



February, 2020

Dear Foundation Member,

We hope that your year is off to a great start! The FSGA Foundation had a very good year in 2019, and we look forward to helping more junior golfers and the game of golf in 2020. Following is a brief summary of the Foundation activities that you help make possible. Our Foundation remains focused on the development and advancement of our junior golfers and we look forward to having the foremost junior golf program in the country.

## **Junior Golf**

### **Florida Junior Tour (FJT)**

The FJT is growing in participation every year! In 2019, we conducted 40 36-hole tournaments for boys and girls from around the state. In total, more than 1,200 juniors participated in our FJT events and junior championships. Of particular note, was the success of the 9-12 age division. We conducted nine tournaments for 9-12 year-olds and these young juniors are extremely talented! Typically, to win in the 9-12 year-old division, a player has to be under par and the boys are playing from the equivalent of the senior men's tees. It's wonderful, yet humbling.

Etiquette and Care for the Course – You may be pleased to know that every junior teeing off in any of our junior events is required to carry sand to fill divots. We also have divot mix refill stations throughout the course and the kids are doing great. We hold a meeting prior to every 9-12 year-old division event where we work with the juniors on etiquette, how to move around the course efficiently, how to use the rules of golf, and how to express appreciation to the volunteers and staff. You would be proud to see the kids filling divots, raking bunkers, shaking hands and thanking the staff.

For 2020, we have 42 FJT events scheduled statewide. We have added new event categories for the older juniors (13-18) that includes tournaments that are only for players without any exemptions; and some events exclusively for players with exemptions. Not unlike the PGA Tour's Korn Ferry Tour, we are moving towards having a two-tiered junior tour to provide balanced playing opportunities for players of all skill levels.

## **Junior Championships**

We currently conduct seven state championships for junior golfers offering different formats of play. Our Junior Match Play Championship introduces many of our juniors to match play for the first time, and our Junior Florida Cup brings together 32 players from around the state to compete over three rounds in a Ryder Cup style match.

Junior Florida Cup - At last year's Junior Florida Cup in Jacksonville, we were able to treat the juniors to a night at Top Golf on the evening of the practice round. As you would expect from golfers of any age, the teams had fun needling each other and trash talking about the upcoming matches. It was a great event and one that the players will always remember. If you were to look back at pictures from our very first Junior Florida Cup in 2006, you would see two very familiar faces representing the South Team – Brooks Koepka and Lexi Thompson. The Junior Florida Cup has a wonderful history.

Team Championship – The FSGA hosts a Junior Team Championship each year, where junior golf programs from around the state send teams to compete for the state championship. Many of these local junior programs use this championship as a year-end reward to their players who have competed locally throughout the summer.

Futures Championship – The Futures Championship is for our juniors ages 9-12. At the 2019 championship, we had two amazing examples of how good these kids are! Jessy Hueber, only 10 years old, posted a 36-hole total of 3-under par to win. That is an incredible score for a 10-year old from 5,000+ yards. In the 12 year-old girls' division, from the ladies tees, Katelyn Huber shot a final round 7-under par 65 to win the title at 6-under. Stunning!

## **Junior Golf Skills Assessments**

In an effort to provide the best possible exposure for our juniors to college coaches, we are conducting player assessments (combines) with the use of Trackman. At one of our combines, juniors hit 60 shots to targets set at nine different distances ranging from 60-180 yards, plus their driver. Their overall performance results in a “combine score” that can be compared against players of all ages and skills, including college players and PGA Tour members.

After each junior completes an assessment, their online profile is updated to include a list of their competitive results, Trackman results (combine score, club head speed etc.), swing videos from front and down-the-line, a video interview to introduce the junior, and more profile information about their interests and family that college coaches seek. Modern golf coaches are looking for more statistics and swing information on prospects and this effort provides more juniors broad exposure to golf programs throughout the country.

In 2019, we had 140 juniors complete the assessments program and look forward to providing all of our juniors access to technology that was previously only available to a few who were most fortunate.

## College Scholarships & Golf Tournament Assistance

In 2019, your support provided college scholarships for 43 recipients who attended colleges throughout the country. Our scholarship applicants typically come from our junior golf programs and this additional exposure allows us to better identify worthy candidates. Below are the universities attended due to your contributions to the FSGA Foundation.

### List of Scholarships - 2019 Colleges & Universities Represented

<u>University (Students Attending)</u>	
College of Central Florida	Nova Southeastern University
Delta State University	Oglethorpe University (3)
Emory University	Saint Leo University
Florida A&M Univeristy	Southern New Hampshire University
Florida Gulf Coast (2)	University of Florida (2)
Florida Atlantic University	University of Central Florida (2)
Florida Gateway College	University of Mississippi
Florida State University	University of North Florida (2)
Georgia Institute of Technology	University of North Georgia
Indian River State College	University of Notre Dame
Iona College	University of South Florida (2)
Jacksonville University	University of West Florida
Liberty University	Utah Valley University

### Tournament Assistance

The FSGA Foundation provides junior golfers with assistance to pay entry fees and travel expenses. In Florida, we presently have 32 juniors on “entry scholarship” which allows a family to enter their child into a tournament for only \$28 that would otherwise cost \$110 or more. Further, we often provide these families with a partial reimbursement of their travel and lodging expense. A family with a player in an FJT event often incurs the expense of a hotel night and a tank of gas to reach the tournament. In those cases we provide applicants \$150-\$200 to help defray those expenses. We also monitor how frequently these requests are made to ensure that we remain balanced in our assistance.

In 2019, we provided approximately \$20,000 in entry and travel assistance and we hope to expand this program in 2020.

National Championships – For many years we have provided travel assistance, based on need, to Florida’s juniors and even young amateurs (25 years old or less) who qualify to play in national championships, such as the U.S. Amateur or U.S. Girls’ or Boys’ Junior Championships. Participating in a national championship typically results in more than a thousand dollars of expenses, and we hope to be able to offer more assistance to our juniors and young adults in 2020.

## **Your Impact**

Professional Careers - It is truly incredible to watch the growth of the juniors who move up through our junior program, into college golf and even on to professional golf. We are very proud of the dozens of players who have advanced to the PGA, LPGA, Korn Ferry, and Futures Tours. Players of worldwide fame, such as Brooks Koepka and Lexi Thompson, shine a positive light on the achievements of juniors who participated in FSGA and FJT programs.

Augusta National Women’s Amateur - In just a couple months, some of our current and past junior players will be on the national stage at the Augusta National Women’s Amateur. Four FJT alumni who will be competing in Augusta this April include; Abbey Carlson, Auston Kim, Megan Schofill, and Alexa Pano.

Lifelong Amateurs - Even more important than our juniors who turn professional, are the thousands of golfers that we impact who do not become professionals, but who become outstanding members of our community and lifelong amateur golfers. In our state championships, we have hundreds of players who started with us as juniors. Some tried the professional game for a short period and then returned to amateur golf. Others played in college or not at all after high school, yet they are back actively playing the game we all love.

## **All Because of You**

Thank you for your continued support of the FSGA Foundation. You make all of our efforts possible and we hope that we are good stewards of your support. We share your love of this game and we are committed to guiding and nurturing the juniors who represent the future of golf.

Kindest regards,

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