



2021 GSGA Competitions Program General Q & A



The GSGA is pleased to announce some enhancements and improvements to its slate of competitions in 2021, as well as share some updates on COVID-19 safety protocols and policies for administering competitions. Please see below for a comprehensive summary of all notable changes:

- Due to cart availability, GSGA will have to return to administering competitions with no more than two carts per starting time when three/four players are in a group. This will require that some players share a cart, and if players are not comfortable riding in a cart with another player, the player may utilize other options such as walking, using a trolley and/or using a caddie. Players will not be required to, but may choose to, wear a face covering while riding with another player in the same cart.
- Our Refund Policy for 2021 will remain the same as in 2020. A player may continue to request a FULL refund for a withdrawal up through their starting time on the first day of competition for ANY reason. After the player's starting time has passed on the first day of competition, refunds will not be granted. R&C staff respectfully ask that if a player knowingly will withdraw before the competition begins, please do so as soon as possible out of respect and as a courtesy to any players on a wait list that may have an opportunity to get in the field.
- After being suspended for 2020, GSGA will resume its season long competitions for Players of the Year awards, Challenge Match standings and the annual Tommy Barnes Award presented to the overall GSGA Player of the Year.
- All challenge matches for 2021 including the Southeastern Challenge Match, Peach-Palmetto Women's Showdown, GA/SC Junior Challenge Match and GA/SC Girls' Junior Challenge Match are currently scheduled to be played. Site and date information is/will be posted on the calendar of events.
- GSGA is also thrilled to announce the introduction of a new One-Day Series presented by PGA TOUR Superstore. The One-Day Series will offer a season-long competition with events open to all players, all skill levels and varying formats to include individual stroke play, Four-Ball and Stableford competitions using both gross and net scoring, multiple flights and sets of tees based on handicap index. A season-long points system and season-ending multi-day event are part of the program. Stay tuned for further announcements.
- The Four-Ball Tournament will be reduced to a 36-hole competition and will be contested on one golf course. Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Teams must still have a minimum combined team handicap index of 4.0.
- For select statewide championships that are conducted via a qualifying process (Amateur, Mid-Am and Match Play), there will be a maximum player Handicap Index of 10.0 that a player must possess to register. In addition, a stroke policy will be introduced for qualifying competitions. Any player not finishing within 15 strokes of their Playing Handicap (computed utilizing the player's handicap index and course rating) would be subject to a letter requesting a confirmation of their playing ability and/or designating a suspension from competition for a period of time.
- Originally planned for 2020, the Atlanta Amateur Match Play Championship has been rebranded as the Georgia Match Play Championship. It will be recognized and promoted as a statewide championship similar in stature to the Georgia Amateur Championship. Statewide qualifying will be introduced and the top 32 players from qualifying will advance for a special and unique experience at the championships host site, McLemore Club. The 102nd championship will take place in the Summer to provide an opportunity for all the state's top players to earn a spot in this illustrious and premier field.
- The Interclub Matches program will be postponed for the 2021 season as many clubs are still operating under guest restrictions in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. GSGA plans to reintroduce the Interclub Matches in 2022 and are excited to introduce a Women's Interclub Matches program to begin play in 2022.

We are extremely excited and anticipating the start of the 2021 competitions season with entries opening for the first round of competitions on Wednesday, January 20. 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, Senior Director, Rules & Competitions