



# SOUTHERN TEXAS PGA JUNIOR GOLF RULES AND REGULATIONS



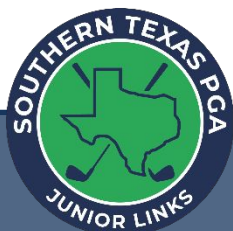


Updated: 1/8/2026

# Table of Contents

This manual is designed to outline the many different policies and procedures we have regarding our tournament program, registration, and general questions. The STPGA has the right to update this manual as we see fit at anytime to ensure our program remains welcoming and first class.

Section 1: Overview .....	2
Section 2: Code of Conduct .....	7
Section 3: Policies & Procedures .....	10
Section 4: Caddies .....	23
Section 5: Little Linksters .....	25
Section 6: Junior Links .....	30
Section 7: Junior Tour .....	34
Section 8: Prestige Tour .....	38
Section 9: STPGA Section Staff .....	42
Section 10: STPGA Area Directors .....	43





## Section 1: Overview

### *Welcome to the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Program*

#### OVERVIEW

The Southern Texas PGA (STPGA) Junior Golf Program is one of the four pillars of PGA REACH Southern Texas. Dating back to 1994 when our Foundation was created, the leaders of the Southern Texas PGA saw the need to go all-in with junior golf and the next generation. Our program's mission is to create lifelong golfers by fostering programs and tournaments for juniors of all skill levels. Through the STPGA Junior Golf Pathway, there is a spot for any junior, regardless of playing ability or experience. We believe that by placing an emphasis on Junior Golf, we not only develop high-character individuals, but we also have a direct impact on the future of the game of golf.

Additionally, the program has numerous partnerships with national and regional organizations to help South Texas based juniors experience golf at the highest level in Texas as well as across the country. This includes programs and tournaments like Drive, Chip and Putt, PGA Junior League, the Texas Junior Golf Alliance, the Legends Junior Tour, and the Junior PGA Championship.

While our program has produced many Division 1 athletes and PGA Champions, our organization remains focused on creating lifelong golfers who enjoy the game and want to keep playing the rest of their life!

#### ELIGIBILITY

The Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Programs are open to male and female golfers ages 6-19 who are not currently attending college. Those members who have graduated from high school may only play until September 1 of the season directly following high school graduation. Any member who has graduated high school and started college is not eligible to play in STPGA Junior Golf events. The membership fee is \$95 and is valid for the calendar year.

**Note:** For Junior PGA Championship Qualifiers, Players must be eighteen (18) years of age or younger on the final day of the applicable National Junior PGA Championship conducted by the PGA of America.





### TOURNAMENT SERIES BREAKDOWN

Tournament Series	Season Conducted
PGA Junior League	March – August (Spring/Summer) August – December (Fall)
Spring Series	January – April
Summer Series	May – July
Fall Series	August – December
Prestige Tour	January – December

### CHOOSING AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF PLAY

STPGA Junior Golf members have the right to participate in any Level of Play, in any Area for which their age division allows. However, the STPGA reserves the right to restrict members to certain tournament programs based on their performance and ability.

It is suggested that members use the following guidelines when selecting a tournament program:

#### PGA JUNIOR LEAGUE GOLF (National Program – [www.pgajrleague.com](http://www.pgajrleague.com))

- Ages 17 & Under
- Team scramble events designed for the beginner golfer.
- Teams are made at local facilities with PGA and LPGA Professionals exclusively serving as Captains.
- Teams play 3-5 9-hole matches.
- Players with little to no golf experience.

#### LITTLE LINKSTERS

- Ages 6-12
- Individual stroke play competitions with multiple ages divisions and yardages.
- Players either play 5 or 9 holes at an event.
- Caddies allowed.





### JUNIOR LINKS TOUR

- Ages 13-18
- Individuals play 9-hole tournaments.
- Development tour for high school age golfers.
- Caddies allowed

### JUNIOR TOUR

- Ages 11-18
- Individuals play 18 or 36-hole competitions.
- Program for middle to high school age players looking to work on their games in a competitive environment.

### PRESTIGE TOUR

- Ages 11-18
- 36 hole highly competitive events for juniors looking to play in statewide events and in college
- Events have AJGA PBE, or Legends Junior Tour exemptions including national rankings through Junior Golf Scoreboard and Global Junior Golf Rankings.

**Note:** The STPGA Junior Tour reserves the right to remove a player from an STPGA Junior Golf sanctioned event for non-competitiveness at any time. In this case, a full refund will be granted to the player's account credit.

### STPGA SCORE RECOMMENDATIONS

Below are recommended scores that players should be able to break while participating in that event. This is not a requirement, but only a recommendation so players can get a feel on what program best fits their game and comfort level.

Little Linksters		
Division	Holes	Recommended Score
Co-Ed 6-8	5-hole Modified Tees	50
Co-Ed 6-8	9-hole Modified Tees	60
Boys   Girls 9-10	5-hole Modified Tees	50
Boys   Girls 9-10	9-hole Modified Tees	60
Boys 11-12	9-hole Red Tees	60





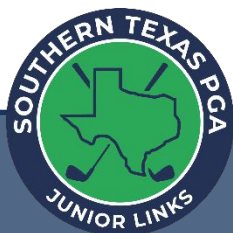
## STPGA SCORE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

Junior Links		
Division	Holes	Recommended Score
Boys   Girls 13-14	9-holes	65
Boys   Girls 15-18	9-holes	65

Junior Tour		
Division	Holes	Recommended Score
Boys   Girls 11-12	18-holes	100
Boys   Girls 11-12	36-holes	195
Boys   Girls 13-14	18-holes	100
Boys   Girls 13-14	36-holes	195
Boys   Girls 15-18	18-holes	100
Boys   Girls 15-18	36-holes	195

Prestige Tour		
Division	Holes	Required Score
Boys   Girls 11-14	18-holes	85
Boys   Girls 11-14	36-holes	170
Boys   Girls 15-18	18-holes	85
Boys   Girls 15-18	36-holes	170

\*Please see Prestige Tour Eligibility Requirements on page 30





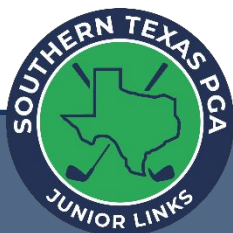
### HEALTH & WELLNESS

Adequate preparation for a golf tournament is crucial. The STPGA recommends that all players are equipped with light snacks (i.e. granola bars, crackers, fruit, etc.) as well as a refillable water bottle for each golf tournament. It is suggested that junior golfers wear sunscreen and a hat to avoid overexposure from the sun. Additionally, it is recommended that junior golfers drink plenty of fluids the evening prior to each tournament to help prevent heat exhaustion. While the STPGA is not responsible for providing water on the golf course, on-site staff will work closely with each host facility to ensure that their water coolers remain full throughout the day. Please note that not all host facilities have water coolers available throughout the golf course.

### MEDIA RELEASE

I, the undersigned parent (or guardian) of the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Program participant understand that from time to time the Southern Texas PGA, its employees, agents, or affiliates may take photographs or videos during events and programs, and that the photographs or videos may contain images of my participant. I release to the Southern Texas PGA all rights to those images, and grant the right to the Southern Texas PGA to use and display the images, in print or electronic form, publicly or privately, for any purpose designated by the Southern Texas PGA, all without compensation to me or the participant.

By becoming a Member of the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Program, players and parents agree that anyone who interact with the program on the junior golfer's behalf or in support of the junior golfer have read and will abide by the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Rules and Regulations.







## Section 2: Code of Conduct

### OVERVIEW

The STPGA Junior Golf Program takes great pride in the quality and conduct of its players, host facilities, and sponsors. The STPGA Junior Golf Program requires all STPGA Junior Golf members, caddies, and spectators to adhere to a set of guidelines known as the Code of Conduct. The purpose is to help all members grow and mature by understanding and accepting the consequences of their actions, both on and off the golf course.

### JUNIOR GOLFER / CADDIE CODE OF CONDUCT

Violations of the Code of Conduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, abusive language, club throwing, disrespect toward Junior Golf volunteers, officials, staff members, or host staff, littering, abuse of a golf course in any manner, non-compliance with the dress code (see below), use of alcohol or tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vaping devices or any other conduct deemed unbecoming of a STPGA Junior Golf Player.

### JUNIOR GOLFER / CADDIE CODE OF CONDUCT PENALTIES

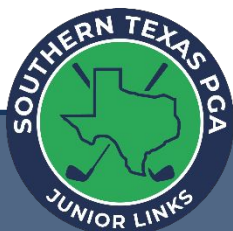
The STPGA Junior Golf Program may assess any or all of the following penalties based on the severity of the junior golfer's or caddie's Code of Conduct violation:

- Issue a verbal or written letter of warning to the player or caddie.
- Enforce a two-stroke penalty.
- Disqualify the player from the tournament where the violation occurs.
- Remove the caddie from the tournament where the violation occurs.
- Suspend the player and/or caddie for a portion of the tournament series or any number of tournament series remaining in the year.
- Suspend the player's membership indefinitely.
- Suspend the caddie's caddie privileges indefinitely.

### SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

The Southern Texas PGA encourages family and friends of our Junior Golfers to attend our events and make them even more special for our players! It is through the support of these people that our Junior Golfers find a love and passion for the game that lasts a lifetime. By coming to a Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf event, all spectators, regardless of age or relation, agree to abide by the following guidelines that are specifically outlined to ensure that our events are conducted as smoothly and professionally as possible.

One key guiding principle to remember as you attend a Junior Golf event is that spectators are spectators and players are players. This means that while you are on-site, you allow your junior golfer to play their own round and are there merely to watch and encourage. Below you will find several guidelines that outline the Code of Conduct for Spectators at Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf events. These are various guidelines covering specific examples that have arisen in the past, however, the Southern Texas PGA reserves the right to consider actions outside of these guidelines as a violation of the Code of Conduct.







### SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT CONTINUED

- Spectators must not provide swing advice or tips to players during a round or between the play of holes.
- Spectators must not demean, verbally assault, or punish player while on-site at a host facility.
- Spectators are required to remain a reasonable distance from players throughout the round. Staying on the cart path, regardless of whether the spectator is riding or walking, is required except when around the putting green. Spectators should not interfere with any group advancing from behind, nor should they converse with any player other than words of encouragement or congratulation.
- Spectators are encouraged to provide players with positive encouragement and cheers throughout the round to create a positive experience.
- Spectators may forecaddie and assist players with ball searches throughout the round. Spectators must not drive the golf cart off the cart path while fulfilling these duties.
- Spectators must adhere to the dress code outlined below for all participants.
- Spectators with carts must always keep all wheels of the golf cart on the cart path. The only exception to this rule is when a facility does not have a cart path on certain holes, in which case, they shall follow the direction of the on-site staff and keep a reasonable distance away from the players.
- Spectators are not caddies and as such may not perform the duties of a caddie, including but not limited to, tending the flagstick, raking bunkers or providing tips.
- Spectators are only allowed to shuttle between holes designated by the tournament director on the day of the event.
- For the safety of all players, spectators, and other guests, all non-service animals are not permitted at any STPGA event. Violators of this policy will be asked to remove the animal from the premises immediately.
- Spectators are not permitted to consume alcohol while on the golf course.
- Continued interaction with competitors in prohibited ways outlined will be considered the giving of Advice (Rules 10.2a) and may result in penalty and/or disqualification for the competitor.
- At events where mobile scoring is utilized, spectators are not permitted to enter the scores for the player.
- Spectators should not attempt to assist with rulings. STPGA Staff should be contacted for all rulings, as any player proceeding under the advisement of someone other than an STPGA Staff Member will be subject to any associated penalties that could arise from a wrong ruling. If an STPGA Staff Member is not available, players should proceed under Rule 20.1c(3).
- Spectators are not permitted in the Scoring Area or to assist players with score disputes unless requested by an STPGA Staff member.





### **SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT CONTINUED**

Spectators found in violation of one or more items outlined above are subject to immediate removal from the tournament and host facility. The spectator may also be subject to a loss of privilege to participate in STPGA Junior Golf sanctioned events for a set period of time or indefinitely.

The Southern Texas PGA appreciates that spectators want to attend events and cheer on their junior golfers, and we want to encourage this practice! Our team looks forward to seeing you on-site at an upcoming event and to creating a fantastic environment for all participants and attendees.

### **SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT PENALTIES**

Any violation of one or more items in the Spectator Code of Conduct, or actions outside of these guidelines that the Southern Texas PGA considers a violation of the Code of Conduct, may result in disciplinary action. This includes, but is not limited to, a written letter or reprimand, immediate removal from a tournament or host facility, or loss of privilege to participate in STPGA Junior Golf sanctioned events for a parent, guardian, spectator, and/or player for a duration set forth by the Southern Texas PGA.

### **DRESS CODE**

- Appropriate golf attire is required at all junior golf events and programs. Juniors not dressed in appropriate attire will be asked to change clothes.
- Appropriate Attire:
  - Boys – Collared shirts with sleeves, hemmed shorts, golf slacks, golf or tennis shoes with socks. Shirts must be tucked in and hats must be worn forward.
  - Girls – Collared shirts with or without sleeves, hemmed shorts, skorts, golf slacks, golf tennis shoes with socks. Attire to be worn as intended (i.e. skirts and shorts must be an appropriate length).
- Inappropriate Attire:
  - Tank tops, t-shirts, short shorts, cut-offs, swimsuits, blue jeans, slacks or shorts with holes, cleated, open-toe or sandal shoes, clothing bearing offensive slogans, language or pictures.

### **HOST FACILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Each facility may have additional rules and dress code requirements. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) and participant to be aware of such policies and adhere to them. The STPGA Junior Golf program will abide by all rules and regulations set forth by a host facility. This includes personal cooler policies set by the golf course.





## Section 3: Policies and Procedures

### MEMBERSHIP FEE

A one-time membership fee of \$95 is required in order to participate in the STPGA Junior Golf Program. This membership will expire on December 31 of each calendar year.

Each member will also receive the following with their membership regardless of when they signed up for the STPGA:

- STPGA Hat
- Personalized STPGA Bag Tag
- STPGA Sticker
- Online Statistical Analysis and Scoring through BlueGolf
- Juniors Ages 10+ - A GHIN Handicap Index provided by the Texas Golf Association.

**Note:** Based off current and new sponsors, the items that each Junior Golfer receives might change.

### ENTRY PROCEDURES

All tournament entries are processed on a first-come, first-served basis when tournament registration for that event or tournament series opens.\* The STPGA will stop accepting entries for an event once the tournament is full. There is no limit to the number of events a member can enter.

- For Saturday and Sunday tournaments, the registration deadline will be on the Monday prior to the event at 11:59 p.m..
- For Monday – Thursday tournaments, the registration deadline will be on the Wednesday prior to the event at 11:59 p.m..
- If placed on the waiting list for a tournament your credit card will only be charged if you get into the tournament. If a spot opens up in your division, and you are the next person on the waitlist in that division, an STPGA staff member will put you into the event and your credit card will be charged. You will receive email notification of getting into the event and the transaction. After the deadline, you will be contacted if space becomes available. If a player chooses to remain on the waiting list, it is assumed that you still plan to play in the tournament if a spot becomes available.
- Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express are the only forms of payment accepted.
- If you sign up for a tournament after the registration deadline, there will be a \$5 or \$10 late fee for all tours. Once tee times are sent out to the players, it will be up to the STPGA staff to determine if any other late registration will be accepted.

\*See page 38 for Srixon Prestige Tour entry process







**Note #1:** STPGA Junior Golf members will be placed in an age group according to their age as of the second day of the Series Championship and/or Srixon Prestige Tour tournaments (unless they have declared “up” to a higher age division).

**Note #2:** Should a player declare up into an older age division, they will only be able to compete in a Series Championship in that age division.

**Note #3:** Members must register online for events (entries submitted via telephone, mail or email will not be accepted).

**Note #4:** Confirmation emails will be sent out to each member after the registration process confirming the tournaments they were accepted into or otherwise.

**Note #5:** We have a strict no “walk-up” policy. Players are NOT allowed to register on the day of the tournament.

### ARRANGEMENT OF STARTING TIMES AND GROUPINGS

Starting times and groupings for all events will be done on a blind draw, based on age division. For all events, requests for starting times or specific groupings will not be accommodated. Players shall start at the time and the order arranged unless otherwise informed by the STPGA Junior Golf staff. Prompt attendance is required of all players at their starting point of each round. Time of starting penalties shall be consistent with Rule 5.3a. Each contestant is responsible for obtaining his/her starting time.

**NOTE:** STPGA staff will determine maximum entries, pairings, and tee times for each event in a manner that makes for the most efficient use of the course and time constraints of each facility.

### SCORING AREA POLICY

The Southern Texas PGA is committed to assisting our Junior Golfers in not only their junior golf journey but skills and lessons that can be used off the course. Two skills that are necessary are accountability and speaking up in difficult situations. Players are responsible for protecting the field by ensuring that all players in their group return a scorecard that is accurate and have addressed all ruling situations with the Committee. As such, the STPGA has implemented a policy that when a group has left the scoring area all scores will be considered final and no changes will be made without irrefutable evidence of an infraction.

This means that no scoring disagreements or rules disagreements will be considered by the Committee once the group has left the scoring area. If you have a concern or a question, we want the player to speak up while in the scoring area. This policy instills that players take ownership of their journey through the STPGA. The scoring area is deemed the final spot for players to discuss situations and with the help from STPGA Officials, a final decision will be made.





