



## *2014 / 2015 Season Guidelines*

### *September 2014 – May 2015*



**Paradise Comercial Center 264 Matadero  
Suite 11 San Juan, PR 00920  
Tel: 787.793.3444 Fax: 787.273.3138  
E-mail: [events@prga.org](mailto:events@prga.org)**



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The PRGA Junior Program is dedicated to the overall growth and development of junior golf in Puerto Rico. The PRGA Junior Program is open to boys and girls, ages 18 & under (not in College), who have the desire to improve their golf games. Members of the Program have the opportunity to compete with their peers in monthly tournaments.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The PRGA Junior Program is a drug and alcohol free program that takes great pride in the quality of its players, parents, guardians, host member clubs, and sponsors. In order to continue making the PRGA Junior Program tournaments more enjoyable for everyone, we require that all members adhere to a set of guidelines known as the Code of Conduct. Its purpose and goal is to help PRGA Junior Program participants grow and mature by understanding and accepting the consequences of their actions. The Code of Conduct is to be followed throughout the entire 2014-2015 season (including national and international events). This Code of Conduct will hopefully become part of your daily routine when going to play and practice on your own. All play in the PRGA Junior Program is governed by the 2012-2015 USGA Rules of Golf and its Decisions. The following Code of Conduct must be followed during all PRGA Junior Program



tournaments, activities; includes on and off the golf course and within the host facility.

**The following will be considered violations to the Code of Conduct:**

- Repetitive violations of the USGA Rules of Golf. **NOTE:** Golf is a sport of honor where you are your own judge.
- Unsportsmanlike behavior, which includes but not limited to abusive language, club throwing, disrespect to volunteers, officials or fellow competitors, or abuse of golf course property.
- ***Use of drugs or alcohol will not be tolerated and this applies not only to the competitors but to the parents and spectators.***
- ***Smoking or chewing tobacco products by the competitors will not be tolerated.***
- Vandalism at a host hotel, abusive behavior at a host club or towards their property.
- Any other conduct deemed by the PRGA Junior Program Directors to be contrary to the spirit of this code.
- Not adhering to dress code during practice, tournament play and/or any other activity.



## Dress Code:

- **Required Dress**

- Collared shirts (girls may use shirts without collar).
- During play mock shirts (host golf course permitting), collared shirts or shirts specifically designed for golf must be worn and tucked in at all times are permitted according to course policy.  
Exception: Women's golf fashion shirts and may not rise above the belt line at any time during the golf swing.
- Hats and visors, if used, must be worn with brim forward.

- **Prohibited Dress**

- Tank tops, T-shirts.
- Denim shorts, cut off shorts, gym shorts, and jeans.
- Earrings and visible body piercings are prohibited on male participants.



Proper attire is required at all times at the host facility including award ceremonies. The Tournament Committee will review questionable attire. Should a host facility have a stricter dress code, its policy will take precedence. Players in violation of the Dress Code will not be allowed to tee off. Players may contact courses for attire regulations.

### **Code of Conduct Penalties:**

- Violations to the Code of Conduct described above may cause immediate disqualification from the tournament at which violation occurs at the discretion of the Junior Program Directors and the Tournament Committee.
- Any Code of Conduct violation will result in a written notification to the player and his or her parent/guardian.
- The PRGA Junior Program Disciplinary Committee shall impose a sanction that ranges from:
  - a suspension for a period of time depending upon the severity and frequency of the violation.
  - revoke a player's membership to the PRGA Junior Program therefore making that player ineligible to participate in any



international event were the PRGA is the invited organization.

Please refer to page 2 of the Membership Agreement if violations or disqualification occurs.

The PRGA Junior Program's Code of Conduct is an effort to show our juniors the way they should act and the image they should portray both on and off the course. Any questions in regards to the Code of Conduct or a Code of Conduct violation may be sent in a dated written form to the PRGA Junior Program, 264 Matadero St., Suite 11, San Juan, and PR 00920.

### **2014-2015 SEASON POLICIES**

#### **Conditions of Play**

PRGA Junior Program tournaments are governed by the USGA Rules of Golf and PRGA rules. Membership and Tournament Entries are subject to rejection / cancellation at any time by the PRGA Junior Program Directors. Any person whose entry is accepted shall be subject to the Rules of Golf, Conditions of Competition, and Code of Conduct set forth by the PRGA Junior Program.



## **Eligibility**

In order to be a participant in a PRGA Junior Program Tournament, you must be a junior golfer & a member of the PRGA Junior Program.

"A junior golfer is an amateur golfer who has not yet reached (i) the September 1 following graduation from secondary school or (ii) his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, whichever shall come first" (Excerpt from the Rules of Amateur Status for juniors by the USGA). **Exceptions are:** the Junior Island Championship, any other competition where Puerto Rico will participate, and any traveling team qualifiers where contestants must be either (1) a native-born Puerto Rican; (2) a player who either Parent and/or Grandparent is Puerto Rican; or (3) a one year resident with proper proof of residency; (4) a child of military personnel based in Puerto Rico on active duty.

## **Rules Seminars**

The PRGA Rules Committee will provide rules seminar for all PRGA Junior Program members. Seminar will be offered on various dates for everyone's convenience. We encourage players to assist to at least one seminar and pass the test given at its conclusion. Parents who wish to participate throughout the season as caddies in the 11 & under and 9 & under age group should take a separate seminar given exclusively to those interested in caddying.



## **Living Outside Puerto Rico**

The PRGA recognizes that there will be times when eligible junior program members may study outside of Puerto Rico. If you are currently living outside of Puerto Rico and are actively participating in official competitions, you may be considered to be selected as an individual and/or team player to participate at international junior events. You must present all scores from recognizable events played between September 2014 and May 2015, certified by the governing association and/or tournament organizers.

## **Entry Procedures**

All entries **MUST** be completed online at [www.prga.org](http://www.prga.org); no later than the indicated deadline. The deadlines will be the Tuesday before the event at 4:00pm unless otherwise indicated on the event's information. Entries will not be accepted unless they are approved by a parent/guardian. Payment methods: check, (payable to PRGA), money order, ATH, VISA, or MasterCard will be accepted up to the event registration deadline. **Late entries will not be accepted.**

## **Entry Priority**

All entries must be made online and will be accepted based upon the order of receipt. Entries received after the competitive field is full or after the close of entries, will be placed on a waiting list. The number of participants in each



tournament is subject to course availability. The number of participants will vary from tournament to tournament.

### **PROOF OF AGE**

For the 2014-2015 Season, ALL participants of the PRGA Junior Program will be required to provide proof-of-age documentation. This documentation must be submitted and received by the PRGA prior to 2014-2015 season opening event.

A photocopy of ONE of the following documents will be acceptable:

- Birth Certificate
- Passport
- Valid driver's license

***The PRGA reserves the right to accept or reject any proof-of-age documentation not listed above. All proof-of-age documentation will be kept on PRGA files.***

### **TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

All tournament information, including practice round information, tee times, and results will be posted on the PRGA website, [www.prga.org](http://www.prga.org). If you are not sure of your tee time it is YOUR responsibility to contact the PRGA office by calling 787.793.3444.



## **Age Groups**

9 & Under, 11 & Under, 13 & Under, 15 & Under, 18 & Under

**Players who would like to be considered for ranking purposes must begin participation and remain in the category of the age they will be by June 28th. A player can move to a higher category, but he/she must remain in that category ALL SEASON.**

## **Yardages**

***Hole yardages will be available in the official scorecards distributed by the starter.***

18 & under (Boys Gold Tees approx 6,700 yards – Girls White Tees approx 6,100 yards) 36 holes

15 & under (Boys Blue Tees approx 6,400 yards – Girls Red Tees approx 5,700 yards) 36 holes

13 & under (Boys White Tees approx 6,100 yards – Girls Red Tees approx 5,200 yards) 36 holes

11 & under (Boys Red Tees approx 5,200 yards – Girls Red Tees approx 5,200 yards) 18 holes

9 & under (Boys & Girls: par 3 – Red Tees; par 4 – 200 to 225 yards; par 5 – 250 to 275 yards) 18 holes



**NOTE:** The PRGA reserves the right to review and make changes to the above information throughout the year. Playing in any given category does not grant players an automatic selection.

### **Awards**

The PRGA will host a Junior Program awards ceremony after the 2015 Junior Island Championship. Each category will have trophies up to third place. Positions will be determined with the PRGA points system.

**Note: There will be no award ceremony after each regular season event.**

### **Format**

Individual stroke play, no maximum strokes per hole except in the 9 & under and 11 & under categories that have a maximum of 8 strokes per hole. A Match play championship will be introduced combining 36 hole stroke play for position purposes with 18 hole individual matches. All tournaments are walking events, but pull carts may be used.

### **Spectator Cart Policy**

Rental of golf carts by spectators will only be allowed if the spectator has a handicap placard and/or is 60+ years old. These spectators will have to present this evidence to the Tournament Director prior to the rental of a golf cart and must request permit before the tournament deadline.



**Policies:**

- Spectator is responsible to rent the cart from the golf facility, subject to availability and keeping in mind the rate will be determined by each individual club.
- Spectator carts must stay on the cart path at ALL times. If the course/hole doesn't have cart paths, then the cart must stay in the rough at all times.
- Carts must move forward on the golf course. (from Tee to Green)
- Only 2 people per cart are allowed except during evacuation.
- The 30 yard rule also applies to spectators in golf carts.
- Cart must be driven by an adult at all times.

**If any of the above are violated, the permit will be revoked for the season and cart will be removed immediately. Cart fee reimbursement will be determined by host course.**

**Liability Release**

The PRGA is not responsible for any damage occurred to the golf cart and/or golf course property caused by the driver and/or the golf cart in case of an accident provoked and/or incurred while in use of such vehicle.



## **Caddies**

Caddies are only allowed in the 9 & under and 11 & under categories. Caddies must remain with their own player and avoid distracting other players in the group. Also, caddies must use official caddie bid and are responsible to return it at the completion of the round. They will obey the USGA Rules of Competition regarding caddies. Any violation to these rules, will elicit a sanction against the player.

## **When playing**

All players and caddies are to leave the green immediately in order to not delay play. Golf bags or pull carts are to be placed in a position towards the tee of the next hole of play, taking care as to not placing it on the putting surface.

## **Pace of play**

If the players in a group fail to maintain their position with the group in front or take more than 45 seconds to hit their shot, the group as a whole and the specific slow player(s) will be given a warning. If the specific player(s) continues to take more than the allotted time to hit a shot, he/she will be given a 1 stroke penalty. A third offense will result in a 2 stroke penalty, and a fourth offense will result in player disqualification. Please refer to conditions of competition sheet given in each event.



## **Scorecards**

Scorecards must be exchanged by the players in the group prior to teeing off. All players **MUST** confirm their score after each hole with the player keeping their scorecard. All the players in the playing group, and the scorekeeper/follower when applicable, must be present when submitting the scorecards to the scoring table. All players have to make sure that the scorecard is signed by the player himself and his marker. If you do not agree with your score, a PRGA official will be available at the scoring table to solve any dispute. Remember, each player is responsible to hand in his/her own scorecard at the Scoring Table. After the player leaves the designated Scoring Area, his/her scorecard is deemed to have been returned.

Players are responsible for the hole-by-hole score that is written on the scorecard. The addition will be verified by PRGA officials. The score on each hole must be the exact number you shot on that hole. If a higher number is reported on the scorecard for a specific hole, then that number will count for your total score. If the number recorded in the scorecard is lower than what you actually shot on a specific hole, then the player will be disqualified (Rule 6-6 d. Note 1)



## **Lunch**

Although lunch will not be provided by the PRGA; fruit and granola bars will be available at the participants' starter's tent.

## **Cancellations**

Players who have applied to participate in a PRGA Junior event and wish to cancel for any reason MUST notify a PRGA Official (787) 793-3444, 48 hours prior to the event. If player has to cancel the day of the event, he/she is responsible of calling the assigned course to notify. Players who fail to do this will be listed as a "No Show" (NS).

## **Refund Policy**

If the player fails to cancel 48 hours prior to the event, the payment is not refundable and/or nontransferable.

