

Special Exemption Criteria & Policies for GSGA Championships

The Special Exemption category aims to recognize and award deserving players a place in a GSGA championship field even if they do not meet the standard exemption criteria or have not qualified for a specific event. The evaluation of Special Exemption requests will be conducted by a Special Exemption Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Championship Committee, two additional members of the Championship Committee appointed by the Chairman and two R&C staff members appointed by the CEO of the GSGA. The Committee's decision shall be final.

The evaluation process will be inherently subjective, and the Committee reserves the right to extend these exemptions **only in very rare cases of unique individual player situations**. The following considerations will guide the Committee members in evaluating any Special Exemption requests; however, meeting some or even all the considerations will not necessarily result in receiving a Special Exemption. Each request for a Special Exemption will be considered according to its unique circumstances without regard to prior exemptions granted.

1. **GSGA/USGA Playing Record:** The player's historical performance in GSGA and USGA sanctioned events will be assessed including finishes and wins in both GSGA and USGA National championships.
2. **Major Championship Performance:** A player's record in major national championships, including participation, top finishes and titles won, may be considered in the evaluation.
3. **WAGR History:** A player's ranking history and longevity in WAGR may be used in the evaluation.
4. **Impact at GSGA/USGA Level:** The Committee may consider a player's contributions to the game with special consideration given to GSGA and USGA involvement, contributions and achievements.
5. **Recent Results:** Recent results, especially in current season events, may be considered.
6. **Additional Circumstances:** Unique situations such as injuries, personal challenges or other extenuating circumstances that have impact on a player's ability to compete may be considered as well as any other considerations that the Committee deems relevant.

Please contact Jeff Fages, Sr. Director of Rules & Competitions via email at JFAGES@GSGA.ORG or via phone at (678) 324-5969 for more information or if you have any questions.