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Delta Dental State Open of Virginia to remain in the Roanoke Valley through 2020.

Ballyhack Golf Club to host Virginia's Premier Golf Championship

The Delta Dental State Open of Virginia will remain at Ballyhack Golf Club through 2020, title sponsor, Delta Dental of Virginia, Ballyhack Golf Club, the Virginia State Golf Association (VSGA) and the Middle Atlantic PGA (MAPGA) jointly announced.

"Delta Dental is proud to be a part of this prestigious tournament," said Chris Pyle, vice president of marketing for Delta Dental of Virginia. "The VSGA and MAPGA's decision to keep it in the Roanoke Valley through 2020 recognizes that Ballyhack Golf Club is among the most challenging golf courses in the Mid-Atlantic region, and affirms the Roanoke Valley's draw as a top-notch destination for competitive sporting events."

"We're proud to showcase our golf course to so many top players from all over Virginia," Ballyhack general manager Joe Zaleski said. "We've heard so many positive comments from the players over the years, and Delta Dental's participation has really helped us elevate the entire experience."

"Besides seeing the professional purse increase year-over-year, we're really excited to increase the tournament's donation to The First Tee of Roanoke Valley," Pyle said. Since 2014, the tournament has donated more than \$28,000 to The First Tee, which provides character education to thousands of youths through the game of golf.

"Ballyhack is a wonderful host for this tournament. The course is absolutely beautiful and it's tough but fair," MAPGA executive director Jon Guhl said.

"Delta Dental's continued involvement will help ensure this tournament is a success," VSGA executive director Jamie Conkling said. "It's wonderful to witness the efforts of the sponsors, the charitable beneficiary (First Tee of Roanoke Valley), the club facility and the community rally around this event that serves many purposes, including raising funds to support junior golf in the area."

Established in 1924, the Delta Dental of Virginia State Open has been played in Roanoke since 2014. This year's tournament will be held Thursday, July 20 through Saturday, July 22. Qualifying professionals will compete for a \$50,000 prize purse. A youth day clinic will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, July 19. The tournament is free and open to the public.

"Local golf fans really ought to come out and watch some of this tournament. The quality of golf is fantastic," Pyle said.

Ballyhack Golf Club was purchased in 2016 by Kula Golf, a Nebraska-based golf real estate investment company that also owns courses such as Briggs Ranch in San Antonio, Texas, and ArborLinks in Nebraska. The owners have since made significant investments in the property. Four new cottages are being built near the 18th fairway, giving Ballyhack a total of seven, four-bedroom cottages to offer to overnight guests. The new cottages are expected to be complete by August 2017. Ballyhack Golf Club has received multiple national awards and is quickly becoming a destination golf facility.

“We are pleased that our relationship is continuing with the VSGA and MAPGA. It is an honor for Ballyhack Golf Club to host such a prestigious event which dates to 1924,” said Zach Peed, manager, Kula Golf LLC.

For more information on the Delta Dental State Open of Virginia, contact Chris Lang in VSGA communications at (804) 378-2300 or at clang@vsga.org.