



# 118th Massachusetts Amateur Championship

## Fact Sheet

### Championship Information

July 6-10, 2026, Winchester Country Club  
467 Mystic St., Winchester, MA, 01890

**Championship Central:** [massgolf.org/championship-central-2026-massamateur](https://massgolf.org/championship-central-2026-massamateur)

**Social Media:** @playmassgolf | #MassAm

### Course Setup

Winchester will be set up at approximately 6,886 and will play to a par of 71. The yardage for each round of the championship will vary due to course setup and conditions.

### Hole by Hole

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Par	4	5	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	35
Yards	345	528	425	428	337	186	386	464	173	3272

Hole	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Par	4	3	5	5	3	4	4	4	4	36
Yards	435	234	515	530	149	457	413	428	453	3614

### Architect

Winchester traces its architectural roots to Alexander Findlay, who designed the original nine-hole course that opened Memorial Day weekend in 1903. Donald Ross first began working with the club in 1909, initially adding bunkers before expanding the layout after additional land was acquired in 1911. By 1916, Ross had fashioned an 18-hole course, and his relationship with Winchester continued for roughly a quarter-century, with Ross and his associates overseeing about two dozen more refinements through the 1930s. While the routing and underlying character largely remained intact, the course has continued to evolve with improvements from Geoffrey Cornish, Steljem Kay, and Ron Forse. Beginning in August, architect Andrew Green will begin Phase I of course restoration at Winchester.

### Who Can Enter

Entries are open to amateur golfers who have an active Mass Golf/GHIN Handicap Index at any public, private, semi-private, municipal or non-real estate Mass Golf member course/club not exceeding 3.6 (at the time of registration).

### Starting Times & Live Scoring

[CLICK HERE](#) for a list of the 2026 field.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the starting times for Rounds 1 and 2, and live scoring once the Championship begins.

### Schedule of Play

July 6 & 7: Stroke Play (18 holes/day)

- The low 32 players will advance to match play, beginning July 8.

- Any ties for the final Match Play qualifying place(s) will be determined by a hole-by-hole playoff, if needed, at the conclusion of Round 2.

**July 8:** Round of 32 (a.m.) and Round of 16 (p.m.)

**July 9:** Quarterfinals (a.m.) and Semifinals (p.m.)

**July 10:** Final Match (36 holes)

## Qualifying

Qualifying, played over 18 holes, was conducted at 11 sites in Massachusetts between May 26 and June 18. In total, 96 players automatically advanced to the championship through qualifying, with alternates added at a late date.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the qualifying results.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the alternates list.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the 2026 exemptions.

## 2025 Champion

Longmeadow native **Ryan Downes**, a GreatHorse member and Vanderbilt standout became the youngest player to win two Mass Amateur titles before age 20. Downes, also the 2023 winner, opened with a 77 at GreatHorse but played his way into match play with a bogey-free 70 in Round 2, then caught from there. He won each of his first three matches before reaching the 18th hole, then rallied from 3 down against **Joey Lenane** (George Wright Golf Course) to win a 19-hole semifinal thriller. In the 36-hole final against **Patrick Kilcoyne** (Woodland GC), Downes built a 5-up lead through the morning 18, highlighted by an eagle that put him 6 up through 14 holes. He stretched the lead to 7 up on the 22nd hole and closed out the championship with a conceded par on the par-3 12th, winning 7&6. Downes will not be back this year to defend his title.

## Championship History

This is the 118th Massachusetts Amateur Championship. The Mass Amateur was first played in 1903 at Myopia Hunt Club, where **Arthur G. Lockwood** emerged victorious. The Championship has been conducted every year since except for two years (1917-1918) during World War I and for four years (1942-1945) during World War II. The youngest winner is **Ryan Downes** who won the title at age 17 at Essex County Club in 2023 and again in 2025. The oldest winner is **Ed Fletcher**, who was 53 when he won his lone title at Concord Country Club in 1995.

