



Summer youth golf camps rise in popularity Focus on fun and diversity of activity attracts new participants

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Summertime is a time for kids to get outside and enjoy their time off from the rigors of the school year. It is with this in mind that Costa Caribe Golf and Country Club created its Junior Golf Camps. "These camps run for a week at a time for children ages six through 17," said Tony Loyola, PGA member and assistant golf professional at Costa Caribe. The 2007 camp schedule included the week of June 11-15, June 18-22, July 9-13 and July 16-20. "This year we had as many as 21 participants per week, which was very exciting for us," Loyola added.

Turnout wasn't always that high for Costa Caribe, according to Loyola. "In the past we were drawing between five and 10 kids each week so we had to change our approach," he said. "We decided to diversify our program and instead of just offering golf instruction all day we decided to integrate some tennis instruction as well as giving the kids some time to cool off in the pool at the end of the day. This seems to have done the trick as our enrollment has been up ever since." The current schedule looks like this: breakfast 8-8:30; tennis instruction 8:30-10:30; golf instruction 10:30-12:30; lunch 12:30-1 then pool time from 1-3.

The golf instruction mainly consists of basic fundamentals, swing mechanics and putting and chipping techniques. "We also place a huge amount of emphasis on etiquette and teamwork," said Loyola. "We understand these kids



Junior athletes enjoy professional instruction in both golf and tennis at the 2007 Costa Caribe Golf and Country Club week-long camps.

are the ones that are going to support the courses around the island in the future so we feel it's important to not only teach them the right way to play but also to get them excited about playing the game," he added. ■