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# Swamp Guinea News

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Volume 42

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Think Golf!

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## Correa Captures Second Consecutive SGO Title

Luis Correa completed a second wire to wire victory in the 2024 Swamp Guinea Open by firing a final round net 67 (the only sub-par round of the day) to pull away from second place finisher Jeff Lindley. Kent Larson edged Steve Clinger for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Kam Sharbaf edged Jeff Paniati for 5<sup>th</sup> place.

### Main Tournament - Final Results

	<u>Golfer</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Prize Money</u>
1.	Correa	18.50	\$100.00
2.	Lindley	38.75	\$ 50.00
3.	Larson	73.00	\$ 30.00
4.	Clinger	74.00	\$ 20.00
5.	Sharbaf	76.00	\$ 15.00
6.	Paniati	76.50	\$ 10.00
7.	Kevin G	82.50	\$ 5.00
8.	Corps	89.25	
9.	Zayas	91.00	
10.	Mast	92.00	
11.	Rupert	99.75	
12.	Bobby G	106.50	
013.	Agee	115.50	
14.	Chollar	130.75	

Round	Golfer	Low Net	Prize Money
1	Correa	28	\$5.00
2	Correa	28	\$5.00
3	Lindley/Paniati	33	\$2.50 each
4	Correa	27	\$5.00
5	Lindley	32	\$5.00
6	Correa	31	\$5.00
7	Correa	31	\$5.00
8	Correa	36	\$5.00

Closest to Hole (\$5.00 each)

Round 1: Paniati

Round 2: Kevin G / Corps (\$2.50 each)

Round 3: Zayas

Round 4: Mast

Round 5: Rupert

Round 6: none – prize money was used to increase \$2.50 payouts to \$3,00

Round 7: Larson

Round 8: Rupert

Team Winners (\$5.00 each)

Round 1/2: Larson/Correa/Sharbaf/Chollar

Round 3/4: Larson/Rupert/Clinger/Lindley

Round 5/6: Correa/Kevin G/Agee/Paniati

Round 7/8: Zayas/Paniati/Corps/Rupert

Birdies

Correa - #5 Thistle, #10 Thistle, #13 Thistle, #10 Pearl, #10 Pearl

Larson - #1 Thistle

Paniati - #4 Thistle

Clinger - #9 Thistle

8 birdies in 1,008 holes played...

## **Warm Up Tournament**

This is an event that usually contains some clues about who will do well in the main event. However, in this year's event, played at Sea Trail Jones, two teams tied so more than half the field won. So much for insight.

Team Winners (\$2.50 each): Zayas/Larson/Corps/Agee (53)

Ricardo Velez won a closest to the hole (\$5) and no one hit the green on the other, which carried over to round 1a of the main tournament.

## Maximum Strokes Rule Saves Balls, Time, Nerves

2024 saw only 3 of 15 golfers avoid posting a 5 over par maximum score. The rest of us managed it 59 times. Grande Dunes proved to be the toughest course for this statistic, with 24 maximum scores posted.

### Number of Maximum Scores

Name	Pine Hills	World Tour	Grande Dunes	Palmetto	Total
Correa	0	0	0	0	0
Zayas	0	0	1	0	1
Larson	0	0	0	0	0
Clinger	1	1	1	0	3
Sharbaf	1	0	0	0	1
Bobby G	0	1	0	0	1
Corps	1	1	0	0	2
Kevin G	0	0	0	0	0
Velez	1	2	1	0	4
Rupert	0	1	7	0	8
Paniati	0	2	2	0	4
Lindley	1	1	0	0	2
Agee	4	5	5	0	14
Hernandez	1	0	1	1	3
Chollar	2	5	6	3	16
Total	12	19	24	4	59

### 2023 Final Balance Sheet

Payouts from \$450 in prize money collected:	Correa	\$114.17
	Larson	\$ 65.00
	Zayas	\$ 60.00
	Clinger	\$ 46.67
	Sharbaf	\$ 35.00
	Bobby G	\$ 30.00
	Rupert	\$ 22.50
	Corps	\$ 21.67
	Lindley	\$ 15.00
	Velez	\$ 10.00
	Agee	\$ 10.00
	Kevin G	\$ 5.00
	Paniati	\$ 5.00
	Hernandez	\$ 5.00
	Chollar	\$ 5.00
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	Total	\$450.01

## **This Year's Tournament**

Enough about last year. Time for the details on this year's 41st SGO festivities.

