SDGA Mini Tour Information

Beginner Level

Purpose: The SDGA Junior Tour aims to provide accessible and competitive golf opportunities for junior golfers in South Dakota and the surrounding region. The *Mini Tour* is designed for 7-13 year-olds with limited or no competitive golf experience.

Format: Juniors will play 9-holes on regulation or executive length golf courses in stroke play events.

Ages: The *Mini Tour* has three age groups with divisions in each age group for both Boys and Girls: 9 & Under, 10-11, and 12-13. Intermediate level Boys in the 12-13 age group may choose to play 18-holes on the *Prep Tour* instead. 12-13 year old girls that wish to play 18 holes at high school length have the option to play up to the 14-15 girls division on the *Prep Tour*.

Eligibility: Membership is open to any junior. Age group is determined by the junior's age as of June 1. Juniors can play up into an older age group when registering for any event.
Note: *The SDGA Junior Championships are separate from the SDGA Junior Tour. Age eligibility for the Championships is determined by the junior's age on the first day of the Championship.*

Fees:

- SDGA Junior Tour Membership: $89
- Entry Fee per event: $25
- Late registration: $40 (based upon availability)

REGISTER for the SDGA JUNIOR TOUR and ENTER EVENTS

Deadlines/Refund Policy: Deadline to register is SEVEN days prior to the event date. 90% of entry will be refunded up to SEVEN days prior to the event. No refunds within SIX days of the event.

No Shows: If you are registered for an event, you are expected to show up on time and be ready to play. In the event that you are unable to participate, you are REQUIRED to use the **SDGA TEXT ONLY NUMBER 605-800-6435** to let us know. Multiple No-Shows may result in suspension from future events.

Events: Members are eligible to compete in any of the SDGA Junior Tour events in the four regions: West, Northeast, Southeast, and Metro. A Schedule of Events can be found at www.sdga.org/sdga-junior-tour/.

Awards: At each event, the top three places in each age group and gender division receive medals.

Season Points and Gift Cards: Points are awarded for top 5 finishes at each event. At the end of the season all players with points will receive a gift card worth $.50 for every point they have earned and can be redeemed at the course chosen by the player during Junior Tour registration. In each region, the top point leaders in each age group and gender division receive a plaque.

Point Leaders - SDGA Junior Tour Cup: Top finishers in each event earn points and point leaders in each region will be recognized. The top boy and girl point leaders in each age division will be invited to compete in the SDGA Junior Tour Cup on Monday, August 2 at Lakeview GC in Mitchell.

Sanford International: Winners of each age division and gender at the Junior Tour Cup will receive an invitation to the final round of the PGA Champions Tour event - The Sanford International - on Sunday, September 12. They will have lunch with dignitaries, and have the opportunity to meet and get a picture with the Champion at the end of the tournament.

Membership Benefits:

- Complementary Handicap Index™ and the GHIN mobile app. Post scores and learn to play games with friends and family using the GHIN app. Download the **GHIN** app or go to ghin.com**.** If you need help accessing your GHIN account, please use the **SDGA TEXT ONLY NUMBER 605-800-6435**.
- Complimentary daily ticket to The Sanford International - Sept. 11-13 - Minnehaha CC, Sioux Falls. Additional passes may be purchased with a special discount.
- SDGA Junior Tour bag tag

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Communications and Starting Times: No later than THREE days before each event, participants will receive a text and email with starting times and groups, and other pertinent information. Any change in starting times and/or potential weather cancellations will be communicated through text, email, and social media.

Parents and players can communicate with the SDGA via our **TEXT ONLY NUMBER 605-800-6435** or call 605-800-6709.

Yardage Guidelines: Yardages will vary depending on the course.

- Girls 9 & Under - 1500-1600
- Boys 9 & Under - 1900-2000
- Girls 10-11 - 1900-2000
- Boys 10-11 - 2400-2500
- Girls 12-13 - 2400-2500
- Boys 12-13 -2700-2900

Caddies:

- Ages 9 & Under - Each player is required to have an Adult Caddie.
- Ages 10-13 - Caddie as needed. Our rule of thumb is to give as much help that is needed but as little as possible.

