



2026 U.S. Senior Open Championship
Scioto Country Club, Columbus, Ohio

Below is information related to USGA Exemption Events for the U.S. Senior Open. Under category L-23, winners of select State Senior Open Championships and State Senior Amateur Championships are locally exempt.

Due to timing of the U.S. Senior Open qualifying window (early spring), all local exemptions will be for the following year's championship. For example, the 2025 champion for a respective State/AGA Senior Amateur will be locally exempt in 2026.

Below is a list of all 2025 Champions who are locally exempt for 2026. The list of 2026 events where the champion will receive a local exemption for the 2027 U.S. Senior Open can be found at <https://players.usga.org/resources/2026-usga-exemption-events/>

State Senior Amateur Championships

State	Championship	Winner
Alabama	Alabama State Senior Amateur Championship	Chris Devlin
Alaska	Alaska State Senior Amateur	Rob Nelson
Arizona	Arizona Senior Amateur Championship	Brian Light
Arkansas	ASGA Senior Amateur Championship	Mark Graham
California	California Senior Amateur Championship	Robert Niger
Colorado	Colorado Senior Amateur Championship	Bill Fowler
Connecticut	Connecticut Senior Amateur	Bob Murphy
Delaware	Delaware Senior Amateur Championship	Joe Roeder
Florida	Florida Senior Amateur Championship	Joe Alfieri
Georgia	Georgia Senior Championship	Jack Larkin Sr.
Hawaii	Hawaii State Senior Amateur Championship	Mark Takahama
Idaho	Idaho Senior Amateur Championship	Bret Rupert
Illinois	Illinois State Senior Amateur Championship	Dave Ryan
Indiana	Indiana Senior Amateur Championship	Michael Williams
Iowa	Iowa Senior Amateur	J.D. Anderson
Kansas	Kansas Senior Amateur Championship	Benjamin Kimminau
Kentucky	Kentucky Senior Amateur	Tony Wise
Louisiana	Louisiana Senior Amateur Championship	Todd Doss
Maine	Maine Senior Amateur Championship	Thomas Caron
Maryland	Maryland Senior Amateur Championship	Todd Williams
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Senior Amateur Championship	Brendan Hester
Michigan	GAM Senior Championship	Rick Crandall
Minnesota	MGA (Minnesota) Senior Amateur Championship	Mark Aldrich
Mississippi	Mississippi Senior Amateur	Michael Hammett



Missouri	Missouri Senior Amateur Championship	Brian Haskell
Montana	Montana State Senior Match Play	Bill Dunn
Nebraska	Nebraska Senior Amateur Championship	Randy Christiansen
Nevada	Nevada Senior Amateur	Steve Sear
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Senior Championship	Eric Emeneau
New Jersey	New Jersey Senior Amateur	Patrick Pierson
New Mexico	NM/WT Senior Amateur Championship	Rex Enright
New York	New York Senior Amateur Championship	Andy Bernatovicz
North Carolina	North Carolina Senior Amateur Championship	Jeffrey Lankford
North Dakota	NDGA State Stroke Play Championship - Senior	Ernie Hill
Ohio	Ohio Senior Amateur Championship	James Volpenhein
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Senior State Amateur	Jeffrey Topp
Oregon	Oregon Senior Men's Amateur Championship	Pat O'Donnell
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Senior Amateur Championship	Brian Groff
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Senior Amateur	Darren Corrente
South Carolina	South Carolina Senior Championship	Eddie Hargett
South Dakota	SDGA Senior Championship	Steve Beardsley
Tennessee	Tennessee Senior Amateur Championship	Bradford Kuester
Texas	Texas Senior Amateur	Scott Tibbitts
Utah	Utah Senior State Amateur Championship	Darrin Overson
Vermont	Vermont Senior Amateur	Brian Cain
Virginia	VSGA Senior Amateur Championship	Buck Brittain
Washington	Washington Senior Men's Amateur	Paul Hogben
West Virginia	West Virginia Senior Amateur Championship	Chris Daniels
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Senior Amateur Championship	Robert Gregorski
Wyoming	WSGA Senior Amateur Championship	John Hornbeck



