



25th Alabama State Match Play Championship

August 6-9, 2026

Goose Pond Colony Resort, Scottsboro, AL

Entries Open: June 1

Entries Close: July 23

Entry Fee: \$295 (Includes Championship Cart/Range Fees)



ELIGIBILITY

Entries are open to any male amateur golfer who is a legal resident of Alabama, and has an active GHIN® USGA Handicap Index® at an AGA member club that does not exceed 6.9.

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

Entries are subject to rejection or withdraw at any time, including during the event, by the AGA or the host club. The reason for rejection may include unbecoming conduct or cell phone use during a stipulated round. All players must conform to the "USGA Rules of Amateur Status" as specified in "The Rules of Golf". For complete residency and eligibility requirements, refer to the [AGA Tournament Manual](#).

ENTRIES AND ONLINE REGISTRATION

All players, including those exempt, must register online at www.alabamagolf.org. Fax, mail-in, or telephone applications are not accepted. Championship field size is limited to 48 players. Exempt players are accepted at time of registration (See "Exemptions" on page 3). Non-exempt players will be accepted after close of entries to fill the championship field. If the championship field is oversubscribed, field will be determined by player ranking, past performance and Handicap Index as of July 23, 2026. Players not gaining entry will be placed on the alternate wait list. Wait list alternates are ranked in the same way as the field. The AGA reserves the right to conduct a qualifying round to determine the final field and alternate order.

- To submit an entry, go to <https://www.golfgenius.com/pages/5653894> and click on Register.
- **All entries must be RECEIVED in the AGA office no later than 11:59pm, Thursday, July 23, 2026. No entries will be accepted after that time.**
- An entry fee in the amount of \$295.00, payable by **credit card**, must accompany the entry application, \$5.00 of which will be donated to the Alabama Turfgrass Research Foundation.
- Upon successfully completing the entry procedure, an email confirmation will be automatically generated and sent to you at the email address you designate.

The AGA 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.alabamagolf.org. The appropriate entry fee must be paid by each player at time of registration.

REFUND POLICY

Withdrawal: If an accepted player withdraws for any reason before the close of registration at **11:59pm on Thursday, July 23, 2026**, the entry fee will be refunded, subject to a \$30.00 service fee. If an accepted player withdraws for any reason after the close of registration and before **11:59pm on Tuesday, August 4, 2026**, 75% of the entry fee will be refunded. No refunds will be made for withdrawals after that time.

No Shows: Players that fail to notify the AGA of their withdrawal and "No Show" their starting time will not receive a refund for any reason. "No Show" players may be subject to suspension from future AGA events.

Alternates: Full refund if player does not gain entry into the championship.

All dates and time refer to **date and time of receipt** at the AGA office.

CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

- 36 holes of gross individual stroke play to determine 16 players for match play. A tie for the last qualifier's place will be decided immediately by a hole-by-hole playoff. Players are responsible for making themselves available at the scoreboard for play-off instructions. The play-off holes and their order of play will be determined by the Committee.
- Match Play Seeding: General numerical draw will be used. For purposes of determining places in the draw, ties in qualifying rounds will be decided by lot.
- Match Play stipulated round is 18 holes. In the event of a match standing all square after 18 holes, the stipulated round is deemed to extend on a hole-by-hole basis until a winner is determined.

CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, August 5

Tee times available for practice.

Thursday, August 6

First round of individual stroke play qualifying.

Friday, August 7

Second round of individual stroke play qualifying.

Field cut to low 16 players for match play.

Saturday, August 8

Round of 16 (AM) and Quarterfinal round (PM) of individual match play.

Sunday, August 19

Semifinals (AM) and Final match (PM).

CART/RANGE FEES

- *Practice Rounds:* Cart/range fees are not included in the entry fee. Cart rental is mandatory for practice rounds payable at the host club.
- *Championship Site:* Championship site cart/range fees are paid by the AGA and included in the entry fee. Competitors have the option to either walk or use a golf cart during championship rounds.

CADDIES

- *Caddies:* Caddies are not allowed for championship rounds

SPECTATORS

- *Spectator Golf Cart Policy:* Due to the limited number of available golf carts, spectator carts may not be available during the championship.
- *Disability Golf Cart Policy:* In consistency with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), AGA will grant an individual with a bona fide disability a golf cart if the following conditions are met:
 - Requesting individual completes and submits a [Disabled Golf Cart Request Form](#) by the close of entries date;
 - Host club has a golf cart available;
 - Requesting individual pays host club the appropriate fee;
 - Requesting individual presents to the AGA staff or AGA representative a disability card issued by a government agency.
- Spectators are not allowed to ride in a player's golf cart at any time. Non-club owned spectator carts are not allowed except as provided in the [AGA Tournament Manual](#).

PRIZES

- *Stroke Play Qualifying Rounds:* Lowest Scoring Player for 36 Holes: Silver medal; if a tie, duplicate medals will be awarded.
- *Match Play:* An award will be presented to the Champion and Runner-Up. Merchandise prizes are awarded to top finishers. Champion will have his name engraved on the *Grantland Rice Cup*.
- Prizes in AGA amateur championships comply with USGA Rules of Amateur Status (see USGA Rules of Golf).
- High School or collegiate players should check with their institution compliance department regarding High School or NCAA regulations relating to accepting prizes or merchandise.

