

Tournament Information and Education

There is a strategy to making your tournament schedule. Every player is different with their experience, playing ability and where they stand in the recruiting process.

I think it is important to have a well balanced schedule. You do not want to burn out by playing too many events, but you want to gain experience in different aspects in order to develop properly and be the best you can be.

I hope this information can help you get the most “bang for your buck”. The TJGT and AJGA events can be quite expensive for a family. Here is how I recommend scheduling your tournaments -

1. Gain experience - play the local tours (beltway tour, HGA, STPGA)
2. Gain status to TJGT invitationals - play their lower level events, just enough to get status to bigger events.
3. AJGA - once you have enough status for TJGT invitationals, I would spend your money to play in these events. You get more value than TJGT regular events
4. Legends Tour, USGA junior amateur - keep your eye on these schedules in order to qualify for the big events
5. Starburst - this is a big event for Texas junior golfers. During your younger years (up through 9th grade) this event gives you good experience playing against strong competition, but later in your high school career it does not offer as much value.

Beltway Tour/ STPGA/ HGA

The smaller events give you an opportunity to gain experience in tournament play. Even for experienced junior players these type of events offer you the opportunity to gain experience shooting low scores and WINNING. Learning how to go low and win is a unique experience that should be developed in addition to playing in the bigger events on the TJGT and AJGA.

When recruiting as a college coach, we want to see players that do well on the national level against the top players, but we also want to see players that know how to go low and win. In my opinion, these tournaments are just as important as the bigger events.

You get much more value for your money on the beltway tour, and the coaches that run the tour are a very good resource to helping you advance your game into the TJGT and AJGA events. Pick the events that fit your personal schedule and play as many as you can!

Beltway tournament schedule

<http://www.beltwayjgt.com/Tour/TournamentList.aspx>

Texas Junior Golf Tour

The major events on the TJGT offer good exposure. In order to get into these events, you need to play in their other tournaments in order to get status.

<https://tournaments.tigt.com/Tournament>

Any event that is not an invitational is an opportunity to gain points and qualify for the big events. The cost of these events are quite high, so I would only play enough of these events to get enough points to get into the invitationals. After you have qualified for the big events I recommend playing Beltway Tour in order to keep your game sharp in competition, as the smaller TJGT points do not offer much more value outside of the invitationals.

Major Tournaments - your goal should be to play well in the smaller TJGT events in order to gain invitations to these events.

Oct Lone Star Boys Invitational (I have never been here but because it is an invitational, you will need to qualify in earlier events and I would expect college coaches in attendance at this event.

December Traditions Fall Invitational , College Station (I personally recruited here on 2 different occasions and there are numerous college coaches in attendance)

December The Holiday Classic

Texas Legends Junior Tour

Most of these bigger events will be starting in the spring summer. Please take the time to read through the education on these events so you can be prepared to get into the main events win the time comes.

<http://www.txga.org/tournaments.php?region=&category=3&year=2016>

USGA

The US Junior Amateur is the ultimate event for junior golfers. This is held in the summer months, make sure to sign up for the qualifier in time!

<https://champs.usga.org/index.html>

AJGA

Whether we like it or not, the AJGA is the ultimate platform to being recruited to play college golf. They pretty much have a monopoly on the recruiting process, because they have been holding the best quality and competitive tournaments in the country for many years.

If your goal is to play NCAA D1 golf and looking at schools nationally, AJGA gives you the opportunity to get in front of coaches nationally. Coaches want to see how you stack up against your peers that will be playing D1 golf.

If you can not afford the expense of AJGA and still want to play D1 golf, you will still have opportunities as long as you strategize your recruiting process effectively. Don't be fooled, you as the junior golfer need to take control of your recruiting process, do not sit back and wait for them to find you!

Keep an eye on the registration openings for tournaments you would like to play, AJGA events fill up fast!

Getting started with AJGA

1. **Membership** - Get registered with the AJGA by purchasing the general membership. You do NOT need the “junior PLUS membership” if you are working directly with me. I will give you all the insight and information on the best practices for college recruiting.
 - a. Sign up - <https://www.ajga.org/membership/membershipinfo.asp#junior>
2. **Pre season series** - If you have not played in an AJGA Open event you are eligible to compete in the “Preseason series events”. These are a great opportunity to get status and compete in the open events. Open events are the main tournaments where you can expect college coaches to be in attendance and gain exposure for recruiting. The preseason series events start in March, I would keep an eye on when registration opens because all AJGA events sell out fast!
 - a. Sign up - <https://www.ajga.org/schedule/index.asp?year=2016#preseason>
3. **Junior All-Star series** - If you are between the ages of 13-15, these are good events to play against your peers and get a head start on qualifying for open AJGA events.
 - a. Sign up - <https://www.ajga.org/schedule/index.asp?year=2016#jas>
4. **Qualifiers** - if you feel your game is ready (breaking 80), these are good opportunities to gain access to the open events, which is the “main stage” for AJGA. I would sign up for these when you feel your game is ready.
 - a. Sign up - <https://www.ajga.org/schedule/index.asp?year=2016#qualifiers>
5. **Open events** - check the tournament schedule and see which events you would like to put on your schedule.
 - a. Schedule - <https://www.ajga.org/schedule/index.asp?year=2016#open>
6. **Invitationals** - if and when you play well in the open events, you will gain access to the invitationals, which is the top stage of junior golf. If you receive an invitation, you should definitely play!

I hope this information helps, if you have any questions send me an email
woknowsgolf@gmail.com