The PGA’s mission is to promote interest in the game of golf and to make it accessible to everyone, everywhere. To fulfill this mission, The PGA supports a number of organizations and programs that reach out to players with disabilities. Additionally, The PGA:

- Provides instruction to players with disabilities and trains PGA members on how to instruct and serve individuals with disabilities.
- Promotes the acceptance of PGA members with disabilities, modifying the Playing Ability Test (PAT) to reasonably accommodate their physical conditions.
- Fully complies with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at PGA golf facilities and provides education on making other facilities compliant.
- Allows qualifying professional golfers with disabilities to play in major tournaments, using golf cars if needed.

PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere)

In a sport where relationships are everything, PGA HOPE delivers a new level of enjoyment through golf that enables our nation’s heroes to once again be active and participate in a game that enhances their mental, social, physical, and emotional well-being. PGA HOPE builds this foundation through PGA Sections and their PGA Professionals, who partner with local Veterans Administration (VA) hospitals. Modeled after the GIVE (Golf for Injured Veterans Everywhere) program, which debuted in 2007 in Iowa, PGA HOPE introduces golf to men and women who have served our country by assisting them to assimilate back into a normal routine and lifestyle.

PGA HOPE currently features programs in: Atlanta, Battle Creek, Mich.; Charleston, S.C.; Los Angeles.; Bethesda/Olney, Md.; Fort Belvoir, Va.; Akron, Ohio; St. Louis, Missouri; Rochester/Buffalo, New York; Seattle/Tacoma, Wash.; and San Antonio, Texas. Clearview Golf Club in East Canton, Ohio, launched the first women’s veterans program in 2011 and plans are underway to launch a Clearview HOPE Chapter in Dallas, Texas. In addition, the PGA HOPE Program at Battle Creek, Michigan has added a women veteran program. New programs are being targeted in: Chicago; Louisville Ky.; Kohler/Milwaukee, Wis.; Basking Ridge, N.J.; Dallas Texas; Charlotte, N.C.; and Chaska, Minn. Additional programs have also been instituted by individual PGA Professionals and organizations in: San Diego, California; Iowa City/Riverside, Iowa; and Tampa, Fla. The PGA HOPE Program looks to expand to additional areas of the country in the coming years, maintaining the key model elements that have proven successful.
"One of my concerns is that people say that this is just golf. It is not just golf, it is more than golf," says Dr. Michael Hall, a neuropsychologist at the Iowa VA Healthcare System in Iowa City. “Golf is a venue to create a positive environment, positive experiences.”

The PGA HOPE model elevates in today’s challenging economy by serving as a cost-free program for taxpayers or its partners. It brings together the PGA Professional, a local VA hospital that refers those who served their country through various conflicts and wars, and a host site where PGA expert instruction aligns with building friendships. Beyond the PGA HOPE curriculum, families and spouses of veterans join in programs and events, while also gaining an understanding of the Rules of Golf, etiquette; proper equipment, dress and scoring.

“The program saved my life,” says Ret. Lance Cpl. Ryan Lord, 31, of Davenport, Iowa, who suffered a traumatic brain injury and severe depression following a rocket attack in 2003 in Iraq. “The program gave me a new lease on my life. Being out on a golf course is something special. There were many days that I did not want to go outdoors. I go to a golf course now and my whole world changes.”

**DOWN RANGE GOLF CLINICS**

The Down Range Golf Clinics is an initiative developed by the VA’s Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events in partnership with Deloitte Consulting LLP and the PGA Foundation/The PGA of America. The goal of the program is to encourage Disabled Veterans to be more active and healthy in their communities through the game of golf.

On April 8, 2013, the first Down Range Clinic was conducted at American Lake Veterans Golf Course in Lakewood, Wash. American Lake Veterans Golf Course is a golf facility adjacent to the American Lake VA Medical Center and is dedicated to providing a place of respite and rehabilitation for Disabled Veterans. Sixty-seven Disabled Veterans received expert one-on-one attention from 22 Pacific Northwest PGA Professionals. “Our PGA Professionals were honored to have spent the day with our Veterans,” said Pacific Northwest PGA CEO Jeff Ellison. “We shared the joy that only golf can bring. Our Veterans and members of the VA saw that golf is a pathway to a normal life.”

Club Manager Bruce McKenty, a Vietnam Veteran and national commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, said, “I was truly impressed with what I saw at the Down Range Clinic. It is wonderful to have the PGA Professionals help. The veterans truly enjoyed themselves today.”

