



PGA PROFESSIONALS' BEST PRACTICES: CORE GOLFERS

COACHING

RETAILING

TOURNAMENT
& OUTINGS

TRAVEL

DEVELOPING
PLAYERS

CORE GOLFERS



Ron Tristano, the 2001 Northern Ohio PGA Section Teacher of the Year and a Section Hall of Fame member, is the PGA Head Professional at Challenge Golf Course at Edwin Shaw Rehab in Akron, Ohio

Make Your Facility Accessible

Ron Tristano on the importance of making your facility accessible:

The Cleveland Clinic Akron General Edwin Shaw Challenge Golf Program began in 1989 as an extension of the rehab services provided by what was then Edwin Shaw Hospital. We are one of the nation's first accessible golf facilities. Our par-3 course has nine tee boxes, three greens, three holes in each green and is color-coded tee-to-hole, which allows for a 9-hole play. Our holes range from 60 to 150 yards and have accessible greens, tees and fairways, allowing for wheelchairs, special 4-wheel golf cars and regular golf cars. A plus: the accommodations needed are also attractive to youth and senior players, expanding your potential reach.

Ron Tristano on the business impact of making your facility accessible:

A public facility, over 3,000 rounds are played on our course each year, providing numerous classes for all youngsters including those who come from an hour or more away. Fifty percent of our rounds and 60 percent of my lessons are made up of people with special needs. Additionally, our facility has qualified for grants to help fund the programs we run for people with disabilities, and may be available to offset your costs if you wish to start a program or make renovations. We also strongly encourage any facility to partner with a nearby rehab or hospital so you can provide exactly what the patient population needs. As players move onto other facilities, my suggestion to course operators is for additional tee boxes to fit golfers of all abilities and to make those tees accessible. If their tees already qualify, then allow different options for golfers to bring their golf cars closer to tees and greens. That leads to additional business, faster rounds and greater retention. PGA Professionals are the most talented coaches in the world and I urge all of them to reach out to a rehab center to begin helping people in the area to enjoy the many benefits of playing golf.

