

**United States Blind Golf Association
is Proud to Recognize and Induct
Coach Joe McCourt
into its 2015 Hall of Fame**



Joe McCourt is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He grew up playing many sports but golf became his favorite competitive activity. In 1971, he saw for the first time a coach and blind golfer working together hitting a shot on the golf course. This led to him getting involved with the Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association and a lifetime of coaching and teaching blind golf. In the early 1990s he offered to help the United States Blind Golf Association and his dedication to the organization has never stopped.

Over the years Joe has coached numerous blind golfers; most notably he coached Bob Andrews while Bob served as USBGA president. They won two USBGA National Championships together. Joe helped start the junior blind golf program for the USBGA and directed its activities through the 1990's. He, along with Bob, represented the USBGA in the meetings with the USGA that resulted in the creation of the USGA Modifications of the Rules of Golf that blind and vision impaired golfers around the world use to this day.

He was instrumental in fundraising which included helping the USBGA secure the first Lions Club International Foundation grant. Joe's tireless work and association with both the PGA and the USGA resulted in additional financial assistance for blind golf and the USBGA junior golf

program. In 1998 he was on the committee that organized the first World Blind Golf Championship which was held in Florida. He also created the one of the first regional association tournaments, the Florida Blind Open, which was played for numerous years in the 1990's. For over 40 years Joe has been a leader and coach that gave of his time and service for blind and vision impaired golfers. Along with current HOF members Kevin Sullivan and Gerry Barousse, Joe is also a member of the PCA Caddie Hall of Fame.

The USBGA's motto can be traced back to Joe's effort when he challenged a university marketing class to come up with a motto for the USBGA. The result of that challenge was "**You don't have to see it to tee it!**" which remains the organization's motto to this day.

Joe continues to be an ambassador for blind golf today.

The United States Blind Golf Association is proud to recognize and induct Joe McCourt into its 2015 class of the Hall of Fame.