



National Senior Golf Association of Portugal

Regulations for Qualification for the ESGA European Championships

These regulations establish the competition conditions, participation criteria, game formats, and rules for the qualification of the Senior, Super Senior, and Master Senior teams of the National Senior Golf Association of Portugal (ANSGP) to participate in the ESGA European Championships 2027.

1. Participation

1.1 Qualification for the 2027 ESGA European Championship is exclusively open to male members of the ANSGP who have paid their membership fees and hold a valid license issued by the Portuguese Golf Federation (FPG).

1.2 Players are divided into three age categories:

1.2.1 Seniors – Players aged between 55 and 64 years as of January 1, 2026.

1.2.2 Super Seniors – Players aged between 65 and 74 years as of January 1, 2026.

1.2.3 Master Seniors – Players aged 75 years or older as of January 1, 2026.

1.3 The qualification process for the 2027 ESGA European Championship consists of two phases.

2. First Qualification Phase: "Race to ESGA" Rankings

2.1 Five "Race to ESGA 2027" rankings will be established:

2.1.1 Race to ESGA 2027 – Seniors Gross

2.1.2 Race to ESGA 2027 – Super Seniors Gross

2.1.3 Race to ESGA 2027 – Seniors Nett

2.1.4 Race to ESGA 2027 – Super Seniors Nett

2.1.5 Race to ESGA 2027 – Master Seniors Nett

2.2 Eligible tournaments for these rankings include all regular events of the three Regional Golf Circuits (North, Centre, South) and the regular tournaments of the National Order of Merit.

2.3 For eligible tournaments, tee lengths on courses with a par of 72 are limited to:

2.3.1 5,800 meters for the Seniors

2.3.2 5,600 meters for the Super Seniors

2.3.3 5,200 meters for the Master Seniors

2.4 The tournaments are divided into National Order of Merit and Regional Circuits. The attached tables reflect the points to be awarded for each finishing position, based on the type of tournament and the number of eligible players present at each event.

2.5 The points counted towards the Gross Rankings of the Race to ESGA are awarded according to the final Stableford Gross classification obtained in each tournament, based on the corresponding points table for the Tournament Type and the number of participants in the Age Category.

2.6 The points counted towards the Nett Rankings of the Race to ESGA are awarded according to the final Stableford Nett classification obtained in each tournament, based on the corresponding points table for the Tournament Type and the number of participants in the Age Category.

2.7 Each ranking considers a player's best eight (8) results throughout the year.

2.8 Players eligible for the Second Qualification Phase are as follows:

2.8.1 In the Senior Nett category – The players ranked in the top 16 positions of the Race to ESGA Nett Ranking in the Senior category, with a maximum Handicap Index of 20.0. Within this group, the number of players without Portuguese nationality may not exceed 4.

2.8.2 In the Senior Gross category – The players ranked in the top 16 positions of the Race to ESGA Gross Ranking in the Senior category, with a maximum Handicap Index of 12.0, after excluding those previously qualified. Within this group, the number of players without Portuguese nationality may not exceed 4.

2.8.3 In the Super Senior Nett category – The players ranked in the top 16 positions of the Race to ESGA Nett Ranking in the Super Senior category, with a maximum Handicap Index of 24.0. Within this group, the number of players without Portuguese nationality may not exceed 4.

2.8.5 In the Super Senior Gross category – The players ranked in the top 16 positions of the Race to ESGA Gross Ranking in the Super Senior category, with a maximum

Handicap Index of 18.0, after excluding those previously qualified. Within this group, the number of players without Portuguese nationality may not exceed 4.

2.8.6 In the Master Senior Nett category – The players ranked in the top 16 positions of the Race to ESGA Nett Ranking in the Master Senior category, with a maximum Handicap Index of 24.0. Within this group, the number of players without Portuguese nationality may not exceed 4.

2.8.7 In the event of a tie in the Ranking position, the tie-breaking criteria shall be applied in the following order until the tie is resolved:

- Number of 1st place achieved in tournaments throughout the *Race*
- Number of 2nd place achieved in tournaments throughout the *Race*
- Number of 3rd place achieved in tournaments throughout the *Race*
- Number of 4th place achieved in tournaments throughout the *Race*
- Number of 5th place achieved in tournaments throughout the *Race*
- Number of 6th place achieved in tournaments throughout the *Race*
- Number of 7th place achieved in tournaments throughout the *Race*
- Number of 8th place achieved in tournaments throughout the *Race*
- Number of 9th place achieved in tournaments throughout the *Race*
- Number of 10th place achieved in tournaments throughout the *Race*
- Number of 11th place achieved in tournaments throughout the *Race*
- Number of 12th place achieved in tournaments throughout the *Race*

3. Second Qualification Phase: "Race to ESGA" Qualifying

3.1 Participation in the Qualifying phase is strictly reserved for players selected during the 1st Qualification Phase (Ranking), in accordance with the criteria previously defined. No exceptions will be made for any reasons that may have prevented Members from participating in the 1st Qualification Phase (Ranking).

