Great Falls High School
Bison Golf Program

Rules and Regulations for Traveling Groups

1. Dress for Travel—Students will be expected to wear appropriate clothing. Appropriate clothing will be determined by MHSA regulations and the coach, and may vary due to weather conditions. During play, no jeans of any kind are allowed, and shorts must be dress shorts. No athletic shorts or shorts are permitted.
2. The use of alcohol or drugs (not prescribed by a doctor) could result in suspension from extracurricular activities for one year and expulsion from the team.
3. Smoking or the use of tobacco products is not permitted, and, if under the age of 18, is against the law.
4. Students are to be with the group at all times.
5. Students cannot, under any circumstances, ride in private cars unless specifically arranged prior to the trip.
6. No visitors are allowed in students' motel rooms unless a supervisor gives prior approval.
   No boys allowed in the girls' room and vice versa.
7. Absolutely no initiations or hazing of any kind is allowed.

Violations of these rules will invoke the following procedures:

Immediate suspension of playing privileges for the remainder of the tournament. Parents will be called, and the student may be sent home at the earliest convenient time possible. The student may be suspended from school and/or the team, and a parent conference is required before the final disposition of the case.

(Coaches may establish additional rules)

Additional Rules for Golf

Bus Rules:

1. Quiet (rest) during early morning trips. Do nothing to prevent someone else from getting extra rest.
2. Music: must use headphones
3. Don't bother the bus driver
4. Keep the bus clean and do not damage it in any way.

Motel Rules:

1. Appropriate behavior in rooms and halls: No one in rooms of the opposite sex.
2. Proper use of items in motel rooms, including furniture. Proper behavior is necessary to ensure that nothing is damaged or destroyed. No games, gatherings, throwing ice, or any other activities that may disturb other patrons of the motel.
3. Team meetings are usually at 9:00. In rooms after that. **Cell phones will be collected.**
4. In bed by 11:00 with lights out.
5. No taking anything from motel.

Penalty for Violations:

Suspension from the current tournament and tournament play for the next week.

Sportsmanship and Safety on the Course

1. Players will be expected to follow the rules of sportsmanship as outlined by MHSA and golf coaches. In addition to being subject to stroke penalties in competitions, coaches also reserve the right to further suspend players from competition for gross displays of poor sportsmanship. **Profanity will not be tolerated.
2. All sportsmanship rules which apply to competition also apply to practice. Less serious infractions may result in the player being assessed penalty strokes; more serious problems will result in suspension from practice and competition, the length of suspension depending on the infraction.
3. **Due to the nature of the game and the size of the playing environment, players may be expected to play without immediate adult supervision. They will be expected to follow all of the appropriate rules. Safety on the course requires player awareness and sound decision making. Every golfer needs to be aware of their surroundings, other golfers, and hazardous situations on the course. Players engaged in unsafe play, for example hitting into the group in front – may face immediate loss of playing privileges.**

4. Golf is a sport where honor and honesty are expected. Coaches and officials do not supervise most of the play and it therefore depends on the players to make sure that the game is played fairly and that cheating isn't tolerated. The time to deal with an incident whereby you believe someone is breaking the rules is immediately. If someone claims to have shot par on a hole and you're sure they bogied, you need to politely ask them to recount their strokes within your playing group and correct any mistakes before the score is carded. If penalty strokes for rules infractions are required, they should be assessed immediately – not three holes later or after the round. In the event of a conflict or desire for a ruling, the player can play a provisional and make appropriate corrections after talking to a rules official, but before the card is signed and turned in. Remember, your signature on a card is like a contract, which acknowledges that your score and the scores of your playing partners are correct. If you sign the card, don't approach me later to inform me that someone in your group was cheating. ***Also, a mistake in scoring that goes against your total will stand once you've signed and a mistake that lowered your total if discovered after you've signed will result in disqualification.**

Practice

1. Show up to practice on time. If you are late, have a documented reason to present to the Coach. Players are expected to show up for practice at the scheduled time every day. If a player is more than 30 minutes late, that will be considered a "no show".
2. Every player is required to attend every practice, or give prior notification to the coach. Please notify the coach to the need to be absent personally.
3. Infractions of the above policies will result in suspension from competition for the week in which the absence occurred.
4. Players must have three practices before they can compete.

