

MAPGA JUNIOR GOLF HANDBOOK

MIDDLE ATLANTIC PGA JUNIOR GOLF

Contact Information:

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www.mapga.com/junior-golf/

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 8:30 am- 4:30pm (excluding holidays)

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9 Hole Divisions

The Introductory Tour is for junior golfers who want to gain experience with tournaments, with longer yardages than Mini Mulligans, and geared towards players ages 9-14 who want to start playing competitively. Medals are awarded to the Top 3 finishers in each division. There is a 9 Hole Tour Championship at the end of the season open to players that win a medal during the season.

The Mini Mulligans is for junior golfers ages 7 to 10 who want to gain experience with tournament golf in a friendly and competitive environment. The tour uses a modified set of rules to make the game fun for young players. Medals are awarded to the top 3 finishers in each age group.

Mini Mulligans Age Groups & Average Distance:

Coed 7-8 Division Distance: 1,400-1,700 yards

Coed 9-10 Division Distance: 1,400-1,700 yards

Introduction Tour Age Groups & Average Distance:

Boys 9-14 Division Distance: 2,300-2,700 yards

Girls 9-14 Division Distance: 1,900-2,300 yards

Prices & Distances

9 Hole Tour Membership: \$75

9 Hole Events – Member price: \$35 / Non-Member \$65

18 & 36 Hole Divisions

Patriot Division

This is the division for players that are relatively new golfers to 18- and 36-hole events that want to compete in events with other juniors of similar skill levels. With more than 40 events in Maryland and Virginia at some of the region's best courses, this is a tour that is loads of fun and offers great competition.

Prices & Distances

(AGES 9 - 18)

Membership: \$150

Tournament Cost:

18 Hole Events - Member Price \$75 / Non-Member Price \$100

36 Hole Events – Member Price \$150 / Non-Member Price \$200

*Invitationals and championships may have an increased entry fee

Boys

Recommended Scoring Average 85 or Above - Distance: 5,500-5,900 yards

Girls

Recommended Scoring Average 88 or Above - Distance: 4,900-5,300 yards

Championship Division (13-15 and 16-18)

This division is for advanced players looking to compete at the highest level. The yardages will be longer than the Patriot Tour and there will be 18- and 36-hole events. All of the results from the 36 hole events will be listed on Junior Golf Scoreboard and any pre-approved AJGA events will be uploaded.

Membership: \$150

18 Hole Tournament Cost: Member \$75 / Non-Member \$100

36 Hole Tournament Cost: Member \$150 / Non-Member \$200

*Invitationals and championships may have an increased entry fee

Boys 16-18

Recommended Scoring Average 82 or Below - Distance: 6,400-6,900 yards

Boys 13-15

Recommended Scoring Average 84 or Below - Distance: 6,100-6,600

*Overall Boys competitions will be played from a minimum of 6,600 yards

Girls 16-18

Recommended Scoring Average 87 or Below - Distance: 5,600-6,000 yards

Girls 13-15

Recommended Scoring Average 87 or Below - Distance: 5,400-6,000

*Overall Girls competitions will be played from a minimum of 5,700 yards

Red Line = Weighted, Top 1/3 Point Finish

Jr. Tour One day 18 Hole Events = 1.0 x Top 1/3 Point Finish

Jr. Tour Two Day 36 Hole Events = 1.5 x Top 1/3 Point Finish

Invitationals and Championships = 2 x Top 1/3 Point Finish

You must have played in at least 2 events to be eligible at the end of the year for Player of the Year honors. This is a new system so please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Points are awarded to players who compete in and finish in a ranked event during the 2023 Junior Tour season. These points count towards POY standings and will be cumulative as the season progresses.

Player of the Year FAQ's

What is the purpose of the MAPGA Junior Tour Rankings?

A player's ranking is one criterion that may be used to determine eligibility for invitation-only events and postseason honors.

What events are NOT being used?

Capital Cup & Local PGA qualifiers, Non-Junior Tour Events (Optimist Qualifiers)

Who can earn points?

Only Junior Tour Members who compete and finish a ranked event.

