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Gateway PGA  
Junior Tour  
Membership  
Guide  
2026

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# Junior Golf Contacts:

## Primary Contact:

Junior Tour Director

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## Additional Staff & Points of Contact:

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Gateway Section PGA WORKS Fellow

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Gateway PGA Junior Golf Summer Intern Team (seasonal staff)

## Gateway Section PGA Office:

Office Phone: 636-532-3355

*Please Note:*

During the summer season, Gateway PGA Junior Golf Staff may be on site at events during the above office hours. The Junior Golf staff may be unavailable to answer calls or emails immediately. Please allow up to 48 hours for the Junior Golf staff to return calls and emails. We will be in touch with you as soon as possible.

## FOLLOW US

Instagram: @gatewaypgajuniors

Facebook: @GatewayPGAJuniors

Website: [www.gatewaypga.org/junior-golf](http://www.gatewaypga.org/junior-golf)

# Membership Programs

Membership Types	Cost
Membership	\$149
Sibling Membership	\$115

## Discounted Memberships for Siblings!

After enrolling your first junior in a full-price membership, please email [jeisenhauer@pgahq.com](mailto:jeisenhauer@pgahq.com) to unlock the discounted sibling membership option for additional juniors in your family.

	Access to Spring & Fall Events	Access to Summer Events	Free GHIN Number & Youth on Course Membership	Membership Gift Bag
Member	✓	✓	✓	✓
Non-Member	✓ (may only sign up two weeks prior to an event if the event is not full)			

## GHIN Number Access &



Through our partnership with the Metropolitan Amateur Golf Association, the Gateway PGA Junior Tour provides free access to their own unique GHIN number & a Youth on Course Membership.

**GHIN Number** The Metropolitan Amateur Golf Association provides a GHIN number and handicap to any junior member who requests one. To request your GHIN number & handicap, fill out [this form](#). If you have questions regarding your GHIN number, please contact [mmyers@pgahq.com](mailto:mmyers@pgahq.com).

**Youth on Course** exists to increase the accessibility and affordability for junior golfers across the country. Youth on Course members can play golf at participating facilities for \$5 or less!

For additional information and to opt in, please [click here](#).

## Membership Refunds:

Prior to May 26th, 2026 refunds are made only in the case of a medical emergency, provided you have not competed in an event. After May 26th, 2026, no refunds are available. Membership expires on December 31st, 2026. Credits are **NOT** transferable from year to year.

# Junior Development Tour (JDT)

The Gateway PGA's JDT offers a non-intimidating, FUN, focused, junior golf environment purposed to foster friendships, inspire commitment and offer guidance in skill development.

The Junior Development Tour is an introductory vehicle to playing tournament golf. Eligibility for all Junior Development Tour Events is as follows:

- Boys and Girls ages 7 to 12 as of May 26th, 2026, are eligible to participate.
  - JDT is for golfers aged 7-12 only. This is to be in accordance with the American Development Model (ADM) guidelines. The ADM aims to maximize each athlete's potential by developing principles that cultivate lifelong golfers and athletes.
  - For more information on ADM Principles, [click here](#).
- A junior golfer's results from previous JDT events will determine their division of play
  - The Gateway PGA will notify the junior's family when s/he has graduated from a level - (1) Green or (3) Yellow scores in their respective level of play is the requirement for graduation from a level
- For juniors further along in their skill development, or once they score 1 Green or 3 Yellow scores in the Links Legends division, the Gateway PGA has several competitive 9-hole divisions on the Gateway PGA Junior Tour

## What to Expect at a JDT Event?

Each Junior Development Tour event will offer those in attendance the opportunity to learn the rules & regulations of golf and to further junior skill development during on-course 9-hole play. The type of learning component will vary from event to event to keep the format from becoming stagnant throughout the year. Golfers will receive a Rule of the Day that the junior and their parent should focus on learning by the end of the round

Learning/Skill Development Components:  
Environment Geared Towards Fun & Development  
3 Level Progression System  
Target Scores to Inspire Motivation  
Parent Caddies  
Rule of the Day

## JDT Course Yardages by Level

Level 1: Fairway Finders	Level 2: Birdie Ballers	Level 3: Links Legends
1,000 – 1,300 yards	1,300 – 1650 yards	1,650 – 2,000 yards

For JDT events, the top 3 finishers in each level of play will be recognized & given awards. When a golfer from the Links Legends division graduates from JDT with a green or combined yellow scores, they will receive a JDT Graduation gift.

# JDT Levels of Progression

The JDT Levels of Progression are in place to ensure that ALL juniors compete in a division that matches their skill level. The Gateway PGA's goal with this design is to reduce the likelihood that a beginner golfer becomes discouraged by an advanced junior playing in an improper division. The Junior Development Tour is a welcoming environment for ALL interested juniors to begin discovering the game of golf!