### WAITING LIST POLICY

Once a tournament is full, all players that then register will be placed on the waiting list. Leading up to the week of the event, players on the waiting list will be placed into the event on a first come first served basis in the order of which players registered for the event. On the week of the event, players will be placed into the event on a first come first served basis according to space availability in their age division.\*

**Note #1:** Players will be notified via email that he/she has been placed into the tournament. A player may cancel himself/herself from the waiting list at any time via his/her online account.

**Note #2:** On the day of the event, players on the waiting list may show up at the tournament site. If a spot becomes available in your division due to a withdrawal or no-show, the player that shows up first at the event in that division has priority.

**Note #3:** It is the responsibility of the player to remove themselves from the waiting list either online or by calling the STPGA office if they are no longer able to participate in a tournament.

### CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be submitted via the members BlueGolf account. STPGA Junior Golf members may access their account by visiting the website. Refunds will be granted in the form of tournament credit up until the tournament registration deadline.

**Note #1:** After the registration deadline has passed, please contact the appropriate Area Director via e-mail to withdraw. Area Director contact information can be found in "Staff" section of the web-site.

**Note #2:** Responding to automated emails will not validate your cancellation.

### REFUND POLICY

Refunds will be granted in the form of tournament credit prior to the tournament registration deadline. Tournament credit cannot be applied to another junior golfer and can only be used for tournament registration and not membership. Refunds will **NOT** be granted for cancellations and withdrawals after the tournament registration deadline. All cancellations are subject to a cancellation fee. Please refer to the chart below for each tournament type's cancellation fee.

**Note #1:** If the withdrawal is due to a medical situation, proper documentation must be sent to the STPGA office in order to receive a tournament credit. It is up to the STPGA Junior Golf Staff to determine if the medical situation warrants a refund, credit, or neither. Continued use of medical withdrawal may lead to investigation.

\*See page for Srixon Prestige Tour waitlist process





Tournament Program	Cancellation Fee
Little Linksters	\$5.00
Junior Links	\$5.00
Junior Tour	\$5.00
Prestige Tour	*Wave 1 \$15.00 Wave 2 \$50.00
Spring/Summer/Fall Series Championships	\$15.00

#### MEMBERSHIP CANCELLATION POLICY

The STPGA Junior Golf Program does not issue membership refunds.

#### ACCOUNT CREDIT POLICY

Any account credit accrued throughout a given year will stay on your account for the following year so long as you register for membership. I.E., if you end 2025 with \$35 in account credit and register for 2026 membership, the \$35 will be available for use. However, if you do not become a member in 2026 and sign up in 2027, the \$35 will not be available for use.

#### TRANSFER POLICY

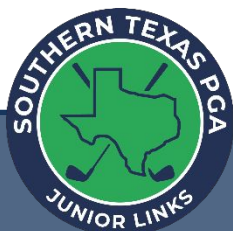
All transfer requests must be submitted prior to the registration deadline of both the tournament a player is transferring out of and the tournament a player is transferring into. All transfers out of a tournament can only be transferred into a tournament of the same Level of Play and entry fee. Transfer requests that do not meet the above-stated guidelines will be treated as a cancellation and adhere to the cancellation policy.

#### ON-SITE CHECK-IN POLICY

If a tournament is using a shotgun start, all participants must check-in 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the tournament. If a tournament is using a tee time start, all participants must be checked-in and at their designated starting hole at their assigned starting time. It is required that all players arrive at their starting tee ten (10) minutes prior to their assigned starting time.

**Note:** Prompt attendance is required of all players and time of starting penalties shall be consistent with Rule 5.3a.

\*See Page 38 for Srixon Prestige Tour cancellation wave deadlines







### AGE DIVISION PLACEMENT POLICY

- 2026 Spring Series Events - players will be placed in a division based off age as of May 3rd, 2026.
- 2026 Summer Series Events - players will be placed in a division based off age as of August 5th, 2026.
- 2026 Fall Series Events - players will be placed in a division based off age as of December 13th, 2026.
- Prestige Tour – players will be placed in a division based off age as of the second round of the tournament.

#### DIVISION ADVANCEMENT (Little Linksters, Junior Links, & Junior Tour)

Players have the ability to “play up” a division if they are approved by the STPGA Junior Golf Staff. In order to “play up”, players must fill out a Division Advancement Form found online. They are reviewed on a weekly basis. [Click Here](#) to fill out the Division Advancement Form.

**Note #1:** Once a player “plays up” in a third event, the player must “play up” for the rest of the year. If a player has qualified via points in the lower division for the series championship, that player will be allowed to play in the championship, in the lower division as long as they have not played their third event in the older division. If a player has “played up” in three or more events, they have forfeited their right to play in the lower division.

**Note #2:** If a player would like to move back down following the conclusion of a series, they may submit a request to the Southern Texas PGA Office.

#### DIVISION ADVANCEMENT (Prestige Tour)

Players have the ability to “play up” a division if they are approved by the STPGA Junior Golf Staff. In order to “play up”, players must fill out a division advancement form found online. They are reviewed on a weekly basis.

**Note #1:** Once a player “plays up” in a third event, the player must play up for the rest of the year.

**Note #2:** This is only applicable if a player is playing in an older division. A Little Linksters, Junior Links, or Junior Tour player may participate in their age appropriate division at a Prestige Tour event (i.e. an 11-12 year old playing an 11-14 age division Prestige Tour event or a 13-14 year old playing in the 11-14 age division at a Prestige Tour event).

**Note #3:** If a player “plays up” in a Prestige Tour event, it will also qualify as an event under “DIVISION ADVANCEMENT (Little Linksters, Junior Links, & Junior Tour)”

**Note #4:** Once a player plays in their fifth Prestige Tour event, whether they “play up” or not, the player is no longer eligible to participate in Little Linksters or Junior Links events for the remainder of their junior career effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

#### NO-CARD POLICY (Little Linksters, Junior Links, & Junior Tour)

All participants must return their scorecard to the scoring area immediately following play. Any participant who fails to return their scorecard after the round will be disqualified from the tournament. Participants withdrawing during the play of an event MUST return their scorecard to the scoring area and notify an STPGA Junior Golf staff member before leaving the facility; otherwise, they will be considered as a “No Card” participant.

\*Please see Prestige Tour No Card Policy on page 30





### NO-SHOW POLICY

It is the responsibility of the participant to notify the STPGA when cancelling out of a tournament. Any member that does not show up for their tee time without previous notice to an STPGA staff member will be considered a "No-Show."

#### Spring and Fall Series

1. Players will be allowed a maximum of 3 no-shows.
2. Once a player no-shows 3 times in the same series, the player can no longer participate in that respective series. All future registrations for that series will be cancelled and refunded.
3. A warning email will be sent to the player after the 2<sup>nd</sup> no-show within the series.

#### Summer Series

1. Players will be allowed a maximum of 5 no-shows.
2. Once a player no-shows 5 times in the Summer Series, the player can no longer participate in that respective series. All future registrations for the Summer Series will be cancelled and refunded.
3. A warning email will be sent to the player after the 3rd no-show within the series.

If a player is disqualified (DQ), a no-card (NC), no-show (NS), or withdraws (WD) during Round 1 of a 36-hole competition, they will not be able to participate in Round 2.

### DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES POLICY

The STPGA allows the use of distance measuring devices in all sanctioned events. A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a function of a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his/her play (e.g., gradient, wind-speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4.3 (see penalty structure below).

**Note #1:** Use of GPS yardage systems installed on golf carts is not permitted at any time. Spectators must not relay any yardage information displayed by a GPS system in a golf cart. A player who breaches this policy will be subjected to the following penalties:

FIRST OFFENSE: Two (2) stroke penalty  
SECOND OFFENSE: Disqualification.

Additionally, players may share their distance measuring device and information pertaining to yardage with fellow competitors at their discretion provided such action does not cause an undue delay. Should there be a question on the legality of a certain distance measuring device, it is recommended that all players contact the STPGA office and speak with a member of the STPGA Junior Golf staff.





### SPECTATOR CARTS

Spectator carts may be available at the discretion of the host facility; pro shop fees apply. Where spectator carts are permitted, **all carts must remain on cart paths at all times**. Where spectator carts are available they may be rented on a first-come, first-served basis. Unless directed otherwise, players will not be allowed to be given rides by spectator carts during the event. Carts may be limited at facilities.

**NOTE #1:** Only two (2) people are allowed to ride in a spectator cart at any given time.

**NOTE #2:** You must have a valid driver's license to operate a spectator cart at any STPGA Junior Golf event.

**NOTE #3:** At no time may any persons be on the back of a cart at any STPGA Junior Golf event.

**NOTE #4:** By purchasing a spectator cart, the spectator agrees to abide by all host facility rules and regulations regarding the operation of the cart.