AGA Senior Amateur Championships

Championship	Winner
Carolinas Senior Amateur Championship	John O'Brien
CDGA Senior Amateur Championship	Mark Small
GAP Senior Amateur	Jeff Frazier
Metropolitan Senior Men's Championship	Jim Muething
MGA Senior Amateur Championship	Alan Specht
Metropolitan Senior Amateur Championship	Scott McClellan
NCGA Senior Championship	Steve Sear
Northeast Ohio Senior Amateur	Howard Clendenin
RDGA Senior Championship Wilson W. Fitch Jr. Memorial	Gregory Voci
Southern California Senior Amateur Championship	Scott Stevens
WPGA Senior Amateur Championship	Artie Fink

National Senior Amateur Championships (average 3-year WAGR Power of 60 or greater)

Championship	Winner
Golfweek Senior Player of the Year Classic	Kevin Vandenberg
International Senior Individual Championship	Joe Lyons
Jones Cup Senior Invitational	Jeff Knox
John T. Lupton Memorial - Senior	Jack Larkin Sr.
Trans-Mississippi Senior Championship	Bryan Hoops



State/AGA Senior Open Championships

Championship	Winner
Alabama Senior Open	Chris Devlin
Arizona Senior Open	Joe Summerhays
Inspirato Colorado Senior Open	Jason Schultz
Connecticut Senior Open	Bobby Gage
Florida Senior Open Championship	Rod Perry
Yamaha Georgia Senior Open	Bob Royak
Illinois Senior Open	Mike Small
Indiana PGA Senior Open	Brad Mays
Kentucky Senior Open Championship	David Plumb
Maryland Senior Open	Kenny Smith
Yamaha Golf Cars Plus Michigan Senior Open	Tom Werkmeister
Minnesota Senior Open Championship	Matt Vandelac
New Jersey Senior Open Championship	Dave McGovern
Black Mesa Senior New Mexico Open	Brad Lardon
Lexus MGA Senior Open	Brian Gaffney
North Carolina Senior Open	Lenny Nash
Senior NorCal Open	Warren Pineo
Ohio Senior Open	Bob Sowards
Senior Oregon Open Invitational	Ryan Malby
Pennsylvania Senior Open	Rick Stimmel
South Carolina Senior Open	Thomas Kennaday
Tennessee Senior State Open	Cliff Kresge
Energy Transfer Texas Senior Open	Omar Uresti
Don & Ron Branca Utah Senior Open	Mark Owen
Senior Open of Virginia	Rick Schuller
7 Cedars Senior Washington Open	Rob Gibbons
WV Senior Open Championship	Pat Carter
Wisconsin State Senior Open	Michael Crowley



Local Exemption Criteria

State/AGA Senior Amateur Championships

- Must be a minimum of 36-holes stroke play or a stroke play to match play format where the champion plays at least 3 rounds.
- Must have a minimum of 15 players begin the competition.
- The average score of the winner must be equal to or less than Par plus 6 (six) strokes.
- Entire event must have eligibility that limits participation to 50+ or 55+ years of age. A senior division within a State/AGA Amateur or other event is not eligible.
- Only the champion will receive the local exemption. If the champion declines the spot or is already locally exempt, the exemption will not transfer to the next highest finisher.

State Senior Amateur Championships

- Defined by the geographic boundaries of the United States (50 states)
- Must have eligibility requirement that limits participation to residents or association members of that state.
- Only one championship per state may qualify for exemption under this category

AGA Senior Amateur Championships (not defined by specific state boundaries)

- Must have eligibility requirement that limits participation to residents or association members of that state.
- Only applies to those AGA's who are not defined by specific state boundaries. Only one championship per AGA may qualify for exemption.

Regional Senior Amateur Championships with affiliation to an AGA

- Must be a WAGR-ranked event with an average WAGR event Power of 30 or greater (3-year rolling average)
- Must be affiliated with or conducted by an AGA

National Senior Amateur Championships conducted within the United States

- A local exemption will be granted to any National Senior Amateur Championship conducted within the United States that has an average event Power of 60 or greater (3-year rolling average)

State/AGA Senior Open Championships

- Must be a minimum of 36-holes stroke play or a stroke play to match play format where the champion plays at least 3 rounds.
- Must have a minimum of 15 players begin the competition
- The average score of the winner must be equal to or less than Par plus 6 (six) strokes
- Must have eligibility that limits participation to 50+ or 55+ years of age. A senior division within a State Open or other event is not eligible.
- Only the champion will receive the local exemption. If the champion declines the spot or is already locally exempt, the exemption will not transfer to the next highest finisher.
- Must be conducted by an Allied Golf Association or PGA Section