

# South Florida PGA Junior Links Tour

## Tournament Policies

### Overview

The South Florida PGA (SFPGA) Junior Links Tour is a new addition to the South Florida PGA Junior Golf lineup for 2019. The Junior Links Tour will be a series of six 9-hole events. Membership of the South Florida PGA Foundation is a prerequisite for the tour which provides access to the tour based on eligibility requirements listed below. The South Florida PGA Junior Links Tour provides a competitive, yet fun tournament atmosphere, encompassing a 9 hole tournament played on some of South Florida's best golf courses. The South Florida PGA Junior Links Tour is a great way for junior golfers to gain individual stroke play experience and learn the game from an individual standpoint. This tour has been created to show the players what they should expect on our prep tour, and prepare them for a future in tournament golf.

### Membership Registration Procedure

*Returning Members* – 2018 South Florida PGA Team Golf members will be able to use their 2018 login and password to sign in and register for the 2019 membership. If a login or password has been misplaced from last year, please email Chad Peters at [cpeters@pgahq.com](mailto:cpeters@pgahq.com) or Matthew Youngblood at [myoungblood@pgahq.com](mailto:myoungblood@pgahq.com) to obtain that information.

*New Members* – Juniors who were not members of Team Golf in 2018 will be required to complete a registration form online which must include the name and contact information of a PGA Professional, as well as previous tournament playing experience including scores. Applicants will need to go to the website at [www.sfpgjuniorgolf.com](http://www.sfpgjuniorgolf.com) and follow the registration link on the top right hand corner of the page. This will take you to the registration page and you will be prompted to complete the membership application. Should the application be accepted, the player will receive notification via e-mail, and with the member's login and password, will then be allowed to register for tournaments.

\*Approval will be required of ALL Junior Tour members even if they have played with the South Florida PGA previously.

## ELIGIBILITY

### Age Guidelines

The South Florida PGA Junior Links Tour is open to junior golfers age 6-14 ONLY. Players will not be permitted to join the Links Tour prior to their 6<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### Tour Guidelines

The Junior Links Tour is our entry level tour for junior golfers from ages 6-14 who are looking to supplement their time with Team Golf and PGA Junior League to experience stroke play competition. Players must have some previous experience in golf (lessons from PGA Professional, Team Golf, etc.) to be eligible for the Links Tour.

### South Florida PGA Junior Links Tour Age Divisions

The South Florida PGA Junior Links Tour is open to the following age divisions:

Boys 6-8 (1,400 – 1,600 yards)	Girls 6-8 (1,200-1,400 yards)
Boys 9-11 (1,900 – 2,100 yards)	Girls 9-11 (1,400 – 1,600 yards)
Boys 12-14 (2,300-2,500 yards)	Girls 12-14 (1,900-2,100 yards)

### Target Yardages

	<b>Par 3</b>	<b>Par 4</b>	<b>Par 5</b>
Girls 6-8	55-75	150-170	180-200
Boys 6-8 – Girls 9-11	80-95	170-190	225-240
Boys 9-11 & Girls 12-14	95-115	230-250	280-310
Boys 12-14	115-130	270-290	350-370

### Membership Fee

Membership to the South Florida PGA Foundation is **\$55.00**

*If any individual does not qualify for membership, he/she will be notified and will be issued a full refund for his/her application fee*

## REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

### Membership Registration

Membership remains open throughout the course of the Junior Links Tour season, and individuals may apply for membership at any time, provided they meet the requirements. There is no cap for membership, and there is no minimum or maximum number of events in which a member must participate. It is important to take the processing time into consideration when becoming a member of the Junior Links Tour.

The application process for new members may take up to three days. Individuals will be notified within three (3) days of receipt of application whether their membership status has been approved, or if more information is needed for membership consideration. If approved, a new member confirmation email will be sent out, including the new member's login and password. Once the login and password has been received, members will be able to sign up for Junior Links Tour events online provided they meet the eligibility requirements for the event. When signing up for events, the registration page will default to a rules test that must be completed before you may finish the registration process. The membership package containing Tour information and player gifts will be given out at each new member's first event.

