

# DEVELOPING A JUNIOR PROGRAM

by  
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THE DEVELOPMENT of junior golfers can be made a whole lot easier if an interesting program can be arranged and if the youngsters are left with the impression their activities make up an important phase of normal club operations.

It is the duty of the club professional to set up a worthwhile teaching program. From there, club officials take over and see to it that junior golfers are not completely reduced to a "seen but not heard" status.

My theory has always been 60 per cent fun and 40 per cent instruction for youngsters starting out in golf. I do considerable clowning and laughing with my students, and it seems to make them eager to come back for the next lesson.

It is impossible to teach a youngster as you would an adult, so I stress just the grip and the stance. The minds of young pupils are not developed to the point where they can absorb intricate instruction.

## **Enjoyment Must Come First**

With the correct grip and stance, a young pupil can learn to swing the club-head in the proper arc. By avoiding too much detail, I feel the drill does not become stereotyped. Youngsters cannot develop a liking for golf without enjoying it first. That is why I insist the juniors enjoy themselves while under my supervision.

Early teaching should include a lecture or two on golf's etiquette. The juniors should be taught that golf is a quiet sport and consideration must be given to others at all times. Youngsters can do their hollering and get their bodily contact in other sports but should be instructed that golf is, to a large degree, a game of concentration.

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## DO YOU KNOW YOUR GOLF?

(Answers to questions on page 12)

1. (b) Walter Travis
2. (b) 200
3. False. Limit is \$150.
4. True. True.
5. (b) Feathers.
6. True.
7. No. See Definitions 5 and 30, and Rules 14 and 27-1c.
8. No. See Definition 17, and Rules 16 and 23-3.
9. Yes. See Definition 6.

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So much for the instruction side from the professional's viewpoint.

The best way to round out the teaching program is to have a tournament at the close of the season and award prizes for the best performances. Here's where club officials should come into the picture.

If at all possible, the youngsters should receive their awards at the same time and from the same club official handing out prizes to the club champion and runner-up. Being in a golf atmosphere such as that, the prize-winning youngsters have the proper feeling of recognition. Having been shown that club officials are interested in their activities, junior golfers begin to think in terms of a longtime association with golf. A properly enlightened youngster can develop into the ideal future member.