

Harada, Patricia

Subject: FW: El Segundo Girls Golf - Varsity and Junior Varsity
Attachments: image001.png

From: Steven Gebhart <sgebhart@esUSD.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 11:58 AM
To: Daniel Slack <slackm@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: James Venezia <james.venezia@topgolf.com>; Boyles, Drew (Mayor) <dboyles@elsegundo.org>; Charley Finney <bigfindaddy@gmail.com>; Chris Pimentel <pimentelca@hotmail.com>; Christa Caban <christa.caban@gmail.com>; Cindy Shadel <cindy@cindyshadel.com>; David March <dmarch@esUSD.net>; Diane Harris <theatreeducationarts@gmail.com>; Edward Chang <edward.chang@topgolf.com>; Forrest Davis <forrest176davis@gmail.com>; Genifer Gray <genifer.gray@topgolf.com>; Goran Dasilva <goran.dasilva@gmail.com>; James Vye <jvye@toyotasportsperformancecenter.com>; Josh Alpert <josh@joshgolf.com>; Julia Straszewski <jstraszewski@esUSD.net>; KVS <kevefx@gmail.com>; Karen McAndrews <kkmccandrews@yahoo.com>; Kevin Johnson <kevin.johnson2@ferguson.com>; Kristen Patterson <krisbake321@hotmail.com>; Leslie Walden <lawalden@aol.com>; Marisa Janicek <mjanicek@esUSD.net>; Melissa Moore <mmoore@esUSD.net>; Patricia Guzman <pguzman@esUSD.net>; Raj Patel <rajinsf@yahoo.com>; Robert Sowder <robninsyry4@gmail.com>; Ruchi G <senorita3232@yahoo.com>; Baldino, Ryan <rbaldino@elsegundo.org>; Shayna Finney <shaynafinney@gmail.com>; Steve Shevlin <sshevlin@esUSD.net>; Tauli Anderson <tauli.anderson@gmail.com>; Tracey Miller-Zarneke <tmillerzarneke@esUSD.net>; Corkins, Aaron (Lieutenant) <acorkins@elsegundo.org>; ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS <ALLELECTEDOFFICIALS@elsegundo.org>; basecat8@yahoo.com <basecat8@yahoo.com>; ckessler@scga.org <ckessler@scga.org>; dwheaton@esUSD.net <dwheaton@esUSD.net>; fglynn@esUSD.net <fglynn@esUSD.net>; hollsmithkobzina@sbcglobal.net <hollsmithkobzina@sbcglobal.net>; jenx867@gmail.com <jenx867@gmail.com>; mariejbeach@yahoo.com <mariejbeach@yahoo.com>; mbeachly@esUSD.net <mbeachly@esUSD.net>; mom.ortiz.16@gmail.com <mom.ortiz.16@gmail.com>; ngatch@pgahq.com <ngatch@pgahq.com>; staceelong@aol.com <staceelong@aol.com>; volunteeringfun@gmail.com <volunteeringfun@gmail.com>; LAUREN RYKER <rykerlauren93@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: El Segundo Girls Golf - Varsity and Junior Varsity

Hello,

I have responded to the parent who sent this original inquiry, and will no longer be responding "Reply All".

It is unproductive to send messages to all elected ESUSD and City officials, and others not immediately involved in the ESHS golf program.

Please direct all future questions to the respective coach of the program of which you are a part.

Best,

Steve

Steve Gebhart
Principal
El Segundo High School
640 Main Street
El Segundo, CA 90245
Phone: (310) 615-2662
Fax: (310) 640-8079

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 9:21 AM Daniel Slack <slackm@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Good morning all,

As a parent of one of the boys golf team members, Lukas da Silva, I would first and foremost like to thank everyone involved in bringing back the girls and boys golf team. We are very excited for the opportunity for the kids to be able to participate in the program.

As an avid golfer myself who has been playing the Lakes for 10+ years, and who followed the conversion to TopGolf closely there are a couple of outstanding questions I would like to get clarity on. I am hoping the answers can be provided here, or if not, if you can kindly point me in the right direction of who to reach out to.

My questions pertain to the ability for the high school golfers to play and hit balls at Top Golf at a discounted rate. This is something that was discussed all along and I would like to know if there is now an established process for our kids to get affordable access to play the Lakes on days / times when the team does not have scheduled practice. Most local courses participate in the Youth On Course program where \$5 green fees are made available. Prior to TopGolf taking over there was a monthly card available for kids but to my knowledge no such program is available. The level of dedication of our girls and boys team will result in many of them seeking out playing opportunities outside of the team practice hours so getting a clear understanding of what agreements are in place in a timely manner is much needed. Westchester has been a great partner / supporter to our kids and it would be great for El Segundo if the kids could be awarded equal access to The Lakes at affordable prices.

