

WESTLAKE GIRLS GOLF TEAM



HANDBOOK
2023-2024

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Westlake Girls Golf team is to provide a competitive, safe, and healthy environment in which to give our athletes the greatest opportunity to reach their full potential both on and off the course. We strive for our athletes to acquire the values of composure, confidence and commitment: *composure* to maintain focus and persevere when things get tough; *confidence* in their knowledge and abilities through proper preparation; *commitment* to follow through in game plans, finish strong, and find a way to improve in some way every day.

Expectations

Participation in Eanes ISD extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, the behavior expectations set forth in the Eanes ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct as well as the expectations of the Westlake Girls Golf team exceed the behavior expectations set forth in the Eanes ISD Student Code of Conduct. (*Excerpt from ECC*)

Chap Golf Team Policies

Transportation

- Players are responsible for getting themselves to practices, workouts, and some tournaments played in Austin (driving themselves, riding with their parents/other golfers, etc.).
- Transportation will be provided to any tournaments played outside of Austin.

Expenses

- \$275 Eanes ISD Athletic fee, which covers tournament entry fees, transportation to tournaments, and green fees on team practice days
- Athletes responsible for purchasing their uniforms, their own meals and hotel costs associated with out of town tournaments, contributing to team funds to cover snacks, social events, team parties, etc. Some of these costs may be offset by fundraisers organized by players and/or parents.
- \$210 personalized Westlake golf bag (optional, estimated price)
- Equipment, lessons, and individual practice expenses are the responsibility of the athlete and parents. WHS pays for green fees on team practice days.
- Chap Club Membership: **highly encouraged** due to their generous support of our team and WHS athletics.

Dress Code

- Practice
 - Collared/mock sleeved/sleeveless golf shirts allowed. Tank tops or workout style shirts/tank tops/open back shirts or any tops where undergarments can be seen will NOT be allowed.
 - Shorts/skorts need to be mid-thigh or longer (middle of finger tips), golf pants/rain pants allowed, NO denim/blue jeans, yoga/sweatpants.

- Workouts
 - Athletes will be given a workout uniform that they are expected to wear in the weight room on Tuesday and Thursdays. Those uniforms will be collected at the end of the year.

Workouts

- Tuesday/Thursday 6:45 a.m. team workouts at school are **mandatory**
- If a girl wants to workout at another time/location, she may do so as an extra workout and in conjunction with team workouts, not in replacement of team conditioning.

Practice

- Team Practices
 - Will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays (unless otherwise noted).
 - Monday/Thursday practices possible throughout the year with advanced notice.
 - Participation in team practices is **mandatory**.
 - Locations and times of practices will vary.
 - Athletes are expected to arrive **before** their specified time in order to give themselves time to warm up.
 - Duration of practice depends on what is occurring that day, with qualifiers lasting longer than skill practice days.
 - Pull carts are allowed (and encouraged) during practice.
 - If an athlete is going to miss practice, notify Coach Pruitt via email or text **BEFORE** practice begins.
 - Golf rules and etiquette are to be observed.
 - Set cell phones on vibrate/silent and put away into golf bags.
 - Always be mindful of the pace of play and respect other golfers as they play and practice.
 - Practices and qualifying rounds are closed to parents.

- Qualifiers
 - 9-hole qualifiers will be held throughout the year to determine stroke average for team rankings.
 - USGA Rules will apply.
 - Golfers must review and sign their scorecards before leaving the 9th green. Scores will not be revisited once we have left the course.

Rankings

- Rankings will be based on a regularly updated, cumulative stroke average from the qualifier and tournament scores.
- Coach Pruitt reserves the right to override the rankings for tournament selections and remove an athlete from going to a tournament due to academic/disciplinary reasons, poor representation of the golf team, poor sportsmanship, or for behaviors or attitudes that do not represent the WHS golf program with honor, integrity, and team spirit.

Teams and Player Rank

- Athletes can come in person to see Coach Pruitt for their rank and stroke average.
- Expect to see the following organization of our teams/squads:
 - Varsity 1: #1-5
 - Varsity 2: #6-10
 - Varsity 3/JV (Coach Decision): #11-15
 - JV 1: #16-20
 - JV 2: #21 and on

Note: athletes on "JV" squad do have the possibility of moving up to Varsity

Tournaments

- Schedule will be provided at the beginning of the year.
- Will be all year long beginning in September.
- Participation in tournaments depends on stroke average, rank, and team designation.
- Pull carts are encouraged.
- Transportation will be provided to out-of-town tournaments.
- Athletes are responsible for any food and lodging expenses during tournaments and any overnight stay not covered by school, the Chap Club, or team fundraising.

Varsity Letter Jackets

- Competed in the Top 10 in at least 5 Varsity tournaments throughout the year.
- Competed in the District tournament.
- Competed 3 previous years on any of the golf teams and demonstrated composure, confidence and commitment.
- Coach Pruitt reserves the right to deny a golfer her varsity letter in the event she has been removed from the team for academic or disciplinary reasons.

Academics

- Golfers are expected to remain in good standing in all classes.
- UIL eligibility will be checked according to the UIL Eligibility Check calendar posted in Rallyhood.
- Failure of a class at a grade check will result in a golfer's suspension from a tournament until passing at the next check.
- Chronic academic ineligibility may result in dismissal from the team.

