

How the Experts Plan Their Tournament Operations

Comment by Fred V. Grau, Director, USGA Green Section: It is only recently that the USGA officials, when they select a course for a major tournament, usually two years in advance, are asking me as part of my official duty to visit that club, to work with the superintendent directly, and to give him the benefit of any advice that we have that might be helpful to him. We don't wish to inflict ourselves upon him, but we do visit him in a friendly way and go around with him, checking the condition of the turf, and making suggestions where possible, if they are needed.

As far as the specifications are concerned, they are not hard and fast. There is a booklet put out by the USGA which is helpful, marking those out of bounds, marking the hazards, the height of cut of the rough, which is variable, depending upon the type of grass in the rough. There is nothing said about the height of cut on the green. We agree heartily that they should be close, clean and fast. The height of the fairway depends, of course, to a large extent upon the type of grass that is there, so that there are no specifications directly on those factors.



Superintendent's Problems Of Tournament Play

By Ray Didier

Supt., Tam O'Shanter CC, Chicago

At major tournaments there are temporary grandstands to be erected, at spots such as the first tee. These grandstands can be secured from the local high school, park board, or university. All the signs are to be painted and erected, with informational direction signs for the benefit of the spectators, highway signs, both as an advertising medium and for direction purposes, signs with an arrow, signs for the parking areas, local boards, score boards; all to be painted. These signs should be placed in strategic places depending upon the purpose which they are to serve.

Then there will be the parking problem. It will be necessary to provide well-defined parking areas with firm footing for officials, members, contestants, guests and spectators. The regular club parking space normally will take care of the officials and guests, but there will be additional space needed for contestants and spectators.

If your approach has a large enough field within the club grounds, it won't be much of a problem, but if not, it may be necessary for you to contact a local landowner whose property adjoins the club and arrange for the necessary acreage for your estimated needs. The parking area should be well-manned to keep traffic under control at all times. A few cars parked in the wrong direction or in the wrong location can disrupt a large parking field for the balance of the day. We usually start the first day with a parking crew of six men, and build up an additional force to a total

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Preparing the Golf Course For Championship Play

By William Beresford

Supt., Los Angeles CC

In preparing a golf course for championship play the green superintendent at all times should have the schedule and program to be followed. Championship tournaments are generally scheduled at least a year or better ahead, which gives an opportunity to get the golf course in shape. In other words, all we have to do is to rearrange our schedule somewhat to carry out that program. In rearranging that schedule it will all depend entirely upon what time of the year that tournament is going to be held. If that tournament is going to be held in spring, certain factors will enter into it, and the same is true with the other seasons.

In preparing for a tournament we carry through with our schedule of feeding, etc., and, therefore, it is not necessary to increase the crew for that purpose. If you have the tournament in the spring of the year, which is your growing season, you can arrange your schedule for the spring, or you can arrange it for summer or fall.

I think the most important part of the golf course is the greens. You hear many, many times, "Your golf course is just as good as your superintendent," or "your greens are just as good as your golf course." If that tournament is being held the middle of the season, it will be necessary to start the fertilizing schedule ahead at least three weeks on greens, due to the colder weather. If it is going to be held in spring one can get away with possibly 16 or 17 days.