



***Worthington Kilbourne  
High School  
Girl's Golf Team  
2023 Handbook***



## **Worthington Kilbourne Girls Golf Team Handbook**

Welcome! Whether you are a returning player or a prospective new member of the Worthington Kilbourne High School Golf Program, I am excited that you have shown interest in the team. What follows is a guide to what is expected of golfers and their parents/guardians representing Worthington Kilbourne High School.

### **\*Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity**

This guide opens with the most important topic there is to cover where our golf program is concerned: Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity. Honesty is the most important characteristic a WKHS golfer must have. WKHS golfers are to play within the rules at all times. Cheating will not be tolerated at any time during the season. Any player caught cheating may face possible penalties ranging from match suspensions to removal from the team. There will also be a meeting between the coaches, players and parents to address the situation.

- Count ALL your strokes carefully. If a playing partner seems to have given you an incorrect score, politely ask her to count her strokes for you. Do not be confrontational. If a playing partner or a designated scorer asks you to count your strokes, do so politely and without question. If necessary, find a coach to mediate the situation. Do not assume someone is cheating, people do make mistakes. The integrity and ethics of our game are very important to the game of golf. Keep in mind that it is your obligation to the field of players participating in calling a player on his score or any rules violation at the time of the violation. Do not wait until the end of the round when it may not be possible to correct the mistake. Play out two balls if necessary, record both scores, and bring the matter to the coaches after the round for a ruling. An honest 90 is better than a 78 achieved cheating.

### **\*ATOD**

The district's policy on the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs is clearly stated in the Worthington Schools Co-Curricular Student-Parent Handbook. The WKHS Girls Golf coaching staff will strictly enforce these guidelines. We want our players to be clean and healthy. We will do anything we can to help any player that needs it.

### **\*SOCIAL MEDIA/PHONES**

The district's policy on the use of social media is clearly stated in the Worthington Schools Co-Curricular Student-Parent Handbook. The WKHS Girls Golf coaching staff will strictly enforce these guidelines. Please remember that anything posted on social media can be seen by others. In addition, please remember to use appropriate language and refrain from any type of vulgar or offensive imagery when using your phone when there are team communications.

### **\*A Commitment to Excellence**

To an extent, a large part of the responsibility for the success of WKHS Golf rests with the players that choose to join our golf teams. Our players must be willing to work hard all spring and summer getting instruction, practicing with teammates, playing competitively, and working on the fundamentals of the game: short game, putting, and the swing. To play well you must prepare well.

## **Practice with a Purpose**

A Plan for Success

May 04, 2005

By Frank Mantua

Director of US Golf Camps

There are not many sports like golf when it comes to practice, golf is a tough sport to play without going to the range or at least chipping and putting first. Everyone that plays golf realizes how important practicing is when trying to lower your scores. We hear a lot of technical talk about the golf swing and putting stroke, but we don't hear much about how to get the most out of your practice time. Hopefully, the following tips will help you get more out of the practice time you put in and eventually lower your scores.

The first thing to remember when you're heading out to the range or chipping green to practice is to have a plan. Practicing isn't a race to see how many balls you can hit in a half hour. There are plenty of other less expensive ways to just get exercise. The first part of your practice routine is to stretch and loosen up. Many people forget that golf is a sport just like any other and you need to stretch. The golf swing uses a lot of your muscles during the swing. So loosen up, start with some half swings, and use a short club like your pitching wedge. Now that you're working your way through the bag, starting with your wedges and moving to the longer clubs, remember to always hit balls at a target. It can be a target green at a driving range or a tree in the field behind your house. As good players know, golf is a game about hitting targets, either a fairway or green when you're on the course. Remember to pick as small a target as you can. For example, instead of trying to hit a ball down the middle of the range, try to hit the telephone pole that divides the range. Picking a target will get you quality practice instead of simply hitting golf balls.

Chipping and putting make up about 60% of most golfers' scores, but only 10% of their practice time. If you want your scores to go down, practice around the greens. This is the easiest way to drop a few shots on your handicap. I know it's a lot of fun to see how far you can hit the driver, but remember, golf is about getting the ball in the hole in the fewest possible shots and a good short game means lower scores. The easiest way to practice a short game is to make a game of it. Try to chip it in the circle around the hole or see how many putts you can make in a row from 5 feet. This way you improve and have fun at the same time. As strange as it seems, most golfers like to practice the shots that they already are good at hitting. If you have trouble hitting your long irons, then that's what you need to practice. Spend the most time practicing the parts of your game that need work. It may not be as fun, but it will be a lot more beneficial on the golf course when you can hit that long iron.

