



# PGA

Illinois Section

*Junior Tour*

## ILLINOIS PGA JUNIOR TOUR PLAYER HANDBOOK RULES & REGULATIONS

\*Revised as of 3/29/23

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## ***SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION***

### **Illinois Section PGA/Illinois PGA Foundation**

The Illinois Section of the PGA of America is a professional organization serving the men and women golf professionals in northern and central Illinois who are the recognized experts in growing, teaching and managing the game of golf. The Illinois PGA is responsible for the administration of competitive golf tournaments, educational opportunities, support programs and growth of the game initiatives. With over 750 members and apprentices, the Illinois PGA is one of the 41 regional Sections that comprise the PGA of America.

The Illinois PGA Foundation focuses its community efforts on promoting the goodwill and growth of the game with an emphasis on activities that benefit youth. Foundation initiatives include: GolfWorks Illinois, Youth-based Scholarship Funds, The Illinois PGA Junior Tour, and the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame. For more information about the Illinois PGA and the Illinois PGA Foundation, please visit [www.ipga.com](http://www.ipga.com) and join us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

### **ABOUT THE ILLINOIS PGA JUNIOR TOUR**

The Illinois PGA Junior Tour is for male and female junior golfers ages 14-18. In 2023, there will be a total of nine events throughout the summer at some of the most exclusive private facilities in Illinois. Juniors will be split into two divisions, one for boys and one for girls. Most Illinois PGA Junior Tour regular season events will be a 1:00pm shotgun start and will have a maximum field

size of 100 players. The first 76 boys and 24 girls will be entered into the event, and once a division is full, waiting list entries will be accepted.

Throughout the season there will be a Player of the Year race for all Illinois PGA Junior Tour members. The top 30 boys and top 15 girls will qualify for the end of the year invitational, the Illinois PGA Junior Masters Championship, which takes place at the Onwentsia Club on Thursday, July 27, 2023.

The entry fee for each single day event will be \$175 for members and \$225 for non-members and is charged at the time of registration. The entry fee for the Junior PGA Championship Qualifier will be \$300 for members and \$325 for non-members. Non-members of the Illinois PGA Junior Tour will be permitted to play in one Illinois PGA Junior Tour regular season event without registering for membership. All event entries will include the tournament entry, day-of access to the practice facilities, a tee gift, and complimentary beverages and snacks throughout the event.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Illinois PGA Junior Tour offers an exceptional tournament experience for junior golfers ages 14-18. The Tour provides competitive opportunities at premier facilities while fostering sportsmanship and integrity among its members.

### **SPONSOR AND PARTNER INFORMATION**

If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about sponsorship of the Illinois PGA Junior Tour please contact Kevin Quinn, Director of Communications & Business Development, at [kbquinn@pgahq.com](mailto:kbquinn@pgahq.com).

### **2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

<i>June 5, 2023</i>	<b>Jr. Tour Event #1 @ Naperville CC</b>	<b>Naperville, IL</b>
<i>June 12, 2023</i>	<b>Jr. Tour Event #2 @ Bryn Mawr CC</b>	<b>Lincolnwood, IL</b>
<i>June 19-20, 2023</i>	<b>Jr. PGA Qualifier/Event #3 @ Flossmoor GC</b>	<b>Flossmoor, IL</b>
<i>July 26, 2023</i>	<b>Jr. Tour Event #4 @ Biltmore CC</b>	<b>North Barrington, IL</b>
<i>July 5, 2023</i>	<b>Jr. Tour Event #5 @ Bull Valley GC</b>	<b>Woodstock, IL</b>
<i>July 10, 2023</i>	<b>Jr. Tour Event #6 @ Hawthorn Woods CC</b>	<b>Hawthorn Woods, IL</b>
<i>July 17, 2023</i>	<b>Jr. Tour Event #7 @ Westmoreland CC</b>	<b>Wilmette, IL</b>
<i>July 24, 2023</i>	<b>Jr. Tour Event #8 @ Elgin CC</b>	<b>Elgin, IL</b>
<i>July 27, 2023</i>	<b>Junior Masters Championship @ Onwentsia Club</b>	<b>Lake Forest, IL</b>

## JUNIOR TOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Brandon Seymour  
Manager of Communications & Junior Tour  
Illinois Section PGA  
bseymour@pgahq.com  
Website: [www.IPGA.com](http://www.IPGA.com)

## SECTION 2: PROGRAM INFORMATION

### BLUEGOLF

BlueGolf is the tournament administration software that the Illinois PGA uses for all tournament operations. All players are required to create a free BlueGolf profile where they will register and pay for membership and tournaments. All tournament information, including group and hole assignments, event leaderboard, and player points history will be available on each tournament's information page (TIP). All of these features will be available in BlueGolf, both online and via the Illinois PGA Junior Tour app.

