

2015 NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP

*The most authentic and
challenging hickory golf
competition in the world*

*Eighteenth Year
June 11-13, 2015*

*Historic
Oakhurst Links
White Sulphur Springs,
West Virginia*

*NHC Tournament Office
PO Box 981
Kernersville, NC 27285
(336) 996-7836
nhc-golf@earthlink.net
www.hickorychampionship.org*



THE NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP

was established in 1998 to bring together golfers who enjoy playing golf in historic conditions, the way it was played before the turn of the century. Playing according to 19th century rules and using authentic 19th century equipment makes the NHC the sternest test of hickory golf contested anywhere. Open to all, the NHC draws the most ardent and accomplished wood shaft golfers from across America and Canada. Competitive, yet fun, it is America's hickory championship—the ultimate test of hickory golf.



John Roth (Mills River, NC) was presented with the prestigious 2014 Lynah Sherrill Award by Jim Sherrill, the Championship's annual recognition award for outstanding contributions to hickory golf. →

← *No offense gentleman, but NHC ladies are always more photogenic competitors. Samantha Shumaker (Verona, PA), Sherry Smeltzer (Camdenton, MO) and Gillian Alexander (Rice's Landing, PA) on the 1st tee.*



The 2015 National Hickory Championship will be conducted over historic Oakhurst Links, first used in the early 1880s. Contestants in the Championship play 36 holes in two days. Clubs must be original 19th century or approved replicas (available for rent if you don't have your own set) and all players use the same modern-made, low-compression gutta percha-type balls supplied by the Championship. Tee shots are struck from sand tees. No golf bags are allowed so players carry clubs under their arm in the manner of the 1880s. There is a simple dress code. Although period costumes are not required, many golfers dress appropriately and prizes are presented to the "best dressed." The NHC is like no other hickory golf tournament here, in Britain or anywhere else in the world; it is authentic, competitive, historic, truly unique and, above all, fun!



The Championship offers competition in four divisions. The **Open Division** is a 36-hole scratch competition playing for the title of America's National Hickory Champion under 19th century equipment and rules. The **Men's** and **Women's Reserve Divisions** also use 19th century equipment and are scored on a handicap basis for 36 holes. The **Sporting Division**, open to men and women, features two nine-hole rounds for seniors and those not wishing to climb the hills twice in the same day. Additionally, the Elmore Just Foursomes Competition is staged on the practice day (Thursday) prior to the Championship rounds. Two-player teams play the historic format of alternate stroke for fun, prizes and an appreciation of how golf was played in the early 19th century. Practice time is also available on Thursday afternoon. Rule books are provided containing the 1891 unified code, the first general set of golf rules (with local Oakhurst provisions added). A welcome reception on Thursday and the Championship Dinner on Friday provide for socializing.



Clockwise from top left: Even in summer mornings early tee time golfers like Seth Lomison (Pfafftown, NC) may encounter a bit of fog; 2014 National Hickory Champion Tom Johnson (Tallmadge, OH) holds the Champion's trophy; Elegant Ann Smith (DeForest, WI) has won the 2014 Best Dressed Lady award a record third time; John Miller (Dallas, TX) points to the hole where J.W. McMath (New Philadelphia, OH) scored the first hole in one in competition at Oakhurst; Mike Just (Louisville, KY) chips a shot to #9 green, close to the clubhouse deck; Junior intern Shelby Shumaker (Verona, PA) records scores on the scoreboard. Junior are NHC contestants but assist in the running of the Championship as part of their internship; Rob "Kilty" Ahlschwede (Olympia, WA) tees off from one of Oakhurst's earthen tee boxes. Golfers tee the ball with sand because the wooden peg tee had not yet been invented in 1890.



2015 NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP EQUIPMENT GUIDE

Equipment Guide—19th Cent. Divisions (Open, Reserve & Sporting Divisions)

There is no limit to the number of clubs that can be carried.

Antique Woods:

Long nose, semi-long nose or bulger style; splice head; should have marks and shape (significantly elongated—**minimum 3" wide at narrowest part of the club face**) consistent with 19th century clubs/makers.

***No short head splice or socket woods allowed.

Replica Woods:

As above. Approved wood clubs available from Oakhurst, Louisville Golf Co., Tad Moore or Heritage (St. Andrews).

Antique Irons:

Must be smooth faced and attributable (by markings) to 19th century origin. Irons with no markings must be inspected and approved before the tournament, or at prior GCS, SoHG or CHGA events.

Niblicks should be not greater than 2" high x 2.5" wide measured on the flat area of the face.

Replica Irons:

Oakhurst and Tad Moore. Must be smooth faced. Others approved by the committee.

Antique Putters (wood):

Any wood-shaft era (pre-1935) wood-headed putter in the long nose, semi-long nose or transitional shape that is heel-shafted is allowed. This includes splice head and later 20th century socket head putters as long as they are made in the 'mallet,' long nose or semi-long nose shape of the old style and heel-shafted.

