

2022

History of Discrimination: The Racist Practices of The Masters Golf Tournament

Joseph Ruggiero

St. John Fisher University, jrr03947@sjf.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://fisherpub.sjf.edu/ur>

Recommended Citation

Ruggiero, Joseph. "History of Discrimination: The Racist Practices of The Masters Golf Tournament." *The Review: A Journal of Undergraduate Student Research* 23 (2022): -. Web. [date of access].
<<https://fisherpub.sjf.edu/ur/vol23/iss1/8>>.

This document is posted at <https://fisherpub.sjf.edu/ur/vol23/iss1/8> and is brought to you for free and open access by Fisher Digital Publications at . For more information, please contact fisherpub@sjf.edu.

History of Discrimination: The Racist Practices of The Masters Golf Tournament

Abstract

The Masters golf tournament is one of the most prestigious PGA events of the year. Despite the level of prestige, the name of the tournament has sparked controversy because of the origins from which the name was derived. The name signifies “master” in relation to the “master” of enslaved people. It is clear that the Masters golf tournament needs to change its name. Since the start of the Black Lives Matter movement, situations involving racism have become more sensitive to society. Discrimination against African Americans is starting to be exposed more prevalently, including situations involving pro sports as well. Given the Augusta National Golf Club's refusal to allow Black people to become members until relatively recently, making a change to the name of this tournament will give respect to African Americans and may spark change for other similar linguistic changes.

Keywords

Golf, Racism, Masters

History of Discrimination: The Racist Practices of The Masters Golf Tournament

Joseph Ruggiero

Abstract: The Masters golf tournament is one of the most prestigious PGA events of the year. Despite the level of prestige, the name of the tournament has sparked controversy because of the origins from which the name was derived. The name signifies “master” in relation to the “master” of enslaved people. It is clear that the Masters golf tournament needs to change its name. Since the start of the Black Lives Matter movement, situations involving racism have become more sensitive to society. Discrimination against African Americans is starting to be exposed more prevalently, including situations involving pro sports as well. Given the Augusta National Golf Club's refusal to allow Black people to become members until relatively recently, making a change to the name of this tournament will give respect to African Americans and may spark change for other similar linguistic changes.

Golf has never been a racially diverse sport. Throughout history, the odds have been stacked against minorities, especially African Americans, when integrating into professional golf. In *The New Yorker Magazine*, Nick Paumgarten mentions that the PGA originally had a Caucasian clause which stated that touring golfers could only be white (2019, para. 34). There was no integration throughout professional golf until this clause was eliminated in 1961. Except for Tiger Woods, there have been very limited successful African Americans within professional golf because of the racist practices by the PGA. To be more specific, certain events and golf clubs throughout the PGA were built based on historically racist practices that inhibited African Americans from participation. One example is the history of The Masters at Augusta National Golf Club.

As stated by The Masters website, America's most prestigious golf tournament, The Masters had a title prior to its current name when started in 1934 because one of the founders, Clifford Roberts, “proposed the event be called The Masters Tournament, but...” another founder, Bobby Jones, “...objected thinking it was too presumptuous” (2021, para. 3). Jones resisted because he was afraid that the name,

The Masters, was not appropriate given the relation to slavery surrounding the course in Augusta, Georgia. As a result, “the name Augusta National Invitation Tournament was adopted and the title was used for five years until 1939” (2021, para. 3). In addition to what the website says, most people recognize that the formation of The Masters was prior to the Civil Rights movement and occurred when many racist practices were legal in areas including Augusta. Therefore, the original founders of Augusta National most likely knew that the title, The Masters, posed connections to slavery, considering one of the original founders second guessed naming the tournament The Masters. Why else would it have been named Augusta National Invitation Tournament instead of The Masters when it was founded?

The reasons behind why this title can be seen as controversial dives deeper into the history of The Masters at Augusta National. To start, Sara Lentati mentions in a BBC news article that “before 1975, African Americans were often seen at Augusta, but only as caddies or club staff, never as players” (2015, para. 9.) This remained the norm at Augusta National until “Lee Elder became the first black golfer to play in the US Masters” in 1975 (2015, para. 1). Although this was a huge barrier broken for

African Americans within The Masters Tournament, a *Deadspin News* article, written by Rob Parker, mentions that the host golf club, Augusta National, did not allow membership to African Americans until 1990 (2020, para. 18).

Augusta's membership policies based on segregation prior to allowing African Americans to become members were discriminatory and morally wrong. We cannot change their past practices, but we can demand change. Augusta's discriminatory policies were in effect just a few decades ago, which is still recent. Their racial discriminatory practices lasted for over 70 years and the club was still highly discriminatory just a few decades ago, considering they did not allow African Americans. The name of the tournament, The Masters, signifies "master" in relation to the "master" of slaves. Given the geographical location of the tournament, this is a major problem. With the history of discrimination surrounding the golf course that hosts our nation's most prestigious golf tournament, a name that is in direct relation to slavery, The Masters, is a disrespectful title for a tournament of such high prestige.

