



2018

Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Rules and Regulations



PGA

Southern Texas Section

Southern Texas PGA

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This manual is designed to outline the many different policies and procedures we have regarding our tournament program, registration, and general questions.

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Section 1: Overview

Welcome to the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Program

LEARN! PLAY! COMPETE!

OVERVIEW

The Southern Texas PGA (STPGA) Junior Golf Program was formed on the principle to introduce and provide youth in Southern Texas the opportunity to Learn! Play! Compete! on the golf course. The program is open to juniors ages 6-18 and offers 5-hole, 9-hole, 18-hole, 36-hole, and 54-hole tournaments in a combination of five different tours. The entire program is supervised and run by the PGA Professionals in the Southern Texas PGA Section.

ELIGIBILITY

The Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Programs is open to junior golfers ages 6-18 who are not currently attending college. Players who have graduated from high school may only play in STPGA Junior Golf sanctioned tournaments until September 1st of the season directly following high school graduation. Players who are 19 years old can still compete in the 15-18 divisions of STPGA sanctioned events as long as they are still in high school or comply with the previous statement. A player's age division is based on their age as of the day of the series Championship. The membership fee is \$80 and is valid for the calendar year.

TOURNAMENT SERIES BREAKDOWN

Tournament Series	Season Conducted
PGA Junior League	May – July
Spring Series	January – May
Summer Series	May – August
Fall Series	September – December
Prestige Tour	January – December

CHOOSING AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF PLAY

STPGA Junior Golf members have the right to participate in any Level of Play, in any Area for which their age division allows. However, the STPGA reserves the right to restrict members to certain tournament programs based on their performance and ability.

It is suggested that members use the following guidelines when selecting a tournament program:

PGA JUNIOR LEAGUE GOLF (National Program – www.pgajlg.com)

- Ages 13 & Under
- Team scramble events designed for beginner golfer.
- Teams are made at local facilities with PGA and LPGA Professionals exclusively serving as Captains.
- Teams play 3-5 9-hole matches.
- Players with little to no golf experience.

LITTLE LINKSTERS

- Ages 6-12
- Individual stroke play competitions with multiple ages divisions and yardages.
- Players either play 5 or 9 holes at an event.
- Caddies allowed.

JUNIOR LINKS TOUR

- Ages 13-18
- Individuals play 9-hole tournaments.
- Development tour for high school age golfers not ready for Junior Tour.
- Caddies allowed.

JUNIOR TOUR

- Ages 11-18
- Individuals play 18 or 36-hole competitions.
- Program for middle to high school age players looking to work on their games in a competitive environment.

PRESTIGE TOUR

- Ages 13-18
- 36 hole highly competitive events for juniors looking to play in State wide events and in college
- Events have AJGA, PBE, and Legends Junior Tour exemptions including national rankings through Junior Golf Scoreboard and GolfWeek.

Note: The STPGA Junior Tour reserves the right to remove a player from an STPGA Junior Golf sanctioned event for non-competitiveness at any time. In this case, a full refund will be granted to the player's account credit.

STPGA SCORE RECOMMENDATIONS

Below are recommended scores that players should be able to break while participating in that event. This is not a requirement, but only a recommendation so players can get a feel on what program best fits their game and comfort level.

Little Linksters		
Division	Holes	Recommended Score
Co-Ed 6-8	5-hole Modified Tees	50
Co-Ed 6-8	9-hole Modified Tees	60
Boys Girls 9-10	5-hole Modified Tees	50
Boys Girls 9-10	9-hole Modified Tees	60
Boys 11-12	9-hole Red Tees	60

Junior Links		
Division	Holes	Recommended Score
Boys Girls 13-14	9-holes	65
Boys Girls 15-18	9-holes	65

Junior Tour		
Division	Holes	Recommended Score
Boys Girls 11-12	18-holes	100
Boys Girls 11-12	36-holes	195
Boys Girls 13-14	18-holes	100
Boys Girls 13-14	36-holes	195
Boys Girls 15-18	18-holes	100
Boys Girls 15-18	36-holes	195

Prestige Tour		
Division	Holes	Recommended Score
Boys Girls 13-14	18-holes	85
Boys Girls 13-14	36-holes	185
Boys Girls 15-18	18-holes	85
Boys Girls 15-18	36-holes	180

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Adequate preparation for a golf tournament is crucial. The STPGA recommends that all players are equipped with light snacks (i.e. granola bars, crackers, fruit, etc.) as well as a refillable water bottle for each golf tournament. It is suggested that junior golfers wear sunscreen and a hat to avoid overexposure from the sun. Additionally, it is recommended that junior golfers drink plenty of fluids the evening prior to each tournament to help prevent heat exhaustion. While the STPGA is not responsible for providing water on the golf course, on-site staff will work closely with each host facility to ensure that their water coolers remain full throughout the day. Please note that not all host facilities have water coolers available throughout the golf course.

DRESS CODE

Proper attire is required at all times at STPGA events. Failure to comply may result in disqualification. Each host facility may have additional rules and dress code requirements that must be adhered to by all STPGA members and spectators. Proper attire includes collared shirts or mock turtlenecks (host golf course permitting), slacks, shorts, golf or tennis shoes, caps and visors. Should a golf course have a stricter dress code, its policy will take precedence. The STPGA dress code prohibits denim, short shorts, cut-offs, swimsuits, sandals, clothing containing offensive slogans, language or pictures, clothing describing or advertising alcohol, tobacco, or other drug references. The STPGA strongly suggests participants present themselves in a positive manner while representing the STPGA by wearing hats with the brim forward and tucking in all shirts.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I, the undersigned parent (or guardian) of the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Program participant, intending to be legally bound, hereby certify that the participant is physically fit and capable of participation. I acknowledge that I am aware of all risks inherent in the game of golf, including possible injury, disability or death, and agree to assume all of those risks. AS A CONDITION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM OR ANY ACTIVITIES INCIDENT THERETO, I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS AND CLAIMS (BOTH FOR MYSELF AND THE PARTICIPANT) FOR LOSS OR DAMAGES CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE, ACTIVE OR PASSIVE, OF THE SOUTHERN TEXAS PGA, PGA OF AMERICA, CLUBS AND FACILITIES HOSTING EVENTS AND TOURNAMENTS AND THE AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF EACH.

