

Annual Meeting – October 26, 2026

Education-Employment Committee Report

The goal of the education-employment committee is to provide educational opportunities that meet the business, vocational and career objectives of the PGA Members and Associates.

Education Events offered in 2026

Assistants/Associates:

- Titleist Fitting – 2/9/26 – 15 attendees
- Associate Teaching & Coaching - 2/24/26 – 12 attendees
- Ping Fitting – 2/24/26 – 13 attendees
- TaylorMade Fitting – 3/2/26 – 11 attendees
- Teaching Roundtable – 3/12/26 – 23 attendees

Section

- PGA Hope Training – 3/9/26 – 19 attendees
- Spring Update and Education – 5/4/26 – 90 attendees
- Multiple Teaching Roundtables led by Brad Pluth

Upcoming:

- Assistant/Associate Off-season schedule (begins 11/2/26)
- Section Teaching Roundtables – Led by Brad Pluth (begins 11/16/26)

The committee also developed a PGA Associate Mentor Program and Section Mentor Hub that had 50+ PGA members assigned to various areas to help guide Associates through their associate program and careers. More information is available through the Mentor Hub on the Section's website.

The Committee also works closely with Minnesota Section Career Consultant Andrea Kloppman-Heit in welcoming new Members, Associates, and Pre-Qualifier individuals who are interested in joining our Association.

The Committee will meet prior to the end of 2026 to finalize the 2027 Section education calendar.

The PGA MSR cycle started July 1, 2025 and ends June 15, 2028. PGA Members will need to accumulate 54 total PDR's with 30 in the Meeting/Education/Player Engagement space.

*** Reminder that the PGA PDR cycle includes one credit per hour for attending Section Meetings virtually and two credits per hour for attending in-person.*

Staff Report of the Junior Committee – Fall 2026

The mission of the Minnesota PGA Junior Golf Association is to provide playing opportunities for the advanced, intermediate, and beginning golfers, ages 7-19. These playing opportunities will promote competition and camaraderie.

The total membership for all programs this year was 2620 members. This was the highest membership we have ever had. We saw an increase of 192 total members from 2025 which was a 7.9% increase. We had 463 members on our Players Tour (invite only) which is an increase of 25 members from 2025. We had 683 Minny/Prep Tour Members (Ages 7-12) which was up 31 members from 2025 and 1,474 Junior Tour Members (Ages 13-19) which was up 86 members from 2025. The biggest increase in 2026 was seen in the membership of our Junior Tour, which was a 6.2% increase from the previous year.

We do a tournament selection process (lottery program) for our Minny/Prep, Junior Tour and Players Tour events. The Players Tour lottery took place in early March. The big lottery for the Minny/Prep Tour and Junior Tour events deadline date was Wednesday, April 29. We had 13,738 tournament selections for events this year, this was up 15% from 2025. We filled 75 out of 172 of those events through the lottery process.

The Minnesota PGA Junior Golf 'Sota Series hosted 212 events this year from June 8 through October 16. We had over 170 host facilities for our events. Overall tournament participation (number of rounds played by juniors) was at 11,586 active rounds played by juniors. This is the first year we have gone over 11,000 active rounds completed at the end of the season.

This year we awarded fourteen scholarships through the 3M Open Fund – Minnesota PGA Scholarship Program. We had twelve scholarships that were awarded a one-time amount of \$2,000 and then two scholarships that were awarded a one-time amount of \$3,000. (Total of \$30,000 awarded in scholarships in 2026).

We also saw more increases in our social media presence for Minnesota PGA Junior Golf this past year. Since January 1 we have gained 1000 followers on Instagram and Facebook. We have over 4,600 followers on Instagram which is our biggest social media presence. People interacting with our content on social media has gone up 350%.

Thank you so much to all the facilities that hosted 2026 Junior Golf 'Sota Series events! We truly appreciate everyone's support!

Thanks to the following individuals for their efforts on the Junior Golf Committee; Andy Gerber (Chair), Tim Anderson, Matt Cook, Marshall Hoiness, Ty Armstrong, Koby Head, Pat Markley, Matt Hauge and David Plotnik.

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Player Development Report

The goal of the Player Development Committee is to increase participation in the game by providing programs that benefit a wide range of golfers and skill level. The committee serves as advocates of PGA Jr. League, Drive, Chip and Putt, PGA HOPE, and other foundation programs.

PGA Jr. League continues to be a popular program among coaches, parents and players. 63 engaged PGA Coaches, 62 facilities, 104 local programs and 1,656 kids registered in a program. The average program fee was \$275 and \$457,264 (\$408,891 in 2025) was generated in Coaching Revenue in 2026. The program continues to grow year over year.

Drive, Chip and Putt was in full swing in 2026. Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota hosted 18 events, which ran June-August. Over 1,500 kids participated in a local qualifier. A record SEVEN kids from our Section will head to Augusta National to compete in the Nationals Finals in April. Maddie Martin (Park Rapids, MN), Girls 7-9; Oliver Voeller (Rosemount, MN), Boys 7-9; Leah Mack (Excelsior, MN), Girls 10-11; Miles Lunning (Brandon, SD), Boys 10-11; William Jiang (Woodbury, MN), Boys 12-13, Woodbury, MN; Danica Hager, (Owatonna, MN), Girls 14-15; Brody Horner (Bismarck, ND), Boys 14-15.

Thirteen **PGA HOPE** programs and 17 sessions operated this year, serving 210 veterans. Thank you to all of the PGA Professionals who have gone through the PGA HOPE Training program and continue to make a difference in the lives of so many of our Nations veterans.

