



PGA

Pacific Northwest Section

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT BEST PRACTICE

PGA Professional:	Ryan Young
Facility Name:	Chambers Bay
Phone:	253.363.3861
Email:	ryoung@kempersports.com

Goals of the program:	<i>We host a beginner golf class for veterans with disabilities sponsored by the Salute Military Golf Association. Our goal was to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for every participant so they feel comfortable learning this game.</i>
Program Design:	<i>He host three eight-week beginner golf classes, covering a specific topic each week. Every veteran gets free equipment during each class. Everyone also gets a beginner combo pack (ball marks, divot repair tools, and martini tees). We include boxed lunches afterwards so the veterans can socialize. Cost is FREE.</i>
Tracking Results:	<i>We collect names and emails of every participant each class. Through the SMGA sponsorship, veterans wounded in action (post 9/11) are eligible for free TaylorMade clubs if they attend at least 6 of 8 classes in a session. All rosters are tracked through our registration system, USchedule.</i>
Results:	<i>Our classes continue to grow every season. Graduates are now attending our follow up programs and more importantly becoming avid golfers!</i>
Business Impact:	<i>Since the program is free to veterans, we rely heavily on our SMGA sponsor. They pay our instructors to teach each class and buy the boxed lunches. As we keep growing, we are thankful for the Yamaha Player Development Grant for supporting the costs of our teaching aids and tee prizes. Beside the several graduates who participate in our follow up programs, they community impact is priceless.</i>
Recommendations:	<i>Reach out to the SMGA, Wounded Warrior Project, and/or the PGA HOPE. Each of these associations support veterans playing the game and have funds to do so. Know your audience and treat these classes as fun, inclusive, and social events.</i>