



Steve Parker, PGA

Resume

Firestone Country Club



Portage Country Club



Wanakah Country Club



Steve Parker, PGA

PGA Master Professional and executive leader with over 30 years of experience spanning private club operations, nonprofit management, and National PGA Governance. Recently served on the PGA Board of Directors, District 5 and President of the Northern Ohio PGA Section, providing fiduciary oversight and strategic direction at a national level. A 2024 NOPGA Hall of Fame inductee with a proven track record of managing multi-million dollar capital renovations and diverse golf operations at championship venues.



Formal Education

- Kent State University | B.S. Finance

Professional Education

- 2024 | PGA Master Professional
- PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit
2025, 2023, 2019, 2015, 2008 & 2004
- USGA/PGA Rules Workshop
2023, 2020, 2017 & 2013
- Stack & Tilt Network Training
2016 - 2025 (approx. 8 Seminars)
- 2024 | So. Cal PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit
- 2022 | PGA HOPE Certified Instructor
- 2019 | Trackman Level 2 Certification
- 2016 | Stack & Tilt Network Training
- 2014 | TPI Junior Level 3
- 2013 | TPI Golf Coach Level 2
- 2013 | MORAD Seminar
- 2012 | TPI Golf Level 2
- 2011 | TPI Junior Level 2
- 2010 | TPI Certification Level 1
- 2009 | Mike Bender Instructional Seminar
- 1996 | Elected to Class A PGA Member

Awards & Recognition

- 2025 | NOPGA Professional Development Award
- 2024 | NOPGA Hall of Fame Inductee
- 2024 | NOPGA Sr. Professional Champion
- 2011 | NOPGA Teacher of the Year
- 2010 | NOPGA Professional Development Award
- 2009 | NOPGA Teacher of the Year
- 1996 | NOPGA Assistant's Champion
- Titleist Leadership Advisory Staff
- 6-Time PGA Professional Championship Qualifier
- 3-Time Sr. PGA Professional Championship Qualifier
- 9-Time NOPGA Ohio Cup Team Member
- 2017-Present | Golf Digest Best Teachers in the State Recognition - Ohio
- 1986-1990 | Kent State University Golf Team
 - 2-Time All-MAC Selection | 1990 Captain
- 1986 | Ohio Junior Champion

Core Strengths

- Member-Centric
- Strategic
- Leader / Listener
- Mentoring
- Service mindset
- Fiscal Stewardship
- Non-profit Experience
- Championship Operations
- Instructor & Coach
- Competitor

PGA Service

- 2023-2025 | District 5 Director
- 2020-2021 | NOPGA President
- 2023 - present
 - Budget Committee
 - Tournament Committee (Chair)
 - Properties Committee



Golf Digest
Best Teachers

IN EVERY STATE

• 2026 - 2027 •



Steve Parker, PGA | 330.730.2121 | sparker@pгахq.com

Experience



Firestone Country Club is a prestigious 54-hole private facility renowned for its championship pedigree as the host of the Senior Players Championship. The club features three world-class courses and an elite practice environment, including a state-of-the-art indoor facility. Beyond its legendary golf, Firestone offers a luxury experience with on-site guest rooms, upscale dining, and premier member engagement programs.

Director of Instruction

2005-2011 & 2025-Present

- Build strong relationships with members and guests by delivering personalized coaching, improving retention and participation in club golf programs.
- Orchestrate weekly player development clinics for members focused on putting, short game, wedge play, and full swing fundamentals.
- Collaborate with the Director of Golf and club leadership to align instructional programs with the club's overall golf experience and member engagement strategy. Participate and host Woman's Golf Day Clinic.
- Be responsive to member requests and try to accommodate their availability
- Administer equipment evaluations and club fitting sessions to optimize player performance and equipment selection.
- Utilized technology such as TrackMan, Onform video analysis, and teaching aids to enhance player development and deliver measurable improvement.
- Supported the Director of Golf as needed for club tournaments and manage practice facilities for Senior Players Championship.

