

New Golfer Influx Calls for Review of Club, Range Insurance

THE large number of new golfers of widely varying ages, who are coming into the game, calls for a careful review of the liability insurance carried by owners of courses and ranges, says an insurance executive who has a close acquaintanceship with the prevailing conditions.

Here are some of his opinions:

Golf Car Insurance Factors

Regarding self-propelled cars which are becoming increasingly popular at courses, it is imperative that the owners and operators are properly protected. Where the cars are owned and operated by the course owner or operator, and if their liability insurance is written in the Comprehensive General Liability policy form, they are protected against any liability that may arise out of the operation of these self-propelled cars.

However, where these cars are provided by an independent contractor and where there is no incident of ownership by the course, owner or operator, an entirely different situation exists.

Under these circumstances, the owner or operator should insist on the contractor submitting a certificate of insurance showing the limits of liability coverage carried by the contractor and should insist that both the owner or operator of the course as well as the course itself are named as additional insureds under the contractor's policy.

Also insist that the contractor carry high enough limits of liability to properly protect the owner or operator as well as the course itself.

There is currently a case in the courts involving self-propelled cars where the owner of the course wanted nothing to do with cars. The contractor made a deal with the professional at the particular club for the use of his cars. An accident occurred. Not only is the independent contractor being sued but additional parties to the suit are the owner of the club and the club itself. Neither the owner of the club nor the club itself has any insurance protection nor are they being defended under the independent contractor's policy as they were not shown as additional insureds.

Various parts of the United States are

notorious for the large claims that are allowed against insurance companies. In the following areas it is particularly important that very high limits of liability be carried: California, Illinois, Ohio (metropolitan areas), Miami Beach area, New Mexico, Arizona, and in a general way any area frequented by tourists.

High limits of liability should be carried for the protection of the owners, operators and courses. Since the premium charged not only protects the insured against payment of any judgement up to the limits of his policy, but also covers the cost of defending any suit brought against the insured whether or not he is adjudged liable, the cost of the insurance is not great.

Some indication of cost may be determined by the following:

\$100,000/300,000 Bodily Injury Limits — 54% increase over basic limits.

\$300,000/500,000 Bodily Injury Limits — 64% increase over basic limits, plus a \$10.00 surcharge.

\$500,000/1,000,000 Bodily Injury Limits — 77% increase over basic limits, plus a \$35.00 surcharge.

Keep in Same Company

In order to avoid any conflict or confusion in the event of a claim, the owner or operator should make sure that all of the liability insurance coverage, regardless of what it covers, is written in the same insurance company, not just with the same broker or agent. This prevents an argument between companies as to which company and policy is liable for a certain claim. There are cases currently in court to determine which company is to defend a liability suit brought against an insured because all liability coverage was not in the same company.

It is also desirable that the owners and operators have their liability insurance written on the Comprehensive General Liability policy form. This form offers the greatest amount of coverage available, even protecting against hazards that are unknown at the time the policy is written. This protection is afforded on an "if any" basis and a premium charge would then be made.