



## Spotlight on Rich Poggi



### **Westwood, New Jersey • RiverVale Country Club • GHIN 9.5**

Rich Poggi has spent most of his life around competition — on the field, in business, and on the golf course.

Growing up an athlete, he played football and baseball before eventually playing Division III college football. Golf entered the picture in the early 1980s when he started caddying. What began as a way to stay close to sports gradually became something more. Forty-six years later, he's still at it — and still chasing his first hole-in-one.

Professionally, Rich built a 30-plus-year career as a sales and business leader in the tech industry. Along the way, he always kept a side lane open for writing. Freelance projects eventually led to something bigger: his debut work of fiction, *Fairways and Greens: a Novel*. The book explores the father-son dynamic through the lens of golf — legacy, expectation, pressure, and the complicated bonds that often play out both on and off the course.

But writing the book wasn't about checking a box. "I didn't write it to make money or turn it into a movie," Rich says. "I wanted to give people who love the game a story that feels real — something character-driven and believable, set in and around golf." The most rewarding part, he adds, has been connecting with readers — through emails, post-round conversations, Zoom calls, and meeting fellow golfers who see parts of themselves in the story.

Two swing thoughts have stayed with him over the years: focus on the pivot — what he calls the "belly button drill" — and feel like the right arm is asleep during the backswing. The rest, he believes, is about staying present and competing honestly.

Off the course, his proudest moments aren't found on a scorecard. Becoming a father, coaching kids, building a life in the same community for nearly 35 years — those are the wins that matter most.

He lives by a couple of guiding principles. One from Bill Parcells: "Expect nothing, blame no one, do something." And one from a college English professor who's remained a friend for more than 40 years: "The practice of writing is rewriting."

These days Rich is still working hard, playing harder, and investing deeply in his friends, family, and even his dog. The scorecard may fluctuate, but the approach doesn't: show up, compete, connect — and keep swinging.

Rich's book, *Fairways and Greens: a Novel*, is available on Amazon and most online retailers, and it can also be purchased directly through his website. Readers can email [rich@richpoggi.com](mailto:rich@richpoggi.com) for signed copies and an 18% discount (a fitting number—there are 18 chapters in the book, just like 18 holes). He also enjoys connecting with fellow golfers and readers, and is happy to join book club discussions for Q&A, either in person (if local) or virtually via Zoom.

For more info you can visit [www.richpoggi.com](http://www.richpoggi.com)

