



## Ernie Els #GameON Autism™ Golf Training Seminar and Clinic

**Date:** Monday, 8th of February 2016  
**Time:** 9.00am – 15.30pm  
**Location:** John Mitchells GAA Club, Tralee, Co. Kerry  
**Accrediting:** PGA Members 25 CPD points for attendance and active participation.  
 Others: certificate of participation  
**Costs:** 50€  
**Coach:** Jennifer Hong

**Register:** *Please preregister by sending an email to [katharina.schlueter@staff.ittralee.ie](mailto:katharina.schlueter@staff.ittralee.ie) providing the following details: Name, phone number, email address, golf professional (Yes/No) ; Spaces are limited so sign up quickly.*

### TRAINING OVERVIEW

The characteristics of autism, the relationship between autism and golf, how to host a #GameON Autism Golf Clinic, and the #GameON Autism Golf Program.

9 -11	First Theoretical Session
11-11.30	Tea & Coffee
11.30-12.30	Second Theoretical Session
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:15-14:00	Set-up for golf clinic
14-15/15.30	Practical session with children

**SUPPORTED BY:** IT Tralee, UNESCO Chair, PGA, and Confederation of Golf in Ireland.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** At the end of training, attendees will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of key characteristics of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- Utilize information learned in the indoor training to create proper station set-ups with visual supports for the #GameON Autism Golf Clinic.
- Utilize communication strategies taught in the indoor training to effectively teach participants with unique abilities and challenges.
- Properly use visual supports such as commenting boards, boundary markers, station signs, task analyses to ensure predictability and structure within the #GameON Autism Golf Clinic.
- Provide accommodations and modifications of teachings strategies based on social/communication needs of each participant.
- Implement the 2016 #GameON Autism Golf Program.



## Background information

Ernie Els #GameOn Autism™ Golf is a new, innovative program, developed by Els for Autism in collaboration with PGA REACH and The First Tee that gives children and young adults on the autism spectrum access to the game of golf. The program is aimed at developing social/communication skills, encouraging social interaction and promoting healthy living through golf. Infused with evidence-based practices for teaching golf to individuals with ASD, #GameON Autism Golf is designed to build self-esteem and confidence in a fun, welcoming and supportive environment. The program encourages participants to learn golf skills while practicing specific autism learning concepts, including: communication, regulatory, motor and social skills.

The #GameON Autism Golf Facility at The Els Center of Excellence will be the hub for training golf instructors on best practices for teaching golf and sports to individuals with autism. The first of its kind, the #GameON Autism Golf Facility is an autism-friendly golf facility where trained instructors will offer #GameON Golf Programming to children and adults with autism and developmental disabilities. In addition to training golf instructors at the Els Center of Excellence, Els for Autism's #GameON Autism Sports Coordinator, Jennifer Hong, will be traveling to various sites across the U.S. and internationally to host trainings for golf instructors to fulfill the Foundation's second mission pillar: *Els for autism is committed to helping people on the autism spectrum fulfill their potential to lead positive, productive and rewarding lives, through:*

*The development of global outreach programs that will facilitate the sharing of best practices and programs with the global autism community and beyond.*

Through the #GameON Autism initiative, Els for Autism is spreading autism awareness within golf communities. Through education and the development of partnerships with autism organizations, teaching professionals and golf courses, the program's broader goal is to make golf clubs welcoming, inclusive environments for people on the spectrum. Els for Autism is currently working with a number of partners, including The PGA of America and The First Tee, on plans to develop and ultimately roll out the #Ernie Els GameON Autism™ Golf as a comprehensive program. A key component to the development and successful pilot launch of the #GameON Autism Golf Program was educating and training golf instructors on autism, the relationship between autism and golf, and best teaching practices for teaching individuals on the autism spectrum. In 2016, Els for Autism will conduct 14 pilot programs in the United States and several programs internationally. Each pilot site will participate in a one day training where golf instructors will learn about the characteristics of autism and the best practices for teaching participants with autism and other developmental disabilities. Instructors will receive specially designed lesson plans as a part of the training and have to set up and facilitate the delivery of a #GameON Autism Golf Clinic on the same day.



UNESCO Chair "Transforming the Lives of People with Disabilities, their Families and Communities, Through Physical Education, Sport, Recreation and Fitness"



**HOSTED BY:** Els for Autism #GameON Autism Sports Coordinator, Jennifer Hong. Before joining the Els for Autism Foundation in 2014, Jennifer played professional golf for 5 years on the LPGA Symetra Tour. She possesses extensive knowledge of the game of golf through past experiences playing golf at the national elite junior golf level, Division I collegiate golf level, and then eventually playing at the professional tour level on the LPGA Symetra Tour. Jennifer played competitive golf for 16 years before retiring in 2014 to fulfill her passion for non-profit work in the charitable golf sector. In the past year, Jennifer has helped launch the Ernie Els #GameON Autism™ Golf Program which was piloted successfully at 7 different sites across the United States. She co-wrote the program curriculum with Program Director, Dr. Marlene Sotelo, and coordinated each pilot program along with 29 additional #GameON Autism Golf Clinics hosted across the U.S. and internationally. Jennifer is a certified Registered Behavioral Technician and is working to launch #GameON Autism Fitness and all of the programs associated with the #GameON department at the Els Center of Excellence. Jennifer graduated from Northwestern University in 2009 and received her Bachelors of Arts Degree with a major in political science and a minor in business institutions.