MEDIA RELEASE

I, the undersigned parent (or guardian) of the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Program participant understand that from time to time the Southern Texas PGA, its employees, agents, or affiliates may take photographs or videos during events and programs, and that the photographs or videos may contain images of my participant. I release to the Southern Texas PGA all rights to those images, and grant the right to the Southern Texas PGA to use and display the images, in print or electronic form, publicly or privately, for any purpose designated by the Southern Texas PGA, all without compensation to me or the participant.

Section 2: Code of Conduct

OVERVIEW

The STPGA Junior Golf Program takes great pride in the quality and conduct of its players, host facilities, and sponsors. The STPGA Junior Golf Program requires all STPGA Junior Golf members, caddies, and spectators to adhere to a set of guidelines known as the Code of Conduct. The purpose is to help all members grow and mature by understanding and accepting the consequences of their actions, both on and off the golf course.

JUNIOR GOLFER / CADDIE CODE OF CONDUCT

Violations of the Code of Conduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, abusive language, club throwing, disrespect toward Junior Golf volunteers, officials, staff members, or host staff, littering, abuse of a golf course in any manner, non-compliance with the dress code (see below), use of alcohol or tobacco products, or any other conduct deemed unbecoming of a STPGA Junior Golf Player.

JUNIOR GOLFER / CADDIE CODE OF CONDUCT PENALTIES

The STPGA Junior Golf Program may assess any or all of the following penalties based on the severity of the junior golfer's or caddie's Code of Conduct violation:

- Issue a verbal or written letter of warning to the player or caddie.
- Enforce a two-stroke penalty.
- Disqualify the player from the tournament where the violation occurs.
- Remove the caddie from the tournament where the violation occurs.
- Suspend the player and/or caddie for a portion of the tournament series or any number of tournament series remaining in the year.
- Suspend the player's membership indefinitely.
- Suspend the caddie's caddie privileges indefinitely.

SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

- Players are players, spectators are spectators
- The STPGA encourages spectators and parents to attend Junior Golf events, and requires spectators and parents attending to conduct themselves appropriately at all times.
- Spectators and parents must adhere to the same Dress Code and Code of Conduct laid forth for the members of the STPGA Junior Golf Program.
- Spectators and parents are encouraged to cheer on the players and encourage them throughout the round. They may help and are encouraged to help players in a ball search to help pace of play.
- We encourage spectators and parents to remain a reasonable distance from players throughout the round. Staying on the cart path, when applicable, is encouraged. Spectators and parents should not interfere with any group advancing from behind, nor should they converse with any competitor besides from encouragement and congratulatory comments.
- Shuttling will not be allowed in between holes unless noted by the tournament director on the day of the event.
- Spectators are not allowed to rake bunkers for players. Only caddies and players may rake the bunkers.
- Continued interaction with competitors in ways other than stated above, will be considered the giving of Advice (Rule 8-1) and may result in penalty and/or disqualification for the competitor.

SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT PENALTIES

Any violation of one or more items in the Spectator Code of Conduct is grounds for immediate removal of the parent, guardian, or spectator and / or the player from the tournament and host facility, and may result in the loss of the privilege to participate in STPGA Junior Golf sanctioned events for the parent, guardian, or spectator and / or player indefinitely.

DRESS CODE

- Appropriate golf attire is required at all junior golf events and programs. Juniors not dressed in appropriate attire will be asked to change clothes.
- Appropriate Attire:
 - Boys - Collared shirts with sleeves, hemmed shorts, golf slacks, golf or tennis shoes with socks.
 - Girls - Collared shirts with or without sleeves, hemmed shorts, skorts, golf slacks, golf or tennis shoes with socks.
- Inappropriate Attire:
 - Tank tops, t-shirts, short shorts, cut-offs, swimsuits, blue jeans, slacks or shorts with holes, cleated, open-toe or sandal shoes, clothing bearing offensive slogans, language or pictures.

HOST FACILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Each facility may have additional rules and dress code requirements. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) and participant to be aware of such policies and adhere to them. The STPGA Junior Golf program will abide by all rules and regulations set forth by a host facility. This includes personal cooler policies set by the golf course.

Section 3: Policies and Procedures

MEMBERSHIP FEE

A one-time membership fee of \$80 is required in order to participate in the STPGA Junior Golf Program. This membership will expire on December 31, 2018.

Each member will also receive the following with their membership regardless of when they signed up for the STPGA:

- STPGA Hat
- Personalized STPGA Bag Tag
- STPGA Sticker
- Current Rules of Golf Book
- Nike Rack Card containing info about Nike Golf Camps
- Online Statistical Analysis and Scoring
- Junior Tour Only - A GHIN Handicap Index provided by the Texas Golf Association.

Note: Based off current and new sponsors in 2018, the items that each Junior Golfer receives might change.

ENTRY PROCEDURES

All tournament entries are processed on a first-come, first-served basis when tournament registration for that event or tournament series opens. The STPGA will stop accepting entries for an event once the tournament is full or at 11:59 p.m. the Wednesday prior to the event, regardless of whether or not the event is full. There is no limit to the number of events a member can enter.

- If placed on the waiting list for a tournament your credit card will only be charged if you get into the tournament. If a spot opens up, and you are the next person on the wait list, an STPGA staff member will put you into the event and your credit card will be charged. You will receive email notification of getting into the event and the transaction. After the deadline, you will be contacted if space becomes available. If a player chooses to remain on the waiting list, it is assumed that you still plan to play in the tournament if a spot becomes available.
- Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express are the only forms of payment accepted.
- If you sign up for a tournament after the registration deadline, there will be a \$5 late fee for all tours. Once tee times are sent out to the players, it will be up to the staff to determine if any other late registration will be accepted.