Most people assume that the name of the tournament refers to the "masters" of golf because of the mastery that the players must accomplish to win the tournament. Over the years, The Masters has become one of the most widely known golf tournaments around the world. Many people today do not know that when using the word "master" for specific titles, such as the golf tournament and "master" bedroom, it can have a negative connotation, implying a connection with slavery. Most of us initially understand the word as a verb rather than a noun causing us to believe that "master" is just referring to "to master." The issue with the word is not only seen in golf but has also started to appear in realty. As of late last

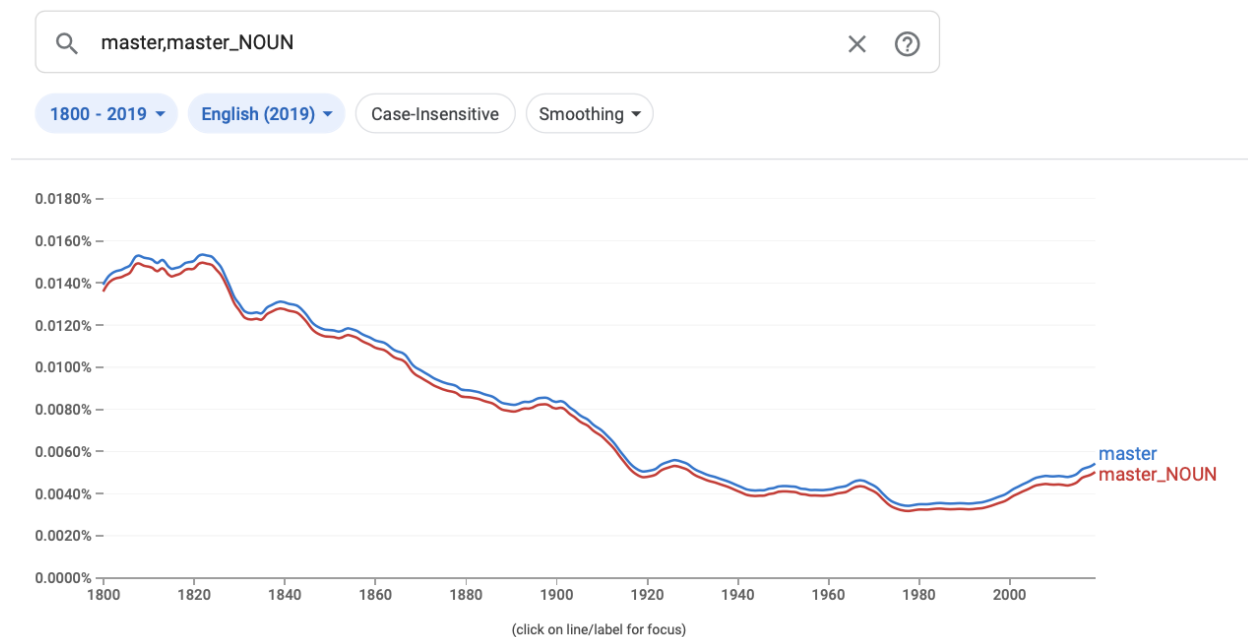
summer, realtors have started to identify the problem relating to negative connotations to slavery and racism. Sydney Franklin mentions in a published *New York Times* article that "the Houston Association of Realtors was the first industry group to decide to stop using 'master bedroom' in late June, after some members expressed concerns that it could be perceived as racist or sexist" (2020, para. 5). They are now using the word "primary" instead because "master bedroom," and "master bathroom" are starting to become problematic for the same negative connotations relating to The Masters Golf Tournament (2020, para. 5). The term "master" has also seen less use recently in academia as well. As mentioned by Melissa Mohr in *The Christian Science Monitor*, "in 2015, Harvard 'housemasters' – faculty who live in dorms and advise students – voted unanimously to change their title, in response to student complaints and their own discomfort about the term's associations with slavery" (2021, para. 3). Other universities followed suit and some of the replacement terms include "faculty deans" and "heads of house" (2021, para. 3).

