



# PGA

Pacific Northwest Section  
Oregon Chapter

## **OPGA BEST PRACTICES**

### **Robyn Lorain, Willamette Valley Country Club**

PGA Junior League and weekly practice opportunity April through October, featuring dinner on the patio on home match nights.

### **Bryce Poulin, Camas Meadows Golf Club**

Golf-in-School & Partnership with Community Businesses:

I direct and execute our Golf-in-School Outreach Program, in which we partner with local elementary schools and PE teachers to introduce the game of golf to thousands of elementary school students in Camas, Vancouver, and Washougal, all free of cost to the community. Since 2015, our Golf-in-School has exposed more than 11,000 students to the game of golf, with more than 1,250 coming to our facility for a free community range experience. In May 2018 alone, we brought our golf-in-school program to three local elementary schools and 1,000 additional students were exposed to the game of golf in PE. I believe that if you put your efforts into making your community better, the community will repay the support in even greater ways. The spring golf-in-school efforts are focused on promoting our annual GolfZilla community event, which attracted a crowd of 250 people this past June, many which had never been to a green-grass facility before. **New in 2018**, we partnered with a local business, Chick-fil-A Restaurant, to have their presence on our driving range for the community event. They brought free food, coupons, giveaways, and a cow mascot dressed in golfing clothes. The owner of the restaurant was a student in one of my adult programs in 2017, and through our relationship we were able to team-up for the GolfZilla event. This teamwork provided an experience for our local community that could not have been achieved alone.

### **Kevin Story, Eagle Crest Golf Resort**

Eagle Crest Golf Academy implemented Operation 36 as our primary platform for instructional programs in 2017. Academy students enroll in 8 week semesters that include academy classes, supervised practices, and on course matches. In 2017 we had 55 families and had over 90 families enrolled for 2018. All students have phone apps to follow the program and are able to track all training, playing, and on course assessments throughout their program.

### **Patrick Oropallo, Oak Knoll Golf Course, Ashland**

Free Lesson Friday- Every other week for an hour and a half, I will donate my time to instruct and build relationships with youth in our Ashland community. These lessons are generally introductory in nature, loose, fun and we provide the equipment if needed. I will use this program to promote PGA JLG, private instruction, Foot Golf, merchandise and our summer membership offerings. Junior golf is totally missing in this community so I am sure this program will help grow the game of golf in Ashland.

PGA JLG- Promoting your PGA JLG program through schools. Lunch presentations, presentations during assemblies, handing out flyers, running a putting contest on a putting mat to generate interest. This worked well for in in 2016 when I brought PGA JLG to S. Oregon...

### **Zach Lampert, Meadow Lakes Golf Course, Prineville**

At Meadow Lakes Golf Course, we offer junior clinics throughout the season. In our last session, there were 45 juniors. Of that group, there were 17 kids who did not have his/her own equipment. Like many golf courses, our junior loaners primarily consisted of adult clubs that had been cut down. This creates several problems for kids trying to learn fundamentals. Junior golf equipment has come a long way in the past ten years. The days of used adult clubs that were cut down for junior golfers should be gone. The main problem with the old cut down set of golf clubs is the weight of the club and the stiffness of the shafts. When you take 4 to 5 inches of length off a golf club, you make the shaft extremely stiff. This makes it hard for junior golfers to get the ball airborne. The new junior sets have shafts that are the right flex for a junior's swing speed, and the overall weight of the club is light enough that kids can have higher swing speeds while staying in posture and hit the ball further. Thanks to the OPGA Player Development grant, we were able to purchase sets of junior clubs to be used by players in the junior programs during the lessons. We were able to fit each kid into the proper length of club, which promoted maximum learning during the sessions. Improper equipment can hinder learning, and cause frustration. With the new sets, we were able to see a higher learning curve, and faster improvement. Overall, the kids had more fun with the new clubs than they would have with the old, outdated cut down equipment.

### **Aaron Oakley, RiverRidge Golf Complex, Eugene**

In 2018, I successfully pursued hosting my own entire PGA Jr. League at RiverRidge. I had 46 kids register for the program that included a sibling discount. Also, I utilized scholarships available through PGA REACH for five of those 46 kids. The season consisted of 10 practices, six games, and an epic end of season party. LPGA Professional Jennifer Kern assisted me with the program, and there is no doubt I wouldn't have made it through the season without her. The biggest advantage of hosting my own league was having complete control over the schedule. The families enjoyed a consistent experience with supplies (golf balls, tees, and ball markers) and beverages available at the first tee box where each player's name was announced over the PA. My biggest concern about hosting my own league revolved around "kids" (let's be honest, parents) getting bored with the same golf course, so I scheduled three games at other

local golf courses that don't currently have PGA Jr. League teams: Diamond Woods Golf Course, Springfield Golf Club, and Laurelwood Golf Course. The kids enjoyed playing new golf courses, and the facilities were thrilled to have new families visit. The financial impact to RiverRidge was substantial: \$840 in green fees, over \$650 in range balls, \$100 in merchandise (not counting purchases by parents for players), over \$900 in cart fees, and almost \$450 in beverage cart sales.