

Tournaments and Resources

Girls Only

Girls Golf LPGA www.girlsgolf.org
Peggy Kirk Bell www.pkbgt.org
Women's SC Golf Association www.wscga.org

Boys & Girls

SC Jr Golf Association www.scjga.org
Hurricane Junior Golf Tour www.hjgt.org
American Junior Golf Association www.ajga.org
US Kids Golf www.uskidsgolf.com
PGA Junior Golf www.pgajlg.com
Future Collegiate World Tour www.fcwtgolf.com
Tarheel Youth Golf Association
www.tygajuniorgolf.org
Carolinas Golf Association www.carolinasgolf.org

About Tournaments

Tournaments allow a player to see how their game compares with players from their state, region, country, and international. It is important for a player to have realistic goals and remember there's only one winner so focus on the process of improving your game.

Reading Resources

Golf Parent for the Future by Marriott & Nelson
Ping American College Golf Guide collegegolf.com
Golf Guide for Parents and Players: Secrets of Success *For Junior And College Golf, The Pro Tour And Beyond* by McSorley & Gonzales

Jr. Golf Guide



2016
Revision

Jr. Golf Guide

This guide is intended to provide parents and players information and resources to help navigate them through the junior golf experience.

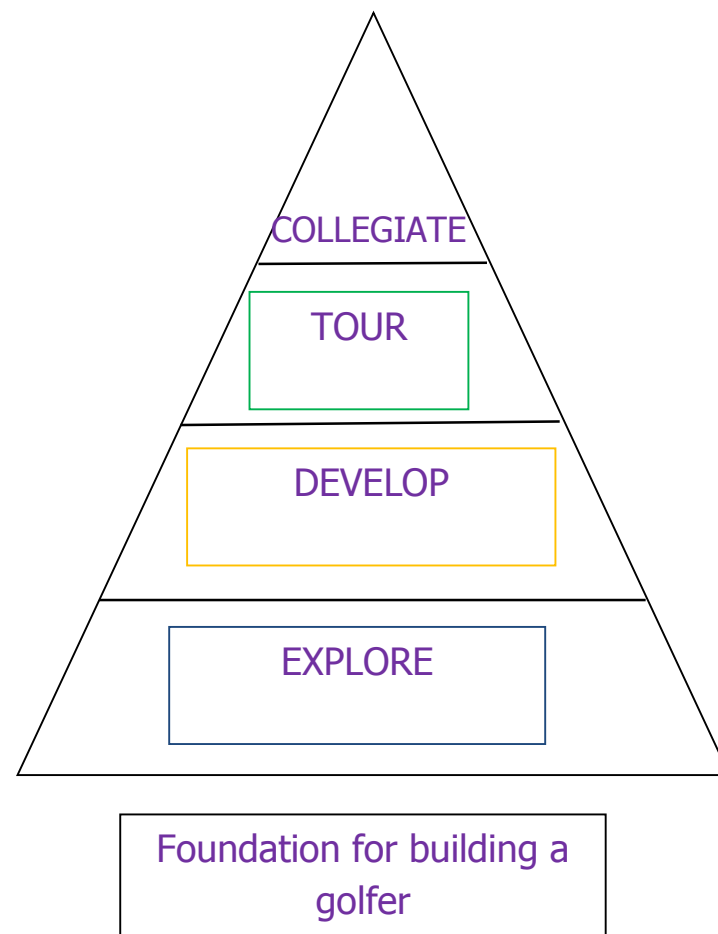
Unlike other team sports, golf can be a lonely experience unless you know how to connect with other parents and players.

Junior golf participation should be approached by skill level instead of age.

It's more important to think of skill levels versus age for long term enjoyment of the sport. With this approach a player will build fundamentals that will enable them to participate at their comfort level.

Realistic individual goals should be set before movement to the next level.

Let's breakdown and explore the different parts of the foundation for building a golfer and determine when to step up to the next level.



Jr. Golf Guide

EXPLORE

Typical Age Range: 5y – 10y

Recommended Equipment: US Kids Golf Clubs

Practice Time: Unscheduled unless part of a program

Course Time: Unscheduled unless part of a program

This is where a child is introduced to the game. It is important that the game is fun, social, and in a safe environment where they can learn to play the game. Practice and course time should not be a chore but rather a fun time involved with a program, parent, or friend.