Level 1 – Fairway Finders

Level 2 – Birdie Ballers

Level 3 – Links Legends

Juniors advance to the next level by shooting *Green Scores & Yellow Scores*.

**Green Score** – A green score allows your junior to instantly move up to the next level of play  
**Yellow Score** – Your junior must successfully shoot three yellow scores throughout the year (Spring, Summer, Fall) to move up to the next level of play

All target scores (Green & Yellow) will be posted on the tournament information page.

Juniors who have previously played in the Gateway PGA's JDT will be given a recommended level of play. New juniors must first play in Level 1 - Fairway Finders OR ask your junior's coach/PGA Pro to contact the Gateway PGA to recommend a specific division of play.

# JDT Rules & Regulations

- 10 Stroke Limit per hole rule
  - There is a 10-stroke per hole limit at all JDT events
  - Once the golfer has made 8 strokes, they **MUST** pick up their ball, proceed to the green, place the ball approximately 15 feet from the hole, attempt a max of 2 putts, and record a 10.
  - This will help the pace of play and prevent discouragement for the junior golfer
- All Levels 2 **practice swings maximum**
- Bunker Rule: If a player's ball lies in a bunker, they must first make two attempts to escape the bunker. If the golfer has not advanced the ball out of the bunker after making 2 strokes, they may then drop the ball outside the bunker at the nearest point of relief within one club length and **NO CLOSER** to the hole
- Red Penalty Area Rule: If a player hits 2 balls into the same red penalty area, they may drop a ball on the opposite side of that penalty area.
  - Example: Player hits their first (1) shot into the water. Player drops and lays two (2). The player proceeds to hit their third shot (3) into the same penalty area. The player may then drop on the other side of said penalty area, lay four (4), and proceed by hitting their fifth shot (5).

*Please note:*

The Junior Development Tour does not include a Player of the Year Competition or points for placing in JDT events. JDT focuses on development, friendship, camaraderie, and fun.

# The Gateway PGA's "How to Caddie" Guide

## THE DO(S)

- Visit the Pro Shop & purchase range balls for warm-up
- Make sure your junior has: snacks, drinks, sunscreen, golf balls, divot repair tool, & a ballmarker
- Maximum of (1) caddie per junior
- Get to know the other players & caddies in your group
- May help players look for golf ball, determine distance to the hole, fix divots, repair ball marks & tend the flag stick
- After each hole, (at the next tee box) mark the scores of the junior your child is to be keep score of & your junior
- Help your junior with strategy & decision in a timely manner
- Walk FASTER than your junior
- Encourage ALL juniors after both good & bad shots (this game is hard enough - Always stay positive on the course)
- May position yourself on an extension of the line of play or putt BEFORE your junior attempts their stroke (NOT DURING)
- May point out a line for putting BEFORE the putt is attempted (NOT DURING) & you may not touch the green

## THE DON'T(S)

- Any rules violation by the caddie has the same consequence as if the junior violated the rule.
- Standing behind the extension of the line of play or putt during your junior's attempt
- More than (1) caddie per junior
- Inappropriate conduct of any sorts
- Walking slower than your junior and the rest of the group (one of your goals should be to keep the group & your junior on pace!)
- Riding in a golf cart (unless physically unable to walk the course)  
o juniors may not ride in golf carts, even if there caddies are (out of necessity)
- Kick or move a ball in any way from its original path or placement
- Give advice to other players (unless you are caddying for them both)
- Over Coach - the time to teach & coach is at the range & practice area, not on the competition course



# Junior Tour

## (9-Hole, 18-Hole, 36-Hole Events)

### Eligibility:

Boys and girls from age 7, as of May 26, 2026, to the graduating high school seniors who are not over 19 years of age as of August 4, 2026, and who have not yet participated in college academic or athletic programs on a full-time basis, are eligible to participate.

Membership opens January 5, 2026.

\*Age as of May 26, 2026 will determine age division placement for the 2026 season

## Spring & Fall Events

The Gateway PGA Junior Spring and Fall Series is to offer a competitive golf experience for players year-round. The goal is to help players maintain their game during the off-season or prepare for their upcoming season. These tournaments will have broader age divisions than during the summer and fewer requirements to play. Spring and Fall tournaments also do not earn Player of the Year points and are therefore an excellent time for a junior golfer to “try” moving from JDT to 9-Hole events or moving from 9-Hole to 18-Hole events. A junior’s division is not locked during the Spring and Fall Series, whereas it is locked in the Summer.