### ELIGIBILITY

Membership is open to junior amateurs who are between the ages of 14-18. All members are eligible to qualify for the season-ending Junior Masters Championship as long as they are between the ages of 14-18 on July 27, 2023. The field for each event will be split in two divisions – Boys 14-18 and Girls 14-18.

**\*\*12-year-old and 13-year-old players will be permitted to play in the Junior PGA Championship Qualifier ONLY.**

### FORMAT OF COMPETITION

All regular season 2023 Illinois PGA Junior Tour events will be 18-hole individual stroke-play competition (except for the 2023 Junior PGA Championship Qualifier). Field size\* will be limited to 100 players maximum, approximately 76 boys and 24 girls. \*Field makeup is subject to change based on event registrations. Most regular season events will consist of a **1:00 p.m.** shotgun start, unless otherwise specified. Every effort will be made to complete each event; however, the Illinois PGA reserves the right to shorten any event due to weather and/or course conditions. The Junior PGA Championship Qualifier/Event #3 will be a single tee start beginning at 7:00 a.m. both days.

## **JUNIOR PGA CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER/EVENT #3 \*NEW EVENT IN 2023\***

The Junior PGA Championship Qualifier/Event #3 is the only 36-hole multi-day event of the season. At minimum, two (2) boys' and two (2) girls' will earn spots into the 2023 Junior PGA Championship hosted at Hot Springs Country Club in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

One (1) AJGA star will be awarded to the top 50% of the field, Two (2) AJGA stars to the top 20% of the field and Four (4) AJGA stars to the winner in each qualifier. Elevated IPGA Junior Tour Player of the Year Points will be awarded for this.

The Junior PGA Championship Qualifier will have a maximum field size of 129 players. Tee Times will run from 7:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. each day (based on full field).

## **JUNIOR MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP**

The Junior Masters Championship is the culminating event of the Junior Tour season. Eligibility for the Junior Masters event is limited to Junior Tour members only\* and is determined by the season long points race. There is no minimum requirement of tournaments played in order to obtain eligibility for the Junior Masters Championship. The host facility has a right to exemption spots. \*Host facility exemption spots can be awarded to non-Junior Tour members.

Invitations for the Junior Masters Championship will be sent to the top 45 participants - 15 Girls and 30 Boys, in two different waves, following Event #7 and Event #8.

After Event #7 on Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> – the top 12 Girls and the top 24 Boys will be invited to the Junior Masters. After Event #8 on Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup> the remaining 3 Girls and 6 Boys will be invited. Any invitations that are not accepted by Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm will be offered to the next player on the points list.

**\* Please Note: PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO ACCEPT THEIR INVITATION TO THE JUNIOR MASTERS EVENT/BY REGISTERING OR EMAILING IPGA STAFF\***

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The cost of Junior Tour Membership is \$65. All membership registrations must be processed online via CREDIT CARD. Membership fees are non-refundable and purchasing a membership does not guarantee entry into tournaments. Membership expires at the end of the calendar year, regardless of when the membership was purchased. All junior golfers who purchase the 2023 membership receive a membership gift package which includes tee prize and bag tag, as well as a

chance to qualify for the 2023 Junior Masters Championship, hosted on July 27, 2023, at the Onwentsia Club.

### **POINT STRUCTURE & ALLOCATION**

Illinois PGA Junior Tour Player of the Year points will be awarded to all finishers in each division at each event based on the Illinois PGA points structure listed on the Junior Tour webpage. Player of the Year points are awarded to members based on their finish in relation to the rest of their division. Tier-1 points will be awarded for any regular season event and Tier-2 points will be awarded for the Junior Masters Championship only. Points will be distributed equally amongst ties for all positions in each division. See 'Tiebreakers & Playoffs' section for more information. The top point earners in each Division (Boys 14-18 and Girls 14-18) qualify for the season-ending Junior Masters Championship, after which the top point earner in each division will be crowned Player of the Year. The 2023 Junior Boys Player of the year will also receive an exemption into the 2024 Illinois Open Championship & be placed on the Qualifier Alternate List for the 2023 Illinois Open Championship.

Please allow 3-5 days for points to be awarded following each event. Points are only awarded to competitors who are Illinois PGA Junior Tour members at the time of play. If a non-member opts to purchase a membership at a later date, only points earned AFTER the membership has been purchased will count towards that participant's points race.

