

## 2026 GSGA Competitions General Q & A

The GSGA Rules & Competitions Department is pleased to announce the following enhancements and modifications to its competitions programming in 2026:

- The 2026 competitions season will culminate once again with the third playing of the ***C. Layne Williams Invitational***. Players from ten distinct 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. GSGA Player of the Year Points are accumulated throughout the season in GSGA & USGA 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). Point 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. **NEW FOR 2026: The event will be played at just one club and there will be a new concurrent team competition to see which gender/age reigns supreme.**
- The [calendar of competitions directory and registration portal](#) continues to try and simplify the process of finding and registering for events of all types including GSGA Championships, statewide qualifying, USGA qualifying and One Day Series events.
- Based on WAGR benchmarks, GSGA has continued to earn exemptions for select state champions into respective USGA Championships. Our Georgia Amateur Championship winner will earn an exemption into the U.S. Amateur. 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 2026. In addition, the top five from the Georgia Amateur Championship will be exempt through Local Qualifying into Final Qualifying for the 2027 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. As you can see below, we are immensely proud of the immense level of talent in our state and say a combination of thank you for your participation and let us keep on rising to the top!
  - In 2025, the Georgia Amateur Championship had the #1 WAGR power ranking of any Allied Golf Association. Over the period of 2022-2025, Georgia ranks #2 in average power ranking.
  - In 2025, the Georgia Women's Amateur Championship had the #2 WAGR power ranking of all Allied Golf Associations. Over the period of 2022-2025, Georgia ranks #4 in average power ranking.
  - In 2025, the Georgia Girls' Championship had the #2 WAGR power ranking of all Allied Golf Associations. Over the period of 2022-2025, Georgia ranks #3 in average power ranking.
  - In 2025, the Georgia Junior Championship had the #16 WAGR power ranking of all Allied Golf Associations. Over the period of 2022-2025, Georgia ranks #18 in average power ranking.
- The WAGR based exemption into the Georgia Amateur Championship, Georgia Mid-Amateur Championship, Georgia Junior Championship and Georgia Women's Amateur Championship are being raised from the top 500 to top 1000.
- The Senior & Super Senior Four-Ball Championships are being combined moving forward to run concurrently on one golf course with twenty-four teams making up the field of each event.
- After a 15-year run, the Member Play Day program is being discontinued. We thank all GSGA members who participated in the program over the years and encourage everyone to explore our [One Day Series presented by PGA Tour Superstore](#) which includes both gross and net competitions for all skill levels within various age and gender divisions.

We are extremely excited and anticipating the start of the 2026 competitions season. Please go to [www.gsga.org](http://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 14<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more to come and follow GSGA on all your social media platforms.

Best wishes and get out and play,

GSGA Rules & Competitions Department