



## PGA Junior League at Topstone

### *Parent Information*

Parents,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the PGA Junior League at Topstone! The league will be managed by golf professionals Jeffrey Beyer, PGA and Erik Ritchie.

We are excited to be a part of this program and look forward to a fun filled season of golf with the juniors.

*“PGA Junior League Golf is a fun, social, and inclusive opportunity for boys and girls, ages 13 and under to learn and enjoy the game of golf.”*

**The above statement will be the guiding principle of our league...**

However, we can't do it without strong, positive parental support. We can never have enough motivated volunteers and golf experience is NOT a pre-requisite. We can help you learn too!

The PGA Junior League does require a background check for anyone that will be serving in an official Assistant Coach/Parent Volunteer capacity. The background check is easily commenced as part of your on-line registration to be a volunteer and they have been getting turned around very quickly.

More than just “needing” volunteers, we truly want you to be a part of this, so if interested, please register at the PGA Junior League website: <http://www.pgajlg.com/parents>

Thanks for making the choice to be a part of what we believe will be truly awesome season and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions at all.

**How This Works** – Sign-up juniors at [www.pgajrleague.com](http://www.pgajrleague.com). The Connecticut PGA Junior League Manager will pair up teams at area golf courses into leagues. Once our league courses have been chosen the Team Captains will meet and put together a schedule of matches. We will notify you of the schedule when completed.

**What does your PGA Junior League (PGAJL) registration fee get your child?**

- PGA Jr. League Uniforms
- Practice with the Pros on Saturdays
- Rounds of golf on Game Day
- Team
- cookout

## Responsibilities

### League Manager

- Coordinate the activities for the league
- Ensure high-level of communication to all league participants
- Provide League Rules, Code of Conduct, and other League information to parents.

### Parent Representative

- Serve on the League Committee
- Serve as the voice of the parents/guardians of our players to ensure league communication remains open and effective.

### Team Captain

- Conduct practice sessions
- Work with Team Manager to prepare Match Assignments for Game Day
- Ensure player rotation and substitution schedule is equitable
- Monitor your Teams during the course of the match for safety, and to provide rules information when requested.
- Ensure the League Manager receives a completed Game Results form from your team at the conclusion of the game.

### Team Manager

- Coordinate optional practice periods for your team.
- Work with the Team Captain to prepare Match Assignments for Game Day
- Ensure player rotation and substitution schedule is equitable
- Monitor your Teams during the course of the match for safety, and to provide rules information when requested.
- Provide completed “Game Results” form to Team Captain, upon completion of the Game

## Practice Sessions

Practices will be held on Saturday afternoons starting in May. There will be four team practice sessions with a golf professional and will include putting, chipping, full swing, on-course play plus rules and etiquette.

The purpose of the “team practice” concept is to help develop the bonds between the kids on each team who may range in age from 8-13. The team concept of PGA Junior League is critical to the program. The opportunity for the “older kids” to help the “younger” kids, and maybe even the other way around is a key tenant of the program.

A CORE element of all of our activities will be to create a fun and enjoyable educational environment for the kids. Sure, there will be some drills, and some fundamentals, but there will be games as well.

**Optional Practices:** As PGA Coaches/Instructors, we provide information to golfers of all ages and levels to help them improve their skills, understand the game, and increase their enjoyment of playing. For all ages, re-enforcement of new and developing skills after a coaching session would be beneficial.

For this reason, we strongly encourage parents to get their kids back out to the golf course and Willow Brook range after the practice session. Let them explore what they learned during team practice, let them have some fun!

