

A step-by-step explanation

How to renew your GCSAA Class A Status

What does professional development mean for the golf course superintendent?

Imagine if you could influence how the leaders at your golf course see you. You can. PDI offers you the opportunity. By taking personal responsibility to continually improve your skills and abilities, you will raise your credibility and perceived authority. With a commitment to being the best that you can be, by embracing continual learning and the knowledge gained from competency-based education, you will create expectations for your performance with your employer and then deliver on those expectations.

These standards have afforded you an important opportunity to confirm your commitment to life-long learning. By adopting standards, GCSAA members have very publicly committed to the golf world that they want to validate their achievements and competencies. Previously, there was not a way to document the skills, knowledge and abilities of a Class A superintendent and market them to employers as being consistent within the profession.

The result: PDI offers recognition and reward for your effective management of the golf course and the golf experience you provide for golfers.

STILL PLENTY OF TIME!

It's possible that you recently received a Class A Renewal Update from GCSAA and were awakened to the fact that you are in the initial three-year renewal cycle and need to acquire a combination of education/ and service points in order to remain a Class A member of GCSAA when July 1, 2006 rolls around. With less than a year remaining, is this still possible?

Here are a couple of things to remember:

There is still plenty of time to fulfill the required three education/service points, keeping in

mind that a minimum of 1.2 points must be "education" points.

Everything from attending local chapter meetings with approved education, to participating in one of the numerous GCSAA Webcast opportunities from the comfort of your office or home, to attending the 2006 Golf Industry Show and GCSAA Education Conference as a full-pack registrant — and much, much more — will earn you education points. And do not forget to record credit for serving on a local community board, coaching your son or daughter's soccer team, or giving a presentation to the local flower club, which are just three of the many ways to obtain service points.

So exactly how do I record points?

Be sure to visit Member Central on the GCSAA Web site at www.gcsaa.org. Member Central is your one-stop shop for managing your Class A requirements. It will allow you to record education and service points, as well as view your transcript for either your current renewal cycle or a comprehensive, lifetime record.

Education points may be earned for pre-approved, non-GCSAA educational events. An event approval code will be announced at some point during the program. To record your attendance, you must submit the event approval code to GCSAA by using either the online education point affidavit available in Member Central or a traditional paper affidavit.

Education points for educational events without GCSAA pre-approval – Submit the "Member Application for GCSAA Education Points" available in Member Central under the external education section to request a review of an education program. Applications must be submitted within 30 days of the event. If the program meets the criteria for education points, staff will record the education points to your transcript.

Education points for GCSAA seminars & Web casts – You must complete the evaluation form given at the end of the seminar and return it to the instructor. The evaluations will be scanned and the education points automatically recorded

Education points for attending the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show – You must be registered as a full-pack attendee in order to receive the 1.5 education points that are awarded for attendance at the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show. Your points will be recorded automatically following the conference.

SERVICE POINTS

Service Points can be recorded using the online service point affidavit available in Member Central or by submitting a traditional paper affidavit. A few categories require additional documentation to be provided. For a complete list of the service-point categories, visit Member Central.

If you do not have access to the Internet, or would prefer to use a paper affidavit, we have developed a special automated, 24-hour, Fax-On-Demand telephone system (888-838-4419). Upon request, a blank education or service point affidavit form will be faxed to you. After completing the appropriate affidavit, mail or fax 785-832-3643 the form back to GCSAA, where staff will update your transcript. You can also request these forms by calling the GCSAA Member Solutions at 800-472-7878.

PESTICIDE LICENSE OR GCSAA IPM EXAM!

Along with accumulating a total of three points (minimum 1.2 education points), one of the requirements for renewing Class A status is to provide proof of possessing a pesticide license or passing GCSAA's IPM exam.

What is the reasoning behind such a requirement?

Golf course superintendents are truly stewards of the environment, but it often takes more than just "walking the walk and talking the talk" to convince others outside the golf-course-management industry.

The easiest and most highly recognized way to validate your commitment to the environment is through the possession of a pesticide license. While not every golf course superintendent applies chemicals, it was agreed that all Class A members should have a basic understanding of the concepts related to safe pesticide application, handling and storage.

Remember, to enter your pesticide license information, please access an affidavit through "My Member Central" on the GCSAA web site or request an affidavit by calling GCSAA's Fax-On-Demand at 888-838-4419.

If you do not currently possess a pesticide license and would prefer

to take GCSAA's IPM exam, you have the ability to schedule an exam once again by going to "My Member Central" or by calling the Fax-On-Demand number listed above.

IF I MISS THE DEADLINE?

It is July 1, 2006 and I have failed to fulfill the requirements for Class A renewal!

You have had three years to accumulate and record the three points (minimum of 1.2 education points), as well as meet the pesticide requirement, but have been unable and/or unwilling to do so. What is going to happen to your GCSAA membership?

Complying with the ongoing requirements adopted with the implementation of the Professional Development Initiative is purely voluntary. Your membership in GCSAA is not at risk; however, your ability to maintain your Class A status in GCSAA is.

If you fail to earn a total of

three points (1.2 must be education points) and/or fail to meet the pesticide requirement, you will be reclassified to Superintendent Member status on July 1, 2006. In order to regain your Class A status, you will be required to meet the original requirements plus you will be required to accumulate an additional five points (2.0 must be education points). That means that instead of needing three points to maintain your Class A, you now need a total of eight points (3.2 must be education points) in order to regain your Class A status. Remember, as a Superintendent Member of GCSAA, you still have all the rights and privileges of the association, with the exception of holding office.

If you have any questions concerning your Class A status, please contact R. Scott Woodhead, Senior Manager of Governance and Member Standards at 800-472-7878 ext. 4418 or Stacie Adams, Membership/PDI Coordinator at extension 3687. ■

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