



JACKSON PARK GOLF ASSOCIATION

*Providing a Voice, Protecting the Interest, and Preserving
the Legacy of Golf Leagues, Clubs and Junior Golfers*

www.jpgachicago.com | info@jpgachicago.com | 773-358-1315



Issue 2: Vol 1, Pg 1
April 2020



CALENDAR

2020

Most Illinois golf courses will open May 1st by edict of the Governor. Read the new golf guidelines on page 2 and Mayor Lightfoot's lakefront ordinance on page 3.

At the close of another golf season on November 16, 1937 three women, Cleo Ball, Vivian Pitts, and Anna Mae Black, were saddened because they could not continue playing golf through the winter. They had just finished playing at Palos Hills Golf Course, so these strong visionary women decided to organize a women's golf club. At the first meeting, Anna Mae Black was elected President. After receiving suggestions from the members for a name for the club, Anna Mae Black's submission was selected, [THE CHICAGO WOMEN'S GOLF CLUB](#) (CWGC).

Hence, the second oldest African American Golf Club in the country was born with the motto, "Ours For Better Golf" and colors royal blue and gold. Additionally, the women decided monthly dues would be \$.25.

Under the leadership of Anna Mae Black, Chicago Women's Golf Club took wings. The ladies attributed their success to Mrs. Nettie George Speedy, the first black woman to play golf in Chicago and her husband, Walter Speedy. Together, they are known as the "Mother and Father of African American golf in Chicago." He and three other golfers sued the Chicago Park District to play in the City Amateur Tournament at Jackson Park Golf Course in the early 20th century. Under the Speedy's guidance, the Chicago Women' Golf Club joined the United Golfers Association (UGA) in 1940 and developed into a prominent organization for women golfers.

In the early years, the Chicago Women were only able to play and hold tournaments at certain courses that allowed Blacks. They played at Palos Park Golf Course, Gleason Park Golf Course (Gary, IN), Kankakee Shores Golf Course (Kankakee, IL), Wayside Country Club (Lockport, IL), and Pipe-O-Peace Golf Course (now, Joe Louis "The Champ" Golf Course), which eventually became the home course.

In the early years because Blacks were not allowed to play at most of the golf courses in the United States, the ladies played abroad in Puerto Rico, Acapulco, and Bermuda.

Players in CWGC tournaments have included boxing Champion, Joe Louis, Pete Brown, Lee Elder, Charlie Sifford, Ted Rhodes, Renee Powell, and William "The Refrigerator" Perry. The Annual Anna Mae Robinson (formerly, Black) Open Tournament held in June honors a founder and hosts players from all over the country.

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**Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity**
JB Pritzker, Governor

GOLF OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS

With the precautions and operational restrictions outlined below, golf shall be permitted as a recreational activity, effective 6:00AM, May 1st, 2020. In addition to the general social distancing standards set forth in the Stay at Home Order, golf courses and golfers need to abide by the following controls.

Golf Clubs and Management restrictions:

- Require online or telephone bookings
- Players shall be grouped in twosomes.
- 15 minutes between tee-times:
 - Average tee-times are roughly 12 minutes apart. Spreading out bookings would ensure people do not congregate at tee boxes.
 - Spacing out the tee times would also limit the number of people at the golf course.
- Signage describing operational changes including: no congregating, increased frequency of cleaning, no handshakes, and maintain social distancing between players
- No practice ranges, chipping greens, or putting greens to limit large gatherings of individuals.
- No golf carts may be used on course (either owned by golf club or privately owned), except individuals with a physical disability or physical limitations that prevent them from walking the course may rent a cart from the golf club.
- Only privately-owned pull carts may be utilized, rental of pull carts from the course will not be allowed
- Elevate the "bottom" of the cup:
 - This can be done by placing the cup upside down so that the new bottom is roughly an inch below the lip of the hole. Golfers could retrieve their ball without having to put their hand in the bottom of the regular cup. Flags cannot be removed from the cup.
 - Alternatively, place Styrofoam in the bottom of the cup.
- Flags cannot be removed from the cup
- Clubhouses, halfway houses, and pro shops shall remain closed.