Head Golf Professional

2015-2016

- Mobilized daily golf operations in coordination with the Director of Golf, ensuring exceptional member service, efficient tee sheet utilization, and smooth tournament execution.
- Supervised and trained a team of assistant professionals, outside service staff, and golf shop personnel to deliver a consistent, high-level member and guest experience.
- Developed strong member relationships through personalized service, golf events, and consistent presence in daily club operations.
- Followed the ClubCorp / Invited motto; worked to create "Warm Welcomes, Magic Moments, Found Farewells"
- Host of the PGA Tour - World Golf Championship Bridgestone Invitational
- Advised corporate outings, charity tournaments, and member events, delivering high-quality experiences that supported club revenue objectives.
- Regulated weekly reporting for payroll and number of rounds played. Worked to accommodate employee requests for vacation and personal days. Help with monthly golf shop inventory.
- Optimized tee sheet strategy and pace-of-play initiatives to maximize utilization while maintaining a premium member experience.





Portage Country Club is a private facility in Akron established in 1894, featuring a premier 18-hole course and high-end member amenities. Portage is defined as the “Family Club” in Akron by its long-range excellence. Offering the finest pool and tennis facilities, a comprehensive member experience through dedicated guest services, tournament programming, and a commitment to maintaining top-tier course standards.

Director of Golf Operations

2016-2022 & Emeritus 2022-2024

- Assumed leadership of golf operations at a 122-year-old private, member-owned club during a period of significant cultural and operational turmoil. Club instituted a new management model, with myself and clubhouse manager both reporting directly to the Board of Directors. Served as a key advisor to the Board of Governors, Golf Committee, and Greens Committee, providing strategic counsel during periods of change and construction.
- Served as a key advisor to the Board of Governors, Golf Committee, and Greens Committee, providing strategic counsel during periods of change and construction.
- Responsibilities included everything outside of clubhouse operations, pool and tennis. Oversaw all golf operations and staffing, locker rooms, and course maintenance, as well as budgeting and forecasting operations.
- Successfully led the golf operation through the COVID-19 pandemic by developing and executing a comprehensive operational plan, emerging stronger and more efficient post-pandemic. Ohio was managed County by County, resulting in my collaborating with the Summit County Health Department to re-open facilities.
- Fostered a positive, professional workplace culture that directly improved member service and staff satisfaction. As I transitioned to a part-time role, proud to say my 1st Assistant was promoted to succeed me as the Head Golf Professional and remains in the role today.
- Helped execute on a leadership change in the golf course maintenance department. With the help of HR Director, replaced Superintendent and 2-Asst Superintendents with combined 100+ years of service at Portage and conducted search to hire a new Director of Agronomy,
- Increased golf shop sales from \$165,000 to \$400,000 annually, more than doubling profitability. Positioned the golf shop as a premier retail destination for the membership, aligned with club standards and brand expectations
- Directed member tournaments, outside events, and member programming. Golf Operation consistently received excellent reviews in annual member satisfaction surveys.
- Member of the Long-Range Planning Committee, contributing to a \$5.2M capital improvement plan, which transformed golf operations. The golf shop changed locations in the clubhouse, order of course play was changed by flipping the front and back nines, a new bag drop was created to improve member and guest experience, construction of a \$1.3M underground golf operations facility, including golf carts, bag storage, and office space and employee restroom.





Steeped in history and uniquely located along the shores of Lake Erie just 15 minutes south of downtown Buffalo, Wanakah offers facilities, service and activities that place it among Western New York's most elite country clubs. With an exclusive, yet welcoming membership, and a professional, service-oriented staff, Wanakah Country Club offers one of the region's most scenic and exciting golf course experiences, as well as top-notch tennis, pool, patio, restaurant, and special event facilities.

