



# 2024 HALL FINANCIAL MICHIGAN OPEN

Oakland University- Katke Golf Course  
June 10-13, 2024

*Supported By:*



# WELCOME

## KEVIN HELM

### Executive Director, Michigan PGA Section



Dear Contestant:

As an exempt player or an advancing player from a qualifier, it's my pleasure to welcome you to the field of the 107th Hall Financial Michigan Open Championship on June 10-13, 2024 at Oakland University – Katke Course in Rochester, MI. The event is also supported by Turbo Insurance, Harbor Title, Make the Turn and Fox Motors.

We are really excited about returning to Oakland University and feel very fortunate to be able to conduct this great championship at such a terrific facility and golf course. I would like to thank the members, staff and leadership at Oakland University for their hospitality. We would also like to thank Hall Financial for returning as the title sponsor of this Championship. With the help of Hall Financial, we have been able to secure four supporting sponsors in Make The Turn, Turbo Insurance, Harbor Title and Fox Motors.

The Michigan Open, one of the state's longest-running golf events, began in 1916 and was first won by Leo Diegel, who also played in the inaugural Ryder Cup matches and The Masters.

Historically, some of golf's most famous names are listed on the Michigan Open's James D. Standish, Jr. Trophy. Walter Hagen, the father of modern professional golf and captain of the first five U.S. Ryder Cup teams, won the event in 1921. Michigan PGA Professional, Scott Hebert, is tied with Al Watrous for all-time Michigan Open titles with six. Legendary Michigan amateur, Chuck Kocsis, who played on three Walker Cup teams, won three titles. Other notable multiple winners with at least three titles include Randy Erskine (5), Chick Harbert (4), Walter Burkemo (4), John Barnum (4), Marvin Stahl (3), Steve Brady (3), and Ryan Brehm (3).

Attached is information to assist you in your preparations for the Hall Financial Michigan Open Championship.

If you have any questions, please contact Justin Phillips at [jphillips@michiganpga.com](mailto:jphillips@michiganpga.com) or 517-641-7421.

On behalf of The Michigan PGA, thank you for participating in what should be another exciting Michigan Open Championship.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Helm".



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## **Sunday, June 9**

11:00 am - 5:00 pm: Player Registration

9:00am - 3:00pm: Practice Rounds

\*First tee closes at 3:00pm

## **Monday, June 10**

7:00am- Practice Range Opens

7:00am - 1:00 pm: Player Registration

Starting Times: 8:00am - 9:48am; 12:30pm - 2:18pm

\*Tee #1 & Tee #10

## **Tuesday, June 11**

7:00am- Practice Range Opens

Starting Times: 8:00am - 9:48am; 12:30pm - 2:18pm

\*Tee #1 & Tee #10

## **Wednesday, June 12**

7:00am- Practice Range Opens

Starting Times: 8:00am off Tee #1

## **Thursday, June 13**

7:00am- Practice Range Opens

Starting Times: 8:00am off Tee #1

\*Immediately following play- trophy presentation in scoreboard area

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All participants will receive a yardage book at registration, courtesy of Strackaline Yardage Books.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

The Championship will take place Monday-Thursday, June 10-13, 2024 at Oakland University's Katke Golf Course.

## LOCATION

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### **Oakland University Golf & Learning Center - Katke Golf Course**

*Use Adams Road entrance, South of Walton Blvd.*

492 Golf View Lane

Rochester, MI 48309

(248) 364-6300

<https://www.oakland.edu/golf/>

## HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

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### **The Hyatt Place Detroit / Auburn Hills**

A discounted rate of \$119 has been set up at: **to guarantee the rate, you must book by June 1st.**

[Click HERE to book online.](#)

Hyatt Place Detroit / Auburn Hills

1545 North Opdyke Road

Auburn Hills, MI 48326

(248) 475- 9393



## FIELD

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72 holes Stroke Play. Starting field will consist of 156 exempt and qualified contestants. The field will be cut to the low 70 and ties after second round play. These low 70 and ties will constitute the field for the remaining 36 holes. A tie for first place will be decided by a sudden death playoff immediately following the completion of the final round. Purse Payout is for those who return a 72 hole score.

