

PGA NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

Junior Golf
'NENY SERIES

PGA[™]
OF AMERICA

REACH FOUNDATION

NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

Northeastern New York PGA Junior Tour

Player/Parent Guide

2024

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REACH FOUNDATION

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About the Tour

The PGA NENY Junior Tour offers boys and girls a chance to compete with peers as individuals in separate age/gender divisions: 8-12, 13-15 and 16-18. The primary goal of the tour is to provide playing and competition opportunities that are accessible to all junior golfers ages 8-18.

We promote sportsmanship, etiquette and respect for the rules and game of golf in a fun, competitive and professional environment. Juniors of any residence are eligible to participate. Tournaments are hosted by various golf courses within the NENY section.

Staff

Junior Golf Director - Zach Follo is responsible for all operations of the Northeastern New York Junior Golf Program.

Junior Golf Committee -

view contact info at: <https://neny.pga.com/about/board-of-directors/committees/>

Jeff Betti, PGA Chairperson, Head Professional, Saratoga Lake GC

Ben Smith, HS Golf Coach;

Anthony Therrien, Head Professional, PGA Brookhaven Golf Course

Matt McPhillips, Head Professional, Pinehaven Country Club

Zach Follo, Staff Liaison

Contact Information

You can reach Zach Follo through email or phone:

Email - zfollos@pgahq.com

Phone - 518-438-8645 (dial 3 for junior golf)

How Tour Events Work

Summer Series: Junior Golf Tour Classics & Majors for Player of the Year & Points Rankings

The Summer Series JGT consists of 10-15 tournaments held mostly on weekdays from the end of June through early August. Only Juniors who join the NENY PGA Junior Membership (annual fee of \$75) are eligible to earn Player of the Year Points. All members receive a junior golf benefits packet and member tournament pricing.

Event fees vary based upon the JGT level (Classic or Major) along with age division and junior membership association. Event fees include range balls, greens fees, lunch and prizes for first- and second-place finishers. Player of the Year Points are accumulated based on how juniors finish in events throughout the season. Player of the Year Awards go to the top boys and girls in each age division at the conclusion of the season. The winners also earn invitations to select premier events.

- JGT Classics: One-day events, 9 or 18 holes depending on age division.
- JGT Majors: Two-day events, 36 holes, for 13-18 age divisions only.

Major events receive weighted NENY PGA Junior POY points. Scores for Majors are automatically submitted to Junior Golf Scoreboard for national tracking of junior rankings. Majors will also be submitted to AJGA PBERS for star eligibility, however they are not guaranteed until approved.

Tee times and starting hole assignments are posted on the Tournament Information Page for each event a minimum of three days prior to the event. Generally, events feature morning start times (between 7:00am and 10:30am).

Junior Membership Benefits

Membership Fee - \$75

- Eligible to participate in unlimited NENY PGA Junior Golf Tour events at a special member tournament entry cost.
- Opportunity to build a playing resume through our Advanced BlueGolf Premium Player Feature (\$60 optional fee)
- NENY Junior Golf news and emails
- Text alerts regarding playing opportunities, deadlines, starting times, delays, etc.
- NENY JGT Player of the Year Points Series eligibility
- Opportunity to earn an invitation to the NENY Junior Tour Championship
- Year-end NENY Junior Review booklet
- Discounts at NENY PGA Golf Facilities
- Specialty gift item each year
- Points list updates
- Social media photo/picture galleries for personal use.

Registration Information

A Junior Membership fee of \$75 applies to the Summer Tour Series and is good for one calendar year. Any junior regardless of residence may join. Membership entitles you to discounts on tournament registrations and a benefits packet.

Visit neny.pga.com and select "Junior Golf > [Membership Information](#)" to sign up for membership. Once you've signed up, you will get a BlueGolf ID. This will be your ID for the entirety of your career with us. You will need to re-register each year with this BlueGolf ID.

Your BlueGolf ID will give you access to historical data of the players golf resume, event participation, scores, entry fees paid, and more.

Tournament Pricing

JGT Major - Ages 13-18	JGT Classic - Ages 13-18	JGT Classic - 8-12
36 Holes/2 Days	18 Holes/1 Day	9 Holes/1 Day
Members \$150	Members \$75	Members \$50
Non-Members \$200	Non-Members \$100	Non-Members \$75

** All tournament pricing includes 1 (one) lunch with participation. During the multi-day majors, only 1 (one) lunch is provided and it will be on the first day of the event.

