



PGA

Southern Ohio Section
Junior Tour

2022 Junior Tour Handbook

SOPGA Players Tour • SOPGA Junior Series

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*****It is very important that all SOPGA Junior Tour Members and parents read and understand the following before participating in any SOPGA Junior Tour events.**

Concept

The Southern Ohio PGA Junior Tour offers a superior junior tour experience. Our goal is to help develop younger golfers as well as provide outstanding competitions on a local level. In addition, this program strives to foster sportsmanship and integrity among its members.

Membership Eligibility Information

Membership is open to all junior amateurs who live in the state of Ohio or attend school in Ohio from the ages of 9-19. If a junior does not live in Ohio, he or she is required to submit proof of active enrollment in an Ohio school. Applications will be open to juniors who have not reached their 20th birthday or started their freshman year of college by midnight on the final day of competition in the 2022 Junior Tour season, July 28, 2022. **(Note:** Juniors under the age of 9 years old may become eligible based on an endorsement letter from their local PGA Professional.)

SOPGA Players Tour

The SOPGA Players Tour is designed to provide premier junior golf tournaments for local youth. The SOPGA Players Tour is for junior golfers looking for a competitive experience. This level features 18 & 36-hole competitive junior golf tournaments at various facilities across Southern Ohio along with a two-day, 36-hole championship. The top 10 Players at each event earn points for the Player of the Year honor and the top 3 players in each division receive awards to be handed out at the conclusion of each event.

Ages: 13-19 Events are broken into Boys and Girls Divisions with Age Groups 13-15 and 16-19.

Players who are ages 13 and older have the choice to either play on the Junior Series or the Players Tour. Skill level will depend on the player to decide whether they want to play on the lower level or the higher level competitions and distances. (Distances are on page 7) You must have a Players Tour membership to be eligible to compete in Players Tour events. All players with either membership will be eligible to compete in the Junior Series events.

SOPGA Junior Series

The SOPGA Junior Series is designed to help prepare players for what they will face as they advance to the SOPGA Players Tour, our more competitive level. This level provides premier junior golf tournaments with a focus on course experience as well as etiquette and the Rules. Both, 9-hole and 18-hole competitions are offered at this level.

Ages: 9-19 Events are broken into Boys and Girls Divisions with Age Groups 9-12 (9-hole or 18-hole option for 9-12), 13-15 (18-holes) and 16-19 (18-holes).

Players must compete in the age division they would be in as of the last day of the 2022 SOPGA Junior Tour Schedule (July 28, 2022).

Fee Structure

Membership

\$60..... Junior Series Membership

\$90..... Players Tour Membership

Tournament

\$35 9-Hole Event

\$60 - \$80 18-Hole Event

\$110 - \$140..... 36-Hole Event

Membership Application Process

There are two different member application processes, one for returning members and one for new members, please see detailed entry step by step below.

Important information for all registrants

Application fee payments must be paid online through a credit card. Payment must be received for a junior to gain membership to the SOPGA Players Tour and SOPGA Junior Series. The cost for membership into the Junior Program is \$60 for the Junior Series and \$90 for the Players Tour.

Applicants who have gained membership in the SOPGA Players Tour (PT) / Junior Series (JS) will receive a Welcome Pack introducing them to the tour. Memberships will be active from January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022.

Applications for Membership, including all necessary information, must be received at least three days prior to an event deadline for a participant to be eligible to enter an event. Please confirm the status of your entry before attempting to sign up for an event.

1. New Members Step-by-Step Application Process

New members to the SOPGA Players Tour/Junior Series must complete a Membership Application. The following are the steps for the application process:

1. Go to www.sopgairtour.com
2. Click the “Become a Member” link located in the “Member Login” box, complete the registration form and submit payment information.

Note: Your credit card will not be charged until you are accepted into membership.

3. When membership is approved, juniors will receive an email with their Junior Tour Membership ID and Password. This will be used to log in to their account on our website.

2. Returning Members Step-by-Step Application Process

The following are the steps for reapplying for membership:

1. Go to www.sopgajirtour.com
2. Use your 2021 Junior Tour Membership ID and Password to login to your account (An email reminder will be sent to all 2021 members with the login information from the previous year) Follow the steps to renew your SOPGA Junior Tour membership for 2022.
3. An SOPGA staff member will review your application.

Note: Your credit card will not be charged until you are accepted into membership.

4. If accepted, you will receive an email welcoming you to the 2022 SOPGA Junior Tour. Your Membership ID and Password will remain the same from previous year.