## ELIGIBILITY

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Open to all MALE golfers who have established and maintained a Domicile in the State of Michigan thirty (30) days prior to the Championship or any Michigan Section Member in good standing having been employed for no less than thirty (30) days at a recognized golf facility prior to the Championship. Upon request, applicants must provide three (3) official documents to prove Domicile. Michigan PGA Staff will be checking and confirming that all contestants that enter are living in their established home in the state of Michigan.

Examples that are not eligible:

Students from out of state that are currently attending a university in Michigan

Participants that have established residency out of state but still have a Michigan Drivers license

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## REGISTRATION

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All contestants must register prior to their first round. Registration will be located inside in the events pavilion. You must furnish proof of a domicile in the State of Michigan. Acceptable documents may be a current Michigan driver's license or a current Michigan voter's registration card.

## REGISTRATION HOURS / CHAMPIONSHIP FEE

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Sunday, June 9th from 11:00am - 5:00pm

Monday, June 10th from 7:00am - 1:00pm

**All contestants must also pay the \$75 golf shop service fee in the golf shop prior to teeing off around 1.** The fee includes golf car (whether riding or walking with a caddie) and practice range balls for all rounds.

## PRACTICE ROUND

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Practice Round Rates on Katke-Cousins Course: **Sunday, June 9th from 9:00am - 3:00pm**

- \$50 - PGA Members (walking or riding)
- \$75 - Non-PGA Members (walking or riding)

**Practice rounds at the above discounted rate are for Sunday, June 9th only.** Please limit one practice round per MI Open participant. If a player comes to the property as a guest of a current OUGC Affiliate, the normal guest fee and golf car rates will apply.

To schedule a tee time, please call (248) 364-6300 and specify you are a participant in the Michigan Open. **You must schedule a tee time to play a practice round. Times can be made up to 7 days in advance**

## GROUPS AND STARTING TIMES

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Groups and Starting Times for Monday and Tuesday will be available Wednesday, June 5. These times will be posted to our website [www.michiganpga.com](http://www.michiganpga.com) as well as the Michigan PGA App and emailed to all of the players. Starting times for those making the 36 hole cut will be available after play has been completed on Tuesday on our website [www.michiganpga.com](http://www.michiganpga.com) and the Michigan PGA App.

**It is the player's responsibility to verify their starting time. A "wrong" time is NOT an excuse to be late.** Just a reminder – PGA Officials will not call players to the starting tees. It is the player's responsibility to be in place and ready to play at his assigned time.



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Michigan Section

You may have seen the announcement from The PGA of Michigan. At Make The Turn we're proud to extend one month of **FREE** video editing services to our friends in the golf industry.

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- Maintenance advice with your Super
- New menu items with your Chef

**You film it or hire us!**

Get multi-purpose content for advertising, recruiting or awareness. Make The Turn delivers full-scale on-location content creating including drone video, scripted, interviews, photos and much more!

**GCSAA**

You may have seen our work on MISTORY, the 18 episode series promoting golf careers for the Michigan chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association (MIGCSA).

**Contact the Make The Turn team today!**

**Call (248) 220-3205**  
or email us.

Co-Founder & CEO,  
Mike Sullivan  
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Co-Founder & CEO,  
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Established in 2010 by Mike Sullivan and Kyle Rogaschewitz, Make The Turn is a content marketing team specializing in video and content creation. Make The Turn is a golf professional or their representative and they also specialize in the Michigan golf industry, including a variety of advertising for several years with the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association and using their services through video.

# POLICIES & PROCEDURES

## **DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES / CELL PHONE POLICY**

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A player may use any allowable device to obtain distance (only) information, including cell phones, smartphones, etc. If the device has the capability of accessing unauthorized information such as elevation changes, wind speed, wind direction, etc. and the player uses the device to access this information, the penalty is as follows:

Stroke play – Two strokes.

For subsequent offense – Disqualification.

If not using the cell phone as a DMD then it is recommended that cell phones be turned off and stored in the player's bag. If there is a situation where the player needs to use the phone their intentions should be announced to fellow competitors and staff.

## **ALCOHOL / MUSIC POLICY**

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Alcohol and listening to music will not be allowed during a stipulated round for the 2024 Michigan Open Championship or during any qualifying round.