## **No Shows**

A player with two or more "No Show" will be put in the alternates list for the next 2 events he/she applies to. **A player who starts and withdraws from an event without notifying a PRGA official will not be allowed to participate in the next event, unless the player has been excused by the Tournament Committee.**



### **Official Time / Tee Times**

The official time will be maintained at the starting tee(s) only. It is the responsibility of the player to be on time for their respective starting time. Players who arrive at the starting point within five minutes of his starting time will incur a two-stroke penalty. A player who arrives on the tee after five minutes will be disqualified from the competition. (Rule 6-3) Tee times are assigned and posted in the PRGA website the Friday prior to the event at approximately 12:00pm.

### **Giving back**

Giving back to the sport is an underlying principle of the Junior Program's philosophy. The PRGA is committed to utilizing the Puerto Rico Open as a vehicle for teaching important life lessons to young golfers. For this 2014/2015 season of the Junior Program, members will be required to make a difference in the golf world by volunteering at least two days in the 2015 Puerto Rico Open. As a volunteer, you will get a true hand on experience by being part of a PGA TOUR event, with an opportunity of working inside the ropes. More details will be sent throughout the year and sign up will be required by no later than January 31, 2015.



Any questions regarding the Puerto Rico Open volunteer program please contact Karen Calvesbert at:

([karen@gotopuertoricooopen.com](mailto:karen@gotopuertoricooopen.com)).

### **Returned Checks**

All checks returned due to insufficient funds will carry a \$15 service charge.

### **Appeals**

Any appeal must be made in writing to the PRGA Junior Program Director, 264 Matadero St., Suite 11, San Juan, PR 00920. Appeals must be made within two weeks of the occurrence.

## **PARENTS GUIDE**

### **Appreciation of Club Staff and Event Officials**

It is appropriate to express your appreciation to the host club, its staff and the PRGA officials conducting the event. Please recognize that your actions may influence the future ability to use the golf club's facilities and it is your responsibility to be a gracious ambassador of junior golf. Set a great example for your child and all the people present:

- Say thank you to the golf professional, club staff and members.
- Be patient with staff and officials



- Express you're thanks to our volunteers and volunteer officials.
- Be courteous at all times.

### **Advice/Coaching**

A distance of 30 yards must be maintained between spectators (any family member, friend, coach, or professional), and the junior player, and must always remain walking on the cart paths or in the rough. This guarantees that **no advice or coaching** is given to the player. Spectators may assist players in finding a golf ball and are allowed to give the player a beverage or a snack.

### **Measuring Devices**

Artificial Measuring devices are allowed during play (Must only measure distance). Penalty for continuous breach of this rule may result in disqualification.

### **Spectators**

***Note: Additional items are listed in the Membership Agreement***

- **Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited at the golf course.**
- Must observe without interfering with or delaying the play of any competitor or group of competitors.
- Talking to players, other than "good shot" or the like, or the use of any form of visual



communication with the player will be assumed as if advice or coaching was given and may result in the player's disqualification.

- Must observe golf etiquette at all times and respect the conditions of the golf course, facilities, and services provided by the host club and the PRGA. Acknowledgment of good shots of all players in a group displays good sportsmanship. Spectators are encouraged to keep as much silence as possible when following a group to reduce any distractions. Cellular phones must be turned off or put on vibrate mode.
- The PRGA reserves the right of admission to the host course of a Junior Program event; therefore it reserves the right to remove from the golf course any spectator who is viewed to be in violation of code conduct. This action could ultimately result in the competitor, of the spectator involved, being suspended from the Junior Program or other sanctions may be applied by the Junior Program committee.

**PRGA JUNIOR PROGRAM TOURNAMENTS &  
SPECIAL EVENTS**



**IMPORTANT:** Remember that tournaments will be filled on a first come first serve basis. The number of players is subject to course availability, so there will be limited spots due to space restrictions. Tournaments may become full before the Registration Deadline.