Besides helping the player get around the course, below are responsibilities of the Adult Caddie:

- Carry your player's bag and enjoy your time walking with them.
- Get to know all of the players and caddies in your group.
- Help players search for their golf ball, determine distances, rake bunkers, repair divots in fairways and ball marks on greens, and remove/replace the flagstick on the green.

- After each hole, record the scores of your player and the player he/she is responsible to keep score for.
- Help your player with playing strategies and game decisions in a timely manner.
- Help to maintain a proper pace of play - keep up with the group in front - and teach pace saving procedures to the junior.
- Encourage your player after good and bad shots, and make sure he/she is having fun.

Pace of Play: Members of the SDGA Junior Tour are expected to navigate their way around the course with the proper pace of play, which is two hours for nine holes. If you get to a tee and the group in front of you is off the green, you are behind and need to take measures to catch up.

Scoring: All players and parents should have the **Golf Genius** mobile app downloaded onto their phone. One player in each group (caddie or adult spectator in younger age groups) will be responsible for entering scores into Golf Genius for live scoring and verification. Each player will also have a scorecard and will mark their score and the score as they compete. Following the event the players will proceed to the scoring area, agree on the scores and sign both scorecards.

10-Shot Rule: After a player has taken 10 strokes, including penalty shots, on any one hole they MUST pick up their ball, play no more shots on the hole, and record a score of 10 for that hole.

Spectator Policies: Please understand that each season we welcome new junior players to the SDGA Junior Tour as well as new parents. Everyone working together to create a quality experience for the Tour will make the events more enjoyable for all.

- Please keep at least 50 feet from players during play, except when assisting the search for a lost ball. When players reach the green, please move to the side of the green as a courtesy to the players behind.
- Communication with your own player and others in the group should be limited to general encouragement at all times. Between 9's you can talk with your player to give encouragement and to make sure they have what they need in terms of nourishment and/or golf supplies.
- Spectators can help look for balls and assist with pace of play issues. For example, if a player loses a ball and needs to return to where they last played, a spectator with a cart can assist.
- Please turn cell phones to silent or vibrate and take calls in an area that will not disturbed the athletes.
- Spectators can take carts but must abide by the course policies regarding cart usage. For example, do not drive carts up to the edge of greens and tees. Cart rental fees and reservations are determined by the host course.

Regardless of the age or experience of the participant, we expect all parents and spectators to maintain the highest standard of behavior, sportsmanship, and decorum. If an issue should arise, it must be confronted in a respectful manner and away from the athletes. Please reach out to SDGA staff through the **SDGA TEXT ONLY NUMBER 605-800-6435** if you need assistance resolving a conflict issue. Our goal is to teach junior tour players conflict resolution in a way that honors the values inherent to the game of golf.

Sportsmanship and Etiquette: Players are expected to abide by the high standards of behavior that the Rules of Golf demand. This includes taking care of the course, replacing divots, repairing ball marks, and raking bunkers. It also includes how we treat other players and making sure that we are respectful of them while they are playing. Likewise, parents, caddies, and spectators need to set a good example.

Rules of Golf: We do not expect players to be Rules experts, especially at the *Mini Tour* level. But our goal is for all our juniors and parents to fall in love with the game and respect the Rules. Some common Rules all golfers should learn:

- Taking Free Relief from Loose Impediments, Moveable Obstructions, Cart Paths, Ground Under Repair (Rules 15-16)
- Penalty Relief from Penalty Areas, Unplayable Ball, Lost Ball, Out of Bounds (Rules 17-18-19) ● Procedures for Dropping/Replacing a Ball (Rule 14)
- Provisional Ball (Rule 18.3)
- Wrong Ball (Rule 6.3)
- Ball at Rest Moved (Rule 9) and Ball in Motion Deflected (Rule 11)
- Playing Two Balls When Uncertain What To Do (Rule 20.1c(3))

And always remember that unless the Rules allow otherwise, *Play the Course as You Find It and Play the Ball as It Lies*. Players and parents are encouraged to take USGA Basic Rules of Golf 101 - Click Here

Thank you for your support of the SDGA Junior Tour. We are looking forward to another fun season!

SDGA Junior Tour Team
TEXT ONLY - 605-800-6435
OFFICE - 605-800-6709
sdgainfo@sdga.org

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