



WESTERN NEW YORK

Junior Tour

THE WNYPGA HANDBOOK

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The purpose of the WNYPGA Junior Golf Handbook is to provide players and parents alike with an understanding of the mission and expectations of our players and spectators. By signing up as a Junior Tour member, all players, parents, and other spectators are committing to following all policies and procedures set forth by the WNYPGA Junior Golf Committee in this document. The WNYPGA Staff has full authority to remove players and spectators from any golf course or the Tour for conduct that does not represent the WNYPGA brand.

WNYPGA JUNIOR TOUR

MISSION:

The WNYPGA Junior Golf Tour provides an opportunity and atmosphere for juniors to enjoy the camaraderie, friendship, and sportsmanship of competitive golf at a series of premier venues throughout the Western New York Section of the PGA of America. Players in all divisions will compete in a season-long points race to qualify for the season ending Junior Golf Tour Championship.

ELIGIBILITY:

The WNYPGA Junior Tour is open to juniors residing within the boundaries of the WNYPGA Section, members of the BDGA or RDGA, and Canadian players who have reached the age of 10 yrs but will not reach their 19th birthday before August 1, 2025.

Divisions & Yardages based on ADM model:

- Boys 16-18 yrs: up to 7,200 yds
- Boys 13-15 yrs: up to 6,400 yds
- Girls 16-18 yrs: up to 6,400 yds
- Girls 13-15 yrs: up to 5,800 yds
- Boys 9 Hole (10-12 yrs): up to 5,500 yds
- Girls 9 Hole (10-12 yrs): up to 4,750 yds

***Age as of June 30th, 2025 will determine age division placement.**

[Playing Up a Division](#)

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Tour Membership fee is **\$165.00 per player** regardless of division. This is a non-refundable administrative fee.

Membership includes:

- Unlimited access to Junior Tour events with paid entry fee
- Tour Swag
- Access to World Golf Handicap (if player has an established handicap already)
- Junior Scoreboard
- Player of the Year Eligibility

***THE COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.**

****The Tour Membership fee DOES NOT include the cost of individual tournaments. Please see below for the additional cost breakdown of individual Junior Tour Tournaments.**

JUNIOR TOUR EVENT FEES:

Players will register for each event they would like to participate in. There is no limit to the number of events they can participate in. In order to register for events, players must take the Juniors Rules Test (see page below). See event pricing below:

- \$70.00 / 18-hole division single 18 hole event
- \$40.00 / 9-hole divisions single 9 hole event
- \$150-175.00 / Shootout 18-hole division 36-hole event
- \$150.00 / WNYPGA Jr Tour Member- Jr Section Championship
- \$20000. / Non Jr Tour Member - Jr Section Championship
- \$100.00 / 9-hole Junior Tour Championship
- \$175.00 / Junior Tour Championship

Please note: Entry into each event is on a first come first served basis, with a limited Waitlist.

***EACH MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES ACCESS TO OUR GOLF GENIUS PORTAL.**

RULES TEST:

All Juniors must complete a Rules Test with at least a 75% accuracy before registering for any Junior Tour event. Juniors are encouraged to use the USGA Rules Book and App to help them complete the test. Younger Juniors are encouraged to complete the test with a parent/guardian.

ENTRY INFORMATION:

- Capacity at events varies. Should the maximum number of entrants for an event be reached, any further entries will be processed as wait listed. (See waitlist policies.)
- Registration for each event is available on a first-come first-served basis once on-line registration begins.
- The entry deadline for each event will be posted on Golf Genius prior to the event. The membership fee and the entry fee must be received by the event deadline. If the event is not full, you will be entered in the event. If the event is full at the time your entry is received, you will be placed on the waitlist.
- Requests for pairings will not be granted. However, we will be happy to attempt to make arrangements for juniors traveling together to be paired in groups near each other.

