



The Prep Tour begins our **13th year** of competition March 10th, 2024 at Oak Brook Golf Course in Edwardsville. 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 \$250+ Tournament event fees easily turn into \$1000 - \$1500 weekends once you add the associated costs of practice rounds, 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. 2 Day, 36 hole events will still have modest and reasonable entry fees from \$109 - \$119. 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. The Prep Tour Tournament Information Pages have the updated start times, yardages, entry fee amount, registration cut off dates and when the tee times will be released

Changes for 2024:

- **Divisions & Age Groups:**
 - a. The Prep Tour will not reclassify age groups / divisions at the end of June. Playing divisions for the Spring and Summer seasons will remain constant.
 - b. Players that meet the published scoring criteria will have the option to “play up” and register in the division of their choice.
 - c. HS Boys playing divisions will play different yardages in 2024. Playing divisions **will not** be combined into a single Junior Golf Scoreboard report per JGS guidelines.

- **Playing Divisions for 2024:**

- a. **Varsity Boys:** 6500-6800 yards. 2024 (Sr.), 2025 (Jr.), and 2026 (Soph.) HS graduates eligible. 2027 (Fr.) and 2028 (8th grade) HS graduates with scoring averages of 85 or better may play up.
- b. **Junior Varsity Boys:** 6000-6450 yards. 2026 (Soph.) and 2027 (Fr.) HS graduates eligible. 2028 (8th grade) and 2029 (7th grade) HS graduates with scoring averages of 95 or better may play up. **Caddies are not allowed for 2028 and 2029 HS graduates in this division.**
- c. **Junior High Boys:** 5200-5700 yards. 2028 (8th grade), 2029 (7th grade), and 2030 (6th grade) HS Graduates eligible. 2031(5th grade) HS graduates with scoring averages of 100 or better are eligible.
- d. **HS Girls:** 5000-5600 yards. 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028 HS graduates are eligible. 2029 (7th grade) HS graduates with a scoring average of 110 or better are eligible.
- **Continuous Putting:** Golf Courses are busy. The Prep Tour values our junior friendly relationships with our fantastic venue partners. The Prep Tour's firm commitment to maintaining an efficient Pace of Play will not waver in 2024.
 - a. Playing groups maintaining or exceeding a 4 hour 20 minute pace of play will have the option of Continuously Putting.
 - b. Playing groups that are not maintaining the minimum 4 hour 20 minute Pace of Play standard will be required to Continuously Putt until the Pace of Play standard has been regained.
 - c. **ALL** playing groups will be required to "clear the green" and proceed to the next teeing ground.
- **Schedule Changes:** The IHSA 7 day calendar rollback will necessitate some changes to The Prep Tour Schedule. The 2024 / 2025 IHSA State Golf Finals will be pushed back to October 11th and 12th next Fall.
 - a. The Callaway Cup will not be contested in 2024. November 2nd/3rd is just too late in the year to host this event.
 - b. There will be 3 Notah Begay qualifiers in 2024: March 10th @ Oak Brook, May 11th @ Lincoln Greens, May 31st @ Quail Meadows.
 - c. The Prep Tour will host an AJGA Qualifier June 17th and 18th @ Lick Creek. The Boys Varsity Medalist and the HS Girls Medalist will win unpaid exemptions into the AJGA 2024 Renewal by Andersen D.A. Points Championship in July @ Pekin Country Club.
 - d. The Fall "Recruiting Showcase" returns October 19th and 20th @ Ironwood GC.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of The Prep Tour as we look forward to another fantastic and competitive 2024 season! We are very proud of all of our competitors and look forward to meeting even more!