Head Golf Professional

2011-2015

- Cultivated and fostered a warm and welcoming environment for members and their guests.
- Spearheaded the end-to-end talent acquisition and training of individuals who were all focused on creating a first-class golf experience for the members and guests. Empower team members to take ownership of policies.
- Oversaw the renovation and remodel of the Golf Shop (fixtures and floor plan) (Spring, 2011)
- Modernized merchandising strategy, inventory management, and presentation within a newly renovated golf shop.
- Owned and managed the Golf Shop merchandise concession (\$300K sales)
- Work with the Golf Committee and member committees to elevate the overall quality, efficiency, and enjoyment of member golf events.
- Participated in the implemented Northstar Club Management Software (Winter, 2012)
- Worked with the Superintendent to manage play during a \$600,000 golf course renovation project impacting 6 holes, (Fall, 2012)
- Increased Junior Golf Participation by 50% year over year
- Played weekly and on Saturdays with a different group of members, including ladies and juniors.
- Helped to continue two long-standing club traditions that were great points of pride for Wanakah.
 - The League of the Iroquois - Oldest continuous golf league in America. Featured matches between 4 NY Clubs, Wanakah, Oak Hill in Rochester, Yahnundasis in New Hartford, and Bellevue in Syracuse.
 - Gason-Depew Invitational - a 4-day invitational that featured a 72-Team field, 1st day qualifying for flights, then match play forward. The best Member Guest I've witnessed.
- Titleist and Ping Certified Custom Club-Fitter
- FlightScope Launch Monitor Certification





The First Tee of Greater Akron is a 501(c)3 nonprofit youth development organization dedicated to empowering young people through the game of golf.

Executive Director

2006-2011

- Placed an emphasis on expanding the geographical area that the Chapter was serving. Overcame a parochial perception that the City of Akron had maintained that participants had to reside within the City of Akron proper. Grew participants from 150 to over 750+ youth in annual, on-site programming.
- Partnered with Board Chair to develop a Board Manual and improve board member engagement, included meeting and event attendance.
- Pioneered a “Board Scorecard” and “give or get” requirement for each seat on the Board
- Focused the Chapter to align with the strategic direction as communicated by the National Office.
- Formulate and manage annual operating budget of \$300,000K
- Created membership, sponsorship, and fundraising programs. Including clubhouse signage, on-course granite hole sponsor signage. ACME Annual Clambake and Silent Auction. Annual Golf Outing at Firestone Country Club, Annual Awards Dinner.
- With grants from Northern Ohio Golf Charities and the Bridgestone Employee Fund, introduced the National School Program into all 32 Akron Public Elementary Schools. This program provided a complete SNAG Kit to each school and allowed PE Teachers to be trained and teach golf as part of the physical education curriculum.
- Hired and supervised PGA Professional Program Director and helped him in managing volunteer staff and interns
- Collaborated with the Akron Community Foundation to establish “The First Tee of Akron Fund” to help endow and secure financial stability moving forward.
- Annually traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with U.S. Senators and Representatives advocating for federal funding of afterschool programming as a grant recipient of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.



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*The University of Akron
Division I Athletic Institution
Mid-American Conference*

Men's Golf Coach 1999-2005

- First, full-time Men's Golf Coach at the University of Akron
- Adhered to NCAA Division I Rules on recruiting and eligibility. as well as University of Akron policies
- Designed, planned and supervised the construction of a \$1,000,000 state-of-the-art, 5,500 sq. ft., indoor practice facility; including fitness facility, club-repair room, study lounge, and a 2,100 sq. ft. artificial putting green with bunker. At the time, it was the 2nd indoor golf facility in the country, behind the Gleacher Center at Northwestern University in Chicago.
- Hosted annual FirstEnergy Intercollegiate; 3 day, 54-hole stroke play tournament with a field of 18-20 collegiate teams competing (92-100 players)
- Hosted the annual Akron Invitational Golf Outing at Firestone Country Club to benefit the enhance the annual operating budget and establish an endowment fund for scholarships.



The Darrell Survey Company is the golf industry's primary independent authority for tracking equipment usage across the PGA Tour, PGA, and USGA events. As an essential link between players, caddies, and manufacturers, the company compiles precise statistical data on the specific brands and models used by professional competitors. These insights serve as the definitive "equipment census" for the sport, providing manufacturers with critical market intelligence and performance verification.

1991- Present

- Independent observer at PGA Tour, PGA, USGA and NCAA events; compile statistics on what brand and model of equipment competitors are using; work between PGA Tour players, caddies, and equipment manufacturers

