
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT/GREEN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RELATIONSHIP

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The working relationship between a Club's Golf Course Superintendent and the Green Committee Chairman is critical. Our thoughts that we have included in this article define how we work together — they are not intended to judge one another. We used several questions as a focal point for this brief discussion. Those questions are:

1. What do I feel my role is, either as the Superintendent or Chairman?
2. What relationship should exist between the Green Committee Chairman and the Golf Course Superintendent?
3. What does each expect from the other?

VIEWS FROM THE GREEN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

I view the relationship between our Superintendent and myself as one of cooperation and unity. Both of our positions are important in the Club, and it is important that we establish a team effort.

My feeling is that my principal role in the Club, other than that of an active golfer, is one of a liaison between the Club members and the Superintendent. Together, our overall job is to prepare and maintain the golf course for the maximum enjoyment of the membership.

It is impossible to over-emphasize the importance of good communication. So much more can be accomplished if the Green Committee Chairman and the Superintendent are able to discuss

and exchange ideas concerning the care and improvement of our golf course.

In addition to our frequent discussions, I like to have the Superintendent meet with the Green Committee two or three times per year. It is important to have a good membership cross section on the Committee. This helps clarify misconceptions about the golf course operation that either committee members have, or that others in the Club might have. We like to meet in the Fall to review the summer playing conditions and to discuss changes that could be implemented for the following year. We also like to gather in early summer to see how things are going and if there are any unusual problems that may have cropped up.

I feel that it is important for the superintendent to take the initiative in making the day-to-day decisions on the operation and the implementation of changes on the golf course. I feel his expertise should prevail and should be supported by the Green Committee Chairman.

VIEWS FROM THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

My main objective, as a Golf Course Superintendent, is to produce the best playing conditions within my ability. One's ability is limited, at times, by adverse weather conditions, limited working capital or any number of other variables. On the positive side,

ability also means **knowledge**. Knowledge is an ability that cannot be affected by variables. It can only be improved by education and experience. This is a responsibility a Golf Course Superintendent should have.

There are many important ways that your ability has to be used. One of the most important is in the education of staff, so that each one of them is a positive example of your skills. Communication is another ability that has to be put to good use. It is essential to communicate your views and your decisions to the Green Committee Chairman.

The relationship between the Superintendent and the Chairman should be friendly, but business-like. Hasty decisions must be avoided and one of the best ways to accomplish that is a good working relationship between the Superintendent and the Chairman.

The Green Committee Chairman's most important job, I feel, is informing the membership about the golf course operation. This makes communication between the two individuals even more important.

If we are to have a smooth running operation, it is important that a healthy relationship between the Superintendent and the Green Committee Chairman exists. It is important to have an understanding of each other's responsibilities and duties. Finally, mutual respect inspired confidence in one another and helps us accomplish our common goals successfully.