

Hosting a Drive, Chip and Putt Competition

Background: Since 2017, we have had over 1000 kids register to compete across the six local qualifiers. Kids compete in four different age brackets: 7-9, 10-11, 12-13 and 14-15 and then are divided by gender. This translates into an average of 160 kids coming to your facility! This doesn't include parents, grandparents, and siblings. There is a lot of foot traffic! This translates into lots of food and beverage sales, golf shop visits, etc. Thank you for your interest in hosting and be sure to contact me at epirkl@pgahq.com should you have any questions or concerns!

Registration: Parents/Guardians sign up their child(ren) on www.drivechipandputt.com. It is FREE to sign up. The deadline for each qualifier is five days prior to the day of the event. We do not allow walk on's or have a waitlist. No shows forfeit their spot.

Event Timeframe: Once the registration is completed, I work to formulate tee times for each participant. We typically start at 9am so we can complete the event by 2/3pm. For example, if we have 150 participants starting every two minutes with some breaks in between, we wrap up by 2:30pm provided there are no delays. Each participant competes in the same order—Drive, Chip and then Putt.

We start with the boys 7-9 and work our way up through the divisions. Once a division has completed the awards ceremony for that division takes place. This means my intern and I handle scoring and presenting 8 awards ceremonies. Again, the duration of the event is entirely dependent on the number of kids signed up. I have the ability to "cap" registration if need be per your request.

Staffing Needs: The Wisconsin PGA has two staff persons (myself and my intern) set up the entire event and remain at Scoring the entire day. **Host facilities are responsible for filling all volunteer positions to cover the duration of the event.** I break the volunteer needs into four different areas: Registration, Driving, Chipping, and Putting. Here is the breakdown:

Registration: 8:15am—end of the event (1-2 volunteers ideal)

Driving: 8:45am—end of the event (5 volunteers minimum, 6 is ideal, 7 is even better!)

Chipping: 8:45am—end of the event (1-2 volunteers needed)

Putting: 8:45am—end of the event (1-2 volunteers needed)

I train each volunteer before the event starts. If you decide to schedule shifts, there will need to be an overlap for Volunteer 1 to brief Volunteer 2 on his/her duties. I highly recommend reaching out to your members, high school and or college teams. Volunteers must be able to withstand being outside for several hours, have keen eyesight and be comfortable around kids of all ages and abilities.

Facility Requirements: The Wisconsin PGA pays each host site a \$500 facility usage fee as our gratitude for hosting. Below is the breakdown of what is needed at each station in terms of set up. Ideally, the stations are located closely to one another to move the competition along at a good pace. We have tents set up at each station with fly banners to make it obvious to contestants and keep our volunteers in the shade.

Registration: We set up a tent for registration to give each contestant his or her scorecard, rules sheet, event info and tee gift. Ideally this would be in an area easily seen from your parking lot and close to the start of the competition.

Driving Station: we need an area that is a minimum of 40 yards side and 300 yards long. We also prefer an area for kids to warm up. It's not crucial, but that will have to be communicated to parents/players ahead of time if not available. The WPGA sets this area up the night before the competition.

Chipping Station: Contestants hit three 12-15 yard chip shots to one hole location. We use sidewalk chalk to draw point circles around the hole in order to not damage your course!

Putting Station: Contestants hit three putts—1 from 6 feet, 15 feet, and 30 feet to the same hole into circles to accumulate points. We use sidewalk chalk to draw the circles around the hole just like in chipping.

Scoring: The Wisconsin PGA handles all aspects of scoring. We need a power source as scores are entered in live on the Drive, Chip and Putt website. We are comfortable doing scoring inside or outside so long as it's easy for the players coming from putting to find us. The quicker they complete the competition, the quicker we can score and award their age division. We use scoresheets 24" by 36" in size and arrive with about 8-10 of them. Windows, moving scoreboards, or the like work great but we need to discuss a plan beforehand.