Is there an event minimum/maximum?

Yes, there is a minimum of three events, and we accumulate the best 5 scores at the completion of the Junior Tour Championship.

What about ties for points earned? All ties for points broken by sudden death playoff or USGA scorecard playoff and then awarded at the value of position finish.

Playoff Procedure

All ties for second or third place in each age division will be decided by a scorecard play-off using the USGA recommended method. All ties for first place will attempt to be decided by a sudden death playoff but that is weather and course permitting.

Rules Violations and Cheating

Rules violations will be administered by the on-site tournament officials and as prescribed by the USGA Rules of Golf, Junior Golf Director, and MAPGA Executive Director. Cheating will NOT be tolerated. If a player suspects another of violating a rule of golf or cheating, the player should seek a rule official as soon as possible to handle the situation. Cheating will result in immediate disqualification from the MAPGA Junior

Tour with no refund. The player will forfeit all remaining entry fees and incur a one-year suspension from all Middle Atlantic PGA sanctioned events.

Care for the Golf Course

All players are expected to maintain the golf course by repairing ball marks, raking bunkers, replacing the golf course divots, picking up and disposing of trash, etc. "Leave the course in better condition than you found it." First offense: Warning. Second offense: Two-stroke penalty. Third offense: Disqualification.

All players and parents are also encouraged to thank the host club, staff and volunteers for their support of junior golf.

Cell Phones

Cellular phones, pagers and other similar electronic devices must NOT be used outside of using it for live scoring or for distance measuring apps. Emergency use of a cellular phone may be permitted at the discretion of the on-site rules committee. Spectators are encouraged to limit the use of cellphone activity while on the course.

Eligibility

The MAPGA Junior Tour is open to boys and girls ages 7-19 as of January 1st of each year. 18- or 19-year olds who have attended college will NOT be eligible. Entries are subject to rejection at any time by the MAPGA Junior Tour. The program will be limited to the first 850 paid applications.

Deadlines

Membership registration will close when 850 members have joined the tour. Tournament registrations will close 7 days prior to the event at 11:59pm on the last day of registration or when the event reaches maximum capacity (70-90 players depending on venue) whichever occurs first.

Entry Procedure

Entries will only be accepted online through the MAPGA website this year. Starting November 1 each year for the next season. Juniors are eligible to sign up for tournaments starting January 7 of each year (there is no event limit). The first 850 juniors to register for membership will be able to register for MAPGA Tour events, Memberships and Tournament registrations are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis *excluding invitationals or championship events*.

By registering online for the MAPGA Jr Tour, you agree to abide by all Rules & Policies set forth in this Member Handbook. The MAPGA reserves the right to refuse or reject any entry, at any time.

Event Registration Limit

There is no limit on initial event registration.

Withdrawal & No-Show Policy

In order to receive a full refund, players must withdraw before 12 noon, 7 days prior to the event and prior to tee times being posted. Withdrawing after this time will result in a loss of entry fee unless due to illness, injury or family emergency. Otherwise, no refunds will be granted. If you do need to cancel after the deadline for one of these reasons, you will get a full refund minus a \$10 transaction fee.

A player failing to properly withdraw from a tournament and/or failing to compete will forfeit the entry fee and will receive a no show (NS). If a second no show offense occurs, the participant will be suspended from their next tournament. If a third offense occurs, the participant will be suspended for the rest of the season.

Footwear

It is a condition of competition at all tournament sites that shoes with metal or traditionally designed spikes are prohibited. Penalty for breach of this condition: DISQUALIFICATION.

Practice Rounds

Your membership and tournament entry fee does not entitle you to a practice round. However, certain facilities are generous enough to offer practice rounds to participants. Please contact the facility for their policy on practice rounds.

Caddies and/or Carts Caddies and/or carts will not be permitted (except for 9-hole divisions and MAPGA Junior Championship) at any MAPGA Junior Tour. Each player must walk and carry his/her own clubs. Pull carts are acceptable. A player with a physical disability may request an exemption from this policy from the MAPGA Junior Tour Officials. Motorized/Electric/Remote operated push carts are not allowed.