Thanks for your input.

Sincerely,
Goran da Silva

On Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 08:46:54 PM PDT, Daniel Slack <slackm@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Good Evening Mr. Venezia and Mr. Gebhart,

It was nice seeing the Girls JV and Varsity Team at The Lakes @ El Segundo and Top Golf, El Segundo. I was hoping that all would be well, but of course there has to be a hiccup somewhere and as the parents did not receive any notification of the details of the meeting (which would have come from El Segundo by way of the principal) as a courtesy to circle and close this chapter, I find myself inquiring why my daughter told me the Girls Golf Team could not use the putting or the chipping green. First, any golfer knows, putting is half the game, literally. Putting makes the difference between a birdie, a par, a bogey, double bogey, triple bogey, etc. I simply could not fathom how this could be true because people walk on golf facilities all the time to putt and chip - there is no fee or check in. It is a warm up and courtesy practice before you partake in a round of golf. I told my daughter this simply is not the case and she must have misunderstood, thus my email of this evening. Please kindly confirm the girls can utilize the putting and chipping green(s) to perfect their skills during the time prescribed in the agreement the City of El Segundo leases the land Top Golf presently sits. On a side note, I was at Top Golf today and I saw the Boys on the putting green, so I know this is not sex (gender bias) discrimination and just an oversight in perhaps the mutual understanding of the minds. Last but certainly not least, I will do you all a favor, this will be my last email to the powers that be at this level for rectification. I will move upward on the chain of command and all my emails will be sent as well so those that can understand and make the appropriate actions that does not further complicate this situation. Sometimes, notice is all a company needs when things are not looking on the up and up. Once in a while, you have to grab the bull by the horns and hold on tight.

Sincerely,

Daniel Slack Jr.

On Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 10:43:06 AM PDT, Daniel Slack <slackm@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Good Morning Coach Lauren:

I understand your response as Mr. Venezia openly made comments about you that facially, appeared to be on the defensive and to possibly discredit you. I have witnessed this tactic before in my line of work and I, personally, can see right through it. As a leisure golfer, I understand the male dominated part of this sport and I hope the very insensitive acronym for GOLF:

Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden

Is not having one ounce of play in you being our coach, the girls golf team, and the girls ability to nurture that ability at a facility the City of El Segundo executed a contract that is explicit on the responsibilities to our youth in El Segundo.

You have been supportive, protective, and not once indicated why the girls no longer practiced at Top Golf. The parents noticed the difference and questioned it. I have no doubts about your ability, care and acumen for the game and my daughter adores you. That has not changed. Continue to do what is in the best interest of our girls - continue to nurture and protect them and us parents will do the rest. We are a mighty hand and when we come together in a fist, we have the power of the pen, social media, and long standing community lines that are generational.

Mr. Venezia - please kindly send those guidelines and protocols for booking tee times and golf bay availability and when was this effective as you mentioned below- Second Request.

Sincerely,

Daniel Slack Jr.

On Monday, September 25, 2023 at 08:14:02 PM PDT, LAUREN RYKER <rykerlauren93@gmail.com> wrote:

To those who are concerned :

I am simply the coach of the Girl's Golf Team and was attempting to come to an agreement with Top Golf as Jim has repeatedly stated as his "only desire to help" because he "sits on the Board of Directors for Education Foundation for the El Segundo Unified School District."

I have 3 easy requests ; each numbingly scrutinized by Jim and promptly rejected.

The third requirement that was outrightly dismissed by Jim involved ONLY the SAFETY of my girls while practicing at Top Golf.

A "vendetta"?

I am here to coach and assist the girl's golf team. That's all.

Jim, I was readily open to come to an agreement in my email with my simple requirements to get the girls team practices back on track in the middle of our season and this behind us all.

In your meeting, this Friday with the school get this resolved for the benefit of the El Segundo High School Girls Golf Team.

Coach Lauren

On Mon, Sep 25, 2023 at 2:21 PM James Venezia <James.Venezia@topgolf.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon Everyone,

Thank you for cc'ing me in on this communication. There seems to be lots of misinformation regarding Topgolf position with the Junior and School Programs here in our community. Topgolf has been and still is very committed in supporting the needs of our community and especially the town of El Segundo. Topgolf continues to go above and beyond the commitments outlined in the Agreement between the City of El Segundo and Topgolf for our schools and community.

