

# **PROPOSAL: TO ADD GIRLS AND BOYS GOLF AS A GMS SPORT**

GMS Athletic Director, Darin Pardoe

## **Why add golf?:**

- \*Increase involvement in school activities, strong involvement in extracurricular activities leads to strong academic performance and higher confidence in self
- \*Relatively cheap financial burden on the district
- \*Short season
- \*GMS is what I call the testing grounds for high school, and I see golf providing our students another opportunity to test their options as they get ready to move to the high school
- \*Based on survey results there is currently interest from our student population for the sport

## **Facts:**

- \*Girls and Boys golf is an IESA sport (we would offer both girls and boys at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are combined into one team for golf)
- \*There is no beginning to the season – golfers can play anytime they choose so IESA does not mandate a beginning date
- \*Geneseo Country Club has agreed to allow GMS use of their golf course free of charge 3X per week
- \*HS Golf Coach John Murray has agreed to allow GMS access to the GCC course while they are practicing
- \*Season runs until Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (IESA State Golf tournament date)
- \*\$40 per golfer registration fees for IESA State series, non-refundable up to 6 per gender and submitted to IESA by June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019
- \*Each school may enter up to 6 participants per gender for Sectional golf tournament
- \*Sectional entry fees for each participant – in 2018 the boys fees ranged from \$14 - \$21; girls fees ranged from \$5 - \$17

## **Additional information:**

- \*Golfer registration to IESA is non-refundable and must occur by June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- \*How many golfers will participate? See results from student and parent feedback below
- \*2 coaches – girls and boys sectional tournaments are on the same day in different venues
- \*Summer practice – parents will need to provide transportation for their son or daughter to practice
- \*Players need to provide all of their own equipment
- \*Athletics budget (or golf boosters) would pay for a shirt of some kind for meets
- \*Players are not required to participate in meets during the regular season in order to qualify for Sectionals (in Wrestling a wrestler must have at least 8 matches to participate in the state series, and in Track and Cross country the school must have 3 regular season meets for participants to be eligible for the state series); the few schools that I have been in contact with

do not have meets during the season and instead just take whatever number of kids to sectionals

\*GMS coaches and Coach Murray will need to be in continuous contact with each other regarding practice plans and meets so there are no conflicts with practice space at the course

\*I would recommend to coaches we start the first week in August

\*Golfers would NOT be allowed to join another fall sport after golf is completed

\*Golfers will need to have their own transportation to the course in the summer when practice starts as well as during the school year once school has started; this is already being done at the high school with golf, baseball, and softball.

### **What is needed:**

\*2 coaches; I would propose a 4% HC stipend and a 2% AC stipend

\*Budget of \$2,900, broken down with the following costs:

HCoach	\$1,421
ACoach	710.50
IESA Registration (12 golfers)	480
IESA Sectional fees (\$20 estimate)^	240

^ = as was noted on page 1, sectional course fees vary widely among courses that players play, so this is viewed as a ceiling on these costs

### **Research results:**

I had each teacher in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade have their students take a survey regarding their future interest in middle school golf. Of those who responded (there were 360 responses) 95 said they were interested in playing middle school golf if it were offered.

However, there were several important pieces of information that I felt were important for parents to know to help them decide if having their son or daughter playing middle school golf would be feasible. They are as follows:

\*Each player must have all of his or her own equipment (golf clubs, golf bag, golf shoes, golf balls, golf tees, golf gloves, range finders, etc.)

\*Golf practice would begin the first of August (before school starts). Therefore, transportation to the golf course (and back home from the course after practice) on practice days will be a parent or guardian's responsibility. Also, parents and guardians will be responsible for taking their son or daughter to practice on school days (and picking them up) as there will NOT be any school transportation to or from the golf course

\*Golf practice will only occur approximately 3 times per week

\*Any individual who plays golf may not go out for another fall sport once the golf season is over. The State Golf tournament is usually held the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in September so the season is pretty quick

\*There are a limited number of players that each school can enter into the IESA State Golf series. If we have more golfers out for golf than what we are allotted to enter for the state series the coaches will determine (based on golf ability and other factors) which players will compete

\*Just like all other sports, your son or daughter must stay eligible to be able to compete

After sending out that survey to the parents of 95 students I received 31 responses. From those 31 responses 22 parents said that their son or daughter is interested in playing middle school golf if it were offered next year, and would be able to meet all of the above requirements.

Here is the breakdown of those that responded that they are interested in playing golf:

6<sup>th</sup> grade boys – 10

7<sup>th</sup> grade boys – 1

6<sup>th</sup> grade girls – 6

7<sup>th</sup> grade girls - 5

If golf were approved there is still much to be done. Besides the district paying for the IESA fees I would need to contact Geneseo Country Club, Coach Murray, parents again to let them know golf has been approved, possible schools that we could have a meet with *if* it is decided a meet is feasible, and we would need to immediately start looking for two coaches. There will be other things that come up, but that is a starting point for what will come next in this process.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Pardoe

GMS Athletic Director

[dpardoe@geneseoschools.org](mailto:dpardoe@geneseoschools.org)