Player of the Year Points

Players accrue points by participating in Junior Golf Tour Summer Series events. Points are awarded based on the type of event and where the player finishes (see chart below):

Place	Classic Events	Major Events
1	250	500
2	190	350
3	155	225
4	140	195
5	130	180
6	115	165
7	105	150
8	95	135
9	85	120
10	70	105
11	60	90
12	50	75
13	40	60
14	25	45
15+	20	30

Deadlines & Refund Policies

Deadline: There is a five-day entry window with a midnight deadline on the fifth day preceding our events. Tournaments can fill up. To guarantee your spot, we recommend that you register as soon as the entry window opens. There is a late fee of \$10 per event when you register after the event deadline.

Waiting List - Players who register after a tournament is full will be placed on a first-come, first served waiting list for their age division. Players may be placed in the tournament from the waiting list up to four days prior to the event. Players will be notified via email that he/she has been placed in the tournament. A player may remove himself/herself from the waiting list at any time through his/her online account prior to the event deadline. There are no walk-up registrations at NENY PGA junior tournaments.

Refund - Cancellations must be submitted online via your BlueGolf account or by notifying the NENY PGA section office via phone or email (preferred).

Cancellation Fees:

- 5 or more days prior to event: \$5 administration fee
- 3-4 days prior to event: 50% of registration
- Less than 48 hours prior to event: entire registration forfeited

Please contact the NENY PGA section to request refund if cancellation is due to circumstances such as injury, etc.

Inclement Weather Policy - It will be at the discretion of the Junior Golf Director and host PGA Professional/Course Superintendent to suspend or cancel play. Tournaments that are not completed may keep the entry fees to offset expenses and commitments to the host facility. If no tournament is held, the participants will receive a full refund. If a tournament is re-scheduled, all juniors must re-register into the event. No prior registrations will be transferred into the new re-scheduled event.

Formats

Our older age divisions (13-18) all use stroke play format and for scoring purposes.

Stableford scoring is used for our youngest age division (8-12). This is primarily to ensure that the younger division focuses on learning/tournament play improvement.

Stableford Points System/Scoring for 9-Holers (Ages 8-12)

Triple Bogey - 2 points

Double Bogey - 3 points

Bogey - 4 points

Par - 6 points

Birdie - 9 points

Eagle - 15 points

Hole-in-One - 50 points

Rules

USGA - Older age divisions (13-18 year olds) do follow the USGA Rules of Golf. All juniors are encouraged to review the NENY PGA Junior Hard Card and local event rules provided. Juniors in the 8-12 age division follow modified rules and are allowed a max of 10 strokes per hole in the fairway. After 10 strokes, they are permitted to play the ball from the edge of the green and are allotted 5 putting strokes. The max score per hole is 15. Juniors can also lift and place their ball, no closer to the hole, after one attempt to clear a hazard and/or to get out of a bunker without penalty.

Pull Carts - Yes, you may use a pull cart during NENY PGA Junior Tour sanctioned events. You may bring your own or rent from the host site.

Rules Continued

Spectators/Caddying - Spectators and parents are allowed to attend any 1 (one) day, 18 hole, classic event. Spectators and parents are NOT permitted to attend any multi-day, 36 hole+, Major event. The host facility reserves the right to prohibit spectators at their course (section will publicize on the event info page when this occurs). Spectators must abide by the following rules so they do not jeopardize this privilege in the future.

*Older age divisions (13-18 year olds) have strict spectator policies. When the host site permits non-paid spectators, they must remain 50 yards from the players/groups and refrain from any conversation with the players.

*Younger age divisions (8-12 years olds) are in more of a learning environment and parents are encouraged to walk with the players to assist with scorekeeping, and to ensure safety and pace of play. Please note that full-out caddying (carrying player's bag, moving pull cart, club selection, shot selection advice, etc.) is prohibited. The player is responsible for the action of his/her parents/spectators.

Spectating for Golf Coaches - Collegiate Golf Coaches are permitted to attend any and all NENY events for recruiting purposes. They must follow the strict spectator policies for older age divisions listed above and it is requested that the junior player inform NENY staff of the potential of a coach attending and that the coach simply check in with staff on site.

