

Maesdu Golf Club

Course Policy

Golf Course Conditions and Maintenance Standards

Mission Statement:

To prepare, preserve, improve and maintain the golf course as the major club asset and to afford the opportunity to provide enjoyment to the clubs members and guests. To protect, understand and fulfill the golf course to the committee and membership's vision and goals for a fair golf challenge for all levels of player abilities. To plan and execute programs and procedures that maintains a superior golf experience.

Objectives:

The course will be maintained that excellent playing conditions exist for both high and low handicap golfer. The golf course should play and be prepared daily and identically to the prescribed standards, within weather limitations, on a continued basis and at above standards for certain events. These events will be determined annually by the Green Committees. Special preparations will be prescribed as needed to conform to the events being conducted.

The goal of maintenance is the least amount of player interference and golf course inconsistencies as possible. Environmental stewardship and resource management will impact the selection and application of products to the golf course.

These objectives will be met within an overall annual capital and maintenance budget prepared by the Green Committee, Head Green Keeper, and Secretary, approved by the Council. Any variance to the annual maintenance budget will be approved prior to the expenditures. The approval process will include Green Committee Chairman, Chairman and Secretary.

Vision:

"In our future, we will enrich the heritage and prestige of Maesdu Golf Club as a Championship Golf Course. We will maintain and manage our financial resources, club assets and equipment to provide an exceptional golf experience to all members. We will offer the best golf facilities we can provide and continually strive to effectively communicate with the membership. We will protect the original golf course design and make changes in carefully measured increments with approvals based on committee and membership consensus."

SPRING.....MARCH 15TH THROUGH MAY 15TH
REGULAR GOLF SEASON (SUMMER).....MAY 16TH THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15TH
AUTUMN.....SEPTEMBER 16TH THROUGH OCTOBER 31ST
WINTER.....NOVEMBER 1ST THROUGH MARCH 14TH

Maesdu's Pin Position Flag System will be in operation from 1st April to 31st October.

GREENS:

Green surfaces are the ultimate measure of all great golf courses. Every effort will be made to protect and preserve the finest greens surfaces available. The objective is putting surfaces with evenly comparable pace, smoothness, firmness and overall uniformity. The greens will be closely mowed each day the club is open for membership play within the regular golfing season. Target Green speed and/or pace will be determined by the Head Green keeper and the Green Committee Chairman prior to the golf season.

Standards:

- 1) Greens will be mowed daily with the Torro Greens Machine during the regular golf season. Spring and autumn heights of cut will be 3mm with rollers. The heights will be lowered based on weather and growing conditions in preparation for the regular golf season (generally 2.5mm). Health conditions and weather permitting, the height will be lowered to 2mm with solid / smooth rollers and will remain throughout the regular golf season. Grooming and / or verticutting will be used periodically to maintain upright growth habits and overall turf health.
- 2) Greens speed will be measured each Wednesday with an approved Stimpmeter in order to maintain consistency and minimum speed objectives. These readings will be included into the Greens Chairman monthly quality report. A sample will be obtained from the same three greens on the front nine and the practice green and three greens on the back nine throughout the regular golf season. Care will be taken to obtain these readings from the approximate same positions on each designated green.
- 3) Greens will be lightly top dressed every 2 to 3 weeks, on a Monday or a Thursday for smoothness, firmness and thatch management (weather permitting). Additional topdressing may be required for preparation of tournament conditions.
- 4) Greens will be aerated using Sisis Spikers aerifier, as follows: All eighteen greens and practice putting green will be aerated in the spring using $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch / hollow tines. This operation will be completed within a three day period (weather permitting). Topdressing sand will be fully and carefully incorporated into the aerification holes.
- 5) Greens will be irrigated sparingly to promote turf rooting, drought tolerance, and minimal disease problems. Greens will be firm and the soil dry whenever possible.
- 6) Greens will be checked daily with hole-cups being changed every few days throughout the regular golf season and daily on competitions.
- 7) Greens will be monitored throughout the winter months (November to March) to determine if they can remain open for play. All efforts will be taken to ensure the course will be open (weather permitting). The general rule is that the greens will remain open whenever possible. Alternate greens will be required when weather conditions dictate that severe damage will occur if greens are played on.
- 8) Greens apron and collars will be maintained with adequate and consistent cushion of rough from collar to bunker.
- 9) Greens will receive a spiking or venting as needed throughout the regular golf season with the Charter House greens machine to facilitate soil water penetration and gas exchange.

NB: for the health of the turf, in extreme weather conditions, the greens may not be cut to the desired height as stated above.

TEES:

The objective is a teeing surface that is smooth, firm, level and without weeds. Tees will be closely mowed. A seed and soil divot repair program will take place continually during the regular golf season to promote a level consistent teeing surface. A diligent effort will be taken to maintain tees smooth and firm surface with excellent turf density.

