

# **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 \$30) 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 or play more than one match.
- **Scheduling:** Everyone knows before the start of the event 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) or order of entries received (Senior Men, Women, and Senior Women).

**Men: 64 Players**

**Senior Men: Championship - 32 Players**

**NEW! Senior Men: Masters Division (65+) - 32 Players**

**Women: 32 Players**

**Senior Women: 16 Players**

### **SENIOR MEN'S, WOMEN'S, AND SENIOR WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS**

#### **How can I play in the Senior Men's, Women's, and Senior Women's Championships?**

Fields will be filled with the first players to enter (30 for Senior Men, Senior Men Masters Division, and Women / 15 for Senior Women). Additional registrants will be put on a waitlist and will only be charged if they get in the event. Players will move up into the Championship based on the order of entries. All players remaining on the waitlist at close of entries are eligible to play in the LAST CHANCE qualifier on Thursday, July 10. Players who do not qualify will pay only the \$30 LAST CHANCE Qualifying fee.

Players in these Championships can directly register for the Championship using the following links.

**[SENIOR MEN'S & SENIOR WOMEN'S REGISTRATION](#)**  
**[WOMEN'S REGISTRATION](#)**

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

Senior Men must be 55 years of age on July 11, 2025

**NEW!! Senior Men - Masters Division - At least 65 years old on July 11, 2025**

Senior Women must be 50 years of age on July 11, 2025

**NEW! Women's Senior Championship - All advance to bracket play**

In order to offer more opportunities for competitive matches, all 16 Senior Women will advance to bracket play. The winner of the POD and the runner-up advance to play for the Championship. The 3rd and 4th place players from each POD advance to play in the Consolation Bracket. If there are ties for first and/or second place in a POD, a sudden-death playoff will determine which players advance to the Championship or the Consolation Bracket.

**MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Who can qualify for the Men's Championship?**

Local qualifying is open to any amateur golfer who is an SDGA member and meets our [ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS](#). You can join the SDGA online at [JOIN/RENEW](#) or at your home course.

**How do I qualify?**

Men - Local Qualifying is 18 holes of stroke play conducted at eight different sites across the state. The fee to play in the qualifier is only \$30 before May 1 (\$40 after May 1) plus any applicable golf/cart fees at the course. Players are limited to ONE attempt to qualify at one of these eight locations, plus the LAST CHANCE qualifier (see next question). The final entry deadline for Local Qualifying is Wednesday, June 4 at 11:59 Central.

[CLICK HERE](#) to enter Local Qualifying

Men 25+ can also compete for three spots at the SDGA Men's Mid-Amateur Championship at Meadowbrook GC on May 31-June 1. The top three finishers of those players not already exempt earn a spot in the Men's Championship.

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

## Local Qualifying Schedule

<u>Qualifier</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Course</u>
<b>SE Qualifier #1</b>	<b>Saturday, June 14</b>	<b>Rocky Run GC, Dell Rapids</b>
<b>SE Qualifier #2</b>	<b>Friday, June 20</b>	<b>Hillcrest G&amp;CC, Yankton</b>
<b>SE Qualifier #3</b>	<b>Friday, June 27</b>	<b>Elmwood GC, Sioux Falls</b>
<b>West Qualifier #1</b>	<b>Friday, June 13</b>	<b>Spearfish Canyon GC, Spearfish</b>
<b>West Qualifier #2</b>	<b>Sunday, June 22</b>	<b>Elks GC, Rapid City</b>
<b>Central Qualifier</b>	<b>Saturday, June 14</b>	<b>Hillview GC, Pierre</b>
<b>NE Qualifier #1</b>	<b>Saturday, June 21</b>	<b>Cattail Crossing GC, Watertown</b>
<b>NE Qualifier #2</b>	<b>Saturday, June 28</b>	<b>Lee Park GC, Aberdeen</b>

### **If I don't advance at Local Qualifying for the Men's Championship, can I still get in?**

Yes. There is a **LAST CHANCE** qualifier the day before the Championship on Wednesday, July 9 at Willow Run GC in Sioux Falls. 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.

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

Players advancing pay the full entry fee less the \$30 Local Qualifying fee.

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

After May 1 we will know how many spots will be available for qualifiers. After qualifying entries close on June 4, 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 10 in time for the first qualifier on June 13.

## **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?**

Exempt players will be contacted by email and text. Lists of exempt players are available on the qualifying registration site and on the event pro-forma for each event. The deadline to claim exemptions in the Men's Championship is May 1, and for the Senior Men's, Women's, and Senior Women's Championships the deadline is March 15.

## **POD FORMAT**

### **How is the field seeded at the Championship?**

The #1 seed is the prior year's Match Play Champion

The #2 seed is the prior year's Amateur Champion

The #3 seed is the prior year's Match Play Runner-Up

Then Exempt players based on the previous year's SoDak Cup points

Then Local Qualifiers based on their qualifying score (Men)

Then Non-exempt players based on Handicap-Index (Other Championships)

Based on the strength of the field at the LAST CHANCE qualifier, appropriate seeds will be reserved for those players

### **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 Thursday, July 3 we will host a POD Pairings Reveal on Facebook LIVE! to announce the four-player PODS. Immediate family members are restricted from being placed in the same POD.

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

POD play is in twosomes at the Men's and Women's Championships and foursomes at the Senior Men's and Senior Women's

Championships. Each player will have a match with the other three players in their POD. For those playing in foursomes, players will play with three different players each round.

### **How are the POD matches scheduled?**

POD Round 1 - #1 v #4, #2 v #3

POD Round 2 - #1 v #3, #2 v #4

POD Round 3 - #1 v #2, #3 v #4

### **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 POD winner will be determined through 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. Those advancing through POD play will get a minimum of 50 points, and additional points for each match they win.

## **BRACKET PLAY**

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

The brackets will be determined by the numerical draw based on the #1-#16 seeds. Everyone will be able to see who they will potentially play if they advance when pairings are announced on July 3.

### **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.