WAITLIST POLICIES:

- If an event is full when you register online, you will be notified that you are on the waitlist through your Golf Genius Portal.
- If you choose to remain on the waitlist and a spot becomes available, you will be automatically entered into the event. You will receive an email notification that your name has been pulled from the waitlist to fill a cancellation, and your card on file will be charged the entry fee.
- Players on the waitlist are assumed to be available to play if space opens. They will automatically be entered and charged if added to the field. This can happen up until pairings go out for the event.
- If a player is moved from the waitlist to the field and is not available to play, they will not receive a refund. It is the player's responsibility to manage their playing schedule.
- Players can be removed from the waitlist through their Player Portal up until the entry deadline closes.
- If an alternate is unable to be reached by email, the next name on the waitlist will be contacted by email.
- Waitlists will be reviewed once the entry deadline closes. Every effort will be made to pull as many waitlist players into the event field.

WITHDRAWAL & NO SHOW POLICY:

1. **A player can withdraw from an event up until the entry deadline closes through their Golf Genius Player Portal. If withdrawal is prior to the deadline, full refund of entry will be given back to the card on file however a minimal transaction fee will be charged to the card used for the event.**

2. ALL notices for withdrawal after the deadline must be sent by email to: jhaile@pgahq.com for review by the staff. A confirmation email will be sent to the player acknowledging receipt and outlining any applicable penalties or refund eligibility.
3. If a player withdraws after pairings have been sent to the field and the host professional, no refund will be received as we are responsible for the number of players at that point to the host facility.

MULTI-DAY EVENT ENTRY FEE REFUND POLICY:

- Entry fees for multi-day events are a “package-style” entry fee and are not based on each of the individual day’s rounds.
- If a multi-day event is cancelled completely due to poor weather conditions, a full refund will be issued to the field.
- If only a portion of a multi-day event is cancelled or if the number of holes played is reduced (i.e. Stipulated 9’s) no refund will be issued, as we remain responsible for the associated expenses of events, regardless of holes completed.

AGE & ADM MODEL DIVISIONS:

9 Hole Division:

The 9 Hole Division introduces the beginner 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 level but is ready to start competitive golf.

Divisions & Yardages based on ADM model:

- Boys 9 Hole (10-12 yrs): up to 5,500 yds
- Girls 9 Hole (10-12 yrs): up to 4,750 yds
- Score Limits: Boys and Girls must average below 70 for 9 holes.

Caddies: Caddies are not allowed. Players must carry their own clubs or use a push/pull cart.

Awards: Medals awarded to top three finishers & Player of the Year points for all who turn in a scorecard.

9 Hole Eligible Event Types:

- Single day 9-hole events
- Players who place in the top of the Player of the Year Points race, following the final regular season WNYPGA event and the BDGA/RDGA Stroke Play Championships, will be invited to the **Tour Championship on August 18th & 19th at Wild Wood C.C.**
 - **Exception:** There must be a minimum of two competitors, per division, in order for a champion to be named.

18 Hole Division:

The 18 Hole Division provides professionally run 18 hole and 36 hole events for the golfer looking to grow in their tournament experience.

Divisions & Yardages based on ADM model:

- Boys 16-18 yrs: up to 7,200 yds
- Boys 13-15 yrs: up to 6,400 yds
- Girls 16-18 yrs: up to 6,400 yds
- Girls 13-15 yrs: up to 5,800 yd

Score Limits: Maintain a stroke average below 120.

Caddies: Caddies are not allowed. Players must carry their own clubs or use a push/pull cart.

Awards: Medals awarded to top three finishers & Player of the Year points for all who turn in a scorecard.

- 18 Hole Events: Medals awarded to top three finishers
- 36 Hole Events: Double Player of the Year Points
- Player of the Year points for all who turn in a validated scorecard
- 36 Hole Majors are subject to receiving JGS, GJGR, and potential AJGA Performance Based Entry Stars (AJGA are not guaranteed).



- All 36 Events results are sent to the National Junior Golf Scoreboard and Junior Golf Hub’s college recruiting platform.
- & MORE!

18 Hole Eligible Event Types:

- Single day 18 hole events
- 36 Hole Majors, season dependent
- Qualifying juniors may be invited to any of the following events:
 - **WNYPGA Junior Tour Championship @Stafford Country Club (Aug. 10 & 11, 2025)**
 - **Expection:** There must be a minimum of two competitors, per division, in order for a champion to be named.

STARTING TIMES, RESULTS & POINT STANDINGS:

Starting times, results, and point standings will be posted on the Blue Golf Tournament information page of the WNYPGA website: www.westernnewyork.pga.com
 Starting times will be posted approximately 72 hours in advance of the event and will be sent to the participants.

STANDINGS & PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Based on a player's finish and turning in of an official scorecard for a WNYPGA Junior Tour event, points towards Player of the Year status, per division, will be awarded as seen below for SINGLE DAY events, 2 DAY EVENTS will be double points. ****Other ways to gain participation points towards Player of the Year status:**

- Participating in the RDGA/BDGA Junior Stroke Play Championship (25 points based on participation)
- WNYPGA Section/Foundation volunteer opportunities (25 points based on participation)

Junior Tour Points Structure within a Division:

PLACE	POINTS
1	50
2	40
3	35
4	30
5	25
6	20
7	15
8	14
9	13
10	12
11	11
12	10
13	9
14	8
15	7
16	6
17	5
18	4
19	3
20	2
21	1
22	1

EVENT STRUCTURE:

- All play will be individual stroke play.
- Players will compete within their appropriate division:

- o Boys 16-18 yrs: up to 7,200 yds
- o Boys 13-15 yrs: up to 6,400 yds
- o Girls 16-18 yrs: up to 6,400 yds
- o Girls 13-15 yrs: up to 5800 yds
- o Boys 9 Hole (10-12 yrs): up to 5,500 yds
- o Girls 9 Hole (10-12 yrs): up to 4,750 yds

NO CARD or ON-COURSE WITHDRAWALS:

If a player must leave a tournament site because of illness, injury, or a family emergency, a tournament official must be notified. **A player failing to turn in a scorecard for any other reason will not be eligible to participate in their next scheduled event, with no refund.**

SCORE LIMITS:

We would like to remind both parents and juniors that although the Tour is meant to be an enjoyable learning experience for those involved, there is a high level of competitiveness. For that reason, and to help maintain a reasonable pace of play, the WNYPGA Junior Golf Program has found it necessary to implement the following policy. This policy is not in effect to discourage junior golfers, but rather to provide a competitive program in the WNYPGA Section.

***Note: Any player who shoots a score over the posted limit for his/her age at TWO different events will be subject to review and could be eliminated from the remainder of the schedule.**

Weather and course conditions will be taken into consideration in determining the score limits. If the scoring limits cannot be met, the WNYPGA Junior Golf Program will be pleased to assist you in finding a local golf program or PGA Professional for instruction.

18 HOLE GIRLS

120 or below

9 HOLE GIRLS

70 or below

18 HOLE BOYS

100 or below

9 HOLE BOYS

60 or below

PACE OF PLAY:

We expect that our players are capable of playing an 18-hole round of golf in 4.5 hours or less, 9-hole round of golf in 2.5 hours or less. Keeping pace with the group IN FRONT of your pairing is key to maintaining a good pace for the field behind you. Pace of play will be monitored and slow groups will be spoken to with potential for penalty, per USGA Penalty for Breach of Rule 5.6a.

RULES VIOLATIONS & CHEATING:

The USGA Rules of Golf and the local rules of each facility shall be observed. If you are suspected of cheating, measures will be taken to monitor your score during future junior events. If a player suspects another of cheating or of violating a rule of golf, the player should seek a rules official as soon as possible to handle the situation. Cheating will result in immediate disqualification from the Junior Golf Program with no refund.

