



# VCJGA TOUR POLICY AND Player Handbook

**WE ARE HAPPY TO HELP...**

**VCJGA**  
VISIT: [VCJGA.ORG](http://VCJGA.ORG)

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## Welcome

We are happy you are a golfer that wants to progress as a player!

Please take the time to review the following information. It can only help both the player and the parent/guardian.

## Membership

Membership is open to all junior golfers from age 7 until the day they begin college.

Membership fees is good for 12-months from the date you register and are NON-REFUNDABLE once you join.

Membership is subject to approval.

Membership is not required to compete. Juniors wanting to compete can sign up and play as a non-member paying an additional entry fee.

A Season coincides with a school year from September to August. You may join the VCJGA at any time.

The VCJGA is a web-based program and all business is conducted online. Please take time to navigate [vcjga.org](http://vcjga.org) (especially the Players/Spectators tab) as this information is useful and will answer most of your questions.

## Tournament Overview

All tournaments are played at scratch (no handicaps); and **NO Caddies or motorized carts.**

All tournament play is governed by the current **Rules of Golf** published by **United States Golf Association**. Although we have Rules Officials at each tournament, it is vital that players understand that they are responsible to comply with the Rules of Golf and Terms of the Competition; and that not knowing a Rule will not change the Ruling (Rule 1.3).

Spectators have no standing in the competition and therefore should never get involved in tournament play (including scoring). ALWAYS CALL for assistance if needed.

Other important Policies that require your special attention are:

- VCJGA Tour Policy – Player Handbook
- VCJGA Code of Conduct & Character (Must be reviewed, signed and delivered before the first round of their first tournament played)
- Spectator Code of Conduct
- Pace of Play Policy

GOLF IS FUN! Although many players find reading the Rules of Golf a tedious chore, it is a MUST to have some basic knowledge to prevent penalties up to and including disqualification.

The purpose of **Rule 1** is very telling. It immediately informs players of the purpose of the game, Player Conduct and Rules. Finally places the responsibility of upholding the Rules of Golf squarely in your hands...

**1. Two Great Principles - Play the course as you find it and play the ball as it lies.**

## 2. Play by the Rules and in the spirit of the game.

- **You (the player) are responsible** for applying your own penalties if you breach a Rule, so that you cannot gain any potential advantage over your opponent in match play or all the other players in the tournament field in stroke play. Players are expected to recognize when they have breached a Rule and to be honest in applying their own penalties.
- **The Tournament Committee** is a phone call away to help you when you have a question about your options, a procedure, or a ruling.

Golf is a complex game, and we must anticipate that the Rules will reflect this fact. If you have any questions about the **USGA** Rules of Golf, we encourage you to ask because ignorance of any rule will not change the penalty. Always, always contact a Rules Official) when you don't know what to do or how to proceed. Above all, learn the phrase, "what are my options?". This will begin help the process begin so that we can move forward without delays.

## Player Conduct

The VCJGA Code of Conduct & Character along with the **USGA** Rules of Golf have a lot to say about how we conduct ourselves.

**Conduct Unbecoming:** while participating in any VCJGA tournament; and the player and their parent/guardian will need to review, print, sign and return to the VCJGA Director of Tour Operations.

When you arrive at the golf course you are expected not only to act like a golfer, but to look like one as well (see Code of Conduct & Character).

## Code of Honor

**Protect the Field:** Golf is a game of honor. Players are expected to call penalties on themselves. Competitors in a tournament, "protect the field" by monitoring each other as a group; and at scoring, place an attesting signature on a scorecard. This peer review is the method by which players monitor play and attesting scores before they are posted. This is your opportunity to ask questions. Please have the courage to ask a player about an incident to get clarification.

The game's code of honor means that even a hint of cheating or dishonesty can tarnish an individual's reputation – A reputation takes a lifetime to build and only a moment to destroy. Most players have experienced the uncomfortable moment of asking, or being asked, whether a ruling was administered properly or if the right score was reported and recorded for a hole. Marking scores on your Official Scorecard as the round progresses is a responsibility for all players.