Advocates are even calling for the word "master" and other related words to be eliminated from scholarly work because of their negative connotations to slavery and racism. For example, Aziz Khan mentions in his article, "A Call to Eradicate Non-inclusive Terms from the Life Sciences," that there has recently been an urge to eliminate non-inclusive terms throughout science because the "use of non-inclusive terms in life sciences literature is growing" (2021, p. 1). The non-inclusive terms mentioned are used across the life sciences and have relations to racial connotations. Throughout his article, Khan mentions four words that are growing with time throughout the life sciences. These include "blacklist," "whitelist," "master," and "slave" (2021, p. 2). Considering these words are used

throughout the life sciences, most of their usage is prevalent throughout published scholarly journals. Khan performed a search for the term’s “master” and “slave” throughout the last 20 years and discovered “a search for articles with both these terms found over 3,500 research articles published in more than 900 journals between 2000 and 2020” (2021, p. 2). The prevalence of these terms over the last 20 years suggest that it is normalized to use non-inclusive terms (2021, p. 2).

Khan’s examples are quite startling. When scholars continue to use non-inclusive terms, it becomes even harder to eradicate these terms from everyday use, as more and more individuals normalize words or actions. When describing certain scientific functions, such as transcription factors, “master” is still used in a derogatory way toward “slave” when describing the hierarchy of proteins. Master transcription factors are described as “determining a cell’s fate” over slave

transcription factors (Khan, 2021, p. 1). Directly relating to a master’s control over an African American slave, this language is unacceptable in today’s literature, especially from scholars. From a scientific perspective, Khan suggests, “the more we use this language, the more it becomes a habit, and we need to act now to avoid passing this behavior on to future generations of scientists” (2021, p. 2). When it comes to using non-inclusive language, this statement pertains beyond the scope of science. Khan states, “language matters and it shapes the way we think, see, and behave” (2021, p. 3). When individuals increasingly use terms, they become part of everyday life that are cycled through generations. For example, professors may use these terms in class, passing the usage on to students. Therefore, it could cause exponential growth in the usage of these terms. If these terms are used widely, it becomes harder to slow the usage of them and even eliminate them.



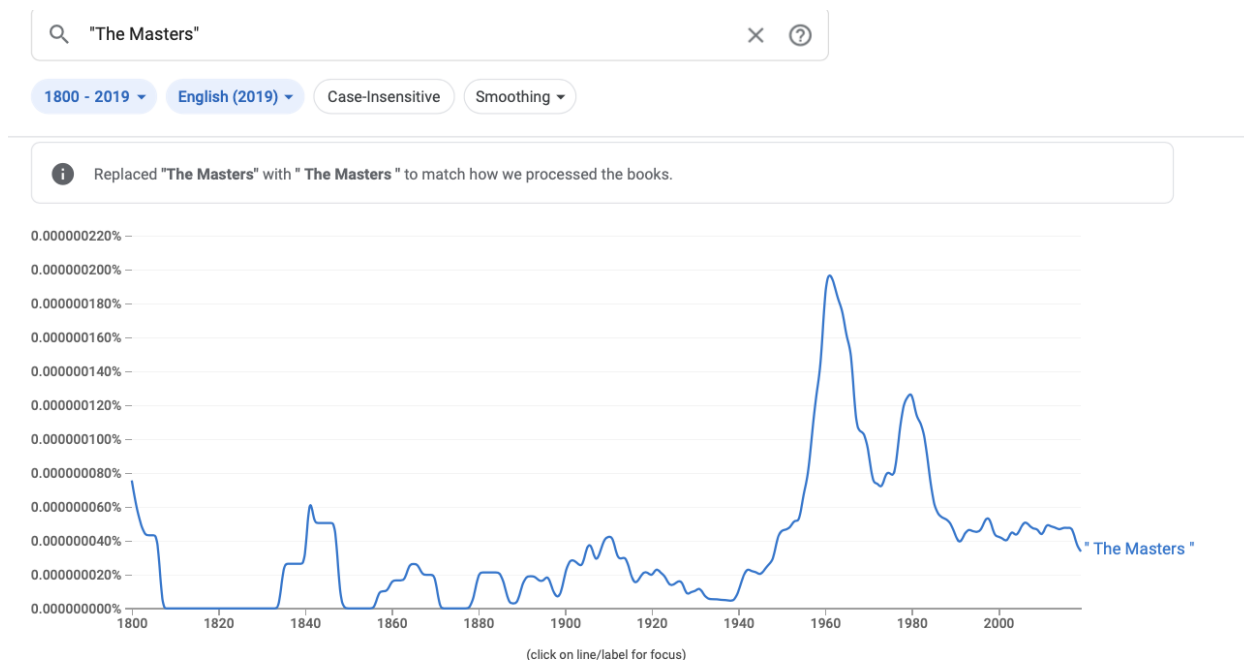
(Google Ngram Viewer, “master, master_NOUN,” 2021)

By using the Google Ngram viewer, the word “master” can be examined grammatically to explore controversy. The

word is primarily used in English as a noun, not a verb, because the overlay of inputting noun is identical to this chart. From 1800-

2019, it shows the heavy usage of this word prior to the abolition of slavery with a relatively sharp decline after the Civil Rights Act in the mid 1960's. The top results at the peak of this chart, 1812-1823, uses "master" when referring to military rankings and titles of positions, such as "master sergeant," "ship-master," and "headmaster." When looking at the top results of the word "master" from 1885 to 1978, the results are significantly different. They refer to

construction, planning of ideas, and computer jargon. The top results include "master plan," "master idea," and master-slave." In its most recent years, 1978-2019, "master" is mainly an educational term with the top results associated with "mastery." While many results still had to do with "mastery," the biggest takeaway from Google Ngram was when I searched the term "The Masters."



