

# **SDGA Match Play Championship**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

#### **Why did the format change?**

- **Value:** Players get more value (3 guaranteed matches) with the POD format. Previously, many players just played one match.
- **Accessibility:** Low entry fee qualifiers (just \$20) will appeal to more players because only players that qualify pay the full entry fee. Previously, players were required to pay the full entry fee with no guarantee they would make the Championship bracket.
- **Scheduling:** Everyone knows before the start of the tournament who is in the Championship brackets and what their tee times are for their three POD matches. Previously, there were odd numbers of players which created brackets with byes, making it difficult to schedule matches.

#### **How many players in each Championship?**

Each Championship has the following final field size, consisting of exempt players and those who advance through qualifying.

**Men: 64 Players**

**Senior Men: 32 Players**

**Women: 32 Players**

**Senior Women: 16 Players**

### **QUALIFYING**

#### **Who is eligible to play?**

Qualifying is open to any amateur golfer who is an SDGA member and has posted five scores before the start of qualifying. You can join the SDGA online at [JOIN/RENEW](#) or at your home course.

#### **What are the age restrictions for the Senior Championships?**

Men must be 55 years of age on July 13, 2023 to be eligible.

Women must be 50 years of age on July 13, 2023 to be eligible.

#### **How do I qualify?**

Local Qualifying is 18 holes of stroke play conducted at 8 different sites across the state. The fee to play in the qualifier is only \$20 before May 1 (\$30 after May 1) plus any applicable golf/cart fees at the course. Players are limited to ONE attempt to qualify at one of these 8

locations, plus the LAST CHANCE qualifier (see next question). The final entry deadline for Local Qualifying is midnight on Thursday, June 1.

Men 25+ can also compete for three spots at the SDGA Men's Mid-Amateur Championship at Moccasin Creek CC on June 1-2. The top three finishers of those not already exempt earn a spot in the Men's Championship.

[CLICK HERE](#) to enter the SDGA Men's Mid-Amateur Championship.

[CLICK HERE](#) to enter Local Qualifying

### Local Qualifying Schedule

<u>Qualifier</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Course</u>
<b>SE Qualifier #1</b>	<b>Saturday, June 15</b>	<b>Willow Run GC, Sioux Falls</b>
<b>SE Qualifier #2</b>	<b>Friday, June 21</b>	<b>Elmwood GC, Sioux Falls</b>
<b>SE Qualifier #3</b>	<b>Friday, June 28</b>	<b>Hillcrest G&amp;CC, Yankton</b>
<b>West Qualifier #1</b>	<b>Friday, June 14</b>	<b>Spearfish Canyon GC, Spearfish</b>
<b>West Qualifier #2</b>	<b>Saturday, June 22</b>	<b>Elks GC, Rapid City</b>
<b>Host Site Qualifier</b>	<b>Saturday, June 29</b>	<b>Brookings CC, Brookings</b>
<b>Central Qualifier</b>	<b>Sunday, June 23</b>	<b>Hillview GC, Pierre</b>
<b>NE Qualifier</b>	<b>Friday, June 21</b>	<b>Prairie Winds GC, Watertown</b>

#### **If I don't qualify, can I still get in?**

Yes. There is a **LAST CHANCE** qualifier the day before the Championship (Men-July 10 & Women-July 11) at Edgebrook GC in Brookings. This will be open to players who missed the initial qualifying round and any player who played in a qualifier but did not advance. There will be at least TWO spots available for Men and ONE spot for

Senior Men, Women, and Senior Women. **LAST CHANCE registration opens June 10 and closes July 1.**

**If I do qualify, what do I need to do?**

Players advancing pay the full entry fee less the \$20 they paid to enter the qualifier.

**How many qualifying spots will there be at each qualifying site?**

Exempt players must enter the Championship by May 1. After May 1 we will know how many spots will be available for qualifiers. After qualifying entries close on June 1, the number of spots available at each site and in each division will be determined by looking at the number of players in the qualifier and the strength of the field. We will publish this information by June 3 in time for the first qualifier on June 14.

**EXEMPTIONS**

**Why do some players get exemptions?**

Players earn exemptions through high finishes in past SDGA events and other categories. It is a common feature of this type of event. Exempt players pay a full entry fee to secure their spot.

**How do I know if I am exempt?**

Lists of exempt players are available on the qualifying registration site and on the event pro-forma for each event. Not all exempt players will end up playing. Exempt players need to register by May 1.

**POD FORMAT**

**How is the field ranked at the Championship?**

After the last qualifier on July 1, the #1 seed is last year's champion. Then all exempt players are ranked by their past performance. Then all players who made it in through the qualifiers are ranked according to score. Any spots remaining for the LAST CHANCE qualifier will take the last spots.

**How do you determine the 4 person PODs?**

Once the field is ranked, we split them into four groups. Group A are the low 25% seeds, Group B is the next 25%, Group C is the next 25%, and Group D is the high 25% seeds.

On Tuesday, July 2 we will draw at random one player from each group (Facebook LIVE!) to form four-player pods. **New for 2024 - Immediate family members are not allowed to be in the same pod.**

**How are the pairings made for POD play?**

POD play is in foursomes. Each player will have a match with the other three players in their POD. **New for 2024 - The other match in each pairing will be from another POD, so players will play with three different players each round.**

**How does the POD scoring work?**

For each POD match, the winner will get 1 point, the loser 0 points, and a tied match is .5 point to each. After all three matches are finished, the player with the most points in each POD advances to single elimination match play.

**What if there is a tie at the end of POD play?**

If two or more players are tied at the end of POD play, the first tie-breaker is head to head performance. If there is still a tie, the POD winner will be determined in a sudden-death playoff.

**How will SoDak Cup points be awarded?**

For each POD match, the winner will get 20 points, the loser 0 points, and a tied match is 5 points to each.

**BRACKETS**

**How are the POD winners seeded into the brackets?**

POD winners will be seeded using the rankings used to determine the POD groupings.

**How do the brackets work?**

Once we are in bracket play, match winners advance and losers are eliminated. The Champion of each division is the winner of the final match.