

# Tournament preparation carries many and varied guidelines

*Editor's note: This is the last of a three-part series on preparing a golf course for a PGA Tour tournament — guidelines applicable for any tournament event.*

The purpose of these Tour conditioning guidelines is to assist the golf course superintendent and the sponsors in providing a golf course that tests the players' skill, is fair to all contestants, and one that has consistent playing conditions in all areas of the course.

The following guidelines cannot apply to all courses because of grass types, de-

sign and the time of year certain events are played.

Yet, since players of all caliber enjoy and benefit from playing under tournament conditions, it is recommended that the following guidelines be adhered to as much as possible during the rest of the year as well as during the event. Some changes will of course be necessary because of weather and membership demands, but usually when this is done, the membership enjoys the improved playability of the course. Maintaining near tournament conditions also makes preparation for the following

year's event much easier.

## ROUGH

Rough mowing heights are usually between 2 and 4 inches depending on the difficulty of the course, turf type and overall turf density. Every effort must be made to provide a consistent rough quality throughout the entire golf course. This may require selective fertilization, supplemental irrigation and interseeding to improve turf coverage. Since there is a tendency for rough nearer the fairway to become more dense because of the over-

lap of fairway irrigation and fertilizer, it is important as far as fairness to the contestants that shots hit deeper into the rough are not penalized less than those that just miss the fairway. In most cases the rough collar cut at 1-1/4 or 1-1/2 inches will compensate for the potential inequity. If not, the rough collar should be expanded in width in certain areas. This plus rough mowing heights will be discussed during the Agronomy advance visit.

## GENERAL

Other factors to be remembered in the tournament preparation include:

- Adequate mowing equipment and personnel to completely prepare the course for daily play, keeping in mind that weather can reduce the time for this to be successfully accomplished before play begins.
- A 5- to 6-foot-wide walkway is to be provided from teeing grounds to fairways.
- Fairway divots need to be filled before and during the tournament. Avoid using 100% sand.
- Bunkers should be raked by hand and efforts made to maintain constant sand depths. Large fairway bunkers may be raked mechanically if necessary.
- If needed, apply wetting agents and mechanically tamp bunkers to provide a firm surface where balls will not plug.
- Review the previous year's tournament critique and pay special attention to correcting all negative comments.
- Have at least 12 roller base squeegees in good working condition on hand in case of rain.
- If the tournament is televised, purchase a "hole in white" applicator and enough paint to paint cups.
- Make sure that there are Accuform rakes at all bunkers.
- Make certain that all vehicles connected with the tournament (concessions, TV, etc.) receive approval from the course superintendent, on routes to be taken to their destinations. This is especially important if wet conditions are present.
- Refer to agronomy visit checklist during the preparation process.

In conclusion, the trend in Tour conditioning is away from standardization of playing conditions and towards a program of treating each course on an individual basis. This will protect the design intent and allow the course set-up to take advantage of each course's strong points.

## Environmental awareness boosted in Kansas

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is revitalizing the Environment Awareness Council to provide organizations an opportunity to offer the department input regarding environmental interests and concerns.

"The Environment Awareness Council will provide an opportunity for informal discussion of environmental issues, problems, and concerns between government and its constituents," KDHE Secretary Robert C. Harder said. "The meetings will hopefully result in better policy decisions and more informed citizens."

The council will meet quarterly. The next quarterly meeting will be held Friday, June 11.

Interested organizations must register with KDHE by calling Shari L. Wilson at 913-296-0669.



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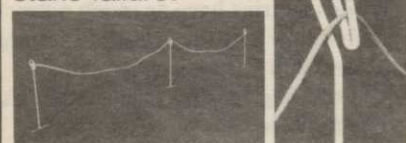
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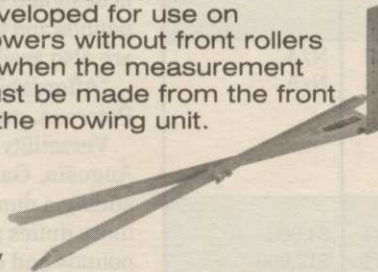
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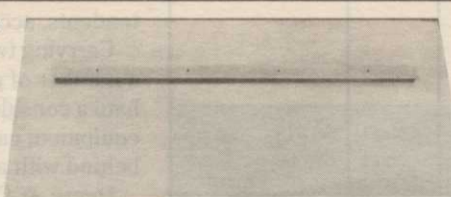
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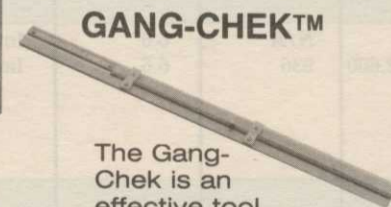
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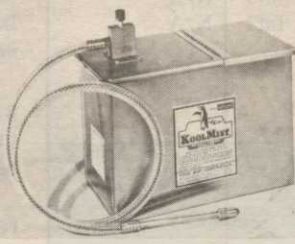
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