

2023 Special Awards Candidate Bio Form

Please send this form back no later Friday, October 21, 2022.

If you were nominated for more than one award you must **submit a bio form for each award.**

Email *

PGARANDY@GMAIL.COM

Name of Nominee: *

Randy White

Award Nominated for: *

Player Development Award

Facility Employed at: *

First Tee West Michignan

Year Elected to Membership: *

1986

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Thank you for the nomination and recognizing me for the Player Development Award.

A consolidated list of items I have done in player development are:

- PGA Junior League
- PGA Hope
- PGA.Coach
- First Tee Golf Leagues
- First Tee Coaching and Coach Training
- Winter Training Program
- High School Golf / State Tournament Management /
Player Ability Test for State Tournament
- Women's Beginner Programs
- Couple Golf Leagues
- Tip Nights

The Play Golf Initiative is a great way to open doors allowing youth who might not have the opportunity due to economics to play golf. While today's golf courses are busy with play, it is wonderful when they can offer opportunities and lower rates for kids, and we know these opportunities create new golfers for the future. Not many courses in our area have implemented Play Golf America and its goal of one million new golfers. Therefore, it is up to us to sell the importance of such a program.

Organizations like First Tee have been a great resource for kids to get involved in the game of golf. Still, despite all the wonderful lessons, not all are able to get on the course. To help solve this problem, I started a Junior Golf Play Day where kids play the course at \$5 or less. The purpose of this Play Day is to introduce the parts of the golf course, the speed of play, how to play safe, and most importantly how to enjoy the game while improving their own skills. Obviously, kids need mentors on the course with them while learning, so I have also recruited adults who care about youth and love golf to mentor. The goal is one mentor to a group of three which allows the mentor to play along.

First Tee was able to duplicate this idea which I started in Holland and reproduce it in Muskegon and Grand Rapids, and we had about 120 students involved this year. Students graduate from this program to the PGA Junior League. This year we had about 70 students in the PGA Junior League on four teams. We were even able to compete in the area PGA Junior League in Grand Rapids this year. Each year, the team gets a little better, and I attribute that to the weekly Play Days we began. While First Tee has adopted this program recently, I have been promoting golf for students in elementary, junior high, and high school for over 25 years. Much of this effort was aimed at developing and growing high school golf team programs. One such program I created was an all-day weeklong high school golf camp which introduced more competitive golf to ages 13 and above. This was a preparation course on swing, playing the course, rules, and competitive maturity, and this program fit well with what the ADA promotes today.

I have been teaching golf for 39 years. My experience has taught me that golf instruction is a lifelong process of learning about people and their goals and the physical differences and strategies for teaching inside those parameters. Observing learning styles and having many plans of attack to communicate to the student and knowing the physics of golf and common athletic motion that accomplishes speed, control, and impact are a must to impact performance growth.

I believe being a High School Golf Coach for 26 years has prepared me for more teaching. Helping a young person mature as a golfer and a person is a tremendous challenge. Many new golfers are scared to take their first steps onto the big game board. With playing lessons, I help learners to strategize for playing with a purpose, set goals, not fear other golfers, and understand how to move around the course despite obstacles. Even simple concepts like where to walk, divots, ball marks, course maps, and distance markers get attention. We discuss knowing your equipment and which club to use when as well as club fitting better performance. I know that I have been successful when my players can enjoy the game with friends, coworkers, and others. I always love it when a patron of mine chases me down with a score card to show me their new accomplishment and give a play by play of shots in their round.

An area that has helped me grow as an instructor was teaching golf overseas as I had to overcome language barriers, cultural differences, and learning styles. I have been fortunate to teach golf in Russia, South Korea, and Jamaica. My daughter and son-in-law also helped me understand cultural differences as they both taught English overseas. These experiences help me when I have students come from another culture for a lesson. I have a wonderful story about an adopted boy named Gabe who came to me from Russia and how understanding his culture made him feel welcome. I love to share this story with coaches and mentors showing the importance of understanding your students. I've learned that first-time meetings should be filled with questions that dig out the background of your student, even before you fix their grip.

My reputation as a golf instructor of youth, high school, collegiate, beginner, and expert golfers is highly respected. I do not advertise but by word-of-mouth. I love a good referral; it tells me more than a good advertisement about my abilities as a PGA Professional Golf Coach.

I have had the privilege to be trained by some of the greats: Gary Wiren and Gary Player helped me with the sand game. Jim Flick

was instrumental in helping me understand the swing. Mark Kizziar introduced me to many greats who shared golf knowledge with me. I have sat with Doug Sanders at Augusta several years and discussed golf swings on the range. I also started my career with PGA Professionals like Dale Grieves, Ray Sruba, Bill Kowalski, Al Lemanski, George Glenn, and others.

Moving a golfer toward and even past their goals is the greatest reward. The PGA logo is always present, and I make sure I represent that with the best of my abilities when I meet and instruct golfers. I think that is what puts us ahead in the industry.

I am grateful for this nomination.

Randy White PGA Professional

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