Superintendent Must Protect His Job

The superintendent must rely on himself for job protection, according to Dr. William H. Daniel of Purdue University.

"Other professions do have safeguards, either into contracts or working agreements," Dr. Daniel told persons attending the recent Massachusetts Turf Day. "As far as I know, the only job protection the golf course superintendent has is his performance."

The upgrading of the superintendent should be the combination of four phases, Dr. Daniel said. "The superintendent has just now completed but two of the phases. The first was a matter of simplicity. The profession, in order to change an old image, had to adopt a new name and so it went from greenskeeper to superintendent. But there was a lull in between phases one and phase two until the certification program was formulated. However, even that is not in its most desirable form. Certification just may have to become mandatory instead of voluntary — the way it is today."

The other two phases are follow-ups to certification. Phase three should be a licensing system. "Every qualified superintendent should be licensed," Dr. Daniel said. "Other professions require documented proof in order to practice. The superintendent is only protecting himself in this matter. Finally, phase four should provide some form of penalty for those would-be superintendents who practice the profession without a license. This gives stronger impact to the licensing phase."

"You can't really tell a country club or a municipal course that they must hire a certain superintendent," Dr. Daniel said. "But if the situation were such that they were educated to the license and certification system, the chances are the fly-by-night supers would be weeded out."

Gerry Finn reported on Dr. Daniel's remarks in a recent issue of the newsletter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England.

PGA Club Pro Championship Set For Callaway Gardens

The Eighth Annual PGA Club Professional Championship will be played at Callaway Gardens in Georgia Nov. 13-16. The $100,000 tournament, blue ribbon classic for the nation's grass roots professionals, will be sponsored by The Lee Co., the sportswear manufacturer.

In announcing the change from Pinehurst in North Carolina where the event has been held the last four years, PGA President Henry C. Poe explained the move was dictated by several considerations, one of these the longer playing season at the Georgia resort making it feasible to shift the tournament from October to November.

"From a scheduling point of view," he said, "the later date is desirable because it will give the players more time to work on their competitive games after a busy summer at their clubs. And, it will give our 38 PGA sections greater latitude in arranging their qualifying rounds for this tournament. In recent years we have had to make special exceptions for a few sections which could not schedule their qualifying tournaments before the deadline for filing entries. The later date will eliminate this problem."

Poe also expressed his appreciation to Callaway Gardens for making what he described as "a most attractive proposal" to bring the popular championship to the west Georgia resort.

The championship fields one of the largest entry lists on the PGA tournament schedule. Last fall, 365 hopefuls teed it up in the 72-hole competition, which on Sunday afternoon found youthful Roger Watson of Cary, N.C., collaring 1971 champion Sam Snead on the 72nd Green, then knocking him out at the first extra hole. Watson will defend his title at Callaway Gardens.

Previous winners include Howell Fraser of Panama City, Fla., who won the inaugural event at Scottsdale, Ariz., in 1968; Bob Rosburg, now back on the PGA tour, in 1969 at the same location; Rex Baxter of Old Westbury, N.Y., at Sunol, Calif., in 1970; then in successive years at Pinehurst, Sam Snead, Don Massengale of Montgomery, Texas; Rives Mcbee of Irvine, Texas and Watson. The championship is played over three courses with the field rotating among the courses for the first 54 holes. The cut is made at the end of three rounds with the top 90 players and ties going into the Sunday finale. Callaway Gardens lies in the rolling hill country of west Georgia, about 75 miles southwest of Atlanta near Warm Springs.

Lee Trevino has given America's amateur golfers something to shoot for at National Golf Day.

The PGA Champion and Sandra Haynie, Ladies PGA and Open champion, set the target scores for the nation's club golfers in a rain-splashed "Round of Champions" at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio last month.

The men will have to squeeze every advantage out of their handicaps to beat Trevino's score of four-under-par 66. This means the men will have to post scores of five-under-par or better to earn their "I Beat the Champ" souvenir award. Sandra was somewhat easier on the lady challengers. Her 74 on the famed South course from mixed tees was one over ladies' par.

National Golf Day is the game's major annual charity fund drive, sponsored by the PGA. Contributions of a dollar or more per player are distributed through the National Golf Fund among a variety of golf-related charities, ranging from caddie college scholarships to veteran's rehabilitation golf and turf research endowments.