

2016 Ernie Els #GameON Autism™ Golf Program

FAQ's for Parents



– Does my child have to have an autism diagnosis to participate?

Yes, your child must have an autism diagnosis to participate in the 2016 Ernie Els #GameON Autism™ Golf Program.

– Is there an age requirement for the program?

Participants should be at least 6 years old. Students will be divided into small groups during each golf session, and these groupings will largely be determined based on the age and ability of each student.

– Is there a dress code for the program?

#GameON Autism Golf Program participants should wear comfortable golf or sports attire to each golf session. Understanding that some participants may have sensory issues with clothing, participants may wear T-shirts, gym shorts, or proper golf attire. There is simply a no denim/jean policy.

– Does my child need to bring golf clubs?

All golf equipment will be provided for your child throughout the course of this program by the partnering golf organization. However, your child is welcome to bring his/her own golf equipment if they wish to do so.

– Is this a drop-off program?

We strongly prefer parents or an aide stay on site, at the golf facility, for the entirety of each golf session (1 hour). If a parent or aide must leave for any duration, we require that that person inform the lead golf instructor and leave their contact information in case of emergency. However, if your child requires 1:1 assistance, an adult is required to stay with him/her at all times.

– Can I come onto the driving range or golf course with my child?

Yes, parents are welcome to stay alongside their child/children during golf activities. However, we ask that parents abide by all safety rules which are explained at the beginning of every #GameON Autism Golf session.

– If my child is non-verbal, can he/she still participate?

Yes! If your child is non-verbal or has limited speech and uses his/her own communication device, please bring it and familiarize the golf instructor with that tool. Also, there will be visual supports and a commenting board at every #GameON Autism Golf session that participants will have access to.

– What if my child needs to take breaks?

Participants are allowed to take breaks at any time, and there is a designated break station where students can rest and hydrate. However, if a participant must leave their group to take a break or use the bathroom, they must inform their instructor.

– **Are typical siblings allowed to participate?**

Typical siblings may **not** actively participate in golf sessions but are welcome to stay at the golf facility to support their participatory sibling(s) with ASD.

– **What is the cost to participate?**

There is a one time \$15.00 registration fee which is the only cost participants will incur as this Program is still in a pilot phase for year 2. Parents can pay online or bring a check onsite to the first golf session.

– **Is there a policy for inclement weather?**

The lead golf instructor will inform the golf facility of golf session cancellations due to weather. Parents should call the golf facility if they have concerns about inclement weather. Only 1 cancelled/rainout session will be replaced for this program.

– **What happens if my child misses a golf session?**

The #GameON Autism™ Golf Program consists of 12 golf sessions with specialized curriculum that will be offered to select pilot sites. If your child misses a session, they will not be able to make up that golf session as these sessions do not “roll over”.

– **How is the safety of my child ensured?**

The golf organization that the Ernie Els #GameON Autism™ Golf Program partners with is insured under its own organization’s policy. The safety of your child is our number one priority. Our golf instructors receive specialized training from a member of the Els for Autism staff on how to best instruct your child with ASD. Golf instructors must abide by strict rules and participants must abide by rules to ensure their own safety and the safety of our instructors, parents, aides, golf course staff and other golfers at the facility. Lesson plans and station set-ups have been specially designed so that safety is the first priority of our program. It is extremely important that parents stay onsite at the golf facility for the duration of every golf session and nearby to assist in ensuring their child’s safety, especially for those children with a history of elopement.