

Dear NYSGA Junior Golfers,

With the end of the 2016 golf season in sight, we now look toward the start of the 2017 championship season. The New York State Golf Association is making major changes to our NYS Junior Amateur Championship that I wanted to share with you today!

Free Qualifying: The NYSGA is waiving all qualifying costs for next years Junior Amateur! The only requirement we have from players is to have an established USGA handicap index. Junior Golfers are eligible to receive a USGA handicap at no charge, they simply need to sign up on the NYSGA website! The waiving of this costs allows players of all abilities, even some players with little tournament experience, the chance to play a competitive round with little to no consequences for playing poorly.

Tee Gifts and Prizes: Each participant will receive a small tee gift at their assigned qualifier. Tee gifts will range from hats, towels, or other NYSGA logoed gear The NYSGA will also provide snacks and water at the turn and starting tee, free of charge.

Opportunity to Compete for a State Title: Top finishers at each qualifier will earn invitations to compete in the 2017 NYS Junior Amateur Championship at Seven Oaks Golf Club in Hamilton, NY for the title of best junior golfer in NYS. Seven oaks is owned by Colgate university, and we have secure cheap housing (Roughly \$50.00 a night) through the school for players and parents. All players who compete will receive a tee gift, a practice round plus two competitive rounds of golf, and lunch each day for a small tournament fee of \$100.00!

College Recruitment: In 2016, six head college golf coaches attending the NYS Junior Championship. This was the first year we advertised the event to college coaches, so I expect that number to grow every year. The NYS Junior Amateur Championship provides a perfect venue for coaches to view players from across NYS. Many coaches provided college brochures and stuck around to answer questions for curious players and parents. A lot of players don't get the opportunity to get recruited, so this championship offers a venue for players to meet coaches and to pick their brains about the nuances of college golf.