



MGA Women's Amateur Championship
July 24-26, 2017
Northland Country Club, Duluth, Minn.

GENERAL INFO/FORMAT – The 2017 MGA Women's Amateur Championship will be held at Northland Country Club, Monday through Wednesday, July 24-26. The Championships Division (for players with USGA Handicap Indexes of 7.4 or lower) will play 54 holes at stroke play, while the Flighted Divisions (for players with USGA Handicap Indexes of 7.5 and higher) will play 36 holes at stroke play. A tie for the Championship will be broken by a hole-by-hole playoff.

LIVE SCORING ON THE WEB

Live Scoring will be available on the MGA website at www.mngolf.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE – Follow us for updates, photos, and results

Facebook: Minnesota Golf Association

Twitter Handle: @MNGolfAssn; #MGAWomensAmateur

Instagram: MNGolfAssn

NORTHLAND COUNTRY CLUB OFFICIALS – Dan Markham, Club President; Mike Seyfer, Vice President; John Kuenzli, Director of Golf; Jake Ryan, Golf Course Superintendent; Darrin Bell, General Manager.

NORTHLAND COUNTRY CLUB AND CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF –Northland CC has been the host of several prestigious golf championships, having hosted the 1946 and 1960 Western Amateurs, as well as the 1956 U.S. Women's Open Championship. It is also home to the Northland Invitational and the Leo Spooner Invitational.

The 2017 MGA Women's Amateur Championship marks the third time the "Minnesota Women's State Amateur" has visited Northland Country Club. In 1968, Bev (Gammon) Vanstrum's final-round 75 (80-82-75—237) included six birdies, four bogeys and a double-bogey. "It was either very good or very bad," she said afterward, but it amounted to a nine-shot victory over Joan Garvin.

In 1980, Betsy Seitz (74-79-78) and Kelly Skalicky (77-75-79) tied at 231, while Anne Zahn missed the playoff by one stroke. Seitz needed a birdie on the third playoff hole to defeat Skalicky.

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Northland has also hosted four Minnesota Women's Match Play championships, in 1923, 1930, 1935 and 1954.

Northland was founded in 1899 as a 9-hole course. Alfred Taussig, E.P. Towne, C.P. Woodruff, along with Duluthians, G.G. Hartley, A.M. Miller, D.G. Cutler, W. Telford, and H.W. Merchant. Cutler was elected as the club's first president. Northland was originally sketched out by a member, Ward Ames Jr. In the early years maintenance was kept by a flock of sheep to keep the course playable. As the game became more popular, membership determined that a new 18-hole course was needed. The course has undergone two revisions, once in 1912 and the other in 1921. In 1912 Northland was expanded to 18 holes. In 1921, the course was able to acquire land above the hill and Donald Ross was hired to design a new course, finishing in 1927. A few updates have been made throughout the years, Craig Schreiner began a three-year renovation in 1999, and more recently, Ross expert Ron Prichard furnished the club with a master plan for restoration going forward. Northland remains the same course Ross designed nearly 100 years ago.

LAST YEAR'S CHAMPIONSHIP – Burnham's nearly flawless final-round 69 matched the University of Minnesota's Heather Ciskowski's second-round 69, as the only two sub-par rounds during the 54-hole championship. Setting the tone early, Burnham's approach on the opening hole found the back edge, but she would chip in from 25 feet for birdie to increase her lead to two. Sinking a 10-footer for par at the fifth, Burnham maintained her two-shot advantage before increasing it to three following a key up-and-down for par at the sixth.

After sticking her approach to six feet and rolling in her birdie chance, her lead grew to five shots following a double-bogey by Ciskowski. Burnham's lead increased further when Ciskowski's tee shot at the 10th found the hazard left of the fairway. In complete control of her round and the championship, Burnham rolled in a 12-foot birdie putt at the 12th to increase her lead to 10 before her lone blemish at 16, where she failed to get up-and-down from left of the green at the par-3.

Finding the front of the final green with her approach, Burnham made a simple two-putt to clinch her second Women's State Amateur title in five years.

Burnham opened the championship with a 2-over par 73 despite a string of four bogeys in a span of six holes. During her second round, Burnham took a double-bogey on the final hole to shoot 71 and watched what would've been a comfortable lead shrink to just one over Ciskowski.

Over the final 18 holes, a trio of double-bogeys sunk Ciskowski's chances, who slipped to third place at 224, one shot behind fellow Gopher Emie Peronnin, in with 7-over par 220, eight shots behind Burnham's 212 (72-71-69). It was the largest margin of victory since Nancy Harris defeated Leigh Klasse by nine strokes at Edina Country Club in 1988.