(Google Ngram Viewer, "The Masters," 2021)

When using Google Ngram to search the specific term, "The Masters," the chart shows an increase in usage as the tournament became more popular because of the implementation of their trademark symbol, the green jacket, which is given to the winner of the tournament. On the other hand, it has started to show a significant decline over the most recent years because of the controversy behind the origin of the title. If most of the results on Google Ngram do not include a relation to slavery and discrimination, then these charts make it difficult to understand the best reasons

behind the problem with the word "master" in today's language. The Oxford English dictionary will be able to illuminate this issue by providing the root of the word "master" and display why I am advocating that the name of this golf tournament can be seen as offensive.

According to the OED, the original use of this word is defined as "a person having authority, direction or control over the action of another or others; a director, leader, chief, commander; a ruler, governor" and its first use was in early Old English

(Master: Definition 1, 2021, Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford University Press). This noun definition has direct correlation to the problem with the name of this tournament. When clicking on this definition, two sub definitions show up that exemplify the issue with the word “master.” The definition under section “2a” originated in early Old English and defines “master” as “a person who employs another, the employer of a servant or apprentice. Also: the owner of a slave” (Master: Definition 2a, 2021, Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford University Press). The definition under section 5a was first seen in 1300 and defines “master” as “a person who has the power to control, use, or dispose of something at will” (Master: Definition 5a, 2021, Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford University Press). These definitions are a greater exemplification of the problem with the word “master” when using it as a title for golf’s most prestigious tournament held in a former slave state. All noun definitions on Oxford English Dictionary pose negative connotations toward slavery and controlling others when looking at the origin of the word “master.”

There are many examples on how Augusta’s policies directly connect to these dictionary definitions. First, the journal article, “Masters of Discrimination,” written by Joseph Tofilon (2005), is in the *Journal of Gender, Race and Justice* and directly explains that the internal structure of how Augusta National is controlled has been one of the largest barriers to discrimination for the club over time. It is seen as a “tradition of authoritativeness,” mainly because “The chairman of Augusta National alone controls every aspect of the Club’s functions” (2005, p. 192). When a media company contacted members about their scandal on discriminating women, each member had similar responses that revolved around the chairman speaking for the club (2005, p. 192). There is no delegation of power within

Augusta National and with policies based on past traditions, many are seen today as discriminatory. There needs to be a better breakdown of authority with more positions assigned and smaller subsections of responsibilities within the club. In addition, the club is currently very selective with new memberships because of their high prestige and the chairman is responsible for all decisions. Selectivity is rightfully just for the club since it is private, but their policies for selecting members has not been because of discrimination.

With Augusta’s main form of discrimination being racial, Tofilon mentions that “Augusta has been discriminating in its membership selection since the club was founded in 1931” (2005, p. 194). They had no desire to mix interracially, and their history of discrimination proved it. The major event that sparked this change was when “the chairman of Shoal Creek Country Club (who is coincidentally, a member of Augusta National), admitted that his club had no African American members and then suggested that his club could not be forced into accepting one” (2005, p. 194). The Professional Golf Association was embarrassed by this statement because their “annual Championship was being played that year at Shoal Creek” (2005, p. 194). To head off a big publicity issue, the PGA stated, “that it would not sanction tournaments at clubs that weren’t racially mixed” (2005, pp. 194-195). This statement was a major reason that Augusta desegregated and changed its policies because it was the only way to continue holding The Masters as a PGA sponsored event. It also shows that Augusta has only changed discriminatory policies when publicly forced to do so.

Therefore, these discriminatory practices pose some questions regarding the club. First, how did Augusta National treat

African Americans prior to allowing them to become members? Before being allowed to participate in events or become members at Augusta, African American males were only allowed at the club as caddies. As David Sowell mentions in his book “The Masters, A Hole-by-Hole History of America’s,” “from the first Masters in 1934 until the rain-plagued 1982 version, a Masters’ participant had to use a black caddie provided by Augusta National” (2007, p. 26). Participants could not bring their own caddie to assist in their playing strategy throughout The Masters because of Augusta’s rule.