### Age Divisions:

- 18 Hole Boys: 14 & under, 15 & up
- 18 Hole Girls: 14 & under, 15 & up
- 9 Hole Boys: 11 & under, 12-13, 14 & up
- 9 Hole Girls: 11 & under, 12-13, 14 & up

**Caddies:** permitted for Boys and Girls 11 & under divisions only

**Yardage:** (approximate - subject to course conditions & set up)

- 18 Hole Boys 14 & under: 5,200-5,600 yards
- 18 Hole Boys 15 & up: 5,800-6,200 yards
- 18 Hole Girls 14 & under 4,800-5,300 yards
- 18 Hole Girls 15 & up 5,300-5,800 yards
- 9 Hole Boys and Girls: 2,500-2,900 yards

### Awards:

- Awards are given to the top 3 finishers at each event
- No Player of the Year Points are awarded for Spring and Fall Events

# Summer Events

## 9-Hole Division

The 9 Hole Divisions introduces the beginning golfer to tournament play. The goal of the 9 Hole Division is to prepare golfers for moving up the tournament ladder. This division is designed for the golfer that is not yet at the 18 Hole Division skill level but is ready to start competitive golf.

### Age Divisions:

Boys: 9 & Under, 10-11, 12-13, 14-18

Girls: 11 & Under, 12-14, 14-18

**Eligibility:** Boys and Girls must average below 60 for 9 holes.

**Caddies:** 9 & under and 10-11 divisions only

**Stroke Limits:** 10 Stroke limit on each hole

### Yardages:

- Ages 11 & Under: Approximately 1,900-2,100 yards
- Ages 12 & Up: Approximately 2,300-2,800 yards (may vary by age group and course)

### Awards:

- Awards are given to the top three finishers at each event
- Player of the Year points are awarded for the top ten finishers at each event

## 18-Hole Division

The 18 Hole Divisions provides professionally run tournaments for the golfer that has proven readiness to move up from 9-hole tournaments and looking to grow in their tournament experience. The goal of the 18 Hole Division is to provide a competitive format for aspiring and current High School golfers.

### Age Divisions:

Boys: 12-13, 14-15, 16-18

Girls: 12-14, 15-18

### Eligibility:

Must first shoot a score of 55 or better in a 9-hole tournament

Tournaments played on par-3 courses and/or executive courses will not count

Golfers shooting 120+ in an 18-hole event will be contacted by junior golf staff regarding future tournaments

**Caddies:** No caddies allowed

**Stroke Limits:** No stroke limit; players must finish every hole

### 18 Hole Division Yardages:

- 18 Hole Boys 12-13: 5,200 – 5,600 yards
- 18 Hole Boys 14-15: 5,800 – 6,200 yards
- 18 Hole Boys 16-18: 6,200 – 6,400 yards
- 18 Hole Girls 12-14: 4,800 – 5,200 yards
- 18 Hole Girls 15-18: 5,300 – 5,800 yards

### Awards:

- Awards are given to the top three finishers at each event
- Player of the Year points are awarded for the top ten finishers at each event

## 36-Hole Events

Each summer, the Gateway PGA Junior Tour hosts a series of nationally ranked 36-Hole tournaments. These events are held in the spirit of excellence & professionalism, officiated by local PGA Professionals, and held at the top golf courses and country clubs throughout the Gateway Section. 36-Hole events are designed for the highly competitive or college-bound junior golfer. These events are necessary for any junior aspiring to take their game to the college level. Additional benefits include Junior Golf Scoreboard recognition, the opportunity to qualify for the Junior PGA Championship, and the potential to earn AJGA Performance-Based Entry Stars.

### Eligible Divisions:

18 Hole Boys (12-13, 14-15, 16-18)

18 Hole Girls (12-14, 15-18)

### Eligibility:

Boys: Must first shoot a score of 95 or better in an 18-hole tournament

Girls: Must first shoot a score of 99 or better in an 18-hole tournament

Golfers shooting 110+ in a 36-hole event will be contacted by junior golf staff regarding future tournaments

### 36-Hole Event Yardages:

- Overall Boys: 6,600+ yards
- Overall Girls: 5,900+ yards
- 18 Hole Boys 12-13: 5,700 - 6,100 yards
- 18 Hole Girls 12-14: 5,000+ yards

### Awards & PBE Stars:

- Awards
  - Awards are given to the top three finishers at each event
  - Player of the Year points are awarded for the top ten finishers at each event
  - 36-Hole tournaments earn 1.5 times the normal POY point value
- AJGA Performance-Based Entry Stars
  - Overall Boys (combined division) = 18 Hole Boys 16-18 & 18 Hole Boys 14-15
  - 18 Hole Girls 15-18
  - 18 Hole Boys 12-13 (shorter yardages and subject to separate AJGA PBE Stars)
  - 18 Hole Girls 12-14 (shorter yardages and subject to separate AJGA PBE Stars)

### What are AJGA Performance-Based Entry Stars?

- 36-Hole Junior Tour events can earn AJGA Performance-Based Entry Stars (2025 PBE Status TBA)
- The AJGA (American Junior Golf Association) hosts highly competitive, nationally esteemed junior events designed to promote juniors who aspire to earn college golf scholarships
- AJGA Stars allow juniors to earn exemptions to play in AJGA golf events.
- More info on AJGA stars and events: [How to Play in the AJGA?](#)

### Junior Golf Scoreboard:

- All 36-Hole tournament results are sent to [Junior Golf Scoreboard](#)
- The National Junior Golf Scoreboard is used by college coaches nationwide to recruit junior golfers.

