

2024 STATE OPEN OF VIRGINIA



July 19-21



Independence GC



Event home



KEY FACTS

FORMAT: Three rounds of stroke play. The field will be cut to the low 60 players and ties for Sunday's final round. Should there be a tie after 54 holes, a sudden-death playoff will determine the champion.

STARTING TIMES: Morning (7:30 a.m.) and afternoon (12:30 p.m.) waves off No. 1 and 10 tees Friday and Saturday. Double-tee start in the morning for Sunday's final round.

CLUB ADDRESS: 600 Founders Bridge Blvd, Midlothian, 23113

PHONE: (804) 601-8600

CLUB PERSONNEL: Giff Breed (president), Cal Williams (director of golf), Dan Taylor (director of agronomy).

COURSE OPENED: 2001

CHAMPIONSHIPS (INCL. JOINT VSGA/MAPGA EVENTS): 22

LAST CHAMPIONSHIP: 2024 Women's Open of Virginia

UPCOMING MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

AUGUST 12-13: 77th VSGA Senior Amateur Championship, CC of Virginia, Tuckahoe Creek

SEPTEMBER 6-8: 48th VSGA Mid-Amateur Championship, CC of Petersburg, Petersburg

SEPTEMBER 9-10: 19th Senior Open of Virginia, Willow Oaks CC, Richmond

[Full VSGA men's championship schedule](#)

2024 PLAYER RANKINGS

VSGA

1. Logan Reilly (705)
2. Nikita Gubenko (465)
3. Justin Young (445)
4. Joey Jordan (412)
5. **Drew Brockwell** (355)
6. Brandon Ramsuer (343)
7. Patrick Gareiss (340)
8. Nick Taliaferro (335)
9. Adam Houck (329)



MAPGA

1. Alex Hoffman (660)
2. **Larkin Gross** (610)
3. Ryan Zylstra (545)
4. Josh Apple (411)
5. Jon Moles (370)
6. Ian McConnell (358)
7. Josh Speight (355)
8. Greg Pieczynski (346)
9. Matt Summers (310)



Full men's player rankings: [VSGA](#) | [MAPGA](#)

Follow:

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2024 VSGA MEN'S WINNERS

MULTI-FORMAT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (OPEN)

Brandon Ramsuer/Ryan Taylor (129, -15)

VIRGINIA-WEST VIRGINIA MATCHES

Virginia 19.5, West Virginia 8.5

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Independence Golf Club (130, -14)

SENIOR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Keith Decker/Scott Shingler (131, -11)

FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Nick Taliaferro/Patrick Gareiss (131, -13)

SUPER SENIOR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

65+: Paul Gural/Mike Howell (134, -10)

70+: Pat Gregory/Mike Moore (139, -5)

75+: J.P. Leigh/Glenn Morris (135, -9)

SENIOR STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

Steve Serrao (140, -4)

AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Logan Reilly d. Nikita Gubenko, 4 and 2

SUPER SENIOR STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

65+: July 15-16 (Loudoun G&CC)

70+: July 15-16 (Loudoun G&CC)

75+: July 15-16 (Loudoun G&CC)

2024 MAPGA MEN'S WINNERS

MAPGA FOUR-PERSON SCRAMBLE

Dean Sidoti/Tim White/Toby Todd/Will Martindale and

Adam Harrell/David Newsom/Alexander

McGonagle/Nicholas Owens (56, -16)

MAPGA STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP #1

Larkin Gross and Jon Moles (66, -4)

BRITT SLOAN MAPGA SCRAMBLE

Dominic Reed/Billy Hoffman (92, -16)

MAPGA PRO-SCRATCH

Matt Summers/Sean Flanigan (39, stableford)

CLUB CAR PRO-PRESIDENT

Don Huber/Robert Agresti (69, -3)

MAPGA SENIOR JUNIOR

Jeff Combe and Grant Strawoet (65, -6)

STATE OPEN OF VIRGINIA OPEN QUALIFIER

Isaac Simmons (64, -8)

STATE OPEN OF VIRGINIA LAST-CHANCE QUALIFIER

Bryce Johnson (69, -3)

PAST CHAMPIONS IN THE FIELD

Several past champions will tee it up at Independence:

- **2023:** Connor Burgess
- **2022:** Nick Taliaferro (a)
- **2017:** Ryan Zylstra
- **2012, 2013, 2014, 2016:** Jay Woodson
- **2008, 2011:** Roger Newsom (a)
- **1992:** Craig Gunn

BURGESS' ADVENTURE

Lynchburg native Connor Burgess used last year's State Open of Virginia victory as a springboard to a huge fall and winter. He won his second-stage Q School event, giving him conditional Korn Ferry Tour status at the beginning of 2024. It's been a tough run so far for Burgess, a former Virginia Tech standout. He's tied for 193rd in the Korn Ferry Tour points list after making one cut in 14 starts. Perhaps a trip back to Independence is what he needs to get back on the right track. He lives in Richmond and practices out of Independence, and the memories of last year's victory certainly are still fresh in his mind.



MAJOR CHOPS

It was another banner year for the MAPGA in terms of sending its players to major championships. Larkin Gross, PGA (Westwood CC) and Josh Speight, PGA (The Club at Viniterra), pictured at right, advanced to the PGA Championship at Valhalla in Louisville by finishing inside the top 20 at the PGA Professional National Championship. Speight made his third appearance in the event, Gross his second. David Hutsell, PGA (Baltimore CC) advanced to the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship.