- Clubhouses, halfway houses, and pro shops shall remain closed.
- Prohibit beverage and snack carts Courses shall operate at a minimum basic operations level of staff to limit customer and staff contact; i.e. "starter", "course manager", "maintenance crew", "kitchen staff to prepare to-go only food service."
- Remove drinking water jugs and prohibit use of water fountains that are permanently affixed with signage
- Elimination of on-course and practice facility touchpoints (i.e. bag drop, benches, ball washes, bunker/sand trap rakes, rental equipment, and water coolers)
- Hand sanitizer and soap in all restrooms, including those on the course
 - Restrooms shall be sanitized regularly
- No indoor events or outside tournaments
- Restaurants can remain open for takeout only; all tables and chairs removed or flipped upside down to prohibit use
- Indoor facilities may be open for minimal operations for use by golf course workers to facilitate the outdoor recreation footprint and activity

Player Restrictions:

- Any players with any symptoms of COVID-19, should not play
- In addition, any players from a household with someone with symptoms of COVID-19 should not play
- Golfers must walk and carry own clubs; no caddies.
- Bring your own supply of balls, tees, ball markers, and any other equipment needed to play golf.
- Insist on social distancing on tees, greens, and throughout the round
- Players shall maintain adequate physical distancing between other twosomes.
- Golfers should pick up their own ball
- Handle your own scorecard
- Bring your own water/sports drink, towel, and snack
- Do not use the public drinking fountain or ball cleaner
- Leave the flag in place while putting
- Sort out the sand in the bunker with a club
- Put on your golf shoes at your vehicle
- Bring hand sanitizer with you and use during your round and at the end
- No handshakes at the beginning of the round or at the 18th hole



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Jackson Park Golf Course Will NOT Open on May 1!



The Jackson Park Golf Association supports the Chicago Park District (CPD) decision to keep all CPD Golf facilities closed during the continued uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the numbers continue to rise in Illinois, our prayers are with all affected directly and indirectly. Please be safe and well on and off the links.

The Mayor said, **“Stay Home, Save Lives!”** and she meant every word of that short phrase. After Governor Pritzker’s statewide order to shelter-in-place beginning at 5 PM on March 21st was ignored a few days later, that phrase turned into a very powerful statement, a TV commercial, and iconic memes.

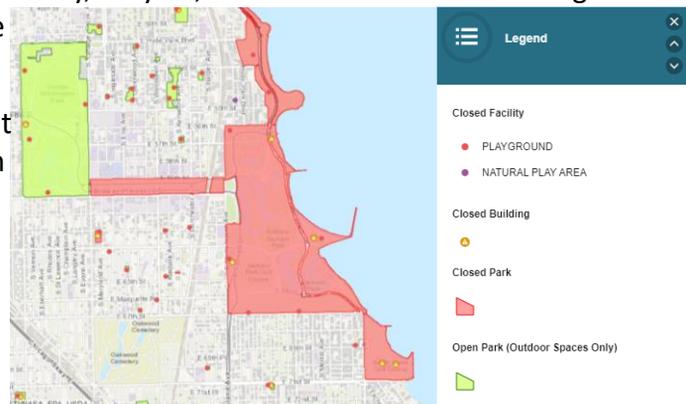
On March 25th, Chicagoans enjoyed a beautiful sunny day perfect for spending time outdoors after sheltering-in-place for an entire four days! The lakefront was sprawling with joggers, cyclists, walkers, and golf courses, including Jackson Park, were packed! The defiance caused the Mayor to close the lakefront trail, parks, beaches (see partial map and link below), and brought down the hammer...golf courses!

Some avid golfers said, “Golf is a contact-free sport” or “Golf is the epitome of social distancing, so we should be able to play.” Well, contact-free and distancing are not absolutely the case when one considers riding in carts, interacting with course staff, handling flagsticks and rakes, and of course the 19th hole camaraderie.

Although most of the state’s golf courses will open on Friday, May 1st, at the direction of the Chicago Park District, all CPD golf facilities will remain closed for the duration of the stay-at-home order.

We should be thankful our state and local government officials are placing safety, wellness, and consideration for health care workers above recreation.

If you decide to play golf in Illinois or other states and you are fortunate to get a tee time, please be safe, careful, well and remember *we are all in this together especially when you leave that course.*



<https://chiparks.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=01d8380f063a4a2499ef38c69df4fbde>



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Jackson Park Golf Association Honors African American Golf Pioneers for Black History Month

Despite snowy conditions on Wednesday, February 12th, over 100 people gathered at DuSable Museum of African American History to share in a memorable panel discussion honoring African American golf pioneers, such as, Walter and Nettie George Speedy and Ted Rhodes. The discussion centered around a brief history of African Americans in golf and the future of inclusion for underrepresented individuals in the multi-billion dollar golf industry. Leagues and Clubs showcased their artifacts dating as far back as the beginning of the 20th century and refreshments were catered by Bon Manger Catering, LLC.

Panelists for the event were relatives, historians, and strong advocates for inclusion: Peggy Rhodes-White and Tiffany White: Daughter and Granddaughter, respectively, of golf pioneer, Ted Rhodes; Andre Stephens, Sr.: Great-Grandson of Walter and Nettie George Speedy, known as the "Father and Mother of African American golf in Chicago"; Dr. Michael Cooper: historian advocating for diversity and inclusion in golf for over 30 years; and Juan Espejo, Illinois PGA Distinguished Service Award recipient for teaching golf and caddy skills to youth for decades. Read the Chicago District Golfer post below and the story in the African American Golfer's Digest [here](#).



