

Spectators off Fairways at the Open

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USGA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A new pattern of guiding and controlling galleries appears to be emerging in American major golf tournaments. The essence of it is that spectators stay off areas, on the sides of the course.

The idea will receive its Open Championship baptism when the 54th event in the USGA series is played in June at the Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N. J.

The basic principle is not new. For some years several holes at the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia have been so roped off during the Masters tournament that spectators remained entirely off the fairways. Last year a similar scheme was adapted to the Birmingham Country Club course near Detroit for the Championship of the Professional Golfers' Association of America. Before all this, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews had used the plan on certain holes of the Old Course for British Championships.

At Baltusrol in June, almost all fairways will be roped off so that spectators will not walk on them. As has long been customary, all putting greens and tees will be roped. Where bottlenecks occur on contiguous holes, spectators will either be restrained from entering blind alleys or will cross from one side of the fairway to the other side on narrow walkways after shots have been played. In no case, according to the plan, will spectators form arcs in the fairways while strokes are being made.

The advantages of this system are manifold, among them being the following:

For players:

The condition of the course will be maintained at a high level because of absence of thousands of spectators' footmarks in playing areas, especially fairways and approaches to putting greens, where delicate strokes are made.

Pace of play will be faster, as galleries

PAR FOR OPEN TO BE 70

Par will be 70 for the 54th USGA Open Championship to be played over the Lower Course of the Baltusrol Golf Club on June 17-18-19. Total yardage will be 7,027; if alternative tees are used on the 4th and 6th holes, it will be 6,949.

Par for the first nine will be 34. This is two strokes lower than for the 1946 Amateur Championship at Baltusrol. The reductions were made at the first hole and the seventh holes, both of which are within reasonable range of second shots by professionals. At the first a forward tee will be used to make the hole 465 yards long; the seventh will be played at approximately 468 yards.

In recommending a yardage basis as the starting point for computing par, the USGA suggests 445 yards as a general limit for par 4. However, the way the hole plays is the ultimate determining factor, and both the first and the sixth at Baltusrol are actually par 4s for pros.

Yardage and par for Baltusrol's Lower Course follow:

Hole	Yards	Par	Hole	Yards	Par
1	465	4	10	450	4
2	379	4	11	421	4
3	444	4	12	190	3
4	183 (160)	3	13	391	4
5	391	4	14	409	4
6	467 (412)	4	15	427	4
7	468	4	16	201	3
8	372	4	17	620	5
9	204	3	18	545	5
3,373 (3,295)		34	3,654		36
Total yards—7,027 (alternative: 6,949)					
Total par—70.					

will be automatically marshalled to the sides of the course and should provide little or no interference or delay to play.

Players without large galleries who follow immediately behind "star" attractions will not be disturbed and delayed by thoughtless spectators who, in the past, have been so absorbed in watching the "stars" that they have paid scant heed to the players following.

For spectators:

There will be wider areas of visibility. Thus, galloping down fairways for preferred positions will scarcely be necessary. More play can be seen more easily with less walking and general effort.

As spectators will be off the course, there will be much less hazard of being struck by golf balls.

For the Championship management:

It will be easier to maintain the course in good condition.

There will be less likelihood of balls striking spectators. Thus, lucky and unlucky "breaks" will be minimized and fair play furthered.

Marshalling spectators will be simplified.

The test provided by the course will be kept more nearly normal and uniform. Rough immediately adjacent to the fairways will not be trampled by thousands of feet, and so will serve the purpose for which it was intended — to reward accuracy in play.

Plans for gallery guidance at the Open have been worked out by Charles P. Burgess, General Chairman of Baltusrol's committees; John C. Smaltz, Chairman of the Gallery Committee; John D. Ames, Chairman of the USGA Championship Committee, and Robert Trent Jones, golf course architect who has advocated such a scheme for some time and who has made some revisions in the Baltusrol Lower Course in recent years.

The test at Baltusrol in June may go far to determine the future pattern of gallery guidance in major tournaments.

Sectional Qualifying Rounds

Sectional qualifying rounds, at 36 holes, have been scheduled at 32 locations for this year's Open Championship. They will be played on Monday, June 7.

Entries must reach the USGA office by 5 P.M. on Monday, May 24.

The starting field in the Championship proper at Baltusrol on June 17 will comprise 162 players. Prize money will again total \$20,000, with \$5,000 to the winner.

Ben Hogan will be seeking his fifth Open Championship. Only Hogan, Bob

Jones and Willie Anderson have won the Open four times.

Following are the places where Sectional Qualifying will be held:

ALA.	Birmingham	C. C. of Birmingham
ARIZ.	Phoenix	Phoenix C. C.
CAL.	Los Angeles	Hillcrest C. C.
	Sacramento	Del Paso C. C.
COLO.	Denver	Denver C. C.
FLA.	Daytona Beach	Daytona Beach G. & C. C.
HAWAII	Honolulu	Waialae C. C.
ILL.	Chicago	Twin Orchard C. C.
IOWA	Des Moines	Des Moines G. & C. C.
LA.	New Orleans	New Orleans C. C.
MD.	Baltimore	Mount Pleasant G. C.
MASS.	Boston	Winchester C. C.
MICH.	Detroit	Plum Hollow G. C. and Franklin Hills C. C.
MINN.	St. Paul	North Oaks G. C.
MO.	Kansas City	Indian Hills C. C.
	St. Louis	Westwood C. C.
N. J.	Montclair	Montclair G. C.
N. Y.	Long Island	Rockville C. C. and Hempstead G. C.
	Rochester	Brook-Lea C. C.
	Troy	C. C. of Troy
	Westchester	Winged Foot G. C.
N. C.	Burlington	Alamance C. C.
OHIO	Cincinnati	Cincinnati C. C.
	Cleveland	Canterbury G. C. and Beechmont C. C.
OKLA.	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City G. & C. C.
ORE.	Portland	Tualatin C. C.
PA.	Philadelphia	North Hills C. C. and Sandy Run C. C.
	Pittsburgh	Longue Vue C.
TENN.	Nashville	Richland G. & C. C.
TEXAS	Dallas	Lakewood C. C.
	Houston	Pine Forrest C. C.
	Midland	Midland C. C.

PGA REPRESENTATIVE AT OPEN

Jack Mitchell, professional at the Essex Country Club, West Orange, N. J., has been appointed representative of the Professional Golfers' Association for the 1954 Open Championship. It will be his function to represent the PGA in questions of mutual interest which may arise in connection with that Championship.