Membership Fee - Refund

Southern Ohio PGA Junior Tour Membership Fees are reimbursable (less a fee \$5) until **JUNE 30, 2022** at 5:00 PM. After the deadline, no membership fees will be refundable. Refunds are only eligible for those who have not played in an event by June 30, 2022.

Tournament

Divisions and Course Yardages

Players Tour:

Boys 13-15	Boys 16-19
6,500 - 6,800 Yards	6,500 - 6,800 Yards
Girls 13-15	Girls 16-19
5,400 - 5,600 Yards	5,400 - 5,600 Yards

Junior Series:

Boys 9-12	Boys 13-15	Boys 16-19
4,700 - 5,100 Yards	6,000 - 6,300 Yards	6,000 - 6,300 Yards
Girls 9-12	Girls 13-15	Girls 16-19
3,200 - 3,600 Yards	4,700 - 5,100 Yards	4,700 - 5,100* Yards

*All yardages are approximate and will be decided at the course

SOPGA Junior Tournament Event Entry Procedure

Players will be added into the event on a first come, first serve basis.

Exception: SOPGA Players Tour Championship and SOPGA Junior Series Championship.

After all Membership Application requirements have been fulfilled, the player may register for an event by visiting the SOPGA website, www.sopgajrtour.com Entrants will need their SOPGA Junior Tour Membership ID and Password and a Visa or MasterCard to register for the event. The size of the field is limited to the capacities of the host facility. Entry into each event is on a first come, first serve basis, beginning on the first day entries are open.

Entry fees must be paid at the time of registration to be eligible to compete in an event.

SOPGA Junior Championship Event Entry Procedure

Registrants for the SOPGA Players Tour Championship are not guaranteed spots in the tournament.

Players *who have registered* for the SOPGA Players Tour Championship will be dropped into the event in the following rotation:

SOPGA Players Tour
Highest Place in the Boys 13-19 Player of the Year Points Race
Highest Place in the Girls 13-19 Player of the Year Points Race

This rotation will continue until every junior on the POY point's list who signed up for the event is dropped into the field or the field is full. If spots still remain in the field after everyone who applies to this rotation has been dropped into the field, entrants will be added on a first come-first serve basis.

Deadlines and Full Field

Entry deadlines for events will be at 12:00 AM Midnight one-week prior to the event. (Ex. Deadline Tuesday at Midnight for a Tuesday event) Full field will be defined by the capacity of the host facility, or the number of participants entered into an event at the close of entry. Please note: Events fill quickly and may be full many days before the event deadline.

Pairing Policy

Pairings will be created based on the following procedure:

1. Every effort will be made to keep juniors playing with others within their respective age divisions and gender
2. Juniors will be paired based on randomization
3. Special Requests will not be guaranteed

Note: Requests to be paired with specific individuals will NOT be honored.

Waitlist Policy

Juniors on the waitlist will gain a spot in a tournament in the event of a cancellation. The spot in the field will be filled according to the age division of other members in the tee time on a first come, first serve basis off the waitlist. Ex. If a spot opens in a 13-15 Age Division tee time, the first participant on the waitlist in that division will be eligible for the spot. A junior in the 9-12 Age Division would not be eligible to fill the opening.

Note: Anyone who is placed on the waitlist will not be charged unless they get into the event.

On-Site Alternate Policy

The previous waiting list is null and void on the day of the event. Players may attempt to enter an event on the day of, based on a first-come, first serve basis within their division. Players must have the tournament entry fee in order to play (check or credit card acceptable), or have pre-registered online. There are no guarantees for the day of entries. Alternate players must check in at the starting tent.

Groups and Starting Times

Groups and starting times will be available 2 business days after the close of entries. They will be posted to the SOPGA Junior Tour website www.sopgairtour.com, emailed to the participants, and available at the host site.

Transportation

Players must walk at all times during a stipulated round and carry their own clubs. Pull carts will be permitted. A player with a physical disability may request an exemption from this policy through the SOPGA Section Office.

No Shows

If a player fails to properly withdraw from an event and does not play, they will forfeit their entry fee for the event. If they no show for three events in a calendar year, they will be unable to participate in the remainder of Players Tour/Futures Tour events for that calendar year.

1st offense: An email will be sent to the player reiterating this rule and acting as a warning.

2nd offense: An email will be sent with a final warning.

3rd offense: Player will be suspended for the remainder of the season

Refunds and Withdraws

Tournament Entry Fees

Individual tournament entry fees can be refunded minus a \$5.00 processing fee if a player withdraws 48 hours or more before the event starts. Once this deadline has passed, you will only receive the entry fee minus the course fee. (Example: Entry Fee = \$125, Course Fee = \$75, you are refunded \$50)

Withdrawals can be processed online at www.sopgairtour.com. A person who wishes to withdraw within the guidelines may also have their entry fees transferred to another Players Tour/Junior Series event. Please email the SOPGA Section Office at sopgairtour@pgahq.com if you wish to transfer.

Code of Conduct

Conduct that is considered detrimental to the SOPGA Players Tour/Junior Series includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Club throwing/ Club breaking
- Damage to Course equipment or property
- Profanity directed at rules officials, other competitors, spectators, sponsors, tournament staff, host staff, volunteers, and others
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages
- Cheating
- Usage of drugs and tobacco products
- Gambling
- Any other conduct considered to be detrimental to the SOPGA Junior Tour

Any violation of this policy by players and/or spectators will result in disqualification from the event. Players will be held responsible for the actions of their spectators. Continued violations of this policy will result in the dismissal from the SOPGA Players Tour/Junior Series.

Dress Code

All players and spectators must observe the following dress code:

Boys and Men: Golf shirts with a collar (tucked in), slacks and Bermuda shorts. No jeans, gym shorts, tennis shorts, or T-shirts. Hats must be worn with the bill facing forward. Golf shoes must have non-metal spikes.

Girls and Women: Golf shirt (if sleeveless, must have a collar) slacks, or Bermuda length shorts (no more than 4 inches above the knee), golf skirts. No jeans, t-shirts, gym shorts, tennis shorts, tank tops, or bare mid-ribs. Golf shoes must have non-metal spikes.

Any player or spectator not adhering to these guidelines will be asked to correct the violation or be unable to partake in the event.

USGA Rules of Golf

Play will be governed by the current USGA Rules of Golf. Questions will be settled by the on-site SOPGA Rules Committee, whose decision will be final.

Note: Distance measuring devices will be permitted for both the Players Tour & Junior Series in 2022.

In all 2022 SOPGA Players Tour/Junior Series events, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.

Practice Rounds

Practice rounds will not be available through the SOPGA Players Tour/Junior Series. Practice rounds may be made through the individual host sites, and are subject to regular greens fees rates and availability at the facility.

Playoff Procedure

In the event of a tie within an age division for first, second, or third place during a Players Tour/Junior Series event, the tie will be broken based on the USGA recommended method for scorecard playoffs (Appendix I of the USGA Rules of Golf). All other ties will not be broken.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event that weather forces a tournament to be postponed, the SOPGA will first work to reschedule the event to a future date. If that is not an option, the event will be canceled. In the event of the cancellation of an event, players may receive a partial refund. The refund amount will be equal to the per player costs (administration, staff, and course fees if applicable) incurred for that tournament minus the entry fee paid. If there is no difference between the incurred costs and the entry fee, a refund will not be available.

Tournament Prizes

The top three finishers at each event in each boy's and girl's age division will receive an award for their good play. Awards will be given out at the end of each individual event. Players unable to stay after the round will be able to pick their award up at the next event they play in.

Player of the Year Points

The top 10 boy's and girl's finishers at each Players Tour event will receive Player of the Year points based on their finish. Player of the Year points will be distributed as follows except for the Players Tour Championship, where points will be doubled:

Point Allocation

18-Hole Events		36-Hole Events	
1	120	1	240
2	90	2	180
3	80	3	160
4	70	4	140
5	60	5	120
6	50	6	100
7	40	7	80
8	30	8	60
9	20	9	40
10	10	10	20

Player of the Year points will be allocated based on the following divisions:

SOPGA Players Tour
Boys Age 13-19
Girls Age 13-19

SOPGA Junior Series
Boys Age 13-19
Girls Age 13-19

In the event a tie for first place, the USGA method of scorecard playoffs will determine which player receives first place points. All other ties (2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc.) will split the points evenly.

Caddie Program

The SOPGA Caddie Program is open to parents and/or guardians of Junior Series participants who would like to share in the competitive golf experience. **IMPORTANT: Caddies will only be permitted for SOPGA Junior Series contestant's ages 9-12. Caddies will not be permitted for any other age group.**

List of divisions in which use of a caddie is allowed for 2022 season:

SOPGA Junior Series
Boys Age 9-12
Girls Age 9-12

Important Information for Caddies:

- Anyone wishing to caddie must check in at the first tee the day of the event.
- You will be given a caddie bib prior to teeing off. Please return the bib at scoring after your round.