Playing a course for four-plus hours and walking over 100 acres can produce a number of situations and emotions that may require special attention when a group arrives at the scoring table. The Official there will ask the group if there is anything that happened on course that may need to be questioned and reviewed. THIS IS THE PROPER TIME AND PLACE to settle these questions. In stroke play it is each player's duty in a group to PROTECT ALL the players that are not there to protect their rights – Don't leave the Scoring Table without bringing these questions to light.

**Cheating** and any knowledge of cheating must be reported to the Tournament Director as soon as possible. Knowing that someone is not adhering to the rules of golf makes you guilty of the same

offence. If a player is found to be cheating, they will be Disqualified under **USGA** Rule 1.2 and suspended from future play at the discretion of the Board of Directors. **It is the explicit duty of each competitor to protect the field.**

**Pace of Play is the responsibility of each player in the competition.**

- **Pace of Play:** **USGA** Rule 5.6 states, in part: “The player should play at a prompt pace throughout the round”.

Each player in each GROUP SHALL maintain proper pace as a GROUP and WORK TOGETHER!

Players that have difficulty keeping pace within the VCJGA standards may be suspended from tournament play until such time that they improve their ability to keep up the pace.

**IT IS UP TO ALL THE PLAYERS TO PLAY WITHOUT UNDUE DELAY AT ALL TIMES AND TO KEEP UP WITH THE GROUP AHEAD. ANY COMMON DELAYS, SUCH AS LOOKING FOR A LOST BALL, OR GETTING A RULING WILL REQUIRE THE ENTIRE GROUP TO MAKE THAT TIME UP OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF HOLES.**

**VCJGA Pace of Play Policy is posted on the first tee at each tournament.**

**When you arrive to the scoring table, it is imperative that you follow the instructions of the Scoring Official and respectfully complete the due diligence process to ensure true and accurate scores have been recorded, signed and attested.**

- **Scoring:** Because most disqualifications happen at the scoring table, it is vital that each player pays attention to take this responsibility seriously by taking care to handle due diligence by carefully following the Scoring Administrators directions. It does not matter if you had a good day or a bad day, others are counting on you to do the right thing. Review **USGA** Rule 3.3b.

**Failure to follow this policy will be cause for disqualification from a tournament and disciplinary action, up to and including suspension.**

**NO PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD BE CLOSE BY OR GETTING INVOLVED**

Player Services: All nice, friendly and passionate players welcome. Angry players need not enter.

- **Use of Distance Measuring Devices:** A Competitor may use a device that measures or gauges distance. The device CANNOT be used to measure conditions that might affect a player’s play such as gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc. **USGA Rules** - The use of a distance-measuring device (Cell Phone App) would constitute a breach of the Rules.
- If you use the device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect play **Penalty for Breach is Disqualification**

**A cell phone may be used by competitors ONLY in case of an Emergency (911) or to contact a VCJGA Rules Official.**

## **Player Responsibilities**

When players arrive to the golf facility before each tournament, IT IS PLAYER RESPONSIBILITY to follow the following routine upon arrival to a tournament:

1. Arrive at the golf facility 1-hour early and Check-In (Check your e-mail for this information sent the day before the first round. Be certain to look for this email sent from: VenturaCountyJGA@BlueGolf.com)
2. Warm Up: Use the range, chipping area and putting green.
3. Arrive on your starting hole 5-minutes early for final instructions, Local Rules & Hole Location sheet and scorecard.
4. Review the Local Rules, play, keep pace with the group ahead and record scores after each hole.
5. Immediately report to the Scoring Area and follow Rules Official instructions regarding due diligence procedures.

## Junior Golfer Playing Ability

Question: How do I know if my Junior Golf is ready to play tournament golf?

Answer: Boys and Girls should be able to score within 30-strokes of the course rating. The VCJGA is a great place to play your first TOURNAMENT round. With that said...

