

## 2026 Assistant Golf Professional of the Year Candidate Bio Form

Please submit this form no later than **Monday, October 6, 2025 at 5pm.**

Email \*

cmeinke@watermarkcc.com

Name of Nominee: \*

Cole Meinke

Award Nominated for: \*

Assistant Golf Professional of the Year

Facility Employed at: \*

Watermark Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: \*

2014

Explain how you have excelled as a Player and/or Teacher in 200 words or less: \*

As a player I have been an active participant in Section and Chapter events my entire career. I qualified for the Assistant's National Championship in 2023.

As a teacher I have continued to actively teach individual golf lessons both indoors and outdoors. I run the PGA Jr League teams, Jr Golf Programs, and Ladies Spring Clinics at Watermark CC. I have a great passion for teach and strive to learn as much as I can every year. Last winter I became US Kids Golf Level 2 certified, and PGA Hope Certified. I also hold a Level 1 TPI certification that was earned in 2019. Teaching the game has been some of the most rewarding work I've done in the golf business.

Explain how you have excelled on the business side of golf such as with merchandising, tournament operations and/or administrative duties in 200 words or less: \*

Over the past two years I have taken a more active role in buying merchandise for the club. Going into 2025 I purchased 80% of the inventory for the golf shop. I do most of the merchandise receiving and take the lead in inventory each month. The Golf Shop here at Watermark CC moved locations at the start of the 2024 golf season, which presented a new opportunity to really grow our merchandise business. We are consistently working toward finding new opportunities in the shop on lifestyle items and accessories. Its been a fun and challenging couple of seasons.

At Watermark we run a well organized member event schedule along with many Monday golf outings. I was directly involved in the planning and execution of all member events and most of the Monday golf outings.

Explain how you have made a positive impact on your facility and the game of golf as a whole in 200 words or less: \*

Each day I try to bring a positive attitude and make Watermark CC a great place to be for our members. Anticipating member's needs and bringing them the level of service and attention to detail they deserve. I spend most of the summer teaching and coaching the game of golf. I have started successful Jr camps and adult clinics for beginners and individual lessons for golfers of all skill levels. I personally helped two brand new golfers this season and converted them to members of the club.

I am a constant advocate for the game, and fellow PGA members. This season I had the privilege of employing a young man to help instruct our Jr Golf Programs. He is now enrolled in Ferris State University's PGA Golf Management program working toward PGA membership.

Give some examples of how you bring credit to the PGA of America and the Michigan Section \*  
in regard to your character, image and integrity in 200 words or less:

I'd like to highlight my time as a PGA Jr League Captain for our two traveling teams here at Watermark CC. Each season I have the privilege to lead a group of young golfers in competition. There are many things that go with being a captain of a PGA Jr League team, and the main responsibility in my opinion is displaying and teaching integrity in the game. Holding yourself responsible on the golf course is a massive life lesson for our kids. Making time to practice, learning the rules of the game, holding yourself to those rules, accepting negative results and moving forward. I feel like most of my job as a team captain is being there to support and encourage my team when things aren't going their way. A lot can be learned from competitive golf. Dealing with failure and setbacks is one of the biggest lessons my team gets from PGA Jr league. Victory is sweet but the real lessons are learned in defeat.

Name at least one mentor but not more than two and explain why they are a mentor to you in \*  
200 words or less:

I will highlight the best Mentor I've had over the years, who I have the privilege of working with each day. Mick DeKorver is the consummate PGA Professional. Hard working, values driven, leader of Watermark CC. Mick is a family man that loves to share stories about his son and his golf career. He treats everyone with same level of respect and focus they deserve. He knows when to push and when to let you figure things out on your own. He has allowed me to take over a few things in the operation and is always available to help. Mick is an open book and is always willing to answer questions. He spends the time needed with each staff member to establish expectations and holds them accountable. I have learned countless lessons from Mick over the years, and I consider him a great friend. When I make the next step in my career I hope to lead and inspire as Mick does.

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