## Playing Up an Age Division or Switching Divisions During Season:

The following protocols on switching divisions are put in place to maintain consistent & fair competition fields throughout the season and to provide a tournament environment best suited for player development.

A player may play up an age division if they are able to maintain a competitive score for the division that they wish to play up in. Once a player decides to play up an age division, they may **NOT** go back to the original age division that they started in. A player who wishes to switch divisions during a season may do so as well. They must be able to maintain the requirements for these divisions. Players are **NOT** allowed to switch to a lower division; they may only switch to a higher one.

Once a player plays up in age or a player switches a division, they may not go back down in age or division. Also, when a player switches divisions and ages, they forfeit the Player of the Year points accumulated up until that point and championship qualifying status.

Juniors may play up an age division or switch divisions during the season by recommendation of the Gateway PGA Junior Golf staff. Players & parents are welcome to discuss and request switching divisions at any time. However, Junior Golf staff reserve the right to deny a player's request to play up.

FAQ – Playing in 18 Hole and 9 Hole Events?

The Gateway PGA Junior Tour understands there are a handful of players who may benefit from being able to compete in both 18 Hole and 9 Hole Events. To do so, players must understand and comply with the following:

- Players who have competed in a 2-Day Event may **NOT** compete in 9 Hole Events.
- Players competing in both 18 Hole and 9 Hole Events forfeit Player of the Year Competition awards.
- Players who have qualified for the 18 Hole Division Final Championship at WingHaven CC are **NOT** eligible to compete in the 9 Hole Division Final Championship

## Gateway PGA Junior Golf Publicity & Social Media Policy

Media Release Policy By registering for the Gateway PGA Junior Program, the participant and parent/guardian grant the Gateway PGA full permission to record the player's voice, image, and likeness during all events. This agreement allows the Gateway PGA and its sponsors to use these photos, videos, and broadcasts for advertising, promotion, and public dissemination. By participating, you waive private rights to this content and assign ownership of the media rights to the Gateway PGA in perpetuity. This release covers all forms of electronic transmission and requires a parent or guardian's acknowledgment during the application or Golf Genius registration process.

# Policies & Procedures

## Registering for tournaments:

All tournament registration must be done through Golf Genius. Juniors may play in as many events as they desire. A player may only register for tournaments their division is eligible to compete.

There will be NO LATE REGISTRATIONS accepted.

Deadlines for tournament registration are as follows:

- Summer Events: Monday at 5pm for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday events. Thursday at 5pm for Thursday and Friday events. (All the week prior)
- Spring and Fall Events: Monday at 5pm, the week of the event.

Tournament registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Upon registering, players may either be confirmed for the tournament or added to the waitlist. If you are on the waitlist and are promoted, you will receive a second email confirming your spot. It may take up to 2-3 days for your email confirmation of acceptance into an event. We appreciate your patience.

Your entry fee payment will remain pending, and your credit card will not be charged until your registration has been approved.

## Wait List Policy:

At times throughout the season, the Gateway Junior PGA receives more registrants than the event can accommodate. For this reason, the Gateway Junior PGA allows for additional registrants to be put on a waitlist on a first-come, first-served basis for each tournament once the maximum field size has been reached. Each online registrant will be notified via email that they have been placed on a waitlist.

Please note: Notification of promotion from the waitlist often comes with short notice, but will never occur after registration has closed unless you are contacted by phone or email by Junior Golf Staff. If your plans change, please remove yourself from a tournament's waitlist to avoid confusion.

All waitlist decisions are at the discretion of the Junior Golf Staff.

If you are on the waitlist, please adhere to the following procedures:

- More than 3 days prior to the tournament date, please limit the number of phone calls and emails sent to the Junior Golf personnel regarding your position on the waitlist & checking the availability of an event.
- If you wish to check your status after a tournament has closed, feel free to reach out to Junior Golf personnel, but please be patient. If you wish to remove your name from a waitlist, please do so yourself through Golf Genius or notify Junior Golf personnel

## Walk-On Policy:

The Gateway PGA Junior Tour CANNOT and WILL NOT take walk-ons for any event.

