



National Senior Golf Association of Portugal

Regulations for Qualification for the ESGA European Championships 2026

This regulation establishes the conditions for the tournament, participation, format of play, and the rules to be used for the qualification of the Senior, Super Senior, and Master Senior teams of the National Senior Golf Association of Portugal (ANS GP) that will participate in the ESGA European Championships 2026.

1. Participation

1.1 Qualification for the ESGA European Championship 2026 is exclusively open to male members of the ANSGP who have paid their membership fees and hold a valid license from the Portuguese Golf Federation (FPG).

1.2 Players are divided into three age categories:

1.2.1 Seniors – Players who will have reached the age of 55 but not yet 65 by January 1, 2026.

1.2.2 Super Seniors – Players who will have reached the age of 65 but not yet 75 by January 1, 2026.

1.2.3 Master Seniors – Players who will have reached the age of 75 by January 1, 2026.

1.3 Qualification for the ESGA European Championship 2026 is organized in two phases.

2. First Phase of Qualification: Regional Circuits and National Order of Merit

2.1 The first phase of qualification will take place during the year 2025. Players must participate in the events of the Regional Circuits — North, Centre, and South — as well as in the events of the National Order of Merit.

2.2 Participation in and rankings from the Regional Circuits and the National Order of Merit are governed by their own regulations, which are available for consultation on the ANSGP website.

2.3 For the purpose of qualification to the second phase, only residents of the respective region will be eligible for qualification through each Regional Circuit.

3. Second Phase of Qualification: Selection of Qualified Players in Seniors and Super Seniors

3.1 The players who meet the following requirements, in the order presented, qualify for the second phase of qualification in the Seniors and Super Seniors categories:

- 3.1.1 Players in the Seniors category with a maximum handicap of 20.0 for the Nett tournament and a maximum handicap of 12.0 for the Gross tournament.
- 3.1.2 Players in the Super Seniors category with a maximum handicap of 24.0 for the Nett tournament and a maximum handicap of 18.0 for the Gross tournament.
- 3.1.3 Northern Circuit – The top 3 players classified in Gross and the top 3 players classified in Nett, after excluding those already qualified.
- 3.1.4 Central Circuit – The top 5 players classified in Gross and the top 5 players classified in Nett, after excluding those already qualified.
- 3.1.5 Southern Circuit – The top 3 players classified in Gross and the top 3 players classified in Nett, after excluding those already qualified.
- 3.1.6 National Order of Merit – The top 5 players classified in Gross and the top 5 players classified in Nett, after excluding those already qualified.
- 3.1.7 For each of the eight qualification methods (3 Regional Circuits and National Order of Merit, Gross and Nett), a maximum of one player of non-Portuguese nationality may qualify.

4. Second Phase of Qualification: Selection of Qualified Master Senior Players

4.1 The players who meet the following requirements, in the order presented, qualify for the second phase of qualification in the Master Seniors category:

- 4.1.1 Players in the Master Seniors category with a maximum handicap of 24
- 4.1.2 Northern Circuit – The top 3 players classified by Nett score
- 4.1.3 Central Circuit – The top 5 players classified by Nett score.
- 4.1.4 Southern Circuit – The top 3 players classified by Nett score
- 4.1.5 National Order of Merit – The top 5 players classified by Nett score, after excluding those already qualified.
- 4.1.6 For each of the four qualification methods (the 3 Regional Circuits and the National Order of Merit, by Nett score), a maximum of one player of non-Portuguese nationality may qualify.

5. Second Phase of Qualification: The Tournament

5.1 Participation in the second phase of qualification is exclusively reserved for players qualified in the first phase of qualification, according to the criteria previously defined.

No excuses will be accepted for members who were unable to participate in the first phase.

5.2 Withdrawal from participation in the second phase of qualification by any player qualified in the first phase grants the right to be replaced by the next player in the respective Order of Merit, with corresponding adjustment of the relative positions of the other qualified players.

5.3 All players participating in the second phase of qualification have their handicap limited for Nett scoring purposes as follows:

5.2.1 Seniors category – 16.0

5.2.2 Super Seniors category – 20.0

5.2.3 Master Seniors category – 24.0

5.4 For the Seniors and Super Seniors categories, the second phase of qualification is played over 36 holes, during 2 days, 18 holes each day, in Medal format, with Gross and Medal Nett classifications determined.

5.5 For the Master Seniors category, the second phase of qualification is played over 36 holes, during 2 days, 18 holes each day, in Stableford format, with the Stableford Nett classification determined.

5.6 The final classification for the second phase of qualification is based on the aggregate result obtained over the 36 holes.

5.7 In the event of a tie in the final classification, the tiebreak criteria are as follows:

- Better result on the 2nd day of the second phase of qualification
- Lower WHS handicap

6. The ESGA 2026 Teams

6.1 The first 5 players in the final Gross classification of the second phase, Seniors category, shall qualify for the team that will compete in the ESGA Team Seniors Championship.

6.2 The first 5 players in the final Medal Nett classification of the second phase, Seniors category, excluding those already qualified under 6.1, shall qualify for the team that will compete in the ESGA Team Seniors Cup.

6.3 Players who qualify simultaneously in both the final Gross and final Nett classifications may choose which team they wish to join, thereby relinquishing their place in the team not chosen to the next eligible player in that team.

6.4 The first 5 players in the final Gross classification of the second phase, Super Seniors category, shall qualify for the team that will compete in the ESGA Team Super Seniors Championship.

6.5 The first 5 players in the final Medal Nett classification of the second phase, Super Seniors category, excluding those already qualified under 6.4, shall qualify for the team that will compete in the ESGA Team Super Seniors Cup.

6.6 Players who qualify simultaneously in both the final Gross and final Nett classifications may choose which team they wish to join, thereby relinquishing their place in the team not chosen to the next eligible player in that team.

6.7 The first 5 players in the final Stableford Nett classification of the second phase, Master Seniors category, shall qualify for the team that will compete in the ESGA Team Master Seniors Cup.

6.8 Each of the 5 teams may not include more than one player of non-Portuguese nationality.

6.9 For each of the 5 teams, the Board of the ANSGP will extend one invitation, at its sole discretion, taking into account competitive consistency and experience in national and international tournaments, among other criteria.

6.10 For each of the 5 teams, the Board of the ANSGP will appoint one captain.

6.11 Following the announcement of the second phase qualification results, the ANSGP Board will hold a presentation meeting for the ESGA European Championships 2026, which all qualified players must attend. During this meeting, relevant information will be provided, including estimated participation costs for the players.

Each qualified player must formally accept the responsibility for the estimated costs and the conditions expressed in section 7, “During the ESGA Tournament,” and all its subsections.

Any player who does not accept any of the aforementioned conditions shall be ineligible to be part of the ANSGP ESGA 2026 Teams and will be replaced.

6.12 The criteria for the replacement of a player in the ESGA 2026 Teams are as follows:

- A player who qualified directly through the second phase of qualification shall be replaced by the player immediately next in the final classification of the second phase, relative to the last qualified player.
- A player who was invited by the ANSGP Board shall be replaced by another player to whom the Board extends a new invitation.

7. During the ESGA 2026 Tournament

7.1 The period understood as the duration of the ESGA tournament begins on the day before the practice round and opening ceremony and concludes with the closing ceremony and awards presentation at the ESGA European Championships 2026.

7.2 The ANSGP delegation to the ESGA European Championships 2026 will be led by a Team Leader appointed by the ANSGP Board. The duties and responsibilities of the Team Leader during the ESGA 2026 tournament are defined in a specific regulation approved by the ANSGP Board.

7.3 Each team will have a Team Captain designated by the ANSGP Board. The duties and responsibilities of the Team Captains during the ESGA 2026 tournament are defined in a specific regulation approved by the ANSGP Board.

7.4 The ESGA European Championships take place over 4 days, comprising one practice round and three tournament rounds, held on premium courses of high difficulty and often under adverse weather conditions. Unfortunately, the ANSGP cannot guarantee the availability of buggies for the practice round or tournament rounds for the Master Seniors, nor electric trolleys for the other players, as this responsibility lies with the courses and ESGA.

Therefore, all players must be physically and mentally prepared to play four rounds on foot using manual trolleys.

The ANSGP reserves the right to prohibit any qualified player from participating if they do not demonstrate the minimum physical condition required to complete four rounds of golf on foot with a manual trolley over four consecutive days.

7.5 During the tournament, it is the responsibility of all members of the ANSGP delegation—including the Team Leader, officials, captains, and players—to strictly observe the rules of proper conduct and the rules of golf.

7.6 Throughout the tournament, all members of the ANSGP delegation—Team Leader, officials, and players—will be accommodated at the same hotel, as designated by the ANSGP Board.

7.7 During travel to and from the event, as well as during the Opening and Closing ceremonies of the ESGA European Championships 2026, all delegation members must present themselves wearing the attire as defined by the ANSGP Board for these ceremonies.

7.8 During the practice round and tournament rounds, all players must present themselves wearing the attire as defined by the ANSGP Board for the practice and tournament rounds..

8. Rules of Golf

8.1 All ANSGP golf competitions are conducted under the Rules of Golf as approved by The R&A Rules Limited, the Handicap System Rules of the Portuguese Golf Federation (FPG), the Local Rules of the course, and the Permanent Local Rules of the National Senior Golf Association of Portugal.

8.2 The course on which each round of the competition is played must be officially approved by the FPG.

8.3 Buggy usage condition in the 2nd phase of qualification:

8.3.1 Players in the Seniors and Super Seniors categories are not permitted to use buggies.

8.3.2 Players in the Master Seniors category are permitted to use buggies.

9. Supplementary Provisions

9.1 The draw for the first round of the second phase of qualification is ordered in ascending handicap order, separated by age categories.

9.2 The draw for the second round of the second phase of qualification is ordered in descending order of the Gross score from the first round for the Seniors and Super Seniors categories, and in descending order of the Nett score from the first round for the Master Seniors category.

9.3 The tee markers used in the second phase of qualification are:

- Seniors and Super Seniors categories – Yellow tees
- Master Seniors category – Red tees

9.4 The Technical Committee of the competition may, if justified, decide to limit the second phase of qualification to a single 18-hole round. In that case, the standings at the end of the first day of the second phase will be considered final.

9.6 Failure to appear for either of the two rounds of the second phase of qualification will result in disqualification from the second phase.

9.6 At any time, the ANSGP Board or the Technical Committee appointed by it to oversee the competition may amend this Regulation and suspend, postpone, or cancel the event, and shall make final decisions on any omissions or unforeseen circumstances.

9.7 This regulation was approved by the Board and enters into force as of July 2025, applying throughout the 2025 season.

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