



# Banff Springs Golf Club Junior Handbook

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# Banff Springs Golf Club Junior Program

The Banff Springs Golf Club has an active membership of around 40 junior golfers aged 8 to 18 from throughout the Bow Valley. Junior members have access to one of the world's best known and most scenic golf courses, which they can enjoy along with a whole range of unique and rewarding experiences that children of all ages will remember for the rest of their lives.

While the cost of Junior membership covers unlimited golf, full access to practice facilities, and hands-on instruction from professional instructors, it also includes fun and challenging tournaments, entry into the junior club championships, all prizing, and a year-end banquet, ensuring you, as a parent, are not saddled with extra costs or volunteering expectations through the golfing season.

The junior schedule is filled with a mix of competitions, including club championships divided into age groups, as well as events that encourage adult participation, such as the Junior/Senior tournament which pairs one adult with

three juniors, and the popular end-of-season Junior/Parent scramble.

## **History of the Junior Division**

When the Stanley Thompson course opened in 1928, particular attention was given to junior members. At the time, there was no official Junior division, but several offspring of adult members could often be found at the course. No family could outdo the Crosbys in this regard. Doug Crosby, Lou and Gertrude Crosby's eldest son, took the junior championship in 1931, and their daughter Marion was soon challenging the older women in the club for the ladies' championship.

Through the ensuing decades, junior members of the Banff Springs Golf Club have gone on to excel at all levels of the game, as well as representing colleges in Canada and the United States. Former junior members have also gone on to compete and win at provincial and national level tournaments, as well as play professionally in Canada and the United States.

# Junior Membership

Junior membership is open to residents of the Bow Valley (from Lake Louise to Exshaw/Lac des Arcs) aged between 8 and 18. A junior member's age is determined as of December 31. (For example, a child whose 8th birthday is in December would be eligible for membership as a seven-year-old).

The Junior division is divided into two programs: **"Tunnel juniors"** and **"Stanley juniors."** Tunnel juniors (ages 8 to 12) have full privileges on the Tunnel Nine course while Stanley juniors (13-18) have full privileges on both the Tunnel and Stanley Thompson courses. While age is the main factor in determining junior category, skill level and a knowledge of the rules of golf are also taken into consideration. The

decision on the category your child plays or when current junior members are ready to move up from the Tunnel to Stanley program, is made at the discretion of a representative of the golf course.

The Banff Springs Golf Club does not charge a joining or initiation fee for junior members.

## Junior Membership Fees

The membership fee is made up of **green fees** paid to the Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course and **club fees**. Fees are updated annually and can be found in the Members Handbook on the club website

Membership fees include:

- unlimited play on either the Tunnel or Stanley Thompson courses
- access to all practice facilities, including the driving range
- weekly tee times blocked especially for juniors
- weekly instruction by Banff Springs Golf Course professionals
- tournaments and prizing throughout the season
- end of year banquet, with trophies and more prizes
- pro shop, snack bar, and restaurant discounts
- discounted guest rates (\$25 guest rate for Tunnel 9)
- [Golf Canada Gold membership](#) (value \$50)

# Championships and Awards

The first Banff Springs Golf Club junior club champion was Norm McConnell, in 1929. As junior champion, McConnell was awarded the Kennedy Shield, donated by founding club member Dr. Ernest Kennedy.

## Club Championships

The Junior Club Championship is divided into two age groups. All junior members aged between 8 and 12 play the Tunnel 9 over three designed dates in August for the 18-hole Tunnel Boys and Tunnel Girls Championships. The older juniors, aged 13 to 18, compete on a single weekend in mid-August over 36 holes on the Stanley Thompson course to decide the Stanley Boys and Stanley Girls Championships.

All four winners have their names engraved on historic trophies displayed in the clubhouse, while also receiving impressive trophies to take home and treasure forever. Thanks to the generosity of past club members, the winners of the Stanley Boys and Stanley Girls Championships each receive a \$500 scholarship that is held by the club until the Junior member enrolls in college or university. In addition, Fairmont Hotels and Resorts awards a \$150 Fairmont gift card that can be redeemed in the pro shop to each of the two Stanley winners.

