

# 54<sup>TH</sup> SOUTH CAROLINA AMATEUR MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

DEBORDIEU CLUB || GEORGETOWN, SC

AUGUST 12-15, 2026



DeBordieu Club

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

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 13<sup>th</sup> birthday by August 12, 2026, 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 **7.0** 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:** \$265 (includes cart/range fees and lunch)

**Qualifying Entry Fee:** \$110

**Concurrent Qualifying Fee with Carolinas Amateur:** \$215

### **ENTRY WINDOW AND ONLINE REGISTRATION**

**Entry Window:** Open April 6 at 8:00pm | Close June 8 at 11:59pm

**All players, including those exempt from qualifying, must register online at [www.carolinagolf.org](http://www.carolinagolf.org). Mail-in, email, or telephone applications are not accepted for this event.**

**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. Confirmation of acceptance is sent to players when their status is determined. Status may be checked at [www.carolinagolf.org](http://www.carolinagolf.org). The appropriate entry fee must be paid at the time of registration. **Players who "Did Not Show" (DNS) or "No Card" (NC) are suspended from the next year's championship.**

### **LATE REGISTRATION**

Late entries are not guaranteed entry into a tournament.

After the close of entries, a player may contact the CGA at [tournaments@carolinagolf.org](mailto:tournaments@carolinagolf.org) or contact the official in charge (listed on the tournament website) to request a late entry. Late entries will be accepted at the discretion of the CGA and only if a spot is available in the field.

Accepted late entries will be charged a \$30 late fee in addition to the entry fee of the tournament. The late fee is non-refundable, regardless of participation in the tournament.

### **REFUND POLICY**

Entry fee refund policy schedule:

Any withdrawal within three (3) days before the first day of the qualifier or championship proper will not receive a refund. All other withdrawals are subject to a \$30 admin fee. Refer to the table below for the deadline to withdraw with a refund less the admin fee.

<b>Deadline for Refund (less admin fee) at 11:59 pm</b>	<b>First Day of Qualifier or Championship Proper</b>
Thursday	Monday
Friday	Tuesday
Saturday	Wednesday
Sunday	Thursday
Monday	Friday
Tuesday	Saturday
Wednesday	Sunday

**Withdraw within 3 days before or on the Championship First Round or Qualifying Date:** No refund for any reason.

**Wait List/Alternates:** No entry fee is charged if the player does not gain entry into the championship or qualifier.

\*Note: Refund policy and deadlines apply to each entry fee stage. Example: Player pays \$110 entry fee to qualify. The player is successful in qualifying (\$110 entry fee has been used) and is automatically charged the \$265 championship entry fee balance due to their credit card. The player withdraws from the



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championship proper four days before the first round. The player receives a refund of \$235 (\$265 championship entry fee balance-\$30 admin fee). Any withdrawals within three days prior or on the first round date do not receive a refund.

## **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:** Caddies are **NOT** permitted at the championship or qualifying rounds.

**Spectator Cart Policy:** Spectators are not allowed to ride in a player's golf cart at any 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. Tied 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 the Championship Bracket on the next page.

## **PRIZES**

The champion receives a trophy, and merchandise and has their name engraved on the permanent championship trophy. Trophy and merchandise are 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. 2025 Carolinas Men's Amateur Player of the Year.
3. 2025 Carolinas Junior Boys' Player of the Year.
4. 2021-2025 SC Amateur Match Play Champions (defending Champion is #1 seed).
5. 2021-2025 Carolinas Amateur Champions.
6. 2025 South Carolina Amateur Champion.
7. 2026 Carolinas Mid-Amateur Champion.
8. 2025 South Carolina Mid-Amateur Champion.
9. 2025 Carolinas Junior Boys Champion.
10. 2025 South Carolina Junior Boys Champion.
11. 2025 South Carolina Junior Match Play Champion.
12. Players who made Bracket Play at the 2025 South Carolina Amateur Match Play.
13. USGA Individual & Four-Ball Champions since 2021.
14. One Host Club Exemption.

## **QUALIFYING AND ALTERNATES**

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Waitlist alternates and on-site alternates are ranked according to the date/time an entry is received and processed.



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## **QUALIFYING SITES**

June 15 - CC Lexington, Lexington, SC

June 22 - Edgewater GC, Lancaster, SC

June 29 - CC of South Carolina, Florence, SC

## **CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday, August 11** Tee times available for practice.

**Wednesday, August 12** Group Play Matches Round 1.

**Thursday, August 13** Group Play Match Rounds 2 and Rounds 3 and Sudden death play-off for Group Winners.

**Friday, August 14** Round of 16 and Quarterfinal Matches.

**Saturday, August 15** Semifinal and Championship Match.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**CGA:** 910-673-1000 or e-mail: [tournaments@carolinagolf.org](mailto:tournaments@carolinagolf.org)

**Championship Site:** DeBordieu Club

## **WITHDRAW**

Players who wish to withdraw may do so via the following link:

[https://www.carolinagolf.org/tournament\\_withdraw](https://www.carolinagolf.org/tournament_withdraw)



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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 \$110.

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 automatically charged an additional \$265 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 without a valid reason may be **suspended from all CGA events they are signed up for**. It is unfair to your fellow players who spend their own time and money travelling 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. In order to be reinstated to play in CGA events, players will be subject to a \$150 penalty payable to the Carolinas Golf Foundation. If a player withdraws before the third group play match and will not factor into the final group standings, or who advances to the bracket play, that player may NOT be subject to the suspension. Any player wishing to withdraw during group play must consult with the Official in Charge regarding the potential for any penalty to be enforced. If a player withdraws without completing all three group play matches, in equity to the group, all points will be forfeited by the withdrawn 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. 2025 Carolinas Men's Amateur Player of the Year.
  3. 2025 Carolinas Junior Boys' Player of the Year.
  4. 2021-2025 SC Amateur Match Play Champions (defending Champion is #1 seed).
  5. 2021-2025 Carolinas Amateur Champions.
  6. 2025 South Carolina Amateur Champion.
  7. 2026 Carolinas Mid-Amateur Champion.
  8. 2025 South Carolina Mid-Amateur Champion.
  9. 2025 Carolinas Junior Boys Champion.
  10. 2025 South Carolina Junior Boys Champion.
  11. 2025 SC Junior Match Play Champion.
  12. Players who made Bracket Play at the 2025 South Carolina Amateur Match Play.
  13. USGA Individual Champions since 2021.
  14. USGA Four-Ball Champions since 2021.
  15. One Host Club Exemption.
- Categories with multiple players will be seeded by the order they won the Championship or finished in the event
    - 2024 Champion takes higher seed than 2022 Champion
    - A semifinalist in the Match Play Championship takes a higher seed than a quarterfinalist



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- The same groups or ties will be seeded by blind draw
- Players who are in multiple categories will assume the seed/category that is highest

### Qualified Players

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

### 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:

<b>GROUP PLAY SEEDING</b>				
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.