## Pairings and Tee Times:

Tee times and pairings will always be sent out no later than Friday the week prior to an event. Starting times are different for each event and can be found on the Tournament Information Page. Starting times are at the discretion of the host golf course and may be subject to change. Tee times and pairings are decided randomly (by division) through our Golf Genius software; therefore, the Gateway PGA Junior Tour **CANNOT** and **WILL NOT** accept tee time or pairing requests. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Pairings for 36-Hole tournaments will have the eldest Boys playing first one day and the eldest Girls playing first the other day.

## Withdrawal Policy and Tournament Refunds:

In order to provide accurate and quality tournament administration, a player must properly withdraw from a tournament in one of two ways:

1. You may cancel through the tournament's home page in Golf Genius before registration closes  
OR
2. Email/call the Junior Tour Director [jeisenhauer@pgahq.com](mailto:jeisenhauer@pgahq.com) (636-579-2482)

While we appreciate the phone call and will happily talk to you we may be at another tournament and will still ask for an email that **should include** the full name of the contestant, the date and location of the event, and how you wish for the credit to be applied (or) to which event you wish to transfer.

Please see the policies & procedures for canceling below:

### Withdrawing BEFORE event registration closes:

If the registration for the event has not closed,

- Summer Events: Tuesday at 5pm for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday events. Thursday at 5pm for Thursday and Friday events. (All the week prior)
- Spring and Fall: Monday at 5pm the week before the event.

The player may cancel out of an event through Golf Genius or via email and may receive a refund on their credit card (Minus a \$5 processing fee)

\*JDT Event cancellations: \$3 processing fee

### Withdrawing AFTER event registration has closed:

If a player must cancel out of an event after the event has closed, they must withdraw via email. 50% of the entry fee will be refunded on the credit card used to register.

### Withdrawing the DAY BEFORE or DAY OF an Event:

There will be NO REFUNDS for withdrawals the day before or the day of the event.

To avoid a No-Show Penalty, the Gateway PGA **must be notified via email, before the event begins, that the player will be absent.**     *\*Considerations will be made for extraordinary circumstances\**

## No Show Policy:

If a player fails to withdraw from an event in accordance with the withdrawal policy, and does not play, it will be considered a No-Show and tournament credit **will not** be authorized. If a player fails to show up for Round 2 of a 36-Hole event, without discussing it with the Tournament director, they will be recorded as a NS.

- First Offense: Golfers will be sent an email warning
- Second Offense: Golfers will be removed from their next event without refund. If they are not registered for another event, the player will remain ineligible for one week of the season. Golfers will not be eligible for the Tour Championship or the Player of the Year
- Third Offense: Player will be ineligible for the remainder of the season. No Refunds issued.

## No Card Policy:

If a player starts a round and does not turn in a score card with valid scores for the day, a NC will be posted as the player's score. Any player who leaves the course without notifying the Gateway Junior PGA Staff will be recorded as a NC.

- First Offense: Player will be sent an email warning
- Second Offense: Player will be removed from their next event without a refund. If they are not registered for another event, the player will remain ineligible for one week of the season. Golfers will not be eligible for the Tour Championship or the Player of the Year
- Third Offense: Player will be ineligible for the remainder of the season. No Refunds issued

## Policy for Event Cancellations:

In the case of a full event cancellation (tournament is canceled by the course or the Gateway PGA), participants will be fully refunded event registration fees or will be allowed to transfer their fees into another event that is not filled at no additional charge.

The Junior Golf staff will send an email to all participants with information regarding refund procedures. The email will include the date that refunds will be processed.

Players DO NOT need to take any action to receive a refund for the canceled event.

If a player wishes to transfer to another event instead of receiving a refund, the junior MUST notify staff ([jeisenhauer@pgahq.com](mailto:jeisenhauer@pgahq.com)) within one day of the canceled event. The event transferring into must still be open for registration and not yet be filled.

### Refunds & Transfers WILL NOT be given if:

An entire division finishes the minimum number of holes to qualify it as an official tournament

9 Hole event: completes 5 holes of play

18 Hole event: completes 9 holes of play

36-Hole Event: completes 18 holes of play

*Medals & POY points will be awarded as the competition stands.*

*These rules apply for all uncompleted rounds due to weather conditions & daylight.*

# Weather Policies

The Gateway Junior PGA holds the right to make all decisions regarding suspending play and canceling events due to severe weather. Please note that player safety and fairness of competition is front-of-mind in all decisions made regarding severe weather conditions.

In the case that severe weather enters the forecast, we will still proceed with the event and attempt to complete the event AT ALL COSTS. With fairness & safety as our priority, every effort within reason will be made to complete the competition.

All weather cancellations or delays [will be communicated via email & text updates](#).

