



PGA

Michigan Section

BIO OF SPECIAL AWARDS CANDIDATE

Name of Nominee: Tim Strickland, PGA

Year Elected to Membership: 2007

Award Nominated for: Youth Player Development Award

Briefly describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award:

If children are our future in general, then youth player development is the future of our profession. I love growing the game with players of all ages and experience levels, but there is something especially rewarding to exposing the next generation of players to the game. Since I introduced junior golf programs to Stonebridge Golf Club in Ann Arbor 8 years ago and now full-time instruction at Ann Arbor Golf and Outing, I have built a base of junior players that have now grown with me through introductory camps to individual lessons to competitive play.

I created a spectrum of junior golf programs at Stonebridge to both attract new junior golfers and then to grow and build those interested to keep playing and improving their skills. My summer camps have grown to more than 150 kids participating, with many returning students and younger siblings joining on. I use SNAG attractions/equipment to hold a session for families that has brought dozens of people to the course on an afternoon in the summer these past two years, and many families introduced to the game this way then enroll their kids in a golf program. Speaking of families, one of my more popular programs has been family clinics where parents can play with their kids. More than 20 families, many with several kids each, have participated the last two years I've offered the clinics.

For junior players who are beyond the beginning stage, I co-coached a MI PGA Junior League Team (with my colleague Brian Stange at Ann Arbor Golf & Outing) the past three summers. Our teams in the past have made it to States twice, but came up short in points and this season to make it again. We had 28 kids sign up for the league, enough to field two teams, being the only Public Golf Facility in Ann Arbor to offer the PGA Jr League. The demand for more competitive junior golf--open to anyone, not just kids of private club members--is clear from these numbers. Besides four players affiliated with AAGO, the rest were from the area. The most rewarding aspect to making it to states has been building a competitive all-star team that then draws from all the clubs in the area these past three years and bringing together kids that competed against each other all summer to then be teammates.

Families whose kids participated in my junior golf programs asked me to create a middle-school competitive golf league since there is nothing else for that age group in the area. That is hard to believe in a community of our size with so many offerings for kids—but not golf! I just completed a successful fall league after school with 24 kids. Plus, I already have 30 kids interested in a weekly indoor golf league at a local simulator during the winter, which builds upon the 20 kids who played last winter.

In addition to the programs and promotions I run to build those, I also believe it's important to just expand exposure of golf to all kids. I provided indoor golf classes to 8 different schools in Ann

Arbor during the winter of 2017-18, 19). And look to do a majority of them again this winter. Teachers and school administrators from across the county have lobbied for me to expand the program. I have also done promotions at community gatherings, such as a family festival at the local parks & rec department and through the Chad Tough Foundation.



