

# NHSGA

Creating an Inclusive  
Team Culture

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# Chris Noble

## NHSGA Manager



- Four year member of the all-state team in Michigan while in high school
- Former Head Golf Recruiting Coach at Next College Student Athlete (NCSA)
- Played on the men's golf team at Holy Cross College at Notre Dame
- Working to ensure that other young LGBTQ+ golfers do not feel forced to hide their sexual orientation, and that the game is open and welcoming to everyone

**“By sharing our stories, we can create a more inclusive and welcoming culture toward the game”**

“Remember what it felt like to  
be excluded so that you can  
build a community where  
everyone is included”

## *Guide for Coaches, Instructors & Parents*

- ***Champion respect***
  - *Create an inclusive philosophy, be mindful of your words & actions*
- ***Words matter***
  - *Work to reduce homophobic, transphobic or sexist language*
- ***Get trained***
  - *Create safe spaces for LGBTQ athletes*
- ***Stay informed***
  - *Inform yourself of surrounding LGBTQ inclusion laws & policies*



## *Guide for Teammates & Friends*

- ***Be an ally or supporter***
  - *Show your support and talk to teammates that may be struggling with their identity*
- ***Set an example***
  - *What are your actions when witnessing homophobic, transphobic, or sexist language or acts?*
- ***Show respect to all***
  - *No matter if you have an LGBTQ member on your team or not: include, respect, value & support your team members*



# Payton Bradley



- Texas Varsity Golfer in High School
- Outed during his freshman year
- Teammates didn't accept him
- "At the end of my freshman year, I had lost any feeling I had for golf."
- Has not stepped foot on a golf course for three years now



# Ben Palmer



- North Carolina High School Golfer
- Came out to his friends at lunch
- “I just ignored their comments and focused on golf”
- “When I said I was gay, all the pressure was gone”
- “I didn’t get any negative reactions from my golf opponents”



## Action Items for any Team

- *Start the conversation, ask questions*
- *Realize the influence that you have on all of your golfers*
- *It's ok to not have all of the answers*
- *Asking your players, "How can we create a more welcoming environment to all on our team?"*
- *Listen*





- You Can Play Project  
[www.youcanplayproject.org](http://www.youcanplayproject.org)
- Outsports  
[www.outsports.com](http://www.outsports.com)
- Transathlete  
[www.transathlete.com](http://www.transathlete.com)
- The Trevor Project  
[www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)
- Athlete Ally  
[www.athleteally.org](http://www.athleteally.org)



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THANK YOU