## Most Improved and Rookie of the Year

Juniors are encouraged to work on their game throughout the season, with special awards for those who show the most improvement, as well for the golfer who played the best in their rookie year. These trophies are particularly impressive, making these awards much desired by the younger members of the club.

## Rob Crosby Award

In addition to trophies for competition, junior members (one boy and one girl annually) have been receiving recognition for dedication, commitment, and participation since 2001 with the Rob Crosby Award.

Rob Crosby played at the course as a junior in the 1930s and retained his membership until his passing in 2017.

## Ethel Knight Citizenship Award

This trophy was donated by the estate of Ethel "Tillie" Knight upon her passing in 1993. Knight joined the club as a junior in 1928 and went on to hold various positions on the board of directors as well as win eight club championships between 1941 and 1975. The award is presented annually to the junior boy and girl who shows respect to the game and a sense of fairness with others.

## Handicaps

It is essential that **all** players – including new Junior members – develop a handicap.

Scores are entered in the Golf Canada website through a link at [banffspringsgolfclub.com](http://banffspringsgolfclub.com). A temporary handicap is achieved after entering five 18-hole scores (or 10 9-hole scores). An official handicap is achieved after entering 10 18-

hole scores (or 20 9-hole scores). Handicaps are not seasonal—whatever scores you entered last year will count for this season. Scores can be entered from any course in Canada or beyond.

For user name/password or help entering scores, contact the Junior captain or Secretary/Treasurer.

## Parent Support and Involvement

The Junior Program is for your children.

Just like any other activity your child is involved in, the parents have an important role to play in the Junior golf program not merely to make the program run successfully, but to make it an enjoyable and meaningful experience for your child and for you, the parent.

It is a goal of the BSGC that parents can be actively involved in facilitating the growth and development of their child in not only

their own golf game, but in all the life skills that are a part of playing the game. We encourage parents to get involved and to stay involved as their child progresses through their Junior golf years.

In addition to supporting your child in their golfing activity, the program depends on the volunteer time of the parents as well. We are always looking for parents to walk/golf with the Tunnel Juniors on Tunnel.

# General Information

## **Bicycles**

Junior members may lock their bikes to the bike rack located outside the clubhouse.

## **Banff Springs Golf Club Website**

Important information and policies can be found on the Banff Springs Golf Club website [banffspringsgolfclub.com](http://banffspringsgolfclub.com). The website has a links to book tee times and enter scores for handicaps, as well as club contact information, a course availability calendar, and a section devoted to Juniors.

## **Donations**

There is a budget for the Junior program within the overall BSGC budget. These monies go towards instruction, some prizing, the year-end banquet, and to subsidize Junior members who play in non-club tournaments.

The membership fees charged by the club does not cover actual costs and is subsidized from fundraising efforts. If you are interested in making a donation to the Junior program, please contact the Junior Captain.

## **Parents and spectators on-course guidelines**

Juniors are encouraged to develop their own game.

During club championships, parents and spectators are required to keep a distance of 30 paces from the players and may not instruct or advise players. Violators of these regulations will be asked to cease the inappropriate conduct or to leave the course during play.

If parents and spectators choose to cheer, respect must be shown equally for all players.

## **Practice facility**

Junior members have access to the driving range, chipping green, and putting greens at all times. But some basic rules must be followed:

- Always be conscious of the safety of other players.
- Realize your shots don't always go as planned and position yourself accordingly.
- Be considerate when others are waiting by limiting your time on the range.

# Course Etiquette

## WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE COURSE

### When to arrive at the course for your tee time

Arrive at least 30 minutes before your tee time. If you plan to practice, factor that in. This allows you to obtain your scorecard, mark your ball, etc. and be prepared and ready to tee-off and not be rushed. This is also courteous to other players in your group, and those with tee times following yours.

Ensure you are wearing proper golf attire.

## WHEN YOU ARE ON THE GOLF COURSE

### Divots

Replace your divots/fill with sand mix.

Also fill any divots that other people have left behind.

### Bunkers

Two new rules established in 2019 relate to bunker play:

- It is allowable to move any stones or sticks from the bunker at no penalty
- A ball can be removed from the bunker for a penalty of 2 shots

The Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course also has a local rule that allows a ball affected by an animal footprint to be

### What to do when you arrive at the first tee

- Communicate with the starter on the tee box introducing yourself and the tee time you have arrived for.
- Greet and shake hands with every player and introduce yourself to any players that you have not met before.
- Identify your ball to the other players.
- Exchange score cards if playing in a competitive event.

moved to the closest point not affected, but still within the bunker and no closer to the hole.

Here are some other simple guidelines for bunker play:

- Enter a bunker from below and to the side, then you won't collapse the sand on a steeper slope, and also if your shot doesn't get out of the bunker, your ball won't end up in one of your footprints. Carry the rake in with you and lay it gently to the side. Exit the same way.

- Rake the bunker by pushing the sand away from you in smooth long strokes.
- Rake in a direction towards the green, not parallel to it, this provides an easier shot for the next player.
- Leave rakes where they will most likely not be in play (hit by an approach shot).

### **Bug spray and sunscreen**

Always apply bug spray/sunscreen when you are standing on asphalt pathways...these can be detrimental to the grass.

### **Pull carts**

Take your pull carts around and “outside” of the bunkers. Do not take them between the green and the bunker. Keep your cart off of the tee box at all times.

Areas near greens and tees are subject to much wear and tear, and compaction of the ground. The greens, fringes, and tees are areas on which we “play” more than the fairways and thus demand more care.

### **Where to park pull carts and where to place clubs if carrying**

At the tees set your pull cart on the pathway, opposite the tee marker.

At the tee set your carry bag on the tee box, but removed from the tee markers. They should be well to the side, out of players’ swings or practice swings and not behind

where they (and perhaps you) will be in the players’ vision.

On the fairway, place carts and bags off to the side of your ball. If you are stopping near another player’s ball, set them down away from the player and out of his view, definitely not behind the player or his ball.

Your pull cart and bag should be placed between the flagstick and where you will walk to the next tee (off the green). That really speeds up play! Pull carts should be beyond the bunkers and carry bags should be beyond the fringe.

Helping each other, by pushing others pull carts for a few steps for example, is a real courtesy and improves pace of play.

Use of motorized carts is discouraged for Junior golfers. Any golfer must have a valid driver’s license to operate a motorized cart. Learner’s permit Juniors must have a parent passenger.

### **Putting green etiquette**

- Avoid walking on another player’s line.
- Avoid moving when someone is putting.
- Don’t stand along a player’s line (in front or behind) or in their peripheral view while a player is putting.
- Ensure that you remove your ball from the hole with your hand—do

not use your putter to scoop it out of the hole as it can damage the edge of the cup.

### **Taking care of the greens**

Greens are the most expensive part of the golf course to build and require extensive maintenance to provide the standard that we want to play on.

Balls landing on the green leave a ball mark. If these indentations are repaired within five minutes they will recover; but if they are left for a day or not repaired at all, it leads to scarred and uneven greens. So repairing your ball mark and other un-repaired marks is a **must**.

The proper way to repair a ball mark:

- Use a prolonged ball mark repair tool.
- Insert at the edges of the mark, not the middle.
- Bring the edges together with a gentle twisting motion, but don't lift the centre. Do not tear the grass.
- Smooth the surface with the sole of your putter until it's a surface that you would putt over.

When removing the flagstick from the hole, make sure you lift it straight up so as not to contact the earthen lip of the cup. If the flagstick is sticky, then twist it as you are raising it.

Lay the flagstick on the green, don't toss it. Lay it so that it is not near the line of anyone's putt nor on an extension of the line behind the ball or beyond the hole. If near the edge of the green, place it off the green.

When returning the flagstick, make sure it is placed in straight and gently so as not to damage the lip of the cup. The first player who completes the hole should pick up the flagstick and be responsible for placing it back in the hole at the end of play by the group.