While Membership registration is accepted at any time throughout the season, each tournament has a specific registration deadline. **Please take tournament registration deadlines into consideration when applying for membership on either tour.**

### Tournament Registration

Online registration will be activated for each of the tournaments at 10:00 AM approximately 6 weeks prior to each event start date for members of the Junior Links Tour. An email will be sent to all members prior to each event registration opening as a reminder. Telephone, mailed or faxed entries will not be accepted.

### Tournament Fees

Junior Links Tour Entry Fee – \$30

### Registration Procedure

*Directions for online registration:*

Go to [www.sfpgjuniorgolf.com](http://www.sfpgjuniorgolf.com), enter the site and click the **Registration** link on the top right corner of the page.

After entering the registration page, click **Sign Up Now** under the Player's Club box to proceed with the registration process.

This link will take you directly to the Membership Registration form. If you are a returning member from 2018, all you need to do is enter your login and password into the Player's Club box. For new members, your registration will be pending until approved by the Junior Golf Director. Once approval has been

granted, you will then receive an email notification with your ID and password allowing you to login into the Player's Club for Tournament Registration.

**Please make sure that you save your ID and password, you will need this information to register for your tournaments and to obtain vital tournament information.**

#### Determining Age Divisions

A player's age division is determined as of their age on the day of each tournament. For example, a player who turns 12 on July 1<sup>st</sup> will play all events before July 1<sup>st</sup> in the 9-11 age division, and will be automatically moved to the 12-14 division after that date.

#### Declaring Up in Age Division

Members may "declare up" to an older age group anytime during the Junior Links Tour season. Once a member declares up, he/she must play in the older age group for the entire season and must play by the applicable rules and regulations. Members must email their request to the Junior Golf Director, Chad Peters, at [cpeters@pgahq.com](mailto:cpeters@pgahq.com) in order to officially declare up.

**The request to declare up must be made before the registration deadline of a tournament to be considered.** Requests to declare up will not be accepted once tee times are made for a tournament, and the player will have to wait until the next tournament in order to participate in an older age division.

#### Field Size

Registration is limited to 48 players for Junior Links Tour events, and is on a first come first serve basis, with no consideration for age division or gender.

#### Tour Refund Policy and Withdraws

Prior to the **event deadline** cancellations/withdrawals **MUST** be submitted via **EMAIL** to the Junior Golf Director, Chad Peters at [cpeters@pgahq.com](mailto:cpeters@pgahq.com) or the Junior Golf Coordinator, Matthew Youngblood at [myoungblood@pgahq.com](mailto:myoungblood@pgahq.com).

If a request for cancellation is received after the event deadline and the event does not have a waitlist or no one from the waitlist can fill the spot, **NO** refund will be granted. In the case of an emergency or medical illness, a written doctor's note must be submitted to the Section office within five days immediately following the event.

*All refunds will be issued minus a \$5 processing fee.*

#### Junior Tour Release Waiver

During online registration all members of the South Florida PGA Junior Links Tour **MUST** sign the electronic Junior Links Tour release waiver. **The South Florida PGA reserves the right to disqualify a member from a scheduled event if a release waiver has not been completed.** If this occurs, the member will be provided with a full refund for the event in which he/she was scheduled to participate.

## TOURNAMENT POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### Pairings and Starting Times

Pairings for all Junior Links Tour events will be made by randomly selecting groups of three to four players based on age group and gender. Tee time request cannot be accommodated for.

For all events, requesting starting times or specific groupings will not be accommodated. Players will **NOT** be called to their tees. Each contestant is responsible for obtaining his / her starting time and arriving to the facility **30 minutes prior** to their scheduled starting time.

