

MINNESOTA PGA JUNIOR GOLF ASSOCIATION CADDIE POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

CADDIES WILL ONLY be allowed at **BEGINNERS TOUR EVENTS!** The Beginners Tour program is designed for juniors' ages 8-12 that have little or no experience in competitive golf. All events are held on Par-3 courses.

One of the main reasons for allowing caddies for this program is to help facilitate play and help with getting the juniors around the course in a fast and safe manner. Having a FUN EXPERIENCE is the number one GOAL/main PURPOSE.

Winning and receiving a medal is/should not be of importance at this level.

An individual acting/serving as a caddie for a junior golfer **SHOULD** be eighteen years of age or older.

Definition of a caddie: A caddie is one who carries or handles a player's clubs during play and otherwise assists him/her. A player may only have one caddie at any given time. (Rule 6-4) The player is responsible for the caddie's actions. (A caddie may be replaced or eliminated at any time by the player. No other person may offer advice or help to a player other than his/her caddie (Rule 8-1). A caddie must not be positioned on or close to an extension of the line of play or line of putt behind the ball (Rule 14-2b). A caddie agrees to abide by all code of conduct/dress code policies that are in place by the Minnesota PGA Junior Golf Association and the host sites of Beginners Tour events.

Note: The player and his caddie are responsible for knowing the Rules. During a stipulated round, for any breach of a Rule by his caddie, the player incurs the applicable penalty.

CADDIES CAN DO THE FOLLOWING:

Provide advice and assist with yardages and club selection

Help ALL juniors in the group play at a decent pace and get around the course in a safe manner.

Caddies ARE allowed on tee boxes, in fairways and on greens. Spectators should not be in these areas. Spectators should be on cart paths and in the rough.

Guide the juniors - Directing when/whose turn it is to play. Encourage READY GOLF.

On the putting green: help direct the juniors who are to play first. Help guide juniors who are up next so when it is their turn, they are ready to putt out. ****Do not be too concerned with stepping on others line when putting out.**

Give guidance on relief options/drops. However the player(s) must make their own decision if options are involved. If a player(s) has a question on a ruling(s), confer with the other players in the group, and then discuss incident with Minnesota PGA On-Site Administrator(s)/staff.

Help with oversight in scoring and the recording of score(s). We highly recommend that scores from the past hole be discussed as the group is walking from putting green to next tee box/scoring area. Score(s) must be recorded on official scorecard. The official scorecard needs to be returned

Just like spectators, caddies are encouraged to help with location of golf balls, searching for lost golf balls.

Caddies can rake bunkers, replace divots and attend flagstick.

Caddies can repair old hole plugs and ball marks

Caddies can clean the player(s) golf ball when it is within the rules of golf.

Caddies can use pull carts.

Help with the explanation of an issue/incident to a Minnesota PGA On-Site Administrator(s)/staff.

The following actions SHOULD NOT be done by a caddie:

Do not **touch** the putting green to indicate where the junior should putt the golf ball.

Caddies are NOT allowed in the designated scoring area/table.

Caddies should not spend excess time attempting to retrieve golf balls in water hazards.

Caddies CANNOT ride or have golf clubs transported in golf carts except when being transported to their starting hole, back to the clubhouse from their finishing hole, during a suspension of play or when authorized by the Minnesota PGA Junior Golf staff.

Wear golf shoes with metal or soft spikes. Caddies shall wear smooth rubber-sole shoes preferably tennis or basketball shoes.

Use smoking or chewing tobacco products and/or alcohol.

Sometimes well intentioned caddies may disrupt others during play and/or go above and beyond the actions of what a caddie is SUPPOSED to do. If this happens, a VERBAL COMPLAINT should be filed with the on-site administrator(s)/staff at the event that this is taking place/took place. This complaint should be done as soon as possible. The on-site administrator(s)/staff will make a note of this and the caddie upon who the complaint is being made upon will be addressed. If another complaint is made at that event or any future event(s) the individual will lose their caddie privileges. Complaints/incidents will be kept on file at the Minnesota PGA Junior Golf Association Office.

REMEMBER – PLAYING GOLF SHOULD BE FUN, FUN, FUN!

Junior golfers who play in Beginners Tour events MAY compete without a caddie. It is NOT mandatory to have a caddie!

Caddies are encouraged to let players make their own decisions and develop their golf skills independently. On-course swing instruction by caddies should be kept to a minimum.

The Minnesota PGA Junior Golf Association firmly believes in upholding the traditions golf teaches, including, most importantly, the values of sportsmanship, integrity and honesty. We expect that caddies to uphold these traditions and teachings as well and to make sure that players are having fun. Golf, in the end, is just a game.

The opportunity to caddie at a Beginners Tour event is a PRIVILEGE **not** a RIGHT! The Minnesota PGA Junior Golf Association reserves the right to ban any individual from caddying at any/all Beginners Tour events.