Note #1: STPGA Junior Golf members will be placed in an age group according to their age as of the date of the series Championship (unless they have declared “up” to a higher age division).

Note #2: Should a player declare up into an older age division, they will only be able to compete in a series championship in that age division.

Note #3: Members must register online for events (entries submitted via telephone, mail or email will not be accepted).

Note #4: Confirmation emails will be sent out to each member after the registration process confirming the tournaments they were accepted into or otherwise.

Note #5: We have a strict no “walk-up” policy. Players are NOT allowed to register on the day of the tournament.

ARRANGEMENT OF STARTING TIMES AND GROUPINGS

Starting times and groupings for all events will be done on a blind draw, based on age division. For all events, requests for starting times or specific groupings will not be accommodated. Players shall start at the time and the order arranged unless otherwise informed by the STPGA Junior Golf staff. Prompt attendance is required of all players at their starting point of each round. Time of starting penalties shall be consistent with Rule 6–3. Each contestant is responsible for obtaining his/her starting time.

NOTE: The structure and method used to arrange starting times and groupings may be altered at the discretion of the STPGA Junior Golf staff.

WAITING LIST POLICY

Once a tournament is full, all players that then register will be placed on the waiting list. Players on the waiting list will be placed into the event on a first come first served basis according to space availability in their age division.

Note #1: Players will be notified via email that he/she has been placed into the tournament. A player may cancel himself/herself from the waiting list at any time via his/her online account.

Note #2: On the day of the event, players on the waiting list may show up at the tournament site. If a spot becomes available in your division due to a withdrawal or no-show, the player that shows up first at the event in that division has priority.

CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be submitted via the members BlueGolf account. STPGA Junior Golf members may access their account by visiting the website. Refunds will be granted in the form of tournament credit up until the tournament registration deadline.

Note #1: After the registration deadline has passed, please contact the appropriate Area Director via e-mail to withdraw. Area Director contact information can be found in "Staff" section of the web-site.

Note #2: Responding to automated emails will not validate your cancellation.

REFUND POLICY

Refunds will be granted in the form of tournament credit prior to the tournament registration deadline. Tournament credit cannot be applied to another junior golfer and can only be used for tournament registration and not membership.

Refunds will **NOT** be granted for cancellations and withdrawals after the tournament registration deadline. All cancellations are subject to a cancellation fee. Please refer to the chart below for each tournament type's cancellation fee.

Note #1: If tournament credit is given to you, that credit remains with you until the end of the next year. For example, you cancelled out of an event in March 2018; the credit is good until December 31, 2019.

Note #2: If the withdrawal is due to a medical situation, proper documentation must be sent to the STPGA office in order to receive a tournament credit. It is up to the STPGA Junior Golf Staff to determine if the medical situation warrants a refund, credit, or neither.

Tournament Program	Cancellation Fee
Little Linksters	\$5.00
Junior Links	\$5.00
Junior Tour	\$5.00
Prestige Tour	\$10.00
Spring/Summer/Fall Series Championships	\$10.00

MEMBERSHIP CANCELLATION POLICY

The STPGA Junior Golf Program does not issue membership refunds.

TRANSFER POLICY

All transfer requests must be submitted prior to the registration deadline of both the tournament a player is transferring out of and the tournament a player is transferring into. All transfers out of a tournament can only be transferred into a tournament of the same Level of Play and entry fee. Transfer requests that do not meet the above stated guidelines will be treated as a cancellation and adhere to the cancellation policy.

ON-SITE CHECK-IN POLICY

If a tournament is using a shotgun start, all participants must check-in 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the tournament. If a tournament is using a tee time start, all participants must be checked-in and at their designated starting hole at their assigned starting time.

Note: Prompt attendance is required of all players and time of starting penalties shall be consistent with Rule 6-3.

AGE DIVISION PLACEMENT POLICY

2018 Spring Series Events - players will be placed in a division based off age as of May 6, 2018.
2018 Summer Series Events - players will be placed in a division based off age as of August 9, 2018.
2018 Fall Series Events - players will be placed in a division based off age as of December 9, 2018.

DIVISION ADVANCEMENT

Players have the ability to “play up” a division if they are approved by the STPGA Junior Golf Staff. In order to “play up”, players must fill out a division advancement form found online. They are reviewed on a weekly basis.

Note #1: Once a player “plays up” in a third event, the player must play up for rest of the series.

Note #2: If a player would like to move back down following the conclusion of a series, they may submit a request to the Southern Texas PGA Office.

NO-SHOW & NO-CARD POLICY

It is the responsibility of the participant to notify the STPGA when cancelling out of a tournament. Any member unable to participate on the day of the tournament who has not previously cancelled will be considered a “No Show.”

All participants must return their score card to the scoring area immediately following play. Any participant who fails to return their score card after the round will be considered a “No Card” and will be deemed to have taken nine (9) strokes on each hole. Participants withdrawing during play of an event MUST return their score card to the scoring area and notify an STPGA Junior Golf staff member before leaving the facility; otherwise, they will be considered as a “No Card” participant.

If a player is disqualified (DQ), a no-card (NC), no-show (NS), or withdraws (WD) during Round 1 of a 36-hole competition, they will not be able to participate in Round 2.

DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES POLICY

The STPGA allows the use of distance measuring devices in all sanctioned events. A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a function of a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his/her play (e.g., gradient, wind-speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3 (see penalty structure below). A multifunctional device such as a PDA or Smartphone may be used as a distance measuring device as long as the application measures distance only.

Note: Applications that also assist the player in his play e.g. videoing swing for analysis or gauging green contours are not permitted.

