



2026 Blue Coat Qualifications for CDGA Championships & Qualifiers

As we prepare for the 2026 tournament season, Blue Coat rules knowledge is front and center. CDGA Championships continue to provide a top-quality experience for everyone playing.

The guidelines established in 2019 will continue for 2026 and they are listed below. One of the key components is taking a USGA-created test on the Rules of Golf so that we may have a quantitative measure of each official's Rules acumen. Be aware that we need and welcome volunteers at all levels of qualification to help run our events (Championship or Social) even if you are not able to take a test this year. Test scores are valid for one Rules of Golf cycle. All placement on committees will be based on the 2023 Rules of Golf cycle. Please remember your test score is valid for four years or the rules cycle, and the best score will be kept if you take the test year after year. We also want to encourage all volunteers to take whatever classes and tests they can to advance their Rules knowledge.

The USGA created two exams – 100 questions and 80 questions. All exams can be taken through the USGA by attending a workshop (in-person or virtually) or signing up for an "Exam Only" option. ([Click Here](#) for additional information)

- If you attend a PGA/USGA Rules Workshop, we strongly encourage you to take the 100-Question Exam.
- You may also choose to take the 80-Question Exam.
- The guidelines for the CDGA are slightly less demanding than the guidelines for USGA Qualifications. Please note that if you achieve *Expert* or *Advanced* status for the CDGA, you may not be considered *Expert* or *Advanced* at the USGA level.

There are three different levels a Blue Coat can obtain based on test scores:

1. **Observer/Tournament Volunteer** – Those scoring 69% or below on either the 100-Question Exam or 80-Question Exam. This will also include those who choose not to take the exam or test. However, all Blue Coats wanting to help at a tournament MUST have attended a rules education class or tournament administration class (USGA or CDGA conducted) within the past four years or rules cycle.
 - You are welcome to attend and work at any CDGA-conducted championship or qualifier
 - May be assigned as a starter for any CDGA-conducted championship or qualifier
 - May be assigned as an on-course scorer at CDGA championships
 - If given an assignment on the course or with a group, all rulings will need to be called in on the radio to the staff in charge of the event or a rover
2. **Advanced** – Those scoring 70% – 84% on either the 100-Question Exam or 80-Question Exam.
 - You are welcome to attend and work at any CDGA-conducted championship or qualifier
 - May be assigned as a starter for any CDGA-conducted championship or qualifier
 - May be assigned as an on-course scorer at CDGA championships
 - If given an assignment on the course or with a group, you may make a ruling for one-stroke penalties if you are 100% confident in the decision. If there is even the slightest doubt, you must radio the staff in charge of the event or a rover. All general penalties (two strokes/loss of hole) must be radioed to the staff in charge or a rover
3. **Expert** - having scored 85% or higher on either the 100-Question Exam or 80-Question Exam.
 - You are welcome to attend and work at any CDGA-conducted championship or qualifier
 - May be assigned as a starter for any CDGA-conducted championship or qualifier
 - May be assigned as an on-course scorer at CDGA championships
 - If given an assignment on the course or with a group, you may make a ruling if you are 100% confident in the decision. If there is even the slightest doubt, you must radio the staff in charge of the event or a rover
 - Those scoring 90% or higher on the 100-Question Exam will serve on the Championship Rovers Committee. Anyone else achieving expert status will be considered for the Championship Rovers Committee based on test score and experience on the course

CDGA Championships (including CDGA & USGA Qualifiers)

CDGA Championships

- **Blue Coat assignments at CDGA Championships include rovers, starters, and rules officials.**
- We strive for a minimum of 10-12 officials with a maximum of one official per group.
- Rover assignments will be given to members of the Championship Rovers Committee.
- Stoke play assignments will be based on qualifications and experience.
- Match play assignments will be based on qualifications and experience. Assignments will be given for the number of matches on a given day. The championship match may have more than one official assigned.

CDGA & USGA Qualifiers

- **Blue Coat assignments at CDGA Championships include rovers, starters, and rules officials.**
- We strive for a minimum of 4-6 officials and a maximum of 6-8 for all CDGA & USGA Qualifiers
- The maximum number of Blue Coats assigned is dependent on the layout and complexity of the golf course.
- Assignments for oversubscribed qualifiers will be given based on qualifications and experience.
- To be considered for an assignment at popular qualifiers, you must submit your availability prior to receiving the monthly Blue Coat email.
- Every effort will be made to ensure sure a Blue Coat who is given “No Assignment” for one event will be given an assignment for another.
- If we have more than one event on any given day and one of the sites is oversubscribed, we may look to assign you to the other event.