EXEMPTIONS EARNED

- Champion receives 10 year exemption into the Alabama State Amateur Championship and Alabama State Match Play Championship (2027-2036).
- Players advancing to the Quarterfinals will receive an exemption into the 2026 Alabama State Mid-Amateur Championship (must be 25 years of age or older by first day of Championship).
- Players advancing to the Quarterfinals will receive an exemption into the 2027 Alabama State Amateur Championship.
- Players advancing to the Quarterfinals will receive an exemption into the 2027 Alabama State Match Play Championship.

RULES OF GOLF; CLOSE OF COMPETITION; SPECIAL REQUESTS

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 AGA reserves the right to alter the conditions or schedules as stated, including alteration of the stipulated round(s) at any time during the championship. The competition is closed when the championship trophy has been presented or, in stroke play qualifying followed by match play, when the side has teed off in their first match. Special requests for starting times or pairings may not be granted.

EXEMPTIONS

Players in the categories listed below are exempt into the 2026 Alabama State Match Play Championship. The AGA reserves the right to revise any of the exemption categories. Exempt players who wish to participate in the Championship must file an entry by July 23, 2026 except those players for whom blank entries are filed as noted below. Exempt players must meet all the eligibility requirements set forth in Eligibility Section.

1. Winners of the AGA State Match Play Championship last ten years:

2025-JP Groat	2024-Nick Robillard	2023-Will Patrick
2022-Jack Goldasich	2021-Matthew Myers	2020-Not Played
2019-Ethan Hagood	2017-Matt Gourgeot	2016-Bo Hayes

2. Winners of the AGA State Amateur Championship last ten years:

2026-TBD	2025-Bailey Sutter	2023-Tyler Watts	2019-Jack Goldasich
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3. Winners of the AGA State Mid-Amateur last five years:

2025-Hunter Hawkins	2024-Ben Reeves	2023-Conner Elder	2022-Haymes Snedeker
2021-Tyler Hitchner/Will McCurdy			

4. Winner of the AGA Boys State Junior Championship the last three years (2023-2025):

2025-Rawlin Sutter	2024-Bailey Sutter	2023-Michael Crocker
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5. Winner of the 2026 AGA State Senior Championship:

Haymes Snedeker

6. From the 2025 AGA State Match Play Championship, those players who advanced to the Round of 16:

Andrew Hinson	Logan Rawson	William Stelt	Blake Watts	Reid Larson
Ward Harris	Blaise Wilson	Jackson Mitchell	Will McCurdy	Pierce Becker
Richard Douglas	JP Groat	Jace Duckworth	Elad Sebbag	Hunter Hawkins
Gavin Isbell				

7. From the 2026 AGA State Amateur Championship, the 16 lowest scores and anyone tying for 16th place:

8. From the 2025 AGA State Mid-Amateur, the 8 lowest scores and anyone tying for 8th place:

Hunter Hawkins	Jackson King	Blaise Wilson	Casey O'Toole
Blake Kelley	Ty Cole	Stewart Whitt	Alex Balog

9. Any player who qualified for either the 2026 USGA Open Championship or 2026 USGA Senior Open Championship:

10. Any player who qualified for the 2025 USGA Amateur Championship:

Josiah Gilbert	Bailey Sutter	Tyler Watts	Cole Imig
Will Drake			

11. Any player who qualified for either the 2025 USGA Mid-Amateur Championship or 2025 USGA Senior Amateur Championship:

Joel Alexander	Tobin Ayers	John Snoddy	Blake Watts
Adam Jacobs	Shaw Pritchett	Robert Nelson	

12. Any player who qualified for the 2025 USGA Junior Amateur Championship:

Tyler Watts	Rawlin Sutter	JP Groat	Andrew Hinson	Cameron Rockett
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13. Any player who qualified for the 2026 USGA Amateur Four-Ball Championship:

Logan Rawson	Van Thigpen	William Catanzaro	John Hilliard Catanzaro
Conner Elder	Zachary Hughes	Mac Scott	

14. Any player who ranks within the top 25 point leaders and anyone tying for 25th place of the Alabama Men's Amateur Rankings as of June 1, 2026:

Bailey Sutter	Andrew Hinson	Josiah Gilbert	Jackson Mitchell	Mac Scott
Tyler Watts	Michael Crocker	John Hilliard Catanzaro	Hayden Smith	Will Abernathy
Trent Alexander	Logan Rawson	Michael Noe	Zachary Hughes	Conner Elder
Van Thigpen	William Catanzaro	Clark Browne	Corey Ray	Blaise Wilson
Andy McRae	Grayden Robinson	Gus Darnall	Jacob Lee	Victor Kyatt

15. The 2025 Alabama Men's Player of the Year:

Tyler Watts

16. The 2025 Alabama Senior Men's Player of the Year:

Shaw Pritchett

17. The 2025 Alabama Junior Boys Player of the Year:

Tyler Watts

18. Special exemptions bestowed by the AGA.