGA CHAMPIONSHIPS AT CHAMPIONS GOLF CLUB**

1969 U.S. Open (Orville Moody)  
1993 U.S. Amateur (John Harris)  
1998 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur (Virginia Derby Grimes)  
2017 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur (Kelsey Chugg)  
*2020 U.S. Women's Open*

#### **USGA CHAMPIONSHIPS IN TEXAS**

The 2020 U.S. Women's Open will be the 31st USGA championship conducted in the state of Texas. Most recently, Champions Golf Club hosted the 2017 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur championship won by Kelsey Chugg. The only other U.S. Women's Open held in Texas was in 1991 at Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth when Meg Mallon defeated Pat Bradley by two strokes to win her first of two U.S. Women's Open titles.

#### **OTHER NOTABLE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT CHAMPIONS GOLF CLUB**

1966 Houston Champions International (Arnold Palmer)  
1967 Ryder Cup (United States)  
1967 Houston Champions International (Frank Beard)  
1968 Houston Champions International (Roberto De Vicenzo)  
1970 Houston Champions International (Gibby Gilbert)  
1971 Houston Champions International (Hubert Green)  
1973 Southern Amateur (Ben Crenshaw)  
1980 Southern Amateur (Bob Tway)  
1990 Nabisco Championship (Jodie Mudd)  
1997 Tour Championship (David Duval)  
1999 Tour Championship (Tiger Woods)  
2001 Tour Championship (Mike Weir)  
2003 Tour Championship (Chad Campbell)

#### **FUTURE U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN SITES**

June 3-6, 2021: The Olympic Club, San Francisco, Calif.  
June 2-5, 2022: Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club, Southern Pines, S.C.  
June 1-4, 2023, Pebble Beach (Calif.) Golf Links  
May 30-June 2, 2024, Lancaster (Pa.) Country Club  
May 29-June 1, 2025, Erin Hills, Erin, Wis.

#### **MEDIA INFORMATION**

The USGA's online Media Center – [mediacenter.usga.org](https://mediacenter.usga.org) – will include important and regularly updated championship information. The USGA will offer daily, complimentary high-resolution photographs during the U.S. Women's Open strictly for editorial use. For more information, email [photorequests@usga.org](mailto:photorequests@usga.org).

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