

Southern Ohio PGA - Weekly Newsletter - June 10th, 2020

Hello Southern Ohio PGA,

PGA Jr. League is back in action! Several of you have asked questions about how to responsibly hold practices and games. You can view the PGA Jr. League 2020 Program Guidelines in the following link.

[PGA Jr. League 2020 Program Guidelines](#)

Some of the best practices that I have heard from other professionals can be found below. Hopefully you will find these to be helpful in your programming as well.

Practices

- 1) Create “Safety Stations” - Create designated safety zones for each student to ensure they maintain social distancing during practices. Use hula hoops for putting or chipping stations. Paint boxes on the ground on the driving range to indicate each player’s designated practice area.
- 2) Decrease your number of students for each practice session. If you normally have 18 players for 90 minutes, restructure and have 6 players for 30 minute intervals.
- 3) Do more on course practices, where you can teach students how to social distance while playing a match.

Games

- 1) The number one most important thing during game days is to avoid “gatherings”. Use tee times, not shotguns so players and spectators show up at a staggered rate rather than all at the same time.
- 2) Avoid “gatherings” around the first tee, the final green, the starting and scoring areas. As a best practice, some pros are using the “Jim Nantz” technique! They are advising players and families to leave once they finish the last hole rather than congregate around the final green, but they are utilizing “FaceBook Live” or other social media platforms to provide live updates of the on course action. They are announcing the groups as they come up to the final green, sharing scores or exciting news from the match. This is a great way to keep the families engaged without all gathering together around the final green.

- 3) Utilize the Chat feature in the mobile app to include photos from game days, give updates on exciting shots, share memorable moments, etc. Each family can use their phone and share their photos and best stories from the day as well!

These are just a few best practices to assist you for the 2020 PGA Jr. League season. One of the greatest aspects of PGA Jr. League is the “social” component of the program. Some of the best moments occur when the team is all together and have that opportunity to bond with each other, laugh at each other’s jokes and create nicknames for each other. It will be difficult to find these special moments with social distancing guidelines in place. Now is a good time to get creative with how to help your teammates bond. Perhaps a once a week video call with the entire team, this could include sharing their favorite shot of the week, sharing their favorite nickname or everyone having a bowl of ice cream together on the call. Anything that will help them create friendships, both on and off the course.

Please let us know if you have any best practices that you would like to share or if you have any questions about the PGA Jr. League program.

Best wishes for a fun season!

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