Standards:

- 1) Tees will be mowed at 7mm during the regular golf season. Tees will generally be mowed 2 to 4 days a week depending on growth and weather conditions.
- 2) The turfgrass quality will take priority over competition from tree roots, shade and restricted air circulation. Trees will be thinned, pruned or removed on an as needed basis to ensure the highest quality of turf.
- 3) Divots will be attended to daily; accessories will be checked daily for service as divots are repaired.
- 4) Tees will be aggressively aerated in the spring and autumn. Topdressing sand will be incorporated into aeration holes.
- 5) Tee blocks will be checked daily and changed as needed to utilize the greatest amount of teeing space.
- 6) Tee blocks will be placed in perpendicular to the direction of the golf hole and be maintained at a width of no less than eight feet.
- 7) Four sets of tee blocks will be utilized, blue = front (Junior), red = front middle (Women's), yellow = front back (Men's), white = back (Men's Competitions).

FAIRWAYS:

The objective is fairway turf populated with good density, uniformity, smoothness and firmness. An annual program to curtail infestation of weeds is in place to aid in the manageability and playability of fairway turf.

Standards:

- 1) Fairways will be mowed at 19mm during the spring and autumn months and will be lowered to 14mm on or about the regular golf season.
- 2) Clippings will be collected during the regular golf season.
- 3) Fairways will be aerated aggressively in the late autumn.
- 4) Fairway divots will be maintained throughout the season from 200 yards and in, in major landing areas and in other areas on an 'as needed' basis.

ROUGH:

The objective is to maintain rough at minimal levels while not compromising the aesthetics, severity of penalty, and speed of play.

Standards:

- 1) The rough will be maintained at a height between 2 inches and 4 inches. The 1st cut or intermediate cut of rough (area roughly 10 feet around fairway) will be maintained at 50 mm and be mowed two times per week.
- 2) The rough bordering fairway bunkers will be maintained regularly to maintain proper turf buffer between the bunker and fairway.
- 3) The rough will be mowed at least once per week when actively growing with perimeters of fairways cut a second time if needed.
- 4) Large remote areas of rough will be cut as needed during the regular golf season.
- 5) Weeds will be controlled through the first 6 feet of rough, primarily in the spring and as needed to promote aesthetics, playability and uniformity.
- 6) Outer edges and O.B. areas of course will be mowed as required based on weather conditions: these areas include wooded areas with turf, fence edges, and out of the way native / meadow areas.
- 7) All O.B. areas will be maintained to visually delineate out of bounds areas. These will be staked with a white 2 x 2 inch stake with three feet protruding above ground. Each stake will be visible from the adjacent stake.
- 8) All water hazards will be marked with yellow stakes, 2 x 2 inch with three feet protruding above ground. Each stake will be visible from the adjacent stake.
- 9) Lateral hazards will be marked with red stakes, 2 x 2 inch with three feet protruding above ground. Each stake will be visible from the adjacent stake.

SAND BUNKERS:

The objective is to have sand bunkers with the proper amount of sand well distributed within the sand bunker without rocks or other loose impediments.

Standards:

- 1) The bunkers will be checked daily for smoothness. Raking will consist of hand raking when needed depending on amount of play. Mechanical raking machine will be used periodically (weekly) to loosen compacted sand and to control weeds.
- 2) Fairway bunkers will be hand-raked at all times to ensure sand firmness.
- 3) The bunker edges facing the green will be maintained with a crisp edge consisting of a 2 to 3 inch lip. The rear edges will be maintained with the sand reasonably flush with the turf.
- 4) Stones and debris removal will be tended to daily with regular maintenance.
- 5) The sand depth will be maintained at no less than 4 inches on the floor of the bunker and 3 inches on steep faces. A report on the condition of the bunkers will be included in the Greens Chairman's monthly quality report.
- 6) The bunkers will have adequate rakes around them.
- 7) The bunker banks will be brushed / blown regularly (weekly).
- 8) Bunker rakes are to be placed outside bunkers facing the direction of play.

TREES:

- 1) Trees in high traffic areas (clubhouse, walk paths, etc.) will be checked regularly for wood, weak limbs, and hanging limbs and maintained as necessary.
- 2) Key trees will be fertilized and or mulched annually.
- 3) Trees will be pruned as time permits.
- 4) Only trees and shrubs that thrive in our climatic zone will be planted.
- 5) Most tree trimming and tree maintenance work will occur in the winter months.

PREPARATION FOR DAILY PLAY / GOLF COURSE SET-UP:

The objective is to use various hole-cup positions and tee block placements that challenge the golfers thinking, maintains quality of turf by spreading wear and reducing stress over various cupping and tee block areas.

Standards:

Course setup not including daily mowing practices:

- 1) Greens will be checked with cups being changed every few day's in-season and off-season as needed. The course will be setup with an overall balance between the cups and tee position to maintain appropriate yardage. On weekends and during special member major competitions, tee blocks will be located at or near the markers.
- 2) Tournament setup: Competitions Chairman will be given the option of choosing flagstick / hole-cup placements utilizing a standard form used for such placements. Tournament Officials may leaving it up to the Green Department for placements, these decisions should be made well in advance of the event (5-10 days) to avoid these areas leading up to the tournament.
- 3) Tee blocks will be checked daily and changed as needed to utilize the greatest amount of teeing space. A balance between the tee blocks and flagstick / hole-cup positions will be maintained to maintain the integrity of course distance.
- 4) Course set-up will include:
 - Check and cleaning of ball washers*
 - Moving of tee markers*
 - Hole-cup changing*
 - Rubbish pick-up*
 - Pitch mark repair*
 - Pick-up of broken tees*

PRACTICE AREAS:

The aim is to maintain the practice areas in a condition comparable to the course.