### PULL CART POLICY

Players can use a pull cart if the host facility permits pull carts. Electronic/motorized pull carts are not permitted. It is up to each participant to check with the host facility to see if pull carts will be allowed.

### SHUTTLE SAFETY POLICY

Spectators are welcome to shuttle players to their starting hole, from their final hole and, in unique scenarios, where specifically instructed by the STPGA Junior Golf staff. All participants must be seated inside the golf cart at all times during transport. At STPGA Junior Golf sanctioned events, participants must NOT stand or sit on the back of a golf cart while being shuttled before, during or after a tournament. This includes shuttling to the player's starting hole and from the player's last hole of a tournament.

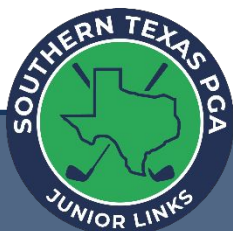
If a violation of this policy occurs, the player may be subjected to the following penalties:

FIRST OFFENSE: Warning

SECOND OFFENSE: Two (2) stroke penalty

THIRD OFFENSE: Disqualification

**Note:** If a violation of this policy is made by a spectator who is 18 years of age or younger, the same penalty structure will apply. All penalties will be added to the player in which the violator is spectating.







### PACE OF PLAY TACTICS

There are several tactics that can help improve Pace of Play. The STPGA will recommend and, in some cases, enforce the following tactics during tournaments for groups who fail to keep up with the established Pace of Play. It is recommended that all players utilize the tactics listed below throughout the entire round.

- **Play “Ready Golf”**
  - When the area surrounding the player is clear, he/she may proceed to hit their shot regardless of whether or not it is his/her turn to hit.
  - Walk with a purpose!
- **Must, Must, May**
  - *MUST* – The first player to finish playing a hole *MUST* immediately grab their bag and start making their way to the next tee.
  - *MUST* – The player *MUST* also be the first person to play from the next teeing ground.
  - *MAY* – This player *MAY* tee off prior to the rest of his/her group arriving to the tee and if the landing area is clear.
- **Maximum Number of Practice Swings**
  - All players will be limited to a total of two (2) practice swings per shot.
- **Continuous Putting**
  - Once all players’ balls are on the putting green, the player who is farthest from the hole will continue putting until his/her ball is holed. This will continue until all players in the grouping have finished playing the hole.

### PACE OF PLAY POLICY

Pace of Play is extremely important to the STPGA. We strictly enforce a 2:15 pace of play for all 9-hole tournaments and a 4:30 pace of play for 18-hole tournaments unless otherwise specified by the on-site tournament director.

### DEFINITION OF “OUT OF POSITION” FOR SHOTGUN STARTS

A group will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they (a) exceed the allotted time to play and (b) reach a par-3 hole that is open and free of play or fail to clear the tee of a par-4 or par-5 hole before that hole is open and free to play. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.

**Note:** The STPGA Tour staff reserves the right to time a group when deemed necessary. Further, if a player is determined to be unreasonably slow he/she may be timed individually at the STPGA staff’s discretion, regardless of whether his/her group is out of position.





### DEFINITION OF “OUT OF POSITION” FOR TEE TIME STARTS

The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to play.

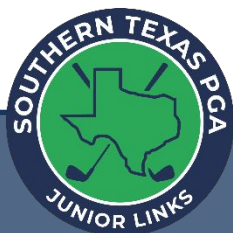
Any subsequent groups will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they (a) exceed the allotted time to play and (b) reach a par-3 hole that is open and free of play, reach a par-4 and have not played a stroke from the teeing ground before the hole is open and free to play, or reach a par-5 hole and all players in the group have not played a stroke from the teeing ground before the hole is open and free to play. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.

**Note:** The STPGA staff reserves the right to time a group when deemed necessary. Further, if a player is determined to be unreasonably slow he/she may be timed individually at the STPGA staff’s discretion, regardless of whether his/her group is out of position.

### TIMING

The STPGA Junior Golf staff reserves the right to time a group when deemed necessary. Further, if a player is determined to be unreasonably slow he/she may be timed individually at the STPGA Junior Golf staff’s discretion, regardless of whether his/her group is out of position.

A player is permitted 40 seconds to play a stroke, and an additional 10 seconds (for a total of 50 seconds) will be allowed for: (a) the first player to play a stroke on a par-3 hole; (b) the first player to play a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5 hole; (c) the first player to play a third stroke on a par-5 hole; (d) the first player to play around the putting green; and (e) the first player to play on the putting green.





### PENALTY STRUCTURE

The STPGA reserves the right to penalize a group or individual player if multiple violations of the Pace of Play policy occur. During a stipulated round, an individual player or group will receive the following warnings and subsequent penalties from an STPGA Junior Golf staff member if they are found to be over time and/or out of position, as previously defined.

#### FIRST OFFENSE: First Warning

- Found to be over time and/or out of position by an STPGA Rules Official

#### SECOND OFFENSE: Second Warning

- Found to be over time and/or out of position by an STPGA Rules Official

#### THIRD OFFENSE: One (1) stroke penalty

- Found to be over time and/or out of position by an STPGA Rules Official

#### FOURTH OFFENSE: Two (2) stroke penalty

- Found to be over time and/or out of position by an STPGA Rules Official after being issued a one (1) stroke penalty

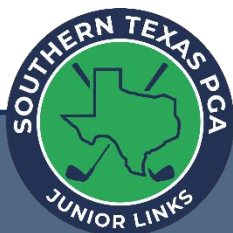
#### FIFTH OFFENSE: Disqualification

- Found to be over time and/or out of position by an STPGA Rules Official after being issued a two (2) stroke penalty

**Note #1:** Penalty strokes will be added to the hole where the infraction occurred.

**Note #2:** Pace of play warnings and penalties will not carry over to any subsequent STPGA Junior Golf sanctioned rounds.

**Note #3:** Caddies taking too much time and/or coaching during the round may be subject to a player penalty.





#### **ASSUMPTION OF RISK (as agreed when signing up for tournaments)**

I, the undersigned parent (or guardian) of the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Program participant, intending to be legally bound, hereby certify that the participant is physically fit and capable of participation. I acknowledge that I am aware of all risks inherent in the game of golf, including possible injury, disability or death, and agree to assume all of those risks. **AS A CONDITION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM OR ANY ACTIVITIES INCIDENT THERE TO, I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS AND CLAIMS (BOTH FOR MYSELF AND THE PARTICIPANT) FOR LOSS OR DAMAGES CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE, ACTIVE OR PASSIVE, OF THE SOUTHERN TEXAS PGA, PGA OF AMERICA, CLUBS AND FACILITIES HOSTING EVENTS AND TOURNAMENTS AND THE AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF EACH.**

I, the undersigned parent (or guardian) of the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Program participant understand that from time to time the Southern Texas PGA, its employees, agents, or affiliates may take photographs or videos during events and programs, and that the photographs or videos may contain images of my participant. I release to the Southern Texas PGA all rights to those images, and grant the right to the Southern Texas PGA to use and display the images, in print or electronic form, publicly or privately, for any purpose designated by the Southern Texas PGA, all without compensation to me or the participant.

#### **INCLEMENT WEATHER / TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION POLICY**

The safety of players and spectators is the #1 priority for the STPGA. The STPGA reserves the right to cancel or delay a tournament at any point prior to or during a round due to inclement weather or unplayable course conditions.

In the case a tournament is deemed unplayable due to inclement weather once play has begun, it will be delayed by a determined maximum time to allow the weather to subside, giving the course ample time to recover and to allow the tournament participants an opportunity to prepare for the re-start.

If the weather does not subside during the suspension of play, the on-site STPGA Junior Golf staff will work closely with the host facility staff and superintendent in terms of deciding when to cancel the tournament due to inclement weather. Tournaments may be cancelled due to core temperature of the ground, excess rain deeming the course unplayable, or extreme outside temperatures deeming the conditions to be unfavorable for the tournament.

Decisions related to cancelling or delaying an event will be made by the designated weather monitoring staff in conjunction with the Assistant Executive Director. This decision will be communicated with on-site STPGA Junior Golf staff members, host facility staff, and superintendent prior to communicating with the tournament participants. The field will be notified of cancelled tournament(s) through email.







### INCLEMENT WEATHER / TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION POLICY

If a tournament is cancelled prior to play, the STPGA Junior Golf members scheduled to participate in the event will be refunded the full entry fee to the method of payment used during registration or have the option to transfer into another event. If the tournament is cancelled during play, the STPGA reserves the right to retain the full entry fee.

