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*Elite Amateur*  
GOLF SERIES

# 120<sup>th</sup> Southern Amateur Championship

July 15 - 18, 2026

Atlanta Athletic Club, Atlanta, GA

Entries Open: March 16    Entries Close: \*May 18

\*On-Site Qualifier Entries Close: July 1

Entry Fee: Sectional Qualifying = \$215; On-Site Qualifier = \$235 (Includes Qualifying Round Course Fee)

## ELIGIBILITY

Entries are open to any male amateur golfer who has a current Handicap Index® not exceeding **3.4** under the World Handicap System as of the close of entries.

## ENTRIES AND ONLINE REGISTRATION

All players must register online at [www.southerngolf.org](http://www.southerngolf.org). Fax, mail-in, or telephone applications are not accepted.

- Non-exempt players must compete in a sectional qualifier to gain a spot in the championship starting field.
- To submit an entry, click [HERE](#) to view sectional qualifying site schedule and click the "Register" link for that site.
- Players must have a Golf Genius profile with the SGA to register. To create a profile, select a sectional qualifier, click the specific event's "Register" link. On the qualifier site portal page, click the "Register Now" button on the left margin. Under the login fields, click the "Click Here to Register" under "Don't have an account?" header.
- An application for a player who is a minor upon the date of submission, in the state in which he resides (e.g., Georgia, under the age of 18) must be submitted by a parent/guardian, and list parent/guardian's name, phone number, and email address. The parent/guardian must agree to be bound by all terms and conditions on their behalf and on behalf of the minor player.
- **All entries must be RECEIVED in the SGA office no later than 11:59pm CST on Monday, May 18, 2026. Entries will not be accepted after that time. Exception: On-Site Qualifier entry close date is 11:59pm CST on Wednesday, July 1, 2026.**
- An entry fee in the amount of \$215.00 for Sectional Qualifying, \$235.00 for On-Site Qualifier is payable by **credit card** and must accompany the entry application.
- For players who successfully qualify, the SGA will charge the remaining championship entry fee balance of \$180.00 (\$160.00 for On-Site Qualifier) to the credit card used for qualifying.
- Registration Priority: Sectional Qualifying and On-Site Qualifier: First come, first served (waitlist for each qualifying site ordered by entry time/date). **Johnstown, PA Qualifier: All Players will be put onto a pending list until confirmation of acceptance into the Sunnehanna Amateur qualifier final field.**
- Upon successfully completing the entry procedure, an email confirmation will be automatically generated and sent to your email address.
- Confirmation of acceptance is sent to applicants when their status is determined. Status may be checked at [www.southerngolf.org](http://www.southerngolf.org).

## **Late Registration**

- Following the close of entries on May 18, if a sectional qualifying site has less than 10 waitlisted players or open spots in the field, a player may submit a "Late Registration" application up until three days prior to the scheduled sectional qualifier date.
- "Late Registration" applications are subject to a \$20.00 non-refundable fee in addition to the stated refund policy for that qualifying site.
- Players not gaining entry into a qualifying site will receive a full refund minus the \$20.00 non-refundable "Late Registration" fee.

The SGA 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. Entries are subject to rejection or withdraw at any time, including during the event, by the SGA or the host club. The reason for rejection may include unbecoming conduct during a stipulated round. All players must conform to the "[USGA Rules of Amateur Status](#)" and abide by the "[SGA Code of Conduct](#)".