Dress Code - All players while on site of an official round of a JGT Tournament must wear appropriate golf attire. The following are examples of appropriate attire:

*hats must be worn forward at all times

*collared shirts

*shirts must be tucked in

*slacks, short (hemmed)

*golf shoes or tennis shoes

No Tee-shirts, tank tops, halter tops, midriffs, sweat suits or jeans. If a player arrives at his/her designated starting hole out of dress code, he/she will be prohibited from participating.

Distance Measuring Devices - Yes, juniors may use a distance-measuring device (that measure distance only!)

Spectator Carts - No spectator carts are permitted for any reason.

8-12 Age Division & Adjusted Rules

Stableford scoring: This is primarily to ensure that the younger division focuses on learning/tournament play improvement.

Stableford Points System/Scoring for 9-Holers (Ages 8-12)

<u>Score on</u>	<u>Hole Points</u>
Triple Bogey	2 points
Double Bogey	3 points
Bogey	4 points
Par	6 points
Birdie	9 points
Eagle	15 points
Hole-in-One	50 points

Modified Rules: Juniors in the 8-12 age division follow modified rules

- Allowed a max of 10 strokes per hole in the fairway.
- After 10 strokes, they are permitted to play the ball from the edge of the green and are allotted 5 putting strokes. (Pick the ball up and place on edge of green after 10 strokes).
- The max score per hole is 15.
- Juniors can also lift and place their ball after one attempt to clear a hazard and/or to get out of a bunker without penalty.
- All White OB Stakes are considered Red Stakes.
 - For a Red penalty area, you may take relief by dropping into a relief area using (1) the spot at which your last stroke was made under stroke and distance (see Rule 17.1d(1)) or (2) the back-on-the-line relief procedure (see Rule 17.1d(2)) or (3) Lateral relief allows you to drop a ball into a relief area measured from where your ball last crossed the edge of red penalty area. From that reference point, you are allowed to drop outside the penalty area and anywhere within two club-lengths of that spot, no nearer to the hole (see Rule 17.1d(3)).

Starting Tee Times: Tee Times will vary for 8-12 age divisions. Depending on the course, this group will tee off first, off of the back 9. In other situations, the group will tee off last after the 13-18 year old division. We will make juniors and parents aware a couple days prior to the tournaments commencement.

Player Code of Conduct

The JGT takes great pride in the quality of its players and our host facilities. In order to continue to make the tournaments enjoyable for everyone, the section requires all of the JGT participants and spectators to adhere to the following set of guidelines known as the Code of Conduct. Any breach of the guidelines set forth under the Code of Conduct can result in disqualification, without a refund, from the tournament where the incident occurred and may result in JGA membership suspension for the current year and possibly subsequent years.

The following rules of conduct that will be enforced include but are not limited to:

*Club throwing, swearing or general misconduct in behavior to include excessive display of temper either physically or verbally

*Cheating will not be tolerated

*Drug and alcohol use – players found smoking, chewing any tobacco product, drinking alcoholic beverages, or using illegal or controlled substances at a JGT tournament site

The Section's Junior Committee & Board of Directors are the governing bodies that will determine any breach of the Code of Conduct. They will determine the severity of the incident and the action to be taken. In these instances, a written notification of such will be sent to the junior and parent.

The Section's Board of Inquiry is the body in place that a junior/parent can use to make an appeal to. All appeals must be made in writing and be signed by the player.

Pace of Play Policy

Pace of Play:

9-holes should take no more than 2 hours and 30 minutes

18-holes should take no more than 5 hours

Groups should take no more than 15-16 minutes for each hole.

Notification & Timing: A group is deemed out of position when they are more than one hole behind and/or 15 minutes behind the group in front of them. All players in the group will be notified by a designated tournament official that the group is out of position and subject to being timed and penalized. Rule 5- It is recommended that players make the stroke in no more than 40 seconds, and usually more quickly than that. On the Putting Green: Timing of a player's stroke will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace their ball, repair their ball mark and other ball marks on their line of putt and remove loose impediments on their line of putt. Time spent looking at the line of putt from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

Rulings or Other Incidents: If a ruling or some other legitimate delay occurs which causes the group in question to lose its position, that group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time. Time spent waiting for a ruling and searching for a ball is included in the total round time expectation.

