



## 2026 National Winter Meeting & Tournament

Victoria, Texas

April 24, 2026

### Proposal to Modernize Championship Awards

Presented to the Delegates of the National Pan American Golf Association

#### 1. Introduction

Delegates of the National Pan American Golf Association,

The NPAGA has built a proud tradition of recognizing National Tournament champions with championship rings. For decades, these rings have symbolized excellence, achievement, and the competitive spirit of our organization.

However, responsible leadership requires us to periodically evaluate our traditions to ensure they remain sustainable, practical, and supportive of the long-term health of our organization and our host chapters.

This proposal is presented with the goal of preserving the honor of becoming a National Champion while modernizing the method of recognition to reflect today's economic realities.

#### 2. Current Policy in the National By-Laws

Under the current National By-Laws:

The Low Gross Winner of each flight receives a Gold Ring

The Low Net Winner of each flight receives a Silver Ring

The National Board purchases the rings

The cost of the rings is absorbed by the host city

This requirement is established in Section 13 of the National By-Laws.

While this tradition has served the organization well for many years, the financial landscape has changed significantly.

### 3. Financial Reality

Over the past year, the cost of championship rings has increased dramatically.

Recent estimates show that ring costs have increased by approximately 65% in just one year.

This increase creates a significant financial challenge for:

Host chapters responsible for funding the awards

Cities considering future bids to host the National Tournament

The long-term sustainability of the National Convention and Tournament

If this trend continues, the cost of rings will place unnecessary financial strain on host cities and could discourage chapters from hosting future National events.

### 4. Organizational Impact

The rising cost of rings creates several challenges for our organization:

#### 1. Increased Financial Burden on Host Cities

Host chapters already absorb major expenses associated with hosting a National Convention and Tournament. Rising ring costs add additional pressure to those budgets.

#### 2. Barriers to Future Host Cities

One of the growing challenges in our organization is the limited number of chapters willing or able to host National events. High award costs contribute to this hesitation.

#### 3. Long-Term Sustainability

If we do not adapt to current economic conditions, we risk creating financial obligations that may become unsustainable for future host chapters.

### 5. Preserving Tradition While Modernizing Recognition

This proposal does not eliminate the tradition of honoring our champions.

Instead, it recommends modernizing the award structure in a way that:

Preserves the prestige of winning

Reduces financial burden on host cities

Aligns with modern recognition practices used in many sports and organizations

Possible modern award options may include:

Custom NPAGA Championship Medals

Commemorative Championship Medallions

Modern championship trophies or collectible awards

Limited edition champion awards specific to each National Tournament

These awards can still carry the prestige, branding, and historical significance of being an NPAGA National Champion, while remaining financially sustainable.

## 6. Advantages of a Modern Award System

Transitioning from rings to a modern championship award would provide several key benefits:

### Financial Sustainability

Lower award costs will help protect the financial health of the National Tournament.

### Support for Host Chapters

Reducing award expenses makes hosting the National Tournament more manageable for future host cities.

### Preservation of Recognition

Champions will continue to receive a prestigious and meaningful award.

### Organizational Responsibility

Updating our award system reflects responsible leadership and forward-thinking governance.

## 7. Respecting the Legacy of Championship Rings

The championship rings awarded throughout NPAGA history will always remain an important part of the organization's legacy.

Those rings represent an era of the organization and the champions who earned them.

This proposal simply recognizes that economic realities require us to evolve while preserving the spirit of the tradition.

## 8. Proposed Action

The Delegates are asked to consider the following actions:

Amend Section 13 of the National By-Laws to remove the requirement that National Tournament winners receive championship rings.

Authorize the National Board to implement a modern championship award system that remains financially sustainable.

Ensure that future awards continue to reflect the prestige and honor of becoming an NPAGA National Champion.

**SECTION 13. The Low Gross Winner of each flight will be awarded a Gold ring. The Low Net Winner of each flight will be awarded a Silver ring. The National Board will purchase the rings in order to maintain comparability. The cost of the rings will be absorbed by the host city.**

### SECTION 13. (Revised)

The Low Gross Winner and the Low Net Winner of each flight will be awarded an official National Pan American Golf Association Championship Award in recognition of their achievement at the National Tournament.

The National Board will establish and maintain the design and specifications of the awards in order to preserve consistency and comparability among all National Tournaments. Championship awards may include medals, trophies, plaques, or other commemorative items approved by the National Board.

The National Board will coordinate the procurement of the awards to ensure standardization and cost management. The cost of the awards will be incorporated into the overall National Tournament budget in coordination with the host city.

