**Bozeman High School Hawk Golf**

Welcome to the Bozeman High School Golf program! We look forward to an exciting year working with each of you to develop your golf skills.

Website: bozemanhawkgolf.weebly.com

**Overview**

* The golf program at Bozeman High School has several goals. Our first goal of the Hawk Golf Program is to develop character, honesty, integrity, and a lifelong love for the game. Second, we will develop you into a better golfer through working on skills, course management, and mental toughness.

**The Team**

* The team will consist of approximately 10-12 boys and 10-12 girls depending on playing experience and ability for the given year. This means that we will have tryouts, and we will have to cut some players. Depending on scores a player may be cut after day 1. Tryouts will consist of two 18-hole rounds. More information regarding tryouts is in the bullets below.
	+ You must tryout on the assigned days.
	+ After tryouts, the initial varsity and junior varsity players will be determined. Depending on experience, the varsity program will have approximately seven boys and seven girls and the JV program will have approximately 6 boys and 6 girls.
	+ If your child is a senior, they must make the varsity team. If they do not qualify for the varsity team, they will be cut in favor of a younger player. Seniors may not play on the junior varsity team.
	+ Selection of the golf teams may go beyond scores during tryouts. Players must exhibit honesty, integrity, a good attitude, and proper etiquette at all times. Those individuals that are a negative influence or a distraction to the betterment of the team will be dismissed from the team.

**Expectations**

**Practice:**

* Arrive to practice every day on time. Practice times/locations will be posted to the team website and it is the responsibility of the student/athlete to obtain this information. The first practice group will start at 4:00pm. We treat practice seriously and start drills as soon as practice begins. Unexcused absences from practice or excessive tardies will disqualify you from a future tournament(s). In the event of an absence or tardy, golfers need to show responsibility and accountability by contacting a coach in advance and notifying them. One or more excused, non-golf related, absences may also disqualify you from future tournament(s). Sometimes an athlete may need to miss a practice because he/she has already qualified for another, non-Hawk golf tournament. (Example: AJGA Tournament).
* Be willing to learn at practice and have a positive attitude.
* Be respectful. We are incredibly lucky to practice at the courses in Bozeman. These courses expect that we act professionally and respectfully.
* Follow the dress code. Valley View, Riverside and Bridger Creek require that you do not wear jeans and that you wear a collared shirt (Team policy). If you do not follow the dress code, you will be asked to leave practice and your absence will be counted as an unexcused absence.
* If a practice is cancelled, we will post to the website. Show up to the course unless otherwise posted on website.

**Tournaments/Meets**

* Arrive on time for the bus. The bus will leave at the scheduled time and will not wait for you. If you miss the bus you cannot find alternative transportation and will not participate in the tournament.
* Play with professionalism. We care far more about your attitude and personality on the course than your score. Head hanging, throwing clubs, excessive anger, and swearing are not acceptable at practice or tournaments and you may be asked to leave the tournament/practice. This behavior can result in further suspension from future tournaments and disqualification from current tournament.
* Be sure to wear your uniform. Everybody in the tournament will be required to wear a specific uniform on the day of the tournament. It is no longer acceptable to change out of uniform until the entire tournament has concluded (scoring/awards/etc.).
* Win with class and lose with class. Our main mission is to first develop character and then develop golf skills. We would much rather lose a tournament with class than win a tournament with arrogance.
* When staying in hotels and riding in busses, we expect you act in a respectable manner and follow all curfews. Complaints from the hotel staff, police, neighboring rooms, or bus drivers may result in a suspension from current and/or future tournaments, and if continued, suspension from the team.

**Academics**

* To be eligible to compete in practices and meets, you must maintain a 2.0 GPA for the current semester, and you must have passed at least four classes the previous semester. If you do not meet these expectations, you will not practice or compete until your grades improve.
* It is your responsibility to make sure you complete your assignments before you leave, or in your down time on road trips. You are a student-athlete. Not an athlete-student. Time management skills will need to be used to balance school with golf. Missing practice to catch up on schoolwork is not acceptable. Communication with teachers will be important, whether this is before school, during lunch, or during the teacher’s prep time.

**Drugs/Alcohol**

* It is our expectation that you do not illegally use drugs or alcohol in any form whether in-season or out-of-season.
* Should you be caught violating this policy, you will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the Bozeman High drug/alcohol policy. Please consult the student handbook for more details.

**Equipment**

* It is the responsibility of the player to provide, manage, and take care of his or her own equipment. Coaches and other players will not be held accountable for the equipment of others.

**Team Scoring**

* Golf is both an individual and a team sport. It essentially gives you two chances to perform well. For the team score, the low four scores are added together to make a composite team score.

**Qualifying for Varsity Tournaments**

* The top 3 varsity scores will be protected each week. They do not need to qualify for the next meet.
* The bottom 2 varsity scores will compete against the other 2 varsity golfers for the last positions.
* If a junior varsity golfer consistently shoots low in tournaments, he/she may be allowed to qualify for the next varsity tournament.
	+ Before permitting the JV player to qualify, the coaches will take several factors into account including course rating, slope, length, weather, and attitude. The coaches will make the final decision on whether a JV player may qualify.
	+ IE: Meadow Lark CC, Great Falls Rating 71.3, Highland View, Butte Rating 67.6 (not taking into account slope and other factors!
* The varsity team may be “set” several tournaments before the state tournament. We will take performance, integrity, character, and attitude into account. We set the varsity team before state to allow the five athletes to build team chemistry leading up to the championship.
* **JV qualifying**
	+ The 2 Varsity golfers that don’t travel with the Varsity will play JV (no seniors). The other 3 spots are open to qualification.

**Qualifying for State**

* Points awarded for participating in Varsity meets. Point values weighted heavier as the season progresses to account for those golfers peaking at the end of the season.
* Coach Nelson and Houston will make the final selection for who qualifies for the State Tournament. Character will be taken into consideration in addition to playing ability.