Junior golf is due to play an increasingly important part in private golf club activities because of the possible effect of higher taxes and heavier work schedules of members in reducing number of adult rounds played. Pros and club officials recall that profits during World War II brought many into country club memberships who previously hadn't been able to afford the costs and this offset many other factors that tended to sharply reduce club memberships. There is doubt that the same tax situation will prevail during the national defense emergency, hence the wisdom of accent on junior golf activities. With the kids getting a lot out of the clubs the parents are going to find a way to belong.

Television set manufacturers have used the children's sale promotion angle with such effectiveness the manufacturers were indiscreet and had to back away from their obvious campaign of putting kid pressure on parents. The golf club can use the same selling force more tactfully and less obviously.

The pros have seen the swimming pools always getting a big play from the kids at the clubs and have the ambition of getting the youngsters as intensely active in golf. However, as the adults get the first call on the course, the kid programs have to be planned diplomatically to combine attractive factors of education and play at times when kid play won't interfere with adult traffic on the course.

The junior program seldom is a cinch. It's bound to have some discouragement. The kids continue to be about like the pro was when he was a kid, with one major difference—not many of the youngsters intend to take up golf as a career.

Among the most important jobs of the PGA is that of promoting more junior instruction and play. Many pros have been doing great jobs in this field at their clubs. Warren Orlick, pro at the Monroe (Mich.) G&CC is one of the fellows who has done a conspicuously successful job.

Orlick's Progress with Juniors

Orlick tells of his junior program since 1940 when he was engaged by the Monroe club:

"The first few years I gave lessons to groups of five, $5 per pupil, ten lessons to each pupil, making it 50 cents per pupil per lesson. This program was carried on until I was taken into the service. After my return from the army I felt I could start more players by installing a free lesson program. It was a success from the start. I have had an average of 30 pupils each year; 38 in the 1950 class.

"In 1950 I divided classes into beginners and those who had previous instructions. Age limit—8 years and up. Course ran from June 15th through August. Here is the breakdown: Etiquette, Grip, Stance, Backswing, Follow-thru, Rules of Golf, Putting Fundamentals, Putting contest.

"I had a pupil read a rule of etiquette and then explain where it applies on the course.

"Because of these classes our club each year has more entries in the tournaments. This year we had 16 in the championship flight and 7 flights of 16, a total of 128 players. In our Fall event called our 'Harvest tournament' we had a similar turnout. In the above events, this year we had a junior lad in the semi-final—a winner of the 6th flight—and winner of the 7th flight. Last year two of my boys were in the semi-finals of the club championship. The Harvest event brought out ten juniors even with football and baseball taking most of the spotlight.

"Juniors finishing my regular course are better prepared for playing the game of golf, making it more pleasant for all concerned.

Reflected on Adults

"Many a member has approached me, stating his son or daughter had shown him where he was violating a rule of golf or rules of etiquette. So I know if all pros would stress rules and etiquette in junior programs there would be fewer disagreements between golfers in general.

"This season one of the youngsters called a rule on one of the older members in a match. Much debate took place with the older member thinking he was right. The final outcome was that the youngster was correct remembering a rule I had brought out in junior class in 1941.

"I feel a fellow knowing the rules has the advantage over one not knowing them. Classes on rules and etiquette can be fun if a little humor and acting is planned with them.

"In addition to the junior program I conduct the Junior Chamber of Commerce event, ten caddy tournaments a year and a "Caddy-Lady Day." Our junior championship consisted of four players in the
championship flight, 16 in the first flight and four players in the second flight.

“For prizes I give National Golf Foundation medals and certificates. Any junior making outstanding improvement receives a medal as well. This year Steve Cowgill received a medal, reducing his game from an average of 98-105 to 86 average. We have six juniors who can break 80.

“Here is my suggestion toward a junior golf program: More effort by individual pros on their own junior program seems more practical than a national set-up. A national set-up is very difficult to handle due to different programs by so many organizations. We should be the feeder unit, feeding players to established organizations who are in a better position to carry out national junior events. Our PGA members do not have the time to travel from one section of the country to another. Concentration on the junior programs at the home club is our answer, I feel, toward junior promotion nationally.”

USGA Clarifies but Makes Few Changes in Rules

The USGA Rules of Golf Committee, under the chairmanship of Isaac B. Grainger, New York, has continued its work of clarifying and refining the Rules, and the 1951 edition contains the following amendments adopted by the Executive Committee (the numbers refer to the Rules affected):

7(2) : Loose impediments definition clarified; does not cover objects adhering to ball.

7(4) : Artificial obstructions — Relief may not be obtained by measuring through obstruction.

On putting green, obstruction may be treated as casual water.

General procedure clarified.

11(3e) : Ball lifted before holed out in stroke play — Rule applies to entire course, not just putting green.

12(5a) : Player's ball moved by opponent in executing stroke — no penalty.

14 : Ball unfit for play — Referee, if any, to decide whether unfit in stroke play as well as match play.

16(2,3) : Casual water — Maximum possible relief allowed on putting green and in hazard, if complete relief is not possible.

Recommendations for Local Rules: Suggestions added on how to decide ties in handicap events.

Protection against Lightning

Suggestions added on how to protect shelters on golf courses.

Copies of the 1951 edition of the Rules of Golf are available in booklet form at 15 cents each from the USGA, 40 East 38th St., New York 16, N. Y.

GOOD NIGHT, SWEET PAR

Jackie Burke wins 9-hole night match with 1-under par 34 at Lakewood Park (L.A. dist.) with Lloyd Mangrum (38), Jim Ferrier (hitting) (39) and Henry Ransom (40) in first demonstration of portable night golf lighting equipment. Equipment was designed by Jim Walker, Portland (Ore.) inventor, who's in the background following ball flight with 300,000 candle power spot reflector.