



FACT SHEET

**The PGA of America /
Disabled Sports USA Military Golf Program**



The Disabled Sports USA Military Golf Program is a joint effort between Disabled Sports USA and Wounded Warrior Project. The PGA of America has announced it plans on joining the program and presenting a golf program to provide golf instruction for the severely wounded military returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The PGA of America/DSUSA Military Golf Program is The PGA of America's extension of the Department of Defense's "America Supports You" program, which is an ongoing nationwide effort to showcase and communicate America's support to the men and women of the Armed Forces.

The PGA of America has partnered with Disabled Sports USA and the Department of Defense to sponsor a program for severely wounded veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. The PGA of America will coordinate a team of six PGA Professionals per city, who will become instructors for wounded warriors at sites near the nation's three primary military hospitals - Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas; and Naval Medical Center San Diego in San Diego, Calif.

This program is a nationwide initiative that will involve both active duty and retired men and women of the Armed Forces who were severely wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. The aim is to demonstrate value in golf as a sport for rehabilitation and fulfilling recreational pursuit.

Before starting the seven weeks of instruction, Disabled Sports USA representatives and PGA and LPGA Professional Judy Alvarez of Stuart, Fla., who began her professional golf career in 1993 as an instructor for golfers with disabilities, will head a training program for PGA Professional instructors. That team of PGA Professionals will conduct seven weeks of golf instruction for the wounded warriors and disabled veterans.

Disabled Sports USA will coordinate with the three military medical facilities, where 80% of the severely wounded are treated, to identify the wounded to receive the golf instruction and transport them to the training sites. The participants will then meet with PGA Professionals who will guide them through a curriculum that features golf's fundamental skills and the basic rules of golf. They will also employ teaching techniques that would utilize adaptive equipment where necessary, demonstrate how golf may be used as part of rehabilitation and teach safety concerns in swinging a golf club and the importance of stretching. Each week's program will consist of two hours of instruction.

Dennis Walters, a PGA Honorary Member of the PGA who is paralyzed from the waist down, will attend the first week of instruction to demonstrate that golf can be played by the disabled. Walters is one of the most popular golf clinicians and motivational speakers following an accident that left him a paraplegic. He will support the program by performing his acclaimed golf show at courses near the designated VA Hospitals and also will serve as chairperson of a Scramble Golf Tournament at each site.

The seven-week program will conclude with a three-hole golf scramble tournament held at each location for the wounded during the last day of instruction.

For information contact:
Jamie Carbone, 561-624-8446 or
the Communications Department, 561-624-8400



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Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project

The Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project is a partnership between Disabled Sports USA, its chapters and the Wounded Warrior Project, providing year round sports programs for severely wounded service members from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflict and the Global War on Terrorism. Programs take place at sites throughout the USA offering Wounded Warriors the chance to rebuild their lives through sports. The “Wounded Warriors” and their family members are provided these opportunities free of charge, including transportation, lodging, adaptive equipment and individualized instruction in over a dozen different winter and summer sports. For more information regarding the Wounded Warrior Project, call (904) 296-7350 or visit www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

Disabled Sports USA

Disabled Sports USA is a national nonprofit, 501(c)(3), organization established in 1967 by disabled Vietnam veterans to serve the war injured. DS/USA now offers nationwide sports rehabilitation programs to anyone with a permanent disability. Activities include winter skiing, water sports, summer and winter competitions, fitness and special sports events. Participants include those with visual impairments, amputations, spinal cord injury, dwarfism, multiple sclerosis, head injury, cerebral palsy, and other neuromuscular and orthopedic conditions. For more information regarding Disabled Sports USA, call (310) 217-0960 or visit www.dsusa.org.

America Supports You

America Supports You is an ongoing, nationwide program organized by the Department of Defense to showcase Americans’ support for the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families. Since its launch in November of 2004, the *America Supports You* program has welcomed over 250 home front organizations and more than 35 corporations to the team. Many *America Supports You* supporters encourage the troops through letter writing, care packages, helping the wounded when they return home, assisting military families, sending an e-mail or kind gesture—to learn more about how you can support military personnel, visit www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil.

The PGA of America

The PGA of America is the world's largest working sports organization comprised of 28,000 men and women golf Professionals who are the recognized experts in growing, teaching and managing the game of golf while serving millions of people throughout its 41 PGA Sections nationwide. Since its founding in 1916, The PGA of America has enhanced its leadership position in a \$62 billion-a-year industry by growing the game of golf through its premier spectator events, world-class education and training programs, significant philanthropic outreach initiatives, and award-winning golf promotions. Today's PGA Professional is the public's link to the game, serving an essential role in the operation of golf facilities throughout the country. For more information regarding The PGA of America, visit www.pga.com.



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Schedule of Clinic Dates:

Walter Reed Hospital
Washington, DC

<p>PGA Professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim Estes, Program Director Al Fenstomacher Bill Hoffman Matt Kayson Peter Labourdette Erika Larkin Jeff Maynor Nolan Orndorff Ray Richardson Clark Sisson Michael Aldrich Ryan Myers 	<p>Program Schedule at Olney Golf Park, Olney, MD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 28th – 1st Session w/ Dennis Walter May 5th – 2nd Session May 12th – 3rd Session May 19th – 4th Session May 26th – 5th Session June 2nd – 6th Session June 9th – 7th Session & 3 hole Scramble <p>Each Session runs from 10 to Noon</p>
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Balboa Naval Medical Center
San Diego, CA

<p>PGA Professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Klein, Program Director Jim Higgins Ron Riess Mike Nokes Tom Wishmeyer Paul Marchewka 	<p>Program Schedule at Admiral Baker GC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 6th – 1st Session w. Dennis Walters April 13th – 2nd Session April 20th – 3rd Session April 27th – 4th Session May 5th – 5th Session May 12th – 6th Session May 19th – 7th Session & 3 Hole Scramble <p>Each Session runs from 1:30 to 3:30</p>
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Brook Army Medical Center
San Antonio, TX

<p>PGA Professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dick Bartel, Program Director Victor Yannuzzi Gary Bailey Ralph Harris Ruben Samaniego Randy Jones 	<p>Program Schedule at Fort Sam Houston GC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 4th – 1st Session May 11th – 2nd Session May 18th – 3rd Session w/ Dennis Walters May 25th – 4th Session June 1st – 5th Session June 8th – 6th Session June 15th – 7th Session & 3 hole Scramble <p>Each Session runs from 2:00 to 4:00</p>
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