**The VCJGA is NOT the place for a Junior Golfer to play their FIRST EVER ROUND OF GOLF. Working with a reputable swing coach will help you to better prepare your physical ability to advance your ball, have basic golf knowledge; and then play tournament golf.**

To be prepared for tournament play, it is highly advisable that a minimum of ten (10) rounds have been played on a regulation course prior to registering for any tournament play. This will greatly assist your first tournament golf success and enjoyment.

Tournament golf is a challenging process, but the experience gained in the VCJGA will make you a better player and over-prepare you for your High School Golf Team.

It is important that a tournament player is ready to participate. Yes, they will learn and gain the kind of experience that can only be gained by playing tournament golf. Golf instructors can't teach experience, only tools to help you through the process.

A VCJGA Tour Member is expected to have the basic knowledge and ability and to play a round of golf under the following guidelines:

- Play by advancing your ball and navigate the course without any assistance
- Maintain a proper Pace of Play by being ready to play when safe and clear, without delay; place bag in a position that keeps you from back tracking
- Uphold all Rules of Golf, VCJGA Policy and Co-de of Conduct & Character

If you have any questions, please contact us at [zack@vcjga.com](mailto:zack@vcjga.com)

## LEGAL - Assumption of Risk and Release from Liability

**When you register to join the VCJGA, you agreed to the following with the VCJGA when you paid you Register:**

*The following will need to be agreed to before moving through the payment process...*

The undersigned hereby agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Ventura County Junior Golf Association and its officers, employees and agents against any and all loss, liability charges and expenses (including attorney fees) and costs whatsoever character which may arise by reason of participation in any program. (The Association does not provide accident, medical, liability, workers' compensation insurance or any other insurance for program participants.)

As a parent/guardian, I hereby consent to EMERGENCY TREATMENT of my minor child as a result of accident or injury. I further agree to pay any, and all cost incurred, as a result of said treatment.

I agree to carefully inspect and satisfy for myself that the facilities provided are reasonably safe for their intended use.

Once having conducted the inspection, I agree to expressly assume the risk of participation at the premises. I understand the Association retains the right to use photos taken during activities, for publicity purposes.

I ALSO AGREE TO ABIDE BY VCJGA:

1. Tour Policy
2. Code of Conduct & Character
3. Spectator Code of Conduct
4. USGA Rules of Golf; including Pace of Play Policy.

It is up to each member and their parent/guardian to both review and UPHOLD the VCJGA policies and agreements with the AJGA & SCPGA and to understand these agreements can change each January.

Breach of any rule may cause adjustment of division, disqualification from a tournament; up to and including suspension or expulsion from the VCJGA.

Membership is valid for 12-months.

Once you process any payment, you have agreed to these terms

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## Tours and Age Divisions

**MiniTour:** We have two age divisions for Boys & Girls:

1. **MT Boys & Girls 11 & Under** (9-holes)
2. **MT Boys 12 & Under** (18-holes) **and** **MT Girls 12 & Under** (18-holes)

The MiniTour has its own separate schedule and Tour Policy Manual sent upon registration.

**VCJGA Tour:** Mostly Middle School players - These players are more advanced and play 18 Holes.

1. **Boys 14 & Under**
2. **Girls 14 & Under**

Courses play approximately 4,800 to 5,500 yards for Girls 14 & Under; and 5,800 to 6,200 yards for Boys 14 and Under.

**VCJGA Championship Tour:** Mostly High School players - These divisions are our most competitive and play 36-hole over two-days.

1. **Championship Boys 18 & Under**
2. **Championship Girls 18U / 14U**

### 3. Championship Boys 14 & Under

Courses play approximately 5,500 to 5,900 yards for Championship Girls; and 6,100 to 6,950 yards for Championship Boys, and 5,800 to 6,200 yards for Boys 14 and Under.

Tournament golf is a process. Your first concern is to build confidence by advancing through the process of playing tournaments.

Playing Up (Playing in the Championship division before age 15) is available when a player feels that their skills are developed to the point where they would be able to complete within the desired division and keep up with their pace and abilities.

IMPORTANT - It is the Player/Parent responsibility to contact the Tournament division once a player has a qualifying birthday to advance to the next division. This should happen before registering for the next tournament.

The process to Play Up requires advance approval from the Tour Director

It is rare for players to be permitted to play up and the following points will be carefully considered:

**The age cutoff Date is September 1<sup>st</sup>.** If the junior golfer's birthdate is before this date, the player or parent/guardian is responsible to make the appropriate division change. Players with birthdates on or after September 1<sup>st</sup> are eligible to complete the current season in their current division until August.

### Tournament Registration

Because playing in a VCJGA tournament is not guaranteed, it is vitally important that each VCJGA member registers as early as possible to secure a spot in a tournament. Registration is handled on our [vcjga.org](http://vcjga.org) website (see Tournament Registration below for instructions).

- Plan your schedule - Tournament entry deadlines range from 8 to 10 days in advance of each tournament depending on the golf course requirements.
- Most tournaments may be entered up to 90-days in advance. Many times, a tournament will SELL OUT (the maximum number of players for a particular tournament is met in advance of the entry deadline). Check your schedule and Enter Early to avoid being left out. Remember that entering early helps us build bigger fields of competitors.
- If the field is full, register and you will be placed on the Wait List. Fees will be charged only if and when a spot opens. Be prepared that this may happen late in the week.

### Registration Instructions

Please plan ahead to make certain that you register well in advance of the entry deadline with the following procedure:

1. Sign-In to your Player's Club account using your specific ID and PWD. This will ensure that you don't need to fill in ALL required information that you completed upon registering for membership.

2. Select the tournament from the schedule that your division is offered to participate; and click. This will take you to the **TIP** (Tournament Information Page). Please review the TIP as each tournament detail will vary from course to course.
3. Located to the bottom right of the **TIP**, click on the registration icon. The system will walk you through registration step by step. Each entry is individually reviewed by the Tournament Director within 24-hours.
4. It is the registrant's responsibility to verify that your entry has been accepted by checking the **TIP** under the "Players" heading. This shows all approved players in the field.
5. Once your entry fee has been processed, you are now an official competitor.  
E-Mails generated by: [VenturaCountyJGA@BlueGolf.com](mailto:VenturaCountyJGA@BlueGolf.com) **MUST BE REVIEWED BY YOU!**  
This is how the VCJGA confirms your registration and sends information.

## Waiting List

If you register for the Waiting List, you are making a commitment to the VCJGA that if/when an available spot opens up, you will be available to play:

1. Players on the list are taken, first come, first served based upon the division that has an opening.
2. Notice may be short, and once processed, you will be an official competitor.
3. You will only be charged once entry has been accepted and processed; starting time will be communicated immediately; and then you are officially in the tournament field.

## Starting Times and Pairings

Starting Times/Pairings are viewable on-line (see the **TIP**) 4-7 days in advance of the first round for preliminary purposes. Times and pairings become OFFICIAL once they are e-mailed to the field (limited circumstances could be cause for a revision of starting times). 36-hole & 54-hole tournaments will require re-pairing for the final round, players will need to check the **TIP** or e-mail ([VenturaCountyJGA@BlueGolf.com](mailto:VenturaCountyJGA@BlueGolf.com)) for final round pairings/times prior to the next round.

### **NO REQUESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED TO PLAY WITH SPECIFIC COMPETITORS.**

We can only make special tee time consideration based on summer school obligations or for car pool purposes, however, you **MUST** communicate this need in advance of times being e-mailed. Those players in the same division only will be paired within 20-30 minutes of each other.

- **Send Communication to:** [zack@vcjga.com](mailto:zack@vcjga.com)

First round pairings are made in a variety of ways including, random draw, stroke average, Player of the Year points, national ranking, graduation year, pace of play track record, etc. If you have limited starts with the VCJGA, your starting time will likely begin later until we have more data regarding your playing ability and pace of play.