All devices used must be of a handheld variety (watches are permitted), carried by the player or his/her caddie. Use of GPS yardage systems installed on golf carts is not permitted at any time. Spectators must not relay any yardage information displayed by a GPS system in a golf cart. A player who breaches this policy will be deemed to have violated Rule 14-3 and will be subjected to the following penalties:

FIRST OFFENSE: Two (2) stroke penalty

SECOND OFFENSE: Disqualification.

Additionally, players may share their distance measuring device and information pertaining to yardage with fellow competitors at their discretion provided such action does not cause an undue delay.

Should there be a question on the legality of a certain distance measuring device, it is recommended that all players contact the STPGA office and speak with a member of the STPGA Junior Golf staff.

SPECTATOR CARTS

Spectator carts may be available at the discretion of the host facility; pro shop fees apply. Where spectator carts are permitted, all carts must remain on cart paths at all times. Where spectator carts are available they may be rented on a first-come, first-served basis. Unless directed otherwise, players will not be allowed to be given rides by spectator carts during the event. Carts may be limited at facilities.

NOTE #1: Only two (2) people are allowed to ride in a spectator cart at any given time.

NOTE #2: You must have a valid drivers license to operate a spectator cart at any STPGA Junior Golf event.

NOTE #3: At no time may any persons be on the back of a cart at any STPGA Junior Golf event.

NOTE #4: By purchasing a spectator cart, the spectator agrees to abide by all host facility rules and regulations regarding the operation of the cart.

PULL CART POLICY

Players can use a pull cart if the host facility permits pull carts. It is up to each participant to check with the host facility to see if pull carts will be allowed.

SHUTTLE SAFETY POLICY

Spectators are welcome to shuttle players to their starting hole, from their final hole and, in unique scenarios, where specifically instructed by the STPGA Junior Golf staff. All participants must be seated inside the golf cart at all times during transport. At STPGA Junior Golf sanctioned events, participants must **NOT** stand or sit on the back of a golf cart while being shuttled before, during or after a tournament. This includes shuttling to the player's starting hole and from the player's last hole of a tournament.

If a violation of this policy occurs, the player may be subjected to the following penalties:

FIRST OFFENSE: Warning
SECOND OFFENSE: Two (2) stroke penalty
THIRD OFFENSE: Disqualification

Note: If a violation of this policy is made by a spectator who is 18 years of age or younger, the same penalty structure will apply. All penalties will be added to the player in which the violator is spectating.

PACE OF PLAY TACTICS

There are several tactics that can help improve Pace of Play. The STPGA will recommend and, in some cases, enforce the following tactics during tournaments for groups who fail to keep up with the established Pace of Play. It is recommended that all players utilize the tactics listed below throughout the entire round.

1. Play "ready golf"

- When the area surrounding the player is clear, he/she may proceed to hit their shot regardless of whether or not it is his/her turn to hit.
- Walk with a purpose!

2. Must, Must, May

- *MUST* – The first player to finish playing a hole *MUST* immediately grab their bag and start making their way to the next tee.
- *MUST* – The player *MUST* also be the first person to play from the next teeing ground.
- *MAY* – This player *MAY* tee off prior to the rest of his/her group arriving to the tee and if the landing area is clear.

3. Maximum Number of Practice Swings

- All players will be limited to a total of two (2) practice swings per shot.

PACE OF PLAY POLICY

Pace of Play is extremely important to the STPGA. We strictly enforce a 2:25 pace of play for all 9-hole tournaments and a 4:30 pace of play for 18-hole tournaments.

DEFINITION OF “OUT OF POSITION” FOR SHOTGUN STARTS

A group will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they (a) exceed the allotted time to play and (b) reach a par-3 hole that is open and free of play or fail to clear the tee of a par-4 or par-5 hole before that hole is open and free to play. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.

Note: The STPGA Tour staff reserves the right to time a group when deemed necessary. Further, if a player is determined to be unreasonably slow he/she may be timed individually at the STPGA staff’s discretion, regardless of whether his/her group is out of position.

DEFINITION OF “OUT OF POSITION” FOR TEE TIME STARTS

The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to play.

Any subsequent groups will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they (a) exceed the allotted time to play and (b) reach a par-3 hole that is open and free of play, reach a par-4 and have not played a stroke from the teeing ground before the hole is open and free to play, or reach a par-5 hole and all players in the group have not played a stroke from the teeing ground before the hole is open and free to play. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.

Note: The STPGA staff reserves the right to time a group when deemed necessary. Further, if a player is determined to be unreasonably slow he/she may be timed individually at the STPGA staff’s discretion, regardless of whether his/her group is out of position.

TIMING

The STPGA Junior Golf staff reserves the right to time a group when deemed necessary. Further, if a player is determined to be unreasonably slow he/she may be timed individually at the STPGA Junior Golf staff’s discretion, regardless of whether his/her group is out of position.

A player is permitted 40 seconds to play a stroke, and an additional 20 seconds (for a total of 60 seconds) will be allowed for: (a) the first player to play a stroke on a par-3 hole; (b) the first player to play a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5 hole; (c) the first player to play a third stroke on a par-5 hole; (d) the first player to play around the putting green; and (e) the first player to play on the putting green.

PENALTY STRUCTURE

The STPGA reserves the right to penalize a group or individual player if multiple violations of the Pace of Play policy occur. During a stipulated round, an individual player or group will receive the following warnings and subsequent penalties from an STPGA Junior Golf staff member if they are found to be over time and/or out of position, as previously defined.

FIRST OFFENSE: Warning (Yellow)

- Found to be over time and/or out of position by an STPGA Rules Official

SECOND OFFENSE: Warning (Orange)

- Found to be over time and/or out of position by an STPGA Rules Official after being issued a yellow warning

THIRD OFFENSE: One (1) stroke penalty (Red)

- Found to be over time and/or out of position by an STPGA Rules Official after being issued an orange warning

FOURTH OFFENSE: Two (2) stroke penalty (Black)

- Found to be over time and/or out of position by an STPGA Rules Official after being issued a one (1) stroke penalty

FIFTH OFFENSE: Disqualification

- Found to be over time and/or out of position by an STPGA Rules Official after being issued a two (2) stroke penalty

Note #1: Penalty strokes will be added to the hole where the infraction occurred.