Pace of Play Penalties: The following are the penalties, in sequence, for any player in a group being timed who takes more than the allotted time to play a stroke after timing of the player's stroke begins:

1st offense- Warning

2nd offense- 1 Stroke Penalty

3rd offense- General Penalty in addition to 1 Stroke Penalty

4th offense- Disqualification

Note- If a group being timed regains its proper position, any previous 'bad timings' will be carried over for the remainder of that round in the event that group requires additional monitoring.

Ready Golf Tips

- **Prepare While Others Play:** Figure out your yardage and club selection while your fellow competitor is playing their shot.
- **Limit Number Of Practice Swings:** Players should only take 2-3 practice swings. For example, if a player shoots 85 and takes 2 practice swings prior to every shot, that is a total of 255 swings on the day.
- **Walk Ahead:** It is okay to walk ahead of your fellow competitors to get ready for your next shot. Remain out of their line of play, make sure that you are not distracting or disturbing them and be alert, pay attention while they play their next shot.
- **Tap It In:** If you have a putt that is at or inside one foot, players should be able to tap their ball in so long as they would not be standing in the line of their fellow competitors.
- **Watch Where Your Ball Lands:** If you hit a shot offline, make sure to watch where it lands.
- **Play A Provisional Ball:** If there is a chance your ball may be lost outside of a penalty area or out of bounds. Make sure you announce to your fellow competitors your intentions, along with what kind of ball, number and the markings your provisional ball has on it.
- **Marking Scores:** Take care of this on the next tee box after every hole
- **Rules Issues in Stroke Play- Rule 20.1c(3): Playing Two Balls When Uncertain What to Do:** A player who is uncertain about the right procedure while playing a hole may complete the hole with two balls without penalty.
 - The player must decide to play two balls after the uncertain situation arises and before making a stroke
 - The player should choose which ball will count if the Rules allow the procedure used for that ball, by announcing that choice to his or her marker or to another player before making a stroke.

Day of the Tournament

What to Bring?

Bring everything you need to play a round of golf such as your clubs, golf bag, golf shoes, tees, balls, ball markers, divot repair tool, sunscreen, ext. Please bring your own snacks and water as some golf clubs will not have access to these items. It is important to make sure juniors have basic medical supplies on them such as band aids, sports tape, Advil, ext.

When to arrive?

There is no registration for our events. Give yourself enough time to warm up before arriving to the first tee of approximately 45 minutes -1 hour. We ask that players do not arrive more than 1 hour before your starting time to ensure all players in the field have proper access to the driving range stations. **We ask that players be to the first tee 10 minutes prior to your starting time.**

Showing up Late to a Tee Time:

It is not the responsibility for the NENY PGA Jr Tour staff to make sure competitors are at their starting point on time. Any player who is late to the tee will be subjected to penalty and/or disqualification under the USGA Rules of Golf.

At the Tee:

- Please be 10 minutes early prior to your starting time
- Please check the amount of clubs in your golf bag (14 maximum)
- Please place an identifying mark on your ball with a Sharpie marker
- Players will receive their official scorecard and Local Rules on the first tee. Each player is responsible for keeping a fellow competitors score, as well as their own. Players are highly recommended to keep score for the rest of the members of their group as well. Players will be responsible for complete knowledge of the Rules of Golf and any Local Rules. Please have the NENY Jr. App downloaded and logged in if possible.

Day of the Tournament Cont.

Mobile Scoring for ages 13-18:

The digital scorecard will be used during our Major Junior Tournaments eligible for 13-18 years. Our Blue Golf tournament software offers live scoring ability to help keep parents, families, coaches and all supporters up-to-date on the players scoring round and is complimentary to all.

One player in each pairing will keep the score for all competitors in their group digitally. Any junior can volunteer to use online scoring before the start of the round.

All NENY PGA Juniors will NOT be required but rather encouraged to digitally keep score.

- Online Flex Scoring will be the method juniors will use to track score. One Junior who volunteers will be responsible as the “score keeper” in the group for the pairing.
- The NENY PGA Junior Golf BlueGolf app can be downloaded and signed in by the player and is preferred or the junior can “check in” with a code provided prior to their tee time.
- The player will update the scores hole by hole which will allow a live leaderboard.
- The online scorecard will NOT be the official scorecard when returning to the scoring table but rather simply a method for tracking progress throughout the round. At the conclusion of the round, the players will sign, the hard copy scorecard that will also have been used and will be the official scorecard.
- The scoring app does work in a mobile phone on “Do Not Disturb” mode so players are less distracted with other apps/notifications.

