

SANDWICH INDIANS



GOLF TEAM HANDBOOK

IMPORTANT TEAM INFORMATION & RULES

SHS Golf Team Fee

In addition to the normal athletic fee, there will also be an additional golf team fee which must be paid to be part of the team. However, this fee does not have to be paid by the first day of practice. The golf team fee is broken into two parts:

- **Edgebrook Golf Team Membership (\$200)** – The golf team membership covers the cost of using Edgebrook for all practices and competitions. Golfers who are full junior members at Edgebrook do not have to pay this fee.
- **SHS Golf Team Polo (\$40)** – This portion of the fee covers the cost of purchasing an Adidas Sandwich Indians polo shirt, which will be worn during all competitions. This shirt will be yours to keep and can be used for future seasons.

This fee does not have to be paid in full before practice starts and can be paid in three installments. Checks for the golf team fee should be made out to Sandwich High School and turned in to Coach Butler. Here is a breakdown of how much the fee will be for each golfer:

	Course Fee	Team Polo	Total Fee	Payment #1 (Due 8/12)	Payment #2 (Due 8/26)	Payment #3 (Due 9/9)
Non-Members	\$200	\$40*	\$240	\$85	\$80	\$75
Full Members	\$0	\$40*	\$40	\$40		

* = Returning golfers do not have to purchase a new team polo if they plan to use their shirt from last season.

Players who fail to pay the golf team fee or payments on time will not be able to practice or compete in meets. Please contact Coach Butler with any questions about the golf team fee.

Tryout Procedures & Team Size:

Every golfer will participate in the tryout process during the first three days of practice. During this time, players will be assessed by the coaching staff in several different areas including basic skills and “coachability.” The tryouts will include both actual rounds (9 or 18 holes) and drills on the practice range and practice greens. All data collected during the tryouts will be used by the coaching staff when making final roster decisions and establishing the first player rankings.

The size of each team and whether or not cuts are needed will be determined by the coaching staff based on the number of golfers trying out and individual skill levels. If a player is cut, he/she can request to meet with the coaching staff to discuss why he/she did not make the team and how he/she can improve for the future.

Academics & Eligibility:

Members of the golf team are first and foremost students and therefore must maintain good grades in order to participate in golf activities. To be eligible to compete, student-athletes must be enrolled in and passing at least four classes, excluding physical education, drivers education, resource, and fitness and conditioning.

If a member of the team is ruled academically ineligible, he/she will be not allowed to participate in competition until the failing grade is raised. However, players who are ineligible are still required to participate in all practices and team activities. Ineligible students who fail to attend practices or events will be marked unexcused. ***The coaching staff also reserves the right to remove players from the team if they are ineligible for more than three weeks in a row without improvement.***

All members of the team need to plan their assignments around practices and meets. Members should not leave assignments until the last minute and then ask to skip golf practices and/or meets to complete them. Additionally, all golfers will be responsible for making up all work missed due to leaving school early for meets and tournaments.

Attendance Policy:

If a golfer is going to miss practice or a meet for any reason, he/she needs to contact one of the coaches in advance (if possible) or provide a parent note explaining the reason for the absence upon return. Golfers who are absent the day before or the day of a meet are not eligible to compete in the event unless approved by the coaching staff. The coaching staff will also have the final say on whether an absence is excused or unexcused. Unexcused absences will result in one meet/tournament suspension and three or more unexcused absences in a season may lead to removal from the team.

Dress Code:

All members of the Sandwich Golf Team are required to be dressed appropriately at all practices and events. Any golfer who does not follow the dress code will be given one warning and any future dress code violations will result in the member being sent home unexcused.

- 1.) All golfers are required to wear a team polo shirt and matching dress pants/shorts to meets.
- 2.) Golfers may wear t-shirts and jeans to practice, but collared shirts and khakis are preferred.
- 3.) Golfers must wear golf shoes or tennis shoes during practice and meets. **NO SANDALS!!!**
- 4.) Shirts are to be tucked in and pants are to be pulled up to the waist at ALL times.
- 5.) No athletic shorts, sleeveless shirts, or tank tops are allowed to be worn at practices or meets.
- 6.) Hats are to be worn forward and straight at all times.