Please see below for specific weather procedures:

## Cold & Freezing Conditions (Spring and Fall):

- The Gateway PGA Junior Tour will begin considering cancellations for low temperatures when the projected forecast is approximately 40 degrees (F) or below
- Please note additional factors will be considered when making cancellation/postponement decisions due to cold temperatures. This includes course playability, ground conditions, sunny/overcast, rain, wind, etc.
- In cold temperatures, morning frost delays may be possible.
- We will do our best to call the event NO LATER than one hour prior to the first tee time.
- Delays & cancellations will be communicated as quickly as possible via email and text updates.
- It is the responsibility of the players to be prepared with the proper equipment & apparel to play in cold weather conditions
- Suggested Cold Gear: thermal base layers, thermal outerwear jacket and/or vest, thermal golf pants, winter socks, cold weather golf gloves, cart mittens, hand warmers, beanie or thermal headband. Dress in layers when possible as temperatures often rise throughout the round

## Severe Weather Conditions:

- If golf course conditions remain playable, play will always continue in the case of only rain.
- Gateway PGA Junior Tour staff is always monitoring weather conditions to ensure players' safety in the chance of severe weather.
- Due to differences in course layouts and available weather shelters, procedures for severe weather delays will vary by facility. Please see the local rules or Junior Tour staff for procedures for severe weather delays and course evacuations. In the event of a severe weather delay, players & spectators will be immediately notified by an air horn blast and email/text updates. Continue to play if these notifications have not been made.
- Please note: By the USGA Rule of Golf, temporary water is an abnormal course condition and is not treated as part of the challenge of playing the course. Players are allowed free relief when there is interference by an abnormal course condition except in a penalty area.

## High Temperatures & Heat Indexes:

- Gateway PGA Junior Tour events will **NOT** be canceled due to high temperatures and heat indexes.
- Gateway PGA Junior Tour staff will make water available throughout the course for juniors, however it is the players' responsibility to be prepared to play in warm weather conditions.
- Tips and tricks for keeping your golfer cool - [Click Here](#)

### Suspension of Play for a Dangerous Reason (Rule 5.7b(1)):

A suspension for a dangerous situation shall be signaled by one prolonged horn blast.

When play is suspended for a dangerous situation, i.e., lightning, tornado, etc. if the players' groups are between the play of two holes, they shall NOT resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they must discontinue play immediately and shall not thereafter resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. Players should MARK their balls before proceeding to safety.

Spectators, in this situation, may transport players to safety. All practice areas are closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open for use.

Penalty: [Disqualification \(DO\)](#)

Along with severe weather, temperature plays a role in whether a tournament will be conducted. If the forecast permits the Junior Golf Staff, Committee, and facility staff will be in communication about playable conditions. There are multiple variables when considering playable temperature (precipitation, wind, cloud cover). The Junior Golf Staff reserves the right to cancel any event in the interest of safety for junior competitors.

## Conduct of Players and Spectators

### Conduct of Players:

**ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY:** Inappropriate behavior by any junior, witnessed by our staff, fellow competitor, or employee of the host facility will result in the player immediately being disqualified from the current event and their next event without a refund.

Inappropriate behavior could include but is not limited to the use of improper language, dressing in non-golf attire, throwing clubs, damaging the course, failure to repair ball marks on the greens or replace divots on the course, cheating, talking while a fellow competitor is playing a shot, knowingly violating the rules of golf, affecting play of another, overall display of poor sportsmanship or the use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs.

### Conduct of Spectators:

Spectators are welcomed and encouraged to attend all Gateway PGA junior golf events.

Rules for spectators are as follows:

1. Advice (Rule 10.2a) is any counsel or suggestion which could influence a player in determining his play, the choice of a club or the method of making a stroke. In addition, any conversation between player/spectator may be construed as advice.
2. Please turn off all cell phones or turn your ringer to silent or vibrate mode while on the course.
3. Spectators must always remain on the cart paths not in the fairway! Spectators must remain a minimum of 50 yards from players at all times. (Please see the below for the ONLY exception).
4. Spectators should stay one shot ahead of the group they are following. This allows spectators to follow errant shots and help identify where the ball comes to rest. Spectators are allowed to

aid in the search for lost golf balls in overgrown and hazardous areas BUT must immediately return to the cart path once the ball has been found.

5. Spectators should not give rulings. Please seek a marshal or rules official if the need arises.
6. Spectators are allowed to carry a player's medicine, drinks, food, umbrellas, etc. With the exception of parent caddies (JDT, 9-Hole 9 & Under & 10-11 divisions ONLY), spectators are not allowed to carry a player's golf clubs/equipment.
7. The Rules Official may assess a penalty to the player based on the severity of the spectator violation. If a serious breach has occurred, the spectator may be asked to leave the facility.
8. For your personal safety, we ask you to exercise caution at all times. When inclement weather moves into the area, play will be suspended, and you should seek shelter immediately. Players will be evacuated from the course first and then spectators.
9. Spectators must NEVER transport players during the event unless authorized to do so by the committee. Transporting a player can result in the player being disqualified.

