



NORTHUMBERLAND JUNIOR GOLF TOUR 2017 – ENTRY CRITERIA & RULES

ENTRIES

Entries are open to players who:

- Are aged 7 to 12yrs (Boys) or 7 to 13yrs (Girls) on 1st January 2017.
- Have a CONGU or Junior Club handicap above 20.
- Do not have a club handicap.
- Are a member of a club in Northumberland
- Live in the County (only if they are not a club member).

Entry fees £6 per event or £25 for all 5 qualifying events.

Application forms and payment must be received by closing date on **31st March 2017**

Applications sent after the closing date will only be accepted only if places are available.

All applications are accepted at the discretion of NCGP and are limited to a **maximum of 80 places** subject to tee time availability.

Confirmation of entry will be made via email once application and full payment has been received.

CATEGORIES

	CATEGORY	HANDICAP	GENDER	AGE	TEE
1	ADVANCED	CONGU 20 - 28	BOYS	7-12	YELLOW
2	BEGINNER	JGT 29 - 54	BOYS	11-12	BLUE
3	BEGINNER	JGT 29 - 54	BOYS	7-10	BLUE
4	ADVANCED	CONGU 20 - 36	GIRLS	7-13	RED
5	BEGINNER	JGT 37 - 54	GIRLS	7-13	BLUE

*Categories are subject to change dependent upon entries but they will be decided before the first event in each county.

Players will remain in the category that they play the first event in for all of the qualifying events and final, regardless if they reduce their handicap or gain a CONGU handicap.

FORMAT

All five qualifying events will be played over 9 holes at each venue.

All categories will play a Strokeplay format, meaning that the score they enter for each hole will be the number of strokes taken to complete the hole.

Players will receive half of their full handicap allowance (for 9 holes).

RULES

Players with a club or CONGU handicap must bring a certificate or letter from their club with them to the first event.

A Parental Consent and Photographic Consent must be received before a junior will be allowed to play.

Players must register a minimum of 15 minutes before their tee time and must be with the starter 10 minutes before their tee time.

All players are responsible for their own scorecard and must sign it before bringing it to the registration desk immediately after the completion of play.

Failure to inform the Regional Manager that you are unable to attend an event you have entered, unless an emergency will result in the junior being unable to win a prize at the following event they play in.

ADVANCED Categories will follow R&A and Local Rules on scorecards.

BEGINNER Categories will follow JGT Beginner Rules (detailed below).

Tournament Directors decision will be FINAL on all disputes.

JGT BEGINNER RULES (For competitors playing from blue tees only)

10 SHOT RULE: When a player has played 10 shots on a hole, they **MUST** pick up their ball and mark a 10 on their scorecard.

BUNKERS: If a player is in a bunker and cannot get out after **TWO attempts**, they pick up their ball and take a **FREE drop** to the nearest side of the bunker within 2 club lengths.

WATER HAZARDS: Players are **NOT** allowed to try and collect their ball. Players should drop a ball within a safe distance to the side of the hazard for a **ONE STROKE PENALTY**.

STAKED TREES: Must **NOT** be damaged. Players **MUST** pick up their ball and take a **FREE DROP** away from the tree. This rule applies to staked trees only.

BALL LOST OR OUT OF BOUNDS: If a ball is lost or out of bounds, a ball should be dropped as near as possible to where the ball went for a **ONE STROKE PENALTY**.

ETIQUETTE & FAIR PLAY

Due to consistent feedback a decision has been made that **no caddying is permitted at any of the Junior Golf Tour qualifying events**.

If parents are seen to be coaching/advising during a round, then the junior will be subject to penalties and possible disqualification. This is in the interest of fairness to all players, many who may have none golfing parents.

A parent or guardian must remain at the golf club unless another parent is prepared to take responsibility for the player.

We encourage parents/guardians and family to go on the course to watch and encourage the golfers but they must refrain from standing on the greens, offering advice, reading greens etc.

HANDICAPS

Players without a handicap who have not played in the JGT before and do not have a club handicap of any kind, will be given the maximum handicap allowance of 54.

