



SDGA CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Championship registration is open to amateur golfers with an active Handicap Index™ issued by a current SDGA Member Club. In addition:

- Any player with a physical address (permanent or seasonal) in South Dakota or whose main employment is within the state of South Dakota is eligible.
- A graduate of a South Dakota high school attending an out-of-state college and maintaining a physical address (permanent or seasonal) in South Dakota is eligible.
- A student physically attending college in South Dakota within a time period of five-months prior to the event is eligible, but a college player coming from out of state must assure the SDGA that they are not competing in a championship of a similar nature in another state during the same year.
- Any player who does not have a physical address (permanent or seasonal) or employment in South Dakota must demonstrate a legitimate connection to a South Dakota member club, validated by a South Dakota club administrator AND a score posting record of at least ten (10) 18-hole scores in the previous 12 months at South Dakota member courses prior to any event registration.
- Any player who is eligible but does not have a physical address (permanent or seasonal) in South Dakota must assure the SDGA that they are not competing in a championship of a similar nature in another state during the same year.

If these criteria are in question, the SDGA shall render any final decision. If you feel that your eligibility may be in question, please reach out to the SDGA prior to registering for any event.

ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY

SDGA Men's Amateur and Men's Senior Amateur Championships (USGA Exemption Events)

In addition to having an active Handicap Index™ issued by a current SDGA Member Club, the player must have a physical address (permanent or seasonal) in South Dakota or have their main employment within the state of South Dakota. Other non-resident situations will not be considered.

SDGA Adult/Junior Championships

The junior player and any adult player from South Dakota must satisfy the Championship eligibility requirements. The Adult player must be a family member who is at least 25 years or older, but the Championship eligibility requirement is waived for non-South Dakota residents.

SDGA Husband/Wife Amateur Championships (all Divisions)

Teams consist of one male and one female who are legally married.

SDGA AGE REQUIREMENTS (on first day of competition)

Mid-Amateur - Age 25+

Pre-Senior - Age 40+

Men Senior - Age 55+ (50+ for SDGA Senior Husband/Wife Championship)

Women Senior - Age 50+

Men Masters - Age 70+ (65+ for SDGA Masters Husband/Wife and Masters Match Play Championships)

Women Masters - Age 65+

Junior - Age 18 or under

SDGA CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY FAQ's

The SDGA Board of Directors enacted a new Eligibility Policy in 2025, primarily affecting a small number of players. SDGA Championships are intended for South Dakotans, and the SDGA retains final determination on eligibility for players with out-of-state addresses. This is especially important as winners may receive USGA national championship exemptions, requiring champions to represent the best of South Dakota.

Over 99% of entries are unaffected; if you live or work primarily in South Dakota (Permanent, Seasonal, or main employment), you are generally eligible. The policy specifically clarifies the eligibility status for College Students and Non-Residents.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Students attending an in-state institution, or resident students from South Dakota attending an out-of-state institution, are generally eligible to play as long as they do not play in a similar event in another state.

NON-RESIDENTS

Players who live in a neighboring state who have posted 10 rounds at SDGA Member Clubs within 12 months prior to the event they are entering, are generally eligible.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- Player lives and works in Hills, MN, just across the border from Sioux Falls. Their Home Club is Willow Run in Sioux Falls, and they play there on a regular basis.
- Student from California is attending college at South Dakota State and enters the SDGA Amateur Championship. They stay in South Dakota over the summer and DO NOT play in the Amateur Championship in any other state.
- Student from Sioux Falls attends Arizona State University but comes back to South Dakota in the summer and enters the SDGA Match Play Championship. They DO NOT play in the Match Play Championship in any other state.

EXAMPLES OF INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- Player grew up in South Dakota but now lives and works in Omaha and plays the majority of their golf at their home club in Omaha. They travel back to South Dakota to visit occasionally and play a few rounds (under 10). They join the SDGA and enter a SDGA Championship.
- Student from California is attending college at South Dakota State and enters the SDGA Amateur Championship. They also play in the state amateur in California.
- Student from Sioux Falls attends Arizona State University but comes back to South Dakota in the summer and enters the SDGA Match Play Championship. They also play in the Arizona Match Play Championship.