



PGA
Metropolitan Section

Junior Tour

2023 Metropolitan PGA

Junior Tour

Membership Handbook

Policies & Procedures



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working world

Met PGA Junior Tour Conduct Policy

Proper course etiquette and sportsmanship is extremely important and will be strictly enforced. The Met PGA staff works hard to find courses willing to host junior events. By taking care of the course, we stand a better chance of a return visit. Players are expected to behave in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Met PGA Junior Tour.

As a member of the Metropolitan PGA Junior Golf Tour, it is your responsibility to abide by and respect the following:

- Players are responsible for protecting the integrity of The Tour, and should refuse to sign any scorecard that they believe to be inaccurate and should speak to a tournament official **immediately** if this occurs. Players should be aware that a marker who knowingly signs an incorrect scorecard is also subject to disqualification.
- Players are required to: replace divots, repair ball marks, rake bunkers, and properly dispose of trash. There will be ZERO TOLERANCE! It is imperative to remember that we are guests of these clubs and lack of respect for the golf course will not be tolerated.
- Players must not display unsportsmanlike conduct, including but not limited to abusive language, cheating, disrespect to volunteers, officials or fellow competitors, and throwing clubs.
- Players must not display improper behavior on the golf course such as physical abuse, smoking, chewing tobacco, drinking alcohol, using illegal drugs etc.
- Players should leave the golf course in better shape than you find it!
- **Players should always take time out to write a thank you note to the course/host Professional to help us be invited back**

For those who do not abide by the rules above the following 3 strike policy has been put into affect:

- ⇒ First offense: You are disqualified from the tournament where you had the offense, The Met PGA staff contacts your PGA professional to make them aware of the situation, and you are put under probation where a staff member will follow you at future tournaments. *
- ⇒ Second offense: You are disqualified from the tournament where you had the offense and suspended from the Tour for two weeks. The probationary period will continue when your suspension is lifted.*
- ⇒ Third offense: You are expelled from the Junior Tour and disqualified from Player of the Year points and special honors that go along with them.

***Please note the severity of the offense may result in stricter reprimand.**



PGA

Metropolitan Section

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WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The Metropolitan PGA Junior Tour is open to all boys and girls ages 10-18 who reside in or are members of a golf course within the Metropolitan Section. Members who have graduated high school may only play the season directly following their high school graduation. Regardless of graduation date, a junior golfer may not play in an event if they have reached their 19th birthday. Any person enrolled in college is not eligible to play in our events. Members may compete in a championship event as long as they have not reached their 19th birthday on the last day of the championship. The Metropolitan Section includes Long Island, New York City, Westchester County, Rockland County, Sullivan County, Putnam County, Orange County, Southern Dutchess County, Southern Ulster County, and Fairfield County (south of Danbury and Bridgeport). All members must have completed the 2023 Membership Process including the annual online rules quiz to register for tournaments. If you were not a member in 2022, the PGA Professional Certification form must also be received before you will be considered an active member. Push carts are permitted in all tournaments at facilities that permit their use. Before the start of an event, the Met PGA will notify players of any sites that will not permit push carts.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

All members receive the following:

- Tournament and championship opportunities at courses throughout the Metropolitan Section
- Access to 2023 Met PGA Junior Golf Special Events and Opportunities
- Access to the Junior Tour Player's Club via personal username and password
- A USGA GHIN number for handicapping purposes
- Met PGA Junior Tour Hat
- 2023 Membership Bag Tag
- Access to Directory of PGA Professionals in the Metropolitan Section

Where Do I Find the Rules Quiz?

Everyone must take and pass a Rules Quiz before they are able to register for tournaments. Regardless of past membership, you will not be able to register for tournaments without passing the Rules Quiz! You may take it as many times as needed in order to pass.

To Take the Rules Quiz:

1. Visit our website www.metpgajuniorgolf.com
2. Login to your Player's Club Account with your User ID and Password
3. Click on the Tournaments Tab
4. There will be a box on the top of the page that says 'Before you register for tournaments, you must pass the Rules Quiz.' Click Rules Quiz
5. Results will be calculated instantly

ABOUT THE TOURNAMENTS

All regular season tournaments are stroke play and are conducted in accordance with the USGA Rules of Golf, the rules and regulations of the Met PGA Junior Tour, and the host clubs. The Junior Tour will permit the use of rangefinders, however, caddies are NOT allowed at any events. A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect their play (e.g., gradient, wind-speed, temperature, etc.), regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used, the player is in breach of the rules for which the penalty is disqualification.