3.2 If a player qualifies in the 1st Qualification Phase (Ranking) in both Gross and Nett categories, they shall be replaced by the next highest-ranked player in the respective Ranking, and the relative positions of the remaining qualified players shall be adjusted accordingly.

3.3 Should any player who qualified in the 1st Qualification Phase (Ranking) withdraw from participating in the 2nd Qualification Phase, they shall be replaced by the next highest-ranked player in the respective Ranking, and the relative positions of the remaining qualified players shall be adjusted accordingly.

3.4 For all players participating in the 2nd Qualification Phase, the following handicap limits shall apply for the purpose of Nett classifications:

3.4.1 Seniors – 16.0

3.4.2 Super Seniors – 20.0

3.4.3 Master Seniors – 24.0

3.5 Prior to the start of the 2nd Qualification Phase, Stroke Allowances will be granted based on merit, according to the rankings achieved in the Race to ESGA Gross and Nett Rankings, in the Senior, Super Senior, and Master Senior categories, following the criteria below:

1st place – 6 strokes

2nd place – 4 strokes

3rd & 4th place – 3 strokes

5th & 6th place – 2 strokes

7th to 10th place – 1 stroke

The remaining players shall not receive any stroke allowance.

3.6 For the Seniors and Super Seniors, the 2nd Qualification Phase will be played over 36 holes across 2 days, with 18 holes each day, in the Medal format. Both Gross and Medal Nett classifications will be determined.

3.7 For the Master Seniors, the 2nd Qualification Phase is played over 36 holes across 2 days, with 18 holes each day, in the Stableford format. The Stableford Nett classification will be determined.

3.8 For the final classification of the 2nd Qualification Phase, the aggregate score over the 36 holes will be considered, after deducting any stroke allowances granted to each player.

3.9 In the event of a tie in the final classification, the tie will be decided as follows:

Best score on the second day of the 2nd Qualification Phase.

Lower handicap

3.10 The top 5 players from the final Gross classification in the Senior category shall qualify for the team that will compete in the ESGA Team Seniors Championship.

3.11 The top 5 players from the final Medal Nett classification in the Senior category shall qualify for the team that will compete in the ESGA Team Seniors Cup.

3.12 Players who qualify simultaneously in both the final Gross and Nett classifications may choose the team in which they wish to participate, thereby relinquishing their place in the team they do not choose to the next highest-ranked player in that team.

3.13 The top 5 players from the final Gross classification in the Super Senior category shall qualify for the team that will compete in the ESGA Team Super Seniors Championship.

3.14 The top 5 players from the final Medal Nett classification in the Super Senior category shall qualify for the team that will compete in the ESGA Team Super Seniors Cup.

3.15 Players who qualify simultaneously in both the final Gross and Nett classifications may choose the team in which they wish to participate, thereby relinquishing their place in the team they do not choose to the next highest-ranked player in that team.

3.16 The top 5 players from the final Medal Nett classification in the Master Senior category shall qualify for the team that will compete in the ESGA Team Master Seniors Cup.

3.17 Each of the 5 teams may include no more than one player who is not of Portuguese nationality.

3.18 For each of the teams, the ANSGP Board shall grant one (1) wildcard invitation, at its sole discretion, taking into account competitive consistency, experience in national and international competitions, among other criteria.

3.19 For each of the 5 teams, the ANSGP Board shall appoint one team captain.

3.20 Following the announcement of the final classifications from the 2nd Qualification Phase, the ANSGP Board shall hold a meeting to present the ESGA European Championships 2027, which must be attended by all qualified players. During this meeting, among other relevant information, cost estimates for player participation will be presented.

Players must formally accept the associated costs and all terms under Section 7 "During the ESGA Competition" and sub points.

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

3.21 The criteria for the replacement of a player in the ESGA 2027 Teams are as follows:

A player who qualified directly through the 2nd Qualification Phase shall be replaced by the next highest-ranked player in the final Qualifying classification, relative to the last player originally qualified.

A player who was invited by the ANSGP Board shall be replaced by another player to whom the ANSGP Board decides to extend a new invitation.

