



MCJGA Guide to Assisting Junior Golfers

Thank you for volunteering to assist a playing group of our MCJGA Division 3 golfers in tournament play. Some of these players are still very new to the game. Here are some pointers:

1. **Rules**

Get a Rule Book and a scorecard from the Pro Shop and take it with you. Be prepared if there is a questionable situation. Use your best judgment and, in general, take a lenient stance. When in doubt, have the player play a second ball and card two scores. Then, consult the host Pro, who is also the Tournament Director.

2. **Keep them moving!**

Younger players are slow not only because they take more strokes, but also because they are still learning to maneuver around the course efficiently. Teach them the shortcuts!

- One practice swing! That's it! No more!
- No talking if you're not walking! Move off greens briskly.
- Leaving a bag in the wrong place can cause a double trip.
- Once everyone is putting: "Closest to the hole removes the pole. First one in replaces the pin" (so the pin goes in immediately!).
- Ideal playing time is 15 minutes per hole, or 2 hours and 15 minutes for nine holes.
- Observe the max strokes limit per hole: If a player reaches double par on a hole place the ball at the edge of the green and play from there.

3. **Etiquette**

Please teach: manners, etiquette, "honors", avoiding walking on or shadowing another's putting line, stillness & silence for a hitting player, marking a ball and repairing a fairway or green divot. And more. Teach what you know! Teach safety.

4. **Coaching**

Although this is a tournament, coaching is permitted in this age group.

- (a) First, please, know whereof you speak before coaching
- (b) Keep it very brief
- (c) Help all players equally. While you are not a golf pro, you definitely know enough about a particular aspect of the game to be a real help to one of our more inexperienced players.