



For Immediate Release

**Delta Dental State Open of Virginia Marks Final Year at Ballyhack with Major Donation, Tournament's First Female Competitor**

**ROANOKE, Va. (July 14, 2020)** – Kicking off the final year of the Delta Dental State Open of Virginia, the tournament sponsor for the past seven years presented The First Tee of Roanoke Valley with a \$19,000 donation during Youth Day. The Delta Dental State Open of Virginia Youth Day event pairs area children with local golf pros for a day of fun and life lessons applicable on and off the course. To date, the historic Virginia tournament has generated more than \$100,000 to help children build life skills through golf.

“Nurturing healthy smiles goes beyond the dental office, and we’ve been so privileged to contribute to the overall wellness of children and families across Virginia, but especially right here in Roanoke,” said Chris Pyle, vice president of marketing for Delta Dental of Virginia. “Our involvement with The First Tee and the State Open for the past seven years has consistently underscored our responsibility as a Roanoke-based company to create opportunities for our community to smile – the value of the lessons and experiences that The First Tee youth receive through the game of golf cannot be overstated.”

While the return of the Delta Dental State Open of Virginia in 2020 marks an ending for the tournament’s home at Ballyhack Golf Club in Roanoke, this year’s event also boasts a significant first. **Baltimore Country Club’s Joanna Coe, the 2019 Women’s PGA Professional Player of the Year, will become the first woman to compete in the State Open of Virginia.**

Coe, who defeated Indianapolis’ Brittany Kelly by one stroke in the 2019 PGA Women’s Stroke Play Championship, is no stranger competing against male opponents. She finished sixth in last year’s MAPGA OMEGA Open Player of the Year points list and tied for seventh at the 2019 MAPGA Professional Championship.

“2020 has been full of firsts and we’re thrilled that our final year of sponsorship includes such an amazing roster of professional players. This is most certainly the year to watch,” added Pyle.



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Other players to watch include:

- Defending VSGA Amateur champion **Michael Brennan** (Leesburg/River Creek Club) who posted a second-round 64 in the Delta Dental State Open of Virginia as a 15-year-old in 2017
- Past VSGA Amateur champion and past U.S. Amateur semifinalist **Mark Lawrence Jr.** (Richmond/Independence Golf Club)
- Ballyhack Golf Club's own two-time low-am honors player, **Justin Young** (Salem)

The Delta Dental State Open of Virginia tournament play begins Thursday, with alternating start times on holes #1 and #10. The field of 96 competitors take on 54 holes of exciting stroke play. [Click here](#) for an all-inclusive look at this year's Delta Dental State Open of Virginia field, tournament highlights, professionals to watch, top-performing amateurs and course trends from previous years.

#### ***About The First Tee of Roanoke Valley***

*The First Tee is an international youth development organization introducing the game of golf and its inherent values to young people through after-school and in-school programs. Find out more at [thefirstteeroanokevalley.org](http://thefirstteeroanokevalley.org).*

#### ***About the Delta Dental State Open of Virginia***

*Founded in 1924, the Delta Dental State Open of Virginia is now the largest tournament of its kind in Virginia. Co-hosted by the Virginia State Golf Association and the Middle Atlantic Section of the PGA of America, the 54-hole championship offers amateurs and professionals the opportunity to join a prestigious list of past winners, including Sam Snead, Tom Strange, Vinny Giles, and Lanny and Bobby Wadkins. Find out more at [stateopenofvirginia.com](http://stateopenofvirginia.com)*

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