



ST MARY SCHOOL GOLF TEAM

Building character one stroke at a time

Goals of the St Mary School Golf Program

1. To develop a greater appreciation for the game of golf.
2. To develop a better understanding of the rules of golf.
3. To understand and demonstrate proper practice and course etiquette at all times.
4. To improve as an individual.
5. To improve as a TEAM player.
6. To demonstrate good sportsmanship during matches with other teams and during practice with your peers.
7. To develop a strong work ethic and a dedication in the classroom and on the course or range.
8. To accept responsibility for your actions.
9. To prepare for a High School Program.
10. To have FUN!

Player Expectations

1. To maintain high academic standards. You are a student-athlete.
2. Demonstrate good behavior not only at school but in the community.
3. Be at every practice and be on time.
4. Demonstrate respect for the opposing teams, players, coaches, officials and facilities.
5. Give 100% effort, 100% of the time.
6. Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Remember that golf is a game of honesty.
7. Play as a team player.
8. Be positive toward teammates at all times.
9. Listen!
10. Have Fun!



GO SAINTS!



Practices



Practices will be at the Delaware Golf Club. Address: 3329 Columbus Pike, Delaware, OH. Golf Pro, John Miller, will be the team coach. John may decide to engage other Golf Pro's from time to time given the number of golfers and lesson for that week. Any parents who are familiar with golf are encouraged to volunteer. If interested, please contact Christine Garcia at (614) 286-3096. Note: all coaches and volunteers must have completed Protecting God's Children course.

Given the number of interested students, practices will take place on either Tuesday or Thursday from 6 pm – 7 pm. Students will be assigned to one practice day per week. Every golfer will be expected to attend all team practices for their scheduled day. Golfers must let the coach know in advance of any practice they will be unable to attend. Practice attendance will be a factor in determining tournament teams and playing time.

Practice Dates and Times listed below:

Tuesday Practice Days	Thursday Practice Days
If the student is assigned to a Tuesday for their practice days, below is the following practice schedule: <i>September 6, 13, 20, 27</i> <i>October 4, 11, 18, 25</i> Note: All practices will take place from 6 pm – 7 pm	If the student is assigned to a Thursday for their practice days, below is the following practice schedule: <i>September 8, 15, 22, 29</i> <i>October 6, 13, 20, 27</i> Note: All practices will take place from 6 pm – 7 pm

Equipment

Every golfer must have his/her own set of clubs/golf bag and must be able to carry them for 9 holes of golf. Pull carts are ok, but you must rent them on your own or bring your own; the school will not provide pull carts.

The following will not be provided and are required for practices and tournaments, golf balls, tees, ball markers and ball marker repair tools.

The following will not be provided but are also suggestions for your golf bag: rain gear, sunscreen, towel, personal items (lip balm, aspirin, Band-Aids, etc.), gloves, snacks and a drink to stay hydrated.

Uniforms

For practices, all golfers must meet the dress code of the golf course, collared shirts, slacks/shorts, hat and tennis shoes (or golf shoes). School uniform is perfect practice attire. No cargo shorts, denim, sleeveless t-shirts or athletic shorts/pants will be allowed. In addition, American Eagle, Old Navy, Hollister, Abercrombie and similar clothing styles are not considered golf attire.

For tournaments, all golfers will be required to wear the team shirt and hat along with slacks or shorts and tennis shoes (or golf shoes). No cargo shorts, denim, sleeveless t-shirts or athletic shorts/pants will be allowed. The golf fee includes the price of the shirt. Hats will not be included in the golf fee. Players may wear whatever hat they want as long as it abides by St. Mary dress code.

Tournaments

Three tournaments will be played at selected golf courses around the Delaware area with the first tournament being held at the Delaware Golf Course. Tournaments will be held the last three weeks in October. All golfers must participate in each tournament. Understandably, emergencies happen that are unpreventable which might cause the golfer to miss a tournament. Below are the tournament locations, dates, and times:

Tournament Location	Date	Time
Delaware Golf Course 3329 Columbus Pike, Delaware, OH	October 8	2:00 pm
Hidden Valley Golf Course 580 W William St., Delaware, OH 43015	October 15	2:00 pm
Mill Creek Golf Course 7259 Penn Rd., Ostrander, OH 43061	October 29	2:00 pm

Each tournament will consist of 9-holes and golfers will compete as a team of three. All golfers will be expected to remain at the tournament site until all teams have finished and scores are posted. Top 5 golfers and top 5 teams will be recognized at the end of each tournament.

