

# The New Junior Championship

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The activities of the United States Golf Association are directed by a group of men who voluntarily donate their time principally for one reason: They believe that golf serves a useful purpose and are interested to see it played in the right spirit by as many individuals as possible.

Though at times this approach may not be too apparent in the Association's actions, it is always a basic consideration and has certainly been the motivating force in the decision of the USGA to conduct this year its first Junior Amateur Championship.

Psychologically and in the development of their games, boys under 18 years of age should receive special recognition in golf, the Association believes. Therefore, although the Junior Championship is patterned after the men's Amateur, there are certain departures which, it is hoped, will make the event more interesting and valuable to the young golfer whose game has not quite reached maturity.

In the first place, there is the matter of age. None of the 128 boys who will meet at the University of Michigan Golf Course this month will have reached his 18th birthday, under the Championship rules. Therefore, the USGA is assuming some of the responsibility for their off-the-course activities—something that is not done for an adult event. More particularly, the Association wants to help inspire in these boys, while still in their formative years, the best principles of good sportsmanship.

The USGA is not conducting the Junior Amateur Championship primarily to determine the best junior golfer in the United States. It is interested in establishing personal contact with the youngsters in order to help them learn how to get the most out of the game, whether they win or lose.

To this end, many USGA officials will join at Ann Arbor in conducting a program which we hope will be both instructive and entertaining. Fielding Wallace, USGA President; James D. Standish, Jr., a Vice-President; Francis Ouimet, a mem-

ber of the Championship Committee, and others will participate. Three evenings will be devoted to forum discussions of golf subjects, including the rules and the history of the game, and to golf motion pictures.

The boys will reside at the Michigan Union, on the University campus, and this, with the group meetings, should help create a wholesome atmosphere of good fellowship and sportsmanship.

## The Age Limit

We have been questioned about the advisability of limiting the Championship to boys under 18. The USGA Executive Committee believes that the purposes of the Championship will be best served thereby.

In the first place, practically all the Rules of Amateur Status begin to apply at the 18th birthday. Boys under 18 are allowed more leeway in such matters, for instance, as expense money. To raise the age limit would create two classes of players who would be competing under different rules in the same event.

Secondly, as boys near their 20s they become more properly candidates for the Amateur and for State and sectional championships. For the Junior, the USGA wants boys who are old enough to go away from home and yet not developed enough to be serious competitors in adult events. If the age limit were raised one or two years, most of these boys would be automatically eliminated, since they probably would be unable to compete.

The USGA in this instance is interested in aiding the development of young golfers, rather than in conducting a championship for golfers who already have entered a more or less mature stage.

The same limit has been used for years for the British Boys' Championship with great success.

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## HANDICAPPING THE UNHANDICAPPED

The USGA Golf Handicap System remains the approved method for determining basic handicaps but, like every other system, it will not solve some of the unusual problems which face handicappers.

One of the most difficult problems is that of determining fair allowances for convention and resort tournaments which attract novice and occasional players. Obviously, the man who never plays except during his two-weeks vacation at Sloping Valley, or at the annual trade tournament at Flat Hill, is entitled to a fair shake in the competition for net prizes.

The standard way of solving such a matter usually has been to conduct a kickers' tournament, in which each player selects his own handicap and then shoots at a score which has been drawn blind.

Another method of handicapping which would seem to fit the same role is the Calloway System of Automatic Handicapping.

Under this method, a player's handicap is determined, after each round, by his gross score for the 18 holes and by the worst, or highest, individual hole scores he has made. For instance, if his gross score was 107, he turns to the accompanying table and opposite that score finds that he may deduct the total of his four worst, or high-

est, individual hole scores. Thus, if he had scored one 9, two 7s and several 6s, he could deduct 29 strokes, giving himself a net score of 78.

The USGA has had no experience with this system but it is an interesting idea which handicappers and tournament committee chairman may find useful. We know of no way in which it could be adapted for match play tournaments, and it is in no way a substitute for the USGA Golf Handicap System.

The Calloway System Automatic Handicap deductions follow:

### CLASS A

Score	Deduct
Par or less.....	Scratch
One over par to 75.....	½ Worst hole
76 to 80.....	Worst hole
81 to 85.....	Worst hole plus ½ next
86 to 90.....	Two worst holes
91 to 95.....	Two worst holes plus ½ next
96 to 100.....	Three worst holes

### CLASS B

101 to 105.....	Three worst holes plus ½ next
106 to 110.....	Four worst holes
111 to 115.....	Four worst holes plus ½ next
116 to 120.....	Five worst holes
121 to 125.....	Five worst holes plus ½ next

### CLASS C

126 to 130.....	Six worst holes
131 to 135.....	Six worst holes plus ½ next
136 to 140.....	Seven worst holes
141 to 145.....	Seven worst holes plus ½ next
146 to 150.....	Eight worst holes

Note: Worst hole equals highest hole score.

## Junior Championship

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The competitive phases of the Championship will be conducted with as much care as any other USGA event.

The boy who wins will receive a handsome trophy bowl—a reproduction in Sterling of an original owned by the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The original was made in 1796 by Samuel Williamson, a well-known Philadelphia silversmith. It is similar to the Sheraton style, made in England at the same time, but the beaded borders and square base are typical of Philadelphia silver work in that period. A duplicate is aboard the cruiser U.S.S. *Philadelphia*.

The 15-inch bowl is a permanent trophy,

to be held by the champion for one year. A 6-inch replica, also in Sterling, will be awarded to the winner for permanent possession.

The winner must play through seven 18-hole matches in the all-match-play Championship at Ann Arbor—one round on August 11 and two rounds on each of the three ensuing days, with the semi-finals and final being played Saturday, August 14. There were 496 entries for the sectional qualifying rounds.

The USGA would be pleased to receive invitations from Member Clubs and educational institutions to entertain the Junior Amateur Championship in 1949 and 1950. Dormitory facilities for 128 boys are desirable, though not essential.