



## Tournament Preparations:

# SETTING UP THE COURSE

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One of the most cherished comments to be heard regarding a golf championship is when a contestant approaches a tournament director and says . . . "nice tournament." The words are short, but the meaning is lengthy and rewarding. After all, very few realize the amount of work and effort that goes into making a golf tournament a success.

The Wisconsin State Golf Association conducts 20 National and State golf competitions each year in addition to a myriad of other golf services rendered to clubs and individual members throughout the State of Wisconsin. Each event requires hours of administrative and on-site preparation in order to ensure a tournament's success. I would like to focus briefly upon some of the preparations necessary to make a golf course ready for a golf championship.

Once a tournament site has been selected, which usually is one year in advance, a contact is made with the Golf Chairman, Golf Course Superintendent and Golf Course Professional to establish some "ground rules" for setting tournament specifications. Some of the topics covered are as follows:

### (1) COURSE MARKINGS:

An inspection of the golf course is made to determine the proper course markings referring to the boundaries, water hazards, obstructions and ground under repair areas and local rules necessary. A decision is made as to who will be responsible for assuring that Out-of-Bound stakes (white), Water Hazard stakes (yellow), Lateral Water Hazard stakes (red) and any painted lines referring to the above or

any obstructions or ground under repair areas will be provided and placed.

### (2) GROUND AND LOCAL RULES:

Consultation with representatives of the club to determine the need for any local rules that might be necessary to assist in the conduction of the tournament should take place prior to the tournament, especially in areas of temporary obstructions, such as scoreboards, electronic equipment and refreshments areas.

### (3) COURSE SET-UP:

It should be pre-determined what the location of the tee markers will be for the tournament. This will assist the Superintendent in setting up member play prior to the tournament to avoid excessive wear in tee areas, especially on par 3 holes. Hole locations should also be pre-determined to afford the same assistance. Hole locations should generally, for an area at least 2 to 3 feet in radius around the hole, have good surface putting conditions, without any steep slopes, or, if possible, any changes in the degree of slope. In other words, the green in the holing-out area should be as nearly level as possible and of uniform grade, but it does not have to be exactly level. Holes should be located at least 5 paces from the edge of the putting green. The distance should be greater if a bunker intercedes between the approach shot and the hole, especially if the approach is more than a pitch shot. Consideration should also be given for greens that have poor holding quality as to hole location. Bunkers should be raked and rakes should be placed outside of bunkers, at spots where they will be least likely to deflect balls.

### (4) GREENS AND GREEN SPEEDS:

Greens should be cut at approximately 3/16 inches, if possible. Collars at 3/8 to 1/2 inches about 30 — 36 inches from edge of green surface with a light rough collar of about 2 inches in height from 2 to 6 feet followed by heavy rough of 3 — 5 inches in height. Hole locations should

never be changed during a round and normally should not be changed during a one-day 36 hole competition.

Green speeds should be regularly checked for uniformity and excessive speed in certain areas via the use of a STIMPMETER. Normal green speed for regular membership play is in the 7 feet to 8 feet range. Tournament green speed ranges from 8-1/2 to 10-1/2 feet. When green speeds reach an excess of 10 feet great care should be taken to ensure that putting remains "manageable" by the competitors. Certain greens, because of architectural design possess steep slopes and/or sparse grass, therefore adding to the speed under tournament conditions. It is recommended that the greens be graded for their design and speed, ie. (A) SLOPING-FAST, (B) NORMAL, (C) SLOW, etc. Perhaps different mowing procedures would be in order for the different type of green to ensure a greater degree of uniform performance by the competitors.

### (5) FAIRWAYS AND ROUGHS:

Fairways should be cut every day of the competition to ensure consistency in ball position and striking qualities. A standard, desirable height would be 1/2 to 3/4 inches. Obviously, climatic conditions play an important role in the fairway heights to be used. Fairway widths should be 25 to 35 yards. Shorter holes and Par 5 landing areas should be narrower to afford a test of shot making proficiency. A collar off the fairway should be approximately 1-1/2 to 2 inches in height for 4 to 6 feet followed by heavy rough of 3 — 5 