The Gateway PGA Staff reserves the right, without warning, to remove any Spectator from the facility at any time for an infraction of these rules.

### Cheating and Dishonesty:

The Gateway Junior PGA has a ZERO TOLERANCE cheating policy:

- Any player who witnesses a fellow competitor cheating or committing a rules infraction is to notify their playing group and the player who committed the infraction. Juniors are to report rules infractions IMMEDIATELY to the Gateway Junior PGA Staff.
- If a Gateway PGA Staff Member witnesses a golfer who is knowingly cheating or guilty of a rule infraction, they will approach and disqualify the player immediately.
- Any spectator who is caught cheating on behalf of their player will result in the golfer's automatic removal from the program with NO Refunds.

Penalties for knowingly cheating will be as follows, depending on the severity of the situation:

- 1.) Immediate disqualification from event and notification to parents of the situation,
- 2.) Removal from next event with no refund or
- 3.) Removal from the Gateway Junior PGA Program, with no refund.

### Dress Code:

Proper attire is required at all tournaments, events and/or functions. The dress code prohibits shoes with metal spikes, short shorts (mid-thigh or longer), halter tops, shirts exposing mid riffs, tank tops, T-shirts, gym shorts, and all denim. No visible body piercings are permitted; earrings are allowed. All hats must be worn properly, bill forward; collared shirts must be worn and tucked in (girls may wear shirts without collars if the shirt is part of a coordinated outfit). Any violation of this rule results in either disqualification or the junior not being allowed to participate until he/she has met the above regulations. Spectators at private clubs must adhere to player dress code policy. If not in proper attire, spectators may not follow the golfers and must leave the facility.

# Tournament Rules

## **The USGA Rules of Golf govern play for all Gateway PGA Junior Tour Events**

A Gateway PGA Starting Official will give specific announcements and local rulings on the first tee at each event. It is crucial that players give their undivided attention to these announcements.

Players will also be given a Notice to Competitors sheet on the first tee at every event. Players should reference their NTC for common and local rulings.

The following rules are included as reminders or are specific rules to the Junior Tour. These rules will be implemented and followed at every Gateway PGA Junior event.

### Distance Measuring Devices:

If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure conditions such as, slope or wind speed, that player is in breach of Rule 4.3a(1), and will be disqualified.

A player may share yardage that they measure with fellow players in their group, as yardage is public information and NOT advice.

### Cell Phone Policy:

Cell phones or any other electronic communication devices may only be used for

- Measuring yardage
- Using the USGA Rules of Golf App
- Mobile scoring
- Contacting a rules official

The use of such items in any other way will result in disqualification.

### Pace of Play Policy:

USGA Rules of Golf state: "The player shall play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines which the Committee may establish. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next teeing ground, the player shall not unduly delay play."

Note 1: If the player unduly delays play between holes, he is delaying the play of the next hole and the penalty applies to that hole.

Note 2: For the purpose of preventing slow play, the Committee may, in the condition of a competition, lay down pace of play guidelines including maximum periods of time allowed to complete a stipulated round, a hole or a stroke.

The Gateway PGA Junior Golf Tour does not wish to apply penalties for undue delay. However, we require that, in the interest of all, that pace of play be reasonable.

We believe that it would be reasonable for a group of three (3) players to take 15 minutes, on average, per hole. Meaning an 18-hole round should be completed in less than 4 hours and 30 minutes and a 9-hole round should be completed in less than 2 hours and 15 minutes.

A group/competitor is considered out of position if at any point in the round:

- A group falls behind allotted time for holes already play, and
- A group falls behind more than 14:59 to the group in front of them.
- A player is taking more than the allotted time to play a stroke (40 sec from the time you arrive at your ball).

When a group is out of position the following will occur:

- 1) Group will be approached and discuss why group is behind
- 2) If a group falls behind more than 14:59 to the group in front of them, a PACE OF PLAY warning sign will be placed on the group's next tee box. That group will have THREE holes to catch up with the group in front of them.
- 3) If the group is unable to regain proper position, EACH player in the group will be assessed a one-stroke penalty.
- 4) Next violation a two-stroke penalty will be given to EACH player in the group.
- 5) Any further violation will result in disqualification (DQ)

Gateway PGA Junior Golf Tour monitors the Pace of Play of all groups. Your cooperation is required. If all competitors cooperate, each event will be a more pleasant experience for everyone.

### Electronic Push Cart Policy:

Electronic, self propelled push carts are not allowed during any Gateway PGA Junior Tour event. This rule is to follow procedure established by MSHSAA and IHSA. Non-electronic, push carts allowed.