1. The main tournament will consist of eight 9-hole rounds (days 2-5). Golfers have been handicapped using scores from previous tournaments or other data for new players. The handicaps below will apply for the entire tournament, except as noted below:

Kevin G	11	Lindley	16*
Larson	12	Mast	16**
Bobby G	12*	Correa	16
Zayas	13	Corps	17
Sharbaf	14	Hernandez	18
Paniati	15	Rupert	18*
Clinger	15*	Chollar	22**
Velez	15	Agee	23**

\* Senior tee handicap

\*\* Red tee handicap

In general, golfers age 65 and older are permitted to play from the senior tees, where available. Golfers reaching the age of 75 are also given the option of playing the red tees if they desire. Eligible golfers must irrevocably declare prior to the practice round which tees they intend to play for the tournament. Handicaps for golfers who have not yet reached 20 nine-hole SGO rounds (i.e. Kevin G, Velez, Hernandez) will be adjusted on a daily basis.

For the first three days of the main tournament, golfers were randomly placed into groups:

### Sunday

Larson/Velez/Correa/Chollar  
Kevin G/Paniati/Lindley/Rupert  
Zayas/Clinger/Mast/Hernandez  
Bobby G/Sharbaf/Corps/Agee

### Monday

Kevin G/Sharbaf/Mast/Hernandez  
Zayas/Velez/Corps/Agee  
Bobby G/Paniati/Correa/Chollar  
Larson/Clinger/Lindley/Rupert

### Tuesday

Bobby G/Clinger/Mast/Rupert  
Kevin G/Velez/Correa/Agee  
Larson/Sharbaf/Corps/Hernandez

Zayas/Paniati/Lindley/Chollar

Foursomes will tee off in the above order.

2. For the final round (Wednesday), golfers will be ranked 1-16 based on the individual point standings at the end of Tuesday and play according to the following schedule:

<u>Tee-Off Order</u>	<u>Group Members</u>
1	7, 8, 9,10
2	5, 6, 11. 12
3	3, 4, 13, 14
4	1, 2, 15, 16

3. Individual points are accumulated as follows:

	<u>Order of Finish</u>	<u>Points</u>
Lowest Net	1	1
	2	2.5
	3	4
	4	5.5
	5	7
	6	8.5
	7	10
	8	11.5
	9	13
	10	14.5
	11	15.5
	12	16.5
	13	17.5
	14	18.5
	15	19.5
	16	20

This table is used on each 9-hole round to determine the golfer's accumulated point score. Tied net scores split the points for the tied positions. At the end of 8 rounds the golfer with the lowest cumulative score will be the winner. If a golfer is unable to complete the full 8 rounds, the maximum points (20) will be added to the golfer's score for any missing rounds. A minimum of 6 rounds must be played to qualify for prize money.

4. Team Events - On Sunday-Wednesday, there will be a team event (each group forms a team) for all 18 holes.

Sunday - For all players, record both gross and net scores (e.g. 6/5) using full handicaps. For instance, I am a 16 handicap - my 18-hole handicap would be 32, so I would get two handicap strokes on the 14 hardest holes and one handicap stroke on the rest. The low net score within the group for each hole shall constitute the team score for the group.

Monday - For all players, record both gross and net scores as above. The total of the two low net scores for each hole shall constitute the team score for the group.

Tuesday - For all players, record both gross and net scores as above. The total of the three low net scores for each hole shall constitute the team score for the group.

Wednesday – For all players, record both gross and net scores as above. For the first nine holes, the low net score in the group will constitute the team score for the group. For the next nine holes, the total of the two low net scores will be the team score for the group.

5. Since all of this year’s players are returnees, the Swamp Guinea Open "modified USGA" tournament rules are not attached. Copies will be available before the practice round for anyone who needs one. In my experience, the answer to most Swamp Guinea Open rules questions regarding options with respect to balls hit out of bounds, into hazards, or otherwise lost, is “take one penalty stroke and drop anywhere along the line of flight of your previous stroke”. One clarification – if declaring an unplayable lie in a bunker, you **must** drop the ball in the bunker (i.e. the SGO “line of flight” option above does not apply) or you **may** drop outside the bunker incurring a **two stroke** penalty in accordance with the 2019 USGA rules. All other USGA rules not covered in the SGO rules apply, including those modified in 2019 (e.g. option to leave the flag in the hole while putting).

**A rules emphasis for this year to address an issue that keeps coming up:** for putts that may be “inside the leather”, all putts that are not obviously close enough (i.e. a few inches from the hole) must be measured before being conceded, not simply picked up, knocked back, or “scraped” into the hole. You may not concede your own putts except by measuring with a putter. Failure to follow these rules will result in a one stroke penalty for each infraction.

Also, when taking a drop, you should consult with at least one competitor to make sure that the drop is being taken in the appropriate location. Finally, gross scores must be kept by two people in each group as a way to verify that the “official” card turned into me is accurate.