The STPGA reserves the right to reduce the number of rounds or holes in an event due to inclement weather. A minimum of 9 holes completed is required to be an officially counted round within that division for an 18-hole event, 5 holes for a 9-hole event, and 3 holes for a 5-hole event. Any 36-hole event that is stopped due to inclement weather will be considered complete if 9 common holes have been finished by the entire division. If 9 common holes are not finished on the final round within a division, then the final results will be determined from round one scores.

- For an 18-hole event, should a division collectively complete 9 holes or more, but collectively complete fewer than 18 holes, the tournament will be considered official and the STPGA staff will score the tournament as follows:
  - In the event that a division collectively completes the same side (i.e. Holes 1-9 or Holes 10-18), the STPGA staff will enter all players' actual scores from the respective side. If any additional common holes are completed, they will not be scored.
  - In the event that a division DOES NOT collectively complete the same side as outlined above, the results for the division will be calculated for the first 9 holes that each player completed during their respective round. For example, if Player A started the tournament on Hole 12, his/her score (relative to par) for Holes 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 1 and 2 would be used for his/her score. If Player B started the tournament on Hole 14, his/her score (relative to par) for Holes 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 1, 2, 3 and 4 would be used for his score. If any additional common holes are completed, they will not be scored.
- For a 9-hole event, should a division collectively complete 5 holes or more, but collectively complete fewer than 9 holes, the tournament will be considered official and the same guidelines outlined above will be used.
- For a 5-hole event, should a division collectively complete 3 holes or more, but collectively complete fewer than 5 holes, the tournament will be considered official and the same guidelines outlined above will be used.





### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR JUNIOR GOLFERS WITH DISABILITIES OR CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS**

The STPGA will, at its sole discretion and upon receipt of applicable medical documentation, make reasonable accommodations for junior golfers with disabilities or chronic health conditions. Subject to applicable rules established by the host site, reasonable accommodations may include the use of a pull cart or motorized golf cart for the transportation of golf clubs and competitors during STPGA Junior Golf sanctioned events. All related inquiries and communications shall be directed to the Executive Director.

**NOTE:** Letters from doctors regarding short term injuries or visible injuries will not warrant special accommodations.

### **GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

In the event of a suspension, the player may submit a written account of the Code of Conduct violation to the STPGA Junior Golf Grievance Committee within seven (7) days of the suspension / disqualification. The Grievance Committee will review all submitted materials, including a tournament staff account of the violation. The STPGA Executive Director and Junior Golf Committee Chairman will review grievances. All grievances must go through the appropriate channels to be considered.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

It is the responsibility of the participant to know the host facility rules and regulations. The STPGA abides by all host facility rules and regulations and requires that all participants and spectators do the same.

It is the responsibility of the participant (grades 9–12) to know the University Interscholastic League (UIL) regulations and abide by them.

**The STPGA reserves the right to modify, change, or update the Rules and Regulations at any time.**





## Section 4: Caddies

The STPGA would like to welcome back all returning caddies to the STPGA Caddie program as well as welcome all new Caddies to the Caddie Program. The Caddie Program is such an important part of the STPGA Junior Golf Program and hope that each Caddie enjoys the opportunity to be a part of their son or daughter's team.

All Caddies must follow the Code of Conduct set forth on pages 7-8 at all times. Failure to follow could suspend or not allow a parent or adult to caddie for a Little Linkster or Junior Links player.

### CADDIE NOTES

- Caddies that registered in 2025 MUST re-register to be an official caddie for the 2026 season prior to their first event in 2026. This includes payment of the membership fee AND passing the Caddie Quiz. Those caddies that do not re-register WILL NOT be allowed to caddie for any player until registration is complete.
- Caddies are to assist their player during the course of the round, not coach. This is not a time for extensive coaching and training. Similar to caddies at the highest level, they assist the player with yardages and club selection and then let the player do the rest. Extensive coaching may result in a loss of caddie privileges.
- All players in Little Linksters and Junior Links can have a caddie.
- All caddies MUST check in at registration at each tournament in order to caddie. Similar prior years, caddies will be sent a Caddie Badge after passing the quiz, but still must check in at registration at each tournament. Once you check in at registration with your Caddie Badge, you will receive a wristband for the day that allows you to caddie.
- The maximum stroke limit for Little Linksters and Junior Links is 9, regardless of whether the player reaches the green or not.
- The STPGA does not have a minimum age requirement for caddies. However, all caddies must abide by the Code of Conduct or privileges may be suspended.
- All caddies MUST wear golf attire.
- [Click Here](http://www.stpgajuniorgolf.com/caddie-information) to view the STPGA Caddie Rules and Regulations

### BECOMING A CADDIE

To register as a Southern Texas PGA caddie, please visit [www.stpgajuniorgolf.com/caddie-information](http://www.stpgajuniorgolf.com/caddie-information)





### CADDIES AND GOLF CARTS

All players and caddies must walk the golf course unless the player is in a 5-hole division. Participants and their equipment cannot be transported in motorized carts or self-propelling push carts, except when going to their first hole, when returning from their last hole, or on a designated shuttle hole. Players and caddies may use pull carts if host facility allows.

Players and caddies in the 5-hole divisions will have the option to ride in carts if they choose to do so. This decision has come from the reasoning that a lot of golf courses do not come back by the clubhouse at the conclusion of the 5<sup>th</sup> hole. Players and caddies are the only two people allowed to be on or in the golf cart, and the cart must be purchased by the player from the host facility. To operate the golf cart, the caddie must adhere to the host facilities cart policy.

### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CADDIES WITH DISABILITIES OR CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

The STPGA will, at its sole discretion and upon receipt of applicable medical documentation, make reasonable accommodations for junior golf caddies with disabilities or chronic health conditions. Subject to applicable rules established by the host site, reasonable accommodations may include the use of a motorized golf cart for the transportation of the caddie during STPGA Junior Golf sanctioned events. All related inquiries and communications shall be directed to the Director of Junior Golf.

### APPLICATION PROCESS FOR APPROVED CADDIE CARTS

Approved caddies MUST submit their request for a caddie cart by 12:00 PM on the Tuesday prior to the event. Once the application is submitted, reviewed and approved by STPGA, the use of a golf cart to caddie is valid for the calendar year.

**Note #1:** Approved caddie golf carts are not guaranteed a cart pending the host facility cart policy and availability.

### CADDIE CART AND PLAYER GUIDELINES

- Players (with the exception of the 5-hole division) must walk the entire time during play of the hole. The player may ride in between holes when shuttle holes are allowed.
- Golf carts must stay on the cart path the entire time and follow the cart path rules posted by the host facility.
- Players are able to use a golf cart for the transportation of golf clubs.

### STPGA CHAMPIONSHIPS AND CADDIE GOLF CARTS

The use of caddie carts will not be allowed at any STPGA Championships. This rule is due to cart availability of the host courses, larger field sizes of the event, and fairness for all approved caddies.

### BECOMING A CADDIE

To register as a Southern Texas PGA caddie, please visit [www.stpgajuniorgolf.com/caddie-information](http://www.stpgajuniorgolf.com/caddie-information)







## Section 5: Little Linksters

### LITTLE LINKSTERS OVERVIEW

The Little Linksters Program is where juniors get the opportunity to participate in tournaments throughout the year geared toward creating lifetime golfers. Junior golfers, ages 6-12, are grouped by age, gender, skill level, and play either 5 or 9 holes.

The program encourages and motivates juniors to learn the game, enjoy the game, improve at their own pace, and be as competitive as each individual aspires.

The program is designed so that once players improve their scores and ability, they move up to the next division. We feel that this type of program allows for players to move at their own pace and also allow the same age juniors to compete at different levels.

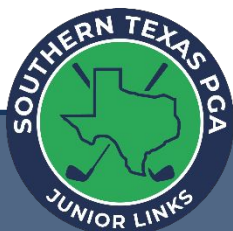
### AGE AND HOLE DIVISIONS

Division	Holes / Tees
Co-Ed 6-8	5-hole Modified Tees
Co-Ed 6-8	9-hole Modified Tees
Boys 9-10	5-hole Modified Tees
Boys 9-10	9-hole Modified Tees
Boys 11-12	9-hole Red Tees
Girls 9-10	5-hole Modified Tees
Girls 9-10	9-hole Modified Tees
Girls 11-12	9-hole Red Tees

### DIVISION ADVANCEMENT

Once a player starts in a particular division, the only avenue for them to advance into the next division of their age group is by satisfying the below scoring requirements.

- Currently plays in the 5-hole Modified Division
- To advance to the 9-hole Modified Division, the player must shoot 8 over par or lower in two events.
- It is the players' responsibility to contact the STPGA once they have achieved a score of 8 over par or lower in two events in order to be moved into the 9-hole Modified Division.





