



Northwest golf teachers: Take a look at the top golf instructors

Looking to get a golf lesson and improve your game for the 2026 season? *Inside Golf Newspaper* gives you that chance with our annual special section called The Golf Teachers Directory with some of the Pacific Northwest's top golf instructors. Please see inside this section if you want to improve your game.



WHAT'S NEW  
IN NW GOLF

Seattle Golf Show gets set for new home in Puyallup

There is a big change in store for the Seattle Golf Show for the 2026 season. The show is set for a new home as it moves to the Washington State Convention Center to the Fair Events Center in Puyallup .

The show is set for a three-day run March 13-15 at the new venue. The show will feature all of the things golfers have come to see and experience including gifts at the front door with a ticket purchase. Plus once inside there will be plenty of interactive things to do inside the new home of the show.

There is always so much to like at the Seattle Golf Show; from the free exhibits, to the golf challenges, to the instructional clinics. Plus there is always several things being given away from rounds of golf to other certificates.

The Portland Golf Show is set for March 6-8 at the Portland Expo Center. The three-day show will feature plenty of action for golfers once they get inside the building and golfers will receive much more for just buying a ticket.

The Spokane Golf Show has set the dates for its show for Feb. 21-22 at the Spokane Convention Center.



Rules Question of the month

A player inadvertently tees up a ball forward of the tee markers and makes her stroke to start a hole. After leaving the teeing area a fellow player notices her tee still in the ground forward of the tee markers. Now what? See the answer on page 2 of this section of Inside Golf Newspaper.

Gamble Sands' Scarecrow wins national honor as Best New Public Course for the 2025 season

*Golf Digest* has named Scarecrow “Best New Public Course” for 2025. And that carries a little extra meaning as the original Gamble Sands course also earned Best New honors when it opened when it opened back in 2014. Two courses at the same resort, both recognized as the Best New Public Course of the year. That’s exceptionally rare.

The *Golf Digest* news comes on the heels of *Sports Illustrated* naming Scarecrow its Best New Resort Course of 2025.

Then there’s *Golfweek*, which launched Scarecrow straight into the Top 75 on its list of the 200 Best Resort Courses in the United States. Scarecrow debuts in a tie for No. 73 while the original Gamble Sands layout continues to sit comfortably tied for No. 20.

Two courses on one property, both inside the Top 75. That says a lot about what the owners of Gamble Sands are trying to do in building one of Washington’s leading golf resorts — it’s a destination that attracts golf connoisseurs from near and far and gives them a reason to stay multiple days for an unforgettable golf experience when they visit Central Washington.



Gamble Sands' Scarecrow has won several awards since its opening in 2025 as Best New Public Golf Course.

Tacoma's Meadow Park is getting set for millions in improvements



It will be a three-year process, but Tacoma’s Meadow Park Golf Course is set to undergo \$48 million in improvements over that span. They are calling it the “Reimagine Meadow Park Golf Course” and there is plenty to look forward to when it comes to fuition.

Meadow Park currently is an 18-hole golf course, a 9-hole executive course, a driving range and clubhouse. The future plans call for substantial upgrades to give Meadow Park a totally new look. The plans call for a new executive course, a three-hole developmental course, restaurant and clubhouse as well as a new entertainment facility.

Meadow Park currently sits on almost 145 acres and has been a golf course since 1915. Tacoma Parks District took over the course in 1961. The facility has always been a popular place with over 110,00 rounds played in 2025 and 12 million range balls hit. The course has been so good about generating money that no money from the general fund will be used for the project instead funding will come from the Meadow Park Golf Enterprise Cash Reserves.

As North Shore gets set to open all 18 holes, range gets new look

When the Puyallup Tribe of Indians bought North Shore Golf Course in Tacoma they weren't about to sit on their hands. They wanted to make improvements. They wanted the course to stand out.

And they are close to that goal of improving North Shore Golf Course. The plans started with a remodel of the 18-hole golf course by Northwest architect Dan Hixson. The back nine opened for play back in July 2025 with a new look. The front nine is expected to open this spring and golfers might not recognize the place with the removal of hundreds of trees and rerouting of some of the front nine golf holes.

Another big improvement was the driving range which now offers covered hitting stalls, a new grass tee area and uncovered mat area plus one chipping green and new driving range targets. The range area was flattened and trees were removed. Everything is new again at North Shore.