## **PROFESSIONAL PAYOUT / AMATEUR GIFT CERTIFICATES**

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We have a contestant portal link that we need all the professionals to fill out in order to receive a payment from the PGA. Please click the link below to set up your Workday account:

<https://www.pga.org/supplier-contestant>

All Amateur winnings will be in the form of a gift certificate to the golf shop at Oakland University. As a reminder anyone with high school eligibility remaining will not be eligible to receive a gift certificate of any amount. Please notify tournament staff at player registration if you still have high school eligibility remaining.

## **DRESS CODE**

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**Contestants must wear slacks anywhere on club property for the Championship rounds.** All contestants will be required to present a neat appearance, appropriate to a professional golf championship, in both clothing and grooming. Shorts are allowed for practice rounds.

It is a condition of the Michigan Open Championship that the host site prohibits shoes with metal spikes. Penalty for breach of this condition is DISQUALIFICATION.

# POLICIES & PROCEDURES

## GOLF CAR POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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- Carts will be staged outside the golf shop
- Max of 2 carts per group and 2 people to a cart
- If the player randomly has the open seat they can have their caddie ride
- Players are not allowed to request their own cart
- Players are allowed to walk with or without a caddie

## SPECTATORS & CADDIES

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- Caddies and Spectators are permitted. Caddie and Cart procedures are listed above
- Spectator Carts will not be available
- For those that have a handicap and a handicap card spectator, carts may be issued based on availability

## FOOD & BEVERAGE

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Lunch will be provided for players each day, courtesy of **Patti Finnegan's Pub & Grille at the Oakland University Golf & Learning Center**.

This will be a lunch buffet set up in the Events center from:

11:15am - 3:00pm on Monday & Tuesday

11:30am - 5:00pm - Wednesday & Thursday

Patti Finnegan's pub will be open each day for families and spectators.

# PAST CHAMPIONS



**Defending Champion: Joe Juszczuk ( 272 total / -12 under )  
Oakland University - Katke Course**

2023 Joe Juszczuk	1994 Tom Gillis	1964 Thom Rosely	1935 Jake Fassezke
2022 Jake Kneen	1993 Brent Veenstra	1963 Phil Wiechman	1934 Jake Fassezke
2021 Brad Smithson*	1992 Steve Brady	1962 Pete Brown	1933 Mortie Dutra
2020 Brett White	1991 Steve Brady	1961 John Barnum	1932 Clarence Gamber
2019 Eric Lilleboe	1990 Robert Proben	1960 John Barnum	1931 Chuck Kocsis*
2018 Jake Kneen*	1989 Barry Redmond	1959 Dave Hill	1930 Al Watrous
2017 Matt Thompson	1987 Jack Seltzer	1958 John Barnum	1929 Al Watrous
2016 Jeff Bronkema	1986 Tim Matthews	1957 Walter Burkemo	1928 George Von Elm*
2015 Jeff Cuzzort	1985 Randy Erskine	1956 Peter Cooper	1927 Al Watrous
2014 Ryan Brehm	1984 Randy Erskine	1955 Walter Burkemo	1926 Al Watrous
2013 Tom Werkmeister*	1983 Buddy Whitten	1954 Horton Smith	1925 Davey Robertson
2012 Barrett Kelpin	1982 Buddy Whitten	1953 Chick Harbert	1924 No Record
2011 Randy Hutchison	1981 Fred Muller	1952 Mike Dietz	1923 Harry Hampton
2010 Ryan Brehm	1980 Lynn Janson	1951 Walter Burkemo	1922 No Record
2009 Ryan Brehm	1979 Randy Erskine	1950 John Barnum	1921 Walter Hagen
2008 Tom Gillis	1978 Randy Erskine	1949 Al Watrous	1920 Mike Brady
2007 Andrew Ruthkoski	1977 Tom Deaton	1948 Chick Harbert***	1919 Leo Diegel
2006 Scott Hebert	1976 Randy Erskine	1947 Buck White	1918 No Tournament
2005 Michael Harris	1975 Bob Ackerman III*	1946 Chuck Kocsis*	1917 No Tournament
2004 Jeff Roth	1974 Lynn Janson	1945 Chuck Kocsis*	1916 Leo Diegel
2003 Bob Ackerman	1973 George Bayer	1944 Sam Byrd**	
2002 Scott Hebert	1972 Ron Fox	1943 Al Watrous**	*Amateur
2001 Scott Hebert	1971 Ted Kondratko	1942 Chick Harbert	**54 Holes
2000 Scott Hebert	1970 Walter Burkemo	1941 Gib Sellers	***265 (Record)
1999 Scott Hebert	1969 Charles Knowles	1940 Emerick Kocsis	
1998 Jeff Roth	1968 John Molenda	1939 Marvin Stahl	
1997 Scott Hebert	1967 Mike Souchak	1939 Marvin Stahl	
1996 Steve Brady	1966 Gene Bone	1937 Chick Harbert*	
1995 Dave Smith	1965 Gene Bone	1936 Marvin Stahl	