4. During the ESGA Tournament

4.1 The period understood as the duration of the ESGA competition 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 2027.

4.2 The ANSGP delegation to the ESGA European Championships 2027 shall be led by a Team Leader appointed by the ANSGP Board. The duties and responsibilities of the Team Leader during the ESGA 2027 competition are defined in a specific regulation approved by the ANSGP Board.

4.3 Each team shall have a Team Captain appointed by the ANSGP Board. The duties and responsibilities of the Team Captains during the ESGA 2027 competition are defined in a specific regulation approved by the ANSGP Board.

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

Therefore, all players must be physically and mentally prepared for the possibility of playing four rounds on foot with manual trolleys.

ANSGP reserves the right to prevent a qualified player from participating if they do not meet the minimum physical conditions necessary to complete four consecutive days of golf on foot using a manual trolley.

4.5 During the competition, 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 good conduct and the rules of golf.

4.6 Throughout the competition, all members of the ANSGP delegation, the Team Leader, officials, and players, will be accommodated in the same hotel, designated by the ANSGP Board.

4.7 During travel to and from the event and at the Opening and Closing ceremonies of the ESGA European Championships 2027, all delegation members must present themselves wearing the attire designated by the ANSGP Board for these ceremonies.

4.8 During the practice round and competition rounds, all players must present themselves wearing the attire designated by the ANSGP Board for the playing phases.

5. Golf Rules

5.1 In all ANSGP golf competitions, the Rules of Golf approved by R&A Rules Limited, the Handicap System Rules of the Portuguese Golf Federation (FPG), the Local Course Rules, and the Permanent Local Rules of the National Association of Senior Golfers of Portugal shall apply.

5.2 The course where each competition round is held must be approved and certified by the FPG.

5.3 The Tee Boxes used in all tournaments of both qualification phases are as follows:

For a course with a PAR 72, the tee box lengths shall be limited to:

5.3.1 5,800 meters for the Senior Age Category

5.3.2 5,600 meters for the Super Senior Age Category

5.3.3 5,200 meters for the Master Senior Age Category

5.4 Buggies in the 2nd Qualification Phase:

5.4.1 Players in the Senior and Super Senior categories are not permitted to use buggies.

5.4.2 Players in the Master Senior category are permitted to use buggies.

6. Additional Provisions

6.1 The draw for the 1st round of the 2nd Qualification Phase shall be ordered in ascending order of WHS Handicap, separated by age categories.

6.2 The draw for the 2nd round of the 2nd Qualification Phase shall be ordered in descending order of the Gross classification from the 1st round for the Senior and Super Senior categories, and in descending order of the Nett classification from the 1st round for the Master Senior category, separated by age categories.

6.3 The Technical Committee of the competition, if justified, may decide to limit the 2nd Qualification Phase to a single 18-hole round. In such case, the classifications determined at the end of the 1st day of Qualifying, including allowances from the 1st Qualification Phase, shall be considered final classifications.

6.4 Failure to participate in either of the two rounds of the 2nd Qualification Phase will result in disqualification from the 2nd Qualification Phase.

6.5 At any time, the Board or the Technical Committee appointed by it to oversee the competition may amend this Regulation and suspend, postpone, or cancel the event, making definitive decisions regarding any unforeseen cases.

6.6 This Regulation was approved by the Board and comes into effect as of July 2025, applying to the entire 2026 season and subsequent seasons.

Last updated: 17-07-2025

ANNEX

Race to *ESGA* Scoring Table

Clas.	OM National	OM National	OM National	Regional T.	Regional T.	Regional T.
	31+ Players	16 a 30 Players	15- Players	31+ Players	16 a 30 Players	15- Players
1	50	40	30	35	25	20
2	45	35	25	31	21	16
3	40	30	20	27	17	12
4	36	27	17	24	14	10
5	32	24	14	21	12	8
6	30	21	11	18	11	6
7	28	18	8	16	10	5
8	26	16	6	14	9	4
9	24	14	4	13	8	3
10	22	12	3	12	7	2
11	20	10	2	11	6	1
12	18	8	2	10	5	1
13	16	6	2	9	4	1
14	14	4	2	8	3	1
15	12	3	2	7	2	1
16	10	2	2	6	1	1
17	8	2	2	5	1	1
18	6	2	2	4	1	1
19	4	2	2	3	1	1
20	3	2	2	2	1	1
>21	2	2	2	1	1	1

NOTE: In each table, the number of players refers to the number of participants in the event, per age category.