

51st South Carolina Amateur Match Play Championship

The WildeWood Club, Columbia, SC

June 14-17, 2023

~ NEW QUALIFYING FORMAT in 2023!~

The top 64 Players that are exempt and qualify for the Match Play Championship are guaranteed three rounds of Match Play.

The Match Play Format follows PGA Tour's WGC Match Play Championship Format!

The South Carolina Amateur Match Play Championship is an exciting CGA Championship that utilizes golf's original match play format. Players may attempt to qualify at any qualifier in South Carolina.

All players advancing to Match Play will play three matches in group play on Wednesday & Thursday. The 16 group winners advance to the Round of 16 on Friday & Saturday, with single elimination match play until the Champion is crowned!



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ELIGIBILITY AND FIELD SIZE

Entry is open to any male amateur golfer who has reached his 13th birthday by June 14, 2023, and is a legal resident of South Carolina, is a member in good standing of a club which is a member of the Carolinas Golf Association (CGA) and has an active Handicap Index® that does not exceed **9.9** at a CGA member club. Entries are subject to rejection at any time, including during the event, by the CGA or the host club. The reason for rejection may include unbecoming conduct as defined in the [CGA Code of Conduct Policy](#) for current or future championships. All players must conform to the "USGA Rules of Amateur Status" as specified in "The Rules of Golf".

College Student Eligibility: A college student is considered a resident of their parent(s)/guardian(s) "Legal Residency Criteria" as stated in the CGA Tournament Manual unless said student (a) has no dependency on his/her parents; and (b) lives full time in South Carolina.

For complete residency and eligibility requirements, refer to the [CGA Tournament Manual](#).

Championship Field Size: 64 Players.

ENTRY FEES (All Course Fees Paid by the CGA to the Host Club)

Championship Entry Fee: \$225 (includes cart/range fees and lunch)

Qualifying Entry Fee: \$85

Concurrent Qualifying Fee with Carolinas Amateur: \$165

ENTRY WINDOW AND ONLINE REGISTRATION

Entry Window: Open April 17 at 8:00pm | Close May 29 at 11:59pm

All players, including those exempt, must register online at www.carolinagolf.org. Mail-in applications are not accepted for this event. Fax, mail, e-mail, telephone, incomplete, illegible, or entries received before the opening date and after the closing date, are not accepted.

Exempt Players: Accepted into the championship proper at time of entry (see "Exemptions into Group Play").

Non-exempt Players: Gain entry into the championship proper (Group Play Match Play) through qualifying (see "Qualifying and Alternates" sections).

The CGA is not responsible for errors or delays by any internet service provider. Entries are only accepted between the open and close dates as stated above. Confirmation of acceptance is sent to players when their status is determined. Status may be checked at www.carolinagolf.org. The appropriate entry fee must be paid at time of registration. **Players who "Did Not Show" (DNS) or "No Card" (NC) are suspended from next year's Carolinas Mid-Amateur Championship.**

REFUND POLICY

Entry fee refund policy schedule:

Open Date to Two Days Prior to Championship Date: Full refund minus \$30 administrative fee refunded regardless of reason if entry accepted into championship.

Withdraw Day Prior or on Championship Date: No refund for any reason.

Alternates/Wait List: Full refund if player does not gain entry into championship.

RULES

USGA Rules of Golf govern play. Questions will be decided by the on-site Rules Committee whose decision will be final. Notice to Players and local rules are posted at host club and distributed at the starting tee(s). The CGA reserves the right to alter the conditions or schedules as stated, including alteration of the round(s) at any time during the championship including sectional qualifying. The competition is closed when the championship trophy has been presented. Special requests for starting times or pairings are not granted.

COURSE FEES; GOLF CARTS; CADDIES; SPECTATORS

Championship Site: All championship site cart/range fees are paid by the CGA and included in the entry fee for both stroke play qualifying and match play rounds. Competitors have the option to either walk or use a golf cart during championship rounds.

Practice Rounds: Cart rental is mandatory for practice rounds.

