

# North Gwinnett High School Golf - General Information

North Gwinnett High School fields separate golf teams for boys and girls. Each team participates in the highest classification of schools in the state of Georgia. Our goal is to represent NGHS in an honorable fashion and compete on a high level with the best golf teams in the state. Golf is a spring semester sport in Georgia.

Gwinnett County only fields varsity level golf teams. We are among the few schools that have a varsity group of players and a JV squad that competes in a few matches and tournaments during the season.

The North Gwinnett high school golf coaches select upwards of 20 members for the boys program and 12 members for the girls program every year. The Varsity and JV rosters may change or evolve throughout the season based on scores and dedication.

The North Gwinnett Golf Booster Club is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS code and gains funding through memberships, sponsorships and contributions. Contributions are thus tax deductible by individuals and corporations alike. The Booster Club is governed by a Board of Directors, whose members serve as volunteers and help guide the activities of the program.

## Requirements to Play

In order to participate in any high school sport, students must be academically eligible (pass at least 5 classes in the previous semester), have a CURRENT physical on file with NGHS and be on track to graduate. Additional required paperwork is completed via the online platform RankOne.

## The Tryout Process

Any golfer, former OR prospective, in grades 9-12 may try out for the Varsity team and MUST have a current physical on file with NGHS to qualify for tryouts. Trimming the roster through tryouts has been the norm in recent years. The qualities we usually look for in our prospects include:

- experienced golfers who play consistently
- young people that will represent our school honorably
- players genuinely interested in playing golf for a team which includes attending all practices and meetings
- players determined to improve their golf and personal skills

## Players Who Make the Team

You must dress appropriately on the course and provide your own equipment (clubs, balls, shoes, etc.) to be a part of the team. Uniforms and team bags will be purchased for the players. All players are expected to contribute financially to help pay for uniforms, golf bag, tournaments, banquet, and other expenses for the season. The North Gwinnett golf program

also has fundraisers that all team members are expected to participate in. Players also must provide their own transportation or carpool to practice, matches and tournaments.

### **Time Commitment**

Practices are four days a week after school until about 6pm, weather permitting. If a player is not scheduled for a weekday match, then practice attendance is expected. Many tournaments are on Saturdays as well. Golfers are also expected to practice and play on their own over spring break and weekends. Our season runs from early February (tryouts) through late May (state tournament).

### **9-Hole Match Scoring**

- **BOYS:** Six players play nine holes. At the end, coaches tally the lowest four (4) NG scores for a team total. Lowest combined team score wins the day.
- **GIRLS:** Four or five ladies play and the lowest three (3) scores contribute to their NG team score. Lowest combined score wins.

All players must walk and carry their own bags, with push carts being allowed. No electric carts.

### **18-Hole Tournament Scoring**

Most often, the lowest scores, either individual or team combination, win on 18 holes. Certain tournaments tally a Stableford format, a point-per-shot round. Birdie scores higher than par, par scores higher than bogey, etc. Highest score wins those matches. All players must walk and carry their own bags. No electric carts.

### **Post-Season Play**

After concluding the regular season, the top six boys/four girls compete in the 18-hole Area Tournament. The two lowest scoring teams automatically place for the state tournament. The 3rd and 4th placed teams qualify for the sectional tournament, usually the first Monday in May. The four lowest score sectional teams continue on to the state tournament. Individuals may also qualify for state competition based on low-medalist score at area & sectionals. The state championship tournament is held in late May.

### **End-of -Year Awards**

Many golfers are recognized at our year-end banquet by the coaching staff, the Gwinnett Daily Post and GHSGCA. Some of the honors include Team Leadership, Lowest Stroke Average, Most-Improved, Highest GPA, Scholar Athlete, All-County, All-State and Super Six.

## The GHSA Bylaws for High School Golf

Please review these rules if you play, your student plays or you are interested in learning more about the sport. The playoff process is also explained here: <http://www.ghsa.net/ghsa-constitution-and-laws#golf>

### Our Home Course

The North Gwinnett golf teams are pleased to call Bear's Best of Atlanta our home course. Bear's Best was chosen as one of the top 10 new courses in the United States in the March 2003 issue of Golf Magazine. [Learn more at the Bear's Best of Atlanta website](#)

## FAQ

### How long is the NGHS Golf Season?

Golf is a Spring Sport in Georgia. Our season begins in early February until the State Championship in late May, about 4 months.

### Are there tryouts?

Yes, every one tries out every Spring and MUST have an active physical on file with NGHS. Tryouts for former AND new, prospective players are held in early February. Cuts are usually completed by the 3rd day of tryouts and season practice begins.

### I was on the team last year. Do I have to try out again?

Yes. Past selection is NOT a guarantee that a player makes the team again. The BEST scores in tryouts are considered, so off-season practice is very important to keep your "spot" on the team.

### Are the NG players selected at tryouts divided into different teams?

Yes. The top 6 boys and top 4 girls play in weekly matches. These 10 top players may rotate over time based on lowest score averages or through "play-in" matches/practice rounds. The lowest-stroke averages get the most playing time. At the end of the regular season, all match/practice round scores are averaged and the top 6 boys and top 4 girls continue on to areas.

