



The Prep Tour begins our 6th year of competition March 18th and 19th at Effingham Country Club. The Prep Tour Mission Statement remains unchanged. The goal of The Prep Tour is to provide junior golfers and their families an affordable, competitive tour where junior golfers can sharpen their skills for the approaching Summer and Fall seasons.

The costs of competitive junior golf continue to rise. \$250 Tour membership fees and \$200 Tournament event fees easily turn into \$1000 weekends once you add the associated costs of meals, lodging, and other travel costs. The Prep Tour is committed to helping families reduce these costs without sacrificing the competitive experience of Tournament golf. There will still not be a Tour Membership fee to play in Prep Tour events in 2017. 2 Day, 36 hole events will still have modest and reasonable entry fees from \$80 - \$90. Does that mean that you should only play on The Prep Tour exclusively? Absolutely not. It is a cog in the wheel of tournaments a competitive golfer should choose from. Our aim is to be a valuable choice.

The competitive skills of Prep Tour players continue to shine . Prep Tour players' accomplishments:

- 128 Prep Tour players advanced to the IHSA State Golf Finals
- 25 Prep Tour players were IHSA Regional Medalists
- 5 Prep Tour players finished in the Top 5 @ IHSA State
- Both 2016 IESA State Champions are regular Prep Tour players
- 5 or more 2017 Prep Tour players will sign Division 1 scholarships

The Prep Tour 2017 venue list is extraordinary. Professional venues (TPC Deere Run & Panther Creek CC), resort courses, the finest private Country Clubs Central Illinois has to offer, all 5 IHSA State Championship sites, and many IHSA Regional and Sectional sites highlight The Prep Tour 2017 venue list. The Prep Tour will return to Eagle Ridge in Galena for a family friendly 4th of July weekend trip. Eagle Ridge will offer a discounted Prep Tour room block and a discounted Prep Tour rate for family members wanting to play "The General". We love supporting junior golf through family vacation experiences and aim to provide at least one each year.

New for 2017:

1. The Prep Tour will debut a 9 Hole Spring Development Series. This instructional series will teach some basic golf competition rules, pace of play tips, and independent scoring. These 6 Spring Wednesday evening events will help new players and families become acclimated to competitive golf and The Prep Tour and allow veterans of The Prep Tour to get ready for weekend events.
2. The 1st 4 events of the Spring (Effingham, The Den, Piper Glen, and Coyote/Kellogg) will NOT be Junior Golf Scoreboard ranked events. The Prep Tour does not believe it is equitable for the JGS to rank these events evenly with a 75 degree day in Atlanta. Therefore, these 4 early season events will not count against a player's JGS scoring average.
3. The Prep Tour continues to enjoy our association with The IJGA / MAJGT. Matt Wennmaker, IJGA Senior Director, has graciously offered Prep Tour players a discounted IJGA/MAJGT Discount code to play the MAJGT Stone Creek Open. Prep Tour players may use the code Prep50 for a \$50 discount to play this event. The IJGA/MAJGT is another cog in the competitive tournament wheel and could be used to widen a golfer's overall competitive golf experience and resume.
4. The Prep Tour has added an Alumni Page to The Prep Tour website. Over 150 Prep Tour players have continued on to play Collegiate Golf.

Challenge Cup 2017 vs. the Illinois Junior Golf Association will be held July 15th and July 16th at a Chicago venue TBD. Last years 12 - 12 tie held at Fyre Lake National GC July 2016 helped the IJGA retain the Challenge Cup . Detailed information on how players can qualify to represent The Prep Tour in 2017 can be found at www.preptour.com/challenge-cup.html The 2017 Spring points race begins March 18th and 19th @ Effingham CC.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of The Prep Tour as we look forward to a fantastic and competitive 2017 season! We are very proud of all of our competitors and look forward to meeting even more!