Starting times will be posted on the South Florida PGA website four days prior to the event. Players will be notified via email of any changes that might occur after the initial release of pairings and starting times. Any changes will be immediately updated on the South Florida PGA website.

Players will be expected to check-in at a registration table upon arrival at the tournament facility. The designated individual will receive a rules and scoring packet.

### Code of Conduct Policy

Each member of the South Florida PGA Links Tour must comply with South Florida PGA Junior Tour Code of Conduct Policy.

### No Show Policy

It is the responsibility of the participant to email the South Florida PGA Junior Golf Director, Chad Peters, when canceling out of a tournament. When canceling on the day of the tournament, members must notify the SFPGA Section office and the host facility and in case of medical reasons, provide a doctor's note. Any member who does not follow this procedure will be considered a "no show." Players who do not properly notify the Junior Golf Director of their withdrawal are subject to the following penalties:

First Offense – EMAIL warning issued from Junior Golf Director

Second Offense – EMAIL notification of Suspension from next scheduled event

Third Offense – WRITTEN notification of Suspension from the Junior Tour for the remainder of the season.

Any player that receives a third offense and is suspended for the Junior Links Tour will be subject to possible rejection of membership for the following season, regardless of skill level.

### Tournament Cancellation Procedure

The South Florida PGA reserves the right to cancel tournaments in the event of inclement weather or other incidents. The South Florida PGA recommends checking the status of the tournament by calling the

SFPGA, the Junior Golf Director, or host facility the morning of the event. If a tournament is cancelled, members scheduled to participate in the event will be refunded the full entry fee to their credit card on file. If the tournament is cancelled during play, the South Florida PGA reserves the right to retain the full entry fee. Best efforts to reschedule a cancelled event will be made. Players who were entered in the first event will automatically be entered into the rescheduled event. If they are unable to participate on the rescheduled date they may transfer registration to a later event to receive a refund. If the rescheduled event has available space, juniors who were not entered in the original event will be afforded an opportunity to register for the rescheduled event.

#### Withdraw Policy – Withdrawing During an Event

In addition to the “no show” procedure, any member who has repeated WITHDRAWALS during tournament play MUST:

1. Turn in their scorecard before leaving the facility if leaving mid-round.
2. If leaving for medical reasons, provide a doctor’s note to the Junior Golf Director.

Failure to meet either of these two requirements may result in suspension from the player’s next event, events, or suspension of membership for the duration of tournament season.

#### Rules of Play

USGA Rules of Golf and the SFPGA Junior Links Tour Rules of Play Card shall govern all play, in addition to local rules on the Notice to Players (Rules Sheet), which is distributed at every event, and is also available on our website. Be sure to read the Rules of Play Card in its entirety prior to your first event.

Disqualification Policy: No player will be disqualified for any violations of the Rules of Golf. Instead, a maximum score of 10 will be applied to any hole where the infraction would normally lead to disqualification. In situations where the round or hole has been completed, the score of 10 will apply to the last hole played or to the hole where the infraction occurred.

Exceptions: A player may still be disqualified for code of conduct violations.

Double par max score will be played. The max score for each hole is double the par of that hole. For example max score on a Par 3 is 6, Par 4 is 8 and Par 5 is 10. Any player who has taken the max number of strokes on any hole and has not holed out must pick up his/her ball and proceed to the next tee. The score must be recorded as the max number and does not exclude the participant from award consideration

Caddies are OPTIONAL for players in all divisions. Players and caddies MUST WALK at ALL TIMES during competition. The caddy is responsible for carrying the player’s clubs, assisting in basic course management, and helping to speed up play. We are strictly committed to the caddy-player interaction being positive and will remove a parent’s ability to caddy if arguments occur. The Links Tour is designed to prepare juniors for tournament golf and learning to work their way around a course on their own knowledge.

Designated Scorer: Players will be responsible for keeping score during competition. Caddies may assist with keeping score but the players will be responsible for certifying their scores and their competitor's scores and then returning scorecards to the committee following the completion of play.