A second question that Augusta’s discriminatory practices pose is why do many golfers still participate in a tournament despite its racist past? We cannot figure out an exact answer, but perhaps it is because of the following reasons. To start, a blog post by Deer Creek Golf Club states that “The US Masters is the only tournament that is held at the same golf course every year” (2017, para. 2). This makes the course, Augusta National, “one of the most recognizable and prestigious golf clubs in the world” (2017, para. 2). With the Masters never being held at another course, the level of respect developed for Augusta National is what makes it very prestigious despite its past practices. For example, Tiger Woods claimed his victories on the same course as the historic Jack Nicklaus many years later. This would compare to current Boston Red Sox baseball players playing at the historic Fenway Park where Ted Williams and Babe Ruth once played. In addition, every year, many professional golfers strive for the green jacket that is earned from winning The Masters because of the level of prestige and respect it holds. Also, the blog mentions that “any golfer who wins the US Masters is automatically invited to play in the other 3 majors, making the US Masters not only

prestigious, but also vital to the careers of many golfers” (2017, para. 4).

With the Masters being a crucial steppingstone to career advancement in the sport of golf, it has shared some common discriminatory practices that have been within the sport since the start of the PGA. One example would be the Caucasian clause. The sport of golf has had a long timeline of discrimination and systemic racism. This history is a direct result of the challenges that African Americans face today when attempting to pursue professional golf careers. In their 2017 article published in the *Journal of African American Studies*, Anthony Rosselli and John N. Singer mention that over time, golf and country clubs have enacted discriminatory policies against African Americans and other minorities from becoming a member or even playing at their club (2017, p. 607). Many of these policies have been outlawed today, but the individuals that run these clubs are often white males and their clubs have a history of discriminatory practices. Some of these clubs hold major PGA tournaments, one being The Masters. Therefore, African Americans face barriers that their counterparts do not face, all of which hinder their ability to pursue a career in golf.

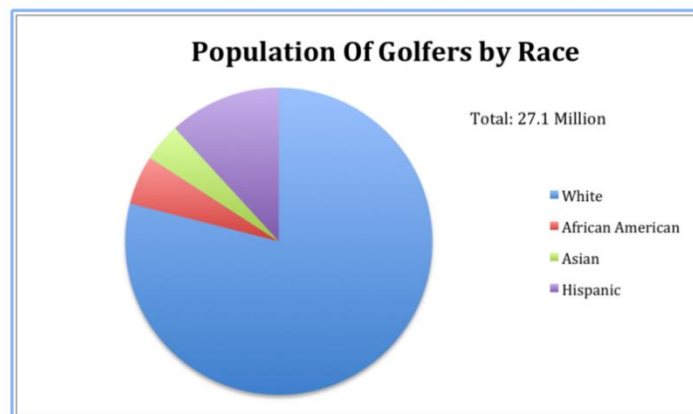
Almost every aspect of being able to participate at the highest-level works as a disadvantage to minorities. Rosselli and Singer argue that “the most common challenge to these African American golfers’ pursuit of professional playing careers on the PGA and LPGA tours was a lack of capital and resources” (2017, p. 610). African Americans do not have the luxuries within the sport that majorities have. Golf is a sport that many start at an early age to become successful and it is usually quite expensive. Rosselli and Singer state that “without being able to practice on

championship-level courses from a young age, or even as a collegiate golfer, the time it takes to develop the skill and strategy needed for serious professional golf competition is often prolonged” (2017, p. 613). In fact, most historically black colleges and universities with golf programs do not have experienced coaches that have played collegiate golf (Rosselli & Singer, 2017, p. 614).

Furthermore, Rosselli and Singer mention that minority families usually have lower incomes, making it difficult to afford high expense sports, such as golf (2017, p. 614). Therefore, not starting at an early age makes it very challenging for African Americans to develop at a high level throughout golf. Without the knowledge of tournaments to advance their junior golf careers or the finances to do so, African Americans are at a major disadvantage when aspiring to play at historically white colleges that could potentially advance their careers (Rosselli & Singer, 2017, p. 614). For many minorities,

the only way to afford to play at well-known colleges are through scholarships. Even for skilled African American golfers, they are denied opportunities to play at historically white colleges because the stereotype behind golfers is usually a white male (Rosselli & Singer, 2017, p. 614).

As Rosselli and Singer point out, golf is unlike any other professional sport. It is one of the only sports where there are no contracts or drafts. Therefore, there is no guaranteed money. Earnings are earned through success (2017, p. 610). Given that it is more difficult for African Americans to be successful golfers, it is harder for them to win and earn prize money. The only income besides winning a tournament would come from sponsorships. Many African Americans must work full-time jobs to afford to play in tournaments when attempting to make it pro, putting them at a disadvantage because of the limited practice time they have (Rosselli & Singer, 2017, p. 612).