Pioneers:



Past, Present and Future

Chicago's rich history of African American golf has paved the way for continual inclusion efforts



FEATURE

Golf fans throughout the world turned to the Chicago District in 1915 when the Western Open was held at Glen Oak Country Club. However, it was a different event contested locally in 1915 that maintains the most significant cultural impact today.

Continuously excluded by the game's governing bodies, African American golfers formed their own tournament for the first time in 1915. The event, contested at Marquette Park Golf Course on the city's south side, set the foundation for the rise of African American golf pioneers such as Walter Speedy, Ted Rhodes, Charlie Sifford and Tiger Woods.

"The south side of Chicago is actually the birth place of African American golf," said Andre Stephens, Sr., the great grandson of Speedy.

Stephens, Sr. was one of five panelists speaking at a symposium attended by 150 community members and hosted by the Jackson Park Golf Association to celebrate Black History Month in February entitled "Celebrating African American Golf Pioneers and Charting a More Diverse Future." The speakers reflected fondly upon golf's rich African American history, while also discussing the need to increase diversity in the game and identify its next pioneers.

"Thinking of all the trials and tribulations my grandfather faced many, many years ago, and here we are in 2020, there are still a limited number of African American golfers and African Americans working in golf," said Tiffany White, the granddaughter of the legendary Ted Rhodes. "There is definitely a lot of work that still needs to be done."





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Chicago Women's Golf club has always been known for their spectacular 19th holes with entertainment, dinners, dances and galas. In fact, entertainment has included Duke Ellington and Herb Kent.

In 1954, Chicago Women's Golf Club formed a junior golf club directed by Agnes G. Williams named the Bob-O-Links that played on Mondays at Jackson Park golf course between June and August. The members were girls and boys ages 8 to 17 years old that participated in and won awards in local and regional tournaments.

Beloved member, Ernestine Harper, believed the importance of our organization is that we, Black women, have been around playing golf for over 80 years. In fact, ladies played golf in the 1920s, before the club was organized, with their husbands and golf has played an important part in our society.

Chicago Women's Golf Club has thrived for 82 years growing stronger with new members every year. The club's revised motto of "Promoting the Interest of Golf in Women and Youth" speaks to their origins, values, and continuation to stand on the shoulders of Cleo Ball, Vivian Pitts, and Anna Mae Black Robinson at their clubhouse and on the course.



On November 16, 1937, the Chicago Women's Golf Club formed with officers installed by Nettie George Speedy who was the "Golf Mother" of the club. The CWGC was formed under leadership of the city's leading African American women with assistance from Walter and Nettie George Speedy. Source: "Chicago Women's Golf Club gives gay party," *Metropolitan Post*, 02/18/1939, p.5]. Among the club's major goals were stimulating interest in golf among women, sponsoring competitive events, and developing younger players. Nettie George Speedy (front row, far left).

Founded 1937

Here Are Champion And Two Rivals In The First Golf Meet Here



(l to r): Mrs. A. F. Pitts, Mrs. Anna Black, Mrs. Cleo Ball
Mrs. Cleo Ball won the championship with Mrs. Anderson Pitts finishing a close second. Mrs. Black was fourth after a slow start in the three Sunday special play tournament staged by Chicago Golfer's Trophy Club at Sunset Hills. Another tournament is to be staged in July by this same club at which time Mrs. Black and Mrs. Pitts hope to outdistance the very capable Mrs. Ball. Mrs. Ball is the wife of "Pat" Ball, former national men's champion.



An Affiliate of the UGA,
MGA and USGA

On June 26, 2019, the Cook County Board of Commissioners honored the Club with a [Resolution](#) sponsored by Anna Mae Robinson's [Great-Granddaughter, Commissioner Donna Miller](#).



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Voices in the News



From Gary Ossewaarde, Jackson Park Advisory Council (JPAC) Secretary
April 13, 2020 *(Written with permission)*



Dear members and friends:

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of our faithful treasurer and friend Dr. Dwight E. Powell.

Dwight Powell was dedicated to his God, his community, and the youth of Chicago. He put his doctorate in social and psychological studies to good use as a CPS Public School Licensed Clinical Social Worker, mentoring countless young males, and he taught on the university level. He also counseled and provided social work for the private sector. He was a Sunday School Teacher for over ten years at Apostolic Church of God, was past president of the 72nd and Luella Block Club, a member of the Rat Pack of Chicago and countless other organizations.

Dwight served as conscientious treasurer and board member of Jackson Park Advisory Council for the past 12 years and more, was a visionary planner and volunteer in our work day and special events and in supporting and honoring the park camp kids. He advocated for and helped set up youth sports programs, especially in golf caddie, swimming, and sailing, and fought for improvement plans for Jackson Park.