Note #2: Pace of play warnings and penalties will not carry over to any subsequent STPGA Junior Golf sanctioned rounds.

Note #3: Caddies taking too much time and/or coaching during the round may be subject to a player penalty.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK (as agreed when signing up for tournaments)

I, the undersigned parent (or guardian) of the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Program participant, intending to be legally bound, hereby certify that the participant is physically fit and capable of participation. I acknowledge that I am aware of all risks inherent in the game of golf, including possible injury, disability or death, and agree to assume all of those risks. AS A CONDITION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM OR ANY ACTIVITIES INCIDENT THERE TO, I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS AND CLAIMS (BOTH FOR MYSELF AND THE PARTICIPANT) FOR LOSS OR DAMAGES CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE, ACTIVE OR PASSIVE, OF THE SOUTHERN TEXAS PGA, PGA OF AMERICA, CLUBS AND FACILITIES HOSTING EVENTS AND TOURNAMENTS AND THE AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF EACH.

I, the undersigned parent (or guardian) of the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Program participant understand that from time to time the Southern Texas PGA, its employees, agents, or affiliates may take photographs or videos during events and programs, and that the photographs or videos may contain images of my participant. I release to the Southern Texas PGA all rights to those images, and grant the

right to the Southern Texas PGA to use and display the images, in print or electronic form, publicly or privately, for any purpose designated by the Southern Texas PGA, all without compensation to me or the participant.

INCLEMENT WEATHER / TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION POLICY

The safety of players and spectators is the #1 priority for the STPGA. The STPGA reserves the right to cancel or delay a tournament at any point prior to or during a round due to inclement weather or unplayable course conditions.

In the case a tournament is deemed unplayable due to inclement weather once play has begun, it will be delayed by a determined maximum time to allow the weather to subside, giving the course ample time to recover and to allow the tournament participants an opportunity to prepare for the re-start.

If the weather does not subside during the suspension of play, the on-site STPGA Junior Golf staff will work closely with the host facility staff and superintendent in terms of deciding when to cancel the tournament due to inclement weather. Tournaments may be cancelled due to core temperature of the ground, excess rain deeming the course unplayable, or extreme outside temperatures deeming the conditions to be unfavorable for the tournament.

Decisions related to cancelling or delaying an event will be made by the designated weather monitoring staff in conjunction with the Assistant Executive Director. This decision will be communicated with on-site STPGA Junior Golf staff members, host facility staff, and superintendent prior to communicating with the tournament participants. The field will be notified of cancelled tournament(s) through email.

If a tournament is cancelled prior to play, the STPGA Junior Golf members scheduled to participate in the event will be refunded the full entry fee to the method of payment used during registration, or have the option to transfer into another event. If the tournament is cancelled during play, the STPGA reserves the right to retain the full entry fee.

The STPGA reserves the right to reduce the number of rounds or holes in an event due to inclement weather. A minimum of 9 common holes completed is required to be an officially counted round within that division for an 18 hole event, 5 holes for a 9 hole event, and 3 holes for a 5 hole event. Any 36 hole event that is stopped due to inclement weather will be considered complete if 9 common holes have been finished by the entire division. If 9 common holes are not finished on the final round within a division, then the final results will be determined from round one scores. The STPGA will do its best to try to complete as many holes as long as it is safe to play and course conditions are playable.

- For an 18 hole event, should a division collectively complete 9 holes or more, but collectively complete fewer than 18 holes, the tournament will be considered official and the STPGA staff will score the tournament as follows:
 - In the event that a division collectively completes the same side (i.e. Holes 1-9 or Holes 10-18), the STPGA staff will enter all players' actual scores from the respective side.
 - In the event that a division DOES NOT collectively complete the same side as outlined above, the results for the division will be calculated relative to par for the first 9 holes that each player completed during their respective round. For example, if Player A started the tournament on Hole 12, his/her score (relative to par) for Holes 12, 13, 14,

15, 16, 17, 18, 1 and 2 would be used for his/her score. If Player B started the tournament on Hole 14, his/her score (relative to par) for Holes 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 1, 2, 3 and 4 would be used for his score.

- For a 9 hole event, should a division collectively complete 5 holes or more, but collectively complete fewer than 9 holes, the tournament will be considered official and the same guidelines outlined above will be used.
- For a 5 hole event, should a division collectively complete 3 holes or more, but collectively complete fewer than 5 holes, the tournament will be considered official and the same guidelines outlined above will be used.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR JUNIOR GOLFERS WITH DISABILITIES OR CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

The STPGA will, at its sole discretion and upon receipt of applicable medical documentation, make reasonable accommodations for junior golfers with disabilities or chronic health conditions. 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 STPGA Junior Golf sanctioned events. All related inquires and communications shall be directed to the Executive Director.

NOTE: Letters from doctors regarding short term injuries or visible injuries will not warrant special accommodations.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

In the event of a suspension, the player may submit a written account of the Code of Conduct violation to the STPGA Junior Golf Grievance Committee within seven (7) days of the suspension / disqualification. The Grievance Committee will review all submitted materials, including a tournament staff account of the violation. The STPGA Executive Director and Junior Golf Committee Chairman will review grievances. All grievances must go through the appropriate channels to be considered.

MISCELLANEOUS

It is the responsibility of the participant to know the host facility rules and regulations. The STPGA abides by all host facility rules and regulations and requires that all participants and spectators do the same.

It is the responsibility of the participant (grades 9–12) to know the University Interscholastic League (UIL) regulations and abide by them.

The STPGA reserves the right to modify, change, or update the Rules and Regulations at any time.

