

PGA PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

This award bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional for exemplary contributions and achievements in the area of Player Development and for extraordinary efforts in conducting and/or supporting player development initiatives. This award considers the PGA Professional's growth of the game leadership commitment at the Section and National levels, plus the impact made at his/her own facility.

Shaun Strand, PGA
Reston National Golf Course
Reston, Virginia

For his contribution to player development and support of PGA Player Development initiatives, Shaun Strand, PGA was selected as the 2022 PGA Player Development Award recipient.

Shaun was born in Washington State to CMSGT Robert and Debra Strand. He has one brother Quentin and a sister Randi Bergman. Shaun's father served in the United States Air Force for 31 years and his mother Debra had a degree in early childhood psychology, so she operated daycare centers at various duty stations. He and his family moved to Europe when he was seven years old, giving him a unique opportunity to travel all over the world and experience different cultures.

Shaun started to play golf at the age of 16 when he was introduced to the game by his father. He worked in the golf shop and on the maintenance crew at Rota Naval Station Golf Course in Rota, Spain his senior year in high school. However, Shaun noted that he fell in love with the sport when he got a job caddying for a friend on the European tour and mini-tours traveling across Europe and North Africa.

He returned to the United States at twenty-one to pursue a career in golf. Shaun worked at Temeku Hills Golf & Country Club and Redhawk Golf Club both in California before moving to Colorado where he worked at Telluride Ski & Golf from 2003-2011. He moved to the Middle Atlantic Section working at East Potomac Golf Course before moving to Reston National Golf Course in 2012 where remains today.

For the past ten years Shaun has been the Director of Player Development at Reston National Golf Course in Reston, Virginia. During that time, he has grown the player development programs, started the PGA Junior League team, provided jobs for hundreds of people, and created lasting relationships with PGM programs. He hired 11 PGM interns, 4 of whom were offered full time teaching positions and have been with him for at least 5 years. He also created lasting relationships with guest and community leaders. In 2022, he accepted the role as General Manager, leading a team of over 40 staff members. Along with the General Manager role, he still manages the golf school and oversees the programming/curriculum development. He is always looking for new programming ideas and areas in the current curriculum that present opportunities to grow the golf school and continue to present the game of golf to new and current students. Shaun firmly believes that including his entire team in the thought process is key to creating and providing meaningful programs and helping Professionals grow in their careers.

Shaun credits PGA Professional, Rick Thompson, who he worked for at the golf course in Spain as a mentor in the industry along with Kris Anderson, who he took over as General Manager for at Reston National GC. He considers Kris as one of the greatest people on earth, someone that has inspired him in so many ways. Shaun also has an incredible family including nieces and nephews who he is very close with.