Paradise High School Golf Handbook

Golf is a challenging and humbling game. My goal is for each golfer at PHS to develop a lifelong love of the sport, improve his/her skill level, and compete for district championships. Most importantly, I want each student-athlete to become an honorable and hard-working young man/woman. We will demonstrate this every day in practice and at tournaments.

High school golf allows golfers to compete as individuals and teams. Since it is a competitive sport, the expectation is every player will practice to improve skills and course management. Students who don’t desire to practice and compete against other golfers need not participate in UIL golf. Because we are a team, teamwork and unity will be stressed. We will encourage one another and assist each other to improve our games and perform at the highest possible level.

Golf is ultimately an individual sport that requires an extremely high skill level to perform at the highest level. In order to improve your skill level, you must be willing to work on your own. “If you don’t invest much, then defeat doesn’t hurt very much and winning is not very exciting.”-Dick Vermeil

All students will be respectful to employees, patrons, and others when visiting golf courses. We are guests at their facilities. They have the right to refuse our access at any time. Paradise golfers will be the best-behaved and most responsible students to use the courses and practice facilities.

I believe that without goals, it is impossible to achieve success. “Winners, imagine their dreams first. They want it with all their heart & expect it to come true. There’s no other way to live.” -Joe Montana

My Goals for PHS golf (immediate and long-term):
1. Win invitational tournaments (individual and team)
2. All team members shoot below 100 consistently
3. Qualify for the regional golf tournament (individual and team)
4. Win the 10-2A district tournament title (individual and team)
5. Varsity golfers shoot consistently below 80
6. Best short game in the state
7. School record for lowest team score
8. Be the hardest working team in the state
9. Be the classiest acting team at every tournament we attend
10. 2-A State Champs!

I look forward to working with you.
Terry McCutchen
Practices
Every golfer will be expected to attend all team practices. Practices will be held every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. I may have meetings on some Tuesdays but practice will still be held at the school. *Practice times are subject to change due to my other responsibilities.

We will practice at Bridgeport CC on Mondays and Wednesdays until Daylight Savings Time (March 9–spring break). Tuesday practices will be held at the Intermediate School. We will be going to Runaway Bay at times after spring break.

Private lessons will supersede a regular practice but not qualifying rounds. Players must let me know in advance of private lessons they have scheduled. Golfers must also let me know in advance of any practice they will be unable to attend. My cell number is 817-243-4034. You may leave a message or text if there is no answer, however I want you to call first.

Unexcused absences will not be tolerated. Students must be willing to commit to practice to be considered for the golf teams. Practice attendance will be a factor in determining teams and playing time. An unexcused absence will result in loss of playing privileges for the next tournament. Three unexcused absences from practice will result in being dropped from the team.

Golfers participating in other team sports will be required to get adequate practice time and qualifying rounds on their own time. These athletes will be required to play at least 18 holes per week to account for practice time.

Dress
1. All golfers will be required to purchase a team shirt ($30-40) to be eligible for tournament play.
2. For practices at course: all golfers must meet the dress code of the golf course (Bridgeport CC allows sleeved t-shirts and jeans/Cross Timbers and other courses require collared shirts and slacks/shorts). No sleeveless t-shirts or athletic shorts will be allowed.
3. For tournaments: all golfers will be required to wear the team shirt and slacks or shorts.
4. All golfers need either tennis shoes or golf shoes.

Teams/Tournaments
The roster will be chosen based on my observations during practice, qualifying scores, attitude, attendance, coachability and work ethic. We will take the top 5 boys and 5 girls to each tournament. Tournament teams will be determined on previous tournament performances and weekly qualifying rounds/practice sessions. To be considered for the tournament teams, a golfer must be able to keep their own score accurately, shoot a
competitive score (55-boys/60-girls for 9 holes), and have a basic understanding of the rules and etiquette of golf. All golfers will demonstrate this to me directly on the course.

