

FCG Kids Tour Player Development Manual



Use This Guide to Help You Become a Great Tournament Player
Written by Chris Smeal, PGA and Founder of Future Champions Golf

About the FCG Tour



- The FCG Tour was developed to help players develop correctly with different competition levels and experiences to climb the ranks of junior golf. The goal of all levels of the program is to be the most fun and most valuable tournament experience in the world. We aim to create the experiences that make kids wanna compete and love the game for as long as possible. As with any sports there are a lot of ways an experience can ruin the love for a kid and we strive to avoid these and help players and parents along the way. Now with nearly 20 years of hosting competitions we have a great system and proven track record of helping.
- If you ever have any questions please contact us anytime. We do this for you.
- info@futurechampionsgolf.com or call 844-324-2377

About Chris Smeal



- Founded Future Champions Golf in January 2004
- Has helped over 140 Junior Golfers secure college golf scholarships through coaching and mentoring
- 2020 SCPGA Youth Player Development Award Winner
- 2019 SCPGA Player Development Award Winner
- 2019- 2012 Golf Digest Top Teacher in California
- 2019 Golf Digest Top Teacher Under 40
- 2019-2012 Golf Range Magazine Top Teacher Award Winner
- More Available at www.chrissmeal.com



Courses we play

- The FCG Kids Tour competes all over San Diego County at the par 3 and executive length golf courses. We used to play every course but now we play the most popular and most well manicured course to provide the best experience for our players and families.
- We hope you enjoy the courses on our rotation.



Preparing for a Tournament



- The tournament is coming up... how will you prepare? The best players prepare to be ready for any and all situations.
 - Practice Rounds - Always best when possible to play a practice round. Not just to see the course but to get a better feel for the course and do your homework. You want the course to feel like it is your home course. The more comfortable and the more knowledge the better. Understand what shots will be required, how the greens react on approach shots, does the course play longer or shorter due to certain conditions. What are the wind patterns?
 - Online Course Tour - there is a feature on every Blue Golf Tournament Sign Up Page where you can see the course, the layout, and the yardages.
 - Are you ready to compete?
 - Do you know the rules?
 - Are you confident in your ability? Are you playing to win or playing to gain experience?

Playing in a Tournament



- Arrive approximately 1 hour prior to your scheduled tee time
- Check in with staff at stated check in time (usually one hour prior to start check in will be open)
- Get acclimated to the environment
- Strategic Warm Up to get you ready to play the day's event. What will you face out on the course and how can you prep best for those scenarios.
 - Full Swing, Shot Making, Opening Tee Shot, Specific Yardages, Par 3 shots
 - Chipping: How do the greens react? Does the ball spin or bounce and roll? How much?
 - Putting: Speed, Do they match your eye?
- Triple Check you have everything you need to compete. Balls, ball markers, tees, rules book, range finder, extra battery, glove, towel

Caddy Tips



- #1 Caddies shouldn't be an advantage for players at this level. Please help all players and caddies while you are out there. Parents please remember to set a great example with positive behavior.
- Help players keep up with their pace of play
- Any scoring discrepancies should be handled professionally and peacefully. Raising voices and acting in anger will not be tolerated ever at a FCG Event.
- Have the most fun out there so all kids have a great experience.

Rules of Golf



- The Rules of Golf are made to help you so you must start learning them.
 - Rules you will definitely need to know before competing are the following:
 - How to take a drop from a cart path
 - Penalty Areas and how to manage drops
 - Out of Bounds Penalty and declaring a provisional ball
 - Properly marking your golf ball
 - The Teeing Area
 - Bunkers - Not grounding your club
 - www.usga.org you will find everything you need to learn the rules of golf
 - At the FCG Kids Tour level please be helpful with your group. Many players are still learning and at this level we want to educate not purposely penalize players for not yet knowing. Always bring up any rules issue with a FCG Staff Member.

Pace of Play



- Do your part to make the FCG Tour the fastest and most efficient tour in junior golf.
- We will be out there to help move things along but you all must do your part.
 - Be organized and ready to hit.
 - Play ready golf
 - Put your bag on the side of the green closest to the next tee
 - Someone in your group should always be playing their shot.