# Thank you Golf Channel for airing those old episodes of the Big Break during those long NW winter months

The golf season on television slows down in the winter months. If you like the Golf Channel like I do there isn't much to watch, but the TGL Golf League did crank up providing some golf to watch.

But one night as I turned on the channel, a past episode of the Big Break was on the air. I had completely forgotten about that show. It was a golf reality show which got its start on the Golf Channel in 2003 and ran for 23 seasons. As I watched that first episode of the Big Break which was filmed at the Treetops Resort in Michigan, I forgot how much I liked that program.

And fortunately for a golf TV nut like me the Golf Channel aired even more episodes. If you missed the Big Break here is how the show worked. They brought in golfers from around the country to take part in challenges. One of the coolest was when they had to hit a wedge shot over a huge wall and another was when they had to break glass with a Tiger Stinger shot. The show would pare the players down before the final two would compete in a match play championship where the winner would get exemptions into some professional tournaments.

The Big Break was for both men and women and players around the country.

At the time you didn't realize that some of the contestants would make their way onto the PGA Tour like Tommy "Two Gloves Gainey," Tony Finau, James Nitties and Matt Every.

But what made the series even more fun for me was that I met some of the ladies who took part in the Big Break at events I would put on. Julie Wells from Eugene was one, Lindsay Aho from Vancouver was another, Kim Welch who played at Washington State was one, Courtney Coleman too. It was fun to chat with them about their experience on the show and found out that it was as nerve-racking for them as any type of golf they had played before.

This was a series what was highly enjoyable to watch and a series I would have liked the Golf Channel to keep on running. But the Big Break series ended after 2015 with the Golf Channel citing the costs to put on the show were becoming too much



for them to keep airing the show. But, and sorry to bury the lead, in October it was announced the series will be revived later this year in partnership with Good Good Golf, the influencer brand that has nearly 2 million subscribers on YouTube.

Thanks Golf Channel and Good Good.

Steve Turcotte is editor of Inside Golf Newspaper. He can be reached at [sdTurcotte@comcast.net](mailto:sdTurcotte@comcast.net).



When the Golf Channel ran its Big Break series the Pacific Northwest it was represented by several players including Lindsay Aho (left) and Courtney Coleman. Courtney's bag was logo'd with Big Break artwork (bottom).



**Bob Marlatt**  
Publisher-Advertising

**Steve Turcotte**  
Editor-Advertising

**Kathy Marlatt**  
Operations Manager

**Contributing Writers**  
Jeff Coston, Patti Daskalos

**Photography:** Scott Bisch

**Cartoonist:** Harold Bluestein

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P.O. Box 1890  
Port Townsend, WA 98368

**Courier Address**  
460 Dennis Blvd  
Port Townsend, WA 98368

**Phone**  
(360) 379-4080

**E-mail Address**  
[insidegolf@cablespeed.com](mailto:insidegolf@cablespeed.com)

**Website Address**  
[www.insidegolfnewspaper.com](http://www.insidegolfnewspaper.com)

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Double Bogey

Harold Bluestein, PGA



**Rules Answer**

Answer: The player incurs a two-stroke penalty. That ball she played from outside the teeing area is not in play and she must correct this error prior to playing from the next hole's teeing area or the final hole of the round. All strokes made before fixing the error do not count including penalty strokes related to the play of that ball. All this applies even when a player plays from the wrong teeing area.

• Inside Golf would like to thank Paul Lucien for his for the rules questions and answers.



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# Two former PNGA Players of Year Ewart and Svensson earn PGA cards

Two former PNGA Players of the Year, who are both from British Columbia, and both who attended Barry University, have secured full PGA Tour status for 2026.

A.J. Ewart (Coquitlam; 2022 POY) shot polished rounds of 66-67-67-66 – a 14 under par total – to win the PGA Tour’s Q-School Final, while Adam Svensson (Surrey; 2014 POY) tied for second, two shots behind Ewart.

The final event was held at Dye’s Valley Course at TPC Sawgrass, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Predictably, both players have an established golf acumen, in their province and elsewhere. Ewart is a graduate of Barry University in Florida, and a former member of the Canadian National Team. He’s spent two seasons playing on the PGA TOUR Americas circuit, where he finished 11th on its Order of Merit. His win at the Q-School Final, in which he recorded an ace during round 2, earned him a \$50,000 in prize money to boot.