Tournaments will abide by the USGA Rules of Golf. These rules will be taught to the golfers during practice and handed out prior to each tournament.

Parental Involvement

In order to maintain tournament pace of play rules and help golfers understand tournament play, each golfer must have a caddy. Therefore, one parent volunteer is required to caddy per golfer per tournament.

Parents are encouraged to take an active part in their child's golf career. Since golf is ultimately an individual sport, outside support is critical. Your child's development will ultimately be his/her responsibility. Improvement is directly correlated with the amount of practice time involved. Anything you can provide, from lessons and equipment to emotional support and gentle nudges to practice will help your child become a better golfer. During a tournament, though, parents who are not caddying should consider themselves spectators and fans.

Here are some things spectators are not permitted to do (USGA Rule 8):

1. Take and/or give any equipment from any golfer at any time
2. Give any advice to players (how to play a hole, what club to hit, etc.)
3. Make any rulings or give advice on a rule
4. Assist in players keeping score (the golfer's caddy is responsible for keeping his/her own scores)
5. Give food or drink to any player
6. Never touch a player's ball while it is in play

Here are some things parents are permitted to do:

1. Encourage all players
2. Help all players find lost balls
3. Encourage all players
4. Use riding carts to watch golfers play each hole. Spectator riding carts must stay on golf path. Also, golfers can use the spectator ride cart to ride from hole to hole ONLY. While playing a hole, golfers must walk otherwise receive a penalty.

Important Dates

Informational Meeting

Monday, August 1, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: St. Mary's Commons

Want to learn more about the newly formed St. Mary Golf team? Students Grades 3-8 are eligible to play on the team. The St. Mary's Athletic Association (SMAA) will host an open forum to present 2016 Junior Golf Program and Calendar of Events. Questions prior to the meeting, please email or call Christine Garcia at stmarygolf@yahoo.com or (614)286-3096.

Kick-off Meeting and Equipment Exchange

Monday, August 29, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: St. Mary's Commons

During this meeting, we will cover the 2016 St Mary Golf Team calendar and set expectations with regards to required paperwork, practice/tournament guidelines and other aspects of the program. One parent from each golfer planning to participate on the 2016 St. Mary Golf Team must attend. Activities/Junior Information Meeting and a snack/treat will be set up to welcome our golfers and to keep them occupied during our adults only, meeting.

We will also be running an Equipment Exchange. This will give everyone a chance to ensuring your child has the proper equipment. The SMAA has been collecting equipment throughout the summer but cannot guarantee that we have a full set of personal equipment for every player, meaning players may need to share equipment. If children have their own set of personal clubs, it is required to use those for practice and tournaments. Also, if you have any used equipment you would like to sell or swap please bring that as well. Families are welcome to buy, barter or trade equipment amongst themselves (so bring cash).

Caddy Meeting

Tuesday, October 4, -OR- Thursday, October 6, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: Delaware Golf Course (during student practice time)

Never golfed but will be a caddy! No worries, we are here to help. This mandatory session is for both experience and non-experienced caddies to discuss the rules and regulations that caddies must adhere to during a golf tournament. By the end of the meeting, you will be a pro-caddy prepared to help your golfer successfully participate in tournament play and avoid penalties.

Important Dates, continued

Tuesday Practice Days (only applies to golfers assigned to Tuesday practice days)

September 6, 13, 20, 27

October 4, 11, 18, 25

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: Delaware Golf Course

Thursday Practice Days (only applies to golfers assigned to Thursday practice days)

September 8, 15, 22, 29

October 6, 13, 20, 27

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: Delaware Golf Course

Tournaments

October 8

Time: 2:00 pm

*Location: Delaware Golf
Course*

October 15

Time: 2:00 pm

*Location: Hidden Valley Golf
Course*

October 29

Time: 2:00 pm

*Location: Mill Creek Golf
Course*

End of Season Banquet

November 13

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Location: Delaware Golf Course

Appendix



Golf Definitions

Addressing the Ball A player has “addressed the ball” when they have taken their stance and have also grounded their club.

Approach Shot The stroke to reach the putting green.

Away The ball farthest from the hole. A ball that is away is to be played first.

Birdie 1 stroke under the par for the hole.

Bogey 1 stroke over par for the hole.

Bunker A hazard like a sand trap or the like.

Divot A piece of sod cut by a player’s club. Always replace your divots.

