

## Loudoun Junior Association - Code of Conduct

*Last Update: February 18, 2019*

The Loudoun Junior Golf Association, (LJGA) provides worthwhile golf activities that can be pursued throughout life and help develop character, sportsmanship and the life values of integrity, honesty, self-discipline and competitive spirit. To make LJGA activities, events and tournaments enjoyable for everyone, all junior golfers and their parents/guardians/siblings must adhere to this Code of Conduct. Its purpose is to help LJGA participants grow and mature by understanding and accepting the consequences of their actions. Violation of the Code of Conduct can result in tournament penalties and/or disqualification and/or suspension of membership. Junior golfers and their parent(s)/guardian(s) are to observe this Code of Conduct at all LJGA tournaments, practice facilities, and similar public events.

### 1. SPECIFIC CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

1. Disrespect to a scorer, tournament official, club employee, or another player.
2. Failure to abide by the Rules of Golf or a decision by a Tournament Official.
3. Intentional and/or malicious damage to the facility including greens, fairways, tee, and/or other property.
4. Throwing clubs or other golf related equipment.
5. Obscene or vulgar language and/or gestures.
6. Use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs (unless medically prescribed) during LJGA events.
7. Player's failure to observe LJGA dress code at tournaments after being warned. The Loudoun Junior Golf Association is a uniform league. LJGA member shirts and hats are issued to all players prior to check in at the member's first tournament. The cost of the shirts and hats is included in the member's registration fee. The LJGA hat must be worn facing forward and the LJGA shirt must be tucked in. All players must wear khaki slacks or shorts. Girls may optionally wear khaki skirts or culottes. Khaki is defined as beige or light brown. Players in the Masters Division may be directed to wear different colors by their commissioner.
8. Coaching and/or advising of players by parents.
9. Parents interfering with other players or otherwise disrupting play.
10. Any conduct or behavior similar to the foregoing actions.

### 2. CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATION PENALTIES

#### **First infraction**

A two-stroke penalty is assessed on the current hole and is added by the player's scorecard.

If the infraction occurs prior to the start of play, the penalty is assessed on the first hole.

If the infraction occurs at a non-tournament event, the penalty will be assessed at the next tournament on the first hole.

#### **Second infraction**

A second infraction is defined as committing the same infraction for which the player has previously penalized at the same event. The player is assessed a two-stroke penalty and, at the discretion of the committee, may be immediately disqualified from the event.

**Notes:**

- a. An egregious breach of the LJGA Code of Conduct may also result in the player receiving a suspension of his/her LJGA membership.
- b. The LJGA may report any incident to the course/facility manager and/or the appropriate civil authorities.
- c. Penalties assessed by a Tournament Official are subject to review by the committee.
- d. Suspensions are imposed by the Board of Directors of the LJGA.

**3. TOURNAMENT "NO SHOWS"/WITHDRAWAL**

Players are to be at the first tee, ready to play at their assigned tee times. In the event a player is unable to arrive at the assigned tee time, the player must inform the Division Commissioner at least one hour prior to the start of the tournament. If a different tee time is needed, adjustment of the player's tee time is done as a best effort. Tee times will not be assigned outside the schedule of the tournament. Players missing their tee time without giving notice, will be disqualified from the tournament.

**4. TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION, CHECK-IN PROCEDURE, AND INCLEMENT WEATHER:**

The date and starting time of all tournaments is listed on the LJGA web site under the side menu button "Schedules". For each tournament, players and parent Tournament Officials are directed to a sign-up web page the week of the tournament. All players expecting to play are to preregister. Tee times are posted to the LJGA web site at least 24 hours prior to the tournament.

All LJGA golfers are strongly encouraged to check in at least 45 minutes prior to their posted tee times. This allows time to find their pairing, warm up, and prepare to play. Players must be at the first tee, ready to play at their assigned tee times. USGA Rules concerning disqualification may be enforced for late arrivals. A player must tee off with his/her assigned group and have hit his/her first hole tee shot prior to the other members of the group hitting their second shots of the first hole. Players are not allowed to join their pairing once the pairing is on the course.

Play stops immediately at the first sign of lightning. In the event of inclement weather, a decision to hold or cancel the event will be made as soon as possible. Tee times may be delayed up to 1 hour, but the event will be cancelled if play cannot be started within 1 hour. Players should always arrive for scheduled tournaments even if the weather looks bad - it may not be bad at the tournament site. If a course is closed due to bad weather, the Division Commissioner or the LJGA committee will push the cancellation information to you. News of weather delays is posted to the LJGA web site, sent via email, and/or pushed through Twitter by @LoudounJRGolf.

**5. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, SAFETY, CADDIES, and PACE of PLAY**

The term spectator(s) applies to parents, guardians, siblings, extended family members, and all other persons accompanying a junior golfer during an event regardless of relationship. The LJGA expects spectators to encourage their child and to participate in their child's progress with the game of golf. However, spectators who are not duly appointed Tournament Officials may act only as observers during tournaments.

The first incident of a spectator coaching a junior golfer during a tournament will result in a warning to both the spectators and the junior golfer. The second incident will result in a two-stroke penalty being assessed against the junior golfer. For this reason, and for safety purposes, spectators and other members of the gallery are to remain off fairways and greens and maintain a distance of at least 50 feet from the junior golfers and their line of play. Spectators are encouraged to help with pace of play and finding lost balls but shall defer all rulings and tournament management to the LJGA staff and/or Tournament Officials. When a spectator serves as a Tournament Official, the spectator is expected to assist all players equally and not favor their own child.

Spectators may not possess or consume alcoholic beverages on the golf course during a LJGA event. Anyone wishing to enjoy an adult beverage is to do so in the club house or restaurant. Any spectator on the golf course during a LJGA event that is deemed to be under the influence of alcohol or narcotics is subject to removal and arrest. Under no circumstances should anyone who has consumed alcohol operate a golf cart at an LJGA event.

Absent of a proven medical condition, disability, or similar situation that prevents a junior golfer from carrying or pulling their own bags/clubs (as determined by the LJGA Board of Directors), the use of caddies is prohibited for all participants. Pull carts may be used provided the hosting facility allows them.

Spectators may rent golf carts at their own expense to follow players provided the facility makes spectator carts available. Carts may be used to move players between holes, but clubs must be removed from the cart once the player arrives at the next tee. All players and spectators must ride inside the cart. Under no circumstances is anyone allowed to ride on the back or otherwise outside of a cart. In the event of lightening, anyone with a cart is expected to assist in the evacuation of the golf course.

Pace of play is strictly monitored and appropriate penalties assessed when necessary. If a group falls out of position they will be warned and expected to catch up with the group ahead of them within two holes. Failure to do so will result in a two-stroke penalty for all members of the group. If players are unable to maintain pace of play after warnings and penalties are given, these players may be removed from the course. Additionally, players displaying a pattern of slow play may be prevented from requesting early tee times in future tournaments.