The scorecard: Independence GC

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	
Par	4	4	4	5	4	4	3	5	3	36	
Yards	460	490	415	585	385	400	220	535	200	3690	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOT
	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	35	71
	350	160	425	440	230	415	460	630	410	3520	7210

RECAPPING 2023

CHAMPION:

Connor Burgess
(70-67-66--203, -10)

LOW

AMATEUR/RUNNER-UP:
Rylan Shim
(69-68-67--204)

SITE: Independence GC

[FULL 2023 RESULTS](#)

[FULL EVENT HISTORY](#)



COURSE FACTS

- As the State Open heads into its fourth consecutive appearance at Independence, here are some course trends to watch:
 - Winning scores: Evan Beck (201 in 2021), Nick Taliaferro (203 in 2022), and Connor Burgess (203 in 2023).
 - Low round: Bryce Corbett, who shot a 62 in 2021 to tie the Independence competitive course record.
 - One player has finished inside the top 10 in all three years (Mark Lawrence Jr.)
 - Low opening-round score: Robb Kinder posted a 6-under 65 in 2021, and Taliaferro matched that number in 2022.
 - Low PGA professionals: Joe Lussier, who tied for 10th in 2021; Larkin Gross, who tied for 6th in 2022; and Kyle Fuller, who tied for 12th in 2023.
 - The long par-4 No. 13 was the most difficult hole on the course in the first two years but ranked third in 2023. The toughest hole last year was the par-4 1st, which played to 4.39 average.
 - The par-5 8th hole has played as the easiest hole all three years. It played to a 4.84 average in 2021, a 4.80 average in 2022, and a 4.74 average in 2023.
 - There has been one hole-in-one during the three years at Independence, Trip Bose's ace on the par-3 11th in the second round in 2022.

SPONSORS

The VSGA and MAPGA would like to recognize this year's State Open sponsors: Kiawah Island Golf Resort, The Jefferson Hotel, Richmond Region Tourism, Estes Express Lines, Shady Rays, My Golfing Store, Inc., Performance Food Service, Pepsi Co., Sheehy Lexus of Richmond, EZ-GO Golf Cars, and Independence Golf Club.

FIELD NOTES

- Nick Taliaferro, the 2022 State Open champion, added to his VSGA victory total in May when he paired with Radford teammate Patrick Gareiss to win the VSGA Four-Ball Championship at Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech, which also serves as Radford's home course. Taliaferro paired with Andrew Kennedy to win the Four-Ball in 2020.
- Logan Reilly, the 17-year-old who won this year's VSGA Amateur Championship, was a late addition to the field. He played in last week's Wyndham Cup, a Ryder Cup style competition featuring top juniors around the country. He went 3-1 in helping the East team to a 25.5-24.5 victory over the West.
- The 2023 VSGA Amateur champ, Grayson Wood, recently completed a strong freshman season at VCU, where he earned Atlantic 10 rookie and player of the year honors. Wood's stay in Richmond was short. He's transferred to the University of Georgia for this coming season.
- Other past VSGA Amateur champions in the field include Ross Funderburke (2022), Joey Lane (2016), Scott Shingler (2011), and Jay Woodson (2002, 2003). Mark Lawrence Jr. (2017, 2020) was expected to compete, but he withdrew due to an injury.
- There are two senior amateurs in the field: Shingler, 52, and Roger Newsom, 60. Shingler still splits his time between senior and regular events, and he showed last year he still has plenty of game to compete against the younger crowd. He posted rounds of 66-68-71 to finish tied for third. Newsom is a two-time State Open winner, with both titles coming at Independence.
- There are two father-son combos in the field: Amateurs Mike and Ryan Leach, and professionals Dick and Jacob Mast.
- Isaac Simmons (Liberty University) and George Duangmanee (University of Virginia) recently turned professional and earned their way into the field via the SOVA Open Qualifier. Simmons torched Spring Creek in the qualifier, posting an 8-under 64 to win medalist honors by five strokes. Simmons played in the 2023 U.S. Open Championship. Duangmanee was a key part of a UVA squad that made consecutive trips to match play at the NCAA Division I Championship.
- Woodson, a four-time State Open champion, also earned his way into the field via the SOVA qualifier, making a birdie on the final hole to ensure his spot at Independence.
- There are three Division I head coaches in the field: Jeff Thomas (Liberty), Mike Larkin (Towson), and Greg Pieczynski (George Mason). Pieczynski will be competing against several current and future Patriots: Vaughn McMeans, JJ Powell, Aryan Vuradi, and Samir Davidov.
- The most represented VSGA member club is Loudoun Golf & Country Club, with six players in the field: Reilly, Matthew Monastero, Michael Thomas, Nick Alexander, Reed Theiss, and professional Trey Colliere.



Youngest players in the field

Brennan Zide (16)
Grayden Laird (17, pictured)



Oldest player in the field

Dick Mast, PGA (73)

BERRY'S BIG YEAR

It's been a wild year for former Loyola (Md.) standout Brandon Berry, who plays out of River Bend Club in Great Falls. Berry Monday qualified for three PGA Tour events, making the cut and finishing 65th at the Corales Puntacana Championship. He also participated in the Myrtle Beach Classic and the Rocket Mortgage Classic. His second round 68 at the Rocket Mortgage Classic was his second best round of the year, eclipsed only by his second-round 67 at Puntacana. Berry does have one state open win under his belt this year, winning the Massachusetts Open by one stroke last month.