**Distance measuring devices** are allowed in all SFPGA Junior Links Tour events, assuming the device measures distance **ONLY**. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (gradient, wind-speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4.3, for which the player is subject to 10 strokes per hole.

### Breaking Ties

Ties for first and second place within the specified age divisions will be broken by the USGA recommended method of breaking ties.

Scores will be compared tournament total, followed by the final 6 holes (holes 4-9) of the round of play. If that does not produce a winner, then the last 3 holes, then the last hole will be used.

### Weather Policy

Completion of 4 holes by all contestants will constitute an official event for each event.

It is unlikely that an event will be rescheduled due to inclement weather. Refunds on player fees are subject to the host site's rain check policy.

### Tournament Results

Tournament results will be posted immediately following the first round of play at each event on the Junior Tour website. Official tournament results for the final round will be posted on the South Florida PGA Junior Golf website no later than one (1) day following the event. To access results visit, [www.sfgajuniorgolf.com](http://www.sfgajuniorgolf.com), or use the SFPGA mobile app to access tournament results quickly via mobile device.

### Practice Rounds

Practice rounds are offered to Tour members and are based on each individual club's availability. Some clubs may offer play to parents, but this is not the standard and should not be expected. The South Florida PGA Junior Links Tour Code of Conduct is in effect during practice rounds. Should parents be allowed to play, they too must abide by the Tour Code of Conduct.

### Accommodations for Junior Golfers with Disabilities or Chronic Health Conditions

The South Florida PGA Junior Links Tour will, at its sole discretion and upon receipt of applicable medical documentation, make reasonable accommodations for junior golfers with disabilities or chronic health condition. Subject to applicable rules established by the host site, reasonable accommodations may include the use of a pull cart or motorized golf cart for the transportation of golf clubs and competitors during Junior Links Tour events. All related inquiries and communications should be directed to the Junior Golf Director prior to the event.

### Assumption of Risk

By entering and competing in an SFPGA Junior Tour sanctioned tournament, you (and any spectators accompanying you) assume all risk and danger incidental to the game of golf and release SFPGA sanctioned tournaments and competitions and their host sites, sponsors, host organizations, SFPGA, participating players, and all agents thereof from any and all liabilities resulting from such cases.

You (and any spectators accompanying you) grant permission to the SFPGA to utilize your image or likeness incidental to any live or recorded television or other transmission or reproduction in whole or in part of any SFPGA event you attend. You agree not to transmit or facilitate transmission of any account, description, picture, or reproduction of any SFPGA event, including, without limitation, scoring related data, without the specific advance written permission of the SFPGA.

## AWARDS

### Tournament Awards

#### **Age Division Awards**

Awards for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 6-8, 9-11, 12-14 age divisions will be issued for both Boys and Girls. Age Division Awards will be presented on-site following play on the final day of the tournament for each of the events. For the tie-breaking procedure, see *Breaking Ties* in the Tournament Policies/Procedures Section.

## PACE OF PLAY POLICY

An average rate per hole will be set for all SFPGA Junior Links Tour events. Each competitor's scorecard will reflect their allotted time per hole, and a timing sheet will be posted and distributed at the first tee.

Each player must play without undue delay, which is defined as taking no more than 45 seconds to play a shot. Those players who are first to play from a given area (tee, fairway, green, etc.) will have 10 extra seconds to play their shot. A group will be monitored for pace of play based upon their time par and position (staying up with the group in front).

If any group falls behind their time par, the group will be given notice by an SFPGA official. The official will give the group three holes to make up the time. During this three-hole stretch, the rules official will stay with the group ensuring that time is being made up. If the group fails to make up time during the three hole stretch, they will remain on the clock until the end of their round. If the group fails to make up the time before completing the round, they will be issued a 1 stroke penalty for undue delay.

#### **Penalties:**

First Breach of Round = 1 stroke penalty to each player in the group.

