



The Prep Tour begins our **8th year** of competition March 9th and 10th at Rend Lake Golf Resort in Whittington, Illinois. The Prep Tour Mission Statement remains unchanged: 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 again be **NO Tour Membership Fee** to play in Prep Tour events in 2019. 2 Day, 36 hole events will still have modest and reasonable entry fees from \$89 - \$95. Our aim is to be a **valuable choice** for competitive golfers and their families.

**Players and Parents should carefully review the updated Prep Tour website.** Each Tournament Information Page has the updated start times, yardages, age groups, and field sizes. The Policies page on The Prep Tour website has all of the updated policies and a [link to the Rained Out](#) text messaging service The Prep Tour will use for event alerts this year. Registration buttons are located on the corresponding Tournament Information Pages. The Registration buttons will be “active” beginning January 11th, 2019.

2018 was a fantastic year for The Prep Tour players:

- 55+ Prep Tour players signed to play Collegiate Golf
- Prep Tour players won The Challenge Cup & The Callaway Cup
- Prep Tour players won IHSA & IESA State Championships
- Numerous HS Player of the Year, All-Conference, All-Area and Medalist awards
- The High School Showcases continued to be the **elite High School event** other than the IHSA State Finals. The 2018 Showcases featured the IHSA State Championship

team and the Runners Up in Boys Class 1A, 2A, & 3A along with the IHSA Girls State Championship team and Runner Up in class 1A

### **Featured Events for 2019:**

1. **Callaway Cup-** The 2nd annual Prep Tour - SIGA Callaway Cup will be held Saturday July 6th and Sunday July 7th at Effingham Country Club. The Prep Tour will defend the Callaway Cup won in 2018 sponsored by Kevin Hefner @ Callaway/Ogio Golf. The Prep Tour will conduct a 14 event points race to provide players the opportunity to qualify for this exciting event. Additional details are published on The Callaway Cup webpage: <http://www.preptour.com/callaway-cup.html>
2. **Challenge Cup-** The 5th annual Prep Tour - IJGA Challenge Cup will be held Saturday July 13th and Sunday July 14th in Chicago. The Prep Tour will defend the Challenge Cup won in 2018 at a venue still TBD. The 2019 Spring points race begins April 6th and 7th @ The Den at Fox Creek. Players may represent The Prep Tour at The Callaway Cup in Effingham or The Challenge Cup in Chicago, **but not both**. Detailed information on how players can qualify to represent The Prep Tour at The Challenge Cup in 2019 can be found at <http://www.preptour.com/challenge-cup.html> .
3. **AJGA “Points” Race-** Pekin Country Club will be hosting the American Junior Golf Association’s (AJGA) D.A. Points Junior Championship July 8th- July 11th. The Tournament Committee has awarded The Prep Tour both a Boys and a Girls exemption into the tournament field. The Prep Tour will conduct a 9 event “Points” Race to determine the winners of these exemptions. Additional details are published on The Prep Tour website AJGA page <http://www.preptour.com/ajga-race.html>
4. **Girls Elite Events-** The Prep Tour will conduct 6 Girls Elite events testing young ladies at a minimum distance of at least 5700 yds. These 6 tournaments give talented girls a chance to test their mettle at distances closer to what Collegiate Women play.
5. **Match Play Championship-** Qualifying rounds will be held at Quail Meadows, Pontiac Elks, Crestwicke CC, Stone Creek/Univ. Of Illinois, and Lincoln Greens Matches will be held @ RedTail Run, Hickory Point, and possibly SouthSide CC in Decatur. Players must win an invitation at 1 of the qualifying sites to be eligible to compete for this Championship. <http://www.preptour.com/18-match-play.html>

6. **New Venues for 2019-** Rend Lake Resort, a return to Governors Run, a return to Prairie View GC, Keller's Crossing @ Stone Creek, El Paso GC and Lincoln Greens GC in Springfield all highlight The Prep Tour 2019 schedule.
7. **“Girls Only” Memorial Day in Decatur** - 51 HS Girls competed (with a Waiting List of 10+) in the 2018 Memorial Day in Decatur Championship. The Prep Tour is excited to announce our 1st “Girls Only” event at the sites of The IHSA Girls 1A & 2A State Finals. The event will continue to have AJGA PBE Stars awarded. A **“Collegiate Women Only”** event has been added to the Summer Schedule @ The Rail & Piper Glen in Springfield.
8. **Expansion this Fall?** - Prep Tour Director Sean Kennedy is now also the Illinois Valley Community College Men's Golf Coach. Many of you asked how this would affect The Prep Tour Schedule and if The Prep Tour would continue? The Prep Tour remains steadfast in our commitment to conduct affordable, competitive junior golf tournaments throughout Illinois. Prep Tour plans for 2019 include:
  - a. Full 37 event schedule
  - b. Events added in Southern Illinois
  - c. Fall and possible Winter 2020 expansion

**Registration opens Friday January 11th, 2019.** Events that typically sell out include:

- Ironwood
- Ironhorse / Univ of Illinois Orange
- Mother's Day @ The Rail
- Memorial Day in Decatur
- Prairie Vista
- ISU
- Bloomington CC / Ironwood

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of The Prep Tour as we look forward to another fantastic and competitive 2019 season! We are very proud of all of our competitors and look forward to meeting even more!