



Lawrence North Wildcats  
Golf Team Rules and Expectations  
2015-16

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## **Introduction**

First let me say that I am really excited for this opportunity to help build a strong and successful golf program at Lawrence North. Graduating from Lawrence North and being able to give back to the community that my family and I live in makes me very proud. I graduated from Lawrence North in 1994. I played baseball for 4 years, football for 3 years, and wrestled for 1 year. After playing college baseball, I began playing golf for leisure. A great passion for the game arose very quickly, and I decided that I was going to enter into the golf business. I started my training at Golf Galaxy where I learned all that I could about club making and club fitting. I then worked my way up the ladder at Sahm Golf Course. I was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant for 2 years and the 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant for 3 years. I then spent the last 4 years as the Head Golf Instructor at Sahm. Teaching people to golf the last 4 years has been the greatest job of my life. I take a lot of pride in passing on the knowledge that I have gained in the hopes that it may help someone else achieve their own goals.

Now that you know a little about me, I would like to talk a little about the expectations for the upcoming season and the future of this program. Golf is unique in the fact that it has always been considered a fringe sport with very little involvement especially on the women's side. This is truly sad, especially when you know that there are college scholarships that are going unused every year, because colleges can't find enough people to play. I want to change that! My goal is to build a strong, successful, reputable program that produces fine upstanding young men and women. One of the ways that I will accomplish this is by promoting the game of golf and the valuable life lessons that come from this great sport to every junior that I meet.

## **Philosophy**

My philosophy of coaching is rooted in the nine core values of the PGA junior program. Instilling the values of honesty, integrity, respect, responsibility, perseverance, confidence, judgement, sportsmanship, and courtesy not only creates better golfers, but it also creates better people in life. My goal is to promote and foster the necessary skills and values that are needed for students to perform at the next level of their career. I truly believe that with hard work, determination, and passionate desire, a person can accomplish anything they set their mind too.

## **Academics**

All players are expected to be making satisfactory academic progress in each of their courses of study. **SCHOOL COMES FIRST!** The Lawrence North Golf Team follows the Lawrence North/IHSAA Policies & Guidelines for academic eligibility. In addition, all players are required to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above in order to participate on the team. Receiving a failure (F) grade in any individual course will result in temporary dismissal from the team until a passing grade has been attained.

## **Behavioral Expectations**

Honesty, integrity, respect, responsibility, perseverance, confidence, judgement, sportsmanship, and courtesy are not only the cornerstones of a great golfer but they are the same cornerstones of a great person in life. That being said, I expect every one of my student athletes to act in accordance with the 9 core values of golf, whether on or off the golf course. I truly believe that if you live your life with these values at heart you will accomplish all of the goals that you set for yourself. In addition, players will also adhere to the following:

1. Respect the equal authority and decisions of all coaches and supervisors.
2. Respect and treat each other with the dignity appropriate of young men and women working toward a common team goal.
3. Act in a mature fashion both on and off the course.  
Remember, you will be competing and practicing at public venues throughout the city. Your behavior and conduct reflects the entire community of Lawrence North.  
Represent our school and community in a mature and honorable manner.
4. Encourage each other both on and off the course. Help each other improve.

One final note; all players are expected to uphold the integrity of this program. We will honor ourselves, Lawrence North High School, and the game of golf. Any player found not in compliance these expectations risks possible release from the team. Violations outside of the golf team and golf season will also be given my attention. **Integrity isn't part time!** I will hold to the LNHS violation policy, and I will also administer rigorous expectations for that player for the rest of the year. To make it clear, a violation will result in limited competition play to allow more time to correct the infraction that occurred. You and your integrity are more important than your golf score.

## Team Selection

Up to fourteen (14) players will be selected to comprise the Varsity and Junior Varsity teams. Selection to these two teams will be based on the combination of the following criteria:

1. Performance during qualifying rounds.
2. Performance during early spring practice sessions.
3. Attitude toward the game and team.
4. Potential for improvement and development.
5. Seniors must qualify for the Varsity Team to be selected.

## Attendance

1. If you are in attendance at school, you are expected to participate in the golf activities scheduled for that day (practice, match, etc.) unless cleared by one of the coaches.
2. If you cannot participate in a practice or match for a particular day, you must personally talk to one of your coaches. If you have a teammate tell a coach you will not be there, it will be considered unexcused.
3. Absences of any kind will be determined excused or unexcused on a case-by-case scenario by the coaches.
4. Missing a scheduled activity, practice or match, due to a job will not be allowed. The commitment you made to the golf team comes first.
5. Missing a practice or match due to a school sponsored activity will be considered excused, however, it is the responsibility of the player to communicate with the coaches to make them aware of the situation.
6. Please schedule doctor, haircut, dentist appointments, etc. for times that will not conflict with our schedule.
7. The first unexcused absence will result in a minimum of a one match suspension.
8. The second unexcused absence will result in a minimum of a two match suspension.
9. The third unexcused absence will result in being dismissed from the team.

## Practice

Practices are required. The effort and attitude you put forth about practices prior to the season of matches, indicates to me the effort you will put forth during the season of competition. If you are nonchalant about your practice habits, how can I be expecting great things from you during competition? There is no magic! The more practice that you put into golf the better you will become. What you are willing to show me in the first two weeks of practice will greatly impact your season.