#### Example for Division Advancement Requirements

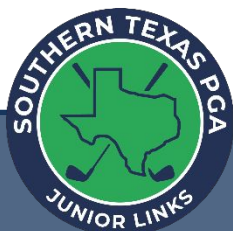
- A junior who plays in the 5-hole Modified Division on a course with a par of 21, for example (one par 3, two par 4's, two par 5's), must post a score of 29 or better in two tournaments to advance to the 9-hole Modified Division.

#### Important Notes

- All juniors in the 11-12 Age Division will be placed 9-hole Red Division. Those scoring 9-over-par or better are encouraged to participate in the Junior Tour for continued improvement.
- The Junior Golf Committee and Director of Junior Golf have the authority to move a junior down a division if their tournament scores fall substantially and disrupt the overall tournament atmosphere in their division (pace of play, lack of knowledge on Rules of Golf, etc.)

#### RULES OF PLAY

- Play is governed by the Rules of Golf and its Decisions.
- Play the ball as it lies.
- The STPGA WILL NOT adopt the Groove Rules as a condition of competition for its tournaments.
- The STPGA permits pull carts, however they will be allowed only at the discretion of the host facility. It is the players' responsibility to obtain course policy.
- Players must exchange scorecards with fellow competitors in the group.
- Any player who has taken eight (8) strokes on any hole and has not holed out must pick up his/her ball and proceed to the next tee. The score must be recorded as a nine (9) and does not exclude the participant from award consideration.
- Upon completion of the round, players must immediately proceed to the scoring area to return their score card. Participants are responsible for the correct hole-by-hole score and two signatures on the scorecard.
- Players must NOT wear headphones during play. Listening to music during a stipulated round will result in disqualification.
- Cell phones are only allowed to be used as a distance finder. This app cannot measure wind or slope. All phones must be on silent or vibrate mode. Respect host facility's policy if cell phones are not allowed.
- Each competition shall be deemed to have closed when all scores have been approved by the STPGA Junior Golf staff and published in the form of a results email.





### LITTLE LINKSTERS UNIQUE RULES OF PLAY

- All players may have one caddie to carry their bag and equipment and give advice, but all players and caddies must walk the golf course. Participants and their equipment cannot be transported in motorized carts or self propelling push carts, except when going to their first hole or when returning from the last hole played.
- Participants may have caddies assist in keeping their score. All scores need to be recorded on an STPGA official score card.
- Penalty Area Rule - If a player hits two (2) balls into a penalty area that is designated by red or yellow stakes or freshly painted lines they may drop a ball on the opposite side of said penalty area for no **additional** penalty.
  - Example: Player hits his or her first (1) shot into the penalty area designated by red or yellow stakes or freshly painted lines. Player drops and lays two (2). Player proceeds to hit his or her third (3) shot into the same penalty area. The play may then drop on the other side of the penalty area. At this point the player will be laying four (4) and will proceed to hit his or her fifth (5) shot.
  - *Note: The player must count the two (2) strokes for hitting into the penalty area before proceeding under this rule.*
- Bunker Rule - If a player's ball is in a bunker and the player has taken two (2) strokes at the ball in the same bunker and has not advanced the ball out of the bunker, the player may under no penalty, drop the ball outside the bunker. The player will drop the ball at the nearest point of relief, one (1) club length no closer to the hole, and continue to play.
- Out of Bounds - As an additional option to stroke and distance, a player may, for a General Penalty, drop his or her ball at the nearest fairway edge no closer to the hole.
- Players and caddies in the 5-hole divisions will have the option to ride in carts if they choose to do so. This decision has come from the reasoning that a lot of golf courses do not come back by the clubhouse at the conclusion of the 5<sup>th</sup> hole. Players and caddies are the only two people allowed to be on or in the golf cart, and the cart must be purchased by the player from the host facility. To operate the golf cart, the caddie must adhere to the host facilities cart policy.

### BREAKING TIES

For ties for 1<sup>st</sup> place only, the winner will be decided via a scorecard playoff. It will be broken using the last six- holes, last three-holes, and last hole method. If the players are still tied, they will each earn 1<sup>st</sup> place and split the points. All players who tie for a place other than first will receive a medal for that place. The following policy will only take place for 9-hole divisions. There will be no tie breakers for 5-hole divisions.

### AWARDS

Medals will be given out for 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> place at every Little Linksters event, regardless of field size.





### POINTS CHALLENGE

After each tournament, points will be awarded that will be used to decide who receives an invitation to the series championship. Please keep in mind that points do not carry over and the Points List will reset after each series championship (Spring, Summer, Fall).

**NOTE #1:** You must play in a 9-hole division to be eligible to receive points.

**NOTE #2:** The series Championships are invitation-only events and the field is a direct representation of our entire program based off both the amount of people in both metro area and age division.

### SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING

If a player has “played up” into an older division, and has participated in three (3) or more tournaments in that age division, they must compete in that division for the remainder of the Series, including the Series Championship. If a player earns a spot into the Series Championship in their original division, the qualifying spot will be honored, however, the player will have to compete in the division that they have “played up” into. I.E., if a Little Linksters 11-12 player earns a spot into a Series Championship via that Division Points List, but has played in three (3) or more Junior Tour 13-14 events, they will receive an invitation based on their finish in the Little Linksters 11-12 Division Points List, but compete in the Junior Tour 13-14 division.

**Note:** This policy only affects Little Linksters, Junior Links, and Junior Tour events. Srixon Prestige Tour events will be treated separately.







Please see below for the Little Linksters Point distribution table for each age division:

Place	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	400
2 <sup>nd</sup>	325
3 <sup>rd</sup>	275
4 <sup>th</sup>	225
5 <sup>th</sup>	175
6 <sup>th</sup>	150
7 <sup>th</sup>	125
8 <sup>th</sup>	100
9 <sup>th</sup>	80
10 <sup>th</sup>	70
11 <sup>th</sup>	60
12 <sup>th</sup>	50
13 <sup>th</sup>	40
14 <sup>th</sup>	30
15 <sup>th</sup>	20

#### YARDAGE GUIDELINES

Division	Par 3	Par 4	Par 5	Total
All 5-Hole	40-60 yards	100-150 yards	220-250 yards	500 - 800 yards
Co-Ed 6-8   Girls 9-10	60-105 yards	150-225 yards	250-325 yards	1,400 - 1,800 yards
Boys 9-10   Girls 11-12	80-125 yards	200-275 yards	300-375 yards	1,900 - 2,300 yards
Boys 11-12	Forward Tees	Forward Tees	Forward Tees	2,300 - 2,600 yards

**NOTE:** Yardages may be altered or modified at the STPGA staff's discretion due to course layout and weather conditions.





## Section 6: Junior Links

### JUNIOR LINKS OVERVIEW

The Junior Links Tour is for juniors who have just begun to play golf or need more experience before playing in our Junior Tour. It consists of 9-hole tournaments and is open to juniors ages 13-18.

### DIVISIONS

Gender	Age
Boys	13-14
Boys	15-18
Girls	13-18

### RULES OF PLAY

- Play is governed by the Rules of Golf and its Decisions.
- Play the ball as it lies.
- The STPGA WILL NOT adopt the Groove Rules as a condition of competition for its tournaments.
- The STPGA permits pull carts, however they will be allowed only at the discretion of the host facility. It is the players' responsibility to obtain course policy.
- Players must exchange scorecards with fellow competitors in the group.
- Any player who has taken eight (8) strokes on any hole and has not holed out must pick up his/her ball and proceed to the next tee. The score must be recorded as a nine (9) and does not exclude the participant from award consideration.
- Upon completion of the round, players must immediately proceed to the scoring area to return their score card. Participants are responsible for the correct hole-by-hole score and two signatures on the scorecard.
- Players must NOT wear headphones during play. Listening to music during a stipulated round will result in disqualification.
- Cell phones are only allowed to be used as a distance finder. This app cannot measure wind or slope. All phones must be on silent or vibrate mode. Respect host facility's policy if cell phones are not allowed.
- Each competition shall be deemed to have closed when all scores have been approved by the STPGA Junior Golf staff and published in the form of a results email.





### JUNIOR LINKS UNIQUE RULES OF PLAY

- All players may have one caddie to carry their bag and equipment and give advice, but all players and caddies must walk the golf course. Participants and their equipment cannot be transported in motorized carts or self propelling push carts, except when going to their first hole or when returning from the last hole played.
- Participants may have caddies assist in keeping their score. All scores need to be recorded on an STPGA official score card.
- Penalty Area Rule - If a player hits two (2) balls into a penalty area that is designated by red or yellow stakes or freshly painted lines they may drop a ball on the opposite side of said penalty area for no **additional** penalty.
  - Example: Player hits his or her first (1) shot into the penalty area designated by red or yellow stakes or freshly painted lines. Player drops and lays two (2). Player proceeds to hit his or her third (3) shot into the same penalty area. The play may then drop on the other side of the penalty area. At this point the player will be laying four (4) and will proceed to hit his or her fifth (5) shot.
  - *Note: The player must count the two (2) strokes for hitting into the penalty area before proceeding under this rule.*
- Bunker Rule - If a player's ball is in a bunker and the player has taken two (2) strokes at the ball in the same bunker and has not advanced the ball out of the bunker, the player may under no penalty, drop the ball outside the bunker. The player will drop the ball at the nearest point of relief, one (1) club length no closer to the hole, and continue to play.
- Out of Bounds - As an additional option to stroke and distance, a player may, for a General Penalty, drop his or her ball at the nearest fairway edge no closer to the hole.