The clinic portion of the Down Range Clinic Program is only the first step. Each Veteran participating is connected to a PGA Professional that was involved in the clinic and from the Veteran’s community. This will allow for ongoing engagement not only in the game of golf, but also in the life of the community.
PGA INSTRUCTION

In addition to supporting the programs of others, The PGA provides instruction to disabled golfers and the PGA members who teach them. According to a PGA survey, about 43% of The PGA’s active members and apprentices teach golfers with disabilities each year. The PGA maintains a list at www.PlayGolfAmerica.com of PGA members who teach golfers with disabilities.

PGA TOURNAMENT ACCESS

The PGA welcomes professional golfers with disabilities to play in our major tournaments, providing they meet the eligibility requirements. We will allow these competing golfers to ride a golf car, if needed, but they must apply in advance for consideration.

PGA MEMBERSHIP ACCESS

The PGA welcomes members with disabilities and has modified its Playing Ability Test (PAT) to reasonably accommodate their special needs. This test is the first step for people applying to become PGA members. Applicants must achieve a 36-hole score within 15 shots of twice the course rating to pass the test. Candidates with disabilities are able to:

- Take the test at a course that is accessible for individuals with disabilities
- Select the golf course for the test as long as it satisfies minimum guidelines, including yardage
- Take the test at times and places other than regularly scheduled PATs
- Limit their play for the test to 18 holes or less on one day

Additionally, The PGA allows a waiver of the Playing Ability Test (PAT) for individuals with disabilities based on proof of scores in “Recognized Events” that were recorded at some point in an applicant’s golf career.

PGA FACILITY ACCESS

All of the golf facilities owned and operated by The PGA fully provide ADA access. This includes The PGA Center for Golf Learning and Performance, PGA Country Club, PGA Golf Club and Valhalla Golf Club.

INFORMATION ACCESS

The Play Golf America website at www.PlayGolfAmerica.com contains information to help golfers with disabilities as well as PGA members. Currently, the site includes links to USGA Resource Center for individuals with disabilities, National Amputee Golf Association, Special Olympics, National Alliance for Accessible Golf, and a search engine for PGA Professionals who teach golfers with disabilities.
ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE PGA

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
The PGA of America has played the lead role in the development of the Special Olympics Golf program worldwide since the late 1980s. The PGA of America developed with Special Olympics the golf coaching and competition guidelines and rules, along with the Special Olympics Golf Athlete training materials. The first international introduction of Special Olympics golf came in 1991 when nearly 4,000 Special Olympians participated in daily PGA golf clinics at their Summer World Games in Minneapolis.

The PGA has been involved in the Special Olympics USA National and World Games since 1995 with financial assistance, rules expertise, volunteers and free golf clinics. The Tennessee PGA Section hosted the first Special Olympics National Golf Tournament in 2000. The PGA hosted the 2001, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2008, and 2011 tournaments at PGA Village in Port St. Lucie, Fla. From 1995 to 2012 the number of Special Olympics Golf Athletes in the United States increased from 3,500 to over 18,000. Currently there are approximately 34,000 Special Olympics Golf Athletes globally participating in 14 nations.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR ACCESSIBLE GOLF
The National Alliance for Accessible Golf (Alliance) is an organization working to ensure the opportunity for all individuals with disabilities to play the game of golf. Formed in the summer of 2001, the Alliance is represented by the PGA of America and the other major golf organizations in the United States, organizations that provide services for people with disabilities and others who advocate for the inclusion of people with disabilities into society.

The mission of the Alliance is to increase participation of people with disabilities in the game of golf. The Alliance asserts that all individuals are entitled to play the game of golf regardless of their ability, socio-economic condition or experience.

NATIONAL AMPUTEE GOLF ASSOCIATION
For several years The PGA Foundation has provided grants to the National Amputee Golf Association (NAGA) to conduct approximately one- and two-day clinics annually at Veterans Affairs Hospitals nationwide. These “First Swing” clinics teach physical therapists and PGA Professionals how to use golf as a rehabilitative sport for all types of disabled individuals. Each year The PGA provides PGA Professionals to assist in teaching. NAGA has over 3,000 members in the United States and some 500 players from 17 other countries.

To find a PGA Professional who teaches those with disabilities, please visit www.PlayGolfAmerica.com or contact Steve Jubb, PGA – Director of PGA Charities at (561) 624-8498.

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