(Margulis, 2015, image 7)

Overall, Rosselli and Singer state that African American golfers are not taken seriously when pursuing professional golf careers (2017, p. 615). There have not been many successful African American golfers throughout the history of professional golf. As mentioned by the PGA Tour website,

Charlie Sifford was the first African American to “earn a PGA TOUR card” and participate on tour after the abolishment of the Caucasian clause (2021, p. 1). He paved the way for one of the most well-known African American golfers today, Tiger Woods. Even after Tiger Woods defied the

odds for African Americans through his success, minority golfers are still not represented well across the PGA (Rosselli & Singer, 2017, pp. 615-616). These disadvantages in effect keep a vast majority of African Americans out of the elite tier of golfers who play in big name tournaments, such as The Masters, except for Tiger Woods.

One of the reasons why there may be very few African American golfers today could be tied directly with the analogies of real and perceived discrimination. The effects and reactions from discrimination differ between individuals and Dr. Walter Howard Smith Jr. explains in his article “The Impact of Racial Trauma on African Americans,” that our nervous system has a hard time differing between real and perceived threats and there is no universal belief as to what is dangerous (2010, p. 1). There is no individual that will have the same perception as another. Words or actions that are fine to some can be harmful to others. Smith mentions our “perception shapes what is dangerous” and it is “important in understanding how people interpret” past or current events (2010, p. 2). One’s perception based on past discriminatory events, such as The Masters, can shape how that person views the event today. These perceptions can be passed down through generations, causing younger individuals to associate certain events with danger or trauma related experiences.

Systemic racism is one situation that evokes trauma for African Americans and is difficult to overcome. Smith states that there are different effects that trauma poses, but “generally persons live as if the trauma is ever-present” (2010, p. 2). Certain terms or titles can trigger negative mental responses because of the perceived discrimination associated with them. If something is perceived as dangerous or traumatizing,

individuals tend to avoid them. Smith’s ideas can easily be applied to the history of The Masters because the tournament and golf club can be seen as very discriminatory and may be the reason why African Americans are not represented well in the sport of golf. Also, individuals pass these experiences down through generations which leads to African Americans continuing to avoid the event today because of perceived discrimination. Even if the tournament does not directly discriminate because of laws and regulations today, these prior practices have major effects on the African American golf community. As mentioned by Smith, previous real or perceived discrimination “stand out in our memory and have long-term impacts on our perception of ourselves and our social environment (2010, p. 4). The Masters has always been a dominant white social environment with no signs of changing, and this stigma affects the representation of African Americans in professional golf. African Americans will steer away from events and situations that are discriminatory, which is a major reason for the underrepresentation.

There are not many people that would attempt to integrate in situations that are discriminatory because of the discomfort involved with not fitting in. Why would an individual try to participate if it seems they are unwanted? Perceived discrimination can have effects beyond the traumatizing impacts from being unwanted or discriminated against. In a study through a meta-analysis performed by Elizabeth A. Pascoe and Laura Smart Richman, perceived discrimination has been linked to negative effects on psychological and physiological health. Effects they cite include, depression, anxiety, hypertension, high blood pressure, and substance use (2009, p. 531): “The relationship between perceived discrimination and mental and physical

health can also be partially mediated through stress responses to a discriminatory event” (Pascoe & Richman, 2009, p. 532).

Therefore, a perceived discriminatory event, such as The Masters, brings out stress responses that have negative effects on individual’s mental and physical health.

These negative effects on physical and mental health connect with different types of perceived discrimination. In a study by Pascoe and Richman, racial or ethnic discrimination was the most common type found throughout their study, representing over 60 percent of their sample (2009, p. 536). Discrimination against minorities represent the largest population of perceived discrimination relating to physical and mental health. As a result, minorities, including African Americans, are at a greater risk for health effects, particularly mental health effects, in situations involving perceived discrimination. When focusing on the mental aspect, results proved that higher levels of perceived discrimination were directly related to a greater number of negative mental health outcomes (Pascoe & Richman, 2009, p. 537). Individuals faced with perceived discriminatory situations had “depressive symptoms” and “psychiatric distress” (Pascoe & Richman, 2009, p. 537). These two results display a poor mental health status. Considering African Americans are at a greater risk for discriminatory situations, they are more likely to suffer from poor mental health.

Individuals that were around during the discriminatory practices of Augusta National remember how African Americans were treated and may pass these experiences down through generations. African Americans that live near Augusta National

must see the large crowds, mainly white individuals, come into town every year when The Masters is held. When African Americans living near Augusta still see mainly white individuals associated with The Masters, it reminds them that they do not belong. The older generations that were possibly caddies or workers at Augusta are unfortunately having to continue to see The Masters every year when they were discriminated from the course that held it in the past. They also have to constantly hear a title that is praised in Augusta throughout the week of The Masters that reminds them of discriminatory practices.

The title does not only affect local African American residents, but it affects African Americans globally. When African Americans around the world watch The Masters today, they will unfortunately see a mainly white competition and a crowd of mainly white spectators, which may make them feel disassociated with The Masters Golf Tournament. African Americans are not represented well across The Masters in terms of professional players or spectators. This may continue to keep African American spectators disassociated from The Masters because they do not see people like them and may associate it with discrimination. African Americans may also avoid “The Masters” when watching TV due to the association with a master-slave relationship because of the title. This title inputs different thoughts depending on the color of one’s skin. White individuals will most likely not have the same thoughts as African Americans when they hear the word “master” because the word was never discriminatory against them. A title can be more powerful to some people, especially when it connotes slavery.

Augusta Demographics

According to the most recent ACS, the racial composition of Augusta was:

- Black or African American: 57.23%
- White: 36.36%
- Two or more races: 2.58%
- Asian: 1.92%
- Other race: 1.43%
- Native American: 0.26%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0.22%

(World Population Review, chart 2)

With most people in golf being white, many may say that there does not need to be a change for the name of The Masters, but most of them are likely not aware of the connotation behind the title. Despite the connections to racism and slavery that are present within The Masters, the tournament name is connected by most people with the meaning of “mastery” of a skill. The best individual golfer that is able to “master” the course over the four-day span becomes the champion of this prestigious tournament. Considering Tiger Woods is one of the most respected African American golfers ever and has won this tournament multiple times, is the name for the tournament disrespectful? He has never spoken out about the name of the tournament or any direct discrimination from the PGA, but as mentioned by Wynston Wilcox in *The Augusta Chronicle*, he is only one of five African Americans to ever play in The Masters since Elder and was the first to ever win (2021, para. 17-18). The title, The Masters, does not seem to be disrespectful to most, but when looking at the demographics of where the tournament is held, it is quite startling. As of 2021, 57 percent of Augusta’s population is Black or African American, while only 36 percent is white (World Population Review, 2021). The title for the tournament may not appear problematic to the general golf population of players and spectators, but that is because the majority of individuals in golf are white as mentioned earlier. A white individual will most likely have less family ties to slavery

and less knowledge behind the derivation of the title regarding our nation’s most prestigious tournament but considering the majority of individuals that reside near the course are African Americans, the title is a major problem in today’s society.

Recently, Black Lives Matter activists and other anti-racism groups have been working, and succeeding, at removing reminders of racism’s legacy in America. Statues of confederate generals and slaveholders are being taken down across the nation as activists continue to push but are not the only issues associated with racism that have been removed recently. In the sports industry, two different teams across two different sports have recently had to change their entire organization names after having them for many years. For example, a *SkySports* news article, written by Cameron Hogwood, mentions that the Washington Redskins football team is now known strictly as the Washington Commanders because of racial connotations associated with the term “Redskin” (Hogwood, 2022, para. 1). More recently, the Cleveland Indians baseball team just changed their name to the Cleveland Guardians because of similar racial issues associated with “Indians.” Advocating for name changes within sports is starting to become more successful as these examples show. Therefore, name changes because of racial issues have been supported in the sports industry recently as shown by these two

teams adopting new names. With Augusta National's history of racial and discriminatory issues, there may be hope for a name change for The Masters Tournament in the future as well.

There needs to be a change for the title of our nation's most prestigious golf tournament. It would be relatively simple for the club to change their name back to the name they used for five years prior, The Augusta National Invitational Tournament. African Americans already represent a low population of golfers in society and the history of discrimination and practices for which Augusta National was founded on impacts African Americans toward participating in The Masters and possibly advancing their careers as professional golfers. Also, these discriminatory practices can have mental and physical effects as mentioned before. Any golf fan can spark change by contacting the PGA, Augusta National, and the organizer of The Masters directly.

However, change is not going to come easily regarding this issue. Considering the vast majority of individuals in the PGA are white and golf spectators are mainly white, this issue regarding The Masters is not spoken of enough throughout the sport. The right people in key upper management positions need to hear people advocate for this issue more, which would come from the white golfers starting to advocate for the name change since they are the majority. There needs to be more white individuals directly within the PGA that are aware of this issue with the title, The Masters. Communities, such as areas around Augusta, need to advocate to make this issue more prominent. The white golfers saying nothing about this tournament means acceptance of the name. Silence is acceptance. A tournament of such high prestige should not have a title linked to slavery, especially when the course that hosts has a history of discriminatory practices. In today's society, inclusion, and respect of everyone, regardless of race, is highly promoted and disrespecting a whole race with a discriminatory title is beyond wrong.

