



Changes for 2011 & 75th Anniversary Preparations for 2012!



2011

**The tournament date for 2011 will be Friday – Sunday, July 8 – 10.
The number one complaint about most golf tournaments....speed of play!**

For the 2011 Masters Tournament, to increase speed of play, the field will be cut to 168 players (from 208), with walkers playing in groups of three and riders in groups of four. To facilitate this major change:

- The Entry Fee will be raised \$8.00 to \$115 to offset the loss of revenue in cutting the field by 40 players.
- Pre-qualification guidelines will remain the same as in past years while we assess the impact of reducing the field to 168 players. These guidelines can be viewed on the Iowa Masters website (www.iamasters.org).
- Players not pre-qualified must have a valid USGA Handicap Index of 8.0 or less.
- A minimum of 14 Open and 6 Senior spots will be available to players who are not pre-qualified.
- There will 108 players in the Open Division and 60 in the Senior Division

A New Twist! **Thursday July 7th** **Practice Round “Big Schmink”** **10:00 Registration, 11:00 Shotgun Start**

As we look forward to this year's Iowa Masters Golf Tournament, we are also busy planning ahead to the 75th celebration of the Championship in 2012. Prior to next year's tournament we will have a banquet to celebrate the history and traditions of the Iowa Masters. With that in mind we are starting a new event on the Thursday prior to the Iowa Masters. Many of you already come to Ames and get a practice round in at Veenker prior to playing in the tournament. We are going to organize this day so you can play the course, have a game, get to socialize with old friends and make some new ones as well. Anyone connected to the Iowa Masters is welcome to play whether or not they are playing in the actual tournament.

The game of golf is all about tradition and a great tradition is going to be continued on this day. For over 25 years, a Veenker member, Dick Schminkey organized a weekly game. The game was open to anyone and attracted players from all over the state. Dick isn't around the course anymore but the Schmink is still played regularly. To comply with USGA Amateur rules, the Schmink will not be part of the Thursday event fee and is totally voluntary. No prize money, just throwing in \$10 – \$15 and playing skins, low total (no handicaps) and a team game.

A fee of \$40.00 will cover greens fees, carts and lunch. Following play, there will be a social hour while scores are tallied. We hope to get the beverages for the social hour hosted by some of our local businesses. Skill contests, Schmink awards, some good (or bad) golf stories and camaraderie will round out the evening.

More information regarding this pre-tournament event will be available on the Veenker website closer to the this year's Iowa Masters.

To reserve your spot, please email veenker@iastate.edu with your name and any other players you would like to be paired with.

2012

The 2012 tournament will mark the 75th Anniversary of the Iowa Masters and we have started planning some special events for this occasion. We will again have the warm-up event on Thursday, the day before the tournament, with a banquet that night to honor past champions and some other special accomplishments from earlier tournaments. The banquet will be held at the ISU Alumni Center. The dates for the tournament will be July 6 – 8 with the pre-tournament golf event and banquet on July 5th. We invite you to keep these dates in mind as you plan your 2012 summer events.

For those of you concerned about the condition of the course after last year's flooding, we can tell you that the course is recovering very nicely. With some financial help from FEMA and a lot of hard work by the grounds crew the course improved every week last fall and is continuing to improve this spring. Some of the rough areas in the flood plain may still show some effects from the flood, but the fairways and greens should be in better shape than in 2010 by tournament time.

We wish you all a happy and successful 2011. We also want to thank all of you who have supported the Iowa Masters over the years and we look forward to seeing you in the coming years. We would welcome any comments or suggestions you may have about these changes or about the tournament.

The Iowa Masters Golf Tournament Committee