On Championship Sunday of the Women's PGA Championship, certified PGA HOPE instructors hosted the KPMG Women's PGA HOPE Clinic at Hazeltine National Golf Club. Around 20 PGA HOPE graduates from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Nebraska gathered to attend the women's major. During the event, participants took advantage of Hazeltine's new indoor teaching facility for putting lessons, a yoga session, and a closest-to-the-pin contest, while enjoying tournament action and camaraderie.

Fifteen PGA Professionals and Veterans participated in **100 Holes for HOPE** this year and raised over \$30,000 for PGA of America REACH Foundation Minnesota and PGA HOPE programming. **Bad Pants Open** was a very successful event as well, netting about \$30,000 for each charity. Special Olympic Athletes joined for a 9-hole pro-am event and 29 partner teams played in the afternoon. A huge thank you to all the PGA Professionals who came out to play and support a great cause.

The 2nd annual **Birdie Bash** took place at Oak Ridge Country Club on October 19. The Birdie Bash unites PGA professionals and the golf community to raise funds and awareness through the game we love—supporting the vital work of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and PGA of America REACH Foundation Minnesota. Our mission is to drive positive impact both on and off the course by helping children in need and expanding access to golf for the next generation of players across the Minnesota PGA Section. 14 PGA Professionals played on 2-person teams to make as many birdies as possible. Throughout the day, we were able to raise \$12,500 and make 179 birdies on the day. Proceeds are split evenly with Gillette Children's.

The Section and Player Development Committee hosted a **Ladies Swing and Social** in April, which took place at Great Shots in Sioux Falls, SD. It was a special initiative to introduce new women golfers to the game. The opportunity connected women with PGA Professionals through mini lessons, club fitting, fun contests and information on local golf courses and leagues to engage them following the clinic. Under Armour, SDGA, and other local golf companies joined us for the evening. We had about 60 women participate.

The Section and Player Development Committee also hosted a dedicated **Mom & Me clinic** at Braemar Golf Course. Designed for mothers and youth players ages 5–17, the event brought families together for a day of fun, interactive skills challenges, and quality time. PGA Members and Associates were on hand at the driving range and putting green to provide expert instruction and ensure every participant left with new skills and great memories.

PGA REACH Minnesota has four different **grants** available to help support programs of PGA Professionals. Whether you run a golf in schools' program, player development initiative, or various junior golf program, see if your program is eligible for funding. Choose from the George Waters grant, Military grant, Minnesota Golf License Plate or PGA HOPE Grant. We want to help make your programs successful.

If you're interested in renting the inflatables for your junior golf programs or indoor activities this winter, reach out to get your name on the calendar. This past summer they traveled around for about 60 days as they were used at various golf in schools programs and junior clinics hosted by PGA Professionals. This is a great way to add some flare to your junior golf clinics and camps.

Lastly, if you are bored this winter, we encourage you to check out PGA.COACH and other tools and resources available to you to help grow your business and create lifelong golfers.

If you have questions regarding Player Development don't hesitate to reach out to our Section Office.

Thank you to all of the facilities that hosted an event this past summer and to the following individuals for their efforts on the Player Development committee: Savannah Nelson, Jason Crisp, Jennifer Huber, Lisa Schwinden, Luke Elfner, Danny Sinksen, Matt Sandquist, Lance West and Jeff Sorenson.

Report of the Tournament Committee

The mission of the Tournament Committee is to create a strong fraternal atmosphere among the membership, and to create quality competitive opportunities for professionals and amateurs by providing a challenging, yet fair test of golf, at quality golf facilities, with professional tournament management, providing benefits and opportunities for a large percentage of participants.

First and foremost, the Tournament Committee would like to thank all participants, host facilities and sponsors who supported the Minnesota PGA tournament program this season. With that, below you will find a summary of tournament statistics and participation, along with highlights and future goals for our committee.

Section Tournament Event Statistics				
	2023	2024	2025	2026
Overall Participation Δ	3%	-3%	8%	-0.51%
Overall Pro Purse Δ	5%	2%	3%	-0.72%
Member Participation*	320	328	383	374
Notable Championship Participation				
Section Championship	103	103	95	85
Sr Section Champ	43	39	48	40
Assistants Champ	49	42	42	45
State Open**	681	652	659	689
Women's Open	80	71	83	98
Twin Cities Open	108	112	110	108
MN Golf Champions	35	47	41	43
FND Pro-Am @ SVCC ***	48	41	47	36
FND Pro-Am @ Mystic***	-	-	21	26
Vegas Pro-Am****	-	13	14	19
Notable Team Event Participation				
Pro-Series #1	116	128	128	128
Four-Ball Championship	110	100	116	128
Facility Team	99	104	110	114
Fall Scramble	135	156	144	138

*Number of members to play in at least one Section approved event

**Number reflects attempted qualifiers + 156 player field

***Number reflects teams of 4 players

****Number reflects teams of 5 players

2026 Tournament Committee Highlights

- Approved increases in hosting fees for section events. On average, facilities received \$15 more per player compared to 2025, and facility compensation increased 56.3% after facility reinvestments.
- Launched a new Pro-Series points race and secured a new title partner for the series.
- Added a new State Open exemption for PGA members who made the cut in the prior year's event.

2027 Tournament Committee Goals

- Assess our event schedule to streamline playing options and feature approachable formats that encourage broader member participation.
- Increase event partners to continue raising funds for event enhancements and purses.

2027 Notable Events

- Twin Cities Open | White Bear YC | May 17 & 18
- Minnesota State Open | Edinburgh USA | July 6-8
- Minnesota Women's Open | Stillwater CC | August 2 & 3
- Minnesota PGA Professional Championship | St. Cloud CC | August 23 & 24