Please NOTE: In order to preserve a proper pace of play, Girls groups may be woven into the Championship Boys field.

Final round pairings are made based upon first round scores. In the final round, the higher scores will go out first and the leaders will follow.

Before each round (unless an official communication is released), players are required to Check-In one-hour prior to their scheduled Starting Time; and report to their starting hole 5-minutes prior to their Starting Time.



## Cancellation Policy

The **Cancellation deadline is published on each tournament information page**

- If you cancel before the posted deadline, you are entitled to a refund of the entire entry fee, minus a **\$25 administration/e-commerce fee**.
- Be certain to e-mail: [zack@vcjga.com](mailto:zack@vcjga.com) before the deadline to be eligible to receive the above refund.
- **If you cancel after the posted deadline, you are not entitled to a refund or transfer for any reason. See Refund Policy below on next page.**

## Refund Policy

**TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE or TRANSFERABLE FOR ANY REASON, ONE-WEEK PRIOR TO THE FIRST ROUND TOURNAMENT DATE.**

This policy is due to contractual obligations that the VCJGA has made on behalf of the entire membership up to a year in advance of the scheduled event. Here's how course contracts work:

- Each golf course is in business to sell tee times; and they are limited in the number that they can sell. The VCJGA plays during prime time to accommodate the normal size of our fields.
- We sign a contract and make a deposit to hold our times at the golf course. Eight (8) to ten (10) days prior to the tournament (posted on the TIP) we confirm the number of players and make our final payment for the number of players we have registered to play. This process sets our final budget for a particular event.
- The VCJGA forecasts how many start times we will need based upon prior year history of registration, how popular the course is, etc. Courses require that attrition is no more than 10% of our original booking. i.e. if we book for 100 players; then we can only cut back to 90 players. Trying to add players is a difficult proposition, so please enter early.

## Withdrawal Policy

Once the first round of a tournament is inside of eight (8) days prior, the cancellation period has ended and a player that cannot play for a legitimate reason may Withdraw from the field. It cannot be emphasized enough, how important it is that players, parents/guardians understand how important it is to Withdraw in a reputable manner. I can guarantee that college coaches always look to see if a player they have interest in will WD. They want reliability.

Being that Withdrawing from a tournament can diminish the size, quality and integrity of a tournament, our partners, the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) and Junior Golf Scoreboard (JGS) have instituted the following withdrawal policy for players who withdraw from an event after they have started their first round. ***Once Tournament play has begun, all players needing to withdraw must report or call your tournament rules committee before leaving the facility.***

## Withdrawal Notations

The Director will then scrutinize the withdrawal and may ask the player and fellow competitors questions about the illness or injury. Based on the information gathered, the Director will

categorize the player's withdrawal in one of three categories listed below and the corresponding action will take place:

- **Withdrawal** - The player is obviously ill, injured, ill or a family tragedy has occurred. **WD** will be noted and no further action will be taken. A player that is found to have a WD due to poor play or a lack of ambition to play may be suspended from VCJGA play. This includes players leaving the golf course before returning in a scorecard (No Card=NC) to the Tournament Committee in which the event is conducted or failing to show up at all (No Show=NS) for any subsequent rounds of an event, without talking to the Director of Tour Operations in person.
- **FYI** – College coaches never want to see a DNS or NC; and a track record of WD's will obviously be a cause for major concern to them.

Please note the following letter regarding how college golf coaches feel about reliability...



Dear Junior Golfers and Junior Golf Supporters:

The **Golf Coaches Association of America** (GCAA-Men) and the **Women's Golf Coaches Association** (WGCA-Women) have recently been made aware of a growing concern in junior golf regarding tournament withdrawals. Obviously, as there is in any type of golf competition, withdrawal for legitimate illness, injury or personal emergency is understood. However, it has come to our attention that the practice of withdrawing from events in order to protect scoring average and/or national ranking is occurring.