Eagle 2 Strokes under par for the hole.

Fore A loud warning cry to any person in the way of play.

Handicap Strokes given to equalize playing ability.

Lie The situation or placement of the ball, good or bad, when it stops.

Lost Ball A ball that is not found or identified as theirs by a player within 5 minutes after the search begins.

Par The score that an expert golfer would be expected to make for a given hole, always allowing 2 strokes on the putting green.

Golf Etiquette

The game of golf has some unwritten rules of etiquette that define acceptable behavior.

On The Tee

- Stand still and remain quiet while another player is executing a shot.
- Stay out of the peripheral vision of another golfer when they are swinging.
- Take one or two practice swings only.
- Avoid lost balls by following their flight to a conclusion.
- If someone else is playing from the tee, do not tee your ball until they have played.

On The Green

- The first person on the green should get the flagstick.
- Never run on the putting green.
- Do not slide or drag your feet on the green.
- Avoid standing directly behind the ball or behind the hole when a golfer is playing or preparing to play a shot.
- Never step on another player's direct putting line to the hole.
- Always be ready to putt when it is your turn.
- Repair your ball mark and any others you see.
- Keep all equipment off the putting green.
- Carefully place the flagstick on the green or to the side of the green. A dropped or tossed flagstick damages the green.
- Before leaving the green, use your putterhead to tamp down any spike marks you've made, but only after all golfers in your group have holed out.
- When all players are finished on the green, replace the flagstick carefully.
- Leave the green immediately. Do not record your score until you are at the next tee.

Other

- The person farthest from the hole plays first.
- Clean your clubs regularly.
- Always be ready to play your ball when it is your turn.
- When you are playing slowly or looking for a lost ball, ask the group behind you to play through, so you don't slow everyone down.
- Replace all divots.
- Identify your ball with a distinctive marking.
- Avoid slow play. Keep up with the group in front of you.
- Yell "Fore!" if you are endangering others.

- If you hear “Fore!” cover your head, DO NOT RUN.
- In golf you have one shot, NOT MULLIGANS.
- Rake bunkers.
- Never place your clubs in a bunker.
- Don’t climb the high face of the bunker. Exit from the lower side or back.
- Never throw a club.
- Make sure that no one is near you when you swing your club, and no one is ahead of you where your shot might hit them.
- Congratulate playing companions on a shot well executed.
- Always shake hands with your opponent at the end of the round.
- Take practice swings only when there is no chance of disturbing another golfer.
- Play quickly. Walk quickly to your ball and play your shot without delay.
- Never hit into the group ahead. If you accidentally hit your ball into another group yell, “Fore!” as loudly as you can. Try to catch up to the group ahead. Explain and apologize, without interfering with their play.
- If you find an extra club or any personal item on the golf course, return it to the golf shop so that it may be claimed.
- No horseplay.
- No displays of temper or pouting. Remember, your next shot could be your best shot.
- Don’t talk loudly or yell, unless you’re shouting, “Fore!”
- Don’t litter.
- “Please” and “Thank You” are magic words on the golf course.
- Don’t ask for advice or give advice.

Golf Rules To Remember

Here is a list of a few golf rules that need to be followed and enforced while playing the game.

- The playing of more than one ball is prohibited.
- The holes of the course must be played in order (1 through 9 or 10 through 18)
- In stroke play, the competitor with the lowest total score for the round is the winner.
- You must play the ball into the hole before starting the next hole. No “gimmies”!
- You may carry no more than 14 clubs.
- Put an identifying mark on your ball. You need to make sure you play your own ball.
- You may not hit a practice shot during the play of a hole, or from any hazard.
- The player who has the lowest score on a hole has the right to play first on the next hole. This is called having “honor”. If you all had the same score, the player who hit first on the previous tee goes first.
- You must tee your ball between the tee-markers and no more than two club lengths behind the tee-markers on your first stroke on each hole.
- You must play your ball as it lies. You may not move it to a better spot.
- You may not improve your lie by pressing down with your club behind the ball.
- You may not improve the area of your intended swing or line of play by bending or breaking anything growing, such as tree limbs, weeds, etc.
- In a hazard, you may not touch the sand, ground, or water with the club before or during your backswing.
- Always watch your partner’s ball flight. You will always need to know where your ball lands. Mark it both vertically and horizontally.
- When your ball is on the putting green, you may brush away leaves and loose impediments on your line of putt with your hand or club, not with your cap or towel.
- Always mark your ball, on the putting green, by putting a small coin or marker behind it when you want to get in out of another player’s way.
- If your ball is off the green, there is no penalty if you play and your ball strikes the flagstick, provided no one is holding the flag.
- If your ball is on the green, do not putt with the flagstick in the hole. Ask another player to hold the flag when you putt your ball. If you hit the flag when it is in the hole, you must add 2 penalty strokes to your score for that hole.
- A ball is lost if it is not found within 5 minutes after you first begin to search.
- If your ball is lost or out of bounds, you must add a penalty stroke to your score and play another ball from where you placed you’re last shot.
- The person whose ball is farthest from the hole shoots first.
- If you hit your ball out of bounds (OB), you must play a second ball from the original spot. You incur a 1 stroke penalty. Only on an OB ball may you hit a provisional ball.