Standards:

- 1) The practice putting green will be maintained in condition comparable to the eighteen on the course
- 1) The practice tee will be mowed twice per week at 7mm.
- 2) The short iron practice area will be maintained to comparable standards as the golf course fairway turf.

EQUIPMENT TRAINING AND SAFETY:

- 1) The department will comply with regulations pertaining to safety meetings and equipment operations.
- 2) Equipment will be maintained in safe operating condition.
- 3) The department will have monthly safety meetings concerning first aid procedures, safety, etc. Accurate records of topics and signatures of attendees will be kept.
- 4) Safety glasses will be required for all tasks where eyes may be exposed to any hazards.
- 5) Steel-toed shoes will be required for specific tasks: especially rotary mowing and chainsaw operation.
- 6) New employees will be instructed on safe operation of all equipment.
- 7) No individual without a valid driver's license (or of age) will operate any equipment.
- 8) The Greens Chairman will provide regular reviews of each employee (every six months) and will include the review schedule in his report to the Committee.

CARTS:

- 1) Carts will be expected to use paths wherever possible.
- 2) Rope and signage will be used to direct cart traffic wherever necessary.
- 3) Cart traffic will be allowed to roam (except under extreme wet conditions). During

CLUBHOUSE GROUNDS:

- 1) Flowerbeds will be maintained, edged and mulched as needed.
- 2) Grass areas will be mowed as needed.
- 3) Entire clubhouse area will be checked daily for trash and other unsightly debris.
- 4) Hedges to be kept tidy

IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

- 1) The turf watering system will be maintained in the best possible condition.
- 2) The system will operate during non-play hours as weather dictates.
- 3) All leaks will be repair as soon as possible.
- 4) The systems pump station will be inspected prior to season activation.
- 5) Sprinkler heads will be inspected /adjusted to maintain proper watering patterns.
- 6) Irrigation audits will be performed systematically on portions of the golf course each year to assure system efficiency.
- 7) Ponds will be treated to eliminate unwanted odors and aquatic weeds.
- 8) Every effort will be made not to overwater and cause wet areas on the course.

SUSTAINABLE GOLF MAINTENANCE PRACTICES:

- 1) Plastic, paper, cardboard, aluminum, glass and organic waste will be recycled where possible.
- 2) Irrigation program will be entered to ramp-up pumps to highest possible output to take advantage of high efficiency motors.
- 3) Irrigation system will operate at low demand times if possible.
- 4) Irrigation leaks will be repaired with the highest priority to save water and power.
- 5) Drainage water will be held on property whenever possible.
- 6) A tall plant buffer is to be maintained between manicured turf and water features where practical to act as a living filter for sheet drainage occurring across golf course.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- 1) Members will be informed of maintenance activities through bulletin board postings and periodic articles in the club's newsletter and club's website.
- 2) The golf course will be closed according to the stated weather policy.
- 3) Erosion around bridges will be tended to, especially from a safety standpoint.
- 4) Integrated Pest Management (utilizing many options for pest control) will be a continued goal.
- 5) Staffing: we will continue to develop a well-organized and efficient team-oriented staff, conscious of the cost/benefit aspects of our operation.

GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE:

While implementing these standards, efforts by the golf course maintenance staff will be greatly enhanced by members and guest who practice proper golf etiquette. These efforts by all who use the golf facilities include:

- 1) Divots made or observed by a player must be carefully replaced and pressed down. Use divot mix in the fairways and tee boxes only.
- 2) Each player should repair at least one ball mark on every putting green.
- 3) Players should be careful not to scuff the putting green while walking. Upon the completion of a hole, scuff marks (especially those near the hole) should be repaired out of courtesy to following players.
- 4) Remove and replace the flagstick carefully to avoid damaging the hole or the putting green. Refrain from dropping the flagstick on the putting green.
- 5) Footprints and club marks made in sand bunkers should be filled and raked smooth. Players should refrain from walking up the faces of sand bunkers. Enter and leave sand bunkers from the low or flat side. It is the player's responsibility to ensure they are done and done properly.
- 6) Do not litter the golf course. Place rubbish in the bins provided
- 7) Parents must not permit their children to run at large on the golf course or the practice putting green.
- 8) Dogs are not permitted to run at large on club property.
- 9) All matters relating to the golf course and its upkeep are the responsibility of the Green Committee. Suggestions, questions and / or complaints should be made to the Chairman in writing. Please do not contact the Head Green keeper or his staff directly.
- 10) Obey all cart instructions especially during extreme conditions. Try to use cart paths wherever they are provided.
- 11) Keep carts at least 25 yards from front of greens. Do not drive carts in areas that are steep and dangerous, use caution and common sense.

Unlike many sports, golf is played, for the most part, without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules.

All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf.