

www.nfjg.org



MEMBER HANDBOOK 2009-2010



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Eligibility

The NFJG is open to all young men and women. NFJG conducts programs and or events for junior ages 8 to 18, not yet attending university or college. Benefits of membership include:

- USGA Rules of Golf Book
- NFJG Bag Tag
- NFJG Tee Shirt
- Ticket for end of year banquet for the NFJG Tournament of Champions
- Special Summer rates to play at TPC Valley Course

Note: As benefits are added, they will be listed on this sheet and members will be notified by email.

NFJG 2009/2010 Tournament Series

The NFJG conducts a Tournament Series (12 events), the Players Junior Tour and specialty events in the North Florida area. All events are open to NFJG members and the season runs from September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.

The Tournament Series is divided into three levels in order to provide a more competitive environment for junior players within their skill set. Below are general guidelines for each division where the yardage and difficulty are adjusted based on skill and scoring.

Evaluations: Current members desiring to change divisions must be approved by the Tournament Director. All new members will be evaluated at a pre-determined date. Change of age is not a specific reason to change Divisions.

Masters Tour: Is an 18 hole competitive playing division and will contain three sub-age groups, 12-13, 14-15, and 16-18 and the Girls Division. The field will be a maximum of 85 players. Players on the Masters Tour play yardages from 5800 to 7000 yards depending on their age group. The girls play from 5300 to 6100 yards. Scoring averages for the Masters Tour are 84 and under. NFJG Tournament Director reserves the right to reassign a player to another Tour.

Master Tour: To be competitive, players in this division should have the following skills:

Ages	Yardage Total	Par 4's	Par 3's	Score/Avg.
16-18	6600 to 7000	430 yards	190 yards	83 and Under
14-15	6300 to 6700	400 yards	170 yards	84 and Under

12-13	5800 to 6200	370 yards	150 yards	85 and Under
Girls	5300 to 6100	370 yards	150 yards	86 and Under

Prep Tour: Is an 18 hole competitive playing division and will contain three sub-age groups, 12-13, 14-15, and 16-18. The field will be a maximum of 85 players. Players on the Prep Tour play yardages from 5000 to 6600 yards depending on their age group. The girls play from 4600 to 5400 yards. Scoring averages for the Prep Tour are from 85 to 100. NFJG Tournament Director reserves the right to reassign a player to another Tour or set age divisions based on participation.

Prep Tour: To be competitive, players in this division should have the following skills:

Ages	Yardage Total	Par 4's	Par 3's	Score/ Avg.
16-18	6300 to 6600	400 yards	170 yards	85 to 100
14-15	6000 to 6300	370 yards	150 yards	85 to 100
12-13	5000 to 5400	350 yards	130 yards	85 to 100
All Girls	4600 to 5000	350 yards	120 yards	80 to 90

Foundation Tour: Is a 9 hole competitive playing division consisting of players aged 10-11, 12-13 & 14-15. Players on the Foundation Tour will be mentored throughout the season to prepare them for the Prep or Masters Tours. On the Foundation Tour players are introduced to the rules of competitive play, etiquette and other skills necessary to move up in competitive play. They will be closely monitored by Golf Professionals and Tournament Experts.

- Players under the age of 10 may be considered for placement in the Foundation Tour only. It is at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director. Every effort will be made to accommodate serious junior players under the age of 10.

Tee It Up Program: This is a developmental program designed to prepare the junior golfer for course play. The seven week program is administered throughout the North Florida area in which golf professionals work with juniors' ages 8 to 13 on rules, etiquette, scoring, golf course management, specialty shots, out of a sand trap, different lies, club choices etc. Tee It Up will also emphasize integrity, respect and responsibilities for the game of golf. The program is an adult to junior ratio of 1:5. Juniors must have had some golf clinic instruction and be able to hit the ball at least 75 yards. All juniors will be pre-certified to be in the program by the Tournament Director.

The Players Junior Tour (PJT)

These are two day events are open to all members and they compete in their respective age and gender division. Age divisions are typically 13 - 15 and 16 - 18 but may be changed based on entries. Members age 12 and under are welcome but must compete in the 13-15 age division at the respective distance. Some of these events will be:

NFJG PGA Junior Championship
Amelia Junior Masters
Reinhold Clay County
St John's Junior Invitational
NFJG Junior Open
JAGA Junior City Championship
NFJG Tournament of Champions

The PJT events are separate and have a separate application and entry fee. The winner of a PJT event will qualify you for the NFJG TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS and some of our special events. The age groups may be different; however, you will compete in whatever division based on the age that you are at the time of the event.