Svensson, meanwhile, entered the week focused on

regaining his status, after a season where he finished a distant 167th in the FedEx Cup Standings.

Although he admitted to feeling some nerves, he rallied to a final round 66 to secure his status. Despite his difficult 2025 season, Svensson’s professional resume is certainly accomplished; he won the 2022 RSM Classic on the PGA Tour and has three other wins on the Korn Ferry Tour since 2018. He too is a Barry University graduate, attending the school following a decorated junior career in his native B.C.

As the calendar turns to January, Ewart made his PGA Tour debut at the Sony Open in Hawaii in January. That tournament was most recently won by Nick Taylor, himself a two-time PNGA Player of the Year (2008, 2009), a former standout at the University of Washington and a native and still resident of Abbotsford, B.C.

It will be interesting to keep an eye on both players from British Columbia. One is a rookie on the PGA Tour while another is a veteran looking to improve on last year’s finish and keep his card.

## Tour Players With Northwest ties

### PGA Tour

- Andrew Putnam • Tacoma • 6th on the list with \$616,400
- Nick Taylor • Ex-UW • 24th on the list with \$220,960
- Wyndham Clark • Ex-Oregon • 29th on the list with \$169,740
- Dylan Wu • Medford, Ore. • 49th on the list with \$75,275
- Joel Dahmen • Clarkston • 70th on the list with \$39,100
- Adam Svensson • British Columbia • 73rd on the list with \$31,522
- Joe Highsmith • Tacoma • 101st on the list with \$19,110
- Cameron Davis • Australia (Member at Sahalee) • No cuts made
- Carl Yuan • Ex-UW • No events
- Kevin Chappell • Kirkland • No events

### Korn Ferry Tour

- Alistair Docherty • Vancouver, Wash. • 5th on the list with \$75,000
- Dylan Wu • Medford, Ore. • No events
- Carl Yuan • Ex-UW • No cuts made
- Aaron Wise • Ex-Oregon • No events
- Kyle Stanley • Gig Harbor • No events

### Champions Tour

- Fred Couples • Seattle • No events
- Kirk Triplett • Pullman • No events

### LPGA Tour

- Jing Yan • Ex-UW • No events
- Gigi Stoll • Tigard • No events
- Carolyn Ing lis • Eugene • No events

### LPGA Epson Tour

- Kathleen Scavo • Ex-Oregon • No events

### Did you know....

• With its founding on Feb. 4, 1899, the Pacific Northwest Golf Association is the fifth oldest golf association in North America, being preceded only by the USGA (1894) and Royal Canadian Golf Association (1895) on the national front, and the Golf Association of Philadelphia (Feb. 5, 1897) and the Metropolitan Golf Association (Greater New York City – April 14, 1897). Visit thepnga.org.



• WA Golf is one of 41 golf associations in the U.S. that recognizes an “Inactive Score Posting Season,” which for WA Golf runs from Nov. 14 to the last day of February the following year. If you play golf during their Inactive Score Posting Season in an area outside of WA Golf territory where scores are still being accepted for handicap purposes, you must still post your score. Visit wagolf.org.



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# Professional golf tours on the way to the NW in 2026; Looking to get a handicap for 2026? It’s simple

The LPGA and PGA Tour Champions have set their dates for their return appearances to the Pacific Northwest for their annual tournaments.

Interestingly both are set for the same weekend in August. The LPGA Portland Standard is set for Aug. 13-16 at Columbia Edgewater Country Club while The Boeing Classic will take place Aug. 14-16 at Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Club. The LPGA Portland Standard is the longest-running tournament on the LPGA Tour schedule.

After a historic 75th anniversary season, the LPGA Tour announces the 2026 schedule featuring 33 events and a total prize fund of over \$132 million. The world’s best female golfers will once again compete for the largest prize fund in the Tour’s history. The upcoming year will notably see the Solheim Cup in the Netherlands as well as new events, new venues and increased purses. In 2026, the LPGA Tour will travel to 13 different countries and regions and 13 states across the United States. There will be two multi-event swings in Asia – the first in the spring to Thailand, Singapore and the People’s Republic of China and the second in the fall to People’s Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Japan. One European swing will take place in the middle of the year, including two major championships and the ISPS Handa Women’s Scottish Open, before the LPGA Tour returns to Europe for the Solheim Cup in September.

