

GCSAA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE DEADLINES APPROACH

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 3-year renewal cycle and need to acquire a combination of education/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 easily fulfill the required three education/service points, keeping in mind that a minimum of 1.2 points must be 'education' points.
- Everything from attending a 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/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.
- To review a full list of education/service point opportunities, as well as recording education/service points and posting pesticide license information, please go to the "My Member Central" tab on the GCSAA web site or request information and affidavits by calling the GCSAA's Fax-On-Demand line at 1-888-838-4419.
- If you have any questions concerning your Class A status, please contact R. Scott Woodhead, Senior Manager of Governance and Member Standards at 1-800-472-7878 ext 4418 or Stacie Adams, Membership/PDI Coordinator at extension 3687.

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 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 be provided. For a complete list of the service point categories, visit Member Central.

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- 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 (1-888-838-4419). 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.
- If you have any questions concerning your Class A status, please contact R. Scott Woodhead, Senior Manager of Governance and Member Standards at 1-800-472-7878 ext 4418 or Stacie Adams, Membership/PDI Coordinator at extension 3687.

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 1-888-838-4419.
- 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 by once again going to "My Member Central" or calling the Fax-On-Demand number listed above.
- If you have any questions concerning your Class A status, please contact R. Scott Woodhead, Senior Manager of Governance and Member Standards at 1-800-472-7878 ext 4418 or Stacie Adams, Membership/PDI Coordinator at extension 3687.

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 1-800-472-7878 ext 4418 or Stacie Adams, Membership/PDI Coordinator at extension 3687.