



PGA COACH MARC



Parents Guide To
Creating an
Elite Junior Golfer

The Blueprint For Those
Looking To Play Golf Collegiately

By PGA Coach Marc Bayram





PGA COACH MARC

CONTENTS

1. Intro
2. How the journey should begin
3. The skills and abilities needed to play college golf
4. How to get recruited
5. Instruction
6. Technology
7. Communication & Motivation
8. Success Stories
9. Who am I?
10. Programs offered to get your player on track to become a collegiate golfer





PGA COACH MARC

INTRO

The college golf recruitment process can be confusing and hard to understand for parents. I hope my guide will help you with a pathway to the ultimate goal of playing golf collegiately. More important than playing collegiately however is choosing a college that will provide a great education and also offer any specialized degrees your child may want to pursue as their career. Playing golf professionally is the dream of so many, myself included, but the reality is that education will always be most important as the road to the PGA Tour is a tough one.

Now as far as playing collegiate golf goes, understanding where your child fits in with certain levels (DI, DII, DIII) is very important. The recruiting process is tough unless you have a clear understanding of what college coaches are looking for and who they are looking for. It is a very meticulous process, but one thing will always be important, and that is, if you shoot low tournament scores, you will get noticed. I have always been a firm believer in this mentality.

I hope this guide will help you have a better understanding of where your child's skill level needs to be to play collegiate golf at a school that either fits or exceeds their abilities.





PGA COACH MARC

HOW THE JOURNEY SHOULD BEGIN

Most of you reading this already have a child who plays competitively. If your child is 13 years of age or younger, I cannot stress enough the things that are important and the things that aren't.

First, what I feel is most important for your child's development as a player is that they fall in love with the game. If they do, then the sky is the limit, and they will have the best opportunity to reach their full potential. Not to mention, your parent/child bond will be strong, and golf will always be a game you can enjoy together.

Now back to how this plays into the goal of playing golf collegiately. I promise you no college coach has looked at how a player scored at the U.S. Kids World Championship, the PGA Jr League National Championship, or the Under Armour Junior World Championship. A college coach doesn't give any value to seeing these results on a player's resume. That does not mean they aren't important. These events are extremely important for growth and development as a player. After all, in golf, most improvements are made after making mistakes. The earlier your child can make these mistakes and learn from them, the better they will be overall.

These events are also great for getting comfortable playing in a tournament environment. When your child is 13 or 14, results really start to matter towards their future in golf and these junior events can be a big help in learning how to best play the game.

So, the long and short is, if your child is under the age of 13 and playing competitively, do not create a stressful environment and worry about their scores. Their scores simply will not matter to any collegiate coach. However, their attitude and passion for the game will matter so be patient and always display positive reinforcement and support during your child's younger years!





PGA COACH MARC

THE SKILLS AND ABILITIES NEEDED TO PLAY COLLEGE GOLF

I want to stress that as important golf skills are towards playing at a high level collegiately, education is always more important. Every year of high school matters, take it from me who didn't get to play for my dream school because of my grades my freshman year of high school. Always focus on your education first because your skills won't matter to college coaches if your grades don't match!

As for golf skills, there are different levels to playing collegiately. Division 1, Division 2, and Division 3 hold much different scoring standards. To play college golf these tournament scoring averages can serve as a guide:

Division 1

Junior Boys - 72 or lower Junior Girls - 76 or lower

Division 2

Junior Boys - 76 or lower Junior Girls - 80 or lower

Division 3

Junior Boys - 80 or lower Junior Girls - 84 or lower

Realistically to play Division 1 college golf at a top 50 school your child needs to be one of the top junior golfers in their state of residence and probably ranked inside the top 200 overall junior golfers in the United States. Some other things that will hold value to these coaches of elite colleges will be clubhead speed and strength of junior golf tournament schedule.

These aren't the exact guidelines for what level your child will fit in to, but they should be helpful in understanding what it takes to get there. Just keep in mind for non-top 50 Division 1 schools and also Division 2 and Division 3 schools, the barriers to entry will get looser although not as significant as one would think.





PGA COACH MARC

HOW TO GET RECRUITED

When it comes to getting recruited, player resume's, tournament scoring averages, and high school state championship results weigh in, however the key rankings college coaches typically look at are the Junior Golf Scoreboard ranking and Rolex AJGA ranking.