# RECORDS & NOTABLE HAPPENINGS

## Tournament Scoring Record

23-under 265 Chick Harbert 1948, Barrett Kelpin 2012

In 2012 at The Orchards in Washington, Barrett Kelpin of Kalamazoo, playing in his first professional tournament shot 23-under 265 tying the all-time record score for the championship. According to PGA archives, which are incomplete, Chick Harbert shot 23-under 265 in winning the 1948 Michigan Open at Tam O'Shanter Country Club in West Bloomfield. It was his third Open win.

## Most Wins

Al Watrous 6, Scott Hebert 6, Randy Erskine 5, Chick Harbert 4, Walter Burkemo 4, John Barnum 4, Marvin Stahl 3, Chuck Kocsis 3, Steve Brady 3, Ryan Brehm 3.

## Other multiple winners

Leo Diegel 2, Jake Fasseszke 2, Gene Bone 2, Lynn Janson 2, Bob Ackerman 2, Buddy Whitten 2, Jeff Roth 2, Tom Gillis 2, Jake Kneen 2.

## Most consecutive wins

Scott Hebert 4, 1999-2002, Scott Hebert 3, 1999-2001, multiple players have back-to-back wins.

## Seven amateur golfers have won nine times

George Von Elm 1928, Chuck Kocsis 1931, 1945, 1946, Chick Harbert 1937, Bob Ackerman in 1975, Tom Werkmeister 2013, Jake Kneen 2018, Bradley Smithson 2021.

Harbert, Ackerman and Kneen also later won Michigan Open titles as professionals.

## Youngest to Win

Leo Diegel, 17; Chuck Kocsis 18

Diegel, born in Wayne County, was just 17 when he won the first Michigan Open Championship in 1916 at Saginaw Country Club and became one of the world's top players, though he was often overshadowed by rivals Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen. He was a member of the first U.S. Ryder Cup team, which was captained by Hagen and also included another Michigan legend, Al Watrous. He also won the 1919 Michigan Open, which was the second Michigan Open after no tournament was played in 1917 or 1918 because of World War I. Chuck Kocsis was 18 and an amateur when he won his first of three Opens in 1931.

# RECORDS & NOTABLE HAPPENINGS

## Oldest players to win

Walter Burkemo, age 52 in 1970

Al Watrous, age 51 in 1949

John Barnum, age 50 in 1961

Bob Ackerman, age 50 in 2003

## Youngest to qualify and make 36-hole cut

Records are incomplete but it is believed to be Max VanderMolen of Richland who at age 13 qualified for the starting field and made the 36-hole cut in 2021 on the Bear at Grand Traverse Resort.

## Von Elm Beat Bobby Jones

The very first amateur to win the Michigan Open was George Von Elm in 1928. It was the 11th playing of the championship. Von Elm is remembered in golf history for many things, among them knocking off heavy favorite and rival Bobby Jones in the final match of the 1926 U.S. Amateur Championship. He was an accomplished amateur for most of his career and didn't turn professional until 1930 following the Stock Market Crash of 1929 that hurt his business interests.

## The Amateur Legend of Michigan

Chuck Kocsis, the amateur legend of Michigan, in 1931 was the second amateur to win the Michigan Open and did it again in back-to-back fashion in 1945-46. He was an amateur all three times he won the title, and his brother, a professional, Emerick Kocsis, won the 1940 Michigan Open. Chuck was 18 when he won the first time. He also won the Michigan Amateur Championship a record six times.

