

Linda's Monthly Friendly Tip

June 2017

Happy June! I know that kids and parents alike everywhere are excited that this school year is fast coming to an end. The question is...what are you going to do with your summer?

For those Junior Players that are considering trying out for their school team next season, how about some Real Work on your game? I encourage all of my competitive (or want to be competitive) students to take this available time to work on your skills.

Remember, "Short Game" skills are how you score, or save your rear from any serious mistakes you make while out in the fairway. We call Putting, Chipping and Pitching the "Scoring Shots". I promise you, if you are skilled at these shots, you just may earn a position on your school team come fall and next spring.

Please, Mom and Dad, and Student: Don't wait until the eleventh hour and expect to make the team. You need to be working on your skills over the summer in order to be prepared for next season.

If you are already fairly skilled (or just want to experience the thrill of competition), I suggest playing in some tournaments throughout the summer. The U.S. Kids Golf has a local tour for ages 5 to 15. This is a great way for your Junior player to learn about competitive golf. It's also a good way for Mom and Dad to learn about Positive Coaching. If you are acting as caddy for your child, the Positive Coaching Alliance is a great way to learn about how to be a motivating and positive influence in your child's life!

The National Junior Golf Tour (NJGT) also provides many tournaments in both North and South Carolina for Junior Golfers. They also have a College Prep series for those more elite players who want to play College Golf. The Peggy Kirk Bell Tour also provides great opportunities for all Junior Girl Golfers, with many tournaments throughout North Carolina.

Besides lessons and practice there are many ways to hone your competitive skills. There is a world of difference in playing a round for fun with your friends and family, than playing to get those "competitive juices" flowing.

Try them out! I think you will be surprised in what you learn about yourself. My hat goes off to any junior interested in playing tournament golf. It takes a lot of courage to put yourself out there on that big stage. Remember that winning or losing doesn't matter as long as you finish with dignity. The first thing I always ask my students after they've played in a tournament is, "What did you learn today"?

Consider the possibilities! If you need some help, please come see me. I've coached many competitive golfers who go on to play college golf.

There is nothing wrong with playing just for fun. This IS the game for a lifetime. If you play golf, you're my friend.

Think it over and decide where YOU want your game to be!

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