The PJT will also allow you to earn exemptions to the **Florida Junior Tour** (see the website for details). The FJT STEP program was designed to forge an easier pathway through the various levels of junior golf. This program is a strong reason to support the NFJG PJT'S as they are local and played on our best courses in the area. One (1) exemption will be earned by the winner of each age and gender division. However, if the winner graduates from high school in the same year as the exemption the exemption will go to the next place finisher as long as the two day event score is 160 or below for boys and 180 or below for girls.

Additionally, at the end of the year banquet, the **low scoring average** in the different age groups of the PJT events alone will be recognized and awarded a special gift.

Special Events

The special events are open to all members. The special events are:

Junior/Parent
Junior/Pro
Beaches Junior Four Ball
NFJG Match Play
Ryder Cup Challenge
FSGA Team Championship
NFJG Tournament of Champions

Registration

In order to play in any NFJG event you must be a member. Please see membership forms, code of conduct, and proof of age and waiver of liability forms under the "Become a Member" tab on the website at www.nfjg.org. You may register for events on line after you become a member.

Membership for all 2008-2009 NFJG members will be extended through August 31, 2010. New members are subject to the \$100 registration fee. After April 15, 2010, new members can register for \$75.

Effective September 1, 2010, membership fees will be due for the next season of September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011 and seasons thereafter.

Tournament Registration Deadlines

All events have an open and close date for registering and there is a penalty for withdrawing from an event. All no shows are non refundable. Registration is done at www.nfjg.org

Proof of Age

All participants must submit proof-of-age documentation along with a current photo to the NFJG in order to apply to tournaments. Please direct all related questions to: boots@nfjg.org.

Proof-of-Age Submission Guidelines

- Please do not send any documents that need to be returned to you.
- All proof-of-age documentation will be kept on file with the NFJG and will not be returned.
- No photocopies will be accepted unless notarized.
- No faxes will be accepted.
- ALL INFORMATION IS PRIVATE.

Acceptable Forms of Proof-of-Age Documentation:

- A certified proof-of-age document issued by federal, state or provincial registrars of vital statistics, or local offices, is acceptable proof-of-age, provided the document was filed, recorded, registered or issued within one (1) year of the birth of the child (i.e. birth certificate).
- For children born abroad of a parent or parents who are U.S. citizens, any official government document issued by a U.S. federal agency or service is acceptable. These must be originals, not copies, and must refer to a filing, recording, registration, or issue date that is within one (1) year of the birth of the child.
- A notarized photocopy of the following documents (state law permitting) will be acceptable only if the document is notarized after the photocopy has been made and the ink signature or raised stamp is visible:
 - Birth Certificate
 - Valid Passport
 - Valid driver's license
 - Documents from Nos. 1 and 2 above

NFJG reserves the right to accept or reject any proof-of-age documentation not listed above.

How to obtain acceptable proof-of-age documents:

Certified birth records may be obtained from the Registrar of Vital Statistics of each state, province, or local office where the child was born, for a nominal fee. For U.S. born persons,

addresses of these offices or bureaus, fees required, and other pertinent information are supplied by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. A database listing the method of obtaining birth records from any U.S. state or territory is available at the following Internet addresses:

www.vitalcheck.com

www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm

Financial Assistance

NFJG offers a limited number of exemptions to those players whose families may be in need of financial help. Applications for financial exemptions may be requested by calling or emailing NFJG. Requests for financial exemptions must be submitted with the player's application. All information submitted as part of the financial request will be considered confidential.

Payments & Refunds

All payments are received and refunded through www.nfjg.org

Tournament Policies and Guidelines

Practice Rounds & Driving Range: Arrangements have not been made for practice rounds at any of the tournament sites. Some of the courses are open to the public; therefore you may arrange a practice round. You may mention that you are a member of the North Florida Junior Golf Foundation and some courses may arrange for you to play at a discount. Do not expect a discount or ask for a discount - it is not proper etiquette. Range privileges are for the tournament day only.

Tee Times: Tee Times will be emailed and or posted on the web site prior to each event. Players who do not have access to the internet may contact the host club for tee time information on the Friday prior to the event. The host courses do not prepare and cannot change tee times, therefore, please do not make a request to them.

Withdrawing from an Event: If a player needs to withdraw from an event they must do so online.

No Show Policy: Players who have registered for an event and who do not show up at the event without having given prior notification to the Tournament Director will be considered a "NO SHOW". If you are listed on the tee sheet as a no show you are subject to suspension for the following event. You must request to be reinstated in writing.

Conditions of Competition

The Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play, including local rules on the Notice to Competitors (Rules Sheet), which is distributed at every event.