PLAYER DIVISIONS

9 Hole Tour: The 9 Hole tournaments are open to boys 10-13 and girls 10-18 .Cost: \$50 for regular events and Championships. Juniors who average a score of 110 and higher for 18 holes must play on the 9 Hole Tour. 9 Hole Tour members may only play in 9 Hole events.

Players Tour: 18 Hole tournaments for players 12-18 years of age. Cost: \$65 for regular events and \$115 for Championships. The Players Tour is broken up into two age divisions for the boys 12-14 and 15-18 and is one overall age division for the girls 12-18. Juniors must have a scoring average of 110 or below to participate on the Players Tour. Players Tour members may play in one day tournaments only.

Future Series: 36 Hole, two-day tournaments, for players 12-18 years of age. The cost of the tournaments is \$215. There is one overall division for boys 12-18 and one overall division for girls 12-18. Boys must have a Handicap Index of 10 or below (scoring average of 85 or below) and girls must have a Handicap Index of 15 or below (scoring average of 90 or below) to participate in the Future Series. Some two day tournaments may have a cut. Future Series members are also eligible to play in select one day Players Tour events in their own Future Series Division at the cost of \$65. These one day tournaments will not count towards Player of the Year standings for the Future Series division.

HOW DO I ENTER THE TOURNAMENTS?

Tournament registration opens on Wednesday, May 10 at 12:00pm (noon) and can be accessed through your Players Club Account. Tournaments will remain open until they are full but will close one week prior to the event. Registrations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis and there is no limit to the number of events a member can register for. Immediately following registration you will be notified by email if you were accepted or placed on the waiting list for each event.

1. Go to www.metpgajuniorgolf.com
2. Either click on the Tournament Sign Up Banner or sign into your Players Club Account
3. Login using your User ID and Password (if you are unsure of either, click on 'Forgot your ID/ Password?' and enter your e-mail address– not your GHIN number!)
4. Click on the Tournaments Tab and select the events you would like to register for.

Please Note: There will only be checkboxes next to the tournaments which you are eligible for based on your Tour/ Age Division.

WAITLIST/ STANDBY POLICY

Due to limited space and high demand we cannot guarantee entry into our tournaments. Once the allotted number of spots for a tournament are filled we begin a waiting list. If we get any cancellations we will fill spots from the waiting list. If you do not get into a tournament in advance, you can still go to the event as a standby (as long as you meet age/tour eligibilities for that event). The standby list will be first come - first serve by age division, and the junior must sign in with a Metropolitan PGA Staff member. Any names submitted to the club staff will NOT be valid. Standbys are only allowed to play with their own age division and cannot play in the place of someone in a different age division. Example: If you are 13 years old and there is a no show in the 15-18 division, you will not be allowed to play in that spot. The tournament fee for standbys is \$70 for juniors playing 18 holes, \$55 for juniors playing 9 holes, and \$220 for 36 Hole events and Championships. Standbys must pay by check or credit card on-site the day of the event. NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED. There are NO guarantees that any or all standbys will play.

CANCELLATION/WITHDRAWAL POLICY

If you find that you are unable to participate in an event that you have entered, you must cancel the event online through your Players Club account and **NOT** by calling the office! Cancellations made by 12:00pm noon two weeks prior to an event will receive a full refund minus a \$5 cancellation fee. Cancellations made after 12pm two weeks prior to an event and up to 3 days prior to an event at 12:00pm will receive a credit to their account to play in another tournament. After this time there shall be NO REFUNDS NO EXCEPTIONS! In the case of emergencies players will be able to cancel up until 9:00am the day of an event to avoid being listed as a No Show. If you fail to notify the Met PGA of a cancellation, you are subject to a loss of playing privileges listed below under our "No Show Policy".

NO SHOW POLICY

The Met PGA Junior Tour cancellation/withdrawal policy enables the staff to replenish the tournament field. A "no show" takes away a playing opportunity for another Met PGA Junior Tour member. Therefore, the first time a player does not show up to an event without cancelling, they will receive a warning from the Met PGA office. If a member "no shows" a second time, playing privileges are subject to suspension for the remainder of the season.

