April Tournaments

- **April 6**
  - Belt HS
  - Signal Point GC (Fort Benton)
  - April 11
  - Masters Fun Day
  - Polson Bay GC (Polson)

- **April 13-14**
  - PNWPGA (WMC) Match Play
  - Polson Bay GC (Polson)

- **April 15**
  - High School - JV
  - Stillwater GC (Columbus)

- **April 18**
  - Spring 2 Person Scramble
  - Bridger Creek GC (Bozeman)

- **April 19**
  - PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Am
  - Mission Mountain GC (Ronan)

- **April 20**
  - RMSPGA (YC) Pro Am
  - Hilands GC (Billings)

- **April 25**
  - Casa Scramble
  - Polson Bay GC (Polson)

- **April 27**
  - FBHS
  - Signal Point GC (Fort Benton)

- **April 27**
  - High School - Varsity
  - Stillwater GC (Columbus)

- **April 27**
  - Skip Koprivica High School Fundraiser
  - Missoula CC (Missoula)

**April 1st Marks Active Handicap Season**

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

We made it! With spring officially here, so, too, is the official score posting season for Montana, which begins April 1st.

Score posting has never been easier!

Numerous MSGA Members have availed themselves of the handy MSGA Golf Mobile App, available for iPhone and Android devices. MSGA Member Clubs also have posting kiosks available, so you can enter scores after your rounds. Additionally, you can enter scores by logging in to the MSGA Website at www.msgagolf.org.

So, as you start to shake the rust out and dig out the clubs from your basement, remember to renew your handicap, encourage your friends to become card-carrying MSGA Members (via purchasing a handicap) and, in turn, help support your home course.

Please note, as a reminder, that if you played during Montana’s inactive season (and we hope you did) in a region observing an active season (e.g. Arizona, Florida), those scores must be posted for handicap purposes, if you haven’t already done so.

We, at the MSGA, are excited for the 2015 season! If you haven’t checked out the sites for this season’s major tournaments, please do so via the MSGA website, by clicking on “Tournaments”.

Furthermore, stay connected at home and on-the-go via social media. We encourage you to send us tweets, photos, and say “hi” on Facebook.

Twitter: @406golf
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/msgagolf

Wishing you the best for a fun, active, and birdie-filled 2015 Golf Season!
By now, you’ve probably been alerted to an important update for the MSGA Smartphone app. It has a whole new look and some new features too!

New stat tracking and viewing features, previously only available for the online handicap system, have been added to the app. In order to use these features, you’ll want to change your score posting format from TS (Total Score) to HBH (hole by hole score) in the Settings screen.

You can also post a friend’s score using the app. But, you must first have that person on your Friends list. Your Friends list can be maintained by logging in online at www.msgagolf.org. Or, you can search your friend’s name using the Handicap Lookup within the app, click on the name, and then “Add to Friends List”. After posting a score for a friend, an e-mail is sent to that person to approve the score. Important: An e-mail address would first need to be in their profile!

**UPDATE INSTRUCTIONS:**
ANDROID users – You will need to delete the old app and re-download the new one from the Play store (MSGAGOLF).
APPLE users – If you have automatic updates enabled, you need to do nothing. If not, you’ll need to manually update it.

NEW users can access the MSGA Smartphone App by searching “MSGAGOLF” in the Google Play or iTunes stores.

We hope you enjoy the cool new app! It’s fun to use and is so convenient you’ll never “forget” to post your score again!

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**Drive, Chip, & Putt Championship**
*Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director*

A tradition unlike any other, the Masters will be coming to every golfer’s living room the second weekend in April. If watching intently, viewers will see a very important golf development initiative supported equally by the Masters, the United States Golf Association, and the PGA of America.

The Drive, Chip, & Putt Championship is a free nationwide program aimed at growing the game by tapping the creative and competitive spirit of boys and girls ages 7-15. In its second year, carrying over from 2014, the competition finals will be broadcast April 5th at 7 a.m. MST.

What makes this program unique is that participants who advance through local, sub-regional qualifying in each age and gender category earn a place in the National Finals, which is conducted at Augusta National Golf Club the Sunday before the Masters Tournament. No matter the skill level, and given the reward of competing at Augusta National, we believe the Drive, Chip, & Putt Championship is an exciting way to inspire a new generation of youth to choose golf as a recreational sport and make it a game of a lifetime.

In its first two years, the Drive, Chip, & Putt Championship has experienced major growth in registration and interest. Beginning this May, throughout all 50 states, qualifying events will open for next year’s National Finals. Currently, the local qualifying site for the 2016 Championship is at Canyon River Golf Club in Missoula on July 9, 2015.

Registration is open, so now is the time to learn more about the program by visiting www.drivechipandputt.com. If you have a child ages 7-15, or know someone who might be excited to compete in this new golfing initiative, consider encouraging age-eligible youth to register for this free program.
Ready For Fun?
The 2015 MSGA vTour Series, sponsored in part by Sun Mountain, is coming soon! Watch the MSGA Website for event dates, and make sure to register you and your family! Lots of great prizes will be given just for participating! If you can play, you can win!

Golden Bear Receives Congressional Gold Medal

Jack Nicklaus, golfing legend, and golf course architect of Montana’s Old Works (Anaconda) and Eagle Bend (Bigfork), received Congress’ highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, in Washington D.C. on March 24. The “Golden Bear,” winner of 18 Major Championships, added the prestigious honor to his trophy case.

The award ceremony at the Capitol was attended by Nicklaus’ wife, 2015 USGA Bob Jones Award recipient, Barbara Nicklaus; his five children, as well as his 22 grandchildren; fellow golf legend and friend, Arnold Palmer; and his alma mater’s marching band from The Ohio State University.