Noted past winners include **Francis Ouimet**, **Frederick J. Wright, Jr.**, **Ted Bishop**, **Kevin Johnson**, **James Driscoll**, **Frank Vana, Jr.**, **Rob Oppenheim**, and **Michael Thorbjornsen**. **Jesse Guilford**, who was inducted into the Mass Golf Hall of Fame in October 2021, was the first to win both the Mass Amateur (1916, 1921, 1924) and the U.S. Amateur (1921) in the same year. Francis Ouimet also won the Mass Amateur (1913, 1914, 1915, 1919, 1922, 1925) and the U.S. Amateur (1914, 1931), as did Ted Bishop (Mass Amateur, 1940, 1946, 1961); U.S. Amateur (1946).

## Championship Records

**Most Wins:** 7 (Frederick J. Wright, Jr. – 1920, 1926, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1938)

**Most Times as a Host Club:** 11 (The Country Club, Brae Burn Country Club)

**Youngest Players to Win:** Ryan Downes (2023, Age 17, Essex County Club)

**Oldest Players to Win:** Ed Fletcher (1995, Age 53, Concord Country Club)

**Largest Age Differential Between Finalists:** 39 years (1956 – Fred Wright (58) and Charles Volpone (19).

**Longest Final Match:** 40 holes in 1993 (Flynt Lincoln def. Jason Kissell at Essex County Club)

**Shortest Final Match:** 25 holes in 1922 (Francis Ouimet def. Clark Hodder, 12 and 11, at Kernwood Country Club)

**Most Appearances in Championship Proper:** 37 (Frank Vana, Jr., 1984-85; 1988-2017, 2020-21, 2023)

**Most Consecutive Appearances in Match Play:** 22 (Frank Vana, Jr., 1991-2012)

**Most Appearances in Match Play:** 28 (Frank Vana, Jr., 1985, 1988, 1991-2012; 2015; 2017, 2021, 2023)

## The Last Time It Happened

**Last to win two consecutive Mass Amateurs:** Mike Calef, 2012 & 2013  
**Last to win three consecutive Mass Amateurs:** Frederick J. Wright, Jr., 1929-1931  
**Last to win four consecutive Mass Amateurs:** Frederick J. Wright, Jr., 1928-1931  
**Last winner younger than 20:** Ryan Downes (2025), 19 years, 8 months, 11 days  
**Last winner between ages 20-29:** Matthew Naumec (2024), 28 years, 24 days  
**Last winner between ages 30-39:** Matt Parziale (2017), 30 years, 1 month, 9 days  
**Last winner over age 40:** John Hedges (2010), 49 years, 11 months, 12 days

## Mass Amateur Championships at Winchester (Results)

**1919 Massachusetts Amateur** (Francis Ouimet d. Jesse Guilford, 8&6)  
**1931 Massachusetts Amateur** (Fred Wright d. Eddie Lowery, 3&2)  
**1937 Massachusetts Amateur** (Dave Whiteside d. Arthur Peterson, 6&5)  
**1952 Massachusetts Amateur** (Tom Mahan, Jr. d. Leo Grace, 5&4)  
**1975 Massachusetts Amateur** (Bruce Douglass d. Bobby Caprera, 2&1)  
**1986 Massachusetts Amateur** (Fran Quinn, Jr. d. Bill Martin, 3&2)  
**2002 Massachusetts Amateur** (Rob Oppenheim d. Brian Higgins, 1-up)