### **TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION**

The tournament entry fee is \$175 per event for members and \$225 for non-members and is charged at the time of registration. Non-members of the Illinois PGA Junior Tour will be permitted to play in one Illinois PGA Junior Tour regular season event without registering for membership. Players must register online via BlueGolf for events. Entries will not be accepted via telephone or email. Confirmation emails will be sent to the player email address on file when a player is successfully entered into an event. Registration will close at 11:59pm seven (7) days prior to each event.

### **YARDAGES (approximate)**

All players in each division will compete from the same set of tees at each event.

- Girls Division – approximate yardage between 5,500 – 6,000 yards
- Boys Division - approximate yardage between 6,300 – 6,800 yards

## **SECTION 3: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **CODE OF CONDUCT – PRIMARY POLICY**

Players must be willing to comply with all policies set forth by the Illinois PGA Junior Tour. Players must also adhere to any rules set forth by the host facility, which will be listed on the BlueGolf Tournament Information Page on a facility by facility basis. Any such incidents regarding Code of Conduct violations will be handled immediately at the discretion of the onsite Junior Tour staff and officials. The Illinois PGA Junior Tour reserves the right to warn, penalize, disqualify or suspend playing privileges at any time.

#### **DRESS CODE**

Appropriate attire for boys is a collared golf shirt, pants or long shorts, and golf shoes with soft spikes. Appropriate dress for girls is a collared golf shirt, pants or long shorts/skirts/skort, and golf shoes with soft spikes. No cargo shorts, jeans or denim of ANY kind, tank tops, sweat suits, T-shirts, gym/mesh shorts, bicycle shorts, halter-tops, midriiffs, or short shorts/skirts will be tolerated. Girls' shorts/skirts **MUST** be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee. All boy's shirts must be tucked in at all times. Absolutely no hats are to be worn backwards and should be taken off when entering the clubhouse. Players AND spectators who do not abide by the dress code may be asked to change or leave club premises. The tournament staff reserves the right to deem whether a player or spectator is wearing appropriate golf attire.

#### **PACE OF PLAY**

Players are expected to stay in position and stay connected to the group ahead throughout the round. Illinois PGA Junior Tour staff and officials will notify the players if they are out of position, and players will be subject to Code of Conduct penalties if they do not make an effort to get back in position in a timely manner.

#### **PLAYER GUIDELINES - ETIQUETTE**

Any conduct unbecoming a junior golfer, including cheating and dishonesty, shall be subject to warning by an Junior Tour staff or official and potential disqualification at any subsequent incident. Junior Tour staff and officials reserve the right to disqualify or suspend a player indefinitely on-site in the event of a serious breach of conduct, without warning from an official. Such conduct shall include but is not limited to cheating, fighting, abusive language, tobacco/ alcohol/drug use, club throwing, profanity, showing disrespect to volunteers, Junior Tour staff,

host site staff or officials, littering or leaving trash on the course and abuse of the golf course or golf facility **INCLUDING FAILURE TO REPAIR BALL MARKS AND REPLACE DIVOTS.**

### **RANGE CONDUCT**

We ask that all players be respectful of one another and accommodating at the practice facilities. With a field size of 100 players and shotgun starts, practice facilities will likely become crowded. We ask that players limit their time on the range, short game area and/or practice putting green if other players are waiting to warm-up, and share spots when possible. A tournament official will be monitoring practice facilities to ensure all players are following the rules. Should the tournament official determine a player is abusing the system, that player will be warned and may be asked to exit the practice facilities if conduct persists. We encourage any player with concerns to warm up prior to arrival on site.

### **SPECTATOR GUIDELINES**

All spectators must adhere to the same dress code guidelines as players. Spectator cell phones are to remain on silent at all times when on host-site property. Spectators should remain on cart paths\* whenever possible, and limit interactions with players as much as possible by maintaining a distance of at least 25 yards from all players. Spectators are allowed to aid in the search for lost golf balls and are allowed to carry medicine, drinks, food, umbrellas, and other necessary supplies. Spectators may not bring pets or push strollers. Children should not spectate unless they are able to comport themselves appropriately.

The Illinois PGA Junior Tour reserves the right to ask any spectator to leave the facility at any time for failing to follow the guidelines. \*Due to the limited amount of golf carts available on event days, spectator carts will NOT be allowed.