Section 4: Caddies

OVERVIEW

The STPGA would like to welcome back all returning caddies to the STPGA Caddie program as well as welcome all new Caddies to the 2018 Caddie Program. The Caddie Program is such an important part of the STPGA Junior Golf Program and hope that each Caddie enjoys the opportunity to be a part of their son or daughter's team.

All Caddies must follow the Code of Conduct set forth on pages 7-8 at all times. Failure to follow could suspend or not allow a parent or adult to caddie for a Little Linkster.

CADDIE NOTES

- Caddies that registered in 2017 MUST re-register to be an official caddie for the 2018 season prior to their first event in 2018. This includes payment of the membership fee AND passing the Caddie Quiz. Those caddies that do not re-register WILL NOT be allowed to caddie for any player until registration is complete.
- Caddies are to assist their player during the course of the round, not coach. This is not a time for extensive coaching and training. Similar to caddies at the highest level, they assist the player with yardages and club selection and then let the player do the rest. Extensive coaching may result in a loss of caddie privileges.
- All players in Little Linksters and Junior Links can have a caddie.
- All caddies MUST check in at registration at each tournament in order to caddie. Similar prior years, caddies will be sent a Caddie Badge after passing the quiz, but still must check in at registration at each tournament. Once you check in at registration with your Caddie Badge, you will receive a bracelet for the day that allows you to caddie.
- The maximum stroke limit for Little Linksters and Junior Links is 10, regardless of whether the player reaches the green or not.
- The STPGA does not have a minimum age requirement for caddies. However, all caddies must abide by the Code of Conduct or privileges may be suspended.
- All caddies MUST wear golf attire.
- All players and caddies must walk the golf course. Participants and their equipment cannot be transported in motorized carts, except when going to their first hole, when returning from their last hole, or on a designated shuttle hole. Players and caddies may use pull carts if host facility allows.

BECOMING A CADDIE

To register as a Southern Texas PGA caddie, please visit <http://www.stpgajuniorgolf.com/caddiesll/>

Section 5: Little Linksters

LITTLE LINKSTERS OVERVIEW

The Little Linksters Program is where juniors get the opportunity to participate in tournaments throughout the year geared toward creating lifetime golfers. Junior golfers, ages 6-12, are grouped by age, gender, skill level, and play either 5 or 9 holes.

The program encourages and motivates juniors to learn the game, enjoy the game, improve at their own pace, and be as competitive as each individual aspires.

The program is designed so that once players improve their scores and ability, they move up to the next division. We feel that this type of program allows for players to move at their own pace and also allow the same age juniors to compete at different levels.

AGE AND HOLE DIVISIONS

Division	Holes / Tees
Co-Ed 6-8	5-hole Modified Tees
Co-Ed 6-8	9-hole Modified Tees
Boys 9-10	5-hole Modified Tees
Boys 9-10	9-hole Modified Tees
Boys 11-12	9-hole Red Tees
Girls 9-10	5-hole Modified Tees
Girls 9-10	9-hole Modified Tees
Girls 11-12	9-hole Red Tees

DIVISION ADVANCEMENT

Once a player starts in a particular division, the only avenue for them to advance into the next division of their age group is by satisfying the below scoring requirements.

- Currently plays in the 5-hole Modified Division
 - To advance to the 9-hole Modified Division, the player must shoot 8 over par or lower in two events.
- Example for Division Advancement Requirements
 - A junior who plays in the 5-hole Modified Division on a course with a par of 21, for example (one par 3, two par 4's, two par 5's), must post a score of 29 or better in two tournaments to advance to the 9-hole Modified Division.
- Important Notes
 - All juniors in the 11-12 Age Division will be placed 9-hole Red Division. Those scoring 9-over-par or better are encouraged to participate in the Junior Tour for continued improvement.

- The Junior Golf Committee and Director of Junior Golf have the authority to move a junior down a division if their tournament scores fall substantially and disrupt the overall tournament atmosphere in their division (pace of play, lack of knowledge on Rules of Golf, etc.)

RULES OF PLAY

- Play is governed by the Rules of Golf and its Decisions.
- Play the ball as it lies.
- The STPGA WILL NOT adopt the Groove Rules as a condition of competition for its tournaments in 2018.
- The STPGA permits pull carts, however they will be allowed only at the discretion of the host facility. It is the players' responsibility to obtain course policy.
- Players must exchange score cards with fellow competitors in the group.
- Any player who has taken nine (9) 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 a ten (10) and does not exclude the participant from award consideration.
- Upon completion of the round, players must immediately proceed to the scoring area to return their score card. Participants are responsible for the correct hole-by-hole score and two signatures on the score card.
- Players must NOT wear headphones during play. Listening to music during a stipulated round will result in disqualification.
- When on the course, players must turn off cell phones or turn ringers to the silent or vibrate mode. Respect host facility's policy if cell phones are not allowed.
- Each competition shall be deemed to have closed when all scores have been approved by the STPGA Junior Golf staff and published in the form of a results email.

LITTLE LINKSTERS UNIQUE RULES OF PLAY

- All players may have one caddie to carry their bag and equipment and give advice, but all players and caddies must walk the golf course. Participants and their equipment cannot be transported in motorized carts, except when going to their first hole or when returning from the last hole played.
- Participants may have caddies assist in keeping their score. All scores need to be recorded on an STPGA official score card.

BREAKING TIES

There will be no tie breakers for Little Linksters. All players who tie for a place will receive a medal for that place.

AWARDS

Medals will be given out for 1st thru 5th place at every Little Linksters event, regardless of field size.

POINTS CHALLENGE

After each tournament, points will be awarded that will be used to decide who receives an invitation to the series championship. Please keep in mind that points do not carry over and the Points List will reset after each series championship (Spring, Summer, Fall).

NOTE #1: You must play in a 9 hole division to be eligible to receive points.

NOTE #2: The series Championships are invitation only events and the field is a direct representation of our entire program based off both the amount of people in both metro area and age division.

SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING

If a player has “played up” into an older division, and has participated in three (3) or more tournaments in that age division, they must compete in that division for the remainder of the Series, including the Series Championship. If a player earns a spot into the Series Championship in their original division, the qualifying spot will be honored, however, the player will have to compete in the division that they have “played up” into. I.E., if a Little Linksters 11-12 player earns a spot into a Series Championship via that Division Points List, but has played in three (3) or more Junior Tour 13-14 events, they will receive an invitation based on their finish in the Little Linksters 11-12 Division Points List, but compete in the Junior Tour 13-14 division.

Note: This policy only affects Little Linksters and Junior Tour events. Prestige Tour events will be treated separately.

Please see below for the Little Linksters Point distribution table for each age division:

Place	Points
1 st	400
2 nd	300
3 rd	275
4 th	250
5 th	225
6 th	175
7 th	150
8 th	100
9 th	80
10 th	70
11 th	60
12 th	50
13 th	40
14 th	30
15 th	20

YARDAGE GUIDELINES

Division	Par 3	Par 4	Par 5	Total
All 5-Hole	40-60 yards	100-150 yards	220-250 yards	500 - 800 yards
Co-Ed 6-8 Girls 9-10	60-80 yards	150-200 yards	250-300 yards	1,400 - 1,700 yards
Boys 9-10 Girls 11-12	80-100 yards	200-250 yards	300-350 yards	1,900 - 2,200 yards
Boys 11-12	Forward Tees	Forward Tees	Forward Tees	2,300 - 2,600 yards

NOTE: Yardages may be altered or modified at the STPGA staff's discretion due to course layout and weather conditions.

Section 6: Junior Links

JUNIOR LINKS OVERVIEW

The Junior Links Tour is for juniors who have just begun to play golf or need more experience before playing in our Junior Tour. It consists of 9-hole tournaments during the summer only and is open to juniors ages 13-18.

DIVISIONS

Gender	Age
Boys	13-14
Boys	15-18
Girls	13-18

RULES OF PLAY

- Play is governed by the Rules of Golf and its Decisions.
- Play the ball as it lies.
- The STPGA WILL NOT adopt the Groove Rules as a condition of competition for its tournaments in 2018.
- The STPGA permits pull carts, however they will be allowed only at the discretion of the host facility. It is the players' responsibility to obtain course policy.
- Players must exchange score cards with fellow competitors in the group.
- Any player who has taken nine (9) 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 a ten (10) and does not exclude the participant from award consideration.
- Upon completion of the round, players must immediately proceed to the scoring area to return their score card. Participants are responsible for the correct hole-by-hole score and two signatures on the score card.
- Players must NOT wear headphones during play. Listening to music during a stipulated round will result in disqualification.
- When on the course, players must turn off cell phones or turn ringers to the silent or vibrate mode. Respect host facility's policy if cell phones are not allowed.
- Each competition shall be deemed to have closed when all scores have been approved by the STPGA Junior Golf staff and published in the form of a results email.

JUNIOR LINKS UNIQUE RULES OF PLAY

All players may have one caddie to carry their bag and equipment and give advice, but all players and caddies must walk the golf course. Participants and their equipment cannot be transported in motorized carts, except when going to their first hole or when returning from the last hole played.

BREAKING TIES

There will be no tie breakers for Junior Links. All players who tie for a place will receive a medal for that place.

AWARDS

Medals will be given out for 1st thru 5th place at every Junior Links event, regardless of field size.

POINTS CHALLENGE

Junior Links Tour does not have a points list or a Championship.

YARDAGE GUIDELINES

Division	Approximate Yardage
Boys 13-14	2,700 – 3,000 yards
Boys 15-18	2,900 – 3,200 yards
Girls 13-18	2,300 – 2,600 yards

NOTE: Yardages may be altered or modified at the STPGA staff's discretion due to course layout and weather conditions.

Section 7: Junior Tour

JUNIOR TOUR OVERVIEW

The Junior Tour program is designed to give skilled junior golfers the opportunity to compete in professionally run tournaments. This program is for juniors ages 11-18. This is the perfect program for juniors in middle to high school golf programs that are looking to improve their game in 18 or 36-hole events.

DIVISIONS

Gender	Age
Boys	11-12
Boys	13-14
Boys	15-18
Girls	11-12
Girls	13-14
Girls	15-18

RULES OF PLAY

- Play is governed by the Rules of Golf and its Decisions.
- Play the ball as it lies.
- The STPGA WILL NOT adopt the Groove Rules as a condition of competition for its tournaments in 2018.
- The STPGA permits pull carts, however they will be allowed only at the discretion of the host facility. It is the players' responsibility to obtain course policy.
- Players must exchange score cards with fellow competitors in the group.
- Any player who has taken nine (9) 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 a ten (10) and does not exclude the participant from award consideration.
- Upon completion of the round, players must immediately proceed to the scoring area to return their score card. Participants are responsible for the correct hole-by-hole score and two signatures on the score card.
- Players must NOT wear headphones during play. Listening to music during a stipulated round will result in disqualification.
- When on the course, players must turn off cell phones or turn ringers to the silent or vibrate mode. Respect host facility's policy if cell phones are not allowed.
- Each competition shall be deemed to have closed when all scores have been approved by the STPGA Junior Golf staff and published in the form of a results email.

JUNIOR TOUR UNIQUE RULES OF PLAY

Caddies will not be allowed at Junior Tour events.

BREAKING TIES

There will be a sudden death playoff for first place. If you can't get back on the course for sudden death due to inclement weather or darkness, the back nine score, then last six holes, then last three holes, then last hole method will be used to determine first place. No other places will be broken if multiple players tied.

AWARDS

Medals will be given out for 1st thru 5th place at every Junior Tour event, regardless of field size.

POINTS CHALLENGE

After each tournament, points will be awarded that will be used to decide who receives an invitation to the series championship. Please keep in mind that points do not carry over and the Points List will reset after each series championship (Spring, Summer, Fall).

