

1916-1939

Rodman Wanamaker's Lesson Comes True, The PGA of America Is Born
Hagen and Sarazen Dominate PG&A Championship • The Ryder Cup Tradition Begins
The Senior PG&A Championship Debuts at Shogun National

1916
Department store magnate Rodman Wanamaker invites a group of golf professionals and top amateurs for lunch at New York City's Taphow Club, Jan. 16, 1916. Wanamaker pitches idea that golf professionals could enhance equipment sales by forming an association.

The PGA of America is founded April 10, 1916, in New York City with 82 members.

Inaugural PGA Championship conducted at Sivanoy C.C., in Bronxville, N.Y. Jim Barnes defeats Jock Hutchison, 1-up, in Championship match. Wanamaker donates trophy and a purse of \$2,580.

1917
PGA Championship cancelled due to World War I. The Association asks clubs to hold positions open for PGA members serving in the Armed Forces. The PGA purchases an ambulance for the Red Cross and maintains it throughout the war.

1919
The PGA Championship resumes. Jim Barnes successfully defends his title with a 6-and-5 victory over Fred McLeod at Engineers C.C., in Roslyn, N.Y.

1920
First issue of *The Professional Golfer of America* is published.

1921
Walter Hagen becomes first American-born PGA Champion, defeating two-time winner Jim Barnes, 3 and 2, at Inwood C.C., in Far Rockaway, N.Y.

1922
Twenty-year-old Gene Sarazen wins first of three PGA Championships.

1927
Samuel A. Ryder presents the Ryder Cup as a prize for inaugural international competition between American and British professional golfers. U.S. defeats Great Britain, 9 and 2 to 2-1, at Worcester (Mass.) C.C.

Walter Hagen wins record fifth PGA Championship, his fourth in a row.

1939
Ryder Cup cancelled due to World War II.

1930
Tommy Armour becomes last European to win PGA Championship. Wanamaker Trophy found after mysterious disappearance in a taxi hired to bring Walter Hagen's luggage to a hotel a few years earlier.

1930
The PGA of America Headquarters moves from New York City to Chicago.

1933
George Jacobus becomes first American-born PGA president.

1937
Vardon Trophy placed in competition among American professionals; first winner is "Lighthouse" Harry Cooper.

1940-1959

PGA Hall of Fame Enshrines First 12 Inductees • The PGA of America Supports War Effort • PGA Merchandise Show Begins Its Showcase
The PGA Championship Starts Stroke-Play Era

1941
PGA Hall of Fame established; first 12 inductees include Tommy Armour, Jim Barnes, Walter Hagen, Bobby Jones, Francis Outmet and Gene Sarazen.

1942
The PGA buys two ambulances for the Red Cross; distributes clubs and balls at military bases. Association raises more than \$25,000 for war effort.

1943
PGA Championship cancelled due to World War II.

1944
PGA Championship resumes at Inwood C.C., in Far Rockaway, N.Y.

1945
Byron Nelson wins second PGA Championship, as part of record 11-event win streak.

1946
PGA Club Professional Championship debuts in Scottsdale, Ariz.

1947
Ryder Cup resumes at Portland G.C., when Oregon fruit packer Robert Hudson finances British team. U.S. routs Great Britain, 11 to 1.

1948
The PGA of America and LIFE Magazine sponsor first National Golf Day; \$80,000 raised for charity.

1949
Inaugural PGA Merchandise Show held at PGA National G.C., in Dunedin, Fla. Salomon exhibit from the trunks of their cars and on lawns.

1950
PGA Championship resumes at Inwood C.C., in Far Rockaway, N.Y.

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1956
The PGA of America Headquarters relocates to Dunedin, Fla.