Typically children at this stage are starting to participate in other sports and are involved in a variety of different sporting activities.

As a parent, look for programs at your local golf club, driving range, YMCA, or other Parks & Recreation departments.

If you are a parent that plays golf, try to arrange a play date but know that you will probably not be able to play 18 holes and be prepared to leave when the child loses focus.

Programs and Locations in the Greenville Area for this level include:

- Girls Golf at Furman of Greenville, SC - www.girlsgolfofgreenville.com
- First Tee of Greenville – www.thefirstteegreenville.org
 - Summer Camps
 - Furman University
 - Eagle Zone
 - Cross Winds
- Junior programs at local country clubs
 - Green Valley CC
 - Greenville Country Club
 - Thornblade CC



Jr. Golf Guide

DEVELOP

Typical Age Range: 8y – 12y

Recommended Equipment: US Kids Golf Clubs, starter set by preferred brand

Practice Time: 1 – 4 hours per week

Course Time: 1 – 4 hours per week

Congratulations! Your child has shown interest in learning the game of golf and wants to focus on participating in the game more. It is still important that the game is fun, social, and in a safe environment where they can learn to play the game.

During this level of development the focus should be on course etiquette, learning how to keep score, learning the rules of the game, learning new practice techniques, playing adjusted yardages based on skill level, and pace of play. Most courses have junior tees identified but if not a good rule of thumb is to play the following distances:

Par 3: 65 – 85 yd

Par 4: 125 – 150 yd

Par 5: 165 – 200 yd

Pace of Play: 2hr or less for 9 holes

Score: Pick-up if double par is reached

Continue participation in a program you enjoy. Once you've learned the basic rules of golf consider finding an instructor for individual or group lessons. **LEARN THE RULES!!**

Online rules and tutorials – www.usga.org

Finding the right instruction is a very personal decision. Ask your program director, club professional, or friends for recommendations. An instructor should be able to communicate with the player in a way they understand. Always write down what's worked on during the lesson and an associated practice drill. If you know a strong junior tour player you may consider asking them for instruction but always consider breaking bad habits is difficult.

There is no substitute for learning the correct fundamentals, seek an instructor that wants to teach you the correct fundamentals along with ensuring you understand the rules of the game, course etiquette.

Practice and course time improve your fundamentals but most people think this takes a lot of time. The big takeaway is to focus of 30 – 45 minutes of practice per set number of days verses trying to stay focused for a longer amount of time.

Jr. Golf Guide

TOUR

Typical Age Range: 8y – 18y+

Recommended Equipment: Based on size and ability

Practice Time: 10+ hours per week

Course Time: measured in holes, min 36 holes per week

This is the tricky part of the golf foundation. It is so tricky because players start to progress at different rates and as their ability level changes they should re-examine their goals.

When looking at tour play it is important to realize what that means both financially and time commitment. It is always recommended that the player build on their tour experience in the following way: club tournament success → local tournament success → State tournament success → Regional tournament success → National tournament success

Pace of Play: 4.5hr or less for 18 holes

Score: Competitive in the area tournament

Tournament schedules are typically posted in December for the upcoming year. It is recommended that the parent and player sit down at the beginning of the year and each quarter to map out their goals and objectives to match them against tournaments that fit into the player's schedule.

Club Tournaments

If you are not a member of a local club now is the time you should consider finding a home course that has a strong junior presence. There are many clubs in the Greenville area and fortunately the state of SC has a strong junior golf presence.

If you are consistently finishing in the top 5 of your age group at your club you are ready to test your skills at the local level against other area golfers.

Local Tournaments

It is important to understand the local tournament and players it attracts for their events. It is recommended all SC players start their tournament experience participating in the South Carolina Junior Golf Association or SCJGA. The SCJGA is steeped in junior golf tradition and offers many tournaments throughout the year for all abilities. In the summer, Greenville is fortunate to participate in the Hootie & Blowfish Chapter Program where a different course is played each week for points to top finishers.

Visit www.scjga.org

Advanced Tournaments

These tournaments draw players from all over the world. Typically these courses play ~6000+ yds for girls and ~6500+ yds for boys. These tournaments attract collegiate level players and offer the opportunity to compete at longer distances and challenging course set-ups.