

Philip Du Preez

Qualifications:

B-Tech Degree in Officiating and Coaching Sciences

PGA Diploma (Class A)

iiFT Certified Fitness Specialist

First of all thank you very much for the nomination as regional PGA coach of the year. Ever since starting my PGA diploma back in 2006, i've never looked back and been very fortunate enough to call this great game of golf my job. For the last 8 years, I can only describe my golfing journey as the Head Teaching Professional at Wingate Park Country Club as priveledged. Teaching has given me the opportunities to network and interact with such a diverse variety of golfers.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank the team of the PGA of South Africa in educating us as coaches to transfer and deliver the right principles, fundamentals and knowledge of the game to students.

I believe that the characteristics of a good coach must be "the encourager", "the passionist", "the visionist" and "the game-changer" to make golf more enjoyable for all golfers. As a coach, my biggest goal has been to build healthy relationships with golfers, to show interest in their needs and to guide them towards their golfing goals. Seeing golfers grow in the game by assisting them in reaching their fullest potential and achieving their golfing goals has been most rewarding for me.

Golf is a challenging sport, demanding not only physical ability, but also testing an individual's psychological and emotional ability. My coaching philosophy has always been that I see potential in every student's unique style and to improve their technique to the fullest. My passion is to help any golfer from beginner to professional with the desire to improve all aspects of their game. The greatest value to better golf is the challenge is to become the best that you can be and to have fun, as it is a sport afterall. This year, I've expanded my focus on the importance of developing my students to be well rounded athletes by pinpointing and improving their weaknesses. As a qualified iiFT Certified Fitness Specialist, I train my students to improve their physical and mental strength which boosts their confidence and gives them the ability to become a more complete golfer.

Just as the game of golf consists of rules, etiquette and respect, we have to apply the same principles in our everyday lifestyle. Teaching golf has taught me perserverance and to believe by encouraging others through enhancing positivity.