NOTE: The series Championships are invitation only events and the field is a direct representation of our entire program based off both the amount of people in both metro area and age division.

SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING

If a player has "played up" into an older division, and has participated in three (3) or more tournaments in that age division, they must compete in that division for the remainder of the Series, including the Series Championship. If a player earns a spot into the Series Championship in their original division, the qualifying spot will be honored, however, the player will have to compete in the division that they have "played up" into. I.E., if a Little Linksters 11-12 player earns a spot into a Series Championship via that Division Points List, but has played in three (3) or more Junior Tour 13-14 events, they will receive an invitation based on their finish in the Little Linksters 11-12 Division Points List, but compete in the Junior Tour 13-14 division.

Note: This policy only affects Little Linksters and Junior Tour events. Prestige Tour events will be treated separately.

Please see below for the Junior Tour Point distribution table for each age division:

Place	1 Day Event	2 Day Event
1 st	400	800
2 nd	300	600
3 rd	275	550
4 th	250	500
5 th	225	450
6 th	175	350
7 th	150	300
8 th	100	200
9 th	80	160

10 th	70	140
11 th	60	120
12 th	50	100
13 th	40	80
14 th	30	60
15 th	20	40

YARDAGE GUIDELINES

Division	Approximate Yardage
Boys 11-12	5,400 – 5,800 yards
Boys 13-14	5,800 – 6,200 yards
Boys 15-18	6,200 – 6,600 yards
Girls 11-12	4,900 – 5,300 yards
Girls 13-14	4,900 – 5,300 yards
Girls 15-18	4,900 – 5,300 yards

NOTE: Yardages may be altered or modified at the STPGA staff's discretion due to course layout and weather conditions.

Section 8: Prestige Tour

PRESTIGE TOUR OVERVIEW

The Prestige Tour is the most competitive program that the STPGA has to offer. It is geared towards the best players in the state of Texas. Started in 2012, this tour has become extremely successful and a great stepping stone for juniors as they prepare for state and national events as well as college golf! This tour is meant for highly skilled players with tournament experience.

PRESTIGE TOUR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

There are three (3) avenues to becoming eligible for the Prestige Tour:

1. Players must have recorded a score of 85 or better in an STPGA Junior Tour tournament.
2. Players provide the STPGA with results of 85 or better in two outside tournaments.
3. Players send a Letter of Recommendation from the player's PGA Professional to Becky Dobrzynski (bdobrzynski@pgahq.com)

DIVISIONS

Gender	Age
Boys	13-14
Boys	15-18
Girls	13-14*
Girls	15-18*

NOTE #1: Since all the girls play from the same yardage at our Prestige Tour events, we will combine the two divisions to make a 13-18 division when awarding exemptions, Player of the Year points, and sending results into the Legends Junior Tour for POY, Junior Golf Scoreboard, Golfweek, and AJGA. The same procedure will take place for the boys when both divisions play the same yardage.

RULES OF PLAY

- Play is governed by the Rules of Golf and its Decisions.
- Play the ball as it lies.
- The STPGA WILL NOT adopt the Groove Rules as a condition of competition for its tournaments in 2018.
- The STPGA permits pull carts, however they will be allowed only at the discretion of the host facility. It is the players' responsibility to obtain course policy.
- Players must exchange score cards with fellow competitors in the group.
- Upon completion of the round, players must immediately proceed to the scoring area to return their score card. Participants are responsible for the correct hole-by-hole score and two signatures on the score card.
- Players must NOT wear headphones during play. Listening to music during a stipulated round will result in disqualification.
- When on the course, players must turn off cell phones or turn ringers to the silent or vibrate mode. Respect host facility's policy if cell phones are not allowed.

- Each competition shall be deemed to have closed when all scores have been approved by the STPGA Junior Golf staff and published in the form of a results email.

PRESTIGE TOUR UNIQUE RULES OF PLAY

- Caddies will not be allowed at Prestige Tour events.
- There is no stroke limit during Prestige Tour events.

BREAKING TIES

There will be a sudden death playoff for first place. If you can't get back on the course for sudden death due to inclement weather or darkness, holes 10-18, then holes 13-18, then holes 16-18, then hole 18 method will be used to determine first place. If there is still a tie the same method will be used for holes 1-9. No other places will be broken if multiple players tied.

NOTE: If multiple exemptions are handed out in a division, a sudden death playoff will be used to determine exemption winners.

AWARDS

Awards will be given out for 1st – 3rd place at every Prestige Tour event, regardless of field size.

POINTS CHALLENGE

The Southern Texas PGA Srixon Prestige Tour is a year-round tour with a year-end Championship in the late fall. Points acquired throughout the year will accumulate towards priority entry into the Championship. Please see below for the Prestige Tour Point distribution table for each age division:

NOTE #1: Prestige Tour events will only count on the Prestige Tour Points List and NOT the Junior Tour Points List.

NOTE #2: If a player has earned a spot into the Prestige Tour Championship in the 13-14 age division, but turns 15 prior to Round 1 of the Championship, the spot they earned will be honored. However, they must participate in the 15-18 age division for the championship. This will also apply if a player has “played up” into the 15-18 age division.

Place	Points
1 st	400
2 nd	300
3 rd	275
4 th	250
5 th	225
6 th	175
7 th	150
8 th	100
9 th	80
10 th	70
11 th	60

12 th	50
13 th	40
14 th	30
15 th	20

YARDAGE GUIDELINES

Division	Approximate Yardage
Boys 13-14	5,900 – 6,300 yards
Boys 15-18	6,600 – 6,900 yards
Girls 13-14	5,600 – 5,900 yards
Girls 15-18	5,600 – 5,900 yards

NOTE #1: Girls 13-18 will play from the same yardages.

NOTE #2: Yardages may be altered or modified at the STPGA staff's discretion due to course layout and weather conditions.

Section 9: STPGA Section Staff

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