



Tournament Fact Sheet

GCSAA National Championships

Omni La Costa Resort and Spa (North) • Carlsbad, Calif. • February 2-3, 2025

Director of Agronomy

David Smallwood, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 21

Years at Omni La Costa: 6

Years as Superintendent: 18

Previous Courses: Kapalua (director of agronomy), Shackamaxon (director of agronomy), Seaview Resort (director of agronomy), St. Lucia Golf and Country Club (super), Corte Bella (assistant)

Hometown: Knoxville, Tenn.

Education: University of Tennessee

Professional Tournaments Hosted: Smallwood hosted 9 Tournament of Champions events at Kapalua and the 2024 NCAA Division 1 Men's and Women's Championships at La Costa.

Contact: Mike Strauss: mstrauss@gcsaa.org / 785-865-8444

Other Key Agronomy Personnel

Jeff Wilson, North Course Superintendent

Daniel Manning, South Course Superintendent, Thomas Basic, Equipment Manager, Michael Mulford, Director of Golf, Dustin Irwin, Club Director

Agronomy Employees: 43 / Tournament Volunteers: 4

Course Architect

Dick Wilson (1965)

Renovation: Gil Hanse and Jim Wagner (2022-23)

Notable

- The 419 bermudagrass has been dormant since early December.
- Course has not seen rain since March of 2024 which has slowed the establishment of 51 acres of native grasses.
- A renovation in 2022-23 included all greens being built to USGA specs, all bunkers and tees repositioned and rebuilt, two former ponds transformed into barrancas on #9 and #10, and 51 acres of native grasses planted.
- Last sod in renovation was put down in January of 2024.

Mike Strauss • Media Relations Manager • (O) 785-312-5164 • (C) 785-865-8444 • mstrauss@gcsaa.org • www.gcsaa.org

- La Costa hosted the 2024 NCAA Division 1 Men's and Women's Golf Championships and will continue hosting through 2028.
- La Costa hosted the 2019 GCSAA National Championships, which were won by Steve Gilley.

Tournament Setup

Par: 36-36—72

Yardage: 6,575

Turfgrass

Greens: Pure Distinction bentgrass .100"

Collars: 419 bermudagrass .250"

Approaches: 419 bermudagrass .325"

Tees: 419 bermudagrass .325"

Fairways: 419 bermudagrass .375"

Rough: 419 bermudagrass 2.5-3"

Native Areas: Pacific fescue / Meadow barley

Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 6,200 sq. ft.

Acres of Fairway: 37

Acres of Rough: 18

Number of Sand Bunkers: 65 (3 acres)

Number of Water Hazards: 3

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 4

Soil Conditions: Sand cap (tees, fairways), Native (rough)

Water Sources: Effluent

Drainage: Updated in renovation

Average Fairway Widths: 30 yards

Links

GCSAA Tournament Fact Sheet Home:

<https://www.gcsaa.org/media/tournament-fact-sheets>

GCSAA Website: <https://www.gcsaa.org/>

GCM (GCSAA Magazine): <https://gcmonline.com/>

Tournament:

Since 1926 the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to 20,000 members in more than 78 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and improve communities through enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf.

2025 GCSAA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS NOTABLE

75 AND 31 – This will mark the 75th GCSAA National Championships, as well as the 31st year that The Toro Company is the presenting partner of the tournaments. The sold-out golf events include the National Championships, Classic, Four Ball and Scramble competitions February 1-3. Host facilities include Omni La Costa, Torrey Pines, Aviara and Del Mark Country Club with more than 620 golfers registered overall.

SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 1 - Four Ball at Torrey Pines North / La Costa South / Aviara

Sunday, Feb. 2 - Classic at Torrey Pines North and South / Scramble at Aviara / National Championship at La Costa North

Monday, Feb. 3 - Classic at Torrey Pines North and South / National Championship at La Costa North

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS NOTES

IN SAN DIEGO – The GCSAA Championships have been held in San Diego six previous times:

<u>Year</u>	<u>National Champion</u>	<u>Notable</u>
1993	Richard Stuntz	Steele Canyon / Stuntz won by one shot over Paul Jeff who would have five runner-up finishes in his career
2004	Tommy Robinson	Maderas and Del Mar National / Robinson won in 2004 and then finished runner-up in 2005 to Strickland
2013	Charles Costello	Torrey Pines South / 147 total beat three others by one shot
2016	Shawn Westacott	Torrey Pines South / 149 score was four better than runner-up
2019	Steve Gilley	Omni La Costa /
2022	Seth Strickland	Torrey Pines South / site of Strickland's 4 th of 6 national titles / Strickland won in playoff with Tanner Westbrook after both tied at 149. Strickland birdied both the final hole in regulation and the first playoff hole.

LAST TIME AT LA COSTA – This will mark the second time La Costa will host the National Championships as the best superintendent golfers teed off here in 2019. Steve Gilley of Panorama Golf Club in Conroe, Texas, claimed the title firing a 71-75—146 (+2) total. Michael Stieler (73-77—150) and Seth Strickland (74-76—150) finished four shots back.