TOURNAMENT DAY CHECK-IN: each player is required to check in person at each event at the registration desk. Players are to check in prior to going to the practice areas each day of an event.

ASSISTANCE: Unless otherwise permitted by the Committee, players shall not use caddies or yardage distance devices during a stipulated round. Penalty for Breach of Condition: Disqualification

PULL CARTS: Players are permitted to use a pull cart during a stipulated round. NFJG is not responsible for providing such pull cart.

PACE OF PLAY: Up to Four Check-Points can/will be used unless otherwise indicated. All players in a Group are subject to penalty, Players may receive warnings. Each Group is responsible for monitoring their own pace.

Allotted Time:

- Standard Time par is 4 hours and 30 minutes.
- 13 minutes for a par 3, 15 minutes for a par 4 and 17 minutes for a par 5.
- Time for Ball searches, rulings and walking between Holes is included in the allotted time.

Check-Points are to be completed in the following amount of Time.

Hole #'s	4/13	9/18	13/4	18/9
Time allotted	1:00	2:15	3:15	4:30

Timing:

A Group's Time begins when its first player is announced off their starting tee. Check-Point Times are measured when the flagstick is replaced in the Hole after all players in the Group have holed out.

Out of Position:

- First Group: At any Time they exceed the allotted Time to play.
- Following Groups: At any Time they exceed the allotted Time to play and are more than 14 minutes behind the Group ahead.

Notification:

A group in breach of the pace will either be signaled by a Red Card or verbally notified by an official.

Penalty:

- 1st Potential breach – One stroke penalty
- 2nd Potential breach – Two stroke penalty
- 3rd Potential breach – Two stroke penalty
- 4th Potential breach – Disqualification

- Penalties are added to the Check-Point Hole where the breach occurred.

Rescinding a Red Card:

A Red Card can be rescinded if a Group is in position or on Time through their next check point.

SUSPENSION OF PLAY FOR DANGEROUS SITUATION: Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect. When play has been suspended for a dangerous situation, all practice areas are closed until the committee has declared them open for use. If a player sees lightning or believes they are in danger, he or she may discontinue play and seek shelter.

SIGNALS FOR SUSPENSION OF PLAY:

- Suspension for a dangerous situation:
 - One prolonged siren or horn note.
- Resumption of play:
 - Two air horn notes.
- All other types of suspension:
 - Three consecutive air horn notes.

Breaking Ties

In the event of ties USGA Scorecard guideline will be used. NFJG uses the last nine, last six, last three and finally the 18th hole to break ties. The “last nine” holes are considered to be holes 10 - 18. If possible there may be a hole-by-hole playoff. If time permits, first place in any age division will play off.

Right to Reject

The Board of Directors reserves the right to deny or revoke the right of any individual to participate, if in its sole discretion, NFJG determines that the applicant's or participant's presence would impact adversely upon or be detrimental to the image of the Tour in any way, which is to include not only behavior but also score.

Spectator Guidelines and Policies

Spectators may view play from no closer than 30 yards. Talking to or advising players during play is not permitted. A player may be assessed a **2 stroke penalty** for each violation of this rule, with a maximum penalty of 4 strokes and disqualification.

Cell phones are not appropriate on the golf course. Please set your phone to silent. If you must make a call please leave the course. Please keep in mind that some courses do not permit the use of cell phones.

All spectators should be appropriately dressed. Please refer to the Code of Conduct; Attire section of the Member Handbook.

Please act appropriately and be appreciative of the staff and host facility.

All spectators are to adhere to the following guidelines:

- In order to maintain consistency, we ask that all spectators view play from the “rough” only. Spectators need to “stay up” with the group they are watching. Lagging behind slows play for the entire field.
- Spectators are not officials and should not make rulings on the golf course. Speaking to players or transportation of players is prohibited and could lead to penalties to the competitors.
- Please be courteous to all players:
 - Make sure that you are never standing directly behind (or in front) of any player preparing to hit.
 - Encourage all players with applause and compliments.
 - Keep small children under control.
 - Be conscientious when talking with others that players may be preparing to hit.

Please remember that part of the player’s experience with NFJG is a learning experience. Therefore, spectators are not allowed to interfere with the assessment of penalties and/or score keeping. If a spectator or competitor has a score or ruling question they should ask for assistance from a tournament official.

Spectator carts may be permitted –please check with the registration at each event.

Point System

The NFJG Tournament Series will earn points for the competitive year from September 1st to the last tournament prior to the NFJG Players Championship excluding special or PJT events. Any points earned within a tour will stay in that tour.