DRESS POLICY FOR JUNIORS & PARENTS

Appropriate attire for boys is a collared golf shirt, pants or long shorts, and golf shoes or sneakers. Appropriate dress for girls is a collared golf shirt, pants or long shorts/ skirts, and golf shoes or sneakers. No MOCK NECKS OR CARGO SHORTS, jeans, tank tops, sweat suits, T-shirts, gym/mesh shorts, bicycle shorts, halter-tops, midriiffs, or short shorts/skirts will be tolerated. Girls' shorts/skirts MUST be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee. All shirts must be tucked in. No hats are to be worn backwards and should be taken off when entering a clubhouse. The use of cell phones, iPods/mp3 players, and other electronic devices are not permitted during a stipulated round unless it is for scoring purposes. Golf shoes must have soft spikes. It is important that children, as well as adults, dress appropriately at all times. **Players and parents who do not abide by the dress code will be asked to leave the club premises.**

AGE DIVISIONS & POINT SYSTEM

Junior Tour members ages 12-18, playing 18 holes or more, compete for Player of the Year within their own divisions throughout the season via points system. Members must play in their own divisions. There is no minimum number of tournaments one must compete in to be included in the Player of the Year race. Points are cumulative and are based on your top 7 finishes. If you play in less than 7 tournaments your point total will still be the total number of points earned for those events. For example, if you played in ten events, only your top 7 point earning finishes would be included the others are not used. If you only play in four events those will be added together accordingly. Any ties in the Player of the Year race will be awarded as such and will not be broken. At the conclusion of the tournament season, the top three junior golfers within each age division will be recognized as Players of the Year for the 2023 tournament season.

The 9 Hole Division is meant to be a non-competitive, learning stage; therefore, points are not awarded. Points are awarded for participation in most Metropolitan PGA Junior Tournaments. **Note:** *If a member has a birthday during the season that would cause a change in age division, read the following rule: Members will play in the age division based on their age as of July 31, 2023. If a player would like to request to play in a higher division, they can make their request to our Junior Golf Committee.*

DIVISIONS

<u>9 Hole Tour</u>	<u>The Players Tour</u>	<u>Future Series</u>
Boys 10-13	(18 Hole Events)	(36 Hole Events)*
Girls 10-13	Boys 12-14	Boys Future Series
Girls 14-18	Boys 15-18	Girls Future Series
	Girls 12-18	

*Only 36 Hole events count towards FS POY standings

The Players Tour Point Distribution (for all divisions)

First Place.....	1000
Second Place.....	500
Third Place.....	400
Fourth Place.....	200
Fifth Place.....	175
Sixth Place.....	150
Seventh Place.....	125
Eighth Place.....	100
Ninth Place.....	75
Tenth Place.....	50

*There must be at least two players in an age division to constitute an event.
Points will be doubled for 1 day Championships.*

Girls Future Series 2 Day Event Point Distribution

First Place.....	2000
Second Place.....	1000
Third Place.....	800
Fourth Place.....	400
Fifth Place.....	350
Sixth Place.....	300
Seventh Place.....	250
Eighth Place.....	200
Ninth Place.....	150
Tenth Place.....	100

Championships are double the above point values

2 DAY FUTURE SERIES POINT DISTRIBUTION

Points will be awarded to the top 25 finishers.

1	2000	10	100	19	35
2	1000	11	87.5	20	30
3	800	12	75	21	25
4	400	13	62.5	22	20
5	350	14	50	23	15
6	300	15	47.5	24	10
7	250	16	45	25	5
8	200	17	42.5		
9	150	18	40		

BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP POINT DISTRIBUTION

Due to the size of the field and the competitive nature of our boys, Championship finishes are worth 2x the regular points and will be awarded to the top 25 finishers.

1	4000	10	200	19	70
2	2000	11	175	20	60
3	1600	12	150	21	50
4	800	13	125	22	40
5	700	14	100	23	30
6	600	15	95	24	20
7	500	16	90	25	10
8	400	17	85		
9	300	18	80		

PACE OF PLAY GUIDELINES

The Metropolitan PGA does not condone slow play. It is inexcusable to play 18 holes in over 4 and a half hours. The player must play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines that the Committee may establish. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next teeing ground, the player must not unduly delay play. Therefore, the following guidelines will be enforced:

- The maximum amount of time groups need to play a hole are as follows:
Par 3: 13 minutes, Par 4: 14 minutes, Par 5: 15 minutes
- A group will be considered out of position if at any time during the round when
 - ⇒ They exceed the time allotted to play a hole
 - ⇒ When a par 3 or par 4 is open ahead of them
 - ⇒ When the group ahead of them is on the putting green on a par 5
- When a group is out of position, a warning will be issued. If the group remains out of position, all individuals in the group will be put on the clock and failure to get back in position will result in a two stroke penalty for all players.
- If it is found that one player is holding up the rest of the group then they can be penalized individually in accordance with the 40 second rule listed below:
The timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is their turn to play and they can play without interference or distraction. A player is allowed up to 40-seconds to play a stroke. Penalties for players exceeding this time will be assessed in accordance with the stipulations above.

