

# 2016



## Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Rules and Regulations



# PGA

Southern Texas Section

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This manual is designed to outline the many different policies and procedures we have regarding our tournament program, registration, and general questions. For the latest information and a more detailed outline of our three series and five programs, please visit [www.stpgajuniorgolf.com](http://www.stpgajuniorgolf.com).

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# *Welcome to the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Program*

**LEARN! PLAY! COMPETE!**

## **OVERVIEW**

The Southern Texas PGA (STPGA) Junior Golf Program was formed on the principle to introduce and provide youth in Southern Texas the opportunity to Learn! Play! Compete! on the golf course. The program is open to juniors ages 6-18 and offers 5-hole, 9-hole, 18-hole, and 36-hole tournaments in a combination of five different tours. The entire program is supervised and run by the PGA Professionals in the Southern Texas PGA Section.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

PGA Junior League is open to juniors ages 6-13.

The Little Linksters program is open to all juniors ages 6-12.

The Junior Links Tour is open to all juniors ages 13-18 who are new to tournament golf.

The Junior Tour is open to all juniors ages 11-18.

The Prestige Tour is open for juniors ages 13-18.

## **AGE DIVISION PLACEMENT POLICY**

2016 Spring Series Events - players will be placed in a division based off age as of May 1, 2016.

2016 Summer Series Events - players will be placed in a division based off age as of August 11, 2016.

2016 Fall Series Events - players will be placed in a division based off age as of TBD.

## **MEMBERSHIP FEE**

A one-time membership fee of \$80 is required in order to participate in the STPGA Junior Golf Program. This membership will expire on December 31, 2016.

Each member will also receive the following with their membership regardless of when they signed up for the STPGA:

- STPGA Hat.
- Personalized STPGA Bag Tag.
- STPGA Sticker.
- USGA Rules Book.
- Nike Rack Card containing info about Nike Golf Camps.
- Lip Balm and Sun Safety Information courtesy of MD Anderson.
- Online Statistical Analysis and Scoring.
- Junior Tour Only - A GHIN Handicap Index provided by the Texas Golf Association.

**\*Please Note: Based off current and new sponsors in 2016, the items that each Junior Golfer receives might change.**

## *General Information*

### **REGISTRATION SCHEDULE**

See website for list of times and dates that tournaments open for registration.

### **ENTRY PROCEDURES**

- All Tournament entries are processed on a First-Come, First-Served basis.
- Registration for membership and tournaments must be done online.
- The STPGA Junior Golf Program does not issue membership refunds.
- If placed on the Waiting List for a tournament your credit card will only be charged if you get into the tournament. If a spot opens up, and you are the next person on the Wait List, an STPGA staff member will put you into the event and your credit card will be charged. You will receive email notification of getting into the event and the transaction. After the deadline, you will be contacted if space becomes available. If a player chooses to remain on the Waiting List, it is assumed that you still plan to play in the tournament if a spot becomes available.
- On the day of the event, players on the waiting list may show up at the tournament site. If a spot becomes available in your division due to a withdrawal or no-show, the player that shows up first at the event in that division has priority.
- Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express are the only forms of payment accepted.
- All tournament confirmation will be done through email and the website.
- If you sign up for a tournament after the registration deadline, there will be a \$5 late fee for Little Linksters, Junior Links Tour, and Junior Tour. Once tee times are sent out to the players, it will be up to the Area Director of the tournament to determine if any other late registration will be accepted.

**\*Please Note: We have a strict no “walk-up” policy. Players are NOT allowed to register on the day of the tournament.**

### **TOURNAMENT CREDIT, WITHDRAWAL, AND NO-SHOW POLICY**

- “Tournament credit” means a credit that can be applied to another tournament entry for that junior golfer, and is not a cash refund.
- Prior to the tournament deadline, you may cancel your tournament registration online or by calling the STPGA office. When you cancel your tournament registration prior to the registration deadline, you will be given a full tournament credit minus an administrative fee of \$5. Registration for tournaments always happens the Wednesday of the week prior at 11:59 p.m.
- If a withdrawal from a tournament is necessary after the tournament registration deadline, no refund or tournament credit will be given.