Caddies: Refer to Player Information for specific qualifier or championship site for caddie information.

Caddie/Spectator Cart Policy During Qualifying and Group Play: During the play of a hole, either the player or his caddie may ride in a golf cart but not both at the same time. Spectators are not allowed to ride in a player's golf cart at any time.

Exception: During the Bracket Play portion of the championship both the player and caddie may ride in a golf cart at the same time.

CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT & SEEDING

64 players are formed into 16 groups of 4 to begin the championship. Each player plays 3 rounds of match play against players in a group of 4, called Group Play. The winner of each match will receive 1 point. Ties matches after 18 holes results in each player receiving .5 points. In the event of a tie in the group after three rounds, the tied players will have a sudden death stroke play play-off to see who wins the group.

The 64 players will be seeded 1-64 using the hierarchy listed on the next page.

The 16 players with the most points from each group after 3 rounds will advance to the final 16 Championship Bracket, called Bracket Play.

The 16 group winners will be seeded into a traditional 16 player bracket based on the group # they won, not based on their original seeds. See Championship Bracket on next page.

PRIZES

The champion receives a trophy, merchandise and has name engraved on permanent championship trophy. Trophy and merchandise is awarded to the runner-up and stroke play qualifying medalist(s). Merchandise is awarded to players who advance to Bracket Play.

EXEMPTIONS INTO GROUP PLAY

Players in the following categories are exempt into Group Play if otherwise eligible. A complete list of exempt players is available on the championship website.

1. Defending South Carolina Amateur Match Play Champion.
2. 2022 Carolinas Men's Amateur Player of the Year.
3. 2022 Carolinas Junior Boys' Player of the Year.
4. 2018-2022 SC Amateur Match Play Champions (defending Champion is #1 seed).
5. 2018-2022 Carolinas Amateur Champions.
6. 2023 Carolinas Mid-Amateur Champions.
7. 2022 South Carolina Mid-Amateur Champions.
8. 2023 Carolinas Junior Boys Champion.
9. 2023 South Carolina Junior Boys Champion.
10. Players who made the **Bracket Play** at the 2022 South Carolina Amateur Match Play.
11. USGA Individual Champions since 2018.
12. USGA Four-Ball Champions since 2020.
13. One Host Club Exemption.
14. Special Exemptions by CGA Championship Committee

QUALIFYING AND ALTERNATES

On-Site qualifying is 18 holes of stroke play. The number of qualifying spots is determined by the CGA after entries close, based on the size of the field. In the event of a tie for the last qualifying places, there will be a hole-by-hole playoff to determine the final qualifiers and the 1st and 2nd alternate if necessary.

If a qualifier is full at the time of registration, a player may opt to be placed on that site's alternate wait list or register at another qualifying site. A player may only register for one qualifying site. Wait list alternates and on-site alternates are ranked according to date/time an entry is received and processed.

QUALIFYING SITES

June 1 - Willow Creek GC, Greer, SC

June 8 - Spring Valley CC, Columbia, SC

CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

Tuesday, June 13	Tee times available for practice.
Wednesday, June 14	Group Play Matches Rounds 1 and 2.
Thursday, June 15	Group Play Match Round 3 and Sudden death play-off for Group Winners.
Friday, June 16	Round of 16 and Quarterfinal Matches.
Saturday, June 17	Semifinal and Championship Match.

CONTACT INFORMATION

CGA: 910-673-1000 or e-mail: tournaments@carolinagolf.org

Championship Site: The WildeWood Club

WITHDRAW

Players who wish to withdraw may do so via the following link:
https://www.carolinagolf.org/tournament_withdraw

Carolinan Golf Association

140 Ridge Road, Southern Pines, NC 28387 | 910-673-1000 | carolinagolf.org | tournaments@carolinagolf.org



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QUALIFYING

Qualifying sites will be available for non-exempt players to earn a spot in the 64 player Group Play Portion of the South Carolina Amateur Match Play Championship. The fee to attempt to qualify is \$85.