***No Schenectadies or other center-shaft putters.

Replica Putters (wood):

Louisville Golf Company long nose wood head/wood shaft putters allowed. Others by committee approval, following inspection.

Antique Putters (metal):

Metal head (steel or gun metal, i.e. bronze) blade putter or putting cleek only allowed if proven to be of 19th century origin by maker name or cleek mark.

***No Otey Crisman putters or aluminum head putters (Mills and other similar types) permitted.

Common clubs categorically allowed:

(must be smooth faced)

- ◇ Tom Stewart irons with NO registration legend under the pipe mark
 - ◇ Stewart irons with serpent mark
 - ◇ All B.G.I. irons or semi-long head spliced woods
 - ◇ All Willie Park irons or semi-long head spliced woods (including Compressed Patent)
 - ◇ Spalding made irons—from these model series
 - SPALDING (name only in block letters)
 - "The Spalding"
 - Clan
 - SMC.
 - "Spalding Special" (script or block letters)
 - Vardon
 - Morristown (w/ no baseball mark)
 - ◇ Forgan with Prince of Wales plume mark
 - ◇ Irons by Willie Wilson, Robert Wilson, Robert White, John Gray and F&A Carrick
- ***No Non-wood shaft clubs allowed.
***No Otey Crisman putters allowed.
***No Callaway Hickory Sticks allowed.
***No Rubber slip-on grips. Leather wrap only.

Clubs made in the period 1900-1905 that have the characteristics of 19th century clubs may be able to obtain a special exemption and be approved for NHC play upon application to the Championship Director/Equipment Committee. Photos required.

GOLF BAGS

Open Division:

NO GOLF BAGS ALLOWED IN COMPETITIVE PLAY

(only in practice or Foursomes)

Clubs to be carried under arm, without bag.

Reserve Divisions:

**GOLF BAGS PERMITTED IN TOURNAMENT PLAY
with medical waiver from Championship Director**

All equipment used in the NHC Tournament is subject to authentication and approval by the equipment/rules committee. If in doubt, contact the Championship Committee as far in advance of the tournament as possible for a ruling.

2015 NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP DRESS CODE

GENTLEMEN:

OPEN, RESERVE & SPORTING DIVISIONS

Trousers—Long trousers or Knickerbocker trousers with knee socks (preferably solid color socks) only. Knickers are knee-length and fairly tight. Prefer **No** plus-fours (i.e. baggy, 1920s-style knee-trousers please!) or plus-sixes.

Kilts - permitted. Don't forget the sporran!

Shirt—Long sleeve shirt (roll up sleeves if you get warm). **No** knit golf shirts.

Tie (required for men)—Bow tie, neck tie, ascot or cravat.

Accessories—Vest or waistcoat allowed; (modern) golf glove permitted.

Shoes—Any style golf shoe permitted. Soft spikes, please.

Hat—Must be appropriate for period. Wide brimmed straw or felt hat, top hat, bowler or derby, flat cloth cap (Hogan cap) or short-billed games or cricket caps. **No** baseball-type caps or visors.

Note: Floppy plus-fours and argyle socks are not permitted in the Open Division and are discouraged from use in the Reserve Division. These are more commonly seen in the 1920s.

Apparel outlined in this guide is required for the rounds of competitive golf. At all other times (Foursomes, practice, cocktails, dinner, etc.) casual clothing is allowed and encouraged.

LADIES:

WOMEN'S & SPORTING DIVISIONS

Skirt or dress—Approximately ankle length.

Blouse or shirt—Please try to use period style. **No** knit golf shirts.

Hat—Attempt to maintain a period appearance. **No** visors.

Accessories—Vest, jacket, sweater or scarf allowed. Shoes, gloves, ties permitted as outlined for gentlemen. Since many lady's outfits have small or no pockets a small sack, satchel, basket or handbag is permitted for balls and 'necessary' accoutrements.

Apparel Philosophy:

The National Hickory Championship is a golf tournament not a costume party. Apparel is not expected to be authentic 19th century but merely to replicate the general type of clothing worn by golfers of the period. Please exercise good judgment but also be as comfortable as possible. Summer temperatures can be quite warm. In many of the past years' events media outlets—newspapers, magazines, TV/film—have been present and appreciate the 19th century image of the NHC.

Prizes are presented for the best dressed man and woman at the NHC.

Friday is photo day and you may choose that day to look your best if you bring more than one outfit.