**\*Please Note: If the withdrawal is due to a medical situation, proper documentation must be sent to the STPGA office in order to receive a tournament credit. It is up to the STPGA Junior Golf Staff to determine if the medical situation warrants a refund, credit, or neither.**

- After the registration deadline has passed, please contact the appropriate Area Director via e-mail to withdraw. Area Director Contact information can be found in "Staff" section of the web-site.
- Tournament credit cannot be applied to another junior golfer and can only be used for tournament registration and not membership.
- If tournament credit is given to you, that credit remains with you until the end of the next year. For example, you cancelled out of an event in March 2016; the credit is good until December 31, 2017.
- Players that consistently do not show up to tournaments and do not notify an Area Director or the STPGA Office are subject to cancellation from future tournaments at the discretion of the Junior Golf Committee.

## WEATHER POLICY

- Safety of players and spectators is the #1 priority for the STPGA.
- In 2016, the STPGA partnered with WeatherBug for assistance with monitoring the weather at all of our events. WeatherBug gives STPGA staff at the event an ability to see inclement weather and lightning strikes within a desired radius. The STPGA staff at that event will be notified via text message when lightning is in the area. The protocol for a suspension of play is as follows:
- Text Alert – Lightning within 15 miles – be prepared for a suspension of play.
- Text Alert – Lightning within 10 miles – the horn will be blown and players must come in:
  - 1 Long Horn Blast – Suspend play immediately (mark ball and seek shelter)
  - 2 Short Horn Blasts – Resume play
  - 3 Short Horn Blasts – Players may suspend play (Non-dangerous situation)
- The STPGA reserves the right to reduce the number of rounds or holes in an event due to inclement weather. A minimum of 9 common holes completed is required to be an officially counted round within that division for an 18 hole event, 5 holes for a 9 hole event, and 3 holes for a 5 hole event. Any 36 hole event that is stopped due to inclement weather will be considered complete if 9 common holes have been finished by the entire division. If 9 common holes are not finished on the final round within a division, then the final results will be determined from round one scores. The STPGA will do its best to try to complete as many holes as long as it is safe to play and course conditions are playable.
- If no player has begun to play and the event is cancelled, all players will receive a full tournament refund. If the event is rescheduled, all players have the choice if they want to play or not at the new date and time. If a player is not able to play at the rescheduled event, that player will receive a full tournament refund if they have notified the STPGA office in accordance with standard STPGA cancellation policy.
  - Example – An event is canceled on September 1 and rescheduled for October 15. If a player wants a refund for the new date, they must notify the STPGA by October 12, which is the new registration deadline for the event.
- If the tournament is cancelled during play, the STPGA reserves the right to retain a full entry fee.
- The STPGA will notify all players via email if a tournament has been cancelled or delayed due to weather.

## RULES OF PLAY

USGA Rules of Golf will govern all play with the exception of Local Rules for each golf course.

- A Rule Sheet will be given to each player on the first tee. If any questions arise during the course of play, please seek the nearest Rules Official, Area Director, or Junior Golf Staff member. If no one is near, please proceed under Rule 3-3 to keep pace of play moving.
  - Rule 3-3: “In stroke play, if a competitor is doubtful of his rights or the correct procedure during the play of a hole, he may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls. After the doubtful situation has arisen and before taking further action, the competitor must announce to his marker or a fellow-competitor that he intends to play two balls and which ball he wishes to count if the Rules permit. The competitor must report the facts of the situations to the Committee before returning his scorecard. If he fails to do so, he is disqualified.”
- Rules of Golf violations shall be determined by tournament officials, as prescribed by the USGA Rules of Golf.
- All competitors must walk. Caddies are only permitted in the Little Linksters and Junior Links Program.

- Advice may not be given (Rule 8-1).
- All competitors must exchange scorecards with fellow-competitors at the beginning of the round.
- Upon completion of a round, competitors must proceed immediately to the designated scoring area and return their scorecards. All scorecards must be signed by the player and the marker. Failure to submit a scorecard will result in disqualification.
- Pace of Play is extremely important to the STPGA. We strictly enforce a 2:25 pace of play for all 9-hole tournaments and a 4:30 pace of play for 18-hole tournaments.
  - If a hole is open in front of you, you are deemed out of position.
  - Players need to play Ready Golf at all times in order to keep the overall atmosphere of the tournament enjoyable for everyone.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The STPGA expects all member players, parents and spectators to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.

- Rules Violations: Violations of the Code of Conduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, abusive language, club throwing, disrespect toward Junior Golf volunteers, officials or staff members, abuse of a golf course in any manner, non-compliance with the dress code (see below), or any other conduct deemed unbecoming of a STPGA Junior Golf Player.
- Based upon the severity of a violation, the STPGA may enforce on the individual involved a 2-stroke penalty, disqualification and/or suspension from junior golf tournaments.

