

Updated Jan. 10, 2024

**Coverage of USGA championships 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).**

To ensure that all qualified media outlets have the appropriate access and working space, the following guidelines have been developed.

All requests for credentials must be submitted through the official application link listed on the USGA Media Center ([mediacenter.usga.org/credentials](https://mediacenter.usga.org/credentials)). Credential applications will be considered only if they are submitted by an outlet's assignment editor and will only be considered for professional working personnel who fulfil the accreditation criteria of the USGA.

Media credentials will be issued only to individuals regularly employed by and on assignment from print and digital newspapers, golf publications, golf and sports websites, radio and television stations, and networks and wire services that regularly cover professional golf and/or USGA championships, at the sole discretion of the USGA.

Media outlets may be required to provide an overview of its previous golf and USGA championship coverage, as well as an accurate explanation of its coverage reach. Outlets that do not meet reach requirements determined by the USGA will not be approved for credentials.

#### **AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS NOT ELIGIBLE**

Credentials shall not be issued to the following:

- Persons writing or gathering material for books, short films or movies
- Freelance reporters or photographers
- Executives and/or staff without championship assignments
- Representatives of syndicated television or cable programmers who are not producing programs for immediate news coverage

Media outlets granted credentials, with exceptions for weekly and monthly outlets, shall provide immediate championship news coverage (editorial, digital, audio and/or visual) each day of the championship and/or no later than 48 hours after the completion of the competition.

By applying for a credential, the assignment editor confirms reading, fully understanding and agreeing with the following guidelines and policies for each of the outlet's representatives:

#### **CREDENTIAL POLICIES FOR ALL MEDIA**

**Display of credentials:** Appropriate credentials are required at all times for access to the media center and the interview area.

**Right to revoke:** 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. The USGA reserves sole discretion to revoke credentials at any time.

**Working environment:** Media must comply with all on-course requests made by USGA staff and others designated by the USGA to enforce media regulations. Media shall respect the work environment by maintaining a professional atmosphere in the media center and designated interview areas.

**Prohibited equipment:** No tripods or ladders are permitted on the course at any USGA championships. The use of golf carts is strictly prohibited unless permission is granted by a USGA staff member.

**Player interviews** are not permitted during play and/or after the round until a scorecard is signed by the player. Please direct player interview requests to a USGA Communications representative.

**News and editorial use only:** Approved media outlets and its representatives may use information and other content collected at USGA championships solely in news and editorial coverage of that championship. No other use, especially commercial use, by either the media outlet or credentialed individual may be made without the prior written authorization of the USGA.

Updated Jan. 10, 2024

**USGA media rights:** 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 championship. 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 follow all regulations.

**Mobile devices:** Phone calls are allowed only in designated areas throughout the course. Media are required to follow the spectator policy when it comes to using a mobile device for photo/video/audio recordings. Any media outlet shooting video will be subject to the guidelines contained with the Television and Radio Coverage section.

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.

**Live stream policy:** Live streaming is permissible ONLY in the following designated zones – media center, practice areas or any location without a golf course view. This coverage cannot include golf action, and no live streaming or real-time coverage (e.g. no shot-by-shot coverage) is permitted of the play of championship rounds.

**Website policy:** 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.

Reports must not be inserted into any commercial announcement, or purport to be sponsored or endorsed by a third party. 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

**Integrity and Betting:** To protect the integrity of the USGA and its championships, a media outlet and/or any of its representatives issued a media credential shall not capture, collect, distribute or provide to any third party any results, data, content (including any recordings) or information at or from a USGA championship, or use, distribute or provide to any third party any data provided by USGA under these Media Credential Regulations, for purposes of, or in connection with, any Betting (as defined below) unless permitted pursuant to a separate agreement with USGA. Further, a media outlet and/or any of its credentialed representatives shall not provide Inside Information (as defined below) to any third party that it knew would be used, or should have known would be used, for Betting on a USGA championship. Within these Media Credential Regulations, “**Betting**” means any betting, gambling, gaming, daily fantasy or similar activity; “**Inside Information**” means information relating to a USGA championship (e.g., the health of a player, the conditions of a course, etc.) that is not publicly available and that a media outlet and/or any of its representatives issued a credential knows due to its access to a USGA championship under these Media Credential Regulations. However, this section does not prohibit a media outlet and/or any of its credentialed representatives from publicly disclosing information and other content collected by a credentialed representative during the USGA championship in the course of the media outlet’s news and editorial coverage of the relevant USGA championship from a Betting perspective (e.g., publicly analyzing a player’s current form in publicly recommending Betting picks for a USGA championship). In addition, a credentialed representative should not ask any players or caddies questions that would reasonably be expected to lead to a player or caddie violating or discussing a violation of the USGA Championship Betting Policy, which prohibits players and caddies from Betting (including, as that term is defined in the policy) on a USGA championship or providing Betting tips or analyses for a USGA championship, among other things. The USGA Championship Betting Policy is available on [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org) at [USGA Championship Betting Policy](#). In addition, USGA will provide a credentialed representative with a copy of the USGA Championship Betting Policy upon request.

