

# Registration for some 2011 Championships now available

By **CARR McCALLA**

Registration opened on Feb. 1 for the first three LGA Championships of the 2011 golf season.

Entry forms for the Club Team (Lakewood GC/New Orleans), Net Amateur (Santa Maria GC/Baton Rouge), and Amateur (Oakbourne CC/Lafayette) Championships have been mailed to all LGA Member Clubs, 2010 LGA Championship participants, and LGA Gold and Silver Sponsors and may also be printed from the LGA website at [www.LGAgolf.org](http://www.LGAgolf.org). To enter a LGA Championship, simply forward the completed application to the LGA offices prior to the deadline date.

In addition to paper entries, the LGA will be offering online registration once again this year. For those of you that have not taken advantage of online registration in the past, we encourage you to give it a try in 2011. To register online, simply visit the LGA website at [www.LGAgolf.org](http://www.LGAgolf.org) and click on the link for "Online Tournament Registration."

From there, follow the instructions to complete your entry. Online registration is currently available for the Net Amateur and Amateur Championships.

Registration (online and paper entries) for the Junior Amateur (Beaver Creek GC/Baton Rouge), Four-Ball (Koasati Pines/Kinder), and Mid-Amateur (English Turn G & CC/New Orleans) Championships will begin on April 1st, while registration for the Senior Amateur (University Club/Baton Rouge) and Senior Four-Ball (Money Hill G & CC/Abita Springs) Championships will be available June 1.

## **YOU SHOULD PLAY THE LGA NET AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP!**

The LGA would love to have more LGA members consider participation in the Net Amateur Championship. This year will be the 12th consecutive year the event has been conducted, with last year's championship seeing the largest field ever.

Our hope is that the word is finally getting out that this competition is truly a net event with integrity (I know, that phrase has more often than not been an oxymoron). This year's championship will again be conducted at Santa Maria Golf Club in Baton Rouge.

Dates are May 14-15, with a hamburger cookout and rules meeting on Friday night (May 13).

The LGA's intent when this championship began in 2000 was to conduct a true championship event that would be open to our higher-handicap members. While we do have some lower handicap participants, the bulk of our field is comprised of individuals with handicaps of 10-30. Any member of a LGA Member Club can participate. If you are a participant in the LGA Handicap Network your LGA Handicap Network number will validate your Handicap Index.

If your club doesn't participate in the LGA Handicap Network, we must have a signature from your professional validating your Handicap Index.

For the event, we utilize the USGA's Exceptional Tournament Score Probability Table to adjust any score that exceeds normal probability for a given Handicap Index. Our policy is really pretty simple.

If someone shoots a score that the table indicates is outside normal probability based upon his Handicap Index, we will reduce the index based on the USGA's table, recalculate the score based on the 'new' lower index, and he will play with the lower index for any subsequent rounds in the event.

The LGA is convinced that most players have no desire to 'manipulate' their index and simply want to compete on an even playing field. We're confident we are providing that even playing field by conducting this event under the aforementioned format.

The proof is in the pudding as for the first 11 years of this event, the lowest winning net score for 36 holes has been 6-under par. In addition to the Overall Net Amateur Champion, we will also crown four flight winners, with second and third place crystal also presented in the four flights. This championship is conducted just as our Amateur Championship is conducted, with a beautiful crystal trophy presented to the winner and gift certificates to the top-5 finishers.

We also conduct a concurrent Net Club Team Championship that allows 3-4 participants from the same club to compete against other clubs for the honor of returning to their club with a crystal trophy to display in their club's trophy case.



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