## 9. Conclusion

The National Pan American Golf Association has always been an organization built on:

Tradition

Fellowship

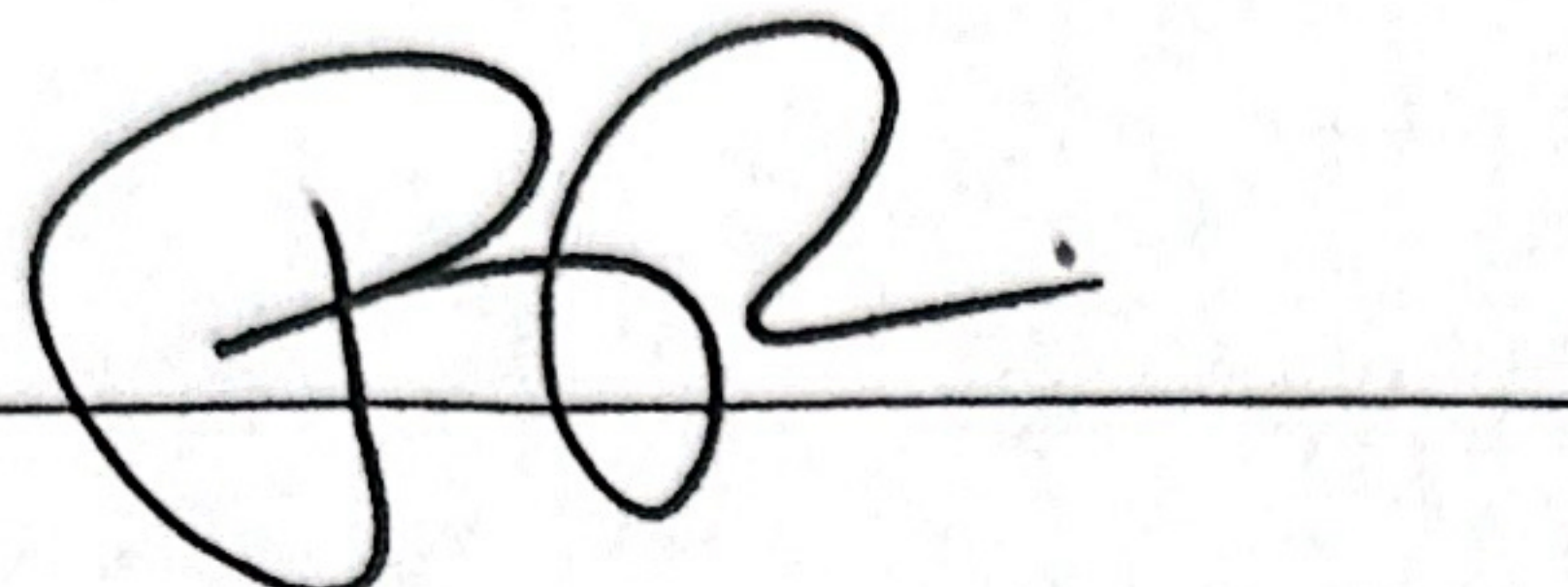
Responsible leadership

Modernizing our championship awards is not about removing tradition — it is about protecting the future of our organization and supporting the chapters that host our National events.

By adapting to today's realities, we ensure that NPAGA remains strong, sustainable, and able to celebrate champions for generations to come.

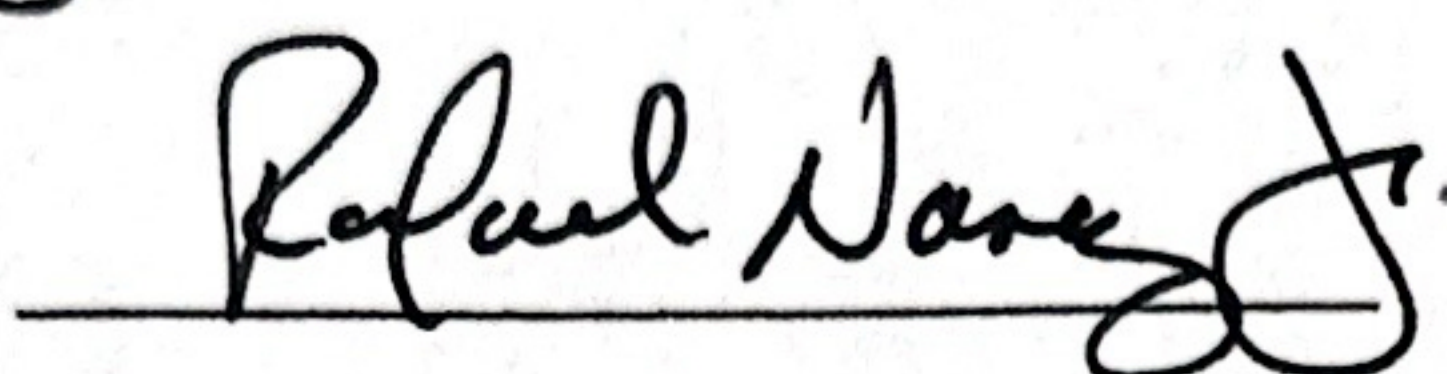
Respectfully,

Rick Rios

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RR', written over a horizontal line.

President

Rafael Nañez Jr.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rafael Nañez Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

Vice President

**Upon approval by the Delegates, this amendment shall take effect immediately and will apply to all future National Tournaments conducted by the National Pan American Golf Association.**