

## PGA BEST PRACTICES: PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

### Get On the Course Every Time During Get Golf Ready



**Dave Baron** is a PGA Master Professional and director of instruction for The First Tee of Greater Austin at the Harvey Penick Golf Campus, a daily fee facility.

2008 was the first year that our facility started using Get Golf Ready, and it has been successful every year. Our programs are customized to encourage students with similar skills and goals to attend together. This creates an atmosphere of comfort and confidence. Within this program, I find it vital to incorporate at least one hole of golf in to each lesson. Doing so provides teachable moments on the Rules of golf, etiquette and pace of play - this all enhances the skills the students are learning. This approach also helps me to evaluate the progress of the student better and see what areas need the most attention. I suggest you incorporate playing at least one hole at every lesson. Remember: They all want to learn to play golf, not learn to play golf swing.

I would say a large number of golfers are coming to our facility because of the opportunity Play Golf America programs create. These are all players that may not have tried their hand at the game otherwise. It has been my impression that golfers seem to be sticking with the game longer and increasing the number of rounds played in a year. I believe this positive momentum is great for the future of the game.

For more information on Get Golf Ready and other PGA Player Development programs, please visit the Player Development page on [PGALinks.com](http://PGALinks.com).



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