

May 2020 Edition

WNYPGA NEWS

**Official Newsletter of the
Western New York Section,
PGA of America**



PGA

Western New York Section



WESTERN NEW YORK

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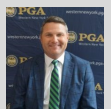
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We are now on VIMEO

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2020 SECTION PARTNERS

Thank you to all of our 2020 Section Partners

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WNYPGA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DAN ANTONUCCI, PGA



**CLICK ON THE PHOTO ABOVE TO
WATCH DAN ANTONUCCI'S MAY
MESSAGE!**



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

STEVEN BARTKOWSKI



CLICK ON THE IMAGE ABOVE TO WATCH STEVE BARTKOWSKI'S VIDEO MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTING OUR 2020 GOLF SEASON AND SECTION UPDATES CONCERNING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



PGA

Western New York Section



WNYPGA EVENT UPDATE AMIDST COVID-19

- PGA HOPE Buffalo Chapter Graduation on Sunday, March 15th **POSTPONED**
 - World Handicap Seminar on Monday, March 16th **POSTPONED**
 - College Golf Seminar on Saturday, March 28th **POSTPONED**
 - Junior Tour Event @ Midvale CC, April 18th **POSTPONED**
- Junior Tour Event @ Ridgemont CC, April 19th **RESCHEDULED TO JULY 19TH**
 - WNYPGA Spring Meeting & Education, April 20th **CANCELLED**
- Opening Day Professional Drive, Chip and Putt Event, April 20th **CANCELLED**
- Junior Tour Event @ Greystone Links, April 25th **RESCHEDULED TO JULY 5TH**
 - Junior Tour Event @ Orchard Park CC, April 26th **CANCELLED**
- PGA Hope Instructor Training @ Gen Oak GC, April 27th **POSTPONED**
- Junior Tour Event @ Terry Hills GC, May 2nd **RESCHEDULED TO JULY 9TH**
 - Junior Tour Event @ Stafford CC, May 3rd **CANCELLED**
- Pro-Pro Scramble @ Links at Greystone, May 4th **POSTPONED**
- Playing Ability Test @ Tan Tara GC, May 8th **CANCELLED**
- Junior Tour Event @ Holiday Valley Resort May 9th **RESCHEDULED TO JUNE 29TH**
- Titleist Pro-Scratch @ Brook-Lea CC, May 11th **RESCHEDULED TO JULY 6TH**
- Junior Tour Event @ Lake Shore CC, May 16th **RESCHEDULED TO JULY 25TH**
- Junior Tour Event @ Wild Wood CC, May 17th **RESCHEDULED TO JULY 28TH**
- WNYPGA Stableford @ Lancaster CC, May 18th **RESCHEDULED TO JUNE 8th**
 - WNYAA @Transit Valley CC, May 22nd **POSTPONED**
- Junior Tour Event @ Chautauqua GC, May 23rd **RESCHEDULED TO JULY 8TH**
- Junior Tour Event @ Shorewood CC, May 24th **RESCHEDULED TO JULY 1ST**
- WNYPGA Pro-Officer/Superintendent @ Ravenwood GC, May 26th **CANCELLED**
 - Lawrence Park Pro-Am @ Lawrence Park GC, May 29th **CANCELLED**
- Junior Tour Event @ Lake View CC, May 30th **RESCHEDULED TO JUNE 21ST**
- Junior Tour Event @ Downing GC, May 31st, **RESCHEDULED TO JULY 23RD**
- Seneca Allegany Casino & Resort Pro-Am @ Elkdale CC, June 1st, **POSTPONED**
- WNYPGA Stableford @ Lancaster CC, June 8th **RESCHEDULED FROM MAY 18th**
- Bartlett Country Club Pro-Am, Friday, June 19th, **PENDING – ENTRIES ON HOLD**
 - Chautauqua Pro-Am @ Chautauqua GC, June 22nd **POSTPONED**
- Africa 6000 Pro-Am Invitational @ Kahkwa Club, July 13th, **RESCHEDULED TO AUGUST 31st**





COMING SOON

The Next Generation of Learning Inclusive to WNYPGA Professionals

Powered by



Established in 2020, *The WNYPGA Academy* is an additional optional learning platform to the current WNYPGA Education Program for Members and Associates of the Western New York Section. The purpose *The WNYPGA Academy* is to provide an inclusive, Section-wide platform that facilitates development and inspires growth of the WNYPGA Professional. During a time when all of our commitments continue to grow, this allows for professional development that fits in PGA Professionals schedules. Course content will focus on topics both related and non-related to the Golf Industry that the Education Committee feels may help professional development.

****Benefits of Academy Enrollment ****

- *Unlimited Access to WNYPGA Academy Education (On-Line & In-Person)*
 - *Free Access to In Person WNYPGA General Education Seminars*
 - *Required Educations MSR's*
 - *Low-Cost Education in a timely fashion*
 - *Ease of Use*



Section Special Award Nominations Deadline Extended

We have changed the timing to spring of when the nomination process is released to the Membership. We understand how busy our Members are in the middle of summer and wanted to allow more time and participation overall. Please note that your nominations in 2020 will most likely be based off the work done in the 2019 season.

Each nominee will now receive a standard template to fill out with supporting materials for the committee to review. Templates were created for each award and ensure consistency for all candidates, as well as touch on the most important aspects that the committee will be grading the candidates on.

We hope you enjoy the changes to the process! Submit your nominations today, [HERE!](#)

Deadline to submit is Monday, June 15th.



2019 PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

JAY SUTHERLAND, PGA



2019 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

ERIK BARZESKI, PGA



2019 MERCH. OF THE YEAR (RESORT)

JOE BOCK, PGA



2019 BILL STRAUSBAUGH AWARD

JEFF BEAVER, PGA



2019 MERCH. OF THE YEAR (PRIVATE)

JASON BALLARD, PGA



2019 PRESIDENT'S PLAQUE

MICHAEL O'CONNOR, PGA



2019 ASSISTANT OF THE YEAR

CHRIS ZUMPANO, PGA



2019 HORTON SMITH AWARD

MIKE D'AGOSTINO, PGA



2019 MERCH. OF THE YEAR (PUBLIC)

MIKE ROEDER, PGA



2019 YOUTH PLAYER DEV. AWARD

LAUREN TALLMAN, PGA



PGA

Western New York Section



FREE ONLINE LIBRARY ACCESS AVAILABLE NOW FOR PGA SPECIALIZED LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAM

All PGA Members now have free access (\$450 value) to this education through June 30th, 2020

PGA Education
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Optimum Computer Settings:

- Content is best viewed on a computer and/or laptop device
- Download and use the Mozilla Firefox browser
- Install and enable Adobe Flash Player
- At this time, Specialized content is not optimized for mobile devices due to screen size.
- For iPad use, download the Photon Flash Player app

Accessing Specialized Content Through June 30, 2020:

1. Sign Into PGA.org dashboard.
2. Click on the Resources tab along the top navigation menu.
3. Scroll to the Lifelong Learning section and click on "Specialized Professional Program."
4. Find and click on the "Enroll Now" button under the words PGA Specialized Program.
5. A OneLogin screen may appear here. Use the same username and password that was used to access PGA.org.
6. Once in the Education Portal, there will be 5 course tiles on the portal dashboard.
 - Career Path: Executive Management
 - Career Path: Golf Operations
 - Career Path: Teaching & Coaching
 - Library: Explore Your Learning
 - PGM Materials
7. Click on a Career Path course tile to access each Specialized career path's courses. Click on the Library course tile to access the Library electives.
 - Each Career Path contains the 30 required courses for the career path.
 - Specialized candidates choose 10 library courses
 - The content featured is in the form of online video and simulation courses (See optimum computer requirements above to ensure ideal course viewing).
 - Content is grouped into modules by competency and can be completed in any order. Scroll down to see more content.
 - A score of 80% is required for MSR credit in Library courses.
 - When a course is completed, a green check appears next to the course name and an MSR for the course will appear on your PGA.org dashboard.
 - If a course is reopened, the progress will revert back to 0%. However, once an MSR is recorded, the course is complete.
8. PGM Materials for all 3 career tracks are available for members registered in the Specialized Professional Program.
 - Materials that are not linked have not been uploaded yet but will be coming soon.



Capstone: There is a capstone requirement upon completion of the Specialized Professional Program coursework.





The Future of Coaching



"PGA.Coach has had a major influence in my approach to coaching Junior players and preparing them for the game throughout their life. Kids will learn more through games than through specific skill instruction. Kids love to win and through these games, they will learn what they need to do to win. The drills and games that are available through PGA.Coach create your Junior Clinics for you. It takes me 5 minutes to layout an hour long clinic. Do yourself a favor and get your certification, you'll be glad you did!"

Rob Krajewski, PGA (Director of Instruction at Glen Oak GC)

GET CERTIFIED IN PGA.COACH— EARN 3 PGA MSR

How does PGA.COACH benefit the PGA Member?

- ♦ The ADM Certificate and PGACoach mobile app will allow PGA Professionals to evolve and adapt to the changes in the game and a new generation of players.
- ♦ PGA.Coach resources will enable PGA Members to promote their business through our marketing services so they can sell and retain customers at an executive level.

How do you get started?

- Go to **www.PGA.Coach** and sign up for the PGA.Coach training.
- Once you complete your virtual training, you will be given access to the PGA Coach app where you can build lesson plans, promote your business and more.

WNYPGA MEMBERS PGA.COACH CERTIFIED

Tom Bolduc, PGA
Linda Opalisky, PGA
Paul Sanders, PGA
Rich Conwell, PGA
Jeff Mietus, PGA
Joe Lusardi, PGA
Ric Alberico, PGA
Bob Ashley, PGA
Chip Clover, PGA
Chris Devincentis, PGA
Tim Fries, PGA

Bob King, PGA
Kirk Stauffer, PGA
Jack Widger, PGA
Tony Saccomanno, PGA
Sean Lalley, PGA
Jim LaBuda
Travis Geiger, PGA
Rodney Blair, PGA
Brian Jacobs, PGA
Kyle Benish, PGA
Chris Kulinski, PGA

Stacy M. Harrower, PGA
Rob Krajewski, PGA
Tom Maloney, PGA
Sean Moffat, PGA
Brett Emrick, PGA
Travis Perkins, PGA
Lauren Tallman, PGA
James Ru ssell
Curtis Evanicki
Daniel Vanill



DOUBLES GOLF



PGA

Western New York Section

Presented By:



On behalf of the **Western New York PGA**, we are proud to introduce Doubles Golf[®], a new program founded by Jack Nicklaus and the creators of PGA Jr. League.

This relaxing format is a re-branding of the two-player scramble, which allows for a less stressful approach to golf in both recreational and competitive play. PGA Professionals will enjoy introducing this format to their club and players while taking advantage of the opportunity to grow revenue for themselves and their club. Doubles Golf[®] has introduced a mobile scoring system, where your golfers can now post their 9-hole, two-player scramble scores to receive a Doubles Golf[®] Rating and see where they rank at your course, in the state and nationwide!

PGA Professionals who are interested can host their own Doubles Golf[®] events and Club Championships, giving their winners a chance to qualify for the 2020 US Doubles Golf[®] Am Championships hosted by Jack Nicklaus at The Bear's Club, in Florida.

Please join us on Tuesday May 26th, 2020 for 30 minutes to learn about a future revenue opportunity for your facility this year.

Please register for Western New York Section Doubles Golf Webinar on Tuesday May 26th, 2020 6:00 PM EDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2345467615851207184>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

To learn more and register your course:

[CLICK HERE](#)



[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Doubles Golf! Contact Clementina Rodriguez at crodriguez@pgahq.com to learn more.





PGA

Western New York Section

Ω OMEGA

2020 Pro Tournament Schedule

***Sites and dates are subject to change with the current COVID-19 pandemic ***

MAY	Mon	4	Pro-Pro Scramble	POSTPONED
	Tue	26	Club Car Pro-Officer/ Superintendent Champ	CANCELED
	Fri	29	Lawrence Park Invitational Pro-Am	CANCELED
JUNE	Mon	1	Seneca Allegany Resort Pro-Am	POSTPONED
	Fri	5	Lake View Invitational Pro-Am	POSTPONED
	Mon	8	Stableford Championship (NEW DATE)	Lancaster CC, Lancaster, NY
	Wed	10	NYS Open Qualifier	Glen Oak GC, East Amherst, NY
	Mon	15	Moon Brook Invitational Pro-Am	Moon Brook CC, Jamestown, NY
	Fri	19	Bartlett Pro-Am	PENDING
	Mon	22	Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy Pro-Am	POSTPONED
	Mon	29	Western New York Open	Stafford CC, Stafford, NY
JULY	Mon	6	Titleist Scratch Pro-Am (NEW DATE)	Brook-Lea CC, Rochester NY
	Mon-Tue	20-21	Blaisdell Pro-Am & Open	POSTPONED
	Mon	27	WNY Classic	Lake View CC, North East, PA
AUG	Mon	3	Ellicottville Memorial Library Pro-Am	Holiday Valley Resort, Ellicottville, NY
	Sun	9	Midvale Invitational Pro-Am	CANCELLED
	Mon	10	Sr-Jr Pro- Pro Pro-Am & Championship	Irondequoit CC, Rochester, NY
	Mon-Tue	17-18	WNYPGA Section Championship	Cobblestone Creek CC, Victor, NY
	Mon	24	Wellsville Pro-Am	Wellsville CC, Wellsville, NY
	Fri	28	National Car Rental Assistant Championship	Shorewood CC, Dunkirk, NY
	Mon	31	Africa 6000 Pro-Am (NEW DATE)	The Kahkwa Club, Erie, PA
SEPT	Thur-Fri	3-4	WNYPGA Senior Championship	Glen Oak GC, East Amherst, NY
	Tue	8	Pro-Assistant Championship	Park CC, Williamsville, NY
	Sun	13	Locust Hill Pro-Am	Locust Hill CC, Pittsford, NY
	Mon-Tue	14-15	Match Play Championship	Crag Burn GC, East Aurora, NY
	Mon	21	Pro-Pro Championship	Niagara Falls CC, Lewiston, NY
	Mon-Tue	28-29	OMEGA Tour Championship	The Kahkwa Club, Erie, PA
OCT	Mon	5	Junior-Senior Cup Matches	Holiday Valley Resort, Ellicottville, NY
	Mon	12	WNYPGA Annual Meeting	Glen Oak GC, East Amherst, NY

PLEASE NOTE: Registration for the WNYPGA 2020 Professional Tournaments has been postponed. All Western New York PGA Section Professional Tournaments we will announce at least two weeks prior to an event what its status is. Below is the list of tournaments or activities that have been affected by the virus' outbreak and the recent CDC Announcement through April 30th. If a postponement date is confirmed, it will be added. We appreciate your understanding and support during this process.



WNYPGA 2020 Tentative

Junior Tour Schedule

*Sites and dates are subject to change with the current COVID-19 pandemic *



<i>Day and Date</i>	<i>Facility</i>
Saturday 5/30	Mark Twain GC
Sunday 5/31	Fore Golf Jr Series
Sunday 6/7 +College	Bartlett CC
Saturday 6/13	Gowanda CC
Sunday 6/14 +College	Elkdale CC
Saturday 6/20	Lockport T & CC
Sunday 6/21 +College	Lake View CC
Sunday 6/28 +College	Timber Ridge GC
Monday 6/29	Holiday Valley Resort
Tuesday 6/30	Willowbrook GC
Wednesday 7/1 +College	Shorewood CC
Thursday 7/2	Mendon CC
Sunday 7/5	The Links at Greystone
Tuesday 7/7	Eagle Vale GC
Wednesday 7/8 +College	Chautauqua GC
Thursday 7/9	Terry Hills GC
Saturday 7/11	Glen Oak GC
Sunday 7/12	Four Golf Jr Series
Friday 7/17	Geneva CC
Sunday 7/19	Ridgemont CC
Monday 7/20	Lancaster CC
Tuesday 7/21	Livingston CC
Thursday 7/23 +College	Downing GC
Saturday 7/25	Lake Shore CC
Monday 7/27	Webster GC
Tuesday 7/28	Wild Wood CC
Wednesday 7/29	Shorewood CC
Thursday 7/30	The Kahkwa Club
Monday 8/3 Jr Tr Champ	Stafford CC
Tuesday 8/4 Jr Tr Champ	Stafford CC

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What's In the Bag?

Featuring Golf Director at The Fox Valley Club

John Daddario, PGA



I try to keep my bag as light as possible, but still I have everything I could possible need when I am out on the course.

Driver:

I am using a TaylorMade M1 430. I have a 9.5 lofted head, but I have the weights toward the toe so the club is slightly open at impact, due to my draw. My go to shot is a small draw that flies straight and falls to the left. The shaft in my driver is a Fujikura Pro series 65 gram, stiff flex playing length of 45.5".

Fairway Wood:

My fairway wood is a TaylorMade M1. I have a 15 lofted head, weights all in the middle to promote low spin and I like to have my ball flight right to left. My fairway wood shaft is a Fujikura Pro series 70 gram, stiff flex, playing length 43".

Hybrid/Driving Iron:

This is an interchangeable club in my bag. Depending on the course and conditions I can play either a Mizuno Clk 4 Hybrid, 22 degrees of loft or my 4iron Mizuno MP-18 MMC Fli Hi. Wet conditions or a course where I may need to hit a high shot into a green, I will use the hybrid. On a shorter/drier course where I need it off of the tee more, I will use the 4 iron.

Irons:

This part of my bag is a mix of 2 different irons. My 4 iron-6 iron is Mizuno MP-18 MMC Fli Hi, 7-pw are Mizuno MP-18 Irons. All irons have the True Temper XP-105 Shafts, Stiff Flex. It's nice to have a little bit of extra forgiveness in the longer irons and little offset in the shorter irons. My lofts are closer to the traditional side with my 7 iron at 34 degrees and my PW at 45 degrees.

Wedges:

I carry 3 Mizuno T7 Blue wedges. Their lofts are 50, 54 and 58 degrees. They all have the same True Temper XP-105 Shafts, Stiff Flex as in my irons. I find the wedges very easy to control around the greens as well with flighting the ball down when necessary. Spin control is very important to my game when I get inside 100 yards.

Putter:

My putter is the TaylorMade Spider Tour. It is a mallet style head with a short neck hosel. I just put the style of putter in the bag last year, and so far so good! It feels great and sets up well at address

Carry Distances:

Driver: 250 yards
Fairway Wood: 230 yards
3 Hybrid: 200 yards
4 Hybrid: 185 yards
5 Iron: 175 yards
6 Iron: 165 yards
7 Iron: 155 yards
8 iron: 145 yards
9 iron: 135 yards
PW: 125 yards
50 wedge: 110 yards
54 wedge: 100 yards
58 wedge: 90 yards

Ball:

I play Titleist Pro V1x. The feel is soft off the face with low spin. I have always been a high spin player and the challenge has always been finding a way to cut my spin down a bit. The Titleist Pro V1 x ball has given me a much more control over my spin which has allowed me to better develop my game.

Other Accessories:

I have a total of 6 Footjoy Stasof gloves. I rotate through all of the gloves each time I play or practice. I find that the gloves last a lot longer and with a few back up gloves in the bag. I use a Bushnell Tour V4 rangefinder. It does have slope capabilities, but I only use that during practice rounds. I do keep a putting aid in my bag to use before rounds to help with my set-up and eye position. Snacks I will bring on the course range from bananas, mixed nuts, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches or a granola bar and water or Gatorade to drink.

The game of golf has taken me to a lot of historic locations and has introduced me to some really interesting people. I love this game and everything that comes with it. I always look forward to playing in a few section events and getting to hear what's going on with everyone else. If I can help anyone enjoy the game I love so much just a little bit more, that is greatest fulfillment. Best of luck to everyone this season and I look forward to seeing everyone out on the course!



INTRODUCING THE WNYPGA'S: BACKYARD GOLF SERIES



Rich Conwell, PGA



Rob Krajewski, PGA



Brian Jacobs, PGA



Eric Barzeski, PGA

**Keep up to date with these tips and many more
from the WNYPGA Section by clicking the link
below to our NEW Vimeo Channel!**

vimeo

WNYPGA Assistant Professional

Spotlight



1. What is your original hometown?

Jamestown NY

2. How long have you been a class A-8 Member?

Elected in 2010

3. What/ who inspired you to get into the golf industry?

I have always wanted to be a PGA Golf Professional, the love of competitive golf in my Jr Golf, High School and College career kept me striving to play golf at the highest level. Teaching the golf swing and helping others has always been a passion of mine. Over my tenure at Holiday Valley learning all the facets of the business from Master Professional Steve Carney has been a great inspiration.

4. What is your tenure at Holiday Valley Resort?

Began in the season of 2004

5. Are there any fun programs you have initiated for the golfers at Holiday Valley?

We have done many successful programs at Holiday Valley. We have ranged from World Class Events, Jr Golf & Play Golf America events. But some events I am most proud of are our fun events. These events such as Ladies Wine and Nine night, a 9 hole Two lady team event with wine tasting and all wine themed party. Another fun event which is a huge success is our Tailgates and Tee Time event. A two person event with everything football themed. We have events on the golf course that deduct strokes for a completed pass with a football to kicking a 10 yard field goal. And yes a full sized field goal is constructed.

6. How long have you been in the section and have you had any other jobs?

I have always been a member of the WNYPGA. I started my career at Kahkwa Club in Erie PA for Michael O'Connor. Up to last winter I always spent my winters in South Florida. I worked at the following clubs, Country Club of Naples - Old Palm Golf Club & Worthington Country Club.

7. Have you won any section awards?

It is with a huge honor that I have been awarded Assistant Golf Professional twice. 2014 & 2017

8. What are some of your main goals, playing and professional, for the 2020 Golf Season?

My playing goals are always to make the Ryder Cup team and be in the top 20 players in the section. Goals as a Professional is always to help anyone in the game and make more people enjoy the game. I am also working to get certified in the PGA Specialized Program in Executive Management. This will be my second further education certification, I completed the Certified Professional Program in Golf Operations in 2019.

Play Like the Pros: Course Maintenance Etiquette

Featuring Rob Krajewski, PGA

Imagine this situation, you're on the 18th tee with a one stroke lead. You have yet to win an event and are on the verge of breaking through. The 18th hole is a narrow par 4 with water right and out of bounds left. No easy tee shot by any means. You go through your pre-shot routine and pull the trigger. BANG! Stripe it right down the middle. The hard part is over, a sense of relief flows through your body as you are one shot closer to your first win. Then this happens. As you get up to your ball you find it resting in one of these!



This example above happens more often than we'd like unfortunately. All because someone didn't want to take the extra 20 seconds to replace their divot. If we all follow some simple golf course maintenance etiquette we can leave the course in better shape than we found it and allow the superintendent to spend more time to improving the course versus repairing it.

Let's start with tee boxes. Whenever possible, it is best to place your bag off to the side of the tee box. Only if there are no other options (steep banks, trees, water, etc....) should then bag be placed on the teeing surface. This is more so when using a push cart. Try to avoid rolling over the teeing area with the wheels as best as possible. Repeated wear from the tires can form uneven grooves and an inconsistent teeing ground.

Next, try not to take a divot with your practice swings. Par 3 tees get beat up enough. If every player took a divot with every swing there would be no turf left to hit off of by the end of the day. If a divot is made on either a practice swing or real swing, try to put the actual divot itself back, unless the facility has a different practice, in which case use the fill mixture that has been provided on the tee. For the facilities that may not be able to use high end fill mixture with seed and fertilizer; placing a much of the divot back as possible will help the turf heal much quicker. We have all experienced some rough tee boxes in our days, if we all do our part we can reduce those conditions.

Just like the tee box, the putting green has more to it than just fixing a pitch mark. I hope this one is common sense, but every now and then I still see it. NEVER place a golf bag on the surface of the putting green. This is a big no no. Putting greens take a lot of special care to be in the shape they are. Placing a bag or rolling over it with a push cart can do damage that is easily avoidable. Simple and best practice is to leave the bag on the edge of the green on the side that is in the direction of the next tee box. This allows for a smooth transition to the next hole.

Flagsticks can be our best friend or our worst enemy depending on what kind of bounce they give us. They can also do some damage to the putting surface and the edge of the cups if not handled properly. When taking the flag out, lift straight up and remove. If pulled at an angle the edge of the cup may become damaged and that may influence a putts ability to go in. That damaged area can be fixed now under the amended USGA rules (rule/interpretation 13.1c (2)/2 Damaged Hole Is Part of Damage on the Putting Green) from 2019. However, if the damage is so severe that the cup cannot be made round again, then superintendent or committee would have to fix it. After taking the flagstick out, place it gently on the surface. No javelin tosses or any other hard drops that may damage the green. Just like when taking the flagstick out, when placing the flagstick back in, go in at a vertical angle and not a pole vault angle. Also, no matter what score was just made, please don't grab onto the flag and snap it back and forth. That just makes you look like a knucklehead.

Lastly when it comes to the putting green, this is one that gets me; when you're taking the ball out of the hole, use your hand, not your putter. If you have a bad back and can't take a ball out of the hole then get a suction cup for your putter grip and use that to remove the ball. Every bit of damage that happens to the edge of a cup only jeopardizes the integrity of the lip. A firm edge allows for more lip ins. If the edge has deteriorated or has some damage that will cause more lip outs. Putting is hard enough, we don't need any speed bumps to make it more challenging.