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THE FIELD – This year Sarah Burnham returns to defend her Minnesota Women’s State Amateur title amongst a formidable field of challengers including two former State Amateur champions: Olivia Herrick, Dellwood CC (2009-2010), and Claudia Pilot, The Pines at Grand View Lodge (1999-2000). Like Burnham, Herrick and Pilot are also former MWPGA State Public Links champions.

Additional accomplished competitors in the field includes the 2016 Minnesota Women’s State Open champ, Lynn Anderson (Keller GC); three-time Northland Invitational winner, Paige Broman (Minneapolis GC); the 2016-2017 State High School Class AA individual champ, Anni Heck (Southview CC); the 2014 State High School Class AA individual co-champ, Maggie Heggerston (Cragun’s Legacy Courses); the 2017 State High School Class AAA co-champ, Joanna Kim (Edinburgh USA); the 2008 Minnesota Senior Women’s State Amateur champ, Ellie Layton (Rochester G&CC); the 2016 Minnesota State Junior Girls’ champ and 2015-2016 State High School Class AAA individual champ, Taylor Ledwein (New Prague GC); the 2013 State High School Class AA co-champ, Natalie Roth (Moorhead CC); the five-time State High School Class AA individual champ, Katherine Smith (Detroit CC); the 2011 Minnesota Senior Women’s Match Play and 2015 Senior Women’s State Amateur champ, Brenda Williams (Windsong Farm); and the 2016 Minnesota Women’s State Match Play runner-up, Athena Yang (Edinburgh USA).

CLUB TEAM EVENT – The MGA Women’s Amateur Championship includes a team competition during the first two rounds (MGA member clubs are represented by three or four golfers, whose best two net scores are totaled). Ties are broken by a matching of scorecards, per the [Rules of Golf](#), see Appendix I, Part C.

Last year, **Brackett’s Crossing CC** (Emma and Megan Welch, and Donna Turner) posted 699 to win the team competition.

COURSE SET UP (Championship Flight) – 6,028 yds, Par 36-35 – 71

Hole #1 – 395 yards, par 4	Hole #10 – 324 yards, par 4
Hole #2 – 313 yards, par 4	Hole #11 – 450 yards, par 5
Hole #3 – 342 yards, par 4	Hole #12 – 163 yards, par 3
Hole #4 – 471 yards, par 5	Hole #13 – 372 yards, par 4
Hole #5 – 137 yards, par 3	Hole #14 – 395 yards, par 4
Hole #6 – 367 yards, par 4	Hole #15 – 357 yards, par 4
Hole #7 – 370 yards, par 4	Hole #16 – 384 yards, par 4
Hole #8 – 186 yards, par 3	Hole #17 – 150 yards, par 3
Hole #9 – 464 yards, par 5	Hole #18 – 388 yards, par 4

Out – 3,045 yds Par 36 In – 2,983 yds Par 35

Course Rating/Slope Rating: 75.0/137

COURSE SET UP (First Flight) – 5,518 yds, Par 36-35 – 71

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Hole #1 – 395 yards, par 4	Hole #10 – 324 yards, par 4
Hole #2 – 238 yards, par 4	Hole #11 – 408 yards, par 5
Hole #3 – 292 yards, par 4	Hole #12 – 130 yards, par 3
Hole #4 – 442 yards, par 5	Hole #13 – 337 yards, par 4
Hole #5 – 125 yards, par 3	Hole #14 – 360 yards, par 4
Hole #6 – 335 yards, par 4	Hole #15 – 357 yards, par 4
Hole #7 – 340 yards, par 4	Hole #16 – 356 yards, par 4
Hole #8 – 170 yards, par 3	Hole #17 – 120 yards, par 3
Hole #9 – 464 yards, par 5	Hole #18 – 325 yards, par 4

Out – 2,801 yds Par 36 In – 2,717 yds Par 35

Course Rating/Slope Rating: 72.2/131

ELIGIBILITY – To enter the MGA Women’s Amateur Championship, a player must be an associate member of the MGA (through membership of an MGA member club) and carry a USGA Handicap Index of 7.4 or lower at the time of entry for the Championship Division, 7.5 or higher for the Flighted Divisions.

PAIRINGS/NOTICE TO COMPETITORS

Complete pairings and the notice to competitors are available online at https://www.mngolf.org/Tournament/75th_MGA_Womens_Amateur_Championship

ABOUT THE MGA

Founded in 1901, the Minnesota Golf Association is the governing body over amateur golf in the state, responsible for administering the *Rules of Golf*, and committed to uphold and promote the game of golf and its values for all golfers in Minnesota. The MGA conducts 16 major amateur championships and 15 USGA qualifying events each year. Thanks to the support of its member clubs and associate members, and the efforts of its volunteers and staff, the MGA provides a variety of services such as handicapping, course rating and measuring, an online golf news and information resource, *mngolf.org*, and an official publication, *Minnesota Golfer* magazine, which benefits all golfers throughout Minnesota.