
Swamp Guinea News

Volume 43

Spring 2026

Think Golf!

Lindley (finally) Captures First SGO Title

On his 37th try, Jeff Lindley completed a wire to wire victory in the 2025 Swamp Guinea Open by firing a final round net 71 to hold off second place finisher Jeff Paniati. Bob Rupert climbed to third place with a strong finish on the last day and Kevin G and Bobby G rounded out the top five.

Main Tournament - Final Results

	<u>Golfer</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Prize Money</u>
1.	Lindley	28.25	\$100.00
2.	Paniati	43.25	\$ 50.00
3.	Rupert	54.00	\$ 35.00
4.	Kevin G	60.50	\$ 20.00
5.	Bobby G	65.00	\$ 15.00
6.	Larson	65.75	
7.	Corps	71.25	
8.	Clinger	78.00	
9.	Correa	78.25	
10.	Chollar	94.00	
11.	Zayas	105.75	

<u>Round</u>	<u>Golfer</u>	<u>Low Net</u>	<u>Prize Money</u>
1	Lindley/Corps	33	\$2.50 each
2	Lindley/Clinger	30	\$2.50 each
3	Lindley	33	\$5.00
4	Correa	29	\$5.00
5	Corps	31	\$5.00
6	Rupert	28	\$5.00
7	Correa	33	\$5.00
8	Correa	33	\$5.00

Closest to Hole (\$5.00 each)

Round 1-2: Correa

Round 3-4: Larson

Round 5-6: Corps

Round 7-8: Larson

Team Winners (\$5.00 each)

Round 1/2: Larson/Clinger/Bobby G/Chollar
Round 3/4: Lindley/Kevin G/Corps/Chollar
Round 5/6: Rupert/Bobby G/Zayas/Corps
Round 7/8: Rupert/Bobby G/Clinger/Correa

Birdies

Larson - #15 True Blue, #9 Tradition
Zayas - #11 Caledonia

3 birdies in 792 holes played...

Warm Up Tournament

This is an event that usually contains some clues about who will do well in the main event. The winning team included eventual 3rd place finisher Bob Rupert, 4th place finisher Kevin G, and 5th place finisher Bobby G.

Team Winners (\$5.00 each): Kevin G/ Bobby G/Corps/Rupert (54)

Kent Larson captured the closest to the hole prize (\$5).

Maximum Strokes Rule Saves Balls, Time, Nerves

2025 saw only 1 of 11 golfers (Kevin G) avoid posting a 5 over par maximum score. The rest of the field managed it 50 times. True Blue proved to be the toughest course for this statistic, with 19 maximum scores posted.

Number of Maximum Scores

Name	Litchfield	True Blue	Tradition	Caledonia	Total
Lindley	1	1	0	1	3
Paniati	1	0	0	0	1
Rupert	1	5	1	2	9
Kevin G	0	0	0	0	0
Bobby G	0	0	1	1	2
Larson	0	2	0	0	2
Corps	0	2	0	1	3
Clinger	0	2	1	1	4
Correa	0	1	1	0	2
Chollar	3	4	4	6	17
Zayas	0	2	1	4	7
Total	6	19	9	16	50

2025 Final Balance Sheet

Payouts from \$385 in prize money collected:		
	Lindley	\$115.00
	Rupert	\$ 60.00
	Paniati	\$ 50.00
	Bobby G	\$ 35.00
	Kevin G	\$ 30.00
	Correa	\$ 25.00
	Corps	\$ 22.50
	Larson	\$ 20.00
	Clinger	\$ 12.50
	Chollar	\$ 10.00
	Zayas	\$ 5.00

	Total	\$385.00

This Year's Tournament

Enough about last year. Time for the details on this year's 43rd 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. The handicaps below will apply for the entire tournament:

Larson	12	Lindley	15*
Kevin G	13	Bobby G	16*
Zayas	14*	Clinger	17*
Paniati	15*	Rupert	19*

* Senior 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.

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

Sunday

Larson/Lindley/Bobby G/Rupert
Zayas/Kevin G/Clinger/Paniati

Monday

Zayas/Clinger/Bobby G/Rupert
Larson/Kevin G/Lindley/Paniati

Tuesday

Clinger/Lindley/Paniati/Rupert
Zayas/Larson/Kevin G/Bobby G

Foursomes will tee off in the above order.

2. For the final round (Wednesday), golfers will be ranked 1-8 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	3, 4, 5, 6
2	1, 2, 7, 8

3. Due to the small size of the group, I have simplified the point system as shown below. Basically the order of finish determines your points. This is simpler than the previous point system which was designed 30 years ago to not overly penalize golfers for one bad round when there were as many as 24 golfers in the field. I have tested this point system by rerunning last year's results using it (for 11 golfers) and it did not change the final standings at all. We will retain this system until the field exceeds 12 golfers again.

	<u>Order of Finish</u>	<u>Points</u>
Lowest Net	1	1
	2	2
	3	3
	4	4
	5	5
	6	6
	7	7
	8	8

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 of the tournament. If a golfer is unable to complete the full 8 rounds, the maximum points (8) 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. 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).

For putts that may be "inside the leather", all putts that are not obviously close enough should 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. 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.

5. For rounds that are not completed due to bad weather, scoring 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).

6. The entry fee for the main tournament and warm-up tournament will be \$40.00 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	\$ 50
Golfer with 3rd fewest points	\$ 25
Golfer with 4th fewest points	\$ 15
Closest to Holes (8 @ \$5)	\$ 40
Low net per 9-holes (8 @ \$5)	<u>\$ 40</u>
	\$270

The courses we will be playing this year include:

Sunday	River Hills	9:06 am
Monday	Tidewater	9:00 am
Tuesday	Meadowlands	9:06 am
Wednesday	Leopard's Chase	8:03 am

Warm-Up Tournament

For this event - the only team competition during this year's SGO - golfers were placed into two person teams designed to equalize total handicaps as follows:

Zayas/Bobby G	Lindley/Paniati
Larson/Rupert	Kevin G/Clinger

Groups will tee off in the above order.

Play will be as follows:

Record all gross and net scores. For the first 8 holes of each 9, the best individual net score will count as the team score for the two-person team. The last hole of each 9 will be played as a two-person team scramble i.e. both players drive, pick the best shot, then repeat until the hole is completed. The team score on this 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 for each 9 holes: \$10 each = \$40
closest to the hole (2 @ \$5) = \$10

This year's warm-up tournament will be played at the Maples course at Sea Trail. 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.

Our group dinner on Saturday night will be held at Boundary House in Calabash at 7:00. Tuesday's group dinner will be at Clark's Seafood at 6:30. You are on your own for dinner on Sunday and Monday.

We will be staying at the Sea Trail Villas (where we stayed in 2021 and 2024). Rooming assignments:

Larson, Zayas, Bobby G, Kevin G

Lindley, Paniati, Rupert, Clinger

A final note about pace of play. We have had issues with this in the past, but I don't foresee any with this year's group. Following a few common sense rules of thumb can all but eliminate slow play 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 if it has been removed. 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!

2026 SGO Pairings Sheet (bring with you)

Warm Up

Zayas/Bobby G, Lindley/Paniati
Larson/Rupert, Kevin G/Clinger

Sunday

Larson/Lindley/Bobby G/Rupert
Zayas/Kevin G/Clinger/Paniati

Monday

Zayas/Clinger/Bobby G/Rupert
Larson/Kevin G/Lindley/Paniati

Tuesday

Clinger/Lindley/Paniati/Rupert
Zayas/Larson/Kevin G/Bobby G