

# JUNIOR PROGRAM AT A CLUB

How to Start  
and Control  
a Program

A 16-page booklet entitled "A Junior Golf Program for your Club and District" has been prepared by the USGA Junior Championship Committee and went out to USGA Member Clubs. We feel, however, that the subject is of such vital interest to all who have the future welfare of the game at heart that we reproduce here the text dealing with a Junior Program at a Club.

An active junior program can be scheduled and supervised so that it will interfere little, if any, with the enjoyment of the course by adult club members.

It is essential that the program be guided by an adult committee set up for the purpose. The members should be interested in juniors and have time to devote to the program.

The size of the committee depends upon the scope of the program and the number of juniors participating. The golf committee and women's committee should be represented on the junior committee so that close liaison may be maintained. The club professional and parents of some juniors should work with the committee. Also, there should be at least one boy and/or girl representative.

In planning the program, the following aspects should be considered:

- a. Whom to admit to the program.
- b. Registration.
- c. Organizing juniors into a club.
- d. Instruction in playing.
- e. Instruction in Rules and etiquette.
- f. Playing privileges.
- g. Handicaps.
- h. Conduct.
- i. Tournaments.
- j. Financing.
- k. Prizes.
- l. Caddie programs.

Whom to admit to the program is up to the club and depends entirely upon the local situation. As a rule, children of members are eligible and some clubs also permit grandchildren, nieces, nephews or wards of members to take part.

"Outside" juniors who have been recommended and sponsored by a member and caddies sometimes have been permitted to participate. Clubs doing this consider

they are rendering a community service.

Registration should be required early in the year by means of postcards to all juniors. Name, address, telephone number and birth date should be included on each card. Membership cards may be distributed to stimulate interest.

Juniors and parents may be invited to an evening of golf movies and a report on plans for the coming year or season. Prominent golf personalities might talk on how junior golf helped them.

Organizing juniors into a club often makes the program easier to conduct and more successful. By giving them certain responsibilities, they develop an added interest and gain valued experience.

A junior club involves framing an objective and a Constitution and Bylaws, providing for a name, officers, meetings, committees, membership, and so forth. Some By-laws stress the need for showing courtesy at all times to the adult club members and of allowing them priority on the course upon request.

Juniors can be of great assistance with many phases of the program, such as keeping their own handicap records and communicating with other juniors regarding meetings. They should preside at their meetings, keep the records, award the prizes and make their reports, under the supervision of the club's junior committee.

As a unit, juniors are extremely interested in seeing that their privileges are not jeopardized through the carelessness of any member. This will help greatly in maintaining a high standard of conduct.

Instruction in playing can usually be arranged quite easily with the club professional. Group instruction, particularly to beginners, is often given at a reduced rate. This instruction may be augmented by shot-making clinics conducted by visiting professionals and by films of famous players. The United States Golf Association can provide a list of available films

and the sources from which they may be obtained.

**Instruction in Rules and etiquette** is most important. At each meeting of juniors, some time should be devoted to a discussion of the Rules. The discussion should, of course, be conducted by a person who is well versed in them.

A series of comparatively short sessions about the Rules can be made interesting and stimulating. A USGA Rules of Golf booklet should be furnished to each junior and he should be shown how to use it.

The United States Golf Association has sponsored a series of films on the Rules of Golf which may be rented from National Educational Films, Inc., 165 West 46th St., New York 36, N. Y.

In discussing the Rules, it should be brought out that:

There is only one code of Rules governing golf wherever it is played.

The Rules are the result of generations of golfing experience and are made to insure fair play; a knowledge of them will help the player.

Unless the game is played by the Rules, it ceases to be golf but is something else.

The two basic principles of the game are: play the ball as it lies, and play the course as it is found.

While formerly the Rules gave the player relief from very few situations, they now give relief from many things; some of the relief is free and some entails a penalty.

Situations from which a player may have relief, such as a ball lost, out of bounds or unplayable, in a water hazard, in ground under repair and so forth should be discussed, with the proper procedures in taking relief.

Attention should be paid to the Definitions and to the most common violations of Rules, such as asking advice, cleaning or changing the ball on the green, improving the line of putt, and so forth.

Etiquette should be stressed, particularly the replacing of divots, smoothing footprints in bunkers and repairing ball marks on the green after putting.

Giving the juniors a problem involving the Rules, to be answered in writing by a certain date with prizes for the best answers, creates added interest. Oral quizzes also are popular features of meetings at some clubs. For these purposes

## NEW MEMBERS OF THE USGA

### REGULAR

Buffalo Golf Club	N. Y.
Dewbird Golfers Association, The	N. Y.
Douglas Golf Club	Ariz.
Glenn Dale Golf Club	Wash.
Glenn Dale Golf Association	Md.
Green Valley Country Club	S. C.
Higby Hills Country Club	N. Y.
Madison Golf Club	N. J.
New Mexico Military Institute Golf Course	N. M.
O'Donnell Golf Club	Cal.
Rio Hondo Country Club	Cal.
Selva Marina Country Club	Fla.
Wapakoneta Country Club	Ohio

### ASSOCIATE

Estate Carlton Golf Club	V. I.
Los Altos Municipal Golf Course	N. M.
Western Village Golf Course	Okla.
White Springs Golf Club	Ohio
Wofford Golf Course	N. C.

the official decisions of the Rules of Golf Committee, appearing in the USGA Journal, may be used.

An understanding of the Rules and etiquette will prove of great benefit to the junior.

**Playing privileges** must be offered in addition to instruction on the practice tee, else the program will not long sustain interest.

Beginners usually are not allowed on the course (except in the company of an adult) until they have attained a certain degree of skill and knowledge of the Rules and etiquette. Proficiency rather than age usually is the determining factor.

The committee determines whether a junior shall have playing privileges. A handicap card or a membership card in the junior club may be used as evidence of such privileges. Very young juniors who possess certain skill and yet, because of their youth, play slowly, may be allowed limited playing privileges, such as playing only a few holes.

When juniors have been approved for play, they should be permitted the privileges of the course at times when they will not interfere with the adult members.

One effective means of handling junior play is to establish a definite morning of each week during school vacation as "junior morning," just as another morning may be established especially for women's play. If it seems feasible, a club

may also permit juniors to have guests without green fees on one of these mornings each month.

Other privileges may include special clubhouse facilities, such as a separate room where golf periodicals and other reading matter are available and where meetings are held.

**Handicaps** may be useful in some club events. The USGA Handicap System can be used, with adaptations, for juniors. Nine-hole scores may be accepted until a handicap has been established, then only eighteen-hole scores.

Nine-hole handicaps are not recommended for players who play eighteen-hole rounds. However, for players who cannot play eighteen holes, it is reasonable to issue nine-hole handicaps.

It is our suggestion that nine-hole handicaps be based on the playing difficulty of the nine holes on which the scores are made. In other words, if one nine of a course is harder than the other, scores made on the harder nine should be related to the playing difficulty of that nine. This same principle applies to eighteen-hole scores, where the rating of one course may be 73 and another 68.

A nine-hole handicap should never be doubled for eighteen-hole play, nor should an eighteen-hole handicap be halved for nine-hole play.

**Conduct** must of course be supervised. If a junior forgets to smooth his tracks in a bunker, to repair the ball marks on the green, to replace divots or breaks some other rule of etiquette or good conduct, a friendly chat with him generally will remedy the situation. However, should the conduct require stronger corrective measures, suspension of playing privileges for a definite or indefinite period and possibly informing his parents will work wonders. However, the juniors as a whole conduct themselves on a par with their elders, and more often than not their conduct is exemplary and little disciplinary action is necessary.

**Tournaments** are big events in the life of a junior, and the crucible of competition is a fine experience. A junior program is not complete unless it includes competitions.

Most clubs with active junior programs have frequent events such as blind bogey, match play vs. par or bogey, and, of course, junior championships for boys

and girls. A ladder event can be conducted throughout the season. The United States Golf Association can furnish a list of varied and interesting events. Father-and-son or daughter and mother-and-daughter or son events also are popular. Such competitions bring parents into close contact with the program.

Some clubs finish the junior season with such an event, followed by a dinner at which the prizes are awarded.

Junior competitions may be in age or handicap flights. Common age flights are 16-17, 14-15, 12-13 and 11 and under. There can be a "pee-wee" flight for the extremely young.

Competitions should be conducted strictly by the Rules of Golf. Local Rules should be examined to insure that they are not in conflict with the Rules of Golf.

In areas having several junior programs, an invitation junior tournament is an exciting and enjoyable event. It is usually a one-day stroke play competition with flights by ages. Unless entrants have established handicaps at their clubs, there should be prizes only for gross scores.

Such a competition should be conducted in the same manner as an adult event. It must be planned well. The committee should be on hand to start the juniors on the first tee; to assure that the cards are checked, signed and attested before being turned in; to see that refreshments are available; to decide questions of Rules; and to look after all the other details. Some invitation events also include putting contests and driving contests for distance and accuracy.

Transportation problems will arise in an invitation junior event, and the committee from each club will have to work them out.

**Financing** will be required, but a junior program need not be expensive. The cost of prizes and refreshments will be the chief expenses. Methods of financing the program have included the following:

- Appropriation by the club.
- Donation by individual members.
- Proceeds from a club event.
- Junior club dues.

**Prizes** for the girls' and the boys' sections of a tournament and of various flights should be on a par with each other. To avoid too much emphasis on

## AN EARLY START ON A BIG JOB



The Cherry Hills Country Club, near Denver, Colo., got away to a fast and impressive start in preparing to entertain the Open Championship in 1960. Among those who attended the "kick-off" dinner were (from the left) Gov. Stephen L. R. McNichols of Colorado; Mayor Will F. Nicholson of Denver; H. R. (Potts) Berglund, general chairman for the Club; Everett Collier, a vice-chairman; and J. Edwin Carter, tournament director for the Professional Golfers' Association.

the material gain of winning, prizes should be modest. Although at first juniors prefer trophies, they soon come to appreciate a useful prize of a lasting nature.

Caddie programs are an important asset to any club and the junior committee should not overlook the boys who carry the clubs. The character of the

caddie-master, the well-being of the caddies, the cleanliness and adequacy of the caddie yard, the supervision of the boys, and their opportunities to learn to play and to understand the Rules are all proper subjects of concern for the junior committee even though specific remedies for any inadequacies may be the function of another committee.