The Boeing Classic just celebrated its 20th year in 2025 and always features one of the top fields on the PGA Tour Champions schedule.

## New Boise Golf Show operators

by Logan Groeneveld-Meijer

Golf in Idaho is moving along at full throttle, like it is around the country. And the Boise Golf Show – a three-day consumer show that brings together thousands of golfers, top courses, equipment reps and industry leaders – serves as just one example of that.

It’s an event that’s been guided during the 10 previous years by Karen Upchurch, who has also owned the Spokane Golf Show for the previous 28. But from 2026 onward – beginning with the upcoming show held on Feb. 5-7 at Expo Idaho – the married Boise duo of Jacob and Emily Vetsch will assume control from Karen who, approaching retirement, had been searching for the right successors.

“I wanted it to be in good hands, of somebody who’s a golfer or somebody who’s from the community,” Karen said.

Enter Jacob and Emily, who both fit that description to a tee. Both were born and raised in Coeur d’Alene, to parents also from the Gem State.

And both grew up playing golf. In Jacob’s case, his first few jobs as a teenager surrounded the game, and that trend only continued.

Karen Upchurch nurtured the Boise Golf Show for 10 years, bringing in local luminaries such as Idaho Golf Hall of Famer (and longtime supporter of the Idaho Junior Tour) Joe Malay.

## WA Golf staffer is honored with award

One of WA Golf’s many hard-working staffers has been honored for his service to the Pacific Northwest PGA Section in 2025.

Director of Championships Eric Sjogren, PGA, was honored with the Perry Williams Award, in recognition of his “unwavering dedication to the rules of golf and outstanding service,” according to the Association.

Per the PNWPGA: “Eric Sjogren is the 2025 Perry Williams Award recipient, recognized for his unwavering dedication to the rules of golf and outstanding service. He earned Expert Certification in the Rules of Golf in 2025 and serves on Rules Committees for major Pacific Northwest PGA championships, including the Washington Open, Northwest Open, and the Hudson Cup. He has officiated multiple USGA championships, most recently the 2025 U.S. Senior Amateur in San

Antonio, and oversees all WA Golf and PPGA amateur championships and USGA qualifiers. He also leads in-person Rules of Golf workshops across the region.”

Eric joined the WA Golf staff in 2022, overseeing its championships since then. A lifelong Northwesterner born and raised in Vancouver, Wash., he completed his degree in PGA Professional Golf Management from the University of Idaho in 2017. He then spent several years working at Bend Golf Club (Bend, Ore.) and Royal Oaks Country Club (Vancouver) before his arrival to WA Golf.

The PNW PGA Special Awards Ceremony, where Eric and other award winners’ achievements will be celebrated, is scheduled for March 22, 2026, at Broadmoor Golf Club in Seattle.

## It’s easy to get a golf handicap

If you are looking to get a golf handicap for the 2026 season it is nice and easy with any of your local golf organizations..

1) Sign up for a Handicap ID

Your unique Handicap ID number gives you the ability to post scores from which your Handicap Index is calculated. Get your Handicap ID number when you join a WA Golf member club such as the men’s or women’s club at a local golf course, or one at your workplace or community. Find a club Don’t want to join a club? Join a WA Golf Associate Club. Associate members receive all the benefits of a WA Golf membership with no strings attached or obligations to their host club.

2) Start posting your scores

With your Handicap ID number you can post your scores: Through the USGA GHIN app on your mobile device. The app lets you post your scores, calculate course handicap, view score history and more. The app features touch-point GPS for thousands of golf courses worldwide. Download the free app from the App Store or Google Play.

## February is final month for inactive posting scores

Inactive score posting season begins in the Pacific Northwest started in November and runs until March 1, 2026. The NW is one of 41 golf associations in the U.S. that has an inactive posting season during the winter months. This is because of the general change in course conditions in our region that would adversely affect course ratings.

If you play golf during our Inactive Score Posting Season in an area where scores are still being accepted for handicap purposes, you must post those scores as soon as practicable. Your handicap will continue to be revised daily when you post an eligible score, even during the off-season.