## Game Day

The PGA Junior League at Topstone will have matches starting in June. Schedules will be posted once Team Coaches meet and set up match dates and home course. *Parents must provide transportation to and from all home and away matches.*

## Terms, Conduct of Play, and Scoring

- Game – A Game is a Team vs Team competition.
- Team - A Team is comprised of 8-10 players, boys and girls
- Match – During a Game there are 4 Matches between the Teams. Each Match consists of 2 players from each Team playing each other in a “Scramble”. Each 2-person Team is permitted to have a Substitute player for the match. We will discuss the Substitute role below.
- Scramble – A “Scramble” is a format where both players hit their ball, then pick the best one, and then both hit again from that spot. That format is followed until the ball is holed. The team with the lowest score on the hole wins the hole. All games are played in a Scramble format.
- Flag – The Matches will consist of 9-holes of play. Each Match is broken into 3 “Flags”. A Flag is 3 holes. A Flag is won by winning the most holes out of that particular 3-hole Flag. A Flag is worth ONE point. If each team wins a hole, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole is tied, that Flag is halved, and each team gets a half flag and a half-point
  - winning all three flags, and the max score (only if the team won every Flag), would be 12 points (4 Matches, 3 points per Match = 12 points).

- Substitute – Substitutes can be assigned to each 2-person team in a match and we intend to do this for every Match when we have the available golfers. The point of having 12 person Teams is to ensure we always have enough players (because things do come up) to field four, 2-person Teams for each of the four Teams in our league on game day (Saturday).
- To maximize participation, a Substitute can replace a player at the start of a Flag. If we use a Substitute in a 9-hole match, each golfer plays 6 holes, and serves as Substitute for the other 3.
- This is an important, and unique element of PGA Junior League as it gives the Substitute an opportunity to participate through coaching, moral support, giving advice, tending the flagstick, etc. It is designed to develop a true team aspect for the event, and what better way than to learn how to support your fellow players.

## Match Rules

**Shot Progression:** both players on each team will tee off on every hole, with the best shot selected and played. Continue this progression until the ball is holed and the hole completed.

**Preferred Lies:** players shall have the right to lift, clean and place their ball before each shot. There is never a penalty for inadvertently moving a ball in PGA Junior League Golf.

Players shall walk during their matches and may either carry their bags or use pull-carts where allowed. In cases of long distances between greens and tees, it is permissible for Coaches and/or scorekeepers to shuttle players to the next tee. An alternate player's bag may be carried on the scorekeeper's cart, until that Player enters the match.

**Pace of Play:** We want the kids to have fun, but we want them to learn the importance of playing at a good pace, even as they are learning. If groups fall behind pace of play our captains/managers are allowed to ensure that they catch up.

**SPECTATORS** – Parents shall observe the code of conduct and are not permitted to caddie, or carry a player's clubs. Parents/spectators must stay in the rough, along the tree line at all times, and cannot interfere with the match. We will permit parents/spectators to help look for balls and cheer on the teams. *All applicable golf car fees must be paid to host golf course according to their rules.*

**EQUIPMENT** – EACH PLAYER MUST BRING OWN EQUIPMENT

# **Code of Conduct**

## **For Parents and Spectators**

Spectators acknowledge that the goal of PGA Junior League Golf is for players to have fun with friends.

Spectators agree to refrain from participating in players' strategic decisions.

Spectators agree to defer the enforcement of rules to players and team leaders.

Spectators agree to abstain from coaching or giving advice to the players.

Spectators agree to abstain from caddying.

Spectators are encouraged to cheer, have fun and be supportive of the players.

Spectators agree to demonstrate sportsmanship, respect and a positive attitude.

Spectators must stay near the cart path and never step on the green.

Spectators agree to abide by any rules and regulations of the host facility (dress code, cell phone policy, spectator policy, etc.)

*All applicable golf car fees must be paid, if required by host facility.*

## **For Players**

Players acknowledge that the purpose of PGA Junior League Golf is learn about and enjoy golf while having fun with their friends.

Players agree to demonstrate sportsmanship, teamwork and a positive attitude.

Players agree to be respectful of fellow players, spectators, coaches, and facility staff.

*We look forward to a fun and exciting season! Thank you for participating!*