



October 23, 2006

Dear Junior Golfers and Junior Golf Supporters:

The Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA-men) and the National Golf Coaches Association (NGCA-women) have recently been made aware of a growing concern in junior golf regarding tournament withdrawals. Obviously, as there is in any type of golf competition, withdrawal for legitimate illness, injury or personal emergency is understood. However, it has come to our attention that the practice of withdrawing from events in order to protect scoring average and/or national ranking is occurring.

One of the hallmarks of the game of golf is that it is a sport of honesty, integrity and discipline. In no other sport are the participants asked to enforce the rules of the game themselves and behave in a manner beyond reproach. College coaches throughout the country evaluate prospective student-athletes based not only on their success in the classroom and on the course, but also on their integrity. The ability to perform despite adversity is a characteristic that all coaches place a very high premium on during the evaluation and recruiting process. Especially noticeable are those players who "press on" during challenging times in competition and especially those who shoot better scores after a poor round. Equally noticeable to college coaches are those players who choose not to finish a competition. Final decisions on who coaches believe will best measure up to the challenges of college golf are made based on subtle differences. Through the cooperation and assistance of junior golf tournament organizers and the Junior Golf Scoreboard our members are able to see the results of all those who participate throughout the country and around the world.

On behalf of all college coaches, please accept our best wishes as you continue to play the game!

Sincerely,

John Fields
President, GCAA
University of Texas

Sincerely,

Kelley Hester
President, NGCA
University of Arkansas