General FAQ

Playing Eligibility Requirements - All children ages 8-18 are eligible for NENY PGA Junior Membership (regardless of residence) and may participate in any number of events. However, only players residing in the NENY PGA Section can qualify for and advance to the Junior PGA Championship. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Is NENY PGA Membership Required to Play? - No, but membership is required to earn Player of the Year points in our Summer Series events. POY points determine whether you qualify for premier events such as and our season-ending NENY PGA Junior Tour Championship. Membership also ensures that you receive e-newsletters and important notifications about tournament deadlines and event delays and push text notifications.

Families with Multiple Children Discounts

Membership Fees

Families with three or more children receive one free membership for their third child (with paid memberships for two siblings). Contact NENY PGA staff to register the third sibling for free.

Tournament Fees

Families with three or more children playing in the same event will only be charged \$15 (lunch fee) for the third child. Contact NENY PGA staff to register the third sibling for free.

BlueGolf Tournament App - Our FREE tournament app (powered by BlueGolf software) enables any junior, parent, family or friend to access Junior Tour registration, live scoring, etc. Simply search the Apple/Google Play store by typing in “Northeastern New York Junior PGA” to download.

General FAQ

BlueGolf Premium Players Club - The BlueGolf Premium Players Club is an add-on tool for competitive players. Use it to build a golfing resume: track hole-by-hole scores, enter outside tournament scores, add swing videos to your profile, analyze tournament round history and more. There is a fee of \$60 (added to membership fee) for use of this tool.

Do I Have to Play in My Age Division? Our events are set up in age divisions based upon birthdates: 8-12 year olds play 9-holes (from forward tees), 13-15 year olds play 18 or 36-holes (from middle tees) and 16-18 year olds play 18 or 36-holes (from back tees). Girls play with girls, boys play with boys. However, a player may declare to “play up” to an older age division. The player must finish in the top 75% of the field in his or her first two events to demonstrate an appropriate playing ability. The player must then continue playing in that age division for the rest of the season. More suitable competition or longer yardages are the most frequent reasons for playing up. Inform the NENY PGA staff of your desire to play up, as our BlueGolf tournament system can only place players based on date of birth.

What if my Birthday is in the middle of the season? You will be placed based on your age on the date of the first tournament you register for. Player of the Year points earned within an age division will remain in that division. If your birthday falls in the middle of a series, you may play the entire series in either the lower or upper age division, ensuring that you don't split points between divisions. Please contact NENY PGA staff for assistance in making your selection.

What do I do after Signing up for Membership? Once your membership is approved, you will receive an email with a BlueGolf ID and Password. Your ID and Password enable you to access your account to register for tournaments and automatically provide the member pricing for tournaments so it is IMPORTANT to first sign up for membership before you register and pay for tournament entry fees.

General FAQ

How Many Tournaments can I Play in? There are no limits. You may register and compete in as many Summer Series tournaments as you like. However, to help ensure that Player of the Year points remain fair and are not based solely on frequency of participation, only your top eight scores will be used in POY calculations.

Where can I Find My Tee Time? Tee times and starting hole assignments are posted on the Tournament Information Page for each event a minimum of three days prior to the event. Generally, events feature morning start times (between 7:30am and 9:30am) for 13-18 year olds, and late morning or early afternoon start times (between 11 AM and Noon) for 8-12 year olds. There will be exceptions based on course availability and other factors.

Can I Request a Tee Time? We will do our best to accommodate tee time requests for car-pooling purposes, etc., but you must notify us prior to the event registration deadline – before tee times and pairings are assigned. Similarly, we cannot honor all pairing requests, but we will try to place car-poolers and siblings in tee times with close proximity for your convenience.

What is the Tournament Transfer Policy? - All transfer requests must be submitted prior to the registration deadline for both the tournament a player is transferring from and the tournament a player is transferring to. All transfers must occur within the same age division. Transfer requests that do not meet these criteria will be treated as cancellations and be subject to the cancellation policy. Otherwise, there is no processing fee for transfers.