

TEACHER & COACH OF THE YEAR

This award bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional for excellence in golf instruction along with overall distinguished performance as a PGA Professional.

Sean English, PGA
Elkridge Club
Baltimore, Maryland

Sean English was born August 12, 1970, in Paducah, KY to parents Don English and Shirley Bentley. He began playing golf at the age of twelve when he was introduced to the sport by his stepfather, Leroy Bentley.

Sean's first golf-related job was in 1989 as a Shop Assistant at the Country Club of Paducah. He became a golf professional in 1993 and worked at Beechmont CC in Ohio as an Assistant before moving to Urbana CC, where he was promoted to Head Professional. Sean moved to Wisconsin when he was named Head Professional at Bristlecone Pines GC, before moving back to Ohio where he worked at Kenwood CC for eight years. During his time at Kenwood CC, he was named the 2007 Southern Ohio PGA Teacher of the Year. Sean moved to the Middle Atlantic Section in 2012 when he became the Teaching Professional at Caves Valley Golf Club. After 6 years there, he was named to his current position as Director of Instruction at the Elkridge Club.

Several mentors influenced Sean including Daniel "Kayo" Mullen, PGA who shared an interest in him as a young boy and gave him the guidance on how to play the game but also how to present himself. Charlie Stone, PGA hired him as an Assistant at Beechmont CC in 1993 and as Sean describes it "molded a very green and naïve young man into a golf professional." Additional mentors in golf include Bernie Najjar, PGA; Gil Gusweiler, PGA; and Dennis Satyshur, PGA.

Since arriving at Elkridge, he has elevated the programming, enhanced the Learning Center amenities, hired and overseen additional staff and provides the membership with opportunities to learn and play year-round. Starting with conducting group lessons in each season. Sean has added New Golfers programming, New Member Lesson Gifts, and established a PGA Junior League team program which has grown to two 13U teams and a 17U team. During the summer season, Sean expanded the Junior Golf Camp program to each week of summer vacation, then added a second week each month of Pee Wee Camp. He conducts over 1500 hours of instruction during the year to players of all skill levels including successful juniors, college, and tour players.

Sean feels education is the biggest asset a PGA Professional can have. He attends over one hundred hours of education each year, investing in his own education so that he can help others. Sean is the Chair of the Education Committee where he has been instrumental in the planning and execution of both in-person and virtual education for the last five years. He not only hosts fellow PGA professionals himself but has also assisted with the organization of countless other education opportunities such as Associate Development Days which he and fellow PGA professional Mark Russo launched.

He earned his PGA Specialized Professional in Teaching & Coaching in 2021 and earned his PGA Certified Professional in 2024. English's honors include the 2021 MAPGA Professional Development Award, 2007 SOPGA Teacher & Coach of Year, 2023-24 US Kids Foundation Top 50 Kids' Coach Award, 2024-25 US Kids Foundation Top 50 Master Kids' Coach Award, 2024-25 Golf Range Association Top 100 Growth of the Game Teaching Professional, and Golf Digest Best Teachers in State 2022-2025.

Sean has been married to his wife Anita for 23 years and they share their son Grant. Grant (21) plays baseball at Montgomery College.

