How the Experts Plan Their Tournament Operations

Comment by Fred V. Grau, Director, USGA Green Section: It is only recently that the USGA officials, when they select a course for a major tournament, usually two years in advance, are asking me as part of my official duty to visit that club, to work with the superintendent directly, and to give him the benefit of any advice that we have that might be helpful to him. We don't wish to inflict ourselves upon him, but we do visit him in a friendly way and go around with him, checking the condition of the turf, and making suggestions where possible, if they are needed.

As far as the specifications are concerned, they are not hard and fast. There is a booklet put out by the USGA which is helpful, marking those out of bounds, marking the hazards, the height of cut of the rough, which is variable, depending upon the type of grass in the rough. There is nothing said about the height of cut on the green. We agree heartily that they should be close, clean and fast. The height of the fairway depends, of course, to a large extent upon the type of grass that is there, so that there are no specifications directly on those factors.

Superintendent's Problems Of Tournament Play
By Roy Didier
Supt., Tam O'Shanter CC, Chicago

At major tournaments there are temporary grandstands to be erected, at spots such as the first tee. These grandstands can be secured from the local high school, park board, or university. All the signs are to be painted and erected, with informational direction signs for the benefit of the spectators, highway signs, both as an advertising medium and for direction purposes, signs with an arrow, signs for the parking areas, local boards, score boards; all to be painted. These signs should be placed in strategic places depending upon the purpose which they are to serve.

Then there will be the parking problem. It will be necessary to provide well-defined parking areas with firm footing for officials, members, contestants, guests and spectators. The regular club parking space normally will take care of the officials and guests, but there will be additional space needed for contestants and spectators.

If your approach has a large enough field within the club grounds, it won't be much of a problem, but if not, it may be necessary for you to contact a local landowner whose property adjoins the club and arrange for the necessary acreage for your estimated needs. The parking area should be well-manned to keep traffic under control at all times. A few cars parked in the wrong direction or in the wrong location can disrupt a large parking field for the balance of the day. We usually start the first day with a parking crew of six men, and build up an additional force to a total

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