

2024 GSGA Competitions General Q & A

The GSGA Rules & Competitions Department is pleased to announce the following enhancements and modifications to its competitions programming in 2024:

- The 2024 competitions season will culminate with the inaugural **C. Layne Williams Invitational**, a new event based on the popular Sandbelt Invitational held annually in Australia. Players from 10 different categories will earn invitations to this one-of-a-kind event where all ages and genders will be competing against each other in a 36-hole stroke play competition. Round 1 will be held at Atlanta Athletic Club and the final round will be contested at the home of GSGA, Bobby Jones Golf Course in Atlanta on the reversible routing 9-hole course. Players will be vying for the win in this event that honors long-time GSGA staffer and Georgia Golf Hall of Fame member C. Layne Williams and his contributions to amateur golf in Georgia. Player invitation categories include Men and Women, Mid-Am Men and Women, Senior Men and Women, Super Senior Men and Women and both Junior Boys and Girls'. GSGA Player of the Year Points are accumulated throughout the season in GSGA competitions and invitations for this event are based off various preexisting GSGA Player of the Year categories (ex. The top 4 Super Senior Women from the Senior Women's POY list, the top 4 Mid-Am Men from the Men's POY list). Points updates will be sent throughout the season so players may plan their schedules accordingly to earn the invitation to this prestigious new and unique competition.
 - After round one of the Invitational at Atlanta Athletic Club, GSGA will host its reimagined Player of the Year awards ceremony. No longer held in the following year, the Player of the Year party will serve as an annual celebration of golf where all GSGA Champions and team members will be invited to a fun and casual setting where they will enjoy the camaraderie and honor fellow champions.
- The GSGA Men's and Women's Club Championships will continue in 2024. After a 2023 mid-year transition from the Interclub Matches program, the Men's and Women's Club Championships are for GSGA member clubs represented by teams of four players. Clubs will compete for the championship belt to determine the supreme club in the state of Georgia.
 - The Men's Club Championship is a 36-hole event consisting of one round of Four-Ball stroke play and one round of Foursomes (alternate shot) stroke play. The Championship is contested using gross scoring only. More than one team may represent a club. The defending champions, St. Ives Country Club, will serve as host on September 9-10.
 - The Women's Club Championship is also a 36-hole event contested via two rounds of both gross and net Four-Ball stroke play. Providing a stunning Fall setting and a picturesque golf course, Sky Valley Country Club will host it on October 29-30.
- The Women's Four-Ball Championship will be adding a Senior Women's Championship division, on the same course and same dates, Canogate I on May 29-30, but with a shorter set of tees. Find a partner and let's continue to grow this relatively new event that is providing more opportunities for women golfers to experience friendly competition.
- The Junior Match Play Championship is being discontinued. Created to provide juniors with match play experience to prepare them for the next level, participation did not meet expectations after several years. Junior boys will still have an opportunity to gain match play experience by attempting to qualify for the Georgia Match Play Championship, with the Championship proper held at Old Toccoa Farm on July 28-31. Girls' will also have an opportunity to compete in the Women's Match Play Championship at University of Georgia Golf Course on July 22-25.
- As we continue to raise the bar of our events and elevate the player experience, please be on the lookout for several new perpetual trophies in 2024 for long standing competitions that previously lacked perpetual trophies.
- Finally, there are some exciting USGA qualifying changes with the U.S. Amateur, U.S. Women's Amateur, U.S. Junior, and U.S. Girls' Championships. With the U.S. Amateur, there will now be 2 stages just like the U.S. Open. There will be a Local and a Final stage, and handicap indexes are coming down for qualification. Based on WAGR benchmarks we have also earned several exemptions for select state champions. Our Georgia Amateur Championship winner will earn exemption into the U.S. Amateur in 2024. The Georgia Women's Amateur Championship winner will earn exemption into the U.S. Women's Amateur and the same goes for the Georgia Girls' and Boy's Champions into their respective USGA Championships. In addition, the remainder of the top five from the Georgia Amateur Championship will be exempt through Local Qualifying into Final Qualifying for the U.S. Amateur. These are year-to-year exemptions that are earned based on the strength of our competition fields. It is imperative we continue to attract the strongest fields possible to continue to exceed benchmark levels.

We are extremely excited and anticipating the start of the 2024 competitions season. Please go to www.gsga.org and look at the calendar of events under the COMPETITIONS tab to see a complete list of competitions and to enter the first events of the year beginning January 19th. Stay tuned for more to come and follow GSGA on all your social media platforms.

Best wishes and get out and play,

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