Qualifying spots will be determined at the close of entries based on the number of exempt golfers and number of qualifiers to form the 64 player South Carolina Amateur Match Play field.

Individuals who qualify for the Group Play portion of the Championship will be atomically charged an additional \$225 for the Championship entry fee by the CGA.

GROUP PLAY (3 Round Robin Matches) FORMAT & SCORING

All players in the group will play a match versus each other player in their group in rounds one through three of the Championship on Wednesday-Thursday.

- The winner of each match will receive one (1) point
- Tied matches result in each player receiving a (0.5) half point

The player with the most points after three rounds will advance to the round of 16 (Bracket Play) from the group

- In the event of a tie in the group after three rounds, the tied players will have a sudden death stroke play play-off to see who will advance

Withdrawal during Group Play

Due to the nature of this match play event, and to ensure that all players have a match to compete in and in fairness to the field in group play, a player who withdraws during the group play rounds will be **suspended for 3 months or their next CGA Championship they are signed up for**, whichever comes first. It is unfair to your fellow players who spend their own time and money to travel to the Championship, and are subsequently left to sit in their hotel room because another player has chosen to withdraw out of frustration or previous round loss. When entering the Championship, please take this into consideration. If you believe you cannot fulfill the tournament schedule, please leave the spot open for another player.

GROUP PLAY SEED ORDER

When the field is set after the on-site qualifier, the field will be seeded 1-64 based on the following order.

Exempt Players

1. Defending South Carolina Amateur Match Play Champion.
2. 2022 Carolinas Men's Amateur Player of the Year.
3. 2022 Carolinas Junior Boys' Player of the Year.
4. 2018-2022 SC Amateur Match Play Champions (defending Champion is #1 seed).
5. 2018-2022 Carolinas Amateur Champions.
6. 2023 Carolinas Mid-Amateur Champions.
7. 2022 South Carolina Mid-Amateur Champions.
8. 2022 Carolinas Junior Boys Champion.
9. 2022 South Carolina Junior Boys Champion.
10. 2022 South Carolina Amateur Match Play Top 16.
11. USGA Individual Champions since 2018.
12. USGA Four-Ball Champions since 2020.
13. One Host Club Exemption.
14. Special Exemptions by CGA Championship Committee



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- Categories with multiple players will be seeded by order they won the Championship or finish in event
 - 2022 Champion takes higher seed than 2019 Champion
 - Semifinalist in Match Play Championship takes higher seed than quarterfinalist
- The same groups or ties will be seeded by lot
- Players who are in multiple categories will assume the seed/category that is highest

Qualified Players

- Players who advance through on-site qualifier will be seeded by the ranking of their qualifying position.
 - All qualifiers from all sites that are in third place will be seeded together and broken ties by lot, all that finished in fourth place will be seeded together by lot, etc.
- Qualifying Spot ties will be broken by lot.

Withdrawals & Alternates

Once the seeds are set, any alternates will assume the seed of the player they are replacing.

GROUP PLAY SEEDING POSITION

The Championship will consist of 16 groups of 4 players per group. Groups will be seeded up and down based on the following chart:

<i>GROUP PLAY SEEDING</i>				
Group #	Position 1	Position 2	Position 3	Position 4
Group 1	1	32	33	64
Group 2	2	31	34	63
Group 3	3	30	35	62
Group 4	4	29	36	61
Group 5	5	28	37	60
Group 6	6	27	38	59
Group 7	7	26	39	58
Group 8	8	25	40	57
Group 9	9	24	41	56
Group 10	10	23	42	55
Group 11	11	22	43	54
Group 12	12	21	44	53
Group 13	13	20	45	52
Group 14	14	19	46	51
Group 15	15	18	47	50
Group 16	16	17	48	49



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BRACKET PLAY – CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET

The 16 group winners will be seeded into a traditional 16 player bracket based on the group # they won, not based on their original seeds, example below.

4 rounds of Match play over Friday and Saturday to crown the South Carolina Amateur Match Play Champion.