## REFUND POLICY

### Sectional Qualifying

**Withdrawals or Transfers:** If an accepted player withdraws for any reason before the close of registration at **11:59pm CST on Monday, May 18, 2026**, the entry fee will be refunded, subject to a \$50.00 service fee. A player may transfer to another qualifying site without penalty if the SGA is notified prior to close of registration. Exception: A player may transfer to the On-Site Qualifier by May 18<sup>th</sup> for an additional \$20.00 fee. Sectional Qualifying site transfers are not allowed after close of registration on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

If an accepted player withdraws for any reason after the close of registration and before the deadlines listed below for any reason, 50% of the entry fee will be refunded. No refunds will be made for withdrawals after the deadlines listed below:

- Southern Oaks Golf and Country Club, Burleson, Texas, **11:59pm CST on Saturday, May 23, 2026**
- The Club at Old Hawthorne, Columbia, Missouri, **11:59pm CST on Saturday, May 23, 2026**
- Cypresswood Golf Club, Houston, Texas, **11:59pm CST on Sunday, May 24, 2026**
- \*Lonnie Poole Golf Course, Raleigh, North Carolina (Dual Qualifier with Sunnehanna Amateur Championship), **11:59pm CST on Friday, May 29, 2026**
- University Club of Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, **11:59pm CST on Saturday, May 30, 2026**
- Buckhorn Springs Golf and Country Club, Valrico, Florida, **11:59pm CST on Friday, June 5, 2026**
- \*Sunnehanna Country Club, Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Dual Qualifier with Sunnehanna Amateur Championship), **11:59pm CST on Thursday, June 11, 2026**
- Keswick Hall Golf Club, Richmond, Virginia, **11:59pm CST on Friday, June 12, 2026**
- Black Creek Club, Chattanooga, Tennessee, **11:59pm CST on Sunday, June 14, 2026**
- Indian Hills Country Club, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, **11:59pm CST on Monday, June 15, 2026**
- Diamante Country Club, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, **11:59pm CST on Friday, June 19, 2026**
- Pensacola Country Club, Pensacola, Florida, **11:59pm CST on Friday, June 19, 2026**
- The Club at Olde-Stone, Bowling Green, Kentucky, **11:59pm CST on Friday, June 19, 2026**
- \*Oak Hills Golf Club, Columbia, South Carolina (Dual Qualifier with South Carolina Amateur) **11:59pm CST on Friday, June 26, 2026**
- Rivermont Golf Club, Johns Creek, Georgia, **11:59pm CST on Saturday, June 27, 2026**
- Dallas Athletic Club, Dallas, Texas, **11:59pm CST on Saturday, June 27, 2026**

#### On-Site Qualifier

**Withdrawal:** If an accepted player withdraws for any reason before the close of registration at **11:59pm CST on Wednesday, July 1, 2026**, the entry fee will be refunded, subject to a \$50.00 service fee. If an accepted player withdraws for any reason after the close of registration and before **11:59pm CST on Friday, July 10, 2026**, 50% of the entry fee will be refunded. No refunds will be made for withdrawals after **11:59pm CST on Friday, July 10, 2026**.

**No Shows:** Players that fail to notify the SGA 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 SGA events.

**Alternates:** Full refund if player does not gain entry into the sectional qualifier.

#### Championship

**Successful Qualifier Withdrawal:** If a successful qualifier withdraws for any reason after paying his remaining championship balance of \$180.00 and before **11:59pm CST on Wednesday, July 1, 2026**, 50% of the remaining championship balance will be refunded. No refunds will be made for withdrawals after **Wednesday, July 1, 2026**.

**No Shows:** Players that fail to notify the SGA 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 SGA events.

**Alternates:** Full refund if player does not participate in the championship.

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

#### SCHEDULE

Competition will be in two stages:

1. **Sectional Qualifying** - 18 holes of stroke play for non-exempt players.
2. **Championship** - 156 players (includes exempt players and sectional qualifiers).

#### CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

- 72 holes of stroke play. The field will be cut to the low 50 players and ties after 36 holes.
- The lowest score for 72 holes will be the Champion.
- In the event of a tie for the Championship, a “sudden-death” hole-by-hole play-off will be held immediately following play. The play-off holes and their order of play will be determined by the Rules Committee.
- Initial groupings will be for first two rounds; the field will be cut and grouped by score after the second round for the third round; grouped by score after third round for the fourth round.

#### EXEMPTIONS FROM SECTIONAL QUALIFYING

Players extended a *Bobby Jones Invitation* by the SGA Amateur Competition Committee are exempt from sectional qualifying.