One of the hallmarks of the game of golf is that it is a sport of honesty, integrity and discipline. In no other sport are the participants asked to enforce the rules of the game themselves and behave in a manner beyond reproach. **College coaches throughout the country evaluate prospective student-athletes based not only on their success in the classroom and on the course, but also on their integrity. The ability to perform despite adversity is a characteristic that all coaches place a very high premium on during the evaluation and recruiting process. Especially noticeable are those players who "press on" during challenging times in competition and especially those who shoot better scores after a poor round.** Equally noticeable to college coaches are those players who choose not to finish a competition. Final decisions on who coaches believe will best measure up to the challenges of college golf are made based on subtle differences. Through the cooperation and assistance of junior golf tournament organizers and the Junior Golf Scoreboard our members are able to see the results of all those who participate throughout the country and around the world. On behalf of all college coaches, please accept our best wishes as you continue to play the game!

Sincerely, GCAA and WGCA

## Awards and Point Distribution

Tournament scores are posted immediately onto the website and the recap and points are normally posted within 48-hours of event completion. Player of the Year Points for each event are posted in the entry detail.

Player of the Year Points are available for each tournament no matter the number of rounds or days that it takes to complete.

The VCJGA believes that the reward for playing in tournaments include, experience, courage, perseverance, etc. Only the top 3 finishers are Awarded a trophy or medal based upon division entry size:

1. **1<sup>st</sup> Place** - Must have at minimum of 2 competitors
2. **2<sup>nd</sup> Place** - Division must have a minimum of 5 players
3. **3<sup>rd</sup> Place** - Division must have a minimum of 9 players

Ties for first place only are decided by a Playoff. If a playoff cannot be reasonably accomplished, a chip-off or card-off will decide the winner.

For the MiniTour, the above minimum number of players is cut in half. Ties for first place only on the MiniTour are decided by a chip-off.

To ensure accuracy, we need all scores posted and approved prior to handing out awards. If you leave the tournament site before knowing the complete results and/or fail to communicate with the Tournament Staff that you need to leave and can't wait for the presentation, you will FORFEIT THE AWARD. Not communicating your inability to stay for the presentation will be viewed as a breach of sportsmanship and may be subject to suspension. You will retain your finish place and points.

Player of the Year Points are earned in every tournament played separately for each division. To view the points, see the TIP for each specific tournament.

## Ranking and Affiliations



- **JGS, GJGR, and AJGA** policy must be met and adhered to with regard to Ranked Tournaments. All 36-Hole tournaments (except Match Play) are ranked by **JGS** with minimum field size.

Tournaments with the following minimum number of competitors that start the first round may be offered **American Junior Golf Association PBE STARS:**

- Championship Boys must have 48 player minimum field size, playing at least 6,600 yards.
- Championship Girls must have 18 player minimum field size, playing at least 5,600 yards.
- Boys 11-14 must have 20 player minimum field size, playing at least 5,700 yards.
- Girls 11-14 must have 12 player minimum field size, playing at least 5,000 yards.

Additionally, the tournament operations must meet approved AJGA operating standards, including: Registration and Tee Time practices; Pace of Play; Code of Conduct; Withdrawal policies utilized and enforced. These organizations reserve the right to modify the above requirements as it deems necessary and the VCJGA has no control of their policies.

## Inclement Weather Policy

Inclement weather in and of itself is not a reason to cancel a round of golf or an entire golf tournament. Cold or rain are simply course conditions like heat and wind.

We ask that you do not contact the course directly, but rather pay close attention to e-mail for up-to-date information.