Treatment of the Course:

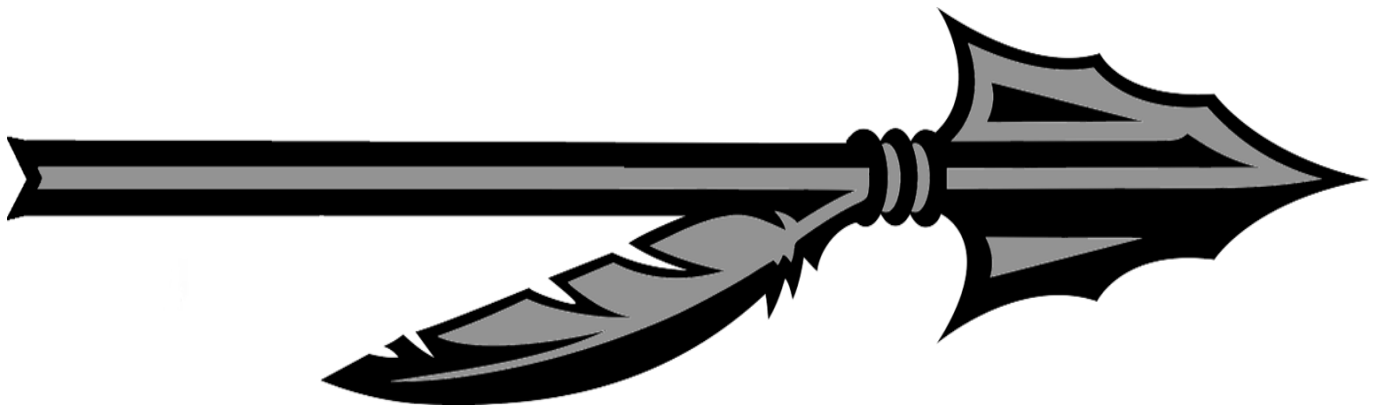
Our ability to use Edgebrook Golf Course during the season is a privilege and not a right. Members of the team are to follow all course rules and be on their best behavior at all times. They will also be respectful to all staff members and patrons of the course. Golfers are also expected to help take care of the facilities (i.e. repair divots, fix ball marks, pick up trash, etc.) and not damage the course. Any golfer who is guilty of purposely damaging or vandalizing the course will be suspended from using the course for a minimum of 5 days. A second incident will result in immediate removal from the team without a refund.

Cell Phones & Other Electronic Devices:

Golf team members are not allowed to use electronic devices during practices or meets (i.e. cell phones, MP3 players, etc.). Players may use their phones to contact rides at the end of practice, but only near the end of practice or with a coach's permission. Punishments for violating this rule include, but are not limited to, being suspended from competitions and/or confiscation of the device(s).

Drugs & Alcohol Policy:

The use of tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs will not be tolerated on the golf team. Any player found guilty of using these substances will be subject to the policy outlined in the SHS student handbook.



Attitude & Integrity:

Golf is a game built on honesty and integrity and the coaching staff expects each and every golfer to embody these ideas. Players are also expected to show good sportsmanship at all times and be respectful to themselves, their teammates, their coaches, their opponents, and anyone else they encounter.

Student-athletes are held to a higher standard because their actions reflect on more than just themselves. Members of this program are expected to show a positive attitude at all times and be willing to accept the responsibility of being a good role model both on and off the golf course.

All golfers are expected to be on their best behavior at all times including in the classroom. Anyone who misbehaves in class or is disrespectful to teachers or staff may face additional consequences at practice. Additionally, athletes who are late because of detentions will have to make up the time they missed before being allowed to compete in a meet.

Since golf is one of the few sports where athletes are required to police themselves, honesty is required at all times from members of this program. Players are expected to conform to the USGA Rules of Golf when playing and must keep an accurate count of their score and the score of their opponent. We are aware that accidents happen, but knowingly shaving strokes or ignoring penalty strokes is **CHEATING** and is not acceptable. Players guilty of cheating will be given one warning and will face disciplinary action if the behavior continues.

Other specific misbehaviors that will not be tolerated and that can result in an athlete being punished, suspended and/or removed from the team include:

- Profanity both on and off the golf course
- “Trash talking” and other forms of disrespect
- Any forms of physical intimidation, teasing, or hazing
- Angry outbursts on the course (i.e. yelling, slamming/throwing clubs, damaging the course, etc.)
- Violating team policies
- Violating rules established in the SHS Student Handbook

Transportation:

Since almost all golf team activities take place off school grounds, transportation to and from events will be necessary for some team members. **If golfers are not able to drive or do not have access to a vehicle, they will need to arrange for a ride to the golf course each day.** When making arrangements, golfers need to consider that their rides need to get them to the course on time for practice.

Team members will be allowed to contact their rides prior to the end of practices and meets in order to arrange to be picked up. At least one coach will remain with golfers until they have all been picked up or other arrangements have been made. If transportation is an issue, please feel free to speak with one of the coaches to see if accommodations can be made.

