

2009 Philadelphia Junior Tour Highlights

The 2009 Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour season is shaping up to be a very exciting season. Brian Schulte, PGA, entering his second full season as the Tour's director has made tremendous strides in the growth of the Section's junior program. In his first full year at the helm of the Tour, Schulte was able to increase participation to over 600 members for the first time in more than five years. This was done through an extended Junior Tour season as well as through initiatives like the Junior Affiliate Program.

The Affiliate program allows the Section to market the Junior Tour to participating facilities throughout the Section. In exchange the Section will provide a free membership to a new junior at the participating facility as well as promote the facility through space on the Junior Tour website, www.phillyjuniortour.com.

Highlights of the 2009 Junior Tour season include series events throughout the Section including stops at Rehoboth Beach, DE, the Pocono Mountains, Dover, DE, and State College, PA. Additionally, the Tour will host the Philadelphia Junior PGA Championship at French Creek GC in Elverson, PA on June 29th. The Tour's marquee event, the Junior Tour Championship, brings together the top juniors in the Philadelphia Section at the Philadelphia Cricket Club on August 24th. The Philadelphia Section will also return as host of the Junior Challenge Cup Matches. The Section previously hosted this event in 2007. The event pits juniors from the Philadelphia Section PGA against juniors from the New Jersey Section PGA in a one day Ryder Cup style event. The third annual Challenge Cup will be played at Galloway National GC on August 20th. However, the biggest addition to the 2009 Junior Schedule are the Junior Team Matches.

The Junior Team Matches will consist of 8 person teams from facilities throughout the Section. The teams are organized into various divisions and will play each other in round robin tournament in hopes of making it to the Playoff and Challenges round being played on June 20th. One team will be crowned the inaugural Junior Team Matches Champion. More information on the Team Matches as well as Junior Tour membership and schedule information can be found at www.phillyjuniortour.com.