

TA Golf Information

- If you are interested in playing golf at Turner Ashby in the fall of 2023, **please contact Coach Hutchinson (chutchinson@rockingham.k12.va.us) to indicate your interest. Please provide contact information (including names and phone #s) for both the athlete and at least one parent.**
 - Tryouts will be held the first few days of practice in late July and early August. You will play a few rounds of golf and spend some time on the practice range and putting green during those days. Some of our stronger varsity golfers usually shoot rounds in the 60s-80s, but younger players that show the potential and work ethic to improve are not expected to be able to score as well as the varsity players in order to make the junior varsity team. We will be looking to fill a varsity roster of around 6-8 players (we can only play 6 players per tournament) and reserve the other spots for younger players that still have time to develop within our JV program. We normally work with a total roster (varsity plus JV) of around 12-14 players.
 - A high school golf program provides the opportunity to compete; ***it is not designed to teach you how to play the game.*** Players are expected to be talented and knowledgeable enough to compete in tournaments without constant supervision.
 - Lakeview Golf Course allows us to play free of charge during matches and official team practices. You must provide your own transportation to the golf course. Once classes start in late August we will run a small bus out to practice after school for 9th-12th graders that need a ride.
 - Varsity and JV players will often practice together. Before classes begin, most of those practices will start in the morning. When we do operate separately, JV players will often have late afternoon/early evening practices to accommodate our JV coach's work schedule. After classes start, all practices will be after school.
 - Practices begin during the last full week in July (July 24). Please plan summer activities knowing that you need to be available by the end of July. Varsity matches begin July 31, so it is important that players show up in good form when the season begins. The season continues through mid-September with players that advance to Regionals competing in late September and early October.
 - Make sure that you have a valid physical turned in to the TA office by mid-July. Physicals completed after May 1, 2023 are valid for the 2023-24 school year for all sports.
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Things to Do During the Summer:

1. **Play as much as you can.** Find friends that also like to play that will encourage you to work on your game, push you to get better, and keep it fun. Become familiar with as many local courses on our high school schedule as possible--

Likely JV match courses...

- a. TA plays at Lakeview
- b. HHS plays at Heritage Oaks
- c. BHS plays at Shenvalee
- d. SHS and East Rock play at Woodstone Meadows (Massanutten)

Other courses that will be on our varsity schedule during most years...

- e. RCHS plays at Lexington CC
 - f. William Monroe plays at Greene Hills
 - g. FDHS plays at Ironwood CC
2. **Get used to competition.** Put yourself in tournament settings as much as possible. For those interested in junior golf tournaments there are many options, including some entry-level/low pressure events.
- a. For those that are relatively new to competition or would prefer a local, low-pressure setting:
 - i. **Game Changers Junior Golf Tour:** This could be the ideal setting for someone who is looking for a low-cost, no commitment situation. There is a \$50 initiation fee, and each event is only \$10-20. It is run by the First Tee program. Very well run for both the beginner and more advanced player. (<https://firstteeshenandoahvalley.org>)
 - ii. **Lakeview Junior Golf Tour:** This a very good tour for someone who prefers a low-pressure situation to get used to a tournament setting. (<https://rogersgolf.net/junior-resource-center/>)
3. **Stay in good shape:** Golf requires a lot more physical conditioning than most people realize. Riding in a cart occasionally is OK, but don't get too used to it. You need to be used to walking golf courses and carrying/pushing your own bag. Make sure your body is ready for quite a few hours each day in the August heat.
4. **Instruction:** For those interesting in personalized or group lessons/instructions, there are a variety of local options:
- a. First Tee of the Shenandoah Valley--they have many programs to suit different levels of ability (<https://firstteeshenandoahvalley.org>)
 - b. John Rogers at Lakeview Golf Course is an excellent teacher and also coaches local college players (<https://rogersgolf.net>)
 - c. The teaching pros at Mulligan's Golf Center have worked with some of the best high school and college players in the area (<http://www.mulligans-golf.com/lessons/>)

Important Dates:

*Physical must be completed after May 1 and on file at TA by mid-July

Late July: Player/Parent Meeting (specifics TBA)

Last week of July: Practice/Tryouts (specifics TBA)

July 31: first varsity match

August 23: 1st day of classes

Mid-September: regular season ends

Late September: Regionals