In the case of a weather delay, players are asked to remain at the course until announcements have been made. Several factors will be taken into consideration when determining whether to suspend a round, postpone, shorten or cancel golf:

**Unsafe Course Conditions:**

- Fast flowing creeks, overflowing lakes, bridge(s) out, trees falling over, etc.
- Golf traffic causes unnecessary damage to golf course

**Unsafe Weather Conditions:**

- Thunder storms (lightening)
- Rain so heavy that it would be unreasonably difficult to require players to continue
- Winds moving a ball on the putting surface, trees/limbs falling

**Standing Water on Fairways, Greens & Bunkers:**

- Too much or large amounts of casual water, especially on greens and fairways making the course impossible to play.

Please understand that in many cases, the weather forecast shows a system that may end within a reasonable length of time or holes to be played. If in doubt, players should plan to play.

## Suspending Play

**USGA** Rule 6-8b governs when play is suspended by the Committee. It states: When play is suspended by the Committee, if the players in a match or group are between the play of two holes, they shall not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they may continue provided they do so without delay. If they choose to continue, they shall discontinue either before or immediately after completing the hole, and shall not thereafter resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play.

However, a Note under **USGA** Rule 6-8b states: The Committee may provide in the conditions of a competition (Rule 33-1) that, in potentially dangerous situations, play shall be discontinued immediately following a suspension of play by the Committee. If a player fails to discontinue play immediately, he shall be disqualified unless circumstances warrant waiving such a penalty as provided in **USGA** Rule 33-7.

**This condition is in effect for all VCJGA Tournaments:**

- **Discontinue Play Immediately = One prolonged note of horn/siren.**
- **Discontinue Play = Three consecutive notes of horn/siren, repeated.**
- **Resume Play = Two short notes of horn/siren, repeated.**



## North/South Cup

The North/South Cup is a Ryder Cup style event played on a weekend each January in Palm Desert.

The VCJGA VS. FCG (Future Champions Golf) of San Diego. This is a great opportunity to REPRESENT the VCJGA in a highly competitive team atmosphere.

### TEAM SELECTION:

Each twelve (12) person team will be comprised of eight (8) Championship Boys; and four (4) Championship Girls.

### Eligibility:

1. Be a current VCJGA member in good standing.
2. Play in Championship Boys or Girls divisions.
3. Competed in a minimum 1 VCJGA tournament
4. Captain's Picks - We look at player ability, attitude, chemistry, and maturity for these picks.

## Volunteers

The VCJGA is a VOLUNTEER based organization. In order to produce organized, high quality tournaments, we need the help of adults.

*Volunteering reflects and supports a complete picture of you, and gives real examples of your commitment, dedication and interests.*

Volunteering contributes to a successful event. We have a few types of Volunteers:

- **Tournament Volunteers** is what we need for a given shift during tournament play. We need help with: Check-In, Starter, Pace of Play Monitors, Shuttle Drivers, Scoring, etc. You don't need any golf knowledge to help and we will show you what to do. About ONE WEEK PRIOR to the tournament you will receive an e-mail requesting VOLUNTEERS, simply reply to this request.
- **Board of Directors and/or Board Committee Volunteers** are invited to get more involved by either staff or Board members to assist with a specific function of the Board or event.
- **Tournament Committee Volunteers** or Rules Officials are invited to get involved by the Director of Tour Operation. These Volunteers need to have a strong desire to learn the **USGA** Rules of Golf and are required to attend multi-day training workshops; and be willing and available to Volunteer many hours during tournament play.

## Spectator Code of Conduct Policy

Spectating is a privilege on the VCJGA Tour, not a right. We require that all spectators (including parent/guardian) adhere to the **Spectator Code of Conduct Policy**. This policy is vitally important to the players, volunteers, staff and our partners.

The bottom line about spectator behavior is that it could determine the outcome of the tournament. Spectator conduct not only has rules of golf implications, it can also tarnish the credibility of the competition. Here is the Policy:

### PLAYERS PLAY - SPECTATORS SPECTATE - RULES OFFICIAL OFFICIATE

Parents and spectators are extremely important to the VCJGA; however, it is up to the hosting golf facility as to whether parents and spectators are permitted on the golf course and whether or not to charge a spectator fee. Spectating in golf may appear different than other sports such as little league, however; we expect spectators to give all players as much space as possible so that they may go about their business without distractions.