Works Cited

- Augusta, Georgia population 2021*. Augusta, Georgia Population 2021 (Demographics, Maps, Graphs). (2021). Retrieved November 16, 2021, from <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/augusta-ga-population>.
- 4 reasons the US master's tournament is so prestigious*. Deer Creek Golf Club. (2017). Retrieved November 16, 2021, from <https://deercreekflorida.com/2017/4-reasons-us-masters-tournament-prestigious.html>.
- Franklin, S. (2020, August 5). *The biggest bedroom is no longer a 'master'*. The New York Times. Retrieved November 16, 2021, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/05/realestate/master-bedroom-change.html>.
- Google. (2007). *The masters*. Google Books. Retrieved November 16, 2021, from https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Masters/2Hfz4GvdeEkC?hl=en&gbpv=0++history+of+caddies.
- Google. (2021). *Google books Ngram Viewer*. Google Books. Retrieved November 16, 2021, from https://books.google.com/ngrams/graph?content=%22The%2BMasters%22&year_start=1800&year_end=2019&corpus=26&smoothing=3&direct_url=t1%3B%2C%22+The+Masters+%22%3B%2Cc0.
- Google. (2021). *Google books Ngram Viewer*. Google Books. Retrieved November 16, 2021, from https://books.google.com/ngrams/graph?content=master%2Cmaster_NOUN&year_start=1800&year_end=2019&corpus=26&smoothing=3&direct_url=t1%3B%2Cmaster%3B%2Cc0%3B.t1%3B%2Cmaster_NOUN%3B%2Cc0.
- Hogwood, C. (2022, February 2). *Washington Football Team renamed 'Commanders' 18 months after retiring 'Redskins'* Sky Sports. Retrieved April 10, 2022, from <https://www.skysports.com/nfl/news/12118/12530520/washington-football-team-renamed-washington-commanders-18-months-after-retiring-redskins>
- Khan, A. (2021). Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: A call to eradicate non-inclusive terms from the life sciences. *Elife*, 10, e65604, 1-5.
- Lentati, S. (2015, April 10). *The man who defied death threats to play at the Masters*. BBC News. Retrieved November 16, 2021, from <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-32234719>.
- Margulis, M. (2015, August 20). *Welcome to Augusta: Home to racism, classism, sexism.....and golf*. Medium. Retrieved November 16, 2021, from <https://medium.com/@michaelmargulis/welcome-to-augusta-home-to-racism-classism-sexism-and-golf-23cda988f391>.

- Oxford English Dictionary. (2021). Retrieved November 16, 2021, from <https://www.oed.com/view/Entry/114751?rskey=mb9X02&result=1&isAdvanced=false#eid>.
- Parker, R. (2020, June 22). *We've lived with 'the masters' name long enough*. Deadspin. Retrieved November 16, 2021, from <https://deadspin.com/we-ve-lived-with-the-masters-name-long-enough-1844121041>.
- Pascoe, E. A., & Richman, L. S. (2009). Perceived Discrimination and Health: A Meta-Analytic Review. *Psychological Bulletin*, 135(4), 531–554. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0016059>
- Paumgarten, N. (2019, June 14). *Inside the cultish dreamworld of Augusta national*. The New Yorker. Retrieved November 16, 2021, from <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/06/24/inside-the-cultish-dreamworld-of-augusta-national>.
- Rosselli, A., & Singer, J. N. (2017). Challenges Faced by African American Golfers Pursuing Professional Careers. *Journal of African American Studies*, 21(4), 605-620.
- Smith, W. H. (2010). The impact of racial trauma on African Americans. *African American men and boys advisory board*, 1-7.
- The masters*. Masters.com. (2021). Retrieved November 16, 2021, from https://www.masters.com/en_us/about/tournament.html.
- Tofilon, J. L. (2005). Masters of discrimination: Augusta National Golf Club, freedom of association, and gender equality in golf. *The Journal of Gender, Race, and Justice*, 9(1), 189–210.
- Who was Charlie Sifford?* (2021). Retrieved November 16, 2021, from <https://www.pgatour.com/content/dam/pgatour/linkstolearningworksheets/history/PGA%20TOUR%20LinkstoLearning-History%20-%20Charlie%20Sifford.pdf>
- Wilcox, W. (2021, April 7). *Lee Elder's honors Shine Spotlight on quest for more black representation in golf*. The Augusta Chronicle. Retrieved November 16, 2021, from <https://www.augustachronicle.com/story/sports/pga/2021/04/07/masters-lee-elder-cameron-champ-golf-talk-barriers-blacks-hbcu/7123822002/>.