

GOLF HELPFUL HINTS

Getting Into The Swing: Tips For Learning The Game

(NAPS)—Recent studies show that the game of golf has continued to grow in popularity, particularly among people of color. Golf's popularity grew by 25 percent from 1995 to 2001, according to reports issued by the National Golf Foundation (NGF), an industry leader in analyzing the business of golf. Included in this growth was an 18.7 percent increase among African-American golf fans and a 5.6 percent increase among Hispanics. In addition, figures show that many of these new players want to take to the greens with their best foot forward, with the help of a few introductory lessons. The Wisconsin Department of Tourism invites new golf enthusiasts in the Midwest to get into the swing of things this spring by planning a "crash course" golf weekend at one of the state's most popular resorts.

With more than three million adults interested in learning the game, according to NGF findings, golf lessons have attracted a renewed popularity and practicality. New golfers can benefit immensely from professional lessons, as properly learning the fundamentals are the most influential factors to impact the enjoyment of the game. Learning a proper swing, grip, stance, posture, ball position and alignment will make all the difference in how fast new golfers learn and enjoy the game. In choosing a golf instructor, players should consider the following:

- How long has the instructor



Golf continues to grow in popularity among minorities.

been teaching?

- Where did he train and with whom?
- What are her certifications or accreditation?
- What is his teaching philosophy?
- How does she continue to improve her knowledge and teaching abilities?

To find a Wisconsin instructor, contact the Professional Golf Association—Wisconsin Section at 414-540-3820 or e-mail wisc@pgahq.com. Junior golfers have access to lessons and \$1 greens fees through the Kids on Course (KOC) program. KOC is a joint venture of the Golf Foundation of Wisconsin, the Golf Course

Owners of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin State Golf Association. The WPGA also supports junior golf with its tournament series. For more information about the Kids on Course program, call 920-833-1500.

The Wisconsin Department of Tourism invites both new and experienced players to plan a golf getaway at one of the more than 400 courses in Wisconsin. Host to several national tournaments, including the PGA Championship Tournament to be held at Whistling Straits in 2004, Wisconsin is nationally ranked for number of courses, golfer-to-course ratios and affordability. For more specific information on golf courses in Wisconsin, including phone numbers, pricing and availability of instructors, visit www.wisconsin4golf.com, the Web site of The Golf Course Owners of Wisconsin (GCOW). GCOW also offers a coupon book with more than \$1,000 in savings at its member courses around Wisconsin. This booklet is an excellent way to sample courses in Wisconsin while improving your golf game.

For more information on planning a golf weekend getaway or other Wisconsin vacations, visit Tourism's Web site (travelwisconsin.com) or call the state's 24-hour, live-operated, toll-free number 1-800-432-TRIP/8747. Travelers can also obtain guides and information at the 11 Wisconsin Travel Information Centers, which are located in Madison and select state-border cities.