

The Rules & Competitions Staff is pleased to announce some exciting enhancements and improvements to its slate of competitions in 2020. Please see below for a comprehensive summary of all notable changes:

- The Atlanta Amateur Match Play Championship is being rebranded as the Georgia Match Play Championship. It will now be recognized and promoted as statewide championship similar in stature to the Georgia Amateur Championship. Statewide qualifying will be introduced and the top 31 players from qualifying and the defending champion will advance for a special and unique experience at the championship's host site. The dates of the championship will also move from October to August to provide an opportunity for all the state's top players to earn a spot in this illustrious and premier field. In time, an expansion to a field of 64 in match play will be planned.
- The Women's Team Championship is being rebranded the Women's Team Tournament. The format of the tournament will include both simultaneous flighted Gross and Net competitions with winners crowned in both competitions. One set of tee markers will be utilized for the field with an approximate playing yardage of 5200-5500 yards.
- The Women's and Senior Women's Match Play Championship will see an increase in the entry fee from \$160 to \$195. While a significant increase, players should not be alarmed. This increase in the entry fee will now cover all match play entry fees for the competition and eliminate the process of staff charging players cart and range fees in the credit card processing system after the conclusion of the competition. This is a seamless and efficient improvement that will benefit both staff and players.
- The Tournament of Champions, introduced in 2019, will now include a Senior Women's division in 2020 to accompany the Senior Men, Men and Women's divisions. All GSGA member clubs are encouraged to promote the championship and send their club champions to compete at this select field championship comprised of the state's top players.
- The Interclub Matches program enters its 3rd season and looks to continue to grow as it provides an opportunity for GSGA member clubs to compete against one another to crown a state club champion. In 2020, regular season match rosters will be reduced from eight (8) players to six (6) players to more closely align with the six (6) players that play in the championship and to also provide an opportunity for more clubs to participate that may have smaller rosters of players. The team entry fee will be reduced from \$750 to \$500 and those teams that advance to the championship will now pay a per player \$100 championship fee to cover championship expenses.
- Continue to look for enhancements to the overall player experience at all GSGA competitions as we strive to make our competitions the best and most memorable you will ever play in.
- GSGA is partnering with StrackaLine to offer yardage books to players at most GSGA events. In addition, be on the lookout for enhanced hole location sheets at all of our events.
- Late entries for competitions will now be accepted with an additional nominal fee after the original close of entries deadline. Acceptance of late entries will be limited to one additional week after the stated entry deadline and will be based on space available within the field.
- The withdraw policy for statewide qualifying events (Mid-Amateur, Amateur, Junior, Match Play) has been modified to provide more opportunities for players to receive partial refunds in the event they need to withdraw after the close of entries. This modification is based on the extended periods of time between the close of entries and the actual competition dates.
- We will continue to utilize player driven live scoring utilizing the Golf Genius mobile application at all competitions. Participation in 2019 was overwhelming, feedback was extremely positive, and the process is very easy. It will continue to be recommended and not required that one player per group perform the operation.

- We will continue to solicit player feedback through select post event surveys aimed at gathering information that will assist the staff in continuing to provide the most first-class competitive playing opportunities for all GSGA members.

We are extremely excited and anticipating the start of the 2020 competitions season as entries open for the first round of competitions on Wednesday, January 15. Please go to www.gsga.org and look at the calendar of events under the PLAY tab to see a complete list of competitions and to enter the first events of the year.

Best wishes and get out and play,

Jeff Fages, Managing Director, Rules & Competitions