

2025 GSGA Competitions General Q & A

The GSGA Rules & Competitions Department is pleased to announce the following enhancements and modifications to its competitions programming in 2025:

- The 2025 competitions season will culminate once again with the second playing of the ***C. Layne Williams Invitational***. 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 all vs. all stroke play competition. 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 Layne" at Cherokee Town & Country Club, GSGA will host its **Celebration of Champions** 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 camaraderie and honor fellow champions.
- The [calendar of competitions directory and registration portal](#) has been revamped to simplify the process of finding and registering for events of all types including GSGA Championships, statewide qualifying, USGA qualifying, One Day Series, Member Play Days and Women's Fore Fun Series events.
- **2025 marks the introduction of the revised and refreshed competitions schedule.** Some notable changes include the Amateur Championship moving up to June, the Junior Championship moving back to July and the Mid-Amateur Championship moving to Fall. On the women's competition schedule, major moves include the Senior Women's Championship moving up to May. The Tournament of Champions will now be played in March, providing an opportunity for all 2024 GSGA member club champions to be eligible. All improvements in the schedule were carefully thought out to provide players with a better cadence and flow to the competitions season throughout the course of the year.
- GSGA is thrilled to introduce the **Kiltie Cup**, a biennial coed junior challenge team event between GSGA and a team representing Scottish Golf. The inaugural competition will be held at East Lake Golf Club on July 27-28 and each team will consist of four boys and four girls. In 2027, we travel to Scotland! Stay tuned for further details over the coming months.
- The **Georgia Women's Amateur Championship** is moving to a walking-only format, a move that will continue to elevate the championship player experience, raising the bar to put it on level with major national amateur championships.
- The **Women's Match Play Championship** will still be contested in a pod play format. However, match result scoring will revert to a normal 1 point per match win format.
- **JUNIORS** – please familiarize yourself with [Team Georgia](#) that is part of the U.S. National Development Team Program. Points are earned through a wide variety of state, regional and national events throughout the course of the year. Each year a new team will be announced at the beginning of that year and being named to the team comes with many perks and resources available to the player. There are also exemptions into a variety of GSGA Championships that come with being a USNDP Team Georgia member. Info in the link above and at www.gsga.org under the Junior Golf heading.
- The **GSGA Men's and Women's Club Championships** have been discontinued beginning in 2025.
- U.S. Senior Open qualifying will now consist of two stages, like the U.S. Amateur and U.S. Open. GSGA will host a local stage in 2025.
- Based on WAGR benchmarks we have continued to earn exemptions for select state champions. Our Georgia Amateur Championship winner will earn an exemption into the U.S. Amateur in 2025. 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 2026 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 2025 competitions season. Please go to www.gsga.org and look at the calendar of events to see a list of competitions and to enter the first events of the year beginning January 15th. 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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