### **SPECTATOR GUIDELINES – Players are players, spectators are spectators**

- The STPGA encourages spectators and parents to attend Junior Golf events, and requires spectators and parents attending to conduct themselves appropriately at all times.
- Spectators and parents must adhere to the same Dress Code and Code of Conduct laid forth for the members of the STPGA Junior Golf Program.
- Spectators and parents are encouraged to cheer on the players and encourage them throughout the round. They may help and are encouraged to help players in a ball search to help pace of play.
- We encourage spectators and parents to remain a reasonable distance from players throughout the round. Staying on the cart path, when applicable, is encouraged. Spectators and parents should not interfere with any group advancing from behind, nor should they converse with any competitor besides from encouragement and congratulatory comments.
- Continued interaction with competitors in ways other than stated above, will be considered the giving of Advice (Rule 8-1) and may result in penalty and/or disqualification for the competitor.
- The STPGA reserves the right to ban any spectator or spectators from one or more events.

### **DRESS CODE**

- Appropriate golf attire is required at all junior golf events and programs. Juniors not dressed in appropriate attire will be asked to change clothes.
- Appropriate Attire:
  - Boys - Collared shirts with sleeves, hemmed shorts, golf slacks, golf or tennis shoes with socks.
  - Girls - Collared shirts with or without sleeves, hemmed shorts, golf slacks, golf or tennis shoes with socks.
- Inappropriate Attire:
  - Tank tops, t-shirts, short shorts, cut-offs, swimsuits, blue jeans, slacks or shorts with holes, cleated, open-toe or sandal shoes, clothing bearing offensive slogans, language or pictures.

## DIVISION ADVANCEMENT

Players have the ability to “play up” a division if they are approved by the STPGA Junior Golf Staff. In order to “play up”, players must fill out a division advancement form found online. They are reviewed on a weekly basis.

**\*Please Note: Once a player “plays up” in a third event, the player must play up for rest of the calendar year.**

## ELECTRONIC MEASURING DEVICES

- The use of devices that measure only distance will be allowed in STPGA Junior Golf tournaments. The use of devices that gauge or measure other conditions that might affect a player’s play (e.g., wind, temperature, gradient, etc.) regardless of whether any such conditions are actually used is not permitted. It is the responsibility of the player to know whether their Electronic Measuring Device is permitted by the above guidelines. A competitor in breach of this policy shall be disqualified.

## SPECTATOR CARTS

- Spectator carts may be available at the discretion of the host facility; pro shop fees apply. Where spectator carts are permitted, all carts must remain on cart paths at all times. Where Spectator carts are available they may be rented on a First-Come, First-Served basis. Unless directed otherwise, players will not be allowed to be given rides by spectator carts during the event.

**\*Please Note: When looking for a golf ball, we encourage spectators to assist. Please keep carts on the cart path even when searching for a ball.**

## PULL CART POLICY

- Players can use a pull cart if the host facility permits pull carts. It is up to each participant to check with the host facility to see if pull carts will be allowed.

## HOST FACILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Each facility may have additional rules and dress code requirements. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) and participant to be aware of such policies and adhere to them. The STPGA Junior Golf program will abide by all rules and regulations set forth by a host facility.

## AWARDS

- Medals will be given out for 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> at every Little Linksters, Junior Links, and Junior Tour event; regardless of field size.
- Prestige Tour and Series Championships are 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> unless noted.

## BREAKING TIES

- Little Linksters/Junior Links
  - No tie breakers, handout medals to all players who tied in that place.
- Junior Tour
  - Sudden death playoff for first place. If you can’t get back on the course for sudden death, use the back nine score, then last six holes, then last three holes, then last hole method to determine first place. No other places will be broken if multiple players tied.
- Prestige Tour
  - Sudden death playoff for first place. Use the back nine score, then last six holes, then last three holes, then last hole method of the final round to determine second and third place.

- If multiple exemptions are handed out in a division, a sudden death playoff will be used to determine exemption winners.

**RISK STATEMENT (as agreed when signing up for tournaments)**

I, the undersigned parent (or guardian) of the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Program participant, intending to be legally bound, hereby certify that the participant is physically fit and capable of participation. I acknowledge that I am aware of all risks inherent in the game of golf, including possible injury, disability or death, and agree to assume all of those risks. AS A CONDITION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM OR ANY ACTIVITIES INCIDENT THERE TO, I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS AND CLAIMS (BOTH FOR MYSELF AND THE PARTICIPANT) FOR LOSS OR DAMAGES CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE, ACTIVE OR PASSIVE, OF THE SOUTHERN TEXAS PGA, PGA OF AMERICA, CLUBS AND FACILITIES HOSTING EVENTS AND TOURNAMENTS AND THE AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF EACH.

