

Prior Lake Girls Golf

Team Handbook

1. Team Philosophy & Mission

The program is built on the foundation of **Knowledge, Skill, and Integrity**.

- **Mission:** To ensure every student-athlete graduates with the knowledge, skills, and integrity necessary to enjoy golf as a lifelong activity.
- **Growth Mindset:** The primary goal for our program is to develop a growth mindset and strive to improve our game every day.
- **Integrity:** High standards of honesty are expected; cheating is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated at any point.

2. Communication Protocol & Chain of Command

To ensure the well-being of the student-athlete and the good of the team, the following communication steps should be followed in order. **Note: A 24-hour "cooling off" period is expected before contacting a coach regarding a match-related concern.**

1. **Student-Athlete to Coach:** The athlete should first approach their specific squad coach (Varsity, JV, or Practice Squad) to discuss any concerns or questions regarding their performance or role.
2. **Parent & Athlete to Coach:** If the issue is not resolved, the parent and athlete may request a meeting with the athlete's immediate coach.
3. **Parent & Athlete to Head Coach:** If concerns persist, a meeting will be scheduled with the Head Coach (Brian Anderson).
4. **Parent & Athlete to Athletic Director (AD):** Should further mediation be required, the matter will be brought to the Athletic Department.
5. **Parent to Building Principal:** The final step in the chain of command for unresolved school-related athletic issues.

3. Attendance Expectations

Consistent attendance is vital for team cohesion and skill development.

- **School Attendance:**
 - In school all day, unless pre-excused by parent(s), in order to practice or play.
 - Pre-excused absences - doctor, dentist, funeral, college visit. Please notify the Attendance Office in advance.

- **Golf Attendance:** Athletes are expected to attend **all** practices and matches.
 - **Unexcused Absences:** These include work, other sports, homework, or being tired.
 - **Consequences:**
 - **First Offense:** The athlete will miss the next match or Practice Squad round.
 - **Second Offense:** The athlete will miss the next match and must attend a formal meeting with coaches and/or the AD.

4. Tryouts and Movement Between Teams

- All players encouraged to participate in 2 day tryout.
 - Day One - All players play at Cleary Lake
 - Day Two - Varsity Tryout at Creeks Bend, JV Tryout at Cleary Lake
- Moving from JV to Varsity or vice versa
 - Players will move up or down based on performance throughout the season.
 - Players must beat the player ahead of them on 2 consecutive matches.

5. Game Day & Conduct Expectations

Athletes represent Prior Lake on and off the course.

- **Apparel:** The official team golf polo is mandatory for all levels while playing matches. JV and Varsity players must also wear a navy blue skort for matches (Weather permitting).
- **Dress Code:** Includes a collared shirt, rain gear as needed, and golf shoes. (No jeans, sandals, leggings, or joggers are permitted)
- **Cell Phones:** Must remain in the golf bag during all practices. During matches, they may only be used for scoring or as a distance-measuring device (without slope).

5. Transportation Expectations

- **General:** Players are responsible for their own transportation to and from all practices and tryouts.
- **Junior Varsity:** Players provide their own rides to home matches (Cleary Lake/Heritage Links). A district van is provided for away matches.
- **Varsity:** Players drive themselves to all conference matches. A district van is provided for competitions outside the conference.

6. Lettering Requirements

Varsity letters are awarded based on performance and contribution to the team. In order to earn a Varsity Letter, athletes must meet ONE of the following criteria.

- Compete in at least 6 Varsity matches (excluding scrambles).
- Having your score count as one of the low four in at least 3 Varsity competitions.
- Placing in the low four at the section meet or qualifying for the state meet.
- Coaches' discretion based on overall contribution.

7. Parent Involvement

- **Volunteering:** Parents can assist with the Booster Club, banquet planning, team dinners, the PL Invitational, and beyond.
- **Tryouts:** To minimize pressure on athletes, tryouts are closed to parents.
- **Practice:** Practices are closed to parents.
- **Matches:** Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend matches. Parents must stay 25 yards away from the athletes. Parents can not coach or give any advice to players.
- **Fundraising:** Parents are asked to support the annual raffle by collecting ticket money and, if possible, submitting a single check to Coach Anderson to ensure funds are handled securely.