Etiquette



- You must follow all FCG Code of Conduct Guidelines when competing in a FCG Tournament
- We follow strict guidelines and have a zero tolerance policy for bad behavior by players and parents.
- Having a positive attitude on the course will always enhance your game and will make the experience for those around you also positive. There will be plenty of bad rounds as a competitor and learning how to handle the bad days is a very important skill that must be learned. Our staff will always try and help you find positives and good perspective while you are learning.

Analyzing a Tournament Round



- As you improve as a Tournament Player understanding your tournament rounds becomes more and more important. Understanding competitive golf at the highest level is one of the best ways to improve your game. You should be watching golf on TV and listening to the pro's talk about their rounds after they play. The best know what went wrong and they have pinpointed the errors and can fix them.
- At the FCG Kids Tour and One Day Series Level you should take notes at night after your tournament round is complete. Go back over the round in your head and look at each shot and the decision you made and how well you executed the shot. Was it club selection? Did you not factor in the wind? Did you read the green incorrectly? Was your attitude getting sad or negative after a missed short putt? Did you swing hard on the next tee after 3 putting the hole before?
- If you would like access to Chris's Advanced Player Stat Sheet (Excel) please message Chris directly at chrissmeal@gmail.com

Golf Lessons and Tournaments and “Throw Away” Events



- Make sure you and your coach have a plan in place for your development as a player. Lessons will be different when a tournament is just a few days away. There are times for Long Term Development Lessons and a time for short term fixes to enhance tournament play. Be sure to always tell your coach what you have coming up and what you are preparing for if he or she doesn't ask or know already.
- Throw Away Events verses the “Majors” - It is important to have what I call “throw away” events which are events for you to test what you have been working on under tournament conditions to get great information to get you ready for your next “Major” Example of this is in 2008 we launched the San Diego Junior Masters (Now called the FCG International Championship) This event was originally developed to be a “throw away” event for the prestigious IMG Junior World Championship so both local and international kids could prep better for the “major” It has worked so well now with over 50 IMG Junior World Wins by players who played in the FCG International the week before. Now the FCG International is also a major championship in junior golf.

Goal Setting



- It is important to set goals and to work towards achieving them. Then it is key to change the goals as you continue to improve. Nobody knows how good you will be. It always comes from within. Will you outwork everyone and become the best player?
- When to move up to a new level?
 - It is always best to dominate a level before moving up when you can. Winning a lot of events is a good thing for your confidence so maybe as you improve test the higher levels sometimes but continue to play lower too so there is a good balance. You don't want to go get beat a lot at a higher level when you are succeeding at the lower level. Test first and then make the jump. Reminder we are all trying to help build everyone's confidence for golf and life.

The Pinnacle Event on the FCG Tour



- Annually the biggest and best event to qualify for is the FCG Callaway World Junior Golf Championship that features over 650 junior golfers from more than 40 countries. You must qualify to compete in this event and there is plenty of opportunities in the FCG program.
- Also all the FCG World Series events are the next best in junior golf annual competitions bringing the best players around to compete. Most of these events you can just sign up first come first serve.

The Multiple Levels of the FCG Tour



- FCG Kids Tour - 9 and 18-Hole Par 3 and Executive Course Tournaments
- FCG One Day Series - 18-Hole Regulation Course Tournaments
- FCG National Tour - 36-Hole two day nationally ranked advanced level competitions to help prepare you for college golf.
- FCG World Series Tournaments - The best events in junior golf
- FCG Callaway World Championship - The pinnacle event on the FCG Tour Schedule.
- FCG Collegiate Series - Opportunities for College Golfers to compete at amazing courses. We allow players ages 15-23 to compete in these special events.

Contact our Team



- info@futurechampionsgolf.com
- 844-324-2377
- Please follow us on social media as we are very active on all platforms under the “Future Champions Golf” brand and also you can find our staff online too.
- **ALWAYS REMEMBER TO PLAY WITH PASSION!**