## Other Mass Golf/NEGA Championships at Winchester (Results)

**1921 Massachusetts Women's Amateur** (Glenna Collett d. Mrs. Henry Watson, 3&2)  
**1934 Massachusetts Women's Amateur** (Rosamond Vahey d. Jane Douglas, 19 holes)  
**1941 Massachusetts Women's Amateur** (Mary Grew d. Mrs. Franklin Gleason, 4&3)  
**1948 Massachusetts Junior Amateur** (Robert Zirkel d. Larry Warren, 1-up)  
**1948 Massachusetts Women's Four-Ball** (Cynthia Richardson & Ruth Howard by 2 strokes over Mrs. Richard Homer & Mrs. Charles F. Nartholomew, 78-80)  
**1953 Massachusetts Women's Amateur** (Florence McClusky d. Pippy Rooney, 2&1)  
**1955 Massachusetts Women's Mid-Amateur** (Florence McClusky by 14 strokes over Mrs. James Parker, 247-261)  
**1961 Massachusetts Junior Amateur** (Robert Barclay d. George DeFalco, Jr., 2&1)  
**1965 Massachusetts Open** (Jim Browning by 5 strokes over Jim Veno & Jerry Mobley, 211-216)  
**1965 Massachusetts Women's Four-Ball** (Beatrice Belliveau & Mrs. Chapin Fay in playoff over Mrs. Joseph Malia & Mrs. Edward McAuliffe)  
**1966 Massachusetts Women's Amateur** (Florence McClusky d. Pat O'Brien, 21 holes)  
**1971 Massachusetts Women's Mid-Amateur** (Nancy Black by 1 stroke over Mrs. George Spiro, 157-158)  
**1976 Massachusetts Women's Amateur** (Jeanne-Marie Boylan d. Debbie Simourian, 6&4)  
**1988 Ouimet Memorial Tournament** (Bob Bradley by 6 strokes over Frank Dully, 212-218)  
**1991 Massachusetts Women's Mid-Amateur** (Shawn Chalmers by 1 stroke over Mary Gale, 157-158)  
**1996 Massachusetts Open** (Jeff Leonard by 7 strokes over Fran Quinn Jr., 205-212)  
**2014 New England Amateur** (John VanDerLaan by 3 strokes over Nick Pandelena, 278-281)

## Past Champions in the Field

**Steven Tasho** (1981 & 1985), **Ben Spitz** (2006), **Matt Parziale** (2017), **Patrick Frodigh** (2018), **Conner Willett** (2022), **Matthew Naumec** (2024).

## Most Mass Amateurs Hosted by a Club

<b>(11)</b> The Country Club, Brookline	<b>(6)</b> Vesper Country Club, Tyngsborough
<b>(11)</b> Brae Burn Country Club, Newton	<b>(6)</b> The Kittansett Club, Marion
<b>(8)</b> Essex County Club, Manchester-by-the-Sea	<b>(5)</b> Salem Country Club, Peabody
<b>(8)</b> Winchester Country Club, Winchester	<b>(5)</b> Longmeadow Country Club, Longmeadow
<b>(7)</b> Worcester Country Club, Worcester	<b>(5)</b> Myopia Hunt Club, Hamilton
<b>(6)</b> Charles River Country Club, Newton	<b>(5)</b> Taconic Golf Club, Williamstown

**Future Sites**

**2027:** Willowbend, Mashpee

**2028:** George Wright Golf Course, Boston

**2030:** GreatHorse, Hampden

**2026 Awards**

The Massachusetts Cup will be presented to the Champion. The winner is also automatically into the field at the 2026 U.S. Amateur Championship. The Harry B. McCracken, Jr. medal will be awarded to the stroke play medalist(s). Merchandise certificates will be awarded to the 32 match play qualifiers.

**Media Operations**

Media members are invited to cover all five days of the Massachusetts Amateur on site at Winchester. Space in the workroom will be made available for all members of the working media who wish to cover the event. We ask that you inform Mass Golf if your intention is to be on site for any of the competition days.

**Photo Media Service**

There will be video interviews and written recaps posted on the MassGolf.org website and on Mass Golf's social media channels (@PlayMassGolf) at the end of each round. All recaps will be distributed to the media after each day of competition. Other unique content will be posted on Mass Golf's social media channels throughout each round.

Mass Golf will offer complimentary high-resolution photographs during the Mass Amateur for editorial use only. Please credit David Colt with all photos.

**Media Contact**

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the page where these photographs will be posted.

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