Junior Golf Scoreboard

The website juniorgolfscoreboard.com is the hub for junior golf rankings. To establish a Junior Golf Scoreboard ranking you must play in a minimum of 4 tournaments per rolling 12 months and those tournaments have to be a minimum of 36-holes. Once you play in 4 of these 36-hole events you will establish a ranking based on how well you finish as well as what your score is. Junior Golf Scoreboard will give you a ranking for your gender and you can filter these rankings by state and graduation class year. This ranking is most commonly used by college coaches and is a very good starting point for most junior golfers to figure out where they stack up against their peers. It is important to make sure that the tournament organizations you are involved in submit their events to Junior Golf Scoreboard.

Rolex AJGA Rankings

AJGA rankings have been around for a long time and are another ranking system most college coaches, especially at the Division 1 level, will utilize. To get into American Junior Golf Association tournaments you need to have performance stars using the AJGA guidelines on how to earn stars. There are many opportunities to earn performance stars through the AJGA preview series for ages 12-15. To get a clear idea on how to earn performance stars, please visit the AJGA website at ajga.org. Once you are able to get into AJGA tournaments you will start to accrue points based on how you finish in events. The Rolex AJGA rankings system and performance star system can seem a bit overwhelming at first, however, the AJGA website is a great resource for learning how it works. I highly recommend going to the website ajga.org to get a better understanding of the Rolex AJGA rankings.





PGA COACH MARC

INSTRUCTION

Working with an experienced instructor who has strong connections with college coaches can make a significant difference in your journey. Also connecting with an instructor who has played collegiate golf and has had experience in the recruitment process is also an added benefit.

It is very important to have an instructor who understands what it takes to get better and how to get there. Improvement not only consists of physical gains, but also expanding your knowledge of the golf swing and also how to play the game to give yourself the best opportunity to score. To become a complete player, you must possess the physical qualities, but also the mental qualities it takes to score well consistently. Being a well-rounded complete player is what college coaches look for in the players they recruit.

Having an instructor that the player respects, trusts, and values is everything when it comes to progressing and planning for the road ahead. As an instructor to many competitive players both junior and adult, and still playing competitively myself, I have seen and experienced what it takes to get the most out of your potential. I have also become more and more aware of what player attributes it takes to score your best and get on the radar of college coaches.

Top 9 things to work on with your instructor:

1. Maximizing Clubhead Speed
2. Intelligent Course Management and Target Selection
3. Mental Game and Exercises to Practice
4. Physical Fitness and Mobility Training
5. Understanding Technology like Trackman
6. Stat Tracking and Strokes Gained
7. Short Game Artistry
8. Putting Strategy
9. Ball Flight and Trajectory Laws



PGA COACH MARC

TECHNOLOGY

Technology has become more and more prevalent over the last 10 years. Launch monitors like Trackman allow us to measure ball flight and causes. There are also so many other pieces of technology that also allow us to measure movements, like 3d motion capture, pressure plates, wrist flexion/extension, as well as many other movements that play in to our golf motions. Being able to quantify and measure is super important when it comes to making progress and being able to dictate more outcomes. Video analysis is also a key piece of technology that I have found to be incredibly useful to players. Most players are visual learners and when they see the difference between feels and reals in their golf swing via video, they quickly buy in to any necessary changes.

Players will progress quicker when they can measure results. I personally use a Trackman launch monitor mixed in with video analysis for my players. It has helped players understand their swing, what they should be looking for, and measuring their results to give them the satisfaction of any positive changes they have made.





PGA COACH MARC

COMMUNICATION AND MOTIVATION

Communication between player, parent, and instructor is vital for overall success and achieving goals. It is important for the player to have open communication with their instructor. It helps the coach understand what the player is missing in their game, what they are thinking during play and practice, and how they are thinking and going about their process, especially during competition.

As a coach myself, I know there are many different types of personalities, and it is important to find an instructor who can adapt to all different personalities. A great coach will always communicate in a way that will bring out the players' full potential.

Another key factor that will decide whether the player is successful or not is whether the player is internally motivated or externally motivated. What that means is does the player want success for themselves or are they carrying out their parents' dreams? If the player is internally motivated, they will typically do whatever it takes to improve. These types of players tend to be the most successful as they want it most and will work hard to achieve their goals.

Just remember as a parent, you can't want success for your child more than they want it for themselves. That can be a recipe for a disastrous relationship. As a parent, provide all the resources out there to give your child the best opportunity to improve and achieve long-term success. However, do not push more than your child wants to be pushed. You will be surprised how a little autonomy and independence will motivate your child to work hard and do great things.