Lastly, let's discuss how you should practice on the golf course. A good way to practice is to hit 2 or 3 balls on the same hole. Remember, you can only do this if there isn't a group behind you waiting to play. Don't hold up the course. This on-course practice is a great way for beginning golfers to see what club to hit from each distance and get the feel of hitting to a target.

I hope these tips help you with your practice routine and I hope that with quality practice you reach your goals a lot quicker.

## **Academics**

Past Wolves golfers have always performed at a high level academically. The coaches expect that all our players will continue this history of academic success. Our school district and the OHSA have established minimum academic standards for STUDENT athletes. Should any player fail to meet these standards, she will become ineligible. Your coach will be monitoring academic progress and providing academic counsel as appropriate.

## **Attitude and Behavior**

All WKHS golfers are expected to carry themselves with the utmost pride and dignity. As a member of our golf team, you are a representative of Worthington Kilbourne High School, the Worthington Schools, and your coaches and teammates. You will be expected to behave accordingly both on the course and in the classroom. We are very fortunate to be able to play a number of exceptional golf courses largely free of charge. It is of the highest priority that we maintain good relationships with those courses and their members by adhering to all course rules and expectations. No inappropriate behavior on the part of any member of our teams will be tolerated. Causing damage to any course we play will be grounds for immediate disciplinary action.

## **Team Spirit**

No member of the team is any more or less important than any other member. We expect all players to support each other 100%. No one player is responsible for a win or a loss. We win as a team and we lose as a team. No disrespect by a WKHS golfer of ANY player on our team or any team we play will be tolerated, behavior of this kind may result in match suspensions or possible removal from the team. Any disagreements you may have with another WKHS player are to be kept off the course or range. If you need a third party to help settle an issue, please bring it to one of the coaches and we will mediate as necessary and appropriate.

## **Tryouts**

For this season there will be 9/18 holes on the 1st day and 9/18 holes on the 2nd day. Obviously, the main factor in determining JV or Varsity status is your score, the lowest score over 2 days (a total of 18/27/36 holes) may determine your position on the team. Also other factors that come into play are the events/practices participated in during the off-season/summer as well as attitude, effort, integrity, and sportsmanship.

## **Golf Rules**

All players need to be very familiar with the rules of golf. Having a rulebook in your bag is a good idea. However, I understand there is a great deal of rules to interpret. If you are unsure of a rule ask your playing partner(s) and/or a nearby coach.

## **Team Captains**

\*Before the end of the season banquet, the team will vote on who the captain(s) will be for the following season. Each player gets a vote with each coach's vote possibly counting as two.

One or more captains will be chosen at the end of tryouts and/or after the 1st week of the season. Each player gets a vote with each coach's vote possibly counting as two. The players will elect two people they feel are the best leaders for our teams considering the following criteria:

1. The player's academic record must be exceptional.
2. Candidates must have a clean disciplinary record for their high school career. Captains elected in the fall may lose their captaincy if they violate the student code of conduct during the year.
3. Service-mindedness: Ohio State Football Coach Jim Tressel summed up the role of captain in a single word: Service. Our captains need to be willing to serve our teams, their fellow players, and the coaching staff in whatever ways are needed.
4. A captain must have the highest ideals and be exceptional in the areas of Sportsmanship, Ethics, Integrity, and behavior on or off the golf course and in the classroom.

The captains are to follow the guidelines and expectations of the coaching staff. Captains are an important part of establishing and maintaining the morale and success of our teams.

5. Each captain will be assigned as a liaison to the JV team. The captains will be expected to attend any practices for their assigned team that do not conflict with varsity or academic activity. The captain will assist the coach in these practices. The voting totals are only an indication to the coach of the players that the team considers to be the most worthy of this honor. The head coach will make the final captain's selections based on the voting results and their consideration of the candidates available.

6. If a captain is an underclassman they would retain that position as captain the following season if all the above criteria are met. There may be another captain named as well so they could carry on the tradition and learn from the prior years and the current returning captain.

### **Team Practices**

A majority of our time at the range will be spent working 130 yards and in. Do not expect to work a great deal on your long game at team practices. Here is why: In a round where you shoot 80, you will hit the driver at most 19% of the time. You will hit your middle or long irons at most 24% of the time. That means you spend between 57-60% of your time 130 or fewer yards from the green. The higher your score, the more shots you are wasting around the green. We need to spend our practices where we can gain the most benefit from our time. Generally, there will be four golf events during the week, if we have two matches then most likely we would have two practices as well. We would not have matches or practices on Fridays unless there was a special circumstance. There could be a possibility of playing in tournaments on a Saturday.

### **Match Day**

\*If the match is during school, wear your team shirt to school, whichever the coach and/or team decides. If the coach does not specify, you are to wear the team shirt being worn for that match.

\*Team uniform is team shirt, tan or black golf shorts or skirt/slacks depending on which shirt we wear, and team hat if we have one that season. Players are expected to wear the team uniform in every match they play representing WKHS unless approval is given by the coach to do otherwise.

\*We will arrive at the course 45 minutes to 1 hour early for tournaments (when possible).

\*We will provide as much pre-match time as possible for after-school matches. This may not always be possible.

### **Playing Matches and Tournaments**

The following guidelines are to be adhered to by all players at all matches and tournaments:

\*Pre-match

\*Arrive early to depart for matches and tournaments.

\*Come prepared: clubs, plenty of golf balls, tees, gloves, shoes, rain gear, ball marks, divot tool, etc.

\*Go directly to teeing area when instructed. You can be disqualified if you are late. That means being on the tee with your group as instructions are given.

\*Be sure to listen carefully to the starter for all local rules and guidelines.

### **Matches/Tournaments**

\*On the first tee, introduce yourself to your playing partners, identify your ball to your playing partners, exchange score cards if applicable, or find out who is keeping your score and whose score you are keeping.

\*Be sure to follow all rules of golf and be familiar with any local rules in play for that match or tournament.

\*Be sure on the first tee that you have no more than 14 clubs in your bag.

\*Keep up the pace of play!

\*Play ready golf and be ready when it is your turn to play.

## **Provisional Balls**

- \*Be sure to follow the proper procedure for playing a provisional ball.
- \*Before hitting the shot, tell your playing partners that you intend to play a provisional ball. Do not say anything else like you are reloading, etc.
- \*Tell them what kind of ball you will be hitting. Be sure it is different from your first ball. Mark it if necessary.
- \*After hitting the provisional ball, thoroughly search for your first ball. Use your full five minutes if needed. That time starts from the time you begin the search. Once you have played two consecutive shots with your provisional ball, it is the ball in play and you cannot hit your first ball even if you find it.
- \*If you discover, after hitting a provisional ball, that your first shot ended up in a lateral hazard marked with red stakes that you did not know were there, you must abandon your provisional ball and follow the rules for a lateral hazard.

## **Other**

- \*Record scores at the end of each hole.
- \*At the completion of your round, double-check all scores with your playing partner hole by hole. Once you agree, sign the cards and report directly to the official scorer with your card.
- \*Once you have turned in your card, get a round charting card and chart round then proceed to the last green and watch your teammates finish.
- \*Your job does not end with your final putt. You are still a team member and need to support your teammates, both in victory and defeat.

## **Movement/Seeding Between Team(s) During the Season**

From time to time it will be necessary to move players up and down between teams to allow us to field the best possible team each time we tee it up. Most of the time, the coaches at our discretion will do this as we see the need. However, players can also play their way up to higher spots.

1. If a player beats the player ahead of her in two consecutive rounds, that player may move up to that spot bumping the player ahead of her down.
2. Players may only move up one spot at a time.
3. If you beat the player ahead of you in one round and she beats you the next, the process starts over.
4. A player moving up to another team may be required to play off against that player, if possible, before the move is made.
5. Coaches can, at their discretion, move a player to any spot on the team they deem appropriate and necessary.

## **Earning Letters/Awards**

Varsity letters will be given to Varsity-A players who participate in 25% or more of the varsity matches during the season, additional weight is given for golfing in 18 hole OCC matches, sectionals, districts and states. Additional consideration will be given to leadership, integrity, sportsmanship, and other factors.

## **Other Sports/Activities During Golf Season**

Participation in other sports/activities is encouraged throughout the school year. However, if you are not participating it is the expectation you should be working on your golf game through conditioning and practice on your own and through school/coach guidance.

## **Information for Parents/Guardians**

### **Fees and Expenses**

Players should anticipate being responsible for the following fees and expenses:

1. Pay-to-play fee: \$125
2. Booster Fee: \$100
3. Greens fee for tryouts: \$18-30 per course
4. Team Golf Bags \$175 (price is subject to change without notice)-instead of purchasing we allow players to use and turn in at the end of the season.
  - a. Golf bags are required for Varsity players (if they don't already have one).
  - b. JV players will be given a bag and may purchase a bag if they so choose.
5. Personal Items (tees, towels, rain gear, etc.)
6. We do have golf shirts for new players to wear for the season, but we will also offer a new golf shirt for the season which most players/parents purchase for use during matches. I will notify players/parents soon after tryouts of the cost and where to purchase. Additionally, our parent's support group funds several items through its membership. Group officers will contact families regarding these fees.
7. Golf Push Cart-not needed but almost every player now uses a push cart and it can be a competitive disadvantage if a player does not have one. Not all courses have them to loan or rent out.
8. Golf shoes-spikeless.
9. Golf Clubs

### **Watching Matches and Tournaments**

We encourage parents to come out and watch our young women play. We would love for you to come out and support the Wolves as often as possible. All spectators at all matches and tournaments should follow the guidelines below:

\*After the player has begun play, spectators may not talk to players for any reason other than assisting in the search for a lost ball.

\*You must stay at least ½ hole ahead or behind your player or group.

\*You may assist players in spotting shots or searching for lost balls. When doing this, please extend the courtesy to all of their playing partners as well.

\*Please turn off cell phones and pagers while on the course. We can be penalized and you can be asked to leave the course if they are used while on the course.

\*If you plan to take your player home after the match/tournament, please be sure and let the coach know in person.

### **Coaches and Parents: Working Together**

It is important to understand from the beginning that parents and coaches often have a different outlook on our teams and their players. Parents almost always look at things from the perspective of "What is good for my player?" Coaches must look at things from the perspective of "What is good for our team?" As you can understand these two things may lead coaches and parents to disagree. Our coaches understand that you want what is best for your player. It is very probable that you will not agree with one of our decisions at one time or another during the season. Accepting this truism, we ask that you follow these guidelines when addressing your concerns to the coaching staff:

1. All issues should be addressed with the coach(es) first. Please wait 24 hours before contacting the coach. This will allow both you and the coach involved to put some perspective on the topic at hand. It will also allow you both to let the emotion of the situation dissipate to some degree.
2. Please understand that our coaches have the final say on playing time. This is not a topic that will be open for discussion. We will be glad to provide our reasoning for decisions made.

3. If you have an issue, please bring it to us. Our coaching staff is more than willing to work with you to resolve any matter that may arise.
4. Please understand that we will listen to everything you have to say. We appreciate that you care about your player, but remember that so do we. We must base our decisions on not only what is best for the individual players but also what is best for the team as a whole.
5. If you feel we have not resolved the issue, you are more than welcome to address it with the athletic director.

### **In Closing**

I hope this handbook has answered many of the questions you might have had. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me. My cell is 614-738-4884. I usually respond quicker to texts and emails than to voice mail.

Sincerely,  
Coach Jon Baird  
Worthington Kilbourne  
Women's Golf Team  
[jbaird@wscloud.org](mailto:jbaird@wscloud.org)  
Cell # 614-738-4884  
Rev. 5/9/23



## WKHS Girls Golf Expectations

All members of the Worthington Kilbourne High School Women's Golf Team(s) are expected to adhere to the following rules and expectations:

1. Please be aware of and follow the district's ATOD policy. The coaches and staff at WKHS are here to help any player having an issue in this area.
2. All play is governed by the rules established by the USGA. Ohio High School Athletic Association and OCC league rules also apply.
3. All team members will wear the team uniform during matches and tournaments. This includes sectional, district, and state tournaments.
4. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, inappropriate language, harassment of other players, horseplay, throwing of clubs, knowingly reporting improper scores, improving ball location and or lie, etc. Possible consequences may include assessment of penalty strokes, disqualification, suspension from a future event(s), or dismissal from the team.
5. All players will leave the courses we play better than we found them. Players are expected to rake all bunkers, replace all divots, fix all ball marks and pick up any litter they see. Playing the courses we play is a privilege and not a right. In order to continue playing them, we need to be good representatives for both our school and our sport.
6. All players will adhere to all rules and requirements listed in the WHKS Code of Conduct found in the Student Handbook. Any violation of these rules will be reported to the Head Coach by the player immediately. Failure to inform the coach immediately may result in at least a one-match suspension from the team.

\*We have read and agree to the above and have been given a copy of the team handbook.

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Player Signature Printed

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Player Signature/Date

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Parent/Guardian/ Signature/Date

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Sincerely,  
Head Coach Jon Baird  
Worthington Kilbourne  
Women's Golf Team  
[jbaird@wscloud.org](mailto:jbaird@wscloud.org)  
Cell # 614-738-4884  
Rev. 5/9/23