What to Expect the Day of a Tournament

WHAT SHOULD I HAVE WITH ME?

All of the regular things you would bring to play a round of golf such as your clubs, golf bag, golf shoes, tees, balls, ball marker, divot repair tool, water, sunscreen etc. Please note not every club will have a snack bar available. Please be sure to bring adequate food and drink supplies with you. It is also important to make sure juniors have some basic medical supplies on them that they might need. Frequently requested items include Band-Aids, sports tape, Advil, stomach medication etc. The Met PGA staff will have most of these things available but it is more beneficial to have these items accessible at arms length.

WHEN TO ARRIVE

All players should arrive at a tournament at least 30 minutes prior to their starting time. Any player not checked in within 15 minutes of their starting time may be considered a no show and is subject to lose their original starting time. Please note all players should arrive at least 45 minutes early for a shotgun start.

WHAT TO DO

As soon as you arrive at the tournament you must check in with a Met PGA staff member at the Registration Table. Your starting time will be confirmed and you will be directed to the practice facilities available. Players are responsible for being at the tee at least 10 minutes prior to their starting time. It is NOT the responsibility of the Met PGA to make sure competitors are at their starting point on time. Any player who is late to the tee will be subject to penalty and/ or disqualification under the USGA Rules of Golf.

AT THE TEE

1. Please check the number of golf clubs in your bag- maximum is 14.
2. Please place an identifying mark on ball with a marker.
3. Pace of Play: Be sure to keep up with the group in front of you.
4. Please be to the tee 10 minutes prior to your starting time.
5. If at anytime you are unsure of a rule, or doubt as to how to proceed please follow Rule 20.1c (playing 2 balls).

Players will receive their official scorecards and additional Local Rules on the first tee. Each player will be responsible for keeping a fellow competitor's score, as well as their own. Players are highly encouraged to keep score for the rest of the members of their group as well. Players will be responsible for complete knowledge of the Rules of Golf and any Local Rules.

AFTER I TEE OFF

Parents are encouraged to drop their kids off at the tournament sites and return shortly before they finish their round. An average 18 hole round takes between 4 and a half - 5 hours (2 hours and 30 minutes for 9 holes). Spectators are not allowed other than at two-day Future Series events at a course that permit guests.

SCORING PROCEDURES

The following guidelines have been established by the Met PGA to help ensure fairness to all Junior Tour competitors:

- All players should keep score for all competitors in their group.
- All players should keep a record of their own scores.
- All players must immediately sign and return their scorecards to Met PGA officials in the designated Scoring Area.
- After being dismissed from the scoring area, participants are free to leave the tournament for the day unless it is a two day Future Series event or Championship and you are in contention to potentially be in a sudden death playoff or earn a trophy for finishing in the top 3. Medals for top 3 finishers at regular 9 Hole Tour and Players Tour events will be distributed at a later date.
- Scores will be e-mailed and results posted online shortly following the conclusion of your round

The USGA Rules of Golf Scoring in Stroke Play states:

Marker's Responsibility: After each hole during the round, your marker should confirm the number of strokes you took on that hole and enter that gross score on your scorecard. When the round has ended, your marker must certify the hole scores on your scorecard. If you had more than one marker, each marker must certify the score for those holes where they were your marker.

Your Responsibility: When the round has ended, you:

- Should carefully check the hole scores entered by your marker and raise any issues with the committee,
- Must make sure that your marker certifies the hole scores on the scorecard
- Must not change a hole score entered by your marker except with the marker's agreement or the Committees approval, and
- Must certify the hole scores on the scorecard and promptly return it to the Committee, after which you must not change your scorecard.

IF YOU BREACH ANY OF THESE REQUIREMENTS, YOU ARE DISQUALIFIED.

WHAT TO DO IF I SUSPECT A DISHONEST PLAYER

If you suspect that someone in your group is not being honest about their score please report it to a Met PGA official **immediately**. The longer you wait the less of a chance there is of rectifying the situation. **STAFF MUST BE NOTIFIED BEFORE SCORECARDS ARE SIGNED!!!** If you know that someone in your group is cheating and you do not do anything about it you are just as guilty for not protecting the integrity of the field.

Cheat today—pay the consequences the rest of your life!

CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

**REGISTRATION FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS BEGINS MAY 10
and can be accessed through your Player's Club Account**

9 Hole Tour Championships

Entry fee for all 9 Hole Championships is \$50 and is open to all 9 Hole Tour members

- **9 Hole New York City Championship**– July 11 at Mosholu GC
- **9 Hole Metropolitan PGA Junior Championship**– July 31 at Milbrook Club
- **Junior Classic**– August 7 at Smithtown Landing Golf & CC
- **9 Hole Championship**– August 16 at Westchester CC—Par 3 Course

36 Hole Championships

36– Hole Championships are open to Future Series Players. The entry fee for all Championships is \$215. Some championships may have a cut after the first 18 holes. Spots will be filled on a first come first served basis unless otherwise noted.

****Top finishers in all 2-day stroke play events can receive performance stars for entry into AJGA events and will be ranked by Junior Golf Scoreboard****

- **Metropolitan Junior PGA Championship**- June 26-27 , Hampshire CC
- **New York City Championship**– July 10-11 at Pelham Bay GC*
- **Junior Classic**– August 7-8 at Smithtown Landing Golf & CC*
- **Tour Championship**– August 21-22, Meadow Brook Club
Invitational Championship comprised of any Future Series members who have finished in the following positions in the Future Series Player of the Year race: Top 50 for boys and Top 20 for Girls as of Thursday, August 17. Once you qualify for this event you will be invited via e-mail and will be able register through your Players Club account.
- **Match Play Championship**- August 24-25 at Glen Oaks Club
Qualifying will be held in conjunction with the Tour Championship results. The top 16 boys and 8 girls will advance to a 72 hole for the boys and 54 hole for the girls single elimination match play tournament.
- **Tommy Kuhn Cup**- August 30 at Piping Rock Club
This event will take place at the conclusion of the 2023 summer tournament season when the top point leaders face off in a Ryder Cup style event based on geographical region (Long Island vs. Westchester). More information on the qualifications will be posted on our website this summer.

*Denotes there will be a competition for the Players Tour members on day one of this Championship

PARENTS CORNER

Please read this handbook thoroughly before calling the office with any questions. Hopefully, most information you will need is right here. It is our goal to provide our members with an experience in tournament golf that is both fun and educational. We ask that you, as their parents, help us in the endeavor and follow the guidelines set forth by our organization to ensure that our goals are met. We ask you to please make note of and abide by the following principals:
To us, every junior on our tour is the next up and coming star. Please do not let your personal pride and goals overshadow the thrust of our efforts.

- Parents, friends, or other spectators **will not be allowed** on the golf course during 9 Hole Tour and Players Tours events. Spectators will be allowed on the course for 36 Hole Future Series and Championships at sites that permit guests which will be announced prior to the event. Where possible, there will be specific areas on the golf course where spectators will be able to watch players. Unauthorized spectators on the golf course will be asked to leave and may be subject to having the player(s) they are watching disqualified.
- Spots for tournaments are filled on a first come first served basis. Be sure to register early to guarantee your spot in an event. Once a tournament is full we start a waiting list and if there are cancellations spots will be filled from the waiting list. If your child is not selected off the waiting list and still wishes to play, they are more than welcome to come as a standby the day of the tournament. There are no guarantees that a standby will be admitted entry into the event.
- Our tour is an introduction to tournament golf for these juniors and for many it is a difficult transition from playing a regular round. It is our goal to make their first experience with tournament golf rewarding and enjoyable so they will want to continue their young careers. We hate to see any added pressure put onto our tour players and ask that you keep this in mind at all times.
- Parents are guests at these clubs too and must adhere to dress guidelines set forth in this handbook. If you are present at one of our tour events and are inappropriately dressed, you will be asked to leave.
- Various scholarship opportunities are available to our members including financial aid for tournaments, college scholarships, and various other opportunities. For more information please visit our website!
- **The Golden Rule: The most important thing is to have fun!**

PROTECT YOUR TOUR

Golf is a game of integrity.

Members are expected to:

Respect themselves

Respect fellow competitors and staff

Respect the rules of golf

Respect the golf course

All Met PGA Junior Tour events will be governed by the USGA Rules of Golf. Any question of a player's score or procedure should be immediately reported to the Tournament Committee to ensure fairness to all players. Rule 20.1c states: "If you know or believe that another player has breached the Rules and does not recognize or is ignoring this, you should tell that player, the player's marker, a referee or the Committee. You should do this promptly, and certainly before the player returns their scorecard. Your failure to do so could be serious misconduct resulting in disqualification." Remember if you are caught cheating, that stigma can last a lifetime.





PGA

Metropolitan Section
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