Each course is rated under the Course Rating System part of the World Handicap System. The single largest factor that impacts a course rating is distance. How far a ball will travel in the air and how much roll it gets on the ground are heavily impacted by weather. To create a standard course rating, each course is rated as if it is July 4th (or, high summer), and the difference in course conditions in our region between summer and winter are too great and would negatively affect the majority of golfers and their handicap. There are many courses in our region that drain well and stay in good condition for the winter months, but we cannot evaluate this on a course-by-course basis.

Here are a couple of ways to get it going: Through ghin.com or Online at wagolf.org/post. Scores should be posted as soon as possible after your round on the day it was played.

3) Post three 18-hole rounds

A minimum of three 18-hole or six 9-hole scores posted are all that’s needed to calculate and establish your Handicap Index! The more often you post your score, the more accurate your handicap.

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# Rules of the Game: Looking to make some golf bets at the bar, then see if you can name the five ‘must corrects’

We’ve spent the last few issues talking about the five “must corrects” in the Rules of Golf. “Must correct” means that, if you don’t correct an error before teeing off on the next hole, you’ll get disqualified! Before delving on to the fifth and last “must correct,” let’s review the four that we’ve already covered. Note that these “must corrects” only apply to stroke play. In match play, you either lose the hole, or maybe there’s no penalty at all, depending on the infraction.

**Failure to Hole Out.** While “gimmes” and “pick-ups” are common in friendly weekend rounds, failure to hole out in a competition is an absolute no-no. If you don’t hole out, and tee off on the next hole, you’re disqualified. **Starting a Hole from Outside the Teeing Area.** The Teeing Area is a rectangle the width of the tee markers and two-club lengths deep. If you tee off to start a hole either in front of, to the side of, or behind this Teeing Area, you get a two-stroke penalty and “must correct” your error before teeing off on the next hole, or you’re disqualified. This also applies if you tee off from the wrong hole!

**Playing a Wrong Ball.** A Wrong Ball is any ball other than your ball in play. So if, when playing a hole, you make a stroke at a Wrong Ball, you get a two-stroke penalty and “must correct” your error before teeing off on the next hole, or you’re disqualified.

**Playing From a Wrong Place – Serious Breach.** Playing From a Wrong Place means that, other than from the Teeing Area, you’ve made a stroke from somewhere other than where you were supposed to make the stroke. That’s a two-stroke penalty. However, the mistake might be minor – maybe you’ve made



a stroke from Point A, but instead you were supposed to play from Point B, maybe a few inches or a few feet away. In that case, you just swallow the two-stroke penalty and play on. But let’s say you play a stroke a long ways away from where you were supposed to play, or from a much easier lie. In that case, you’ve probably committed a Serious Breach.

You still get the two-stroke penalty, but this is also a “must correct” and you must play from where you were supposed to play. If you fail to correct it before teeing off on the next hole, it’s a DQ!

Now let’s look at the fifth and final “must correct.” It involves a form of play called Foursomes – also sometimes called Alternate Shot. This is the proper usage of the term “foursome.” Contrary to popular belief among golfers, a “foursome” isn’t a group of four players playing together in a round of golf. Let’s look at an example of how Foursomes are played, and see how the fifth “must correct” applies in this form of play.

Paul and Chase are partners in a Foursomes competition. Only one player tees off



Make sure you always tee off in the correct order when you are playing in foursomes - also called alternate shot.

on each hole, and then they alternate shots until the hole is finished. They play only one ball. Paul will tee off on all the odd-numbered holes, and Chase will tee off on all the even-numbered holes. Note that regardless of who sinks the last putt on each hole, Paul still tees off on the odd-numbered holes, and Chase still tees off on the even-numbered holes. Here’s where the fifth “must correct” comes in. Let’s say Paul tees off on the 8th hole. That’s an even-numbered hole, and Chase is supposed to tee off on the even-numbered holes. Since Paul teed off when Chase should have, they incur a two-stroke penalty. They must correct their mistake, go back to the tee,

and Chase must tee off. Note that this is just a single two-stroke penalty, regardless of how many strokes they’ve made before correcting the error.

So when they correct the error and Chase tees off, they’re lying 3. However, if they finish the 8th hole without correcting the error and tee off on the 9th hole, they’re disqualified for failing to correct their error. This also applies if a player in Foursomes plays out of turn during the play of a hole after they’ve correctly teed off.

So there you have it - the five “must corrects.” It’s a good bar bet – name the five “must corrects!”

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# The Lesson Tee: With these three aspects, you just might become a better ball striker in 2026

It seems amazing that we have entered 2026.

