



Buffalo District Golf Association

Junior Golf Program

The Buffalo District Golf Association (BDGA) is a not-for-profit organization, sanctioned as a Regional Golf Association by the United States Golf Association, that supports amateur golf in the 7 counties of Western New York and Southern Ontario, with a special emphasis on junior golf. I would like to apprise you of information and events the BDGA does year in and year out for junior golf.

Before I mention our events, just a brief history of the BDGA's junior golf program - The BDGA is the second oldest Regional Golf Association in America. Its rich tradition has been in place since 1921. Although the BDGA has hosted and will continue to host many amateur tournaments in the WNY area (see buffdga.org), there has been and will be a continued effort and major emphasis to promote junior golf. So many current golfers started their golfing life playing in BDGA events. Golf is a game for a lifetime. It promotes accountability, honesty, integrity, competitiveness and a strong work-ethic, all characteristics that are important for a successful career no matter what endeavor a person decides to pursue. The social aspect of golf cannot be duplicated. Friendships and relationships are made every day on the golf course. As a young adult, involvement in as many activities as possible should definitely be pursued. Playing sports, and hopefully golf, is one of the greatest things a junior can do. Whether playing presently as a junior golfer or considering taking up the game (whether it be on the high school team or summer golf or both), golf will enrich your life. We hope you can participate in our events and programs. Here is a summary:

- 1) **Tournaments** – The BDGA holds two junior (ages 15 – 18) and sub-junior (ages 14 and under) events for boys and girls – The BDGA Stroke Play Championship and the BDGA Match Play Championship. As the BDGA is the only true amateur association that covers all of Western New York, winning one of these events makes that junior or sub-junior boy or girl **THE CHAMPION GOLFER OF WESTERN NEW YORK!** That is quite an accomplishment. We hope that all junior golfers in the area would strive to attain this prestigious honor.
- 2) **BDGA Junior Interclub** – Junior Interclub is a program in which clubs and courses form teams of 4 juniors and 4 sub-juniors. These teams from the clubs compete against each other throughout the summer. Leagues are formed for the teams to compete, very similar to what a high school league would look like. Many clubs use Interclub as a way to host junior events at the club, and as a reward for doing well a spot on the Interclub team. There can be weekly qualifiers for the Interclub team, point lists, etc., whatever individual clubs want to do. Many clubs have upward of 40 or 50 juniors in their program. Clubs are allowed to have more than one interclub team if the participation warrants it.
Note – Interclub is FREE for the players! Clubs pay a fee to the BDGA for participating in the Interclub program (to pay administrative costs), but there is no charge to the players. It is absolutely free.
- 3) **Scholarships** – The BDGA has given scholarships to deserving junior golfers that have participated regularly in BDGA events. Since 1976 the BDGA has given close to over 450 scholarships worth close to \$500,000. Up to 5 scholarships per year may be given out worth up to \$1000 each.
- 4) **Sponsorships/Fundraiser Tournament** – Our goal at the BDGA is to continue to grow our junior events, to keep junior golf cost at a minimum and to carry on our scholarship program. As mentioned, juniors play in the Interclub leagues FREE! Tournament costs are only \$40 on average. To help us reach our goal of keeping these costs as they are, the BDGA runs a fundraising tournament each year, usually the third Monday in August. Any assistance, whether it be playing in the tournament or a sponsorship, is greatly appreciated. More information may be found on the website when it becomes available.

Our goal is to grow junior golf in Western New York and keep the future of the game of golf growing. Contact us at any time if you have questions or inquiries about the BDGA and its many opportunities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mark Rydza – Executive Director

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