



Playin' By The Rules

I have always been a huge Doobie Brothers fan and look back fondly on all their concerts I attended years ago. From Alpine Valley to the old Chicago Amphitheater, that chest pounding music will never be forgotten. The other memory included that smell in the air. Talk about that "fresh smell of grass," you only needed to sit back and hold on tight!

My favorite "Doobie" has always been Michael McDonald. The "Silver Fox" (as he has been called) had a great run with the band and also a great solo career. One of his solo efforts was titled "Playin' by the Rules." One of the lines from the title track is "every fool's got to learn he's got nothing to lose playin' by the rules."

We all try to go through each day following a given set of rules that have been laid out for us. My wife Sue calls me "speed limit" due to the fact that I always seem to be following that "rule of the road" that you should not speed. On occasion though, I am like Sammy Hagar "I can't drive 55" (don't tell me wife).

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents follows a "set of rules" that have been established by the GCSAA. As in year's past, the GCSAA'S code of ethics will be published in our Midwest directory. As part of the chapter agreement with the GCSAA, the MAGCS is asked to abide by the code of ethics set forth by our national association. Please take a moment to read them when you receive your 2010 directory. I also feel it is important to follow a few "rules of being a superintendent" on your own.

If you are going to be at a given golf facility, either to play golf or to look at a project, give the superintendent onsite a call ahead of time to let him or her know you are going to be there on a given day. That's not only a rule but also common courtesy!

If you have a member or golfer at a course who contacts you about a project they may want to do, let the golf course superintendent at his or her club know that you had been contacted by this person.

I heard a story years ago from my "second Dad" Albie Staudt. He told me that a member at his club contacted another local superintendent. The member asked that he stop by and look things over when Albie wasn't around. Albie explained to me, this occurred during a time when the club was not giving Albie much of a budget to get the job done. This information was never relayed to the visiting superintendent and nearly broke Albie's heart.

We should all realize that any given code of ethics is not a legal document but a moral document (thanks to one of the Past Presidents for that statement). Our association has been around for a long time and continues to be one of the best in the nation. Let's all try to "play by the rules" and keep the MAGCS as a model association for other groups to follow.

As Past Presidents Council Chairman I would like to thank all those that attended our annual meeting on March 2, 2010: Myself, Scott Witte CGCS, Dan Sterr, Bob Kohlstedt, Dave Braasch, Luke Strojny CGCS, Bob Maibusch CGCS MG, Al Fierst, Don Ferreri, Tim Kelly, Kevin DeRoo, Joel Purpur CGCS, Tim Anderson CGCS, MG, Tony Kalina and Luke Cella.

This meeting occurs every year to review our Association's current and planned activities, and to offer insight, hindsight, and foresight, to the current leadership. I am privileged to sit among those men. **-OC**