Caddies on the 9-hole tour are required to complete the caddie quiz and pay the \$20 caddie registration fee.

Weather Suspension and Delay Policy

It will be at the discretion of the MAPGA Junior Golf Staff or Host PGA Professional to cancel play. An event will not be canceled due to rain unless the Host PGA Professional/tournament committee deems it necessary. We will delay or suspend play for standing water on the greens or lightning detected within 10 miles of the golf course. In the event of lightning or other dangerous situations, play will be suspended until conditions are safe. There will be no "make-up" dates for canceled events. If a tournament is canceled prior to play, members scheduled to participate in the event will be refunded the entry fee minus a \$5 transaction fee.

Dress Code & Conduct Guidelines

Teaching sportsmanship, etiquette, and the Rules of Golf are major goals of the MAPGA Junior Tour. To promote these areas and to maintain the integrity of the Tour, the

following guidelines for dress and conduct will apply. Tournament officials will enforce these guidelines at all MAPGA Junior Tour functions. Dress Code T-shirts and tank tops are not acceptable. Blue jeans or cutoffs are not acceptable. Shirts must always remain tucked in. During tournaments all participants must wear close-toed shoes.

Conduct

Any conduct that is detrimental to the MAPGA Junior Tour will not be tolerated. No club throwing. No abusive language or profanity. No use of any tobacco products. No drug use. No gambling. Abuse of the club facilities will not be tolerated. Any breach of the above guidelines will result in disqualification from the event where the incident occurred as well as the next event entered without refund. A second infraction will result in suspension from the Tour for the remainder of the season and forfeiture of all applicable entry fees.

Spectators

Spectators are welcome and encouraged to attend tournaments. Spectator carts will be allowed if approved by the host facility. Carts **MUST** always remain on the cart path! **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Spectators must stay in the rough or on the cart path and at least 30 yards away from the players. Spectators are allowed to carry water, umbrellas, jackets, towels, and food for the players. Spectators are **NOT** allowed to give advice to the players. The player may be penalized for a violation. "Advice" is any counsel or suggestion, which could influence a player in determining his/her play, the choice of club or the method of making a stroke. Examples of advice "You should hit a 6-iron here" "Keep your head down" "Relax, take it one shot at a time" Spectators shall not carry on conversations with players. This action could be construed as **ADVICE**. Players may be penalized for this action. Spectators may not carry a player's golf bag and/or clubs.

Penalties for Violation of this Policy

First Offense: Warning. Second Offense: Two-Stroke Penalty. Third Offense: Disqualification. *This is not to be confused with distributing food, drink, additional clothing, and or medication to the player*.

General FAQ's

Q: Can I change divisions? **A:** Yes, you may switch divisions once during the season if you feel your current division is not correct for your current skill level, whether the division is not challenging enough or too easy. Points will then be reset.

Q: Will golf carts be available for spectators? **A:** Spectators carts will be allowed if the host facility permits them.

Q: As a parent, am I able to advise my child during play? **A:** No. " Advice" is any counsel or suggestion which could influence the player in determining his/her play, the choice of club, or the method of making a stroke. Giving advice is a breach of USGA Rules.

Q: If an event is canceled, will I be entered into another event? **A:** Each situation will be decided on an individual basis. Your placement into an alternate event will be on a space-available basis.

Q: If I withdraw from a tournament after the deadline do I receive a refund? **A:** No, however, it may be possible to enter you into a different event on a space-available basis. Refund requests due to medical reasons or other extenuating circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Where can I find my tee time? **A:** Tee times will be posted on the website and emailed to participants approximately 5 days prior to each event.

Q: Which events count towards the Tour Championship / POY? **A:** Any MAPGA Junior Tour event except for qualifiers or outside events.

Q: In the Championship Division, do the 36-hole events count for more POY points than the 18-hole events? **A:** Yes however, the field size is bigger and stronger so receiving points is more difficult in the 36-hole events.

For further questions, please contact Junior Golf Director **Alex Reiter**
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All juniors are expected to abide by the Rules of Golf and the procedures of the MAPGA Junior Tour at all times.