

# *Pick Up Stix Program*

Thanks to many generous donations, participants at The First Tee of Greater Charleston will now have the opportunity to be fit with golf clubs that they can use outside of class to continue their involvement with the game. This two-part program will benefit many of the participants The First Tee sees each year by instilling confidence in them with properly fitted clubs as well as responsibility and respect for their equipment.

Part 1: Participants at any level of the Core Program (TARGET through Ace) who own a set of incorrectly fitted clubs can trade in their existing set to their coach to receive a properly fitted one. At the start of each season, coaches will be asked to look at participants' clubs and see if they look to be the correct size, remembering that young people should not grow *into* their clubs but should instead grow *out of* their clubs. A golf club that is too long or too heavy can have a lasting negative impact on a participant's enjoyment and success in the game of golf. If a wrong sized set is observed, a lead coach will ask the participant's parents or guardians if they would like to trade in for a new set. Only if the parent and child agree to give The First Tee their old set will a child be able to receive another one. When receiving the clubs, participants will sign a contract that will state that the young person will use these new clubs responsibly, courteously, and respectfully either until they are no longer a participant of The First Tee (in which case they will return them) or until they outgrow them. These participants' information will be put in a spreadsheet so that we will know who has benefitted from Part 1 of the Pick Up Stix Program. As long as they are still active members of The First Tee, participants will be able to trade in their set for a larger size as they keep growing.

Part 1a: Participants at the TARGET, PLAYer, and Teen levels who do not have their own clubs will borrow the necessary clubs each week during the Core lesson. Individual clubs (putters, irons, drivers) will also be purchased through the program for any golf facility that needs additional inventory. Participants are asked to only borrow these clubs each week during class and may not bring them home with them. At the TARGET, PLAYer, and Teen levels, we are working to improve retention rates, which are only around 10%. Many participants try golf for a season but realize that they are more suited towards other sports or that scheduled class times do not fit into their busy schedules. We want the Pick Up Stix Program to sustain itself, which we do not believe would happen if each TARGET, PLAYer, and Teen participant were given a free set of clubs. Once participants certify to Advanced PLAYer, they are four times more likely to continue with The First Tee for years to come and will be given a set through Part 2.

Part 2: Advanced PLAYer and higher (PAR, Birdie, Eagle, and Ace) participants who do not have their own clubs will be given a set during the second week of their Core Programming session. On the first day of each session, coaches will be asked to collect information (height and left/right handed) from participants who do not have clubs. These participants' information will be forwarded from the coach to the Program Director, so that she can bring the correctly sized clubs to the location in time for the second week. The Program Director will place the information collected in a spreadsheet and check their names each year to make sure they are still participating in The First Tee and still have the clubs. When receiving the clubs, participants will sign a contract that will state that the young person will use these clubs responsibly, courteously, and respectfully either until they are no longer a participant of The First Tee (in which case they will return them) or until they outgrow them. After receiving one set, the participant will never again be able to receive a set without first returning in their original set. This will help us sustain inventory. When a participant does outgrow a set, he/she will be able to use the method above, listed in Part 1 to receive a new set.

## *Pick Up Stix Program Contract*

I \_\_\_\_\_ am responsible for the set of golf clubs that have been fit to me and given to me today. This set of clubs is owned by The First Tee of Greater Charleston but has been loaned to me for as long as I am in Core Programming or until I grow out of them. If I stop participating in The First Tee's program, I will return the clubs to my coach or have a parent/guardian call Program Director, Meghan Taylor (843-864-4200), who will make arrangements to pick them up. If I grow too tall for my clubs, I will tell my coach, and he/she will get me a new set. Only when I return the full original set given to me today will I be given a new set to borrow.

My set of golf clubs includes:

\_\_\_\_\_ Driver

\_\_\_\_\_ Fairway Woods

\_\_\_\_\_ Hybrids

\_\_\_\_\_ Irons (specify numbers)

\_\_\_\_\_ Putter

\_\_\_\_\_ Head covers

\_\_\_\_\_ Stand bag

\_\_\_\_\_ Left-handed

\_\_\_\_\_ Right-handed

*I have traded in my old set of golf clubs for other participants to use. YES or NO*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Coach Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date