**Lettering Policy**
In order to earn a varsity letter, a golfer must be a member of the Paradise HS golf team and PHS student body in good standing as well as meeting one of the following criteria:

1. Compete in more than 50% of the scheduled varsity golf tournaments throughout the year or qualify for the regional golf tournament.
2. Place in the top three individually in a tournament with four or more teams.
3. Have a score count toward the team placing in the top two (1-6 teams) or top three (7 or more teams) in a tournament.
4. Be an integral part of the golf team for a minimum of 2 years and have shown the attitude and desire to improve his/her individual game.

The golf coach retains the right to award a letter to a golfer based on achievement throughout the year. Likewise, the coach reserves the right to deny a letter in the event the golfer has either been removed from the team for academic or disciplinary reasons, or has not represented the program with honor, integrity, and/or good sportsmanship.

**Tournament Expectations**

1. All golfers will wear the team shirt and slacks/shorts. No jeans will be permitted for tournaments. Girls may wear skorts. In cold/wet weather, wind/rain pants may be worn. All clothing must meet the school dress code.
2. Golfers will be expected to have plenty of golf balls, tees, and a ball marker/coin for tournament play. Optional equipment suggestions include: rain gear, umbrella, sunscreen, lip balm, glove, Band-Aids, water bottle, rule book, high protein snacks and divot repair tool.
3. All golfers will ride to tournaments with the team from school at the time prescribed.
4. All players will be expected to remain at the tournament site until all of their teammates have finished and scores are posted. Students may leave with parents after being signed out.
5. Golfers should clean their clubs the night before play. Look sharp.
6. Each golfer will play with honor and integrity. All players will abide by the USGA *Rules of Golf*. Cheating will not be tolerated.

**Parental Involvement**
Parents are encouraged to take an active part in their child’s golf career. Since golf is ultimately an individual sport, outside support is critical. Your student’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, though, parents should consider themselves spectators and fans.
Here are some 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.)-cont.
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
3. Encourage all players

**Golf Etiquette**
For the game to be enjoyed, each player participates in accordance with a code of decent and friendly conduct, which includes safe and fast play, proper care of the golf course, and basic courtesy. Use this summary as a guideline:

**Care of the course:**
1. Rake all bunkers. Replace all divots. Don’t make divots with practice swings
2. On greens, repair all ball marks. Repair spike marks on the greens after finishing play. Be careful walking on the greens, especially near the hole.
3. Leave the course, particularly the greens, in the condition you would like to find them.

**Safety:**
Be careful when you swing a club, whether in practice or in play. Always be aware of those around you. Don’t play until the group in front of you is out of the way.

**Courtesy:**
1. Don’t move, talk, or stand close to or directly behind a player making a stroke.
2. Observe all rules including who has the honor.
3. Play without delay. Slow play is a huge aggravation. Leave the putting green as soon as all players in your group have holed out. Write scores on the next tee box.
4. Invite faster groups to play through.
5. Don’t step on the line of another player’s putt.
6. Replace the flagstick carefully in an upright position.
7. Never place your bag on the putting surface.
1. I will play by the rules of golf, be honest and never cheat. Golf is unique because there is no referee. Players call penalties on themselves.

2. I will respect the golf course, my teammates, and my opponents. Golf is a gentleman’s game. This includes not throwing golf clubs or cursing during the course of play or practice.

3. I will never give up and compete on every shot. Maximum effort at all times is expected.

4. I will represent Paradise High School and myself with class at practice, in tournaments, and wherever I go. I am a representative of PHS, my team, my family, and ultimately myself.

5. I commit to work as hard as I can to become the best golfer possible. Golf is a lifelong sport and is inherently challenging at every skill level.

6. I will strive to be a leader in the classroom and at school, through my behavior and class work. Behavior and conduct are more important than ability.

One of my goals is that we will be the most respectful and classiest team wherever we are. Whenever you are at a golf course, whether a coach is present or not, you are a Paradise High School golfer. The *PISD Extra Curricular Code of Conduct* and *Student Code of Conduct* also apply at all times.

I have read and agree to the previous expectations:

______________________________  ____________
Print Name                     Date

______________________________
Student Signature

______________________________  ____________
Parent Signature               Date