

Back to Black

The U.S. Open will be held at Bethpage Black in Farmingdale, N.Y., a public course where Tiger Woods was the only player to break par when the tournament was here seven years ago. This year's field will have to contend with three par-4s more than 500 yards and the course will play 212 yards longer than it did in 2002.

Winner's share: TBD (\$1.35 million in 2008)
 Field: 156 players (142 professionals, 14 amateurs)
 Defending champion: Tiger Woods
 The course: The largest public facility in the country, opened in 1936.
 Noteworthy: This is the 18th time the U.S. Open has been held in New York, more than any other state

TV COVERAGE (all times EDT)
 First and second rounds: June 18-19 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., ESPN; 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., NBC Sports; 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., ESPN
 Third round: June 20 • 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., NBC Sports
 Fourth round: June 21 • 1:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., NBC Sports
 Playoff (if necessary): June 22 • Noon to 2 p.m., ESPN; 2 p.m. to conclusion, NBC Sports

Bethpage State Park (Black Course)
 Length: 7,426 yards
 Par: 35-35-70

Tiger Woods finished three strokes ahead of Phil Mickelson to win the 2002 U.S. Open.



1 Par 4
Yards 430

The opening shot from an elevated tee bends sharply to the right, with a cluster of tees right of the fairway for any shot shaped too much. The left side is preferred, for a deep bunker guards the front right of the green. The front third of the green, the smallest on the course, slopes sharply, and approach shots with too much spin could roll off.

2 Par 4
Yards 389

Another elevated tee with a sharp bend, this time to the left between tree-lined ridges. Most players will go with a long iron or fairway metal off the tee. The right of the green is protected by deep bunkers.

3 Par 3
Yards 232

The tee has been moved back about 25 yards. The green is shallow and angled from right front to back left. Bunkers to the left and right are so deep that players might be able to see only the top of the flag stick. There is a severe drop-off beyond the green.

4 Par 5
Yards 517

The fairway bends to the left around a cluster of bunkers. The rest of the hole is uphill, and the green is blind. Cross bunkers are not in play except if a player misses the fairway. The elevated green is protected by a series of bunkers, and the safe play is to the fairway right of the green, leaving an easy pitch.

5 Par 4
Yards 478

The tee has been moved back about 25 yards, making the tee shot even more difficult to carry the massive cross bunkers that hug the right side of the fairway. Players must be careful not to go through the fairway, and the ideal shot is down the right side because of trees that cover a ridge along the left side. The green is relatively small and well-bunkered.

6 Par 4
Yards 408

A straightaway hole with a landing area that is tight between large bunkers on either side of the fairway, which then drops some 20 feet. Most players will opt for an iron off the tee, but some might go for a driver to get down to the lower portion of the fairway. The green is pushed up and surrounded by bunkers.

7 Par 4
Yards 525

A par 5 for the public, this converted par got even longer with a new tee that is 36 yards farther back. The tee shot is fairly straight, then the hole turns to the right. Tall trees down the right prevent players from cutting off any of the dogleg. A large bunker guards the right side, with a smaller one left of the green.

8 Par 3
Yards 210

Elevated tee to a green guarded by a pond in the front, and large bunkers left and to the back that come into play when the hole location is at the back portion. The bank at the front of the green has been shaved, and anything short on a front hole location almost certainly will roll into the water.

9 Par 4
Yards 460

A new tee is about 40 yards farther back, and it could be much tougher than in 2002 when it was the fourth-easiest hole. The hole bends to the left, with a large bunker complex on the left side in the landing area. Two deep bunkers protect the front of a relatively flat green.

10 Par 4
Yards 508

One of the most criticized holes in 2002 because it required a 265-yard carry just to reach the fairway. The 10th and 11th fairways are separated by tall fescue and sprawling bunkers and grass hollows. Two other bunkers are on the right. The elevated green is guarded by bunkers.

11 Par 4
Yards 435

The blind tee shot to the fairway that is tucked between dunes should favor the right side, away from the bunkers on the left. The green is among the most severe on the course, with a false front that makes anything beyond the hole a difficult putt or chip. Bunkers nearly surround the front half of the green.

12 Par 4
Yards 504

Perhaps the toughest tee shot, which requires a drive over cross bunkers to shorten the hole. A landing area toward the right is available for shorter hitters, although that stretches the hole on this severe dogleg to the left. Any drive too straight risks running through the fairway into the rough.

13 Par 5
Yards 605

A new tee has added nearly 50 yards from 2002, although the hole is fairly straightforward and still might be reached in two if the course is firm. A large bunker on the side is in play off the tee, and cross bunkers 30 yards short of the green will penalize anyone who comes up short. The bunker to the right of the green is one of the deepest on the course.

14 Par 3
Yards 158

One of only two holes where the average score was under par in 2002. The tee shot is over a valley to a putting surface that is wider than it is deep, sloping from back to front and from right to left. Gaping bunkers that tumble toward the valley, guard the front of the green.

15 Par 4
Yards 459

The toughest hole at Bethpage in 2002 and might be this year, too, on a course lacking a signature hole. The hole bends to the left, with the final 180 yards up the hill to an elevated green that is protected in front by deep bunkers for any shot that doesn't carry. Anyone missing the fairway most likely won't reach or be able to hold the green. The green is 50 feet above the fairway, and has two tiers that slope from the back left to the front right.

16 Par 4
Yards 490

This runs next to the 15th, starting with an elevated tee shot that drops 60 feet to a narrow fairway that angles from left to right. The hole bends gently to the left. A sprawling bunker is short and right of the green, with another bunker to the left.

17 Par 3
Yards 207

Perhaps the best par 3 on the course, with a slightly elevated green separated by a spine through the middle of a putting surface that is 43 yards wide. The front of the green is guarded by a deep bunker, with other bunkers catching the really bad shots.

18 Par 4
Yards 411

One of the weaker closing holes for a U.S. Open, this presents a birdie opportunity. The drive is downhill to a fairway that narrows to about 16 yards as it passes through an enormous cluster of bunkers and fescue on both sides. The approach is to an elevated green that slopes from back to front, so keeping it below the hole will be critical.

Drawings are schematic

- FUTURE SITES**
- 2010 Pebble Beach Golf Links
 - 2011 Congressional C.C. (Blue) • Bethesda, Md.
 - 2012 The Olympic Club (Lake) • San Francisco
 - 2013 Merion G.C. (East) • Ardmore, Pa.
 - 2014 Pinehurst (N.C.) • Resort (No. 2)
 - 2015 Chambers Bay • University Place, Wash.