LAST TIME IN SAN DIEGO – The 2022 tournament was held in San Diego, as Torrey Pines hosted play on both the North and South Courses. Seth Strickland won a playoff over Tanner Westbrook. Westbrook shot an opening round 72 to share the lead with Max Rudder, while Strickland was one back at 73. Westbrook posted a final round 77, while Strickland used a birdie on the 18th hole to finish with a 76 and force a playoff as both players had two-round totals of 149 (+5). Strickland then birdied the first extra hole for the win. Rudder was third at 151.

LAST YEAR'S CHAMPIONSHIP – Seth Strickland, a 23-year member and director of agronomy at Miami Beach Golf Club, captured the 2024 national title with a six-under-par 69-69—138 score to defeat runner-up Tyler Gabriel by three shots at Camelback Golf Club in Phoenix. It was a GCSAA record-tying sixth individual victory for Strickland who matched Emil "Mashie" Masciocchi, who won six times from 1940-50. Strickland's career titles came in 2005, 08, 09, 21, 22 and 24.

(more)

MORE ON STRICKLAND – Strickland will be looking for his fourth title in five years as Dylan Foster claimed the 2023 version while Strickland won in 2021, 22 and 24... Strickland finished fourth in 2023... Strickland owns the longest stretch between first and most recent win at 19 years (2005 to 2024)... Strickland also has four runner-up finishes in the national championship.

FIVE PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS IN THE FIELD – Previous national champions in the field include Charles Costello (2013), Michael Stieler (2012, 17), Seth Strickland (2005, 08, 09, 21, 22, 24), Shawn Westacott (2016) and Deron Zendt (2014, 22). Stieler (2), Strickland (6) and Zendt (2) are three of the 14 superintendents who have won multiple titles all time.

WARM WEATHER CHAMPIONS – A superintendent from the state of Florida has won the last five titles [Deron Zendt (Boynton Beach) in 2020, Seth Strickland (Miami, Fla.) in 2021, 2022 and 2024, and Dylan Foster (Fort Myers) in 2023]. The last non-Floridian to win was Steve Gilley from Conroe, Texas in 2019. In fact, 19 of the last 20 champions have come from warm-weather states – Florida (9), Texas (6), California (2), Arizona (1), or Alabama (1). The exception was David Brown of Boulder, Colo. in 2011.

DID YOU KNOW? – The last Californian superintendent to win the national title in the state of California was Michael Stieler, then at Riverbend Golf Club in Madera, who won at PGA West in Palm Springs in 2012. He beat Seth Strickland by one shot.

2024 LEADERBOARD

Phoenix, Ariz.

Camelback Golf Club (Ambiente and Padre)

1	Seth Strickland	69-69—138 (-6)
2	Tyler Gabriel	71-70—141
3	John Gianopoulos	73-71—144
	Jordan Sherratt	69-75—144
5	Shawn Westacott	74-71—145
	Jason Dziabel	72-73—145
	Edward Martinez	72-73—145
	Walter Chavez	69-76—145
9	Jason Cook	75-71—146
10	Kyle Moses	74-73—147
	Max Levitch	73-74—147
	Bryce Koch	73-74—147

(more)

ALL-TIME GCSAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**Year National Champion**

1938 Ernie Jacob
1939 Don Boyd
1940 Emil "Mashie" Masciocchi
1941 Emil "Mashie" Masciocchi
1942 No Tournament
1943 No Tournament
1944 No Tournament
1945 No Tournament
1946 Emil "Mashie" Masciocchi
1947 Roy Jones
1948 Emil "Mashie" Masciocchi
1949 Emil "Mashie" Masciocchi
1950 Emil "Mashie" Masciocchi
1951 Paul Schurtz
1952 John Zoller
1953 No Tournament
1954 Marcus List
1956 Marcus List
1958 John Connolly
1960 Bill Adams
1962 Bob Mitchell
1963 Chuck Fatum
1968 Art Donaldson
1969 Gene Stoddard
1970 Bob Martino
1971 Harry Cirata
1972 Bob Martino
1973 Bob Martino
1974 Ennio Lattini
1975 John Doughton, Jr.
1976 William Knox
1977 Vaughn Barker
1978 Thomas C. Hamilton
1979 Dan Meyers
1980 Thomas C. Hamilton
1981 Dan Meyers
1982 Mike Apodaca
1983 Roger Null, CGCS

1984 Dan Meyers
1985 Dave Powell
1986 David Oliver
1987 Mike Apodaca
1988 Dave Powell
1989 Dave Powell
1990 Roger Null, CGCS
1991 Roger Null, CGCS
1992 Gary D. Bennett, CGCS
1993 Richard A. Stuntz, CGCS
1994 Robert Friend
1995 Todd Barker
1996 Jim Dusch, CGCS
1997 Michael Suess
1998 Al Pondel, CGCS
1999 Chandler Masters
2000 Todd Barker
2001 Mitch Clodfelter
2002 Mitch Clodfelter
2003 Joseph Pantaleo
2004 Tommy Robinson
2005 Seth Strickland
2006 Joseph Anderson
2007 Jason Regan
2008 Seth Strickland
2009 Seth Strickland
2010 Adam Hess
2011 David Brown
2012 Michael Stieler
2013 Charles Costello
2014 Deron Zendt
2015 Matt Cowan
2016 Shawn Westacott
2017 Michael Stieler, CGCS
2018 Matt Cowan
2019 Steve Gilley
2020 Deron Zendt
2021 Seth Strickland
2022 Seth Strickland
2023 Dylan Foster
2024 Seth Strickland