St. Mary's Golf FAQs

1. **How many students make the team?** There are no try outs for the team. Any St. Mary student interest in playing can join the team. The goal of the team is for kids to have fun and learn how to play the game of golf.
2. **How do tournaments work?** All players play in the tournaments. While we will recognize the top 5 individual scores at the end of each tournament along with the top 5 teams, the tournaments will be team focuses with three golfers per team. All players will play 9-holes and all player scores will count toward the team score. Teams will be broken up based on various skill level by the coach so that one team does not contain 3 players who have played golf in the past. All teams will be broken up so each team has an equivalent skill level.
3. **What does the schedule look like?** There will be one practice per week. Each golfer will be assigned to either a Tuesday or Thursday practice time. There will be three tournaments at the end of the season in October. The one day a week practice will still be held during tournament weeks to ensure adequate preparation time for each golfer.
4. **When and where do we practice?** Each player will practice one day a week at the Delaware Golf Course, Address: 3329 Columbus Pike, Delaware, OH with Golf Pro, John Miller. Practices will from 6:00-7:00 pm and players must provide their own ride to and from practices.
5. **What would be a good golf score for middle school golfers?** For a 9-hole course, the best players will shoot in the low to high 40's, but a score in the low 50's is also very good. Regardless, scores can vary depending on skill level. The intent is to have fun and learn the game of golf, and not to see who gets the best score!
6. **What do the players do when they are not at practice or playing in a tournament?** When a player is not playing at a scheduled practice or in a tournament for that day, it is always encourage to practice on their own at a local course or just in their back yards (with foam golf balls of course). Finding a teammate to play a round with (match play) is a great way to practice! Many golfers will also hit the tournament course a few days before the actually tournament to get practice time playing on that particular course. If you choose to do so, please let the course know you are with St. Mary's Golf Team and will be playing in the tournament that week at their course as they MAY give you a discounted rate.
7. **What equipment do I need?** Every player needs to have their own set of clubs with their own golf bag. You should also have at least 10 golf balls, tees, ball markers, and divot repair tool. A pull cart is allowed and each player can bring their own or rent one at the course if desired, but must be paid for by the player.

What Are Some Things You Can Do Off-Season?

- Work Out! You need to be able to walk and carry your bag and clubs for 9 holes. The more endurance you have, the more you can concentrate on your game instead catching your breath.
- Read About Golf! Go online or the bookstore to get reading materials on the game. Read about techniques, rules, regulations, practice drills, stories, etc.
- Watch Golf Videos! There are a lot of videos to help you with your game and help you work on your swing. YouTube!
- Take Lessons! You get a lot more out of individual lessons than group lessons. You need to determine if you are ready for private lessons, but any lesson is better than no lesson.
- PLAY GOLF!!! Get out and play. Go with a partner, play with mom and dad, or just hit the links by yourself. The best way to become a better golfer is to play golf. Decide what part of the game you need to work on the most and practice until you get it right.

Things to do around town (Note – these are not required to be part of the St. Mary Golf Team but are optional activities to do for fun):

- Little Brown Jug Golf Tournament - held in September on the Hidden Valley Golf Course. Contact the course to register and play in the tournament. Minimal fee to play applies.
- Mill Creek – Kids play free every Saturday evening with a paying adult from June-August. Also, a Summer Junior membership is only \$250. Kids can call, make a tee time with their buddies, play 9 holes and then parents can pick them up after the round of golf. Many kid's teams take advantage of this opportunity to practice together in the off-season.
- Memorial Clubhouse Kids – sign up for free online and get many perks such as getting FREE tickets to the Memorial Tournament Wednesday practice session.