### Is there a JV Golf Team?

No. The County does not recognize JV Golf at this time, but North *does* field a few JV events during the season for additional competition.

### If I want to be on the golf team, but have not played before, can I try out?

NG Golf is a competitive sport and we want to attract the best players in the school. Golf is not a club, but a "cut sport", composed of players who already know and play the game well. If you are an inexperienced player, it would be VERY beneficial to take lessons before trying out for the team in February. Contact Coach Bacile for local pros that have worked with our players.

### Can I "Letter" in golf?

If you participate in ANY Varsity match, you will receive a chenille NGHS golf letter for the season at the banquet, even as a Freshman.

### What is the practice schedule?

Both boys and girls practice Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, February thru May. Practice includes a rotation of range, putting, chipping or course play (no carts). The time may vary but usually is from 3:00 until 5:30 or 6:00. When daylight savings begins, we may start later and end later.

### Can I play the Bear's Best course anytime after I make the team?

No. Range/short-game team practices are scheduled for certain days, along with certain days to be on the course. Chipping & putting areas are always open and free of charge. If you want to play the Bear's course another day, junior golfers may call the club to ask when the LAST tee time of the day is, and go out AFTER that time for a discounted rate. Because Bear's Best is a public course, ANYONE can book a tee time or purchase range balls/memberships, lessons or course packages outside NG Golf.

### What if it's raining?

We practice & play, rain or shine, in most cases. And we play in the wind & cold, too, unless the course is closed or it is below 40°. Lightning is the only exception. Players receive texts regarding any changes in schedule and ALL.

**Are there any other requirements to be a part of NG Golf?**

- Have a current physical on file with NGHS
- Attend practice every day
- Practice on your own before, during and after the season. It's a year-round sport.
- Provide your own transportation to and from practices and matches.
- Provide your own equipment (clubs, balls, shoes, etc.)
- Purchase the embroidered team golf bag to use throughout your year(s) on the team.
- Purchase AND wear NG uniforms in competition.
- Pay team dues and raise money to support the program.

**What kind of uniform do we get?**

Embroidered gear...players get a combination of golf polos, hats/visors, pullovers, and/or jacket.

**What is the competition schedule?**

Golf schedules 12 varsity playing dates for the regular season. Our schedule is divided between local 9-hole duel matches and area 18-hole tournaments. The 9-hole matches are after school, Monday through Thursday against another school. Starting times and dates vary. The full-day, 18-hole tournaments are larger fields and held either on a Saturday or a day off from school. Area, Sectionals and State are full golf days and excused absences from school.

**Is travel required? If so, how far?**

Players are expected to provide transportation to practices and matches. It is common for players to ride together, with a parent or teammate. For weekend 18-hole tournaments, we most always carpool with chaperones. Some years, the Boys travel to the Jekyll Island Golf Tournament, hosted by Glynn County Schools, at Jekyll Island GC. The Ladies travel to tournaments requiring overnight stays as well. Sectionals and State Finals also require distant travel and overnight stays in local hotels.

**How much does an overnight tourney cost?**

The Booster Club pays all entry fees, hotels and dinner(s). Players buy meals on the road.

**Does the team play practice rounds prior to a Tournament?**

If time and funds allow, the team may travel and play a course prior to the match. These absences are excused, but make-up work is the golfers responsibility.

**Can spectators come to the matches?**

Yes! All matches are FREE to attend. You may walk the course OR rent a cart for a fee from the club house. PLEASE refrain from coaching, talking to or interrupting the players during the round to avoid disqualification/penalties. It is advised that parents stay one shot ahead of their player to reduce distractions and help look for errant tee shots. Parents should stay on the cart path and not venture towards the green, fairway, etc...

**Can I use a range finder?**

Yes, but they CANNOT show slope during competitions. These devices run around \$200, but are NOT required. Check with Coach Bacile to see if yours is legal. No cell phones, GPS devices on cell phones, cameras, or wrist watches are allowed on the course as an aid to play (some tournaments require cell phone use for scorekeeping only).

**Am I required to spend time playing golf during the off-season?**

In order to improve, golfers are expected to practice regularly year-round. There are no off-season requirements as a team, BUT obviously, the best time to play golf is when the weather is warm. Players are encouraged to play in junior tournaments (GSGA Junior Tour, NGJGA, AJGA, etc) or attend camps/clinics throughout the year. Youth on Course is a great program to join that will help juniors with the cost of greens fees (\$5 at selected courses)

**What kind of costs are there if I am selected?**

We are a 501(3)C non-profit organization. Our annual golf team activity fee is \$850 (tax-deductible). The golf bag runs about \$175 and is yours to keep and reuse year to year. ALL money received goes toward uniforms, travel,

hotels, tournament entry fees, range balls, team snacks/drinks, clinics, banquet expenses & awards. We spend most every dime every year on the team.

**Who is the golf coach/sponsor?**

Justin Bacile is the head golf coach of both the boys and girls golf teams and can be reached at [justin.bacile@gcpsk12.org](mailto:justin.bacile@gcpsk12.org).