



Suncoast Sails

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The position of Golf Course Superintendent is one of responsibility, as the expectations of the Golfing continues. The pressure applied from management is for tighter and tighter spending controls, as the position of Golf Course Superintendent changes complexion from that of a grower of grass to that of a true business manager. It is now taken for granted that we can grow grass and we are being judged more on efficiency, budget controls, personnel management, and playing conditions close to perfection.

From a survey of local superintendents I have compiled a list of items which they consider to be of major importance for fulfilling their job of superintendent.

These include:

- 1) The Maintenance Crew — According to Phil Phalen the superintendent is only as good as the crew.
- 2) Adaptability — This is a job of changing conditions and we must be able to make the best of any situation.
- 3) Member Education — If the membership has an understanding of the maintenance program they can work with you for improvement.
- 4) Efficient Planning — Setting goals and expected achievements leads to greater accomplishments.
- 5) Achieving Most From Budgeted Dollar — The list of items which need attention is endless, what can we afford with resources available to make the greatest impact.
- 6) Continuing Education — New tools, ideas, and procedures surface each day and we must stay abreast to stay ahead.
- 7) Individual Personality — How do we appear to others, first impressions are important as this often sets the stage for working relationships. A good personality often paves the road for crew respect or management credibility.
- 8) A Good Knowledge Of The Game — We are evaluated in the end on the playability of the golf course.

It is easy to understand that all of these topics are of major importance. To fail completely on any one item would certainly make you less than an effective superintendent. The greater your proficiency on each of these topics make us more valuable as a superintendent.

With an understanding of what is involved to become a truly good superintendent we can really evaluate ourselves. Often times, confronted with day to day situations, we tend to concentrate on one portion of our job and thus slack another portion to be the most effective superintendent possible. Perhaps we should evaluate ourselves more often instead of waiting for someone else to do it for us. ■

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