2015 NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP

SECTION 1 – Championship Entry (June 12-13, select one division)

Open Division

Fee: **\$400** 4 x 9 holes contesting for the title of **National Hickory Champion**.
Scratch stroke competition.

check here

Reserve Division

Fee: **\$400** 4 x 9 holes Net Stroke competition. Prior NHC handicap info required.

check here

Ladies Division

Fee: **\$400** 4 x 9 holes, Net Stroke competition. Hcp. info required from new players.

check here

Sporting Division

Fee: **\$325** 2 x 9 holes Net Stroke competition. Prizes for men & women.

check here

Amount



CONTESTANT INFORMATION

RETURN THIS FORM (OR COPY) WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO THE ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ (please indicate Day, Evening or Cell)

E-Mail address _____

****First time players (only)**:**

Handicap or slope index: _____

CLUBS: Check one:

I will rent McIntyre Clubs (\$100) ☐ I will bring my own 19th century clubs* ☐

Name of non playing wife attending _____

(indicate metal shaft, wood shaft, or SoHG hcp.) _____

Golfers requiring Left-Handed McIntyre clubs please indicate ☐ (19th Century clubs subject to equipment committee inspection & approval)

SECTION 2 – Practice Competitions; June 11.

“Elmore Just Foursomes Competition”:

9 holes of alternate stroke competition on Thursday, June 11, partners assigned by handicap. Two flights based on handicap. See flyer for options.

check here

No Fee: Included with entry

(Match Play Eights contestants receive individual invitations)

Amount



SECTION 3: Order NHC Golf Balls

Indicate the number of balls you desire to purchase. Returning players may use balls from past NHCs (line cut gutties). New players are recommended to equip themselves with 4 or 5 balls. (McIntyre balls available from Dave Brown)

Number

Ball price: \$9.00 each (only the line cut guttie ball is legal)

SECTION 4 – Purchase a color ad in the 2015 Championship Program

Program Advert

(optional – receive extra copies)

Honor Roll
@ **\$5.00**

check here

Business Card
@ **\$10.00**

(Include card or we'll create one)

check here

1/2 Page **\$20.00**

check here

Full Page **\$40.00**

check here

Amount



SECTION 5 – Friday Evening Dinner, June 12

NHC Dinner: Friday night buffet-style dinner with cash bar. Included in entry fee for players. Indicate additional number of places required for spouse, kids or friends:

Number

Price: **\$60.00ea**

Amount



SECTION 6 – Donation: The NHC donates clubs and fees to the “The First Tee” for junior participation. Your optional donation of \$10.00 (or more) helps defray our program costs. Thanks!

Amount



SECTION 7 – Club rental from Chris McIntyre (\$100.00 for a full week of practice/competition)



Please make check or money order payable to “National Hickory Championship.”
Once entry is processed fee is non-refundable.

Total Amt. Enclosed:



THE 2015

NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP

Oakhurst Links

White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia

June 11-13, 2015

For 17 years the most authentic, complete and rigorous hickory golf competition in the world

- Players wishing to bring their own clubs must follow the specifications provided in the [Equipment Guide](#) and have clubs validated by the Equipment Committee before the commencement of play;
- Competitors electing to rent clubs will be provided a set of 5 clubs, antique irons & replica driver;
 - NHC entry fee includes 18 or 36 holes of tournament play, Elmore Just Foursomes Competition, practice time, lunches, refreshments, prizes;
- Competitors may order balls on the entry form. Consult the Championship Committee for a list of approved ball types;
 - Appropriate dress is required (outlined on the accompanying page labeled [Dress Code](#));
 - Divisions of competition include Open, Reserve, Women, Sporting.
- "Elmore Just Foursomes Competition" is a separate event with prizes preceding the start of the Championship;
 - The Championship dinner is planned for Friday night at the Elks Club, Lewisburg, with spouses, friends and families welcomed. Foursomes prize and awards presentations following dinner;
 - Entry confirmation is subject to the approval of the NHC Championship Committee which shall determine eligibility as well as decide all questions regarding the rules;
 - Official NHC rule books are supplied to all golfers in advance of the championship
- First-time players must supply hcp information from their home club, assn., or from Society of Hickory Golfers;
- To compete in the Reserve Division golfers should have two years prior NHC scores or established SoHG hcp.
 - **Confirmation of entry acceptance will be communicated within 30 days of entry receipt**

Waiver

By completing this entry form, the contestant releases Oakhurst Links, the Greenbrier Resort Company, the National Hickory Championship committee and event sponsors from all liability.

Oakhurst Links is America's oldest documented golf course, first played in the early 1880s. It is the site of America's first recognized golf competition, the Oakhurst Challenge, and is on the National Register of Historic Places



THE NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP

is an open championship comprised of two days play. It is the only competition that truly replicates golf of the 19th century and serves as America's national championship of wood shafted golf.

Mail Entry Form and Fee to:

National Hickory Championship

PO Box 981, Kernersville NC 27285-0981

Questions? Phone (336) 996-7836 or e-mail [<nhc-golf@earthlink.net>](mailto:nhc-golf@earthlink.net)