For those team members who are able to drive and have access to a vehicle, please understand that your ability to drive to and from practice is a privilege. Any reckless driving or other misbehavior will result in the loss of the privilege to drive to practice. Additionally, only parents or guardians can drive an athlete home from away meets and a parent/guardian must sign the athlete out with their coach.



Practice Procedures:

Practices are mandatory for all golfers on the team and should be seen as an opportunity to improve, not an inconvenience. All practices will begin promptly at their scheduled time and should end near the appointed time each day. However, due to the unpredictability of the weather and scheduling conflicts at the golf course, practice times are subject to unexpected changes during the year. The coaching staff will make every effort to alert the students to the changes as soon as possible.

Team members should plan to arrive at the course for practice a few minutes early to ensure that they are ready to go by the time practice begins. Players should work on either chipping or putting while they wait for further instructions from their coach. Team members who are late to practice will be penalized and/or required to make up the time they missed at practice.

Every golfer is expected to follow directions and take practice activities seriously. Athletes who do not follow directions or do not put the necessary effort into practice will be given one warning and then will be asked to leave practice, which will count as an unexcused absence.

Players are to approach every practice round as if they are in competition. Scores and stats in practice count toward player rankings and playing time and therefore should be taken seriously.

Players should not leave practice until released by their coach in case there any important instructions or announcements. Any player will be considered unexcused if they leave practice without permission.

Meet & Tournament Procedures:

For home meets, golfers should arrive at Edgebrook as soon as possible in order to warm up. Arriving late may result in being removed from competition that day and possible further suspension by the coaches. Players attending an away meet should bring their clubs and uniform to school and place them in the boiler room at SHS. The bus for away meets will meet behind SHS and all golfers should be dressed and ready to board the bus at the scheduled time. Anyone late for the bus will be left behind and may be suspended one additional meet by the coaches.

On the day of competitions, players not participating will not have practice unless told otherwise by the coaches. However, players are more than welcome to come to the course during home meets to hit on the range and support their teammates who are competing.

As representatives of SHS, competing golfers are expected to be on their best behavior and exhibit integrity and sportsmanship at all times during events. Team members will follow the dress code and other team rules at all times including on the bus, before meets, during meets, and after meets. Any violation of the rules or dress code may result in being removed from the event at any time or suspension from future events.



Determination of Playing Time:

In most events, only 6 golfers will be allowed to compete in the meet. With so many golfers on the team competing for so few spots, some players will not get as much playing time as others. Determining who will participate in each event will be done by the coaches and will be based mainly on scoring averages and other statistics. However, the coaching staff reserves the right to adjust playing time based on non-statistical factors such as past performance, behavior at practice, overall attitude, sportsmanship, and effort.

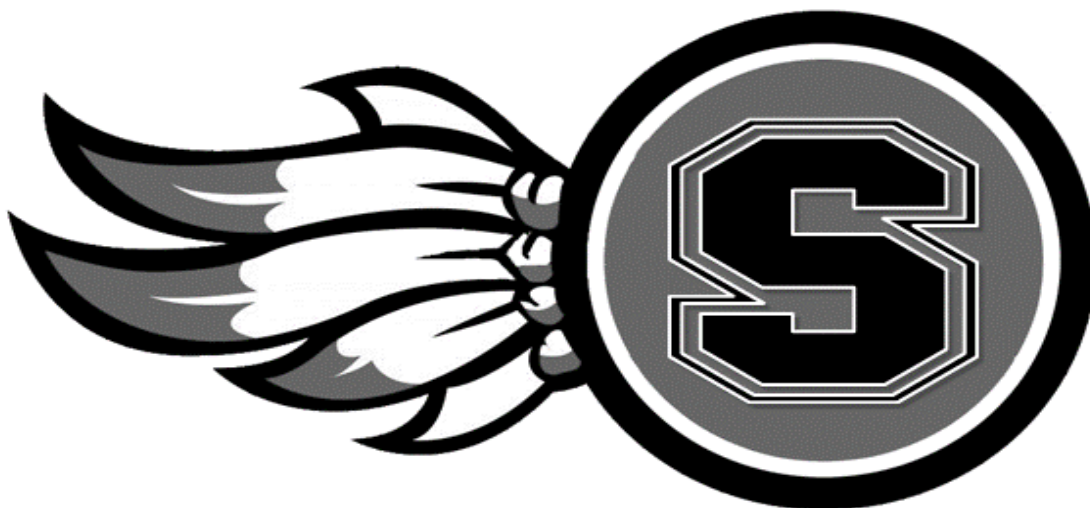
At the **JV level**, every effort will be made by the coaches to ensure every golfer gets a chance to compete in a regular meet during the season. For tournaments, playing time will be based on scoring averages.

At the **varsity level**, all playing time will be earned and there is no guarantee that everyone will participate in a meet during the season. Players will compete on the course, in drills, and at events for spots on the roster. The basic process for determining playing time at the varsity level is the following:

- 1.) Initial player rankings and statistics will be based on the first three days of practice. After that, all scores and statistics from practices and events will be averaged to determine an overall ranking for each golfer.
- 2.) Rosters for all 18 hole tournaments will be made up of the top 6 golfers in the player rankings unless otherwise determined by the coach.
- 3.) For 9 hole meets, the first four spots on the roster will go to the golfers whose scores counted at the previous meet or tournament.
- 4.) The final spots on the 9 hole roster will then be filled by Coach Butler or by using a playoff between the remaining members of the varsity team. The playoff format will be determined by the coaches based on the number of spots at stake and the number of participants in the playoff.
- 5.) If a player misses the playoff because of an excused absence, their qualifying score will equal their season average +4 strokes. Unexcused players are not eligible to compete in the playoff.
- 6.) The coaches have the final say in all roster decisions and reserve the right to alter the roster as needed.

Player & Parent Concerns:

This program wants to create an atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable asking questions or seeking guidance. Any player or parent who has questions or concerns should feel free to contact the coaching staff. If necessary, a meeting can be arranged between the coach, parent(s)/guardian(s), and golfer to discuss these concerns. If the concerns are not fully addressed after this initial meeting, a second meeting can be arranged with the coach and the Athletic Director, Mr. Gipe.



Season Awards:

Members who successfully complete the season will earn awards based on their year in school and their level of competition on the team with the ultimate award being a varsity letter.

- Freshman will receive their numerals, which signify the year in which they will graduate.
- Sophomores completing the season will receive their Sandwich Script as well as their numerals (if they have not previously competed in an extra-curricular activity at SHS).
- Students from all four grades are eligible to earn their varsity letter if they are able to earn **20 or more Indians Cup points** (see below) during the season. However, freshmen and sophomores will only have the opportunity to earn points if they are prompted to the varsity team during the season.

The Indians Cup & Other Varsity Awards:

In addition to competing against other schools in meets and tournaments, members of the boys and girls varsity teams will be competing against their teammates for the honor of hoisting the Indians Cup. Each day, golfers will have the opportunity to earn points from a variety of accomplishments. The winner of the Indians Cup will be the member of the boys varsity team and girls varsity teams who earns the most points during the season. Points for the Indians Cup can be earned in the following ways:

Indians Cup Point Values			
Points from Events:	Pts.	Points from Playing:	Pts.
1.) Making the varsity golf team	5	18.) Score below season average	1
2.) Playing in a match/tournament	2	19.) Score a personal best round (season)	2
3.) Scoring in a match/tournament	3	20.) Round qualifies for the "30-70 Club"	5
4.) Earn a "win" in a 9 hole meet	2	21.) Total putts in a round less than average	1
5.) Medalist in a 9 hole match	5	22.) Avg. 2 or less putts per hole (Round)	2
6.) Top 10 finish in a 18 hole tournament	6	23.) No 3 putt holes (Round)	2
7.) Champion of a 18 hole tournament	10	24.) Round with no penalty strokes	3
8.) Conference Team Champions	5	25.) More than 50% fairway hits in a round	2
9.) All Conference Team selection	8	26.) More than 50% of G.I.R.s in a round	2
10.) Playing in an the IHSA Regional	5	27.) Score a "Sand Save"	1
11.) Qualifying for the IHSA Sectional	10	28.) Team leader in a statistical category	3
12.) Qualifying for the IHSA State Tourney	15	29.) Improve season average by 3 strokes	2
13.) Finish in the Top 20 at State Tourney	18	30.) Improve season average by 5 Strokes	3
14.) Finish in the Top 10 at State Tourney	20		
15.) Individual State Champion	25		
16.) Finish the varsity golf season	5		
17.) Compete in all varsity matches	5		

Other Varsity Awards Include:

Team Captain Most Improved Golfer Sportsmanship All-Conference Academic

Sharp Shooter Award
(Best combined fairway % and G.I.R. %)

Scrambled Egg Award
(Best combined scramble % and sand save %)

Silver Putter Award
(Lowest putting average)