### **Season Schedule (Subject to change)**

- January 31-February 1 *PAC (Palm)*
- February 21-22 *El Legado Golf Resort*
- March 29-April 1 *Match Play Championships – PAC (Flamboyant)*
- April 25-26 *Costa Caribe Resort*
- May 23–25 *Junior Island Championships – Dorado Beach (Sugarcane)*

### **Junior Island Championship**

Contestants in the Junior Island Championship must be either (1) a resident of Puerto Rico (reside in PR at least 6 months per year or have otherwise established legal residency); (2) a native-born Puerto Rican and/or a player whose either Parent and/or Grandparent is Puerto Rican, or (3) a child of military personnel based in Puerto Rico on active duty to eligible for the local Junior Island Title. The Junior Island Championship is an open 54 hole event.

**NOTE:** Any interested junior participant who does not meet the previous requirements may participate for the overall divisional prizes.



## **Copa Martin Ortiz Tournament**

This is an annual Inter-Club competition in memory of Martin Ortiz, one of the founders of the PRGA Junior Program.

*Eligibility:* Any Golf Club with real estate in compliance with the PRGA By-Laws. *NOTE:* *Individual entries will **NOT** be accepted.*

Priority must be given to junior players who have been active in the PRGA Junior Program during the season. Junior golfers representing the club must be either members of that club, have been part of their summer junior program, take lessons in the club, or be active players in that club.

Format of the event will be 18 holes, Stroke Play, 2 person team – Best Ball. Categories are as follows: **(a) 18 & under (b) 15 & under**. Teams per category can be composed by two boys or two girls or mixed. Complete teams will consist of a maximum of 4 players (2 in each category) or a minimum of 2 players (1 in each category). Total team score will be the sum of the Best Ball score from each category.

Awards will be given to First and Second place teams in each category, and to the Overall Champion Club. Host course will be rotated on yearly basis to ensure participation on all PRGA Member Clubs.



## **Junior Team Qualifying for the Caribbean Amateur Junior Golf Championships**

Qualifying for the Junior Team that plays in the Caribbean Junior Championships will be based on scoring average of 2014-2015 season tournaments and the Junior Island Championship in 2015.

**Note:** The PRGA Junior Committee will select 1 player for boys 11-13 and girls categories and 2 players for boys 15 & under and 17 & under categories, not necessarily the category winner of the Puerto Rico Junior Island Championship and it can be a player from a lower age group. The scoring average system will be as follows:

Approximately 75% of official regular season (first four tournaments) PRGA Junior Tournament rounds and all rounds from the Junior Island Championship will be used to determine the ranking for the following categories which are the ones in the Caribbean Junior Championships:

- 17 & Under - Boys & Girls
- 15 & Under - Boys & Girls
- 10-13 - Boys & Girls

**NOTE:** In case a player was outside Puerto Rico participating in an event representing the PRGA, and missed a local PRGA Tournament, his/her best rounds played in the event will be included in the scoring average system.



NOTE: Player's must be registered as members of the 2014-20154 Junior Program to be considered for National Team Selection.

**Those players who will be 18 years old by the time of the Caribbean Junior Golf Championships will not be eligible to be on the Team.**

Qualifying spots available:

- 17 & under Boys: 1 Girls: 1
- 15 & under Boys: 1 Girls: 1
- 11 - 13 Boys: 1 Girls: 1

### **Qualifying for other International Events**

The PRGA Junior Program invites juniors to tournaments all around the world. The selection process for these events varies depending on the amount of time the PRGA has been notified of the tournament prior to its deadline. If time allows, the PRGA Junior Program will hold a qualifying tournament at a course selected by the Junior Program Tournament Committee. The PRGA Board of Directors will make a selection if time does not allow the playing of a qualifier.

### **Junior World Golf Championships (San Diego, CA)**

Selection of players to this event will be based on scoring average of approximately the 75% of rounds out of a possible 11 (tournaments from



September 2014 until May 2015 time of Registration Deadline). The players with the top scoring averages will be selected. If the selected players do not want to attend, then **at the discretion of the Selection Committee**, the second best ranked player will be invited, and so on. Limited spots are allocated to the PRGA. The travel expenses will be covered by the parents of the selected players.

### **The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships (Palm Beach Gardens, FL)**

A qualifier event will be organized by the PRGA Junior Program Tournament Committee and will consist of one or two consecutive rounds according to the age that the player will have at the OIJC scheduled date of competition, according to the rules and guidelines of the OIJC.