PGA COACH MARC

SUCCESS STORIES & TESTIMONIALS

As a coach I am very proud of the accomplishments of all the players I work with. Over the past 10 years, I have been fortunate to have coached players who have achieved the following results:

- CT PGA Major Champions
- CT Amateur Semifinalist
- Multiple USGA National Championship Qualifiers
- Multiple Junior Tournament Winners
- Rhode Island State Open Runner-Up
- CT Four Ball Champions
- Multiple Club Champions
- PGA Jr League National Championship Qualifiers
- High School State Champions and All State Players
- Girls High School Player of the Year
- National Drive, Chip, and Putt Qualifier

I take a lot of pride in helping high school players develop into collegiate golfers.





PGA COACH MARC

WHO AM I?

I have been the PGA Head Golf Professional at Timberlin Golf Club in Berlin, CT since 2011. I have been fortunate to receive the honors of being named the 2020 CT PGA Teacher of the Year and 2015 CT PGA Youth Player Development Award recipient. I love coaching competitive players as I am still one myself. My playing highlights can be found listed below. I also have a great passion for coaching youth golfers as I have 2 kids myself who love the game (Marc - Class of 2031 & Max - Class of 2032).

- 2011 to present, Head Golf Professional at Timberlin GC
- 2008 - 2010, Assistant Golf Professional at Shuttle Meadow CC
- Class A PGA Member since 2009
- 2023 CT PGA Del Kinney Pro-Pro Champion
- 2022 CT PGA Walter Lowell Tournament Champion
- 2020 CT PGA Section Teacher of the Year
- 2018 runner-up CT PGA Championship
- 2017 runner-up CT PGA Spring Stroke Play Championship
- 2015 CT PGA Section Youth Player Development Award
- 5x Participant CT Section PGA Julius Boros Cup
- 4-year member of Saint Leo University golf team (2001-2005)
- ADM (American Development Model) Certified
- Level 1 Super Speed Golf Certified
- Level 2 U.S. Kids Coach Certified
- Coaching guided by Trackman 4 Launch Monitor





PGA COACH MARC

PROGRAMS OFFERED BY AGE

Find a coach in your area who specializes in youth programs and coaching competitive golfers. At Timberlin Golf Club, we run programs for all skill levels and ages. Here are examples of the programs we run and what to look for in your area.

Ages 5-9 - Junior Golf Camp

This program is a week-long program with 5 different sessions during the summer. The 1.5-hour class each day consists of games-based learning. We learn golf skills and life skills through different games to keep the participants engaged. Fun is the #1 priority as this is the first golf experience for most of the participants. We understand that this is our opportunity to create a golfer for life and we provide a team of coaches who bring high energy and motivation to each and every day. This program is normally where a player's golf journey begins.

Ages 5-10 - PGA Coach Marc Future Stars Academy

This program is a little more advanced than our Junior Golf Camps. Future Stars Academy is great for players looking to play competitive golf. This program is different than most, we start from the green-to-tee which is important for all players. This program provides players with a clear plan to learn to play the game. That is why the Future Stars curriculum provides junior golfers with the most effective developmental program to learn to play golf. Players will become learn how to score by following the roadmap to shooting 36 or better for 9-holes! To pass a level on an event day, you must shoot 36 or lower.

- Level 1 - 270 yards (30 yards per hole)
- Level 2 - 540 yards (60 yards per hole)
- Level 3 - 1,080 yards (120 yards per hole)
- Level 4 - 1,620 yards (180 yards per hole)
- Level 5 - 2,160 yards (240 yards per hole)





PGA COACH MARC

Ages 8-17 - PGA Jr League Elite/All-Stars

I cannot recommend PGA Jr League enough to all players and parents. If your goal is to play in high school or collegiately, you need to learn how to be a part of a team. Sure, golf is an individual sport, however, college golf is team oriented. At Timberlin Golf Course, we have the 2nd largest PGA Jr League program in the state of CT. It is something I am very proud of and many of the golfers who went on to play at the local high schools and in college started in our PGA Jr League program. Our PGA Jr League Elite program features both a 13U and 17U All Star Team. Our Elite program practices are geared towards more advanced players and don't just feature golf swing development, but also the importance of clubhead speed, decision making/course management, target selection, and mental preparedness. We also make sure to create an environment that encourages all players to work together as a team. The bonds and friendships formed through PGA Jr League can last a lifetime and it is truly the best junior program that introduces team golf.

Ages 6-17 - Private Lessons (Individual or Group)

There are many great coaches out there and it is important to find one your junior golfer connects with. Also, I am not saying it won't work, but my recommendation is to not be coach and parent. A parent is the support system in a player's development, a coach is there to assist in the player's skill development. It is really hard to be both. Take it from someone with experience, I coach hundreds of youth players every year and have as much experience coaching as anyone in my area, however to my own kids, I am dad. I know my role with them. When they ask for guidance or help, I will provide it, but I know my main job is to be a parent first. I cannot stress enough how important it is to be your child's support system for the good and the bad.





PGA COACH MARC

Ages 6-17 - Private Lessons (Individual or Group)

As far as finding a coach for private instruction, I highly recommend someone who practices what they preach. After all, who better understands playing at a high level in tournaments than someone who has actually put themselves in that arena. This type of coach will possess the knowledge of what it takes to score on the golf course and handle the pressures tournament golf provides. Also, try to find a member of the PGA of America, we are the experts in the business and game of golf and will have the resources to guide you and your player through things like tournament selection, recruitment process, and overall understanding what it will take to get your player to the next level. Lastly, finding a coach who uses and understands the newest technology. Some of the things I use are:

- Trackman 4 Launch Monitor
- Video Analysis
- Decade Golf Course Management
- SwingU Stat Tracking
- The Stack System Clubhead Speed Training

Having a coach who understands technology can help your player prepare for collegiate golf. It is absolutely essential to understand technology especially at the Division 1 level since all the big schools utilize the best technology in golf.

Financial Resources

I do realize that playing national golf tournaments all over the country is not in everyone's budget. Even playing locally, if you shoot solid tournament scores, you will get noticed. Here are some great resources however to help with financial assistance.

Youth on Course - Youth on Course began in 2006 to address a major disconnect in junior golf in Northern California: although there were programs to teach young golfers the basics of the game, the cost to play was proving an enormous hindrance.





PGA COACH MARC

To break this barrier, the Northern California Golf Association (NCGA) developed a unique program for local kids, where they could play select courses for just \$5. The organization quickly broadened its reach to other states, and Youth on Course became the new face of NCGA's Foundation, with a model referred to as "the most valuable membership in golf."

There are over 1,000 golf course nationwide that are available with the Youth on Course membership. Go to youthoncourse.org for more information or to obtain a membership.

PGA Reach - The PGA of America REACH Foundation is the 501(c)(3) charitable foundation of the PGA of America. The mission of the Foundation is to positively impact the lives of youth, military and diverse populations by enabling access to PGA of America Golf Professionals, PGA Sections and the game of golf.

The PGA Jr. League Scholarship Fund through PGA Reach exists to provide children everywhere with the opportunity to learn, play and love the game of golf. Together, we can remove barriers and open doors for families to create lifelong memories through experiences that transcend golf.

This scholarship is available to all players in financial need and also available to players that are part of military families. Go to pgajrleague.com or contact your local PGA Golf Professional who coaches a PGA Jr League team in your area for more information.

Junior Golf Associations - Most junior golf associations like the AJGA, USGA, Hurricane Golf Tour, etc. have financial assistance available to those who are in need and have an aspiring collegiate golfer. Information for these can be found on each associations website along with applications for these scholarships and financial assistance. The junior golf community is fortunate to have so much financial support from donors so those experiencing extenuating circumstances can still participate.





PGA COACH MARC

WRAP-UP

I hope this guide has helped you better understand what it takes for your child to become an elite junior golfer and potentially play at the collegiate level. I will leave you with this. A very small number of elite junior golfers end up playing Division 1 golf in college and an even smaller number end up playing professionally for their career. Kids grow up fast and before you know it are in high school, then college, then into the careers they choose. Make sure you enjoy the ride and be there for your child through thick and thin. More than anything make golf enjoyable and I promise you that you and your child or children will enjoy golf together for a lifetime. Make sure you create memories that you both can reflect on as you get older and look back and smile at the great times you shared. That is what makes the game of golf so special compared to other sports, is that it is something you can experience together.

If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out and I will help any way I can. Here are the ways to reach me:

EMAIL - Timberlinhp@gmail.com

GOLF COURSE - Timberlin Golf Course in Berlin, CT - www.timberlingolf.com

INSTAGRAM - @pgacoachmarc

WEBSITE - www.pgacoachmarc.com

THIS CONCLUDES THE PARENTS GUIDE TO CREATING AN ELITE JUNIOR GOLFER