### **Respect maintenance staff when working on course**

Safety should always be our first priority in a potentially dangerous environment:

- The crew is working and are amidst noisy machinery. Depending on the situation, wait for them to finish or pull to the side before you play, ensure you get their attention before hitting.
- Never play if they might be in the way, or have a chance of getting hit, before you are sure they are aware you are hitting.
- Thank them, remember they are providing a service and making the course better for us.

### **Safety**

A few safety tips for the course:

- Avoid swinging your club towards or near anyone. Small pieces of dirt,

sand or broken tees could be propelled into another player's eye.

- If there is any doubt that your shot may reach the group in front of you – wait!
- If a ball is going near another person, you “must” warn them, by yelling “fore” loudly and immediately.
- If a ball is heading in a direction and you can't see if anyone is there, you must yell 'fore' (e.g. another fairway, towards another green or tee, or OB).
- If someone is standing in an area where your shot may go if it is errant, alert them **before** you play your shot (e.g. if you are playing a bunker shot and they are beyond the hole, but in the same direction as you are heading and a thin bunker shot might hit them)
- If you hear someone yell 'fore' – immediately protect your face/head and duck behind your clubs or a tree if close by.

### **Electronic devices**

Cell phones are to be kept on vibration mode when on the course and should only be used in an emergency or to communicate with parents/guardians. This means texting is not permitted on the course.

In and around the Clubhouse, please use cell phones in a discreet manner.

Use of headphones, I-pods and other electronic music equipment – for safety reasons – **is not** permitted while on the course but can be used only on the driving range.

### **Pace of Play**

“Pace of Play” affects everyone on the golf course. Players playing early in the day have a responsibility to set a good pace and not hold up those players behind. If you do not maintain an appropriate pace it will affect everyone else that day that tees up after you. So it is imperative that we maintain a good pace by following these simple steps:

- Focus on your game and your next shot. Walk briskly to your ball and plan your shot as you approach it so that you are ready to play as soon as it is your turn to play.
- Do not move to another player's ball with that player – allow him/her to focus on their shot.
- Moving independently to each person's ball speeds up play.
- Limit practice swings.
- It is courteous to assist a fellow player to help find his ball and to do so in an efficient manner.
- If you can't keep up to the group in front of you, it is courteous to allow the group behind you to play through. Keep the group in front of you in sight and your group will not slow pace of play.

## Scoring — honesty & integrity

Record all your shots accurately. If you are also keeping score for a playing partner, it is your responsibility to record it accurately and be observant of that person's play.

Record the scores at the end of each hole as you walk to or on the next tee, not on the

green of the hole you just finished. Clear the green immediately upon completion. This speeds up play.

## Code of Conduct

The Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course and the Banff Springs Golf Club take great pride in its members and its facilities. In order to enable everyone to enjoy him or herself and to ensure that members know what is expected of them, this Code of Conduct is provided. Golf is a game of honour in which respect for your fellow competitor and the rules are integral to the game. This Code identifies the minimum standard Junior members are expected to meet as members of the Banff Springs Golf Club, whether at the Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course or while representing the Banff Springs Golf Club.

### Attire

Proper golf attire – at the practice facility and on the course – must be worn at all times:

- All clothing must be worn in a neat and respectable way.
- Collared shirts for boys and tailored

blouses or golf shirts (which require either a collar or sleeves) for girls.

Tailored slacks, capri pants, shorts or skirts for the girls. Shorts must fall between mid-thigh and bottom of knees.

- Boys shirts must be tucked in. Shirts or blouses that are designed and stitched to be worn outside of pants may be worn as long as the shirt is long enough that no skin is showing when the player extends their arms straight above their head.
- Clothing or equipment may not display objectionable or offensive language.
- Advertising or corporate logoed golf wear must be tastefully displayed.
- Hats are to be worn properly (peaks forward) and are to be removed in the Clubhouse.

