



## **2025 MSGA Tournament & Event Changes**

As we look toward the beginning of the 2025 season, players can expect to see the following changes made to the following Maryland State Golf Association events.

### **Championships**

#### ***Women's Amateur***

We are proud to announce the champion of the 2025 Maryland Women's Amateur will receive an exemption into the 2025 U.S. Women's Amateur. Flights beyond the First Flight are eliminated. Additional details regarding the championship are below:

- Stroke Play qualifying on Day 1; the Defending Champion and Top 15 qualifiers form the Championship Bracket.
- The First Flight consists of the next 8 qualifiers, with both flights being single elimination.
- Handicap index requirement lowered to 10.0 or less.

#### ***Senior Women's Amateur***

The championship returns to a 36-hole, two-day championship, alongside the Maryland Women's Mid-Amateur.

- Day 1: Tee times; Day 2: Shotgun start, followed by lunch and awards.
- Mid-Amateur Championship played on Day 2.

#### ***Amateur & Open Exemptions***

There have been changes made to the exemption categories for the Maryland Amateur & Open. All changes can be [found here](#).

#### ***Mid-Amateur Format Change***

This championship is now a 54-hole, WAGR-recognized event.

- Day 1: 18-holes; a cut reduces the field to the low 30 players plus ties.
- Day 2: 36-holes with re-pairing after the first 18; lunch provided between rounds.

#### ***Men's State Team***

##### **Professional Eligibility**

- Must appear in the PGA.org directory for their listed club or be a W-2 employee if not a PGA member.
- Clubs must submit a roster of all potential professionals for eligibility verification.
- If no professionals are available, matches will proceed with one player vs. two players.

##### **Amateur Eligibility**

Amateur members of any team (Men's, Women's, Senior) need to be amateurs in good standing. Non-amateurs are not eligible to participate and amateurs awaiting reinstatement are not considered amateurs in good standing for purposes of this competition.

##### **Miscellaneous**

Ties for amateur prizes in men's championships will be resolved using the USGA-recommended card match method unless otherwise specified.



## **Policies**

### ***Pace of Play***

The MSGA Pace of Play Policy outlines expectations for players to maintain an efficient pace during competitions. Groups are considered out of position if they exceed the designated time par or fall more than 14 minutes behind the group ahead. When out of position, players may be individually timed and are allowed 40 seconds per stroke, with limited extra time in certain situations. Accumulated violations (BAD TIMES) result in escalating penalties, including strokes, general penalties, or disqualification. The Committee reserves the right to time any player or group at any time if they are causing unreasonable delay.

#### [Full Pace of Play Policy](#)

### ***Performance Policy***

The MSGA Performance Policy ensures that players competing in qualifiers and championships meet the competitive standards of its events. Players who return scores significantly higher than the course rating or repeatedly fail to submit scorecards may be subject to review. Those in violation must demonstrate their ability to compete at the state championship level through recent tournament results to regain eligibility.

#### [Full Performance Policy](#)

### ***Scorecard Return Procedure***

Definition of 'Return' under Rule 3.3b:

- Scorecard is considered returned 15 minutes after being accepted into the electronic scoring system.
- If a mistake is discovered before acceptance and the player is absent, the scorecard is returned 15 minutes after the mistake is found.

### **Exceptions:**

1. If the player is in the scoring area when the 15-minute period ends, the scorecard is returned when the player leaves.
2. The scorecard is returned immediately under the following:
  - Starting times released after a cut.
  - Player begins the next round.
  - A stroke begins a play-off.
  - The competition closes.

**Note:** Corrections under Rule 3.3b(3) or other relevant Rules must occur before the player leaves the scoring area.