Caddie Duties (where applicable)

A caddie may:

1. Carry the player's clubs and help with club selection
2. Help the player with alignment of both his body and the club prior to a stroke
3. Count scores for fellow competitors and assist with scoring
4. Help players with searching for balls, pace of play, and etiquette
5. Attend the flagstick
6. Find a Rules Official for any questions concerning the Rules
7. Report to the scoring area immediately following play
8. Encourage player to have fun

A caddie may not:

1. Assist the player in any way during the swing
2. Attempt to make rulings

*No player may have more than one caddie at a time. Caddies are encouraged not to emphasize winning, get too involved, or "over coach". Any penalty incurred by the caddie will be resolved against the player.

Spectator Policy

Spectators are encouraged to attend SOPGA Players Tour and SOPGA Junior Series events.

Rules for the Spectators during events are as follows:

1. Spectators are not to give advice to any player during the competition. They are asked and encouraged to help search for lost golf balls, but must keep communication to a minimum in the process.
2. Spectators may not carry a player's golf bag and/or clubs.
3. Spectators may carry food, drinks, umbrellas, and clothing items to give to the players, but should provide them to the players between the play of two holes.
4. Spectator Carts may or may not be allowed, availability will be determined by the host facility. Handicap carts will be allowed for those who have a handicapped parking permit. The host facility has the final decision whether any carts will be allowed during the competition, and the spectator will be subject to the cart rental fee of the host facility. Carts must remain on the cart paths at all times.
5. Spectators are to remain in the rough or cart paths at all times, and maintain a distance of 20 yards from the players.
6. Spectators are not to use cell phones or beepers on the golf course. Spectators are asked to return to the clubhouse to use such devices. If needed in case of an emergency, spectators are asked to keep it on "vibrate" mode in order to not distract the players.
7. Spectators are to remain away from the players when turning in their scorecards in the scoring area. The players are responsible for the correctness of their score.
8. Spectators are also subject to the code of conduct policy.

Other Rules and Regulations

Players are not required to check in prior to their starting time. Players are asked to be at their starting tee at least ten minutes before their starting time for rules briefings and the distribution of scorecards.

Pace of Play Guidelines

The players must play without undue delay (Rule 6-7) and in accordance with the pace of play guidelines that the SOPGA Junior Tour has established.

2022 SOPGA Junior Tour Pace of Play Policy Two-checkpoint System

- Players will not receive warnings.
- To avoid penalty, groups must complete each checkpoint hole:
 1. Under the allotted time, or
 2. Within 12 minutes of the group ahead.
- Checkpoints will be on holes #6, #12 and #18, unless otherwise indicated.

All players in a group in breach of the pace of play policy at any checkpoint are subject to penalty.

PENALTIES

First Breach of Round = 1 stroke penalty to each player in the group.

Second Breach of Round = additional 2 stroke penalty to each player in the group.

NOTIFICATION

An Official will notify any group that completes a checkpoint hole in breach of the pace of play policy. It is the player's responsibility to record and include any penalties assessed on their scorecards. Penalties are to be added to the checkpoint hole where the breach occurred. (#6, #12 or #18)

POSITION

First Group(s) off Either Tee – The first group(s) will be in breach of the pace of play policy if they take more than the allotted time to finish a checkpoint hole until they reach (within 12 minutes) any group ahead. After they reach a group ahead, both conditions must be met to be in breach of the pace of play policy.

Position with Group Ahead – To stay within 12 minutes of the group ahead, players should never have an open hole and they should be in the fairway on par 4's and 5's when the group ahead leaves the green. If your group is out of position for any reason, i.e. lost ball, rulings, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GROUP TO MAKE UP LOST TIME. Your original time remains your pace of play.

CONCERNED PLAYERS AND APPEALS

A player concerned about slow players in a group should first remind that player of the pace of play policy and encourage them to play more efficiently. The concerned player may, before or after penalties are assessed, request an Official to monitor the group.

Appeals for exceptional situations will be considered only in the scoring area after the completion of the round and prior to the return of a player's scorecard. The appeal board will consist of three persons. At the completion of the round, previous penalties may be rescinded if the overall time goal is met.

DEFINITIONS

Timing –A checkpoint hole is complete when the ball, of the last player in the group, has been removed from the hole.

Allotted Time – The “allotted time” is the maximum time allowed to complete play of the course or the holes between checkpoints. The allotted time is predetermined by the Tournament Committee and may be adjusted between events. Time for ball searches, rulings, and walking or travel time between holes is included in the allotted time. The allotted time will be posted before the start of each round.