



PGA
Michigan Section

Growth of the Game Committee

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Committee Report for Spring 2018

The Michigan PGA Growth of the Game Committee has been very active since the formation of our team in the Fall of 2017 and I'd like to thank all of the committee members for their time and commitment to making our in-person and online meeting throughout the "off-season." Our time together has been guided in-part by the new 5-year strategic plan for the Section. Within this plan, the Growth of the Game Committee is focusing on the following objectives:

- a. Educate professionals on current growth of the game programs that are available and the importance of implementing programs
- b. Prepare members to administer the Golf in Schools program

In our first objective, the committee worked with the PGA of America, specifically Director of Youth Golf Development Bob Baldassari, PGA, PGA Junior League Regional Manager Kim Shafer, PGA, and Michigan Career Services Consultant Todd Smith, PGA, to deliver two educational seminars and four town hall meetings in February and early March. Roughly 10-15 people attended each seminar and those who attended expressed the great value of the information that they received. For the first time, we awarded the honor of "Program of the Year" to two Michigan PGA Professionals who participated in the Junior and Adult Player Development Grant program. 52 junior golf grant and 26 adult player development grant applications were submitted and a total of nearly \$50,000 in grant funds were distributed. Congratulations to Pam Phipps, PGA of the Cheboygan County Junior Golf Academy Foundation and Brian Kotowicz, PGA of Thorneapple Pointe Golf Club for winning, respectively, the Junior and Adult Programs of the Year for 2017. They will be eligible for additional funding in 2018 following the submission of their grant applications.

On the PGA Junior League front, we have 86 Captains registered and 9 of those Captains are new in 2018 (numbers as of 3/20/18). Those 86 captains are expecting to host over 120 teams amongst their facilities. However player & captain registration are still open so those number will fluctuate. We anticipate a growth in the total number of teams and captains going into the 2018 season. In addition, we anticipate more 16U leagues forming.

Other exciting news with PGA JLG is an adjustment to the post season as well as Michigan hosting a regional qualifier. The post season for PGA JLG will now be what we're calling a State Championship, with every all-star team competing over one weekend at a select location. For 2018, the State Championship will take place at Stonebridge Golf Club in Ann Arbor on August 16th & 17th. The Section is asking for volunteer support for this event as they will need 16-21 helpers each day of the event. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact Chelsea at the Section office. Finally, the Michigan Section has been selected as host area for one of the 2018 Regional qualifiers.

With our second objective of preparing our members to administer a Golf in Schools program, the Growth of the Game Committee is making headway. We are gathering information from school administrators and educators to find the right "recipe" for delivering a quality golf program during physical education classes in elementary, middle, and high schools. This information will then be formulated into a Golf in School Guide and coupled with regional training to help prepare professionals who are wanting to make an impact at local schools through golf.



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In other growth of the game news, I'd like to thank our dedicated professionals who provided free golf lessons at the 2018 West Michigan Golf Show. We had 19 volunteers who provided nearly 120 hours of lessons to hundreds of enthusiastic golfers.

For Drive, Chip, and Putt, we anticipate another increase in participation. This year, Michigan will host 10 local qualifiers, and two sub-regional qualifiers. There is also a possibility that a facility in Michigan will be host to a regional qualifier (the final step before Augusta) in 2019. Fingers crossed!

Lastly, we are pleased to support the SE Michigan US Kids Golf Tour and anticipate additional growth in these events. Thank you to the facilities who have signed up to host events this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Jennings, PGA
Meadowbrook Country Club