### Transporting Players:

Any player who accepts any form of transportation during a tournament round will be given a [2-stroke penalty](#). The only time a player may accept transportation is when the Tournament Committee authorizes them to do so.

## Scoring Area

A player is to report immediately to the scoring area after their round is completed. At this time players must sit down, check their hole-by-hole scores, report any rulings or questions, and sign their scorecards. Absolutely no alteration can be made once a player leaves the scoring area. The scoring area will be defined by a scoring table and chairs.

A player is deemed to have left the scoring area when they have left their chair at the scoring table.

Penalties for Disqualification (DQ) of a player may include:

- Signing for a lower score than the player shot
- Not having two signatures on the scorecard
- Not reporting a rules infraction to the committee.

If a number is not legible on a scorecard, and a player has left the scoring area, then the player is subject to the score the Committee infers the number to be. To avoid this:

- Use Mobile Scoring
- If your group is unable to use mobile scoring:

- o Make sure all numbers are neatly written and bold.
- o If you must scratch out and change a score, write the correct score above or below the box and have your marker initial by the number.
- Stay seated until the Gateway PGA Staff member has verbalized your total score back to you.

Players are strongly encouraged to take their time in the scoring area. Players are welcome to take as much time as needed to verify that their scores are correct. The entire group should remain in the scoring area until all the players of that group have attested their scores.

PARENTS AND SPECTATORS ARE NEVER TO BE PRESENT IN THE SCORING AREA UNLESS AUTHORIZED TO DO SO BY A GATEWAY PGA STAFF MEMBER. ANY VIOLATION OF THIS WILL RESULT IN THAT INDIVIDUAL BEING BANNED FROM ALL GATEWAY PGA JUNIOR TOUR EVENTS.

## Gateway PGA Junior Tour Player of the Year

The top ten finishers in each division at every tournament will be awarded points. The Player of the Year will be determined by total points, from the player's top 7 finishes. Once the season finishes, the Player of the Year is awarded to the boy and girl in each division with the most points. If there is a tie for Player of the Year, the next best finish outside the 7 counted, will be the tie breaker.

Throughout the season, the accumulation of points will count toward the Championship Tournament at the end of the season. Invitations to this tournament will be given based on the number of points accumulated. At the Championship tournament, the top ten finishers will be awarded double points.

*The Junior Development Tour does not have a Player of the Year Competition.*

### Player of the Year Points System

FINISH	1-Day Events	2-Day Events	Final Championship
1	25	37.5	50
2	20	30	40
3	15	22.5	30
4	12	18	24
5	8	12	16
6	6	9	12
7	5	7.5	10
8	4	6	8
9	3	4.5	6
10	2	3	4

# Junior PGA Championships

Each year Gateway PGA Junior Tour members have the opportunity to qualify for the Girls & Boys Junior PGA Championships (Click [Here](#) for info)

## 50<sup>th</sup> Junior PGA Championships:

The Junior PGA Championships are open to players who are no older than 18 years of age on July 28th, 2026. One of golf's major championships for juniors, the Junior PGA Championships have been springboards for many of the PGA and LPGA Tours' most accomplished players. Tiger Woods, Scottie Scheffler, Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas have competed on the Boys side, while the list of past Girls Junior PGA winners includes Inbee Park, Yuka Sasso, Lexi Thompson and Rose Zhang.

The top male junior golfers compete for the Jack Nicklaus Trophy while the top female junior golfers will compete for the Patti Berg Trophy. The 50th edition of the event will feature 312 players — 156 boys, 156 girls.

When: July 28- 31, 2026

Where: Fields Ranch East and West, Frisco, Texas

### How to Qualify:

Gateway PGA Junior Tour members have two chances to qualify for the Junior PGA Championship held at Fields Ranch in Frisco, Texas

1. Gateway PGA 36-Hole Qualifier - Gateway National Golf Links – June 9-10, 2026
  - o 1 Boy and 1 Girl advance
2. Gateway PGA Last-Chance 36-Hole Qualifier - Annbriar Golf Course - June 24-25, 2026
  - o 1 Boy and 1 Girl advance

### Immediate On-Course Playoff:

Playoff holes to be determined by the Tournament Committee

Official Alternates: An Official Boy & Girl Alternate will be named for the Junior PGA Championship Qualifying Positions. The alternate will only advance to the Jr. PGA Championship in the case that one of the Gateway Section Qualifying players is unable to attend the Championship due to unforeseen circumstances. The official alternate position will go to the 2nd Place Boy finisher & 2nd Place Girl finisher of the Race to Junior PGA Championship Points Race. The points race tiebreakers will be used if there is a tie for the alternate position. (In the case of an opening in the Junior PGA Championship, the Gateway Section Boy & Girl Alternates would be notified by July 11<sup>th</sup>).