

# A Model Junior Program

By HAROLD A. DAWSON

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GOLF ASSOCIATION

A dream is being fulfilled anew this month when 128 boys, all under 18 years of age, gather at the University of Illinois Golf Course, at Champaign, for the fourth annual USGA Junior Amateur Championship. It has been a dream of many men in various parts of the country—men who had the vision to see what golf can mean to these boys, and these boys to golf, both nationally and locally.

In Southern California there are important developments. A Southern California Junior Association has been formed through merged efforts of three adult associations, the Southern California Golf Association, the Southern California Public Links Association, and the Southern California Section of the Professional Golfers' Association of America.

Junior activity has been fostered in the area before. The important feature of this new program is that its tournaments hereafter will be conducted by the juniors themselves. Membership will be open to any boy or girl who has not yet become 18 years old.

Three delegates from each adult group, Dudley Shumway, Los Angeles Recreation Director, and I will act as a governing board. Ralph Miller, active in junior development at Palos Verdes Country Club, is the first President. Keith Jacobs, manager of Montebello links, is Vice-President; Joe Robinson, Virginia Country Club professional, is Secretary, and I will act as Treasurer. Others on the board are: Harry Winters, Rancho; Bud Oakley, Palos Verdes pro; George Lake, Recreation Park pro at Long Beach; General Stanley Ritterhof, Santa Ana; E. Casebier, Bel-Air, and Bill Bryan, Fox Hills owner-manager.

The purposes of the new Association will be:

1. To promote junior golf activity.
2. To teach the Rules and Etiquette of Golf.

## JUNIOR STAR



Mason Rudolph, of Clarksville, Tenn. is an example of the value of junior golf programs. The first USGA Junior Champion eligible to defend his title, he also has qualified for the Open twice.

3. To obtain instruction, practice and playing privileges for members.

4. To establish handicap ratings.

Those are the principal aims. We have others. This will be no hit-or-miss project; we have given it careful thought for years. Our plans include:

*Club Programs:* We hope to induce each club and course to have a program for its own juniors. We want each to have its own junior organization under an adult committee, to elect its own officers, establish its own handicaps, conduct its own club tournaments, and engage in matches with juniors of other clubs. This entire program is to be dovetailed with activities of the Junior Association.

*Tournaments:* For the past several years the three adult associations have jointly sponsored the Southern California Junior Championship. The Junior Association hereafter will conduct this event.

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William J. Schaller  
 Jerry Dean Schrepf  
 Tommy Shannon  
 James Lynch Sherrill  
 Oliver C. Sleppy  
 Miss Josephine S. Smith  
 Edgar C. Staren  
 Benjamin J. Sullivan

## W

Mr. and Mrs. Leon J. Weil  
 Bill Welch  
 J. C. Moresby White  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Williams, Jr.  
 Kenneth G. Wilson  
 Arthur Hillard Wolfe  
 Herman Wyman

## CLUBS

Balboa Park Men's Golf Club, Cal.  
 Bayside Golf Corp., N. Y.  
 Belmont Country Club, Mass.  
 Country Club of Buffalo, N. Y.  
 Country Club of Troy, N. Y.  
 Country Club of Waterbury, Conn.  
 Denver Country Club, Colo.  
 East Liverpool Country Club, Ohio  
 Ekwanok Country Club, Vt.  
 Fenway Golf Club, N. Y.  
 Glen Head Country Club, N. Y.  
 James River Country Club, N. Y.  
 Lake Placid Club, N. Y.  
 Lancaster Country Club, N. Y.  
 McGregor Links, Inc., N. Y.  
 Nassau Country Club, N. Y.

Oakland Golf Club, N. Y.  
 Shaker Ridge Country Club, N. Y.  
 Springdale Golf Club, N. J.  
 Tatnuck Country Club, Mass.  
 The Tuxedo Club, N. Y.  
 University Senior Golf Club, Minn.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Indiana Women's Golf Association  
 Long Island Professional Golfers' Association  
 Pennsylvania State Women's Golf Association  
 Western Pennsylvania Golf Association  
 Wisconsin Section of the Professional Golfers' Association of America

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as well as the Father-Junior Son Tournament.

One of the projects is the first California State Junior Championship. This is being worked out with Joey Rey, professional of the Pasatiempo Club in Santa Cruz. A week-long series of tournaments is being planned in Northern California to culminate in both individual championship play and a team contest between Northern and Southern California, patterned on the Walker Cup Match.

**Membership:** Members in the Junior Association will be required to enter the aforementioned tournaments and, we hope, will also be required to enter junior events sponsored by others. We expect to maintain a high level membership and require each applicant to be approved by the Southern California Section of the PGA, which will certify that the applicant has sufficient skill to play and sufficient knowledge of the Rules and Etiquette to know how to conduct himself or herself properly. Membership may be suspended or canceled for dishonesty, wilful disregard of the Rules or Etiquette, or unsportsmanlike conduct. Dues will be \$2 a calendar year, and memberships will expire December 31 unless terminated previously by the holder reaching the age of 18. We expect about 300 this year but in the future should reach many times that number.

**Privileges and Concessions:** We hope to obtain practice privileges for members

at driving ranges and playing privileges or concessions where possible. We hope a membership card will immediately identify the holder as a gentleman who can be depended upon to play courteously and not injure the course. This should make privileges easy to obtain.

**Playgrounds and Golf:** Most cities have playgrounds which provide facilities, equipment and instruction in such sports as football, baseball, basketball and tennis. I see no practical reason why playgrounds cannot provide golf driving nets and employ professionals to give lessons to beginners.

**Professionals and the Juniors:** The local PGA has been keenly interested in the new Association, and George Lake, Joe Robinson and Bud Oakley, PGA representatives to the Board, have contributed greatly in time and effort. The new organization will bring the juniors into closer contact with the pros, which will be good for both. I realize the pro must budget his time, but time given the juniors is well spent and sure to be followed by sales of equipment and advanced lessons.

Aside from profits, the pro has a great opportunity to make a big contribution to youth. The pro will be respected by the juniors and can be a great help in teaching them the valuable lessons to be learned from the game. It will cost him nothing to show an interest in the boys, even to play an occasional round with them. This has a tremendous effect upon the boys, and gains for the pro something money cannot buy—the esteem and good will of the juniors and their parents.