He was always ready to call out anyone including officials who came up short or give a pat on the back to those who did well.

IN MEMORIAM:

Sadly, the COVID-19 virus has affected the world with the United States leading the number of people testing positive and fatalities.

Our condolences and prayers for strength, mercy, and comfort to all families affected by the pandemic, notably, one of the South Shore Men’s League golfers, Mr. Aaron “Nap” Trimble.

Lord, have Mercy.



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JPGA OFFICERS

Tracy Raoul

Chairperson

*Treasurer, Ebony Ladies Golf League
Tournament Director, Chicago Women's Golf Club*

Art Burton

Vice Chairperson

President, St. Mark Golf Club

Ciji Henderson

Treasurer

President, Chicago Women's Golf Club

JPGA BOARD MEMBERS

Edward Bourelly

*Vice President of Marketing,
Planet Fitness*

Craig Bowen

Chicago Parks Golf Alliance

Dorothy Che-Menju

Midwest Golf Association

Cassandra Curry

Ebony Ladies Golf League

Patricia Harper

Women's Jackson Park Golf Club

James Kelley

South Shore Men's Golf League

Diane Meades

The Fairway Network

Charles Moreland

Chicago Golf Classic Group

Erika Shavers

Asst. Program Director, The First Tee of Greater Chicago

JPGA ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Michael Cooper

Andre Stephens, Sr.

Terri Stephens

Peggy Rhodes-White

Tiffany White

Message From the Chair...

The Jackson Park Golf Course opened in Jackson Park in 1899 as the first public golf course west of the Allegheny Mountains. However, despite its prestige, African Americans were prohibited the right to play on the public facility. The same was true of South Shore Golf Course which opened as an exclusive country club in 1905. It took over a decade before accessibility to Jackson Park—after a nondisclosed lawsuit settlement between the Park District and notable African American golfer, Walter Speedy—was lifted and African Americans were granted access to the course. The lawsuit, golf aptitude, and tenacity to overcome racism decreed Speedy as the “Father of African American Golf in Chicago.”

The Jackson Park Golf Association (JPGA) was founded in the early 1990s by a group of golfers to create an alliance with the Chicago Park District on behalf of minority golfers' long-standing usage of the course. The JPGA in conjunction with the Western Golf Association Evans Scholarship Foundation established the first caddy program at Jackson Park Golf Course and awarded two recipients the Evans Scholarship. They received full tuition and housing! Additionally, the JPGA junior golf program for youth ages 6- 17, was created to further enhance the growth of golf among minority youth. Most notably, JPGA also supported a rising junior champion, Tiger Woods, before his ascension to professional golfer. In May 2019, a third caddy from Jackson Park, Kenwood Academy senior, Tim Arrington, was the recipient of an Evans Scholarship and JPGA hopes to pay tribute to many more caddies.

JPGA MISSION

The association serves as the umbrella for men and women golf leagues, clubs, and individuals to have a unified voice in all matters related to, but not limited to, golf. The commitment of JPGA is universally agreed upon by its membership. The collective mission and vision will advance underserved youth and young adult golfers to not only dream, but also achieve their dreams to become professional golfers and/or work in the golf industry.

JPGA VISION

Today, JPGA encompasses a multidimensional vision:

- 1) Providing scholarships for youth and collegiate student-athletes;
- 2) Supporting STEAM-based programs for junior golfers as prospective means to excel both academically and athletically;
- 3) Ensuring the African American contributions to the game's past are celebrated, notably, those with Chicago roots;
- 4) Introducing, engaging, and supporting junior golfers and caddy programs to provide more opportunities into the multi-billion dollar golf industry by developing more competitive amateur and professional athletes for the future;
- 5) Building an indoor facility to create more competitive athletes.



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MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

- JPGA Welcome Package
- USGA Membership
- JPGA Swag
- Discounts on events
- Intramural League Programs
- Networking
- Supporting / Sponsoring Youth Golf
- Volunteer opportunities
- Mentoring opportunities
- Discounts for recruiting other members
- Upgrades to levels of Membership Packages

Benefits are subject to change and determined by the Jackson Park Golf Association Board of Directors



PAR \$50 "Tee It Up"

USGA Membership • 10% discount future event • Bag tag



BIRDIE \$75 "Down the Middle"

USGA Membership • 15% discount future event • Bag tag • JPGA Swag



EAGLE \$100 "In the Hole"

USGA Membership • 25% discount future event • Discount at JPGC* • Bag tag • JPGA Swag • Customized JPGA ball mark



ALBATROSS \$200 "G.O.A.T."

USGA Membership • 50% discount future event • Discount at JPGC* • Organization memberships** pay individually: Bag tag • JPGA Swag • Customized JPGA ball mark

Join online at JPGACHICAGO. Questions call 773-358-1315

* Discounts to be determined by Park District; ** League/Club members pay discounted prices for items noted