Note: The Clubhouse is a public dining space. As such the dress code for using it is

more relaxed. When not golfing and using the dining room one should dress as appropriate for the occasion.

**Unacceptable clothing items (when at the practice facility or on the course)**

**include:** Blue jeans, rugby pants, cargo pants and cargo shorts (more than four outside pockets), cut offs, short shorts, tank tops, belly shirts, t-shirts, sweat pants, stretch athletic and exercise wear (i.e. Lulu Lemon, other yoga wear).

**Alcohol, tobacco and drugs**

The use of alcohol/tobacco/drugs are strictly prohibited at the practice facility, on the course, or in the clubhouse for Juniors.

**Electronic devices**

Use of headphones, I-pods or other electronic music equipment – for safety reasons – is not permitted while on the course but can be used **only** on the driving range.

Cell phones or messaging devices are to be kept on vibration mode when on the course and should only be used in an emergency, or speaking with parents/guardians. Note that cell coverage non-existent on holes 3 to 5.

**Behaviour at other Clubs**

You are a guest when visiting other clubs and you represent yourself as well as the

Banff Springs Golf Club. This Code of Conduct applies. It is important to respect the values and standards of other clubs and adhere to their policies should a stricter code exist.

**Golf Course and Clubhouse behaviour** The Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course is an adult environment and Juniors are expected to act accordingly in a respectful and courteous manner, demonstrating their understanding of the privilege it is to be a BSGC Junior member.

Abusive or inappropriate conduct or language, including temperamental outbursts, throwing or breaking clubs, any form of cheating or abuse of the golf course in any way is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

**Violations of the Code of Conduct**

If a minor violation occurs, the individual will be prohibited from further participation until he/she complies with the above code. The individual must do so without delay and then maintain the standard. Any such actions that are repeated offences or considered serious may result in the individual being removed or excluded from any Junior Programs or activities until the incident is considered by the Banff Springs Golf Club board.

# Tournament Opportunities

Playing in tournaments away from Banff is a great way for junior golfers to improve their game. In Alberta, there are opportunities for tournament play for all levels of golfer, including beginners.

Both the Canadian Junior Golf Association and Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour require membership, but both tours offer the opportunity to enter one tournament without paying for membership.

Most of Canada's current crop of professional golfers, including Brooke Henderson and Adam Hadwin, have been members of the Canadian Junior Golf Association and Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour from a very young age. Here are the junior tournament opportunities available in Alberta.

## **Alberta Golf Association**

[albertagolf.org](http://albertagolf.org)

Hosts the official provincial Junior (under 18) and Bantam (under 15) championships for the province's best junior golfers.

## **Alberta Golf | Juniors**

<https://albertagolfjuniors.org>

The Alberta Golf website dedicates a section to junior golf, including details of the **McLennan Ross Junior Tour**, comprising 25 one- and two-day tournaments across Alberta every

summer, including at Canmore. Entry fees are inexpensive and always include lots of prizes and lunch.

## **Golf Canada**

[golfcanada.ca](http://golfcanada.ca)

The governing body for golf in Canada.

Hosts Future Links tournaments

([futurelinks.golfcanada.ca](http://futurelinks.golfcanada.ca)) for Canada's best juniors, as well as national championships.

## **Canadian Junior Golf Association**

[cjga.com](http://cjga.com)

The Canadian Junior Golf Association (CJGA) hosts over 100 events annually. The CJGA Linkster Tour is designed for 8-14 year olds of all skill levels and is often held on Par 3 courses.

## **Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour**

[maplejt.com](http://maplejt.com)

The Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour (MJT) hosts over 100 events across Canada each year, including many in Alberta. Banff has been a regular stop on the MJT for many years. Like the CJGA, they offer a Mini Tour for beginner golfers 12 and under that is often held at Par 3 courses or with tees placed on the fairway.

## **Calgary Ladies Golf Association**

[calgaryladiesgolf.ca](http://calgaryladiesgolf.ca)

The Calgary Ladies Golf Association hosts the annual Calgary Junior Girls Amateur, with divisions for all levels, including beginners.