We have a meeting set with Marisa Janicek and Steve Gebhart this Friday at 2pm to clear up the miscommunication and misinformation that is with the El Segundo Girls Golf Team and Topgolf. We would be happy to meet with anyone that has concerns with the programs in place for supporting the community. Topgolf prides itself on community involvement continues to look for ways to be more involved.

El Segundo Girls Golf Coach, Lauren Ryker a former Topgolf Associate, refuses to follow the guidelines put in place for booking times to use the facility, both the Venue and The Lakes. The booking processes that we have in place are so that we may accommodate the many requests that come Topgolf's way. The Teams from El Segundo are a top priority for Topgolf. It's never been about money when giving back to the community. Topgolf is not the ONE standing in the way of the El Segundo Girls Golf Team and their ability to use the facility. This is more of a personal agenda of the Coach. Topgolf worldwide is working hard to grow the game of golf, not stand its way and El Segundo wants to lead the charge.

I am available anytime to address any questions or concerns with anyone regarding anything that has to do with Topgolf and its support of our community. Please reach out to me directly. My information is listed below. Thank You!

Regards,

Jim Venezia

Director of Operations

TOPGOLF: Los Angeles - El Segundo

C: 602-418-3732 | O: 424-567-6351

400 S Pacific Coast Highway | El Segundo, CA 90245

www.topgolf.com



At **Topgolf**, we believe in the unlimited power of play. That's why we work every day to bring joy through more ways to play the game of golf. In fact, we believe in it so much that we've made it our mission to enable our Players to hit 50 billion golf balls at our venues, Toptracer ranges and virtually by the end of 2025.



From: KVS <kevefx@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 12:30 PM
To: Daniel Slack <slackm@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: mariejbeach@yahoo.com; Leslie Walden <lawalden@aol.com>; Shayna Finney <shaynafinney@gmail.com>; Karen McAndrews <kkmcandrews@yahoo.com>; jenx867@gmail.com; mom.ortiz.16@gmail.com; Steve Shevlin <sshevlin@esud.net>; basecat8@yahoo.com; Julia Straszewski <jstraszewski@esud.net>; Patricia Guzman <pguzman@esud.net>; fglynn@esud.net; Tracey Miller-Zarneke <tmiller-zarneke@esud.net>; Steven Gebhart <sgebhart@esud.net>; BoylesDrew (Mayor) <dboyles@elsegundo.org>; allelectedofficials@elsegundo.org; acorkins@elsegundo.org; Melissa Moore <mmoore@esud.net>; dwheaton@esud.net; Ryan Baldino <rbaldino@elsegundo.org>; mbeachly@esud.net; hollsmithkobzina@sbcglobal.net; David March <dmarch@esud.net>; Lauren Ryker <rykerlauren93@gmail.com>; Christa Caban <christa.caban@gmail.com>; Josh Alpert <josh@joshgolf.com>; ckessler@scga.org; Genifer Gray <Genifer.Gray@topgolf.com>; James Venezia <James.Venezia@topgolf.com>; Edward Chang <Edward.Chang@topgolf.com>; volunteeringfun@gmail.com; mom.ortiz.16@gmail.com; Chris Pimentel <pimentelca@hotmail.com>; Tauli Anderson <tauli.anderson@gmail.com>; ngatch@pgahq.com; Robert Sowder <robninsyry4@gmail.com>; Goran Dasilva <goran.dasilva@gmail.com>; Cindy Shadel <cindy@cindyshadel.com>; Raj Patel <rajinsf@yahoo.com>; Diane Harris <theatreeducationarts@gmail.com>; Kristen Patterson <krisbake321@hotmail.com>; James Vye <jvye@toyotasportsperformancecenter.com>; Ruchi G <senorita3232@yahoo.com>; Charley Finney <bigfindaddy@gmail.com>; Forrest Davis <forrest176davis@gmail.com>; Kevin Johnson <kevin.johnson2@ferguson.com>; staceelong@aol.com; Marisa Janicek <mjanicek@esud.net>
Subject: Re: El Segundo Girls Golf - Varsity and Junior Varsity

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Hello all! I wanted to thank Mr. Slack for showing some genuine interest in his daughter and our ESHS girls golf team. I also want to thank those who have helped get the girls team to where it is today! I have been on the forefront supporting and growing the game of golf in El Segundo for many years. In specific, my experience in attempting to further girls and women's golf here in El Segundo continues to be challenging.