Social Media

- Athletes represent both the team and Westlake High School, and as such social media is to be used respectfully and responsibly and only post what is becoming of a Chap.
- Posts should not be demeaning to the athlete, school, team, or any member of the team.
- Posts should not be negative about other schools, teams or students/athletes.

Communication

- Coaches are available Monday-Friday from 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. via email, phone or text.
- If an athlete has an issue, the chain of communication is as follows:
 - First: Athlete contacts Coach Pruitt
 - Second: Parent contact Coach Pruitt
 - Third: Athlete and/or parent contact Assistant Athletic Director Tony Salazar.
 - Fourth: Athlete and/or parent contact Head Athletic Director Callan Nokes.

Attendance

- 3 unexcused absences: from mandatory team activities (practices, qualifiers, workouts, team meetings, team activities) renders athletes subject to removal from the team, pending coach and athletic director review.
 - Excused: Illness (where entire school day missed), out of town and Coach Pruitt notified prior to absence (1 day minimum), unforeseen emergencies, holidays
 - Unexcused: Tutoring/make-up work (unless prior approval has been given from Coach Pruitt and a make-up day has been set), injury (injured athletes **will still be present for workouts** with the team and participating to their greatest ability and/or seeing trainers to aid in recovery).
- 3 tardies: to mandatory team activities results in 1 unexcused absence.
- Missed practices can be made up by contacting coaches. This will be during their athletic period (or conclusion of last class) on the Thursday or Friday of the missed practice.

Coaches Directives

- All players are to comply with coaches directives. No player will be asked to do anything they are not physically capable of doing. These requests will include:
 - Enter scores in stat keeping website (BirdieFire) within 24 hours of conclusion of tournaments and qualifiers.
 - Addressing coaches in a respectful manor

Failure to do so will result in stadium stairs during workouts. If the problem persists refer to the consequences chart below.

Consequences for Violating Expectations and Rules

- 1st time: player warning and possible parent conference w/ stadium stairs with coaches.
- 2nd time: player suspension (length to be determined by the coaches).
- 3rd time: meeting will be held to discuss the athletes possible dismissal from the team.

Parent Participation

- Team practices, workouts and qualifiers are closed to parents
- Parents and families are welcomed (and encouraged!) to attend all tournaments and support their athlete(s), however, they should please keep the following in mind:
 - Any comments said out loud to athletes must be positive, encouraging, and loud enough for everyone in groups to hear.
 - Spectators must remain on the cart path and at least 30 yards away at all times.
 - May only leave the cart path to help look for a golf ball **after being asked by one of the players**

- May not hand any items to player- can set on the cart path and walk away or give to coaches to hand to players. In UIL playoff season parents may not even set food or water on tee boxes.
- Can give no advice, rulings, or coach their golfer with verbal or body language
- Failure to follow these rules could result in a two stroke penalty per incident being assessed to their daughter and/or being asked to leave the course for the remainder of the tournament.

Team History, Highlights, and Traditions

- **Head Coaches:**

1981-1985: Derek Long

1985-1998: Mike Brent “Coach”

1998-2018: Chuck Nowland

2018-2021: Ashley Patterson Herod

2021-Present: Patrick Pruitt

- Team District Championships: 1999-2012; 2014-15; 2018, 2019,2021, 2022
- Team Regional Championships: 2008-2011; 2018, 2019;Team Runner Up: 2019,2021
- Team State Championships: 2010, 2011, 2018, 2019
- State Individual Champions: Ginny Brown 2005, Daphne Vines 2006, Sierra Sims 2011-12
- State Medalists: Daphne Vines 3rd 2005, Ginny Brown 2nd 2006, Sierra Sims 2nd 2013, Kennedy Swann 2nd 2016, Randi Romack 3rd 2017, Sadie Englemann 3rd 2019

Individual Scoring Record

63(-8)--Sierra Sims at Lions Muni/District Championships 2013

Team Scoring Record

281-293-574 at The Republic/Region IV Championships 2017

295-276-571 at Plum Creek Golf Course- District 25-6A Championships 2019

Team Comes First Mindset

- The Chaps value and promote a strong team concept built on respect for the game, for each other, for our traditions, and for the team.
- The Chaps are known and respected for a shared attitude of purpose, desire, enthusiasm, hard work, and team spirit.

Team Competition Motto

- “We compete like every tournament is State, and we play State like we play every other tournament.” --Haley Haught (WHS 2008-2011)

Team Spirit Yell

- “3-2-1-CHAPS!”

Team Chap Bird Call

- “*Weechaps!*”

Go Chaps!

Signature Page

Please read and sign below and return to Coach Pruitt.

Both parent/guardian and student athletes have read the WHS Girls Golf Team Handbook and understand what is expected of us as participants in the Westlake girls golf program.

We agree to adhere to the rules and expectations set forth by Eanes ISD, Westlake High School, Coach Pruitt, and we understand the possible consequences for failing to do so.

We are fully committed to helping to make this team successful.

Parent/Guardian Name: (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

Student Athlete Name: (Print)

Student Athlete Signature:

Date:
