



NEPGA GOLF WITH Pride REACH



Meet Our Team

Our Golf With Pride programming is brought to you by PGA REACH New England. Our foundation committee may be a valuable resource for you during the planning, execution and post event celebration of supporting the Pride community.



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GOLF WITH PRIDE



Tips, Best Practices and FAQ's on how to host a more inclusive event at any facility

First step if considering running a program is to reach out to local groups in your area to get a feel for potential interest. Below are websites to connect with local LGBTQ communities. They can help guide you, making sure your program is a success and supported locally. There are many amazing resources all over New England to connect with for your community.



HOW TO START

The key to success will be to create an open and safe space, any new golfer regardless of background, can be intimidated visiting a golf facility for the first time. Golf can come with a stigma; how do you plan to overcome that with your program?

Local high schools and colleges are likely to have LGBTQ groups as well.

Local Groups & Resources

Maine

<https://www.equalitymaine.org/>

Massachusetts

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/dmh-young-adult-resource-guide-lgbtq-resources>

New Hampshire

<https://www.naminh.org/lgbtqia/>

Vermont

<https://www.pridecentervt.org/>

Rhode Island

<https://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/resources.cfm?st=RI>

<https://www.pflagprovidence.org/>



GOLF WITH PRIDE

PROGRAMMING OPTIONS

Work with local vendors to create a special swag or goodie bag for participants in the program. Beginners can think of it as a “starter kit”, including items such as golf balls, tees, ball mark, sunscreen, hat or visor. When participants register be sure to grab ability levels and if demo clubs are needed to be best prepared for the day.

Create a welcoming social hour. Serve a snack and beverage to allow the participants to interact and meet the host PGA Professional and supporting staff they will be spending time with. Possibly schedule a small trunk show or a vendor to come during this time.

Shoes, sunglasses, and outerwear could be great options.

When creating marketing material, list basic information to put participants at ease.

- Dress code at your facility.
- Where to park.
- Do you have equipment or need access to demo clubs
- Where to check in
- Where to find the individual who plans to greet the participants



Programming Options

Full Day Program

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Morning Session

Work with outside staff to create three stations, Putting, Short Game, Full Swing. Depending on the size of the group, try to maintain a 6 to 1 ratio. Ideally start with putting, moving to short game, to full swing. At the end of each session create a fun engaging game for the participants. Have each station last 45 minutes with 10 minutes in between. At each station be sure to have a cooler of beverages or access to water.

Lunch Hour

Afternoon Session

9 Hole Scramble. Depending on the ability level of your participants, pair with a good mix in each group. Before play begins, gather the group together to go over the basics of how to play a hole.

- Where to tee off
- Where to stand when not hitting
- Where to park the cart
- Order of play once off the tee
- Pace of play tricks, like where to leave your cart or bag to speed up play.
- How to mark a ball
- Basic Rules

Social Happy Hour

The professional staff will recap the day. Offer wine and appetizers. Offer a survey for participants to see how their day went, potential interest in continuing to golf and programs they would like to see moving forward at your facility. Perhaps they have a friend or colleague that would enjoy the program as well, encourage a buddy system.

If a full day is too much for your facility, consider a social clinic event once a month. Have wine and beverages with an ice breaker and cover the skill of the week.

ABCD evening scramble with a social aspect following play.



Run a Social Clinic

Consider a Drive Chip & Putt skills competition at your facility. During the registration process capture as much information as you can:

- Ability Level
- Dexterity
- Goals

One option would be a 90 minute program with 30 minutes focused on Putting, Short Game and Driving. Instructors at each station will ensure that there is equipment available. Based on the size of the clinic, determine the right sizes of groupings and how you will do so. At times we will group by skill level, but this program will be built on making sure students are comfortable. Consider a partner or buddy system.

Prior to the clinic starting, create a few ice breakers to encourage comfort and anticipate some beginner or basic entry level golf questions.

Include a tee gift for each participant, including a simple educational card or document.

- Tips you covered in the clinic
- How to access golf at your facility in the future
- How to get contact the professional staff for additional instruction / programs

Or after the clinic, email all the participants this information. This connects the students together and allows the students to feel valued for their time and participation. You can also include upcoming events and links for tee times, lessons, club options, etc...

Scramble Event

Offer a scramble event. Based on ability levels captured during the registration, ensure groupings and tee placements are set up appropriately to encourage a fun event. If this is your inaugural event, ask of participants would like to request a partner or pairing. The key to success is to ensure people feel comfortable.

You can offer an optional pre-golf instructional program.

Have a food and beverage option following play.

Similar to the clinic, offer a goodie bag and follow up information on how this audience can continue to be captured by your facility.

For those facilities that may draw a field of very inexperienced golfers, a Drive, Chip & Putt style contest is a great format that anyone with a driving range can host. These contests can include players of all abilities, but most importantly can host those with no prior experience.

Host Professionals may choose to conduct an hour clinic prior to the event, but it is not necessary. Pride events are less about learning the game and more about opening our facilities to the community and raising awareness that all people are welcome in our sport.

If you have a larger crowd, you can separate the contests by their experience level. Beginners, intermediate and perhaps advanced. Having prizes on hand for the winner of each flight, or level, makes for a nice touch.

Drive Component

You can divide the range up however you like. It is suggested to have 3 or 4 distances that have point values associated with them. An example would be to have 4 zones with the following distance ranges: 0 – 75 yards (2pts), 75 – 125 yards (3pts), 125 to 175 yards (4pts), 175 yards and beyond (5pts). You may want to use marking paint to define the zones, but it is not necessary as this is meant for a fun activity. Each contestant will hit 3 golf balls. Point values are assigned for each ball depending on the zone they come to rest in. At the end of the round each golfers total points are posted as part of their total score.

Chipping Component

Staff choose 1-3 locations for a chipping contest. If you choose one location, players will hit 3 balls from that singular position. If you choose 3 varying locations, they will hit one ball from each of the three. Volunteers should be on hand to measure the distance of each shot from the hole. An example of point values based on proximity are as follows: Holed (25), within 2' (20), 2'-4' (10), 6'-10' (5), and over 10' (1). Tabulate the total points from this contest and post it as part of their total score.

Putting Component

This can be conducted exactly as the chipping contest if you like. Pro Tip: This is the contestant's best chance for success. If you use 3 locations, choose one of them that is reasonable to make and watch the excitement if one pours in the hole. Proximity and point values can be as follows: Holed (25), Within 1' (20), 1'-2' (15), 2' – 3' (10), 3' – 4' (5), and over 4' (2). Tabulate the total points from this contest and post it as part of their total score.

Now that the contests have been completed, tabulate the total score for all players and announce the winner (s). Typically, finishing on the putting green ends the contest with a more manageable activity and it also lends itself for the best viewing and interaction among the players.

Generally speaking, this event will take close to 2 hours with about 24 people. Even though they are not hitting a lot of shots, this manageable event feels like they are taking part in a "real" golf tournament. Unlike playing an actual round, time taken is not a barrier here. Socialization is vital for all activities and the skills contest lends itself very well to that.

CONCLUSION

Where this is a great format, it is nice when you blend it in with other activities. Something like a golf trivia event afterwards is always fun. A simple barbecue so the players can socialize and meet new friends is also enjoyable. Most importantly...use this, and other options, as a guideline for your event. Make the experience what you want it to be, not what you think it needs to be.

Please feel free to reach out to the team or call the section office for help.

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