

GOLF FOR YOUNGSTERS IN OKLAHOMA AND VERMONT

Many successful programs are being conducted by clubs and associations for the golfing development of boys and girls. The USGA JOURNAL is pleased to present two fine examples.

OKLAHOMA JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

By Mrs. Carl Hotz, Junior Chairman,
Women's Oklahoma Association

Our program has been primarily one of education. We send no girl on the golf course without a woman accompanying the pairing to instruct the girls regarding scoring, rules, etiquette and golf course care. Our pros compliment us on the condition of the course at the close of our tournament. We feel this kind of supervision is paying good dividends and that our tournament will be welcome anywhere.

We find if we can get a girl into her first tournament, we have sold her on golf, so we try to make it very attractive. We require our babies, or Pee-Wees, under 12 years of age, to play only three holes. These usually are No. 8 and No. 9, with a specially prepared hole about 60 yards long. In this manner, we can start the young ones early, at 7 A.M., and have them out of the way of the older girls, together with getting them out of the heat of July, which is something to consider in Oklahoma.

We have three flights of Pee-Wees, playing three days straight medal score, with the 11-year-olds making the first flight, the nine and 10-year-olds the second, the seven and eight year olds the third flight. These Pee-Wees are not required to shoot out of the sand traps, but are allowed to lift out to the entrance to the green, with a 1-stroke penalty, as we wish to encourage them, rather than discourage.

Our next group plays only nine holes, and they are divided into flights by age, as well as ability. They are required to submit three average scores with their entry blanks, in order to pair them properly. We do not require a 12-year-old shooting 60 to play against a 16-year-old

VERMONT INTERSCHOLASTIC

By Leslie W. Mercer, Treasurer
Vermont State Golf Association

Several score young golfers are swinging around the courses of Vermont this spring in a statewide program that is encouraging more school boys and girls to take up the sport.

The Executive Committee of the Vermont State Golf Association had felt for some time there were not enough young golfers coming along, but we knew, in order to increase interest, that we would have to have a definite program. Since I was president of the Vermont State Golf Association at the time, I met with Dr. A. John Holden, Commissioner of Education for the State of Vermont, in the spring of 1956 to discuss the possibilities of a Green Mountain State Interscholastic Golf Program.

Dr. Holden was very enthusiastic and this led to a series of meetings with Raymond B. Magwire, Director of Health and Physical Education; Dr. O. Meredith Parry, President of the Vermont Headmasters Association, and Leonard E. Quintin, Secretary of the VSGA. Educators hailed the move as a welcomed addition to sports activities in the high schools but it was stressed that this program, being a school project, would have to be sponsored by the Vermont Headmasters Association with the cooperation of the Vermont State Golf Association, the Headmasters Association donating the prizes.

A plan was worked out with the Headmasters whereby a committee of six was appointed, under the co-chairmanship of George G. Smith of Rutland and Joseph M. Harty of Bellows Falls, to represent the Golf Association and assist the Headmasters Association, headed by Principal John J. Herbert of the Winooski High

Oklahoma, cont'd.

shooting 60, as the older girl has the advantage of four years maturity in thinking as well as coordination. This year we had six 9-hole flights, averaging 13 to 15 girls to a flight, with a total of 88 girls. We should have at least 15 more next year, as the 11-year-old group moves up from the Pee-Wees. These girls play three days straight medal, with four places being awarded in each flight. The better players in each age group make up the first flights, with the poorer players dropping into the lower flights. We try to use common sense in separating the girls to make it fair for all.

Our 18-hole players are the ones we are very proud of, and we have a champion each year shooting in the high 70s and the low 80s. Each year we lose some girls as they outgrow us, and we have 9-hole players graduating to the 18-hole flight, and the Pee-Wees stepping up to 9 holes. Our championship cup is held up to them each year as the big goal to attain, and they are very serious about continuing to the top. The past two years we have awarded two traveling cups, which were donated, as progress awards to the girls improving their scores the most since the year before. In the Pee-Wee flights, we have a plaque awarded for the same purpose, with a smaller one for the runner-up. This is stimulating the girls really to work on improving their games.

Our three 18-hole flights, of eight girls each, qualify for position, playing match play for the next three days. We award trophies to the winner, runner-up, consolation winner and runner-up in each flight. On the last day of the tourney the medal players are finished and are privileged to watch the match play finals in these three flights.

Since our tournament is not self-supporting, with only a \$3 entry fee, our Women's Golf Association for Oklahoma underwrites our deficit and sponsors this tournament. We ask our host club to furnish the banquet for the girls each year, with other clubs alternating on a picnic and swimming party. The clubs have been most gracious and helpful, and the girls have a wonderful time. The girls work up skits and songs for the entertainment of their parents at the banquet, and the mothers and daddies wouldn't miss it for the world.

This tournament requires a great many workers, and we have had wonderful cooperation from not only the mothers of the girls but all golfers in this area. In fact, our best supporters are women without children, as they really have more time than the busy mothers. We use around 50 to 60 women each day to score these children, and feel very gratified when they leave their air-conditioned homes to tramp around the golf course in our 95 to 105-degree weather. We have had excellent cooperation from the pros around the state, and feel we are still growing.

Most of the pros at our country clubs conduct a six-week lesson class following the close of school; quite a number of them give this instruction free to the children of club members. In addition, for our own club, The Oaks, in Tulsa, we make arrangements with the assistant pro to meet with a large group of girls two nights a week at a public driving range to give a series of ten lessons for \$5, which gets the girls started during April and May.

Our method of handling the Junior State Tournament has been worked out by a trial-and-error method over a period of ten years, with many mistakes and improvements each year. We have seen the tournament grow from an entry of 19 the first year to 158 in 1959. For 1960, we are planning on having the Pee-Wee flights play on a separate par-three course, as the number of players (45) precludes scheduling them on the same course with the rest of the tournament.

Vermont, cont'd.

School. In turn this committee named a representative at each club in the state and it was his duty to work with the local high school principal and obtain a competent instructor if the high school coach was not acquainted with the sport.

The country clubs throughout the state voted to allow all high school boys and girls to practice and compete on their courses without charge until school closed and then again in the fall. Golf professionals have cooperated and given assistance to these youngsters in developing their games. While there has been no planned schedule of inter-school team matches on a statewide basis as yet, the

athletic associations of some schools have included golf in their sports activities.

In the fall of 1956 the first Interscholastic Championship for both boys and girls, and a Team Championship for boys, were held with more than 100 players participating. Each year the entry has grown so that now it is necessary to have northern and southern championships, with a play-off for the state title. Girls and boys play on different courses because of the number of entries. Much credit for the success of interscholastic golf in Vermont goes to John McDonough, Executive Secretary of the Vermont State Golf Association, who has acted as tournament director.

We know that teamwork has made this program a success, with the Headmasters Association in control, as it is a school athletic project, and the Vermont State Golf Association in the background as guiding hands. That this program is now paying off is shown by the increase in memberships in the various clubs throughout the state, and some of these young people are serious threats in the men's and women's state amateur championships and other tournaments.

HANDICAP DECISION

SCORES UNACCEPTABLE: NOT UNDER RULES

USGA Handicap Decision 60-1

References: Men: Sections 4-1 and 13-1

Women: Sections 14-1 and 22-1

Q: A foursome participated in a tournament and inadvertently played "improving your lies" instead of "as they lie" and they were disqualified from the tournament.

Since the foursome was disqualified from the tournament, should their scores for that particular round be considered in determining their future handicap?

Question by: A. J. CRISTADORO
New Orleans, La.

A: No. Scores for handicapping must be made in accordance with the Rules of Golf unless conditions are so bad generally that the local committee frames a local rule permitting preferred lies. (See Sections 4-1 and 13-1 of USGA Golf Handicap System for Men.)

In the case you cite, since there was no such local rule in effect at the time, the scores should not be accepted for use in handicapping.

USGA FILM LIBRARY

"Famous Golf Courses: Scotland," is a 18-minute film in full color. Famous holes were photographed at Troon, Prestwick, Carnoustie, St. Andrews, North Berwick and Muirfield.

"Walker Cup Highlights," is a 16-minute film tracing the early history and play for the first international golf trophy. Bob Jones, Francis Ouimet and other Walker Cup stars are shown. The latter half of the film is in color.

"St. Andrews, Cradle Of Golf," is a 14-minute, full color, 16mm travelogue of historic St. Andrews, Scotland, its Old Course and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club clubhouse.

"First World Amateur Team Championship for Eisenhower Trophy," is a 14-minute, full color, 16mm film of the first World Amateur Team Championship at St. Andrews. Twenty-nine countries compete for the Eisenhower Trophy.

"On the Green," a 17-minute, full color, 16mm presentation filmed at the Mid-Ocean Club, Bermuda, illustrates correct procedures under the Rules of Golf governing situations arising on the putting green.

"Golf's Longest Hour," a 16mm full color production of 17½ minutes, depicts the closing stages of the 1956 Open Championship. Filmed at the beautiful Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester, N.Y., it shows the eventual winner, Cary Middlecoff, set a target at which Ben Hogan, Julius Boros and Ted Kroll strive in vain to beat.

"Play Them As They Lie," a 16mm color production of 16½ minutes in which Johnny Farrell, Open Champion of 1928, acts as intermediary between Wilbur Mulligan, a beginner of unimpeachable integrity, and Joshua P. Slive, a past master in the art of breaking the Rules. The film was made at the Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N. J., where Farrell is professional.

"Great Moments in Golf," lets the viewer see the many interesting exhibits in "Golf House," USGA headquarters in New York, and re-live golf triumphs of the past with many of the game's immortals. The film is a 16mm black and white production and runs 28 minutes.

"The Rules of Golf—Etiquette" stresses the importance of etiquette by portrayal of various violations of the code in the course of a family four-ball match. Ben Hogan appears in several scenes, and Robert T. Jones, Jr., makes the introductory statement. A 16mm color production of 17½ minutes.

The distribution of prints is handled by National Educational Films, Inc., 165 West 46th Street, New York 36, N. Y., which produced the films in cooperation with the USGA. The rental is \$20 per film; \$35 for two; \$50 for three; \$60 for four and \$70 for five, in combination at the same time, including the cost of shipping prints to the renter.