Since Topgolf opened, I have been in various conversations and negotiations not only to ensure what was contracted for our juniors happened, but also to see what greater support TopGolf could give to a 1st ever girls golf program. In the teams first season we were met with extremely high priced quotes for fundraisers, a small discount for course usage and very limited venue access. Not to mention that all of that could be canceled anytime due to facility buyouts. At times, the girls would be shuffled to different areas of the venue after it was agreed that they would only practice on the 1st floor close to the practice area to limit exposure to alcohol use etc... "Additional support" for the team would have to be revisited after Topgolf had "turned a profit." It would appear by all metrics that TopGolf has made more than a little profit (to my understanding, El Segundo Topgolf achieved the most revenue of any TopGolf in the country except for the Vegas location).

Needless to say the progression of girls golf in El Segundo has been difficult and there will be more golf teams and programs entering the mix in the short term future. In addition to the girls team, we now have a large ES High School boys golf team starting in the Spring, as well as a middle school "developmental program" we have been working to develop.

I am cc'ing a few more sources who have either assisted in or followed the progression of this subject: Josh Alpert, PGA (long time El Segundo resident, Youth Academy Coach to several Gundo players and in our greater South Bay community, also the SCPGA Section Player Development Chair over the past 2 years) Nikki Gatch, PGA (SCPGA CEO/Executive Director as she is aware of the last several years of negotiations with TopGolf at this facility as well as regionally) and Craig Kessler, SCGA Director of Government Affairs (Craig wrote the attached document when the original deal was signed as a reference. Craig also more recently met with the leadership at Westchester Golf Course to assure that El Segundo had a golf course to play their home matches, which even as a neighboring city facility they were happy to do in support).

The short term negotiations to keep our girls season rolling smoothly is important. In the long run, It would seem that the development of an oversight committee (as apparently was originally discussed in the doc below) to make sure we don't have to have these same conversations when the next batch of new Topgolf people are enshrined to be important for the long term health of all youth golf activities at the greater Lakes at El Segundo Golf Facility as was envisioned when the deal with TopGolf was inked.

Thank you and I am looking forward to progress supporting our golfing kids!!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Perkins

On Sep 19, 2023, at 10:08 PM, Daniel Slack <slackm@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Good Evening Parents of Girls El Segundo Golf, El Segundo Unified School District and the City of El Segundo,

As a parent of a female student athlete who is participating in Golf representing El Segundo High School, I am seeing a difference this year in the level of facility access for

the Girls Golf Team during this season. I always thought there was a partnership with Top Golf and the City of El Segundo in access and building a relationship with our school district's students.

I am not seeing this come to fruition and there is a great deal of difference versus last year. If the El Segundo Unified School District cannot get the support by way of the City and that "partnership" with Top Golf, what is the purpose of our girls participating in a sport in which access and ability cannot be improved upon. I have copied the El Segundo Superintendent, The El Segundo School Board, The Ed Foundation and the City of El Segundo because I had the privilege and honor of attending the City/School Affairs Sub Committee on September 6, 2023 at 5:00 at City Hall in the Executive Conference Room, which was interesting and informative all at once (You all do not want to hear about that) :). The School/City has always had a partnership and of course they deal with Joint Use Agreements which are suppose to support our student body. That partnership and future becomes rather complicated, when the City of El Segundo and Top Golf cannot nurture our girls and albeit, boys as well, golf teams. The girls have a very short season that literally lasts until 10/12/2023 (excluding League). I would really like to see our girls and boys back at the Lakes Top Golf to enrich their craft and love for the game. I hope the parties can reach out to Top Golf and make this happen because it does look a certain way that our girls are getting the you know what end of the stick. I do not want any of our girls to feel Corporate America does not value them and that the City of El Segundo cannot make these type of partnerships come to a realized effort on behalf of the El Segundo Unified School District, which could bring valid considerations of future agreements, allocations of funds and like kind agreements for the benefit of our students. I have a tee time at Westchester @ 9:30 am, but it looks like I will have to cancel and attend the Coffee With The Principal tomorrow in lieu to get clarity on the issue. Parents spend a great deal monetarily on this sport and if the district and Top Golf are unwilling to act with haste, please do not collect the ASB Fee and Transportation Fee to set our girls for failure. Coach March and Coach Lauren, THANK YOU BOTH for your continued support and zeal for the game and our children. I am watching and I SEE you both. Incredible!!!!

Parents, please forward this email to any parents of our golf teams and if you share this sentiment, please let the District, Top Golf and City know.

Sincerely,

Daniel Slack Jr.