**Frequency coordination:** 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. Please contact [jgeske@usga.org](mailto:jgeske@usga.org) to coordinate frequency.

Updated Jan. 10, 2024

**INDEMNITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS:** 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.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

- Walking Access Badges will be issued to photographers at the discretion of the USGA.
- 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.
  - Photographers must station themselves at locations designated by USGA media marshals to blend into the gallery.
  - Photographers must not take conspicuous positions.
  - Photographers are not permitted to position themselves behind the players.
  - Photographers may not take photographs from behind the teeing ground.
  - When working near the green, photographers must not position themselves directly in a player's putting line.
  - Still photographers are not permitted on TV towers.
  - Photographers are not permitted access to the players' locker room.
- Remote controlled drones/helicopters and other devices are strictly prohibited.
- Photographers must not release the camera shutter after the player stands over the ball and before the player has completed the stroke.
- Any photo runners/couriers/assistants are prohibited from taking photographs on the golf course at any time.
- The use of strobes or flash photography is prohibited on the course. However, flashes may be used during the prize ceremony and trophy presentation.
- Media must remain off the green at the completion of the championship.
- 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 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.

Updated Jan. 10, 2024

- 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.
- Cameras and grip equipment must be marked with the photographer's name, organization's name and contact number.
- Cameras may not be placed on any scoring device (leaderboard, monster board or otherwise) or its platforms/safety rails.
- Cameras must be placed as close as possible to the structure and must not interfere with the TV cameras or the view of spectators.
- Cameras, transmitters, and grip equipment must be secured to the structure with steel safety cables.
- Cameras and grip equipment may be removed by the USGA if necessary and/or if the individual and/or entity fails to comply with all regulations.
- Downloading and using assets from the USGA Digital Archive are governed by terms and conditions found [here](#). All assets herein are the property of the USGA and are to be used solely in conjunction with USGA news and information. They are not to be used in conjunction with non-USGA materials or for commercial purposes of any kind.

## TELEVISION AND RADIO COVERAGE

- No televised report with golf action highlights may be aired until that day's live television coverage has concluded.
- Reports with golf action highlights shall be used solely in connection with regularly scheduled radio and television news programming. Highlights of USGA championships for television and radio reports shall not exceed three (3) minutes in length and may not purport to be live, play-by-play coverage.
- No on-site signage will be permitted (i.e., banners) except for call letters painted on station vehicles which may be covered at the discretion of the USGA.
- 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 during NBCUniversal broadcast times (for example: 18th green gallery, concession areas, merchandise tent, practice range, practice putting green, parking lots, main public entrance and volunteer check-in tent).
- During practice rounds, television/video cameras may shoot golf action on all 18 holes but must stay outside the ropes and must not shoot footage during NBCUniversal live broadcast windows.
- All television highlights of the following USGA championships must come from the NBCUniversal satellite feeds: *U.S. Women's Open, U.S. Open, U.S. Senior Open, U.S. Adaptive Open, U.S. Girls' Junior, U.S. Junior Amateur, U.S. Women's Amateur, U.S. Amateur, U.S. Senior Women's Open*
- No report will be inserted into any commercial announcement or endorsed by a third party.
- Special Reports which include any proprietary materials owned by the USGA inclusive of but not limited to, the USGA trademark, the championship trademark and/or 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.
- 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.
- Audio highlights from a USGA rights-holding station or network may not be used without the prior written consent of the USGA.
- Audio transmissions may not exceed two minutes in length and there may be no more than two audio reports per hour.

**USGA Championship Communications reserves the right to enforce the above policies including revocation or suspension of a credential. If there are questions about any of the above policies, please contact [mediarelations@usga.org](mailto:mediarelations@usga.org).**