### BREAKING TIES

For ties for 1<sup>st</sup> place only, the winner will be decided via a scorecard playoff. It will be broken using the last six-holes, last three-holes, and last hole method. If the players are still tied, they will each earn 1<sup>st</sup> place and split the points. All players who tie for a place other than first will receive a medal for that place. The following policy will only take place for 9-hole divisions. There will be no tie breakers for 5-hole divisions.





### AWARDS

Medals will be given out for 1st thru 3rd place at every Junior Links event, regardless of field size.

### POINTS CHALLENGE

After each tournament, points will be awarded that will be used to decide who receives an invitation to the series championship. Please keep in mind that points do not carry over and the Points List will reset after each series championship (Spring, Summer, Fall).

**NOTE #2:** The Championship is an invitation only event and the field is a direct representation of our entire program based off both the amount of people in both metro area and age division.

### SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING

If a player has “played up” into an older division and has participated in three (3) or more tournaments in that age division, they must compete in that division for the remainder of the Series, including the Series Championship. If a player earns a spot into the Series Championship in their original division, the qualifying spot will be honored, however, the player will have to compete in the division that they have “played up” into. I.E., if a Little Linksters 11-12 player earns a spot into a Series Championship via that Division Points List but has played in three (3) or more Junior Tour 13-14 events, they will receive an invitation based on their finish in the Little Linksters 11-12 Division Points List but compete in the Junior Tour 13-14 division.

**Note:** This policy only affects Little Linksters, Junior Links, and Junior Tour events. Prestige Tour events will be treated separately.







Please see below for the Junior Links Point distribution table for each age division:

Place	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	400
2 <sup>nd</sup>	325
3 <sup>rd</sup>	275
4 <sup>th</sup>	225
5 <sup>th</sup>	175

#### YARDAGE GUIDELINES

Division	Approximate Yardage
Boys 13-14	2,700 – 3,000 yards
Boys 15-18	2,900 – 3,200 yards
Girls 13-18	2,300 – 2,600 yards

**NOTE:** Yardages may be altered or modified at the STPGA staff's discretion due to course layout and weather conditions.





## Section 7: Junior Tour

### JUNIOR TOUR OVERVIEW

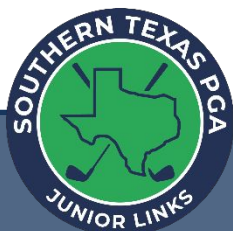
The Junior Tour program is designed to give skilled junior golfers the opportunity to compete in professionally run tournaments. This program is for juniors ages 11-18. This is the perfect program for juniors in middle to high school golf programs that are looking to improve their game in 18 or 36-hole events.

#### DIVISIONS

Gender	Age
Boys	11-12
Boys	13-14
Boys	15-18
Girls	11-12
Girls	13-14
Girls	15-18

#### RULES OF PLAY

- Play is governed by the Rules of Golf and its Decisions.
- Play the ball as it lies.
- The STPGA WILL NOT adopt the Groove Rules as a condition of competition for its tournaments.
- The STPGA permits pull carts, however they will be allowed only at the discretion of the host facility. It is the players' responsibility to obtain course policy.
- Players must exchange score cards with fellow competitors in the group.
- Any player who has taken eight (8) strokes on any hole and has not holed out must pick up his/her ball and proceed to the next tee. The score must be recorded as a nine (9) and does not exclude the participant from award consideration.
- Upon completion of the round, players must immediately proceed to the scoring area to return their score card. Participants are responsible for the correct hole-by-hole score and two signatures on the scorecard.
- Cell phones are only allowed to be used as a distance finder. This app cannot measure wind or slope. All phones must be on silent or vibrate mode. Respect host facility's policy if cell phones are not allowed.
- Players must NOT wear headphones during play. Listening to music during a stipulated round will result in disqualification.
- Each competition shall be deemed to have closed when all scores have been approved by the STPGA Junior Golf staff and published in the form of a results email.





### JUNIOR TOUR UNIQUE RULES OF PLAY

Caddies will not be allowed at Junior Tour events.

### BREAKING TIES

For ties for 1st place only, the winner will be decided via a scorecard playoff. The holes 10-18 score, then 13-18 score, then 16-18 score, then hole 18 method will be used to determine first place. No other places will be broken if multiple players are tied. If the players are still tied, they will each earn 1<sup>st</sup> place and split the points

### AWARDS

Medals will be given out for 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> place at every Junior Tour event, regardless of field size.

### POINTS CHALLENGE

After each tournament, points will be awarded that will be used to decide who receives an invitation to the series championship. Please keep in mind that points do not carry over and the Points List will reset after each series championship (Spring, Summer, Fall).

**NOTE:** The series Championships are invitation only events and the field is a direct representation of our entire program based off both the amount of people in both metro area and age division.

### SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING

If a player has “played up” into an older division, and has participated in three (3) or more tournaments in that age division, they must compete in that division for the remainder of the Series, including the Series Championship. If a player earns a spot into the Series Championship in their original division, the qualifying spot will be honored, however, the player will have to compete in the division that they have “played up” into. I.E., if a Little Linksters 11-12 player earns a spot into a Series Championship via that Division Points List, but has played in three (3) or more Junior Tour 13-14 events, they will receive an invitation based on their finish in the Little Linksters 11-12 Division Points List, but compete in the Junior Tour 13-14 division.

**Note:** This policy only affects Little Linksters and Junior Tour events. Prestige Tour events will be treated separately.





Please see below for the Junior Tour Point distribution table for each age division:

Place	1 Day Event	2 Day Event
1 <sup>st</sup>	400	800
2 <sup>nd</sup>	325	650
3 <sup>rd</sup>	275	550
4 <sup>th</sup>	225	450
5 <sup>th</sup>	175	350
6 <sup>th</sup>	150	300
7 <sup>th</sup>	125	250
8 <sup>th</sup>	100	200
9 <sup>th</sup>	80	160
10 <sup>th</sup>	70	140
11 <sup>th</sup>	60	120
12 <sup>th</sup>	50	100
13 <sup>th</sup>	40	80
14 <sup>th</sup>	30	60
15 <sup>th</sup>	20	40

#### YARDAGE GUIDELINES

Division	Approximate Yardage
Boys 11-12	5,300 – 5,600 yards
Boys 13-14	5,700 – 6,100 yards
Boys 15-18	6,100 – 6,600 yards
Girls 11-12	4,900 – 5,300 yards
Girls 13-14	4,900 – 5,600 yards
Girls 15-18	5,300 – 5,600 yards

**NOTE:** Yardages may be altered or modified at the STPGA staff's discretion due to course layout and weather conditions.







## Section 8: Prestige Tour

### PRESTIGE TOUR OVERVIEW

The Prestige Tour is the most competitive program that the STPGA has to offer. It is geared towards the best players in the state of Texas. Started in 2012, this tour has become extremely successful and a great stepping stone for juniors as they prepare for state and national events as well as college golf! This tour is meant for highly skilled players with tournament experience.

### PRESTIGE TOUR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

There are three (3) avenues to becoming eligible for the Prestige Tour:

- Players must have recorded a score of 85 or better in three STPGA Junior Tour tournaments.
- Players provide the STPGA with results of 85 or better in four outside tournaments.
- Players send a Letter of Recommendation from the player's PGA Professional to Casey Klassen ([cklassen@pgahq.com](mailto:cklassen@pgahq.com))

### PRESTIGE TOUR PERFORMANCE POLICY

Any player that scores three consecutive rounds of 90 or higher in Prestige Tour tournaments will not be permitted to participate again. A player may regain eligibility into Prestige Tour tournaments by posting scores of 85 or better in three STPGA Junior Tour tournaments.

**NOTE #1:** Players will be allowed to complete a tournament, should the third round of 90 or higher happen during Round 1 of an event.

**NOTE #2:** The STPGA reserves the right to waive the performance policy at its discretion (i.e. inclement weather).

**NOTE #3:** If a player fails to meet the Prestige Tour Performance Policy outlined above and is already registered for future Prestige Tour tournaments, the player will be moved to the Pending Eligibility List.