1. All golfers are expected to be at the golf course no later than 4:20pm for practices on regular school days. For all other practices, refer to the calendar for starting times.
2. Varsity and JV players will practice Mon – Sat. Sat practice time TBD. (Sunday off)
3. On days of home matches, golfers not playing in the match are still required to practice unless otherwise stated. These golfers will have to get picked up at the course or will have to wait until the match is over to get a ride back to Lawrence North in the mini-bus.
4. Being late for three practices will result in a minimum of a one match suspension.
5. For each late practice after three, a minimum of a one match suspension will be given.
6. If a golfer is late for six practices, it may result in being dismissed from the team.
7. Spectators are not allowed to watch our golfers on practice days.

Practice end times vary by day. There are many factors, some that are out of our hands, that determine what time practice will end. Golfers being picked up from the course should arrange to be picked up at the course between 6:00 and 6:30 PM.

## Matches

On competition days, your competition preparation begins as soon as you are released from class. Getting mentally prepared is just as important as being physically prepared. An athlete who is seen as not getting mentally ready for a match runs the risk of a poor performance. Being a Varsity golfer is highly dependent on performance. Poor practice makes poor performance; a poor performance makes room for a different golfer at the next competition.

A match schedule is attached. On these days team members may be released from class early in order to get to the match for the scheduled start time. Times for bus departure on scheduled match days will be communicated to the team during the scheduled practice prior to the match.

## Dress

1. Flip-flops, cut-off shorts, sweat pants, sleeveless shirts, and anything (shirts, hats, etc.) with inappropriate content displayed will not be allowed on the golf course.
2. Golf spikes are highly suggested, but not mandatory.
3. All hats will be worn with the bill facing straight forward.
4. Shorts and pants will be worn around the waist properly. Belts are highly suggested.
5. Any golfer not able to comply by the dress rules, will not be allowed to participate that day and will be considered unexcused.

## Dress (Matches)

1. All golfers must wear their issued polo shirt and black shorts, black pants, black skirts, etc. (furnished by player) for all matches.
2. Shorts may not have oversized pockets, dangling strings or straps, and should not hang more than 1-2” below the knee. Belts are highly suggested.
3. Ladies shorts or skirts may not be more than 6” above the knee.

4. Hats worn for matches must be a Lawrence North hat or a golf hat with Lawrence North colors (green, red). Any golfer wearing a non-conforming hat will be asked to remove it before the match begins.
5. During matches, the players are required to keep their shirt tucked in at all times.
6. Any golfer not having a proper uniform will not be able to compete in the match and will be considered unexcused.

## Lettering

To earn a Varsity letter a player must compete in at least 50% of the varsity matches or have their score count in 5 matches.

## Captain Selections

At the conclusion of try-outs, members of the Varsity and Junior Varsity Teams will vote for two (2) Captains. These Captains will serve the entire year. Captains' responsibilities include:

1. Communicating information between players and coach.
2. Modeling behavior consistent with team goals during competition and practice.
3. Promoting a cohesive team atmosphere.
4. Assist with the planning of the End-of-Year Team Banquet.

## Parent Expectations

Parents are encouraged to take an active part in their child's golf career. Since golf is mostly an individual sport, outside support is critical. However, your child's development will ultimately be his/her responsibility. Improvement is directly correlated with the amount of practice time involved. Anything you can provide, from lessons and equipment, to emotional support and gentle nudges, to practice will help your child become a better golfer. During a tournament or match, parents should consider themselves spectators and fans. Spectators are encouraged to come out and watch tournaments and matches, however, there are rules that need to be followed. Spectators may not talk to the golfers while they are out on the course, and they are required to maintain a reasonable distance as not to distract any player. No spectators are allowed to walk with a player in the fairway during competition. Here are a few more things spectators are not allowed to do (USGA Rule 8):

1. Take and/or give any equipment from any golfer at any time.
2. Give any advice to players (how to play a hole, what club to hit, etc.).
3. Make any rulings or give advice on a rule.
4. Assist in players keeping score (players are responsible for keeping their own scores).
5. Give food or drink to any player.
6. Never touch a player's ball while it is in play.

Here are some things parents are allowed to do:

1. Encourage all players.
2. Help all players find lost balls.

## Fundraising

Because golf is a sport that does not produce revenue from spectators, fundraising is always a must in order to achieve a successful program. The vision of success that I see for this program will rely heavily on fundraising. I have many ideas for fundraising programs and I am open to suggestions. I hope that I will have your help and support.

## Planning for College Sports

College-bound student-athletes preparing to enroll in a Division I or Division II school must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center to ensure they have met amateurism standards and are academically prepared for college coursework.

Websites: [ncaa.org/student-athletes/future](http://ncaa.org/student-athletes/future) or [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org)

## Miscellaneous Recommendations

To be best prepared against rain and cold (listed in order of importance), it is recommended you have, although not necessary:

1. Waterproof, golf shoes (look for a two-year warranty)
2. Waterproof rain gear
3. Warm hat or golf hat with visor
4. Cart gloves or other warm gloves
5. Polypropylene or polypropylene/wool blend socks
6. 85% polyester/15% spandex Lycra long-sleeve top, made for warmth not compression (brand names UnderArmour or Cuddlduds)
7. 85% polyester/15% spandex bottoms, made for warmth not compression (brand names UnderArmour or Cuddlduds)
8. Polarfleece® or brushed fleece top
9. Umbrella
10. Measuring device such as sky caddie or range finder.

## Contact Information

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**Go Cats!**