As golfers, it is our responsibility to do our part in maintaining the courses we play. It may not seem like much if one player doesn't replace a divot or fix a ball mark, but on a busy day, a golf course can see up to over 200 rounds. Imagine if every player didn't fix their course damage. That superintendent would be spending more time repairing the course instead of working on improving the conditions for play. All of these actions take very little time to complete and say a lot about a golfer's character. So please, follow these practices and our courses will be in the best shape they can be in. Let's go make some birdies!

STEPPING UP FOR THE COMMUNITY: Jodie and Michael O'Connor Make 250 Masks & Raise \$3,000 for Erie Charities

Jodie and Michael O'Connor wanted to help the community in a time of pause in Pennsylvania. Jodie is the Founder and Director of [LPGA USGA Girls Golf of Erie](#) and Michael is the Head PGA Professional at the Kahkwa Club and PGA REACH WNY Foundation President.

After launching a special mask initiative, they have raised \$3,000 for [LPGA USGA Girls Golf](#), [Safenet](#) and [Second Harvest Food Bank](#). Together, they made 250 masks and accepted donations of \$5-10 per mask. In fact, they received a \$250 donation for just one mask! The couple ended up making 40 masks in just one hour.



"I think everyone has difficulty during this time and doing this – for me – has really helped," said Jodie. "The notes that I've received from community members being so appreciative has been so helpful as well."

The idea started when Jodie saw on Facebook that frontline workers needed masks. She started promoting on her Facebook page and through her neighborhood app. Michael received donated items from the Kahkwa Club. With that, and the materials in their home, they were able to make pre-washed, adjustable masks for the community.

Thank you, [Erie News Now](#), for sharing Jodie's great story! Please join us in thanking Jodie and Michael O'Connor for their commendable impact made on this special initiative that has helped so many!

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR WNYPGA SECTION TEAM

HOPE WARKOCZESKI, 2020 WNYPGA WORKS FELLOW



“I am passionate about expanding the opportunities in golf for women, Veterans and other diverse groups of people because of the game’s positive impact on a person’s life. I am honored to be selected to join the Western New York PGA Section to change the golf industry and spread its positive message.”

Previous Experience that has helped you prepare for this PGA Works Fellow position with the Western New York PGA:

I worked at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center in Plymouth, Michigan as a pro shop attendant, volunteer golf instructor and ranger for five years where I developed my love for the game of golf. I had the opportunity to be an operations assistant for the 2019 Senior PGA Championship at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, New York. I was Vice President of Event and Speaker Operations for the Sport Management Association Conference (SMAC) held on Central Michigan University’s campus. I have also had the opportunity to work in the Athletic Compliance Office at Central Michigan University for two years.

Connection to golf

My connection with golf started when I was 12 years old in the LPGA Girls Golf program at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center. I went on to play Varsity golf at Salem High School and work at Fox Hills for five years where I was exposed to the many opportunities to learn the game and learn to setup large golf events on the property.

Education

Bachelor of Applied Arts from Central Michigan University
Major: Sport Management
Minor(s): Business Administration and Leadership

Hobbies

Playing golf
Spending time with friends
Watching crime TV drama shows (NCIS, FBI, Blue Bloods)
Enjoy visiting National Parks

Adopt a PGA HOPE VET

The WNYPGA created the 'Adopt a PGA HOPE Vet' program to bring a sense of comfort to Jr Leaguers and our PGA Hope Veterans to create long-lasting friendships through our love of golf.

1

Email WNYPGA Player Development Coordinator, Clementina Rodriguez at crodriguez@pgahq.com to sign up.

2

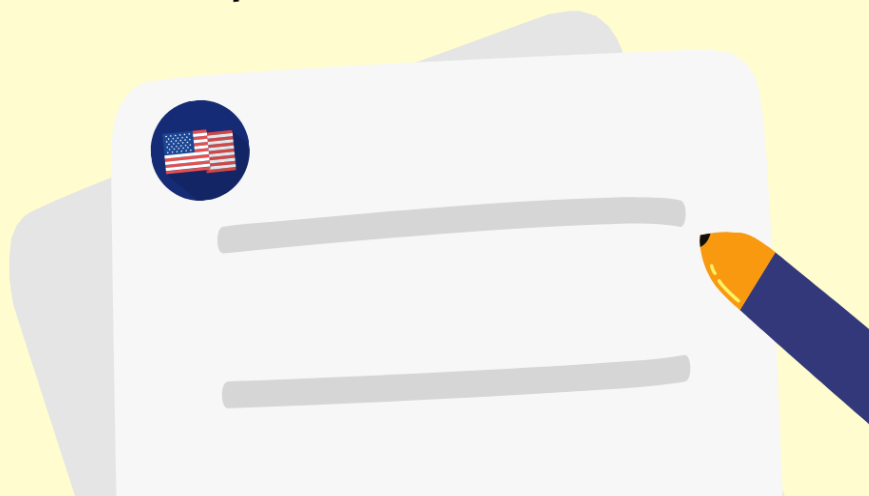
Write a letter to your assigned PGA HOPE Vet