If the first breach during a round occurs at the first checkpoint, and the group returns to their allotted time and obtains their position by the second checkpoint, the penalty will be lifted.

Second Breach of Round = the one stroke penalty given at the first checkpoint will remain with each player if they do not return to their allotted time, or obtain their position on the golf course.

#### **When a group will be notified:**



Given when a group is more than 15 minutes behind the group ahead (out of position) and over the allotted time.

- **Position: First Group(s) off Either Tee:** The first group(s) will be in breach of the pace of play policy if they take more than the allotted time to finish a hole until they reach (within 15 minutes) any group ahead. After they reach any group ahead, both conditions must be met to be in breach of the pace of play policy.  
**Position with Group Ahead:** To stay within 15 minutes of the group ahead, players should never have an open hole and they should be in the fairway on par 4's and 5's when the group ahead leaves the green.
- **Allotted time:** the maximum time allowed to complete play of the course. The allotted time is predetermined by the Tournament Committee and may be adjusted between rounds. Time for ball searches, rulings and walking time between holes is included in the allotted time. The allotted time will be printed on each scorecard and posted at the first tee.
- **Timing:** a group's completion time at each hole is measured when the flagstick is replaced in the hole once all players in the group have holed out.
- **Appeals:** if a player is concerned about slow play of one of their competitors they must remind that competitor of the Pace of Play Policy and encourage them to play more efficiently. The player may ask an official to monitor the group during any point of the round.

### SPECTATOR POLICY

The South Florida PGA Junior Links Tour encourages spectators and parents to attend any and all Tour events. However, it is a privilege for spectators to attend and they are therefore required to conduct themselves appropriately at all times.

The South Florida PGA Junior Links Tour reserves the right to suspend and/or ban any spectator from one or more events.

One spectator in each group will be a designated walking scorer. This spectators responsibilities include keeping score of each player in the group. Following play the walking scorers scorecard will be used to check accuracy of each players scorecard. The designated walking scorer will not be allowed to give rulings or advice to players during the round.

**Failure to comply with the Rules and Regulations may result in immediate removal from the facility and/or suspension of playing privileges for the member.**

Spectators must stay **50 yards** away from competitors so as to avoid the appearance of giving advice. (Rule 8-1, USGA Rules of Golf) Spectators are asked that they do **not** communicate with players during any competitive round. Examples are:

Verbal Communication

Hand signals to the participant, including gestures to influence player decisions

Providing participant with written material

Positional to assist with aim or alignment

Aiding in rulings or giving rulings

Interaction for health issues, **must only** take place prior to the hole being played or after. Examples include but are not limited to: the handing of medication, food, beverages or sunscreen.

*Any player seen speaking to a spectator during the play of a hole, or for any reason other than for health concerns, is subject to a 2 stroke penalty.*

Spectators **MUST** remain on cart paths or in the rough areas at all times. Walking in the fairways not only causes concern about interactions with players, but it can be dangerous and cause the group behind to be slowed down. Please walk ahead of the group you are watching to avoid delay of the group behind.

Spectators should **never** be on the putting surface or teeing area, and should observe these areas from a minimum of 50 yards so that there will be no interference.

Spectators are **not** allowed to use cell phones on the course, and request that they are turned off or left in the car during play.

Should inclement weather force a delay in play, we ask that you please help shuttle players back to the clubhouse. A delay will be signaled by one long blast.

*All spectators must dress appropriately in golf attire when attending South Florida PGA Junior Tour Events. Blue jeans, t-shirts, tank tops and short shorts are not to be worn.*

#### Spectator Carts

Spectator golf carts will be available at the discretion of the host facility. If spectator carts are permissible, they **must** remain on cart paths at **all times**. Cost of spectator carts are set by the host facility.

Spectators are **not** permitted to give rides to competitors between holes. SFPGA Staff will provide shuttles if and when they are necessary. The only time a player will be shuttle by spectators will be in inclement weather in which we ask that you please help shuttle players back to the clubhouse.

