

Liberty Golf- Player/Parent Handbook



INTRODUCTION

My name is Travis Hodge and I am the Boys and Girls Golf coach at Liberty High School. The following information has been written for the parents and student/athletes that are preparing to become part of, or continue with the Liberty Golf Program. It has been written to provide parents and student/athletes with as much information about the program as possible.

TEAM OVERVIEW

The Liberty Golf program is split into two seasons. The girls play in the Fall season which roughly runs from early August through late October. The boys will play in the Spring season that roughly starts in late January through mid May. The seasons can become longer depending on whether our team or a player individually qualifies for CIF, and then how far they advance. My primary focus will be with the team in season, thus the girls in the Fall and the boys in Spring. Players that are in their “off-season” are welcome to come and practice with us, yet my main focus will be on the players who are in-season. All players must have a Physical!

PRACTICES/ GOLF MATCHES

During the season (once matches start) we typically have two or three matches a week and one to two practices that run from Monday through Thursday (Courses don't allow us to play on Fridays since it is a busier day for them). The start times for matches will typically be between 2:45 pm to 3:15 pm depending on the course we play at. Typical practice times will be from 4pm to 5:30pm roughly with transportation being provided by the parent/guardian. For Golf matches,

our top 6 players will play against the top 6 players from the other team with the top 5 lowest scores from each team counting toward the overall score. Transportation from the school, and then back to the school is provided for golf matches. Typically during our home matches our players will be picked up directly from the course once the match concludes.

PARENTAL INTERACTION DURING MATCHES

Parents are welcome to come to matches and root for their child and also the other Liberty golfers. Parents are not allowed to give any type of instruction or rule advice during a golf match, and are supposed to keep their distance from all players (at least 50 feet) and remain on the cart path. An emphasis for high school golf is the integrity of each player to honestly count shots, know the rules, and have the skills to correct themselves without a coach/parent advising them during matches. Most courses will charge a cart fee in which parents will pay in order to follow and watch the match. Parents are welcome to walk the course at no charge.

Code of Conduct

Players are to abide by all school rules and policies during matches and practice and can be disciplined by Liberty Administration. Players are expected to be respectful to their opponents and fellow teammates. If a player consistently breaks a rule the following steps will be taken:

1. A meeting will take place between the player and myself and the parent will be notified.
2. The player will be suspended one match and a player/ parent meeting will take place.
3. The player will be removed from the team

PLAYER EQUIPMENT/ UNIFORMS

Team golf bags will be provided by the school for all players in-season and will be returned once the season is over. Golf clubs are to be provided by the parent/ guardian of the player. Team golf polos will need to be purchased by each player as that will serve as their uniform for golf matches. There will be additional team golf attire (for players and parents) that can be purchased, however the golf polos is mandatory to purchase. We will be using the Iwannamaker app to keep scores and to track statistics throughout the season.

DRESS CODE

Proper golf attire is required for both practices and golf matches. That means a golf polo shirt and no jeans.

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

I have coached high school golf for 14 years and I will be providing instruction on all parts of the game. However, it is still highly encouraged to seek out private instruction (especially in the off-season) to help further develop a player's skills. It is not mandatory, and I will do all I can to help players with their game, however I am not a PGA professional swing coach and my focus for instruction will be on the team in-season. If you do choose to see a private golf instructor, I'd like to be in contact with them so we are on the same page and not giving conflicting advice. Every private instructor may have a different point of emphasis, and it is to the detriment of the player to not have a unified voice in helping improve their golf game.

FUNDRAISING/ END OF YEAR BANQUET

Liberty Golf is on a limited budget provided by the school that covers course usage fees, golf bags, and golf balls. Donations to the golf program would help provide free uniforms (golf polos) for players, golf clubs for those in need, golf bags, and also to help pay for the end of the year banquet where we honor all of our players. If there are any parents able to help raise money for our student/athletes it would be greatly appreciated. Also, I need parents that are willing to help coordinate and plan the end of year banquet.

COACHES MESSAGE

I am very proud and honored to represent Liberty High School as its first golf coach! My goal is to have a program in which every player, and parent involved will be touched in a positive manner. My goal is to create an atmosphere in which players can both mature, and grow on and off the course. My goal is to have every player that has aspirations and the ability to play at the college/pro level to achieve that goal. Lastly, my goal is to grow both professionally and personally each year into the best coach I could possibly be.

Thank you, Coach Hodge (travis.hodge@puhsd.org)

