

South St. Paul Girls' Golf

Rules and Expectations

1. We have four main goals as a program:
 1. To have our players enjoy being on SSP Girls' Golf Team.
 2. To have our players develop a passion and respect for the game of golf.
 3. To have every participant improve as a golfer and as a teammate.
 4. To develop a competitive and winning golf program.
2. Participants must adhere to the Minnesota State High School League's and South St. Paul High School's rules and regulations. Any violations, including those involving the use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs, will be dealt with according to MSHSL and SSP guidelines.
3. As a member of the golf team, you are representing yourself, your teammates, SSP High School, and the community; you should be doing it in a proud and respectful manner.
4. Dress code:
 - For practice and matches, proper golf attire is required. No flip-flops, Crocs, Uggs, or slippers. No cut-off tee shirts or exposed sports bras at the course or driving range! Shorts and yoga pants must be appropriate.
 - For meets, you are required to wear the team shirt with appropriate golf pants, shorts, or skirts. Shorts and skirts must be no shorter than two inches above the knee. Players are not allowed to wear yoga pants for matches. Coaches must approve all match clothing.
 - In all instances, golf shoes are recommended, but not required.
5. Golf is a very unique game in that you monitor yourself! There are no referees or umpires to enforce the rules. As a result, golfers are held to the highest standards of etiquette and ethics. Cheating, profanity, and unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. **Our golfers are expected to know the rules.** Any instances of cheating will be dealt with in the following manner:
 - First Offense: A one match suspension and parent notification.
 - Second Offense: Dismissal from the team.Profanity and unsportsmanlike conduct will be dealt with accordingly by the coaching staff and may result in disciplinary action.
6. Academics will always come first. Golf is an extra-curricular activity and, by signing up to play, you have committed yourself to 100% effort in the classroom and on the golf course. You have made the statement that you can handle academics and golf. We as coaches will not let your school work suffer as a result of golf. Make good use of your time and plan ahead.
7. All players are expected to be at practice, properly dressed, and on time every day. There will be no cell phone use at practice. If a player is going to be late or miss practice, they are expected to clear it with the coach ahead of time. Unexcused absences will factor in the selection of varsity and JV line-ups. Doctor and dentist appointments, haircuts, and detention are some examples of an unexcused absence. At 6 absences (of any type), a player is no longer eligible for varsity or JV competition. (Spring break practices will not count in this total.)

8. The total number of girls on the golf team will vary from year to year based on turn-out and number of coaches. Our goal will always be to avoid cutting girls from the team; however, it may be necessary on occasion to achieve a manageable coaching situation. As much as we'd like it to be, making cuts is not a totally scientific or objective process. If cuts have to be made, the following four factors will be used in the process: ability, attitude/dedication, coachability, and potential.
9. The varsity team will consist of 6 players. Preferably, a total of 36 holes (4 rounds) will be used to help determine these 6 positions. Weather may force us to shorten this qualifying process. The coaching staff may make changes to the varsity roster during the course of the season based on ability, attendance, and attitude.
10. The golfers who don't make the varsity roster will golf on the JV team or the "B" team. We will schedule as many JV and B matches as possible to get them the match experience they need to improve. For a given match, the JV or B team will consist of 6 players. The JV and B players will be rotated through these positions based on ability, attitude, attendance, and commitment. There will be various points throughout the season when JV players will have the opportunity to compete for varsity positions.
11. Our philosophy regarding our athletes and competitive matches: For every girl who wants to participate in a competitive match, our goal is to get them at least one match at some level.
12. For a golfer to earn a varsity letter, they must be in good standing academically, be in accordance with all MSHSL and school rules throughout the season, **and** satisfy **one** of the following criteria:
 - Played in at least 4 varsity matches
 - Played on the section tournament team
 - Played on the Final Conference tournament team
 - Earned individual all-conference points
 - Had their score count towards the team total in a match or tournament
 - A senior who has demonstrated commitment and dedication to their teammates, and the game of golf
13. Captains for the following year will be voted on by the golfers, but chosen by the coaches. The players' vote will be used for the coaches' consideration. The number of captains may vary from year to year. The coaches will use the following five criteria when choosing captains: leadership, the example they set, the respect they've earned from the other girls, dependability, and dedication. **Being a captain is a privilege and requires the highest conduct. Being a senior, by itself, is not qualification enough to be a captain.** Any captain who violates MSHSL rules, school rules, or falls out of good academic standing will automatically lose their captain position.
14. End-of-the-year awards which will be voted on by the players include, but are not limited to, rookie of the year, most improved, hardest worker, and most valuable golfer. The most valuable golfer winner will also receive the Packer Athlete Award for golf. Only girls who have golfed in a varsity match will be eligible to vote for the most valuable golfer.

The Varsity “Contract”

We, as coaches, have high expectation for all of our student athletes, but we hold our varsity players to even higher standards. We hope that all of our golfers aspire to eventually be varsity players at some point in their high school careers. But please remember, there are added expectations and responsibilities that go along with the privilege of being on varsity.

The following is a list of added expectations that we coaches have of our varsity players.

A varsity golfer will.....

1. not miss matches because of unexcused absences.
2. make the most of their practice time.
3. not complain about the practice regimen.
4. know the rules of golf, and be comfortable discussing scoring issues in a respectful manner.
5. be dressed appropriately for golf every day, and be prepared for the weather.
6. have a positive attitude.
7. be a positive role model for the younger girls and the newer players.
8. count their putts during a match.
9. be able to total their score correctly.
- 10 be on time to practice, matches, and bus/van departures.

**I have read and understand the South St. Paul Girls' Golf Team
Rules and Expectations.**

Name _____

Date _____