***Note:** The WNYPGA Junior Golf Program trusts that its members will act on the ethical responsibility of notifying a rules official of any problems before spreading rumors of alleged violations. Any questions or concerns should be addressed prior to scorecards being signed, as they will be viewed as the official record of the event.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY:

Effective immediately (July 1, 2025), the WNYPGA Jr Tour is enforcing a Zero Tolerance Policy regarding cheating, rule violations, poor etiquette, and unsportsmanlike behavior by our players. Golf is not just a game — it is a sport built on honor, integrity, and self-discipline. Every player is expected to uphold these values. Blatant disregard for the rules or the spirit of the game will not be tolerated.

Reporting Procedure – Know Your Responsibility

If something happens during play that doesn't seem right, it is your responsibility as a player in the group to speak up. We get that it might feel uncomfortable, but reporting an issue is the fairest and most respectful way to handle it.

Players may text Julie Haile, WNYPGA Jr Tour Director, prior to arriving at the scoring table to flag that an issue needs to be discussed.

Text 585-993-0513 and include:

- Your name
- The hole where the incident occurred
- The player involved
- A brief description of what happened, example dropped ball from pocket & played it

All issues must still be brought to WNYPGA staff before scorecards are finalized. Parents and spectators are not part of the discussion unless WNYPGA staff specifically asks for input. Reporting of incidents **MUST** be brought to the attention of WNYPGA staff **PRIOR** to finalization of the pairings scorecard. This process ensures that issues are handled fairly, professionally, and in a timely manner—and it helps protect the integrity of the competition.

First Violation

If a violation is reported and confirmed by another player or parent/spectator:

- You will receive an official email notifying you of the issue.
- You will be disqualified from that event.
- Any Player of the Year points earned at that event will be revoked.
- Player of the Year points for the field will be recalculated and re-awarded.
- You will not be invited to the Junior Tour Championship (JTC).
- You will no longer be eligible for Player of the Year honors.

Second Violation

If a second verified violation occurs:

- Your 2025 WNYPGA Jr Tour membership will be revoked.
- No refund will be issued for the membership fee.
- Entry fees for upcoming events will be refunded.

To Those Doing It Right

We applaud those who represent the WNYPGA Jr Tour in a positive, respectful, and competitive manner. Thank you for your commitment to the integrity of the game and for setting the standard for others to follow. Keep up the great work — your example matters.

CADDY POLICY:

Players **MAY NOT USE** caddies (including parents/spectators) or motorized carts. All players **must** carry their own clubs or use a pull/push cart (if permitted by the facility). **A 2-stroke penalty** shall be incurred by a player receiving advice from their spectators for the first offense, as advice given is deemed having been asked for and therefore will be considered a breach of Rule 10-2a. **A second offense shall result in immediate disqualification of the player.**

WEATHER POLICY:

The WNYPGA Jr. Tour weather policy is as follows: *All play will stop once a lightning strike is within a 10 mile radius. 30 minutes is needed after the strike, with no other strikes in the radius, to resume play. If other strikes occur within the 30 minutes, the timer starts over.* The only exclusion to this policy would be if a host facility has their own weather policy, which we will follow.

Please note that 2-day events can be cut from 2 rounds of play to less due to weather conditions or darkness. Stipulated 9's will be in effect.

We understand that we are working with Juniors who are walking, so extra time will always be given to safely get the Juniors off the course or under shelter. The Juniors also receive weather policy information at the first tee announcements.

PLAYER & SPECTATOR CONDUCT:

Any conduct that may be detrimental to the WNYPGA Junior Tour will not be tolerated. This includes abusive or foul language, throwing clubs, pace of play, dress code, and damage to the golf course or another player's belongings. The first such instance of any of these actions may result in a warning, two stroke penalty, or disqualification (Rule 1.2b). Possession of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products, gambling, or display of vulgar or abusive behavior will result in immediate disqualification (Rule 1.2b). A serious breach of Standards of Player Conduct (Rule 1.2) will result in disqualification from the event. Multiple violations will result in dismissal from the WNYPGA Junior Golf Tour without refund. *Players are responsible for the actions of their spectators as well.*

