

## **What Does the USGA Do?**

The USGA sponsors programs that benefit everyone who plays the game. These essential services affect all golfers, whether they are amateurs or professionals, public or private course players.

- **Writes and Interprets the Rules of Golf**

The USGA and R&A Rules Limited, jointly write and interpret the Rules of Golf to guard the tradition and integrity of the game.

- **Produces the Rules of Amateur Status**

The Rules of Amateur Status reinforce the fundamental idea that an amateur is one who plays solely for the enjoyment of the game, without financial benefit.

- **Conducts National Championships**

The USGA conducts golf's national championships. These include the U.S. Open, the U.S. Women's Open, the U.S. Senior Open, 10 national amateur championships and the State Team Championships. The USGA also helps conduct four international competitions: the Walker Cup Match, the Curtis Cup Match, and the Men's and Women's World Amateur Team Championships.

- **Provides a Handicap System**

Thanks to the USGA Handicap System, all golfers can compete on an equal basis. The USGA Course Rating System ensures that golf courses are rated in relation to all other courses. The USGA Slope System adjusts a player's USGA Handicap Index according to the difficulty of a course. As a result, no matter whom golfers play with — or where they play — they can enjoy a fair game.

- **Maintains Equipment Standards**

The USGA continually tests golf equipment for conformity to the Rules. Without such rigorous equipment testing and research programs, advances in technology could soon overtake skill as the major factor in success.

- **Funds Turfgrass and Environmental Research**

The USGA funds research that leads to improved grasses and playing surfaces that require less water and maintenance and can better endure diseases and pests. These grasses and playing surfaces can be used in a wide variety of climates. The USGA is also the largest contributor to research on the impact of golf courses on the environment.

- **USGA Turf Advisory Service**

The USGA has 18 skilled agronomists who make annual visits to more than 1,500 golf courses. These experts offer recommendations that help improve course maintenance and make it more cost-efficient.

- **Preserves Golf's History**

The USGA Museum -featuring the Arnold Palmer Center for Golf History - is the world's premier institution for the study and education of golf history. With collections that encompass more than 42,000 artifacts, a library of more than 20,000 volumes, more than half a million photographic images, and several thousand hours of

film and video footage, the USGA Museum is the preeminent place for golf enthusiasts and visitors of all ages to experience the game both as it used to be and as it is today.

- **Ensures Golf's Future**

Through its Grants and Fellowship initiative, the USGA funds a variety of junior golf, caddie, physically challenged, and education programs that foster the notion that golf is a game for everyone. Since 1997, the USGA has provided more than \$65 million in support of more than 1,000 junior golf programs and programs for individuals with disabilities for the good of the game.