

PGA Junior League FAQ's

Does my child have to have their own golf clubs?

Often, beginning golfers will not have their own equipment to start the season, and parents will have a lot of questions regarding equipment. Village Greens has some kids clubs available for the first few practice sessions for the kids to use and try. After evaluating the kids at the first few practice sessions, our instructors will be able to answer all of your questions about equipment/clubs.

We do strongly encourage each child to have their own basic set of equipment for the first of the matches in early June. Our 'loaner' equipment is limited, and we may not be able to allocate appropriately when it comes time for matches.

Good sources of new and used clubs include Goodwill, Second Swing, Facebook marketplace, Craigslist, US Kids Golf, and more.

Besides clubs, what else does my child need?

Clothing appropriate for the weather that day (shorts and t-shirts are fine). Golf shoes are not required. Tennis shoes are great. Shoes with cleats not specific to golf are not allowed (leave the baseball, softball, and soccer cleats in the closet). While not required, most kids will likely develop blisters on their hands/fingers the first couple of practices, so golf gloves are suggested. Gloves typically go on the lead hand (left hand for a right-handed golfer, and vice versa).

Do I have to attend practices to play in the matches?

No. Practices are not a requisite for playing in the matches and have no influence on line-ups, etc.

Can I come to more than 1 practice per week?

We do not take attendance at our practices, and if we see a kid more than once per week, we're not going to send them home.

However, please keep in mind that we have about 50 kids in the program, and we strive to provide 4-6 practice times per week to try to keep the number of kids at each session reasonable. As it is, you'll find that some practice sessions, especially early in the year, will have 20 kids in attendance, while others may have 5. It generally balances out in numbers as we adjust the schedule and people settle into a routine, especially once school gets out. I understand the mentality that if my kid comes more, they get more instruction...however, the opposite is true. If we get too many kids coming to multiple sessions, it overcrowds the sessions and all of the kids get less individualized instruction. We recommend coming to just 1 session per week but utilizing the unlimited range program membership, so they can practice the things they learn in their session a few times per week on their own.

If you miss a week due to vacation and want to come twice during a week to 'make up' a session, that's perfectly acceptable.

Do parents have to stay for the practices?

No. Feel free to leave or stay on the patio to read a book. Or, feel free to come down to the range and check things out. We often find some Dad's listening in on our instruction and then sneaking down to the end of the range to try a few moves out.... we encourage that.

Where do we meet for practice?

We will always meet on the patio behind the clubhouse. Kids can practice putting on the adjacent putting green while they wait for practice to begin, or simply sit under the tent. We will always return to the same location. Some days we will stay near the putting green. Most days we will all walk down to the range for full swing practice.

Do I have to come to the same practice time each week?

No. Feel free to come to any one practice session that best fits your schedule that week.

When are matches typically played?

Matches are typically played on weekends (Saturdays and/or Sundays) beginning around 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. We will avoid Fathers Day and the 4th of July weekend closest to the actual 4th. However, if we get multiple rain outs or choose to add additional matches, we may have a match during the week (most likely days are Fridays).

What about inclement weather/cancellations?

If there is the threat of weather before any practice or match, please check your emails frequently. We will often send a preliminary email letting you know what we anticipate (example: practice is still on schedule), and an email as soon as a cancellation is known (example: practice is cancelled). We generally make a final decision 20-30 minutes before a match or practice to consider travel times to the course, but conditions may change for the better or worse later than that time frame. If we haven't sent an email, we haven't made a final decision, and you should proceed as if everything is on schedule. Calling the golf shop will often result in an 'I don't know' because a final decision hasn't been made.

Who can attend the matches?

Anyone. In fact, we rely on parents (etc.) to help us conduct the matches. Feel free to invite aunts and uncles and grandparents and friends to watch the kids participate. We will ask for volunteers for each match to help us keep score, keep the kids moving in the right direction, help with raking bunkers, etc. If you can count to 6, you meet the qualifications to volunteer.

Can kids ride in carts during the matches?

Kids should be prepared to walk the holes during their matches. We allow and encourage parents who are riding in carts to help us safely transport kids **BETWEEN** holes. Also, if it's a hot night, riding is understandable. But please encourage them to walk as much as possible.

What if I'm on vacation the week of a match?

No worries. We need 8 kids to have an official match, and we have several people available to 'fill-in' if needed. During the season, I strive to send out an email every Tuesday detailing the results of the previous weeks matches and announcements for the following week. You can notify me of an absence by responding to that email or texting me. Please just respond week to week...no need to send me your entire summer schedule right now.

My child has never played on the course. Are they ready?

We will have 2-3 practice sessions before our first match. Nothing will truly prepare them for their first match, and I am still learning despite 1000's of rounds including 100's of competitive rounds during my lifetime. You'll see some great shots and some not so great shots from all of the kids. Parents focus on the bad shots and the 'failures'. Kids will forget a bad shot in about 2 seconds but remember the "successes" all week.

Because we have our own league, we can also (to a certain extent) control certain conditions that make kids feel more comfortable and/or challenge them when warranted. We will evaluate the kids and create match pairings that are appropriate for ability levels. You will also see us playing certain matches from different spots on the golf course. More advanced players may be playing from red or gold tee boxes while less experienced golfers may play from 100 or 150 yard markers in the fairways. We may also challenge our experienced golfers to play different tee boxes than their competitors. The bottom line is we want to create a competitive scenario for the kids that pushes their boundaries while keeping it fun, not intimidating.

How are matches played?

Each team is broken down into two-person pairs (or three if a substitute is included) who play together in games.

All PGA Jr. League games are played in a two-person scramble format. This means that both players in a pair hit drives. The best shot is selected, then each player plays from the selected spot, and this process continues until the ball is holed.

The scramble format is key in allowing everyone to hit shots and contribute to the team. PGA Jr. League utilizes match play scoring, which focuses on performance vs. a score-to-par as is traditional with golf.

Within a PGA Jr. League game, pairs play in a head-to-head, 9-hole match. Each match is broken into three flags. Each flag is three holes in a row, and each team has the opportunity to earn points at the end of each flag.

How long is each game?

Each game consists of 4 matches, 9-holes in length and typically takes place over the course of 2.5 hours. Pace of play is important and PGA Jr. League provides the perfect arena to instill these values at an early age. Captains will advise their players on strategies to quickly work together and ensure an enjoyable experience for all - players and spectators.

What happens at the end of a match?

All of the participants and spectators gather under the tent. The kids will turn in their scorecards and our staff will tabulate the results, announce the winners, and hand out the 'flags' to the winners.

Snack Parents

We ask that each parent(s) volunteer 1 time during the season to be a snack parent and provide snacks and refreshments for the 12 kids on each team. As we have 12 kids on a team and approximately 4-6 matches, there will likely be multiple snack parents each match. If you choose to participate, examples from past matches include cookies and Gatorade, chips and juice boxes, or sometimes parents will 'team up' and order a pizza or sandwiches from a local establishment. Totally voluntary and at your discretion.