

# 2015 KPGA Spring Business Meeting

## Junior Programs Report

Dear KPGA Members and Apprentices:

### **Drive Chip & Putt**

Kentucky will have three Drive Chip & Putt local qualifiers for 2015. These qualifiers are scheduled for June 13 at Seneca Golf Course, June 28 at Bowling Green Country Club, and July 18 at Lakeside Golf Course. A Sub-Regional will be held on August 29 at Oxmoor Country Club, and a Regional will be held on September 12 at Valhalla Golf Club.

### **PGA Junior League Golf**

The PGA Junior League Golf efforts were a huge success in Kentucky for 2014. Information on the new season is beginning to come through the proper channels. Make sure and discuss the benefits with someone who coached a team last year to see if this could make an impact at your facility. Plans are currently being developed to create a series of events for Junior League participants that are not playing as All Stars. The events are designed to be inexpensive and fun programs to bring additional value to PGA Junior League participants.

### **Program Registration Launch**

Our staff is getting ready to launch membership and tournament registration in the coming weeks for our 2015 Kentucky PGA Junior Tour Program. I am excited about the changes we have made to improve our tour for this season. Be sure to point your players to our website for the launch of registration on Tuesday, March 3!

### **2015 Kentucky PGA Junior Tour Improvements**

“Game On!” with the Kentucky PGA Junior Tour in 2015. The Tour is moving forward under the leadership provided by our new Director of Junior Programs, Chris Redle. After many years of serving as a golf Professional in our Section and serving on the KPGA Board of Directors, Chris is bringing his energy and passion to our Junior Tour this season. The following programs are being offered with the Junior Tour this season:

- \* Junior Tour participants will receive a GHIN Handicap with their membership
- \* Scores will be posted for all divisions playing at least 9 holes
- \* Participants with an established handicap index will be eligible to win a Low Net prize from each set of tees if they finish outside of the top 3 in their division
- \* Three NEW two-day Regionals have been added to the calendar
- \* Tour membership will include discounted entry into Regional events, Kentucky Junior PGA Championship Qualifier, Kentucky Junior Amateur Championship and the Fall Classic.
- \* The use of caddies will be expanded to include the 18-hole Divisions in some events
- \* The “Circle 9 Rule” will be implemented to assist with pace of play while still allowing those that use the rule to compete within their division

### **Customer Focus Efforts**

The Tour will continue to focus enhancing the tournament experience for all players and parents. Lunch is being included once again with all events this season. Preparations are in the works to launch social media communications through the development of a new mascot for the Kentucky PGA Junior Tour named “Tuck.” The staff will continue to engage, entertain and educate our members throughout the season through social media programming. Kyle Twomey will be joining the team this year as an intern working

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directly with the Junior Program. Kyle has experience as a summer intern with the Junior Tour in 2013 as well as working with the Illinois Junior Tour in 2014.

### **PGA Professional Involvement**

As the business model for the Junior Tour has evolved, our staff will be working even more closely with host PGA Professionals at Kentucky PGA Junior Tour events. The program is designed to build partnerships with our host facilities to grow participation at Junior Tour events. The partnership will include revenue sharing opportunities for host facilities as well.

### **Volunteer Involvement**

The staff will be launching a program to allow friends of the game to volunteer with Junior Events and Player Development programming. Volunteers can include KPGA Members, apprentices and others dedicated to growing the game of golf. If you have extra time you can give back to the game, I encourage your involvement in this program. With the support of others across the state, we can continue to affect change through the game of golf, and make a difference in our youth throughout the state.

Regards,

Larry Ward, PGA  
District 1 Director