1958
First stroke-play PGA Championship conducted; PGA Championship is first broadcast live on CBS-TV and radio.

1963
Jack Nicklaus wins his first PGA Championship.

1965
The PGA of America Headquarters moves to Palm Beach County, Fla.

1966
With more than 5,800 members, The PGA of America turns 50.

1968
PGA Club Professional Championship debuts in Scottsdale, Ariz.

1971
Jack Nicklaus wins PGA Championship, becoming first to win all four modern majors twice.

1972
James D. Fogarty, of Kirkwood, Mo., becomes first PGA Master Professional.

1973
First PGA Cup featuring PGA Professionals from U.S. and Great Britain & Ireland held at Pinchurst (N.C.) C.C.

1975
First Professional Golf Management program established at Ferris State University.

1976
First Junior PGA Championship is held at Walt Disney World Golf Resort.

1979
PGA Grand Slam of Golf is created and raises money for junior golf programs.

1960-1979

The Golden Bear Captures His First PGA Championship • The PGA of America Settles in Palm Beach County, Fla.
Nicklaus Completes 2nd Career Grand Slam • Major in Golf at Ferris State

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1980-1995

Jack Matches The Haig's Mark • Arnie Marches to Senior PGA Championship
The Ryder Cup Captivates America • John Daly's Miracle at Crooked Stick

1980
Jack Nicklaus wins fifth PGA Championship, matching record set by Walter Hagen.

1981
Arnold Palmer wins Senior PGA Championship debut.

1982
Operation of the World Golf Hall of Fame is transferred to The PGA of America.

1985
U.S. loses Ryder Cup to Europe for first time since 1957.

1987
Europe captures Ryder Cup for the first time on American soil, at Muirfield Village G.C.

1989
ESPN broadcasts first live cable coverage of Senior PGA Championship.

1991
Jack Nicklaus wins first Senior PGA Championship at PGA National G.C.

1992
Last-minute alternate John Daly stuns golf world by capturing PGA Championship at Crooked Stick G.C.

1993
PGA World Golf Hall of Fame merges with World Golf Village.

1994
Legendary merchandiser Ernie Sabayrac is first recipient of name-sake Ernie Sabayrac Award for Lifetime Contributions to Golf Industry.

1995
Arnold Palmer competes in 37th and final PGA Championship at Southern Hills C.C.; receives PGA Distinguished Service Award.

1996
PGA Club Professional Championship is nationally televised for the first time from Pinchurst, N.C.

1997
Tiger Woods wins PGA Player of the Year Award after first consecutive season on the PGA Tour.

1998
Europe defeats U.S. in the first Ryder Cup held in continental Europe, at Valdeirama G.C., Spain.

1999
Hale Irwin becomes first golfer since Eddie Williams in 1969 to win three consecutive PGA Championships.

2000
Alice Dye is first woman to join PGA of America Board of Directors.

2002
Read Exhibition Companies purchases PGA Merchandise Show and PGA International Golf Show.

2003
Gene Sarazen, the longest-serving PGA member ever (78 years) and one of only five to win golf's modern majors, dies at age 97.

On behalf of the U.S. Ryder Cup Team, The PGA of America distributes \$2.6 million to charities.

1996-2006

PGA Village Opens • Tiger's Back-to-Back PGA Championships
Suzy Whaley Makes History • Play Golf America!

1996
PGA Village, "Home to the Pros, Open to the Public," debuts in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

1997
Twenty-two apprentices comprise Golf Professional Training Program's first graduating class.

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2001
Ryder Cup postponed due to 9/11 terrorist attacks, with event resuming in even-numbered years. PGA donates \$500,000, matching Ryder Cup team donations, for relief fund.

2002
PGA Education Center opens at PGA Village, Port St. Lucie, Fla.

2003
PGA Professional Suzy Whaley becomes first woman to win a PGA Section Championship.

2004
PGA Historical Center is dedicated by The PGA of America at PGA Village, Port St. Lucie, Fla.

2005
PGA Professional Hall of Fame inducts 122 during inaugural ceremony at the PGA Historical Center in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

2006
The PGA of America celebrates its 90th Anniversary.

2004
The PGA of America takes lead in launch of Play Golf America, an industry-supported growth-of-the-game initiative.

2005
PGA of America launches the PGA Certified Professional Program, an online education program for PGA Professionals.

2006
PGA of America purchases Valhalla G.C. in Louisville, Ky., at the conclusion of the PGA Championship.

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2012
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2014
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2015
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2016
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2017
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Celebrating 90 Years of Growing the Game and the Business of Golf