I do believe we can be better ball strikers in this coming year. If we did these three aspects, drills and swing stations great things would take place.

1) Photo 1; Anti arm lift, more turn. Ben Hogan imagined swinging under a plane of glass resting on his shoulders. This enhances depth of your backswing, turning your pivot rather than merely lifting ones arms.

2) Photo 2; Shallower attack thru "Hitting Zone!" Place a soft on the ground parallel to the target line. Make sure your club head works under the shaft on ground. Hit shots off a tee. Promotes proper plane thru hitting zone. Most consistent path. Zach Johnson does this regularly.

3) Photo 3; Practice IMPACT! Squaring the club face to the board or golf ball consistently. Hands lead to and thru golf ball and hitting zone. Shoulders square and impact, weight left, hips, slightly cleared. Copy the photo.

You can set up all the images and stations at home. Do the drills with or without hitting shots.

Get better no matter the weather.

Jeff Coston is a 23-time Pacific Northwest PGA Player of the Year. He can be reached for appointment and lessons by calling Semiahmoo at 360 201-4590.

Editor's note: Inside Golf Newspaper would like to congratulate our instructional columnist Jeff Coston on being named the top teacher in the state of Washington by Golf Digest magazine.



**Jeff Coston**  
**Make sure your club head works under the shaft on ground. Hit shots off a tee. Promotes proper plane thru hitting zone. Most consistent path. Zach Johnson does this regularly.**

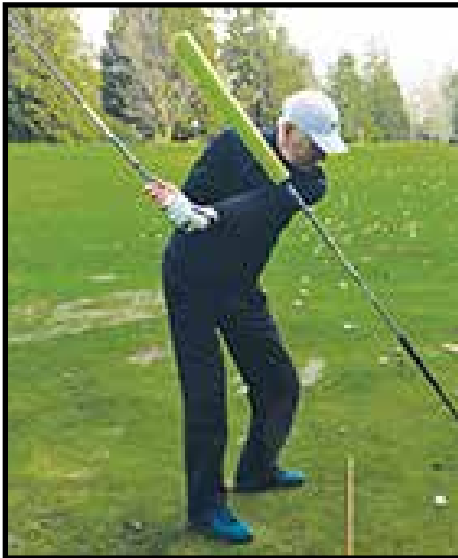


Photo #1



Photo #2

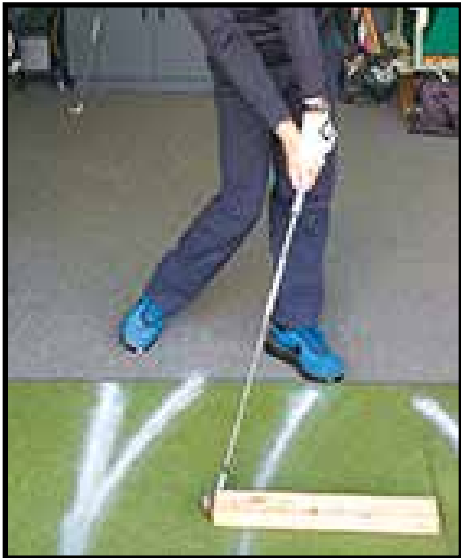


Photo #3

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## Las Vegas World Amateur sets dates for three-day tournament

If you have not put the clubs away for winter and are looking to get a competitive fix, then look no further than the Las Vegas World Amateur set for March 30-April 1, 2026

This three-day event in the city that never sleeps offers a three-round event at three different courses, including Canyon Gate, Spanish Trail and Chimera.

Entry fee is \$765 and provides green fees, carts, range balls, a prize package and tournament banquet. Plus daily games for each flight as well.

The tournament is set up as an individual net stroke play event meaning that handicaps will be used for all players. There will be divisions for everyone from men to women to seniors. All players will play different tee for the different divisions.

For information see [www.vegasworldam.com](http://www.vegasworldam.com).

### Las Vegas World Am

Here are some facts and figures about the Las Vegas World Am.

- **Dates:** March 30-April 1, 2026
- **Courses:** Canyon Gate Country Club, Spanish Trail, Chimera
- **Format:** Individual net stroke play with divisions for men, women and seniors.
- **Entry fee:** \$765, includes green fees, carts, tournament prize package and tournament banquet.
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