



**St. Xavier High School  
2016 Golf Team**

Our Championship Environment

*WE are a TEAM where champions at golf and champions at life are inevitable!*

*Our purpose is to discover with one another and for one another what is POSSIBLE when WE prepare for our opportunities and when WE are our best selves for our TEAM every day.*

GCL Champions: 1980, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89  
1991, 92, 93, 94, 96  
2000, 01, 02, 04, 05, 06, 07, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16

Cincinnati-West Sectional Champions: 1980, 84  
1991, 92, 93, 95, 96  
2001, 02, 05, 07, 08, 09  
2010, 11, 13, 15, 16

Southwest District Champions: 1980, 81, 85  
1991, 92, 93  
2001, 04, 05, 09, 13, 14, 15

Ohio State Championship Appearances- 27 times since 1980  
State Runner Ups: 1986, 1992, 2001, 2009  
State Champions: 1957, 1995, 2008, 2015, 2016  
3<sup>rd</sup> in State since 2000 2004, 05, 06, 13

## **ST. XAVIER GOLF TEAM GENERAL INFORMATION AND FAQs**

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### **Overview:**

As far as we know, the St. Xavier Golf Team is the largest high school team in the state of Ohio and possibly the country. For the past 14 seasons the total team has averaged at least 38 players with 6-8 "squads" of JV and Varsity players. Even with that many players, there is still a very highly competitive tryout and many who try out will not make the team. Generally, as many as 75 hopefuls compete at tryouts. Our firm target level for the team going will be smaller than recent years with 5 to 6 squads of 6 players each for a target range of 32-38 players where roughly 18 are on Varsity and 18 are on JV with approximately 7-9 athletes per grade level.

The St. Xavier Varsity Golf Team perennially ranks as a top team in Cincinnati and the state of Ohio. Since 1980, St. Xavier Golf has won 26 GCL championships, 18 West Sectional Championships, 13 Southwest Ohio District Championships, 29 appearances at the State Championship since 1980 with 4 State Runner Ups, 4 State Championships overall, and an uncountable number of other match and tournament victories. The JV team has an equally distinguished record of GCL Championships and tournament victories.

In the past, the JV and Varsity teams were two distinct programs, but over the last 14 years we think of ourselves as one team, with the same goals, and we do many team oriented events together. There is still a distinction between JV and Varsity athletes and the matches that are played. Our projected coaching staff for the 2017 season includes: Head Coach Alex Kepley '85 (8th year Head Coach, 14<sup>th</sup> year overall coaching St. X Golf, St. X Alum and 3yr Varsity Golfer), Michele Kallick (12 years), Randy Neufarth (13 years), Ken Schon (7 years), Bob Murphy (6 years), Jeff Feldkamp '85 (5 years), and Matt Weinberger '09 (5 years), and Alex Nikias (4 years).

### **Team Tryouts and Requirements:**

Our priorities are in line with all St. Xavier Sports in that they are as follows: God and Family, Academics, and Golf. Our motto is BYBT (Be Your Best Today). During the season which officially begins on August 1st and ends with the State Championship in late October, all team practices, conditionings, workouts, and events require attendance. During the season, the State rules dictate that an athlete on the golf team may not play in an individual tournament, outing, or event as that will disqualify them from future team events for that season.

While not required to make the team, most golfers who tryout are strongly encouraged over the spring and summer to play as many competitive tournament rounds as possible in addition to regular play, practice, and lessons with their professional teacher of choice. We are blessed with 2 professionals on our coaching staff, very good amateur coaches who are available to help the athlete with fundamentals, course management and strategy, and mental preparation, and we have a resident sports psychologist. If we know a player works with a particular teacher, we will not interfere with that relationship.