**PLEASE DO NOT GET INVOLVED WITH THE COMPETITION.**

Spectators **MUST** always register in the Golf Shop prior to going on the course. *Golf Carts will be available for rent at some facilities that allow cart rentals.*

1. Spectators may walk or if permitted ride the course and should stay one shot ahead of the group they are following. This allows spectators to follow errant shots and help identify where the ball comes to rest. Spectators are allowed to aid in the search for lost golf balls using care not to improve the lie of the ball. Once ball is found and identified by the player, spectators need to return to the cart path. Spectators must **KEEP OFF** **closely mown areas: tees, fairways and greens** - Stay on cart paths. In the absence of cart paths, we ask that spectators stay in the rough away from players.

- Remember to keep proper distance/space from all players (50 yards or more is recommended).
- Spectators cannot walk with players during tournament play and should make every effort to not disturb ANY of the players OR get involved in tournament play.
- Keep in mind that in many situations on certain parts of the course, a spectator may not be able to see the shot played nor are they entitled to see every shot played.

2. Spectators as a rule should NOT speak to players. A parent may speak with their child regarding #4 below.

3. Spectators **MUST RESPECT** all RULES SITUATIONS and NOT to give rulings on the Rules of Golf. You will be brought into a situation only if the Rules Official asks you. If you have a question or information, it should be done away from competitors and in a calm manner.

USGA Rule 6-1: The Player is responsible for knowing the Rules. If the Rules Officials need to change their focus from the players to the spectators, you may be asked to leave the golf course immediately.

4. Spectators are allowed to carry medicine, drinks/snacks for players (not equipment - Do not caddy, handle or go through a player's equipment/bag/hand cart).

5. Absolutely no alcohol or smoking when spectating.

The VCJGA may assess a penalty to the player based on the severity of the spectator violation. Continuous conversations with player(s) are not appropriate. If a serious breach has occurred, the spectator, without warning, may be asked to leave the golf course, the facility, or the spectator may not be permitted to attend other VCJGA tournaments.

Please note that parents/guardians and spectators agree to let participants compete without giving any advice or counsel during the stipulated round (review USGA Rule 10.2) knowing that a violation may cause a two-stroke penalty against their participant without warning.

For your personal safety, we ask you exercise caution at all times. Golf balls can come from any direction at any time, strike and injure you.

When inclement weather moves into the area, the VCJGA will suspend play by sounding air-horns. Accordingly, you should seek shelter immediately. The VCJGA and Volunteers will assist evacuating players from the course.

Spectators must be aware and move to safety on their own.

**SPORTSMANSHIP – PURSUING VICTORY WITH HONOR**

## Spectator Cart Policy

Spectator Carts will be allowed at all tournament facilities that allow cart rental and have the cart capacity to serve our spectator cart needs. Some facilities may restrict the number of carts available or not allow spectator carts to be used.

### **PROCEDURE to Request a Cart:**

1. Upon arrival check-in with the Golf Shop and pay the cart fee. Carts are given out in a first come first serve bases and at the golf shops consent. Some golf facilities might not allow spectator carts. Please check the tournament information page.
  2. The Tournament committee, golf course staff, or any tour official reserves the right to remove a spectator or the right to use a cart at any time during an event if a spectator is not following the Spectator Rules.
- The Spectator shall operate the cart in a safe manner, in observance of golf etiquette, following course operation policy and without any unnecessary interference with tournament play.
  - The Spectator shall keep the cart on the path and be aware that the players in the group behind may be waiting for them to clear the area.
  - The Spectator may not shuttle competitors at any time.
  - The Spectator needs to keep open space for Rules Officials to move around the course.

**This privilege may only be used at courses that allow spectators on the course and the Spectator is responsible for the course's cart fee.**

*\*The VCJGA is not responsible for a course with a policy that does not permit any spectator carts\**

- Revised July 2022