I, the undersigned parent (or guardian) of the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Program participant understand that from time to time the Southern Texas PGA, its employees, agents, or affiliates may take photographs or videos during events and programs, and that the photographs or videos may contain images of my participant. I release to the Southern Texas PGA all rights to those images, and grant the right to the Southern Texas PGA to use and display the images, in print or electronic form, publicly or privately, for any purpose designated by the Southern Texas PGA, all without compensation to me or the participant.



## *Year Long Program*

### **SPRING SERIES**

- Around 60-75 tournaments that will be played between January and April.
- Only Prestige Tour, Junior Tour and Little Linksters events will take place during the Spring Series.
- Tournaments will be held in Austin, Houston, San Antonio, The Valley, and Corpus Christi areas.

**\*Please Note: A few events may be scheduled in our other metro areas if the STPGA feels participation warrants such events.**

- Events will be held on the weekend and possibly during Spring Break week.
- The Spring Series Championship will conclude the series in late April.

### **SUMMER SERIES**

- The Summer Series is when 75% of the STPGA Junior Golf Program events will be scheduled.
- The Summer Series will feature a 10 week schedule.
- Nine weeks will be tournament play in seven different metro areas with three different programs and the 10<sup>th</sup> and final week will be the STPGA Junior Championship.
- The tournaments will be held throughout the nine weeks in our seven metro areas: Austin, Beaumont, Bryan/College Station, Corpus Christi, Houston, Rio Grande Valley, and San Antonio.
- Throughout the summer Little Linksters, Junior Links Tour, Junior Tour, and Prestige Tour will all have tournaments each week.

### **FALL SERIES**

- Around 60-75 tournaments will be played between September and December.
- Only Prestige Tour, Junior Tour and Little Linksters events will take place during the Fall Series.
- Tournaments will be held in Austin, Houston, San Antonio, The Valley, and Corpus Christi areas.

**\*Please Note: A few events may be scheduled in our other metro areas if the STPGA feels participation warrants such events.**

- Events will be held on the weekend.
- The Fall Series Championship will conclude the series in November/December.

# STPGA Programs

## PGA JUNIOR LEAGUE GOLF

- Ages 13 & Under.
- Team scramble events designed for beginner golfer.
- Teams are made at local facilities with PGA and LPGA Professionals exclusively serve as Captains.
- Teams play 3-5 9-hole matches.
- Players with little to no golf experience.

## LITTLE LINKSTERS

- Ages 6-12.
- Individual stroke play competitions with multiple ages divisions and yardages.
- Players either play 5 or 9 holes at an event.
- Caddies Allowed.

## JUNIOR LINKS TOUR

- Ages 13-18.
- Individuals play 9-hole tournaments.
- Development tour for high school age golfers not ready for Junior Tour.
- Caddies Allowed.

## JUNIOR TOUR

- Ages 11-18.
- Individuals play 18 or 36-hole competitions.
- Program for middle to high school age players looking to work on their games in a competitive environment.

## PRESTIGE TOUR

- Ages 13-18.
- 36 hole highly competitive events for juniors looking to play in State wide events and in college
- Events have AJGA, PBE, and Legends Junior Tour exemptions including national rankings through Junior Golf Scoreboard and GolfWeek.

## *STPGA Score Recommendations*

Below are recommended scores that players should be able to break while participating in that event. This is not a requirement, but only a recommendation so players can get a feel on what program best fits their game and comfort level.

### **Little Linksters**

- Co-ed 6-8
  - 5 Holes: 50
  - 9 Holes: 60
- Boys/Girls 9-10
  - 5 Holes: 50
  - 9 Holes: 60
- Boys/Girls 11-12
  - 9 Holes: 60

### **JUNIOR LINKS TOUR**

- Boys/Girls 13-14
  - 9 Holes: 65
- Boys/Girls 15-18
  - 9 Holes: 65

### **JUNIOR TOUR**

- Boys/Girls 11-12
  - 18 Holes: 100
  - 36 Holes: 195
- Boys/Girls 13-14
  - 18 Holes: 100
  - 36 Holes: 195
- Boys/Girls 15-18
  - 18 Holes: 100
  - 36 Holes: 195

### **PRESTIGE TOUR**

- Boys/Girls 13-14
  - 18 Holes: 90
  - 36 Holes: 185
- Boys/Girls 15-18
  - 18 Holes: 85
  - 36 Holes: 180