6. For rounds that are not completed due to bad weather, scoring for all individual and team events will be based only on the holes which were completed by all golfers in the field (minimum 5 for 9 hole rounds and 9 for 18 hole rounds).
7. The entry fee for the main tournament and warm-up tournament will be \$30.00 per golfer, due to me before the practice round (\$5 bills are appreciated). Prizes in the main tournament will be awarded as follows:

Golfer with fewest points	\$100
Golfer with 2nd fewest points	\$ 60
Golfer with 3rd fewest points	\$ 40
Golfer with 4th fewest points	\$ 30

Golfer with 5 <sup>th</sup> fewest points	\$ 25
Golfer with 6 <sup>th</sup> fewest points	\$ 20
Golfer with 7 <sup>th</sup> fewest points	\$ 10
Golfer with 8 <sup>th</sup> fewest points	\$ 5
Closest to Holes (8 @ \$5)	\$ 40
Low Team Scores, Days 2-5 (4 @ \$20/team)	\$80
Lowest net per 9-holes @ \$5	<u>\$ 40</u>
	\$450

The courses we will be playing this year include:

Sunday	Thistle Golf Club	9:06 am
Monday	The Pearl Golf Club	9:00 am
Tuesday	Sandpiper Bay	9:04 am
Wednesday	Oyster Bay	8:04 am

### Warm-Up Tournament

Using the process as for the main tournament, golfers were randomly placed into groups:

Zayas/Sharbaf/Correa/Rupert  
 Kevin G/Clinger/Corps/Chollar  
 Larson/Paniati/Mast/Agee  
 Bobby G/Velez/Lindley/Hernandez

Groups will tee off in the above order.

Play will be as follows:

Record all gross and net scores. Best individual net score will count as the team score for the group. Each member of the team must contribute at least two scores to the team score.

In order to spice up the final hole, it will be played as a diminishing returns scramble hole i.e. all four players drive, pick the best shot, the three remaining players hit the second shot from that location, pick the best shot, the two remaining players hit the third shot from that location, etc. For the 5<sup>th</sup> shot, all 4 players are back in and the process is repeated until the ball is holed out. If there is a threesome for any reason, an extra shot should be rotated among the players. The team score on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole will be the gross scramble score on the hole. All other Swamp Guinea Open rules apply to this round.

Payouts - each member of the winning team: \$5 each = \$20  
 closest to the hole (2 @ \$5) = \$10



This year's warm-up tournament will be played at Sea Trail (Jones course). Our tee times start at 12:30 pm, but we need to be at the course ready to play no later than noon. Cost for the round (including cart) is included in the money due as part of the package.

Plans for group dinners on Saturday and Tuesday nights will be provided by Robert later. You will be on your own for dinner on Sunday and Monday nights.

We will be staying at the Sea Trail Villas. Rooming assignments:

Chollar, Agee, Mast, Larson  
Corps, Correa, Hernandez, Velez

Lindley, Paniati, Rupert, Clinger  
Zayas, Sharbaf, Bobby G, Kevin G

A final note about pace of play. We have had issues with this in the past, some of which are unavoidable (e.g. the marshal shows up immediately after the long par 3 where everyone in the group put two balls in the water). But following a few common sense rules of thumb can all but eliminate this as a problem most of the time. First and foremost, be ready when it's your turn to hit. Use of carts can make this a challenge, but if you are still sitting in the cart when it's your turn, that's a problem. Make putting out and clearing the green a priority. Retrieve your clubs when you hole out, rather than waiting until everyone is in the hole. First one in the hole should be ready to replace the flagstick. Mark the scores on the next tee. And don't spend much time looking for your ball if you are pretty sure it's out of play. Under the SGO line of flight rules, you probably aren't going to play it out of the woods even if you find it. Remember, the sooner we finish, the sooner we can all complain about how unfair and unforgiving the course was :>)

SEE YOU IN MYRTLE BEACH!

## 2024 SGO Pairings Sheet (bring with you)

### Warm Up

Zayas/Sharbaf/Correa/Rupert

Kevin G/Clinger/Corps/Chollar

Larson/Paniati/Mast/Agee

Bobby G/Velez/Lindley/Hernandez

### Sunday

Larson/Velez/Correa/Chollar

Kevin G/Paniati/Lindley/Rupert

Zayas/Clinger/Mast/Hernandez

Bobby G/Sharbaf/Corps/Agee

### Monday

Kevin G/Sharbaf/Mast/Hernandez

Zayas/Velez/Corps/Agee

Bobby G/Paniati/Correa/Chollar

Larson/Clinger/Lindley/Rupert

### Tuesday

Bobby G/Clinger/Mast/Rupert

Kevin G/Velez/Correa/Agee

Larson/Sharbaf/Corps/Hernandez

Zayas/Paniati/Lindley/Chollar