SDGA | Sanford International Series Information

Advanced Level

Purpose: The SDGA Junior Tour aims to provide accessible and competitive golf opportunities for junior golfers in South Dakota and the surrounding region. Designed for aspiring collegiate golfers, the *Series* helps players make an impact on their high school teams. It features several multi-day, 36-hole stroke play competitions, to prepare them for the collegiate level.

Eligibility: Players not already invited to join can apply for membership. To be considered, please submit a cover letter and a competitive resume to SDGASanfordSeries@sdga.org. High School players can apply, but priority will be given to sophomores, juniors and seniors, and players with *SDGA Prep Tour* experience and success.

Format: 36-hole stroke play events played over two days; 18-holes each day. *Fields will be limited to 90 juniors on a first-come, first serve basis.*

Ages: There will be a division for boys and girls. Players 19 years old who have graduated from high school in the current year are eligible as long as they have not started college.

Fees:

- SDGA Junior Tour Series Membership: $139
- Early Entry Fee per event (up to 30 days from first round): $90
- Entry Fee per event (less than 30 days from first round): $110
- Late registration: $135 (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.

Awards: At each event, the winning boy & girl will receive trophies and the next four places will receive medals.

Point Leaders - Series Championship: The top point leaders (24 boys & 12 girls) will qualify to play in the Series Championship at TBD on TBD.

Sanford International: Winners of the Series Championship 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.
- Complimentary daily ticket to The Sanford International - Sept. 10-12 - 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 tee times and other pertinent information. Any change in tee 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.

- Boys - 6700-6900
- Girls - 5500-5800

Caddies: Players are NOT allowed to have caddies.

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 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.

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. 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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