### **The Orange Bowl Junior Golf Championships (Miami, FL)**

The Junior Island champions (boy and girl) will be invited to participate. In the event that the champion is not eligible due to any unforeseen reason, the PRGA reserves the right to run a qualifier, time permitting, and/or select a player.

### **Copa de Campeones**

The Copa de Campeones team is based on the same players who are in the \*Puerto Rico National Team which competes in the CAJGC. In



the case of the Copa de Campeones, players may be moved up in a category to fill the necessary spots. The Copa de Campeones categories are 17 & under and 15 & under. Four (4) boys and two (2) girls in each category.

In the Boys categories,

If a National Team player cannot compete in the Copa de Campeones for any reason, the PRGA rankings will be used to determine the next ranked eligible player for the category which has the spot available.

In the Girls categories,

If for any reason a girl in the 14-15 or 16-17 age groups cannot compete in the Copa de Campeones, the players from the 11-13 age group from the National Team will be considered, giving priority to the best ranked player according to PRGA's rankings.

In the case that no more players from the National Team are able to compete and spots need to be filled, the PRGA rankings will be used to determine the best eligible player for the category which has the spot available.

\* A player who qualified and/or was selected for the Puerto Rico National Team but was not able to travel to the CAJGC because of injury, sickness, or emergency situation, will be considered for the Copa de Campeones team.



The travel expenses will be covered by the parents of the selected players.

\* The parents of the selected team are responsible for the event's funding. The PRGA Tournament Director will work in conjunction with the tournaments parents committee in all events' matters.

**NOTE: Only the scoring average section in the PRGA Points Ranking System will be used for qualifying purposes.**

### **Selection Committee**

A Selection Committee created by the PRGA Board of Directors will recommend the selection of players for any particular event.

### **International Competition Travel Policy**

The PRGA will not disburse the travel and accommodation arrangements for any international competition. The PRGA may assist the parents in getting the travel and accommodation arrangements but the ultimate responsibility of covering these expenses must be on the parents. The players selected to compete must travel accompanied by his/her parent/guardian. The PRGA will not supervise directly or indirectly any player. The parents will be the only responsible party in charge of fulfillment of the Code of Conduct as stated



before. If the parents will not accept this policy, the player will not compete.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS**

This award will recognize the best sportsman/woman the end of each PRGA Junior Program season. Winners will be nominated by the Junior Program members by voting at the conclusion of each event.

Displaying good sportsmanship isn't always easy. It can be tough to congratulate the opposing team after losing a close or important game. But the kids who learn how to do it will benefit in many ways.

The following guidelines will help you when making the nomination:

#### **Sportsmanship Awards Guidelines**

1. Be a leader and significant contributor on his/her team
2. Demonstrate great respect for competitors, teammates, coaches, and officials
3. Demonstrate kindness by being considerate, courteous, and generous in spirit to the opposing team; showing care, compassion, and friendship in



- victory and defeat; treating others as you would like to be treated
4. Convey a high degree of humility and integrity

**2014 / 2015 Season Tournament Schedule**

Please refer to the PRGA CALENDAR OF EVENTS in our website at

**[www.prga.org](http://www.prga.org)**



## Below the PRGA Point Ranking System

RANKING SYSTEM			
POSITION	1 Rd	2 Rds	3 Rds
1	100	x2 = 200	x3=300
2	80	160	240
3	75	150	225
4	70	140	210
5	65	130	195
6	60	120	180
7	55	110	165
8	50	100	150
9	45	90	135
10	40	80	120
11	35	70	105
12	30	60	90
13	25	50	75
14	20	40	60
15	15	30	45
16	10	20	30
17+	5	10	15

EXTRA POINTS		
SCORE IN		
RELATION TO PAR	POINTS	SCORE
8 under	36	64
-7	34	65
-6	32	66
-5	30	67
-4	28	68
-3	26	69
-2	24	70
-1	22	71
Even par	20	72
1 over	18	73
2+	16	74
3+	14	75
4+	12	76
5+	10	77
6+	8	78
7+	6	79
8+	4	80
9+	2	81