Qualifying for Travel

1. The first tournament will be played on the Monday and Tuesday following the first three practices.
2. Players 1-5 automatically qualify for the tournament. This shall be determined by practice/qualifying averages from the first two practices.
3. After the first tournament, golfers who were not in the top five will be able to challenge for a spot on the traveling squad. This will determined by combining tournament scores with practice rounds each week. Greater weight will be given to tournament scores. Also, each golfer will start out with a single score stroke average each week, so that golfers who improve throughout the season won't necessarily be weighed down by scoring problems early in the season. **The bottom line for the**

traveling squad is that the coach will make a fair determination, based on tournament scores, practice scores, participation and attendance at practice, attitude, sportsmanship, and team dynamics to decide who travels each week. The golfers with the lowest scores will not automatically qualify, as there are other considerations.

4. *Any boy that makes the top ten for the tournament, averages below 80, or is one of the top two of the five tournament golfers will automatically qualify next tournament. Any girl that makes the top ten for the tournament, averages below 90, or is one of the top two of the five tournament golfers will automatically qualify next tournament.
   **Tie breaker will be a chip off from a mutually agreed upon position, closest to the hole wins.

***While the above format will serve as a general guideline to fairly determine the travel positions during the season, the coach maintains final discretion as to the travel roster. **THE COACH WILL DETERMINE WHO PLAYS AT THE STATE TOURNAMENT.**

Drugs, Alcohol, and tobacco

1. Players will be expected to follow district rules with respect to tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. Due to the short season, any violation of the district drug and alcohol policy will likely result in a season ending suspension.
2. E-cigs, Juuls, and other vaping devices are considered tobacco related items.

Lettering

1. A player must compete in at least half of the scheduled varsity tournaments, or
2. A player may letter if he/she qualifies for the state tournament, or
3. A player may letter if he/she has played in the high school golf program for four years.
   *Players must finish the season in good standing to qualify for a letter.
   *Unsportsmanlike conduct or inability to follow other team rules can disqualify a player from receiving a letter even if the above criteria have been met.

School Requirements:

Grades: A student will not receive a letter if they receive a final quarter grade of an F (in any class) for the sport's primary season quarter.

Attendance: A student will not receive a letter if they have 6 (or more) **unexcused** absences during the sport's primary season quarter.

Behavior: A student will not receive a letter if they have had 1 major behavior incident OR 2 (or more) minor behavior incidents during the sport's primary season quarter.

Miscellaneous

1. **The specific delineation of rules above should not be construed as a complete list of behaviors or actions for which a golfer might face suspension or disciplinary action. There is no rule regarding "killing squirrels on the course with a lob wedge" written above, but that doesn't mean a golfer engaged in such activity will not be suspended from further participation on the team. My point is that participation on the Great Falls High Golf Team is not a right, but a privilege that brings with it reasonable conditions and standards for continued participation.**

Responsibility Agreement

This document is an agreement between the coach, the student/athlete, and the parent/guardian. This document needs to be detached, signed and returned before the golfer will be allowed to continue on the Great Falls High School Golf Team.

If you and your parent/guardian sign and return this agreement to the golf coach, you and your parent/guardian must abide by all rules and regulations in the packet regarding district, traveling, drug and alcohol use, and team rules and regulations.

Student

I, _____, agree to follow all rules and regulations within the golf packet and accept the consequences stated if I break any rules.

Signature_____

Parent/Guardian

I, _____, agree to hold my child/athlete accountable for all rules and regulations within the golf packet and will accept the consequences stated if he/she breaks any rules.

Signature_____

Parent Information:

Name:_____

Phone Number:_____ Cell Number:_____