## **SECTIONAL QUALIFYING AND ALTERNATES**

- Sectional qualifying is 18 holes of stroke play.
- The number of qualifiers' places at each site is determined by the SGA after entries close, based on the size of the field. Ties for the final qualifying position will be determined by sudden death playoff immediately following the conclusion of play. Unless otherwise determined in a sudden death playoff, alternates will be ordered by the scores at each qualifying site using the USGA recommended scorecard playoff procedure to break ties (last 9 (Holes 10-18), last 6 (Holes 13-18), last 3 (Holes 16-18), 18<sup>th</sup> hole, 1<sup>st</sup> hole, 2<sup>nd</sup> hole, etc. until the tie is broken).
- If a successful qualifier from a Sectional Qualifying site withdraws, the spot will be filled with an alternate from that sectional qualifying site until Wednesday, July 1 at 11:59pm EST. After that time, the spot will be filled by the Amateur Competition Committee. On-Site championship alternates are ranked by current WAGR ranking.
- Qualifying site assignment is based on the date/time the SGA receives and processes each entry form. **Qualifying site assignments cannot be changed after close of registration on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.**
- If a qualifying site 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.
- Wait list alternates are ranked according to date/time an entry is received and processed. Qualifying site player information is sent after entries are accepted.
- Any player, regardless of whether they have competed in a Sectional Qualifier, may compete in the On-Site Qualifier. Each player must complete a separate On-Site Qualifier entry application and pay the \$225.00 entry fee.
- Qualifying sites may be cancelled due to a lack of participation.
- **Rain-Out Policy:** If a Sectional Qualifying site is cancelled and cannot be rescheduled due to weather, qualifier(s) and alternate spot will be selected using current WAGR rankings. Full entry fee refund to players not earning a place in the championship field.

## **SECTIONAL QUALIFYING SCHEDULE**

May 26	Southern Oaks Golf and Country Club, Burleson, Texas
May 26	The Club at Old Hawthorne, Columbia, Missouri
May 27	Cypresswood Golf Club, Houston, Texas
June 1	*Lonnie Poole Golf Course, Raleigh, North Carolina (Dual Qualifier with Sunnehanna Amateur Championship)
June 2	University Club of Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
June 8	Buckhorn Springs Golf and Country Club, Valrico, Florida
June 14	*Sunnehanna Country Club, Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Dual Qualifier with Sunnehanna Amateur Championship)
June 15	Keswick Hall Golf Club, Richmond, Virginia
June 17	Black Creek Club, Chattanooga, Tennessee
June 18	Indian Hills Country Club, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
June 22	Diamante Country Club, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas
June 22	Pensacola Country Club, Pensacola, Florida
June 24	The Club at Olde-Stone, Bowling Green, Kentucky
June 29	*Oak Hills Golf Club, Columbia, South Carolina (Dual Qualifier with South Carolina Amateur)
June 30	Rivermont Golf Club, Johns Creek, Georgia
June 30	Dallas Athletic Club, Dallas, Texas
July 13	On-Site Qualifier: Atlanta Athletic Club, Atlanta, GA

\* Dual qualifier with the [South Carolina Golf Association & Sunnehanna Amateur Championship](#). Players may register to participate in only the Southern Amateur qualifier or, if eligible, participate in both qualifiers with the SCGA. Players must register with both organizations and pay both entry fees for the Sunnehanna Amateur Championship Qualifier.

## **CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Monday, July 13**

On-Site Sectional Qualifier. Player Registration in Clubhouse.

### **Tuesday, July 14**

Player Registration in Clubhouse. Tee times available for practice round.

### **Wednesday, July 15**

First round of stroke play. Hosted breakfast and lunch for championship contestants.

### **Thursday, July 16**

Second round of stroke play. Hosted breakfast and lunch for championship contestants.  
Field cut to low 50 scores and ties.

### **Friday, July 17**

Third round of stroke play. Hosted breakfast and lunch for championship contestants.

