

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.

Adam Relan, PGA
Bide-A-Wee GC
Portsmouth, Virginia

For his contribution to player development and support of PGA Player Development initiatives, Adam Relan, PGA was selected as the 2023 PGA Player Development Award recipient. Adam is heavily involved with Player Development at his facility and in the Section. He takes advantage of every opportunity to learn and share player development information with other PGA Professionals and industry professionals. Adam is very passionate about programs such as PGA Jr League and PGA HOPE. However, he believes quality player development goes beyond a program.

Adam was born in Jacksonville, Florida to Craig and Marty Relan. He has one brother Scott and a late sister Dina Relan Johnson. His father served as an Officer in the United States Navy for 22 years before a successful career in business while his mother was a superwoman raising Adam and his siblings while creating a successful interior design business. He was introduced to the game of golf by his father's parents at a very young age along with a childhood friend on the Gulf Coast in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Relan attended Mississippi State University before transferring to and ultimately graduating from Campbell University in Buies Creek, North Carolina with a degree of Bachelor of Business Administration and Professional Golf Management.

Adam is the Coach of his PGA Jr League team and is the PGA HOPE Lead for the PGA HOPE Tidewater Chapter. His PGA Jr League team was typically a Spring only program. However, last year he expanded to add a Fall season. Adam hosts two PGA HOPE series in the Spring and two more series in the Fall. Besides those programs, he has a robust Ladies Only program. In addition, he runs multiple opportunities for kids to learn the game. These opportunities for juniors include summer camps, clinics and play days. He also encourages juniors to learn with their families. In 2023, he created an instruction package for families to learn together. His idea for families came from his popular couples/buddy instruction series. Adam also hosts a number of clinics throughout the year for adults (Men, Women & Seniors). Besides these instructional programs, Adam hosts a variety of different events to create a fun environment in an effort to create excitement and grow the game. An example of some of those events are Friday Night Mixers, Putting Tournaments, Par 3 Challenge, 4-Club Tournament, 1-Club 9-hole Tournament and GlowVibe Night Golf. This year, besides a full night golf tournament, he added a Par 3 Night Golf Experience.

Adam is active in governance at both the Section level and within the Southern Chapter. He has previously served on the Junior Golf Committee, and he continues to serve as Chair for

both the Section's Player Development Committee and the Section's PGA HOPE Committee. Adam brings his love and passion for growing the game to his community as a board member of the First Tee of Hampton Roads. Nationally, Adam also serves on the PGA of America's PGA HOPE Committee.

He and his wife Abbey have been happily married for 20 years and they have a son Ames (17) and a daughter Ana Grace (14).