

# 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 \*

MBarton@pga.com

Name of Nominee: \*

Matt Barton

Award Nominated for: \*

Youth Player Development

Facility Employed at: \*

Oakhurst

Year Elected to Membership: \*

2008

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

It's a great honor to be nominated for the youth player development award. I've spent the last eight years working to create an Academy that promotes learning and fun. As a Master Kids Coach for US Kids golf and a level 2 TPI certified junior coach, I understand the importance of creating fun, interactive, challenging and rewarding experiences for my junior clients.

During the height of our summer junior instruction, I see 250 individual students a week. Instructional and on course offerings drive the large numbers of participation.

I offer weekly clinics with a teacher-to-student ratio of 6 to1 for ages 4-6, 7-12 as well as high school boys and girls prep. The clinics are geared towards appropriate aged base golf skills as well as functional movement and object control skills. I utilize a sticker and pin awards system as well as the US Kids booklets and pins to engage and reward the younger students, while creating goal getting and competition boards for the older students.

The on course portions include 4 PGA Junior League teams, 50 junior golfers on course Tuesday mornings, and the elite jr program participating in the Motown Cup.

I am fortunate enough to work with some of the best juniors in the state. The winning tradition this past year starts with 5 year olds winning at the US Kids tournament level, all the way to a division I boys regional champion. Boys and girls from 10 different high schools come to see me, and I work with then entire Everest Academy boys team and Clarkston girls team. Weekly practice plans help to challenge and guide the students in purposeful practice.

My 4,000 square foot indoor studio allows for continued instruction during the winter, focusing on fundamentals and mechanics. Two TrackMan simulators, K-Vest, SNAG and the competition board keep the students engaged in a different way than the summer instruction. The studio membership has allowed the most committed to spend as many hours practicing and challenging themselves throughout the winter.

While winning an award from my peers would be an exceptional accomplishment, my measure of success are sold out clinics, programs and a full lesson book that leaves me challenged to be able to accommodate more players in a season.

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