For the NFJG Tournament Series 2009/2010, the NFJG employs a weighted points system to determine eligibility in the events listed above. The method is commonly referred to as the 6/12 divisor and it works dividing the total number of points earned by the number of tournaments played with a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 12. What this means is that if a player has played 6 or fewer tournaments their point total will be divided by 6. For example, a player earned 300 points in 5 events, that player’s points equal 50 (300 divided by 6 events). When a player plays in 6-12 events their total points will be divided by the actual number of events played. For example, a player has earned 640 points over 8 events, their point total will be 80 (640 divided by 8 events).

<u>Boys & Coed</u>		<u>Girls Division</u>	
Place	Points	Place	Points
1	100	1	100
2	80	2	80
3	65	3	60

4	55	4	45
5	45	5	30
6	35	6	15
7	25	7	10
8	15	8	5
9	10		
10	5		

Points will be distributed equally among ties except for first place which will have a tie breaker.

For the NFJG Tournament Series 2009/2010, NFJG will use the calculations provided by Bluegolf. The Tournament Series points will be combined for a grand total based on the weighted point system which will be used to determine eligibility for the:

- NFJG Tournament of Champions
- The Ryder Cup Challenge
- Match Play Championship
- FSGA Team Championship

Player of the Year: Player of the Year will be determined by the total number of points earned for the entire season in the different age groups.

Code of Conduct

As a member of the NFJG you will have the privilege of visiting fine golf clubs in the North Florida area and tour members AND their parents and spectators are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen.

CONDITIONS OF PLAY: Entries are subject to withdraw at any time (including during the event) by the NFJG. The reason for withdraw may include improper attire and/or unbecoming conduct. Any person whose entry is accepted shall be subject to the rules and conditions of play set forth by the NFJG.

VIOLATIONS ON THE GOLF COURSE: Unsportsmanlike conduct includes abusive language (profanity), club throwing, disrespect to volunteers, disrespect to officials or fellow competitors, abuse of the course or facilities, or the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco products.

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATION PENALTIES: The game of golf relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and behave in a disciplined manner, irrespective of how competitive they may be that day.

The NFJG Tournament Committee, based on severity and frequency of the violation(s), may:

- Warn the player, or
- Disqualify the player from the tournament at which the violation occurs, or

- Depending on the severity of the violation, a tournament disqualification may also result in disqualification from the next tournament(s) for which a player has been accepted.
- NFJG reserves the right to suspend or revoke a player's membership or entries for a serious breach of the NFJG Code of Conduct.
- A player's disregard of others is not limited to the current round but may include repeated offenses from tournament to tournament.

Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- Club tossing or throwing
- Words or phrases (profanity) that may be disrespectful to others
- Kicking or throwing their bag
- Poor etiquette
- Any unnecessary/intentional damage to the golf course or property

ATTIRE

- Hats/visors must be worn with brim forward; males must remove hat/visor while indoors at host facility.
- Golf shirts must be worn and tucked in at all times.
- Men's collarless shirts are acceptable when designed for golf.
- Women's fashion shirts without a collar are acceptable but should have sleeves.
- Women's shorts must be no more than 5" above the knee or the inseam of the shorts must measure at least 5".
- Men's shorts must not hang past the knee.
- All attire must also meet club guidelines - when in doubt - dress traditionally.

PROHIBITED ATTIRE

- Tank tops, T-shirts
- Denim shorts, short-shorts, cut-off shorts, gym shorts, jeans
- Camouflage designed attire, including hats
- Earrings (males)
- Body Piercing (other than earrings for females)

Proper attire is required at all times at the host facility, including players meetings and cookouts. Questionable attire will be reviewed by the NFJG Tournament Committee. Should a host facility have a stricter dress code, its policy will take precedence. Players in violation will not be allowed to tee off.

APPEALS: Any appeal must be made in writing to the NFJG Board of Directors at P.O. Box 551704 Jacksonville, FL 32255. Appeals must be made within two weeks of the occurrence.

Scholarships

The purpose of the NFJG Scholarship Program is to encourage and promote the attainment of continued education goals for members who have demonstrated a high level of academic achievement during school or college. Applicants for the NFJG Scholarship Program must be members (or past members currently in college) of the NFJGF. The involvement or achievement in NFJG tournament programs is not part of the selection criteria.

Applicants must have completed (or plan to complete) high school and must be enrolled (or planning to enroll) as a full time student. A full time student is defined as one who is taking 12 or more hours in a course of study leading to a traditional associate (2 year) or baccalaureate (4 year) degree at an accredited college or university located within the United States, or considered a full-time student by his/her respective institution. Please go to the Scholarship portion of the website for details www.nfjg.org.