## **SECTION 3.5: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **COMPETITION POLICIES**

#### **CADDIES & MOTORIZED GOLF CARTS**

The use of caddies or any motorized golf cart is **prohibited**. *Notwithstanding the foregoing: The Illinois PGA, Illinois PGA Junior Tour and PGA of America are committed to conduct golf competitions within the perimeters of the American with Disabilities Act. Players who request relief under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and seek a reasonable accommodation for their disability by the use of a motorized golf cart during an event competition shall be required to submit their request in writing to Brandon Seymour on or before the entry deadline date for review and determination.*

#### **CANCELLATION POLICY**

Cancellations will be granted up until 11:59 p.m. seven (7) days prior to the scheduled Junior Tour event. Please note that replying to an automated email will not validate a cancellation. Players **MUST** cancel their registration in their BlueGolf profile. *\*All cancellations are subject to a \$15 processing/administration fee.*

#### **DIVISION SIZE**

With exception of the Junior PGA Qualifier and the Junior Masters Championship, Field size will be limited to the first 76 boys and 24 girls in each division. If the deadline has passed and open spots remain in one division, those spots may be reallocated and filed with players from the other division if there's a waiting list.

#### **DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES**

The Illinois PGA allows the usage of distance-measuring devices in all Junior Tour events so long as the devices measures distance ONLY.

#### **ELECTRONIC LIVE SCORING**

\*The Illinois PGA Jr Tour will not be utilizing electronic live scoring during the 2023 regular season.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER/UNPLAYABLE CONDITIONS**

All practice areas are closed during suspension of play for a dangerous situation until the Illinois PGA Junior Tour staff has declared them open for use. Players who disregard such closing are subject to disqualification and disciplinary action as a breach of Code of Conduct.

## **CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

\*It is encouraged that mobile phones only be used to contact rules officials or in an event of an emergency. A player using their phone causing undue delay, acquiring advice, or using it in violation of approved electronic measuring devices will be penalized as a breach of Code of Conduct. Conversational use shall be limited to emergency use only or to call the Tournament Director for a ruling. The use of text and email functions are permissible, provided there is no audible sound, and the use does not distract other players.

## **NO CARD/ONSITE WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

If a player starts a round and does not turn in a scorecard with valid scores for the event, a No Card (NC) will be posted as the player's score. Any player who leaves the course without notifying the Illinois PGA Junior Tour Staff will be recorded as a NC. The only way to have a Justified Withdrawal (JWD) during an event is to prove that the junior is seriously ill and physically unable to complete the round. Any non-justified withdrawal or NC will be subject to further review by Illinois PGA Junior Tour Staff. Eligibility to register for or participate in future events may be limited as a result of one or more NCs or unjustified withdrawals.

## **NON-MEMBER PARTICIPATION**

Non-members are permitted to play in one Illinois PGA Junior Tour regular season event without registering for membership. The tournament entry fee is \$225 for non-members. Non-members are NOT eligible to earn points, and therefore remit eligibility to the season-ending Junior Masters Tournament. If a non-member opts to purchase a membership at a later date, only points earned AFTER the membership has been purchased will count towards that participant's points race.

## **ON-SITE CHECK-IN**

All players must check-in **30 minutes** prior to the scheduled shotgun start time to receive their scorecard and tournament tee gift. If a player fails to register upon arrival or prior to 30-minutes before the scheduled shotgun time and there is a Waitlist for the event, they forfeit their spot to someone on the Waitlist. If for any reason a player cannot arrive 30-minutes prior to the shotgun but still intends to participate, they MUST contact Brandon Seymour via phone or email.

## **PRACTICE ROUNDS**

There are no guaranteed practice rounds for Illinois PGA Junior Tour events. Practice rounds are at the discretion of the host facility and based on availability. Please note that these courses are all private facilities and likely will not permit practice rounds. Please see an event's specific Tournament Information Page for full details.

## **PULL CARTS**

All participants may utilize pull/push carts, so long as they are non-motorized.

## **REFUND POLICY**

The official entry deadline for each event will be posted on the event's online Tournament Information Page. Registration will close at 11:59 p.m. seven (7) days prior to each event. No refunds will be processed following the entry deadline. If and when a spot becomes available in a full field, the next waitlisted player (prioritized by date and time of registration) will be automatically added to the field and that player's credit card will immediately be processed for the respective event's entry fee. If a player on a waiting list is automatically added to a field when a spot becomes available but is unable to participate, he or she is eligible for a full refund of that entry fee if the Illinois PGA Junior Tour is notified within 24-hours of when the player was added to the field.