SPECTATOR SIGN-IN POLICY:

(Beginning July 2, 2025) All spectators will be required to sign in with WNYPGA staff at the 1st tee before heading out onto the course. This policy will be in effect for all future WNYPGA Junior Tour events. To help the process run smoothly, we recommend arriving at the 1st tee with your player at least **10 minutes prior to their scheduled tee time**. The purpose of this policy is to ensure we have an accurate record of who is on the course, along with communicating event specific information to players as well as spectators. During sign-in, spectators will also be asked to review and acknowledge the **WNYPGA Junior Tour Spectator Policy**.

CELL PHONES:

Players:

Use of cellular phones for any reason other than mobile scoring or use of the USGA Rules app is prohibited during any WNYPGA Junior Golf Tour events. If you must carry one with you, **PLEASE** turn it to **SILENT MODE** during your round to avoid any unfortunate distractions to you and your fellow competitors.

Spectators:

Should spectators need to use their phones to make a phone call, they are requested to return to the clubhouse area or an area that will not be distracting to players in the competition. Phones are permitted for taking pictures, but please place it on **SILENT MODE** so as not to disturb players in the event of an incoming call.

SPECTATOR CARTS:

SPECTATOR CARTS may be available at the discretion of the host facility. Pro shop fees apply. When spectator carts are permitted, all carts must remain on cart paths when available at all times. Where spectator carts are available, they may be rented on a first-come, first-served basis. By purchasing a spectator cart, the spectator agrees to abide by all host facility rules and regulations regarding the operation of the cart. Unless directed otherwise, players will not be allowed to be given rides by spectator carts during the event. Carts may be limited at facilities.

SPECTATOR ALCOHOL & SMOKING POLICY:

Added to the Handbook and Jr Tour in 2025:

In an effort to maintain the utmost level of safety, decorum and integrity that the game of golf brings to our Junior players, effective January 1, 2025, spectators **will not be permitted to consume alcoholic beverages or smoke/vape including nicotine and THC products, while actively spectating a WNYPGA Junior Tour event**, including WNYPGA Junior Section Championship. Thank you for your cooperation and helping to provide our players the best possible tournament, playing and spectator experience!

CARE FOR THE COURSE:

All players are expected to maintain the golf course by replacing divots, repairing ball marks, raking bunkers, etc.

Any abuse to the course or other club facilities will result in immediate disqualification (Rule 1.2b). All players and parents are also encouraged to thank the host club, staff, and volunteers for their support of junior golf.

DRESS CODE for PLAYERS & SPECTATORS:

Proper dress is required at all times at the host facility. This includes the driving range, practice green, or the clubhouse. Questionable attire will be reviewed by the WNYPGA Staff. Should a host facility have a stricter dress code, its policy will take precedence. Players in violation will not be allowed to tee off. **Remember we are a guest at each course that has been kind enough to allow us to play that day.**

The following is the approved dress code for WNYPGA Junior tournaments:

- Hats/visors must be worn brim forward.
- Men's collared golf shirts and mock-top golf shirts with sleeves are approved.
- Women's golf shirts without a collar must have sleeves.
- Women's golf shirts without sleeves must have a collar.
- Women's fashion shirts must not rise above the belt line at any time during the golf swing.
- ALL players must keep shirts tucked in regardless of shirt style.
- Women's skorts/shorts must have a minimum 6" inseam
- Skorts are not permitted to be tucked into undergarments during play.
- Men's shorts cannot extend past the knee.
- All players must wear spikeless golf shoes or sneakers.

Prohibited Dress (Players & Spectators):

- Tank tops, t-shirts, and men's sleeveless shirts.
- Denim shorts and jeans, short shorts, cut-off shorts, tennis shorts, and gym shorts.
- Sandals, heels, flip flops, or beach shoes.
- Skorts must be worn appropriately, no tucking of skorts into under shorts.

PROHIBITED



APPROVED





PARENT/SPECTATOR/PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT & LIABILITY AGREEMENT

We welcome parents, family members, and others to attend our events and watch their favorite junior golfer play in competition. We do, however, insist on asking that you observe the following simple guidelines to make this series of junior golf events as enjoyable as possible for all parties concerned. Please understand that a player is responsible for the actions and behavior of his/her spectators. Should a facility permit spectators, and in addition to facility guidelines, the following policy shall be in effect.

1. Spectators **MUST** remain 1 shot ahead of the group they are observing. This will prevent them from interfering with play of following groups and allow them to spot errant tee shots, etc.
2. Spectators **MUST** remain in the rough (or on the cart path) to avoid distracting players during play of a hole. **NO SPECTATOR IS EVER ALLOWED TO BE IN THE FAIRWAYS.**
3. **A 2-stroke penalty** shall be incurred by a player receiving advice from their spectators for the first offense, as advice given is deemed having been asked for and therefore will be considered a breach of Rule 10-2a. **A second offense shall result in immediate disqualification of the player.** Polite applause and encouragement are always welcomed!
4. **Use of cellular phones for any reason other than mobile scoring or taking photos is prohibited** during any WNYPGA Junior Golf Tour events. **PLEASE** turn it on silent during play to avoid any unfortunate distractions to the competitors. Should spectators need to use their phones, they are requested to return to the clubhouse area or an area that will not be distracting to players in the competition.
5. **Spectator dress code shall be the same as for participants in the events.** Proper dress is required at all times at the host facility, this includes on the driving range, practice green, or in the clubhouse. Questionable attire will be reviewed by the WNYPGA Staff. Should a host facility have a stricter dress code, its policy will take precedence. Spectators in violation will not be allowed to spectate.

The following is the approved dress code for WNYPGA Junior tournaments:

- Hats/visors must be worn brim forward
- Men's collared golf shirts and mock-top golf shirts with sleeves are approved.
- Women's golf shirts without a collar must have sleeves.
- Women's golf shirts without sleeves must have a collar.
- Women's fashion shirts must not rise above the belt line at any time during the golf swing.
- ALL players must keep shirts tucked in regardless of shirt style.
- Women's shorts must have a minimum 6" inseam.
- Men's shorts cannot extend past the knee.
- All players must wear spikeless golf shoes or sneakers.

Prohibited Dress:

- Tank tops, t-shirts and men's sleeveless shirts
- Denim shorts and jeans, short shorts, cut-off shorts, tennis shorts and gym shorts.
- Sandals, heels, flip flops or beach shoes

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6. Spectators **ARE NOT** to give rulings. Administrators of the event will be on the course to handle any questions on the Rules of Golf. Players are advised to proceed under Rule 20.1c(3).
 7. Use of alcohol and smoking/vaping is **PROHIBITED**. Please refer to Alcohol & Smoking Policy on page 8 of this Handbook.
 8. Spectators **may** carry water, food, & necessary medicines for players.
 9. **SPECTATOR CARTS** may be available at the discretion of the host facility. Pro shop fees apply. When spectator carts are permitted, all carts must remain on cart paths when available at all times. Where spectator carts are available, they may be rented on a first-come, first-served basis. By purchasing a spectator cart, the spectator agrees to abide by all host facility rules and regulations regarding the operation of the cart. Unless directed otherwise, players will not be allowed to be given rides by spectator carts during the event. Carts may be limited at facilities.

The committee reserves the right to have spectators who fail to comply with these policies removed from the course and prohibited from further course access in future events.

Sponsors of the WNYPGA Junior Golf Tour, WNYPGA, PGA of America, and Host Facilities are not liable for any accidents or injuries sustained by players, parents, or spectators when attending or participating in any 2025 WNYPGA Junior Tour Event.

A \$165.00 non-refundable administrative fee has been added to each membership and will be kept by the WNYPGA Section.

By reading and signing this waiver we understand and agree to the above WNYPGA Junior Golf Tour Policies.