



**PGA**  
Michigan Section

## Michigan PGA – Growth of the Game Report

Summer/Fall 2020

We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during these difficult times. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone effected by COVID-19 and we hope all of us can experience some form of normalcy for the 2021 season. However, even with several cancellations and lockdowns this year, the Michigan PGA still had a great season.

As the 2020 season ends, we look back at one of our main growth of the game activities, PGA Junior League. Unfortunately this year, our numbers decreased by 22% to 1,436 kids. The Midwest region saw an average decrease in participation of 25%. The average program fee for a PGA Jr. League player was \$244 which is slightly above the national average of \$243. Overall PGA Jr. League families in Michigan feel that Jr. League is safe and although there was a decrease in Michigan it is still above the Midwest's average. According to a survey conducted, 90% of Michigan families say they are comfortable with returning to golf and 91% said they are comfortable returning to PGA Jr. League.

Drive, Chip & Putt was unfortunately cancelled this year along with many other activities but that doesn't stop the 2019 Oakland Hills Country Club Regional winners. They will compete the Sunday before the 2021 Masters Championship.

A success to celebrate this year was rewarding over \$43,250 in grant funds to many of our Michigan PGA Professionals. For the Adult Player Development Grant, we awarded \$12,500 amongst 17 approved applicants and \$30,750 was awarded to 44 approved applicants for the Junior Player Development grant. This is a wonderful year with all things considered and we hope to see that number increase for years to come. **If you received a grant for the 2020 season, please remember to complete and return your grant summary report by December 6th.** These reports not only serve as great resources, but they also help our committee select the Program of the Year recipients.

Metro Detroit's first PGA HOPE Session was a huge success as well. Four veterans took part in a 7-week program at Fox Hills Golf Course in Plymouth. The players' abilities ranged from seasoned golfers to beginners. In fact, one of the veterans went from never swinging a club on week 1 to golfing 9 holes on week 7. Leading the creation of this program was PGA Member Buddy Whitten who plans to expand it next year into a state-wide program. If your facility is interested in hosting a PGA HOPE program please email Chelsea Guynes ([cguynes@pgahq.com](mailto:cguynes@pgahq.com)).

Michigan had many professionals complete the PGA.coach certification, 86 in fact, which places us in the top 10 of the Association. PGA.coach is the future of teaching and coaching and it's FREE for PGA/LPGA Professionals to help guide you into selecting age appropriate lesson plans and developing well-rounded athletes. A new search tool has been added to PGA.coach for consumers to find a coach in their area, so we highly encourage everyone to go through the training. Following completion of your training, be sure to fill out your pga.com coach profile to capitalize on some of the national marketing efforts.

Finally, our PGA Junior Championship had an awesome year with 73 Boys and 42 Girls competing for a chance to go to the national championship. The girls' Junior Championship had 42 competitors which was an increase over last year's 24. Kate Brody and Nateda Her advanced. The boy's division saw 73 competitors which was a decrease of 19 players from 2019. Joshua Lavelly and Evan Johnson advanced. Congratulations to the advancing players!!!

In spite of regulations set forth due to the Coronavirus, the 2020 golf season was strong and we are looking forward to carrying this momentum in to the 2021 season. Thank God for golf!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Jennings, PGA  
Growth of the Game Committee Chair