## All About Al Watrous

Al Watrous set the standard for major wins in Michigan with six Michigan Open wins and nine Michigan PGA Championships, and also set the standard as a golf professional at Oakland Hills Country Club for 37 years. He was part of the first U.S. Ryder Cup team as well, which was captained by Michigan Open winner and legend Walter Hagen and also included Leo Diegel, the winner of the first two Michigan Opens. He is credited with eight PGA Tour wins and played in 55 of golf's major championship where he made the cut 49 times. He won three PGA Senior Championships, too, and lost a lead to Bobby Jones in the 1926 British Open in 1926.

# RECORDS & NOTABLE HAPPENINGS

## **Flamboyant Walter Hagen**

Walter Hagen won the 1921 Michigan Open after he was the first Oakland Hills Country Club professional for a two-year period in 1918 and '19. He became the first unaffiliated professional to travel the world seeking championships and exhibition golf. He helped to popularize the game with his play, his dashing wardrobe and his endorsement of Walter Hagen and Haig Ultra clubs through Wilson Sports. He is one of the game's biggest names, regarded as perhaps the most flamboyant great player, and spent the final years of his life living in Traverse City where he died at his home in 1969 at the age of 76. Arnold Palmer was one of his pall bearers, and he rests at Holy Sepulchre Mausoleum in Southfield.

## **Intrepid Walter Burkemo**

Walter Burkemo won the national 1953 PGA Championship, but also was awarded two Purple Hearts by the U.S. Army for serious wounds suffered in World War II. He won the Michigan Open in 1951, '55, '57 and 13 years later in '70 at the age of 52. A Detroit native, he was the youngest of 13 children born to Norwegian immigrants and started his golf career as a caddie at Lochmoor Club. He became one of the world's top players, winning the 1953 PGA Championship played in Michigan at Birmingham Country Club, and twice was runner-up in the major championship ('51 and '54). He also was on the 1953 U.S. Ryder Cup team. He worked at Franklin Hills and Oakland Hills and later owned a golf range.

## **John Barnum Goes PING**

John Barnum, a four-time Michigan Open champion, was the first golfer to win his first PGA Tour event past the age of 50 and was also the first player to win a PGA Tour event using a PING putter, which has become the most popular putter in golf. He was head golf professional at Blythefield Country Club near Grand Rapids for more than 20 years and played the PGA Tour on a part-time basis with three wins. He was 50 when he won the PGA Tour's 1962 Cajun Classic by six shots over Gay Brewer, which put him in the history books as the first player to win his first PGA Tour event after turning 50.

# RECORDS & NOTABLE HAPPENINGS

## **Give Randy Erskine Five**

Randy Erskine won five Michigan Opens between 1976 and 1985. The Ohio native raised in Battle Creek played collegiate golf at Michigan where he was part of a Big Ten championship team. He followed that with a five-year off-and-on run on the PGA Tour from 1974-79, and his best finish was a tie for fifth when he came home because the tour stopped in Grand Blanc for the 1977 Buick Open. In the 1980s he settled into the club professional life working 10 years at Washtenaw Country Club in Ypsilanti and 25 years at Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester. He won his first two Michigan Opens on the familiar grounds of the University of Michigan Golf Course.

## **Scott Hebert Rides The Bear**

Scott Hebert, the head golf professional at Traverse City Golf & Country Club, is tied for the most Michigan Open wins with six. He was employed twice during his career at Grand Traverse Resort, home of the Bear course that has hosted the Michigan Open 30 times. The native of Escanaba was considered the horse for that Jack Nicklaus-designed course. He also set the record for consecutive wins of the Michigan Open at four with wins in 1999-2002 and is the only player in tournament history to win more than two Michigan Opens consecutively.

## **Ryan Brehm Tour Bound**

While Ryan Brehm of Mount Pleasant was making his journey from Michigan State University to the PGA Tour he won three Michigan Open titles. He won back-to-back in 2009 and 2010 in dominating fashion at Orchard Lake Country Club (20-under in 2009) and then won impressively once again in 2014 at Prestwick Village Golf Club. He's since become a PGA Tour winner and for most of his career has been one of the longest hitters on tour.

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*Good Luck Participants!*

**20  
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