Any player in categories 2,3 or 5 who was given the maximum allowance or allocated a JGT handicap at last year's JGT and reduced it during the qualifying events, will have the handicap increased by 10% for the start of the new Tour (to a Max of 54)

Any boy that reduced a JGT handicap to 20 or less in a previous JGT will be entered into category 1 with a handicap of 28 this year. Any Girl that has reduced a JGT handicap to 28 or less in a previous JGT will be entered into category 4 with a handicap of 28 this year.

Any player who has obtained a CONGU of 28 or less (boys) 36 or less (girls) since last year's tour must enter the in the advanced category (1 or 4)

Adjustments in CONGU handicaps MUST be declared at registration of each event, failure to declare the players correct handicap will result in disqualification.

Players are asked to declare any junior club or academy handicaps and from which tee they are gained from, to ensure they are allocated a suitable JGT handicap.

Players in the all categories will be subject to revisions as per the JGT handicap reduction system for JGT events. Any handicap revisions are only for the purpose of the JGT.

JGT HANDICAP REDUCTION SYSTEM (Cat 2,3 & 5)

For every shot played under nett par a player's handicap will reduce by 0.5.

Eg. Luke has a 40 JGT Handicap and receives 20 shots for the 9hole event. Course Par is 36. Luke scored 50 gross, minus his 20 handicap allowance giving him a nett score of 30. This is 6 under nett par. Luke's handicap will be reduced from 40 to 37 and therefore will receive 18.5 shots (19) at the next event.

The JGT reserves the right to reduce CONGU handicaps (Cat 1 & 4) for the purpose of the JGT in the event that a player has an exceptional score.

All handicap alterations will be put onto website alongside results so that players are aware of their handicap for the next event.

PRIZES/TROPHIES

Prizes or Trophies will be awarded to the first two places of each category and for first place in the putting competition (if a putting comp is run) at each qualifying event.

If there is a tie then there will be a nett score count back from the last hole to the first to identify the prize winner. If the tie cannot be broken then the same format will take place with the gross score to break the tie.

Presentation of prizes for all five events will take place after play at the 5th qualifying event. All players are encouraged to attend and winners should ensure they extend their apologies if unable to.

ORDER OF MERIT

The following points will be awarded to each placed player in each category

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5 th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10 th
200 pts	180 pts	160 pts	140 pts	120 pts	100 pts	80 pts	60 pts	40 pts	20 pts

N.B - If 2 players finish with the same score, they will share the points awarded to that position and the next. Eg, if two players tie for 1st place, the points awarded to 1st and 2nd place will be added and divided ($200 + 180 \div 2 = 190$) with each player awarded 190 points.

Players are required to play in a minimum of **FOUR** of the five events to qualify to represent Northumberland in the Regional JGT Final.

For those players who play all five qualifying events, their best **FOUR** results will count towards the Order of Merit.

In the event of two players having the same Order of Merit points' total, the player with the highest finish in any one event will finish higher in table. If the two players have the same best finish it will be decided by their second best finish and so on.

In the event of an event being cancelled due to weather or other reason, the NCGP will try to reschedule it if possible otherwise the tour will be reduced to three events. In this instance players will need to compete in a minimum of two events to be eligible for the final and their best two scores will count towards the order of merit.

A total of 4 players from each category will qualify for the NE & Cumbria JGT Final making up the 20 person team.

A decision on this allocation will be made before the first qualifying event.

JGT REGIONAL FINAL

The 2017 JGT Regional final will take place on afternoon of Sunday 3rd September 2017 at Hartlepool Golf Club.

Players will be informed of their place on their County Final Team within a week of the last qualifying event.

Revised rules may be in place at the Final and will be made available to all finalists before the event.

Parents and supporters may walk the course at the final but must stay a distance from play and may **not** carry or pull bags or trolley's.

Any player who knows he or she will not be available to take part in the Regional Final is still welcome to play in the qualifying events and order of merit but is encouraged to tell the Regional Manager in advance of the last qualifying event.

Each finalist is responsible for telling the Regional Manager their shirt size as soon as possible after the qualifiers have been announced.