Competitors who withdraw from an event prior to the event's posted deadline for any reason will be eligible for a full refund, minus a \$15 processing fee. Competitors who wish to withdraw from an event after the event's posted deadline must fill out the Illinois PGA Junior Tour Online Emergency Refund Request Form and supply requested backup documentation within 48 hours of the event in order for a refund to be considered. Refunds, minus a \$15 processing fee, will be authorized for players reporting documented family or medical emergencies only. Refunds will be processed back to the credit card used to register for the event.

Refund requests that are 1) not accompanied by the required or requested backup documentation within 48-business hours of the event, 2) occur outside of the 48-business hour window following the completion of an event, or 3) are for another reason other than a family or medical emergency, must be reviewed by the Illinois PGA Junior Tour staff. This group will have the sole discretion to approve or deny such refund requests. Such decisions are final.

## **SCORING AREA**

All players are to report immediately to the scoring area after their round is completed. A player's scorecard has been returned to the Committee when the player has exited the defined scoring area. A player is deemed to have exited the defined scoring area when they have stepped out of the area with both feet. The scoring area will be defined by rope or tape. In situations when rope or tape is not present, the scoring table and chairs will define the scoring area. Prior to returning the scorecard, a player that needs to leave the scoring area must inform the Illinois PGA Junior Tour scorer of his or her intention to leave and immediately return.

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 Illinois PGA Junior Tour scorer infers the number to be. To avoid this: players should ensure all numbers are neatly written, if a player has to scratch out or change a score, the correct score should be written above or below the box and initialed by the player's marker. Players should stay seated in the scoring area until the Junior Tour staff member has verbalized the score back to each player.

Parents and spectators MAY NOT be present in the scoring area unless authorized to do so by an Illinois PGA Junior Tour staff member. Any violation of this condition may result in that individual being banned from future Illinois PGA Junior Tour events.

## **SHOTGUN START**

Most regular season Illinois PGA Junior Tour events will consist of a **1:00 p.m.** shotgun start unless otherwise specified. Players will be responsible for walking to their starting holes. Players will be asked by tournament officials to begin walking out to their starting holes 20-minutes prior to the 1:00 p.m. shotgun start time. Players will be asked to wait for the air horn or siren to indicate the start of play.

## **TIES AND PLAYOFFS**

In the event of a tie, points will be split amongst the players equally. Due to limited daylight and a large field size, an on-course playoff is reserved for the first-place spot in either division. In the case for a tie for first place, an on-course playoff will be contested immediately following play if course availability and conditions allow. In the event that conditions do not allow an on-course playoff, the USGA recommends a scorecard playoff will break the tie for first place. The decision on whether or not to contest an on-course playoff is solely determined by host facility and Illinois PGA Junior Tour staff. Ties for second and third place trophies will be broken with the USGA recommended scorecard playoff in all events. All other ties will not be broken.

## **WAITLIST POLICY**

Players on the Waitlist will gain a spot in a tournament in the event of another registrant's cancellation. The spot in the field will be filled automatically from the Waitlist when the corresponding division has an available spot open. Joining the Waitlist is a declared intention to play. If at any point a player on the Waitlist does not intend to play, a formal cancellation is **REQUIRED** in order to allot that position to the next available player. If spots open in any division, players on the Waitlist will be pulled off until 12:00pm the day before the event.

Players on the Waitlist that have not been allocated a spot prior to the event may choose to gain entry via the Onsite Waitlist. Players on the Waitlist may arrive onsite the day of the event no earlier than 90 minutes prior to the shotgun start. Players **NOT** on the event Waitlist may **NOT** arrive onsite and attempt to gain entry into any event.

## **WEATHER DELAYS & EVACUATION PLAN**

In the event of a weather delay we ask all participants to immediately seek nearest shelter or evacuate the course. Players should assume that any discontinuation of play is for a dangerous situation unless otherwise notified. Tournament officials and the host facility will sound an air horn, and text alerts and email alerts will be sent out to all players immediately. Once the air horn is blown players **MUST** discontinue all play. Wherever the ball lies, please mark it. The Illinois PGA Junior Tour will make every effort to continue play following a delay. That said, due to daylight concerns, the event will be canceled if play has been delayed longer than the approximate amount of time needed for participants to finish play before darkness.

In the event of evacuation, Junior Tour staff and tournament officials will work in assigned Evacuation Zones to ensure all players in each zone have halted play and are proceeding to the clubhouse for shelter. Zones will be assigned in relation to proximity of the clubhouse, and cart evacuation will begin at the furthest point from the clubhouse (Zone A) and will continue from there until all zones are clear (Zone B-D). At all Illinois PGA Junior Tour events, the safety of our players is the top priority. Tournament officials will only begin evacuating spectators once all players are safely in shelter.