3

Wait for his/her reply and start building a long-lasting friendship!



WESTERN NEW YORK



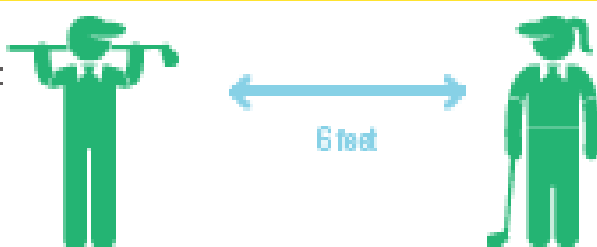
SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES

Do your part to get

Back2Golf

wearegolf.org/back2golf

1. ALWAYS
stay six feet apart
from others.



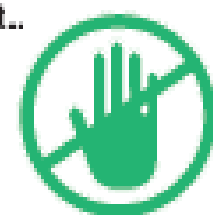
2. STAY HOME
if you have
a fever or
feel sick.



3. AVOID
large gatherings on the
first tee, driving range
or after the round.



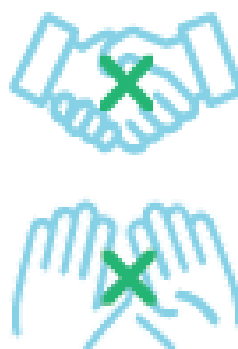
**4. If in doubt..
DON'T TOUCH IT.**



5. ALWAYS
mark your ball clearly.



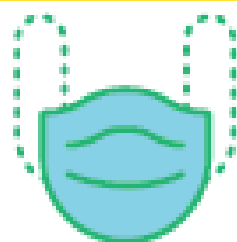
7. AVOID
handshakes and
high-fives.



8. RESPECT
the game and
all involved.



6. WEAR
a facial covering
when taking a lesson.



9. REMEMBER
to wash your hands
after playing.



USGA

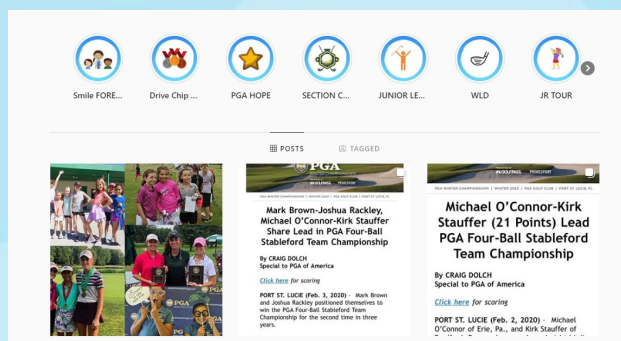
NGCOA

GCSAA

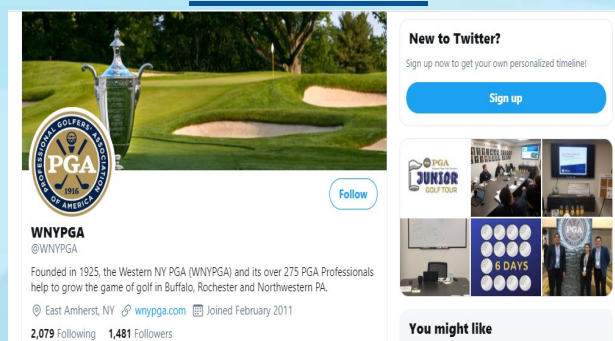


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VIMEO



Follow the Section and the Foundation on Twitter and Instagram and our new Vimeo Page to stay up to date on our WNYPGA events!



2020 SECTION TITLE PARTNERS



2020 SECTION PRESENTING PARTNERS



2020 SECTION SUPPORTING PARTNERS



2020 JUNIOR PROGRAM PARTNERS