Despite his rigorous tournament schedule as a player, business obligations, and course architecture work, Nicklaus has been routinely lauded for his commitment to family. In addition to receiving the honor, the 75-year-old Nicklaus was praised for his charitable contributions, including the Nicklaus Children’s Health Care Foundation, which recently pledged $60 million to the Miami Children’s Health System.

“Few transcend their sport to achieve that kind of moment, or this kind of honor,” said House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), an avid golfer himself. “With Arnold [Palmer], it was how he brought an audience to the game – an army. With Jack, it’s how he gave the game a gold standard – a ladder to climb.”

Nicklaus joined Palmer as the only golfers to win both the Presidential Medal of Freedom (which Nicklaus won in 2005) and the Congressional Gold Medal. The award is the result of a bipartisan effort in the House and Senate. Previous recipients include Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens, film producer and cartoonist Walt Disney, and President George Washington.

SPRING SPECIAL!

Nike Golf Dri-FIT Vertical Mesh Polo

$44.00*
Sale ends April 14th
Free Shipping!

Online Applications are now open for the Men’s State Am, Women’s State & Senior Am, and Men’s Mid Am tournaments for 2015.

Go to www.msgagolf.org. From the top menu bar, choose Tournaments, then State Tournament Applications. Or, click on the icon below from the right sidebar.

http://planetproshop.com/golf/montanastategatraditional
*A portion of all sales go to the MSGA!
We proudly announce our club’s participation in PGA Junior League Golf!

PGA Junior League Golf (PGA JLG) is designed to bring a “Little League” atmosphere to the game of golf. With teams of boys and girls, age 13 and under, PGA JLG provides a structured league environment for young golfers to compete and have fun! This is a great way to get, and keep, kids involved in the game!

PGA JLG Participants Receive
- Team Jerseys, golf balls and PGA JLG bag tags
- 5-6 regular season competitions plus coaching/practice
- Opportunity for advancement to post-season and All-Star teams
- Access to customized website home page for our PGA JLG team featuring schedules, standings and stats

Program Structure
- Fun team scramble format for players of every skill level
- All participants get to play in every competition

Player Proficiency
- Advanced skills not required; Speak with your PGA Professional if you need golf clubs
- If your child can drive, chip or putt... we have a role for them on our JLG team!

Timeline
April 15th is the Registration Deadline
April - July: Regular Season
August: Postseason Qualifiers & Section Championships
September: Regional Championship
October: PGA JLG National Championship

How to Register
You can register your Junior Golfer on the PGA Junior League Website. The registration fee is $150 and includes: Uniforms, Instruction, Green Fees, Bag Tags and Golf Balls.

Missoula Country Club
406-251-2751
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USGA ANNOUNCES 2015 U.S. OPEN SECTIONAL QUALIFYING SITES

The United States Golf Association has announced sectional qualifying sites for the 2015 U.S. Open Championship, which will be held at Chambers Bay, in University Place, WA, on June 18-21. Sectional qualifying, conducted over 36 holes, will be held on June 8 at 10 sites in the U.S. For the 11th consecutive year, Japan and England will host international sectional qualifying, which is scheduled for May 25.

“The U.S. Open has worldwide appeal, so it is fitting that sectional qualifying will be conducted once again at international sites and in many regions of the United States,” said Diana Murphy, USGA vice president and Championship Committee chairman. “We are grateful for the support and commitment provided by the state and regional associations and international community during the qualifying process as we work toward identifying our national champion for the first time in the Pacific Northwest.”

To be eligible for qualifying, a player must have a Handicap Index not exceeding 1.4, or be a professional. Local qualifying, which will be played over 18 holes at 111 sites in the U.S., takes place between May 4-21.

In 2014, the USGA accepted a record 10,127 entries for the championship at Pinehurst. That total eclipsed the 9,860 for the 2013 championship at Merion.

Online player registration for the 2015 U.S. Open began on March 4 (https://champs.usga.org) and continues through April 29.

USGA ANNOUNCES 2015 U.S. WOMEN’S OPEN SECTIONAL QUALIFYING SITES

The USGA has announced sectional qualifying sites for the 2015 U.S. Women’s Open Championship, to be contested July 9-12 at Lancaster (PA) Country Club.

Sectional qualifying, conducted over 36 holes, will be held at 21 sites across the United States and four international sites between May 9 and June 15. The championship is open to female professionals, and female amateur golfers with a Handicap Index not exceeding 2.4.

“The U.S. Women’s Open represents the pinnacle of women’s golf, and sectional qualifying is the first step of that journey,” said Diana Murphy. “Our partners at state and regional golf associations, as well as several international organizations, play a crucial role in helping us determine a worthy champion. We thank them for their tireless efforts, and we look forward to the 70th playing of the U.S. Women’s Open, at Lancaster Country Club.”

Player applications are now available at https://champs.usga.org. The entry deadline is 5 p.m. EDT on May 6.

USGA ANNOUNCES 2015 U.S. SENIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING SITES

The USGA has announced sectional qualifying sites for the 2015 U.S. Senior Open Championship, to be held at Del Paso Country Club, in Sacramento, CA, June 25-28.

Conducted over 18 holes, sectional qualifying will be held at 34 sites across the United States between May 11 and June 4.

“The U.S. Senior Open is senior golf’s most prestigious championship, and the USGA is pleased that Del Paso Country Club and Northern California will be hosting for the first time,” said Diana Murphy. “The professionalism and support of state and regional golf associations allow us to conduct sectional qualifying across the country. The process is distinctive in that any amateur who meets the Handicap Index requirement can enter.” To be eligible, a player must have a Handicap Index not exceeding 3.4, or be a professional, and be 50 years of age at the start of championship play.

Player registration continues through Wednesday, May 6, (https://champs.usga.org).