### **Saturday, July 18**

Final round of stroke play. Hosted breakfast and lunch for championship contestants.

## **COURSE FEES**

- *Sectional Qualifying and On-Site Qualifier:* Sectional Qualifying course fees are paid by the SGA and included in the entry fee. Competitors have the option to either walk or use a golf cart during qualifying rounds (Houston, Baton Rouge, Bowling Green qualifying sites are mandatory carts). Cart rental is mandatory for practice rounds payable at the host club.
- *Championship Site:* Championship site practice and championship round course fees paid by the SGA.

## **HOSTED BREAKFAST AND LUNCH**

- Hosted breakfast and lunch are provided by the SGA to championship contestants each day of the championship from July 15-18 and (Lunch 14-18).

## **TRANSPORTATION; PUSH/PULL CARTS**

- Competitors and caddies must walk during championship rounds. Optional condition prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures: *Model Local Rules: G-6 Prohibiting Use of Motorized Transportation* will be in effect. See "Golf Cart Requests" section below for disabled golf cart requests.
- Personal Push/Pull carts are allowed.

## **CADDIES; SPECTATORS; GOLF CART REQUESTS**

- *Caddies:* Caddies are allowed for sectional qualifying and championship rounds.
- *Sectional Qualifying Caddie/Spectator Cart Policy:* During the play of a hole, either the player or his caddie may ride in a golf cart but not both at the same time. Spectators are not allowed to ride in a player's golf cart at any time.
- Caddies are required to wear an SGA issued caddie bib at the championship proper. Bibs will be provided to each player during registration.
- *Spectators:* SGA welcomes spectators at our championships. For your safety, we request that spectators walk near the cart path at all times. Spectator carts are not available for any reason at this championship.

## **PRIZES**

- *Sectional Qualifying:* Lowest Score at each qualifying site: Silver medal. If a tie, duplicate medals will be awarded.
- *Championship:* A silver medal will be presented to the three lowest scores after 72 holes. Champion will have his name engraved on the *George W. Adair Trophy*, which is enshrined in the Atlanta Athletic Club clubhouse, Johns Creek, Georgia and a Calamity Jane Putter.

## **EXEMPTIONS EARNED**

- Champion earns an exemption into the 126<sup>th</sup> U.S. Amateur Championship at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, PA from August 10-16, 2026.
- Champion receives a five-year exemption in the Southern Amateur Championship (2027-2031).

## **RULES OF GOLF**

USGA Rules of Golf govern play. Questions will be decided by the SGA Rules Committee whose decision will be final. Notice to Players and Conditions of Competition are posted at host club and distributed at the starting tee(s). The SGA reserves the right to alter the conditions or schedules as stated, including alteration of the stipulated round(s) at any time during the championship including sectional qualifying.

## **CLOSE OF COMPETITION**

The competition is closed when the *George W. Adair Trophy* has been presented to the winner.

## **SPECIAL REQUESTS**

Special requests for starting times or pairings may not be granted.

## **CONDITIONS AGREEMENT**

- I certify that all the information given in my entry is factual.
- I agree that the Southern Golf Association has the right to reject, or withdraw, any entry at any time.
- I am an amateur golfer and I understand the "Rules of Amateur Status" as established by the United States Golf Association.
- I hereby grant permission to the Southern Golf Association to share my data including name, email address, phone number and the like with member organizations of the Elite Amateur Golf Series.
- I hereby grant permission to the Southern Golf Association rights to use my name, image, likeness, and sound of my voice as recorded on audio or video devices without payment or any other consideration. I understand that my image may be edited, copied, exhibited, published, or distributed and waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product wherein my likeness appears. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of my image or recording.

- I assume full responsibility for all my acts, whether they are negligent or otherwise, and hold harmless the Southern Golf Association, its committee members, officers, board of directors, staff, and host club staff and personnel from any and all liability for any event or consequence relating to entry or participation in this event.
- I have read and agree to abide by the Southern Golf Association Code of Conduct.



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