Candidates new to St. Xavier or not formerly on the team must request a tryout invitation in advance in writing (email). You cannot just show up to tryouts. All required forms like the OHSAA medical (found on the schools website at [www.stxavier.org](http://www.stxavier.org) or [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), tournament log, contact form, driving/riding permission form must be in 1 week before tryouts. An email acknowledgement will be sent out at least 3 days in advance along with tee times to applicants once we have received all your documents. Tryouts will be held August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016. There is also a physical conditioning/fitness element of tryouts with a focus physical conditioning drills, testing flexibility, benchmarking, and rules knowledge. Shortly after tryouts, we have Meet the Team Night for players and parents where we will distribute shirts, bags, have team pictures, etc. On August 1, all JV and Varsity candidates will play 18 holes with JV

candidates from the white or regular mens tees and varsity candidates from the back most available tees. The same process will occur on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Decisions may be made after the first 18 for JV candidates and final decisions after 36 holes have been played. Varsity decisions will be made after all 36 holes have been played. Players are responsible for paying the reduced junior greens fees for all tryout rounds. Players will also be responsible to pay for or supply their own beverages, snacks and food. All required forms (OHSAA Medical and others) must be submitted prior to being allowed to tryout. Tryouts will be played at Miami Whitewater Forest on August 1 and Glenview Golf Club on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is highly recommended that you should play both of these courses a few times prior to tryouts.

## **How Matches Are Played, Scored, and Assigned to Players**

In high school matches, depending on the event, either 5 or 6 players play medal play and the 4 lowest scores are used for your team's total. In the event of a tie, the 5<sup>th</sup> score is used and if still tied then the 6<sup>th</sup> score is used. In the unlikely event the match is still tied then the top 4 scorers play in a playoff where all four scores count until the tie is broken.

Our schedule for this year has a tremendous number of 9 hole and 18 hole matches and tournaments at both the JV and Varsity level. On any given day, we may have multiple events occurring at the JV and Varsity level. We try to field a competitive team for each match which means in some cases the best, lowest scoring players will not play in a match if it is deemed that we would unreasonably beat a competitor. It is our goal to get every deserving player in at least one scored event per week whether that is a match or intrasquad event. With as many players as we anticipate however, that may not be always possible. Generally, the top 3 players from any match will be eligible for the next match at their level and the lower 2 or 3 scorers may sit out the next eligible event. It goes without saying that behavior on and off the course, integrity, attitude, honor, attendance at required events, and proper school performance are prerequisites for being considered for any match.

## **FAQS      Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How many people make the Varsity or JV Teams?**

The total number varies year to year based on the talent level of incoming candidates. We are however committed to keeping a large team relative to other schools. Most large schools in Ohio have 12 on Varsity and 12 on JV. There is a fine line between the right number and too many. If we have too many players then playing time may be dramatically reduced for each person which in turn isn't beneficial for keeping our athletes in tournament ready form. We expect that the total team will be in a range of 32-38 with that roughly split between varsity and JV.

### **How many freshmen make the team?**

Again, we do not set a number or quota by class. Some years if the incoming freshman class is particularly strong and has competitive golf experience, then we will take more than usual, however some years there may not be very many experienced golfers so the number is lower. The typical range is 6-9.

### **Squad 1-3 Varsity and Squad 1-3 JV concept**

Over the past few years, we have tried to create better team unity, coach continuity, and clearly known scheduling for the full season by dividing up the team members into Squad 1, 2, and 3. On the schedule, you will see events and matches labeled 1-3. Your initial position on the team will be based on tryout scores, past years on the team performance, and summer individual performance. There is fluid movement opportunities with the squads such that if you start on Squad 3 and play well and are basically #1 on Squad 3, you will get opportunities on Squad 2. Similarly, if you are struggling on Squad 2 and are the 6<sup>th</sup> man, then you may be asked to play in some Squad 3 events. Sometimes due to a large number of high level events on a given day, we may split up Squad 1 and 2 to make two nearly equal squads to allow

us to do as well as we can in both events. So, at Meet the Team Night when the final schedule is presented, each player will have a good idea of what days and events they will be playing throughout the season. As in 2016, the OHSAA allows 20 matches maximum per player.

