

2026 Golf Executive of the Year Candidate Bio Form

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

Email *

hatchj1@ferris.edu

Name of Nominee: *

Joe Hatch

Facility Employed at: *

Ferris State University

Year Elected to Membership: *

2011

Number of years in your Executive Management position (50 word limit): *

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Please describe your overall performance as an Executive Golf Professional in 250 words or less.

As Director of the PGA Golf Management Program at Ferris State University, my role as an Executive Golf Professional is defined by a balance of leadership, education, and service to the game of golf. I strive to model the highest standards of professionalism while developing the next generation of PGA Members. My performance is centered on building a program that not only prepares students for careers in golf, but also emphasizes the values of integrity, service, and lifelong learning that define our profession.

Operationally, I oversee all aspects of program administration, including curriculum management, budget oversight, alumni relations, and external partnerships. I actively engage with industry leaders to ensure our students remain connected to the evolving needs of the golf business. By fostering strong relationships with PGA Sections, employers, and alumni, I provide students with meaningful opportunities for internships, mentoring, and career placement.

My role extends beyond administration to mentorship. I am committed to guiding students in their academic, professional, and personal development, preparing them to thrive in diverse roles across the golf industry. Additionally, I remain engaged with the PGA through committee service, mentorship initiatives, and educational contributions, ensuring that I continue to give back to the game while keeping the Ferris State program nationally recognized.

Overall, my performance as an Executive Golf Professional reflects a commitment to advancing both the profession and the individuals who will carry it forward.

Describe your service to the local Section and Association (250 word limit): *

My service to the Michigan PGA Section and the PGA of America reflects my commitment to advancing both the profession and the next generation of PGA Members. I currently serve on the Michigan PGA Special Awards Committee and the Michigan PGA Mentorship Committee, where I help recognize outstanding professionals and provide guidance to aspiring leaders within the Section. These roles allow me to celebrate excellence while supporting the growth and development of our membership.

As Director of the PGA Golf Management Program at Ferris State University, I view my position as both an educator and an active contributor to the Association. I advise the PGA Golf Management Student Association and serve as Tournament Chairman for the Northern Michigan PGA Chapter, ensuring that students are introduced to the traditions and professional standards of tournament operations while supporting local playing opportunities for members.

In addition, I serve as an advisor to Golf Links Detroit, an organization dedicated to growing the game and providing access to youth in underserved communities. This role connects my service to both the PGA mission and the broader goal of making golf more inclusive and sustainable.

Through these commitments, I remain deeply engaged with the Section and Association while modeling service to students who will soon become PGA Professionals themselves. I believe my efforts strengthen the Michigan PGA, enrich our membership, and demonstrate the importance of giving back to the game and the Association that has given me so much.

Describe your leadership ability and how you inspire other golf professionals (250 word limit): *

My leadership ability is rooted in service, collaboration, and modeling professionalism. As Director of the PGA Golf Management Program at Ferris State University, I lead with the belief that the best way to inspire others is to set high standards for myself and provide support for others to achieve their goals. I view leadership as creating an environment where students, staff, and fellow PGA Members feel valued, challenged, and empowered to succeed.

I inspire other golf professionals by sharing my passion for education and mentorship. Within the Michigan PGA Section, I serve on committees and support mentorship initiatives, providing guidance to both established professionals and those just beginning their careers. At Ferris State, I mentor over 100 PGA Golf Management students each year, helping them navigate their academic journey, professional internships, and career paths. By connecting them with industry leaders and modeling what it means to be a PGA Professional, I instill the values of service, integrity, and lifelong learning.

I also believe in leading by example. I remain actively engaged with the PGA, contribute to industry initiatives, and prioritize professional development so that I can stay at the forefront of where golf and education intersect. Through visibility, communication, and a genuine investment in people, I strive to inspire others to raise their own standards and to find fulfillment in serving the game and its players.

Describe how you support leadership and growth of the game initiatives within the industry, community and the Section (250 word limit): *

Supporting leadership and growth of the game has been a cornerstone of my service to the industry, community, and Michigan Section. As Director of the PGA Golf Management Program at Ferris State University, I prepare more than 100 students annually to become leaders in the golf profession. Through structured mentorship, professional development opportunities, and direct engagement with Section and national leaders, I ensure our graduates are well-prepared to advance both the business and the traditions of the game.

Within the community, I am proud to serve as the lead instructor for the second PGA HOPE program in Michigan. This initiative uses golf as a therapeutic outlet for veterans, providing them with both connection and opportunity through the game. My role in this program has deepened my commitment to golf as a vehicle for healing, inclusion, and service. I also advise Golf Links Detroit, supporting access for youth in underserved areas and reinforcing the importance of diversity and growth in the sport.

At the Section level, I contribute through committee service and my role as Tournament Chairman for the Northern Michigan PGA Chapter. These efforts allow me to help create meaningful programs for members, celebrate professional excellence, and provide competitive playing opportunities that keep our professionals engaged.

By aligning my efforts across education, community, and the Section, I strive to demonstrate that leadership in golf extends beyond the course—it is about creating opportunities, inspiring future leaders, and ensuring the game remains accessible and impactful.

List any other PGA Section or National Awards you've received and the year(s) you received them (50 word limit): *

2024 Professional Development Award

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