### PRESTIGE TOUR ENTRY PROCEDURES

All tournament entries are processed on a first-come, first-served basis by division when tournament registration for that event opens. Once a division reaches capacity, any additional players who register for that division will be placed on a limited waitlist. Waitlisted players will be added to the field on a first-come, first-served basis as spots become available within their division. If a division remains below capacity after the first cancellation deadline, players will be added to the field based on the order their entries were received, regardless of division.

- For Saturday and Sunday tournaments, the registration deadline will be on the Monday prior to the event at 11:59 p.m.
- For Monday – Thursday tournaments, the registration deadline will be on the Wednesday prior to the event at 11:59 p.m.

### DIVISION FIELD SIZES

The following field size and division eligibility is subject to change for each tournament. The number of players allocated for each division is based on AJGA PBE requirements to ensure that each tournament is eligible to receive PBE status.

90 Players	120 Players	132 Players	156 Players
Boys 15-18 51	Boys 15-18 75	Boys 15-18 81	Boys 15-18 99
Boys 11-14 21	Boys 11-14 21	Boys 11-14 21	Boys 11-14 21
Girls 11-18 18	Girls 11-18 24	Girls 11-18 30	Girls 11-18 36

The Junior PGA Championships will have designated Field Spots on display on each Tournament Information Page.

### CANCELLATION DEADLINES

Each tournament will have two cancellations deadlines. The first deadline will occur 12 days prior to Round 1 of said event. All cancellations that occur prior to 11:59PM of the first deadline will have a \$15 cancellation fee. The second deadline will occur 5 days prior to the Round 1 of said event. All cancellations that occur after 11:59 PM of the first deadline and before 11:59 PM of the second deadline will have a \$50 cancellation fee. Remaining credits will be applied to the junior golfers account.





## DIVISIONS

Gender	Age
Boys	11-14*
Boys	15-18*
Girls	11-14*
Girls	15-18*

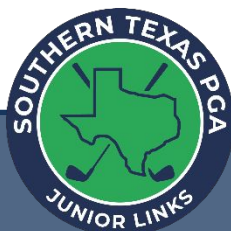
**NOTE #1:** Since Girls (regardless of age) play from the same yardage at our Prestige Tour events, we will combine the two divisions to make a 11-18 division when awarding exemptions, Player of the Year points, and sending results into the Legends Junior Tour for POY, Junior Golf Scoreboard, Global Junior Golf Rankings, and AJGA. These outside organizations vary per event, based on each organization's requirements.

**NOTE #2:** All Boys Tour Championship and Legends Junior Tour Exemptions will be awarded to the 15-18 Division, unless noted on the Tournament specific Tournament Information Page.

## PRESTIGE TOUR PLAYER CLASSIFICATIONS

Withdraw (WD)	When a player discontinues play during a tournament due to illness, injury, or outstanding circumstances OR When a player discontinues play in between rounds and notifies the Tournament Director
No Card (NC)	When a player discontinues play during a tournament round.
No Show (NS)	When a player does not show up for their tee time without notifying the Tournament Director

**NOTE:** Any player who completes 18 holes of competition cannot not NC or WD from that round of the event, and their score will be posted on the website.





### RULES OF PLAY

- The 2026 Prestige Tour Hard Card, will govern all Srixon Prestige Tour events along with the supplemental “Notice to Players”.
- Play is governed by the Rules of Golf and its Decisions.
- The STPGA permits pull carts, however they will be allowed only at the discretion of the host facility. It is the players’ responsibility to obtain course policy.
- Upon completion of the round, players must immediately proceed to the scoring area to return their score card. Participants are responsible for reporting the correct hole-by-hole scores and to make scores official with the designated scorer.
- Players must NOT wear headphones during play. Listening to music during a stipulated round will result in disqualification.
- When on the course, turn ringers to silent or vibrate mode. Cell phones are only allowed to keep score, retrieve yardage information, and view tournament documents. Respect the host facility’s policy if cell phones are not allowed.
- Each competition shall be deemed to have closed when all scores have been approved by the STPGA Junior Golf staff and published in the form of a results email.

### PRESTIGE TOUR UNIQUE RULES OF PLAY

- Caddies will not be allowed at Prestige Tour events.
- **There is no stroke limit during Prestige Tour events.**

### BREAKING TIES

There will be a sudden death playoff for first place and any place in which an exemption is being awarded. If we are unable to get out on the course for a sudden death playoff, or complete an ongoing sudden death playoff, due to inclement weather or darkness, a scorecard playoff will be administered. The scorecard playoff will utilize holes 10-18, then holes 13-18, then holes 16-18, then hole 18 method for Round 2 to determine the winner. If there is still a tie the same method will be used for holes 1-9. Second and third place will be broken via scorecard playoff in the same format as above for trophy purposes only, points will be split.

### AWARDS

Awards will be given out for 1st – 3rd place at every Srixon Prestige Tour event, regardless of field size.

### INSPERITY INVITATIONAL TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

The Insperity Invitational Tour Championship will be a 36-hole competition held in the Summer of each year. This tournament will display the talents of Srixon Prestige Tour champions and Insperity Invitational points list leaders.







### INSPERITY INVITATIONAL POINTS LIST CHALLENGE

The Southern Texas PGA Srixon Prestige Tour has a year-round points challenge. Points acquired throughout the year will accumulate towards the Boys and Girls 11-14, Boys and Girls 15-18, and Girls 11-18 overall divisions lists. **After the final Srixon Prestige Tour of the year, the overall Boys and Girls 11-18 Points List winners will earn an exemption into the following year's Insperity Invitational Junior Pro-Am.** The STPGA reserves the right to add additional exemptions at any time. Please see below for the Srixon Prestige Tour Point distribution table for each age division:

**NOTE #1:** Prestige Tour events will only count on the Prestige Tour Points List and NOT the Junior Tour Points List.

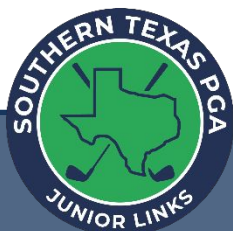
Please see below for the Prestige Tour Point distribution table.

Place	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	500
2 <sup>nd</sup>	400
3 <sup>rd</sup>	350
4 <sup>th</sup>	300
5 <sup>th</sup>	250
6 <sup>th</sup>	200
7 <sup>th</sup>	180
8 <sup>th</sup>	160
9 <sup>th</sup>	140
10 <sup>th</sup>	120
11 <sup>th</sup>	110
12 <sup>th</sup>	100
13 <sup>th</sup>	90
14 <sup>th</sup>	80
15 <sup>th</sup>	70

**NOTE:** Yardages may be altered or modified at the STPGA staff's discretion due to course layout and weather conditions.

### YARDAGE GUIDELINES

Division	Approximate Yardage
Boys 11-14	6,100 – 6,400 yards
Boys 15-18	6,600 – 6,900 yards
Girls 11-14	5,600 – 5,900 yards
Girls 15-18	5,600 – 5,900 yards





## Section 10: STPGA Area Directors

Houston		
Troy Frederick	Junior Tour	<a href="mailto:tfrederick@pgahq.com">tfrederick@pgahq.com</a>
Chad Hakemack	Junior Tour	<a href="mailto:chakemack@pgahq.com">chakemack@pgahq.com</a>
Ray Patrick	Little Linksters	<a href="mailto:rpatrick@pgahq.com">rpatrick@pgahq.com</a>
Jesse Saavedra	Little Linksters	<a href="mailto:jsaavedra@pgahq.com">jsaavedra@pgahq.com</a>
Paul Herring	Little Linksters	<a href="mailto:pherring@pgahq.com">pherring@pgahq.com</a>
Keith Novicke	Junior Tour / Little Linksters	<a href="mailto:knovicke@pgahq.com">knovicke@pgahq.com</a>
San Antonio		
Adam Alviar	Junior Tour	<a href="mailto:aalviar@pgahq.com">aalviar@pgahq.com</a>
Randy Mitchel	Little Linksters	<a href="mailto:rmitchel@pgahq.com">rmitchel@pgahq.com</a>
Austin		
Casey Leatherman	Junior Tour	<a href="mailto:cleatherman@pgahq.com">cleatherman@pgahq.com</a>
Loren Nevers	Little Linksters	<a href="mailto:lnevers@pgahq.com">lnevers@pgahq.com</a>
Bryan / College Station		
Justin McKown	Junior Tour / Little Linksters	<a href="mailto:jmckown@pgahq.com">jmckown@pgahq.com</a>
Beaumont		
John Jeffrey	Junior Tour / Little Linksters	<a href="mailto:jjeffrey1@pgahq.com">jjeffrey1@pgahq.com</a>
Corpus Christi		
Tiffany Soza	Junior Tour / Little Linksters	<a href="mailto:tsoza@pgahq.com">tsoza@pgahq.com</a>
Rio Grande Valley		
Tim O'Brien	Junior Tour / Little Linksters	<a href="mailto:tobrien@pgahq.com">tobrien@pgahq.com</a>