### **How Many Events/Matches will I get to play if I make the team?**

State maximum guidelines allow a player to play 20 events total not counting Sectionals, Districts, and the State Tournament. Our belief is that if you make the team, you will play and play a lot! You will not be on the bench like in other sports. Generally speaking, all Varsity Players will be asked or scheduled to play a minimum of 15 events and many close to 20. Obviously, if there are academic, illnesses, injuries, or other family events/emergencies that prevent you from playing, then your match count may be lower. All JV players typically get a minimum of 12 events with many also approaching 20 matches.

### **What score is needed to make the JV team?**

Last year our tryouts were at Weatherwax Golf Course and JV players played 36 holes from the white tees. The lowest JV score qualifier had an average below 80 for both days. The higher end scores were right around 88 per day. If an underclassman shoots very low scores, they may have the opportunity for Varsity or Hybrid Status (mostly JV with some opportunities for Varsity Matches). Given that the team will be a bit smaller this year vs. last year, I expect the scoring requirements will be lower than last year. Your best bet is to play, practice, and get some tournament experience this summer. Further, since we are at new course venues this year, we do not have benchmarks on past scoring.

### **I am really good and have played lots of tournaments, so even though I am only a freshman /sophomore can I tryout for Varsity?**

If an underclassman shoots a score commensurate with top varsity players, then that underclassmen will be asked to play with the varsity from the back most tees for their second round. If the underclassman is still keeping up with top players on varsity, (top 7 or 8) then he will be considered for the Varsity Squad. Suffice to say that if an underclassman gets invited to play a round with Varsity, then he has already made the JV team. We have a very talented and large group of juniors and seniors for 2017, so the chances of an underclassmen having an option to earn a varsity spot is reduced.

This can be difficult to understand as there is a perceived prestige associated with making Varsity as an underclassman, but making Varsity is not always in the best interest of a freshman, sophomore, or the golf team. As such, we have typically held higher standards for an underclassman to make varsity. Often an underclassman on Varsity gets limited playing time and doesn't get to build his confidence and the opportunities to develop his leadership qualities, whereas if on JV he would be getting a lot of playing time in #1 or #2 spot. Each decision ultimately will be made with the best interest of the player in mind.

### **How are cuts made?**

For JV, a cut may be made for some people after the first 18 based completely on score, etiquette, or improper behavior. If we have no other information about your golf capabilities other than your first 18 hole score and assuming your score is well above what we perceive the 36 hole cut line will be, then it is probably in both your interest and the team's interest to let you go after 18. Further cuts are made after the 36 holes of tryouts. There may be some subjectivity in this cut based on other information that we have regarding your golf accomplishments and capabilities. We understand how tough it is to be cut especially if it may seem that you were only a shot or two away from making the team and we are very sympathetic to your situation. Realistically though, if you are one of the last people to make the team your playing time in matches will be limited unless future performances improve.

St. X does have an intramural golf squad which is a lot of fun and often guys who do not make the team play intramural golf for a year and then try out the following year and make the Golf Team.

### **If I get cut, can I try out next year?**

Absolutely! We have great stories about young men cut their freshman year and then become the star by their senior year. Often in the off season we have voluntary winter workouts, conditioning, weightlifting,

and open nets for hitting golf balls in the gym. Guys who were cut but are committed to the program are strongly encouraged to partake in these non-required, off season activities as it gives us a better chance to get to know you and help you develop your game.

**So should I try out or not this year?**

Ultimately this is a decision for you and your parents to review and consider. We have limited tee times available at tryouts, so it is possibly that we will not have enough tee times for everyone who wants to tryout. You should be honest with yourself with your answers to the following: Have you played at least 20 rounds this season of 18 holes on a regulation course carrying your own clubs? Do you have a strong passion for golf and the desire to improve? Have you ever played in an individual tournament of any type? Have you read the USGA rule book and have a general understanding of the game, etiquette, proper pace of play, and rules? Is your best ever score with accurate scorekeeping (no gimmes, playing ob and hazards appropriately) on a full-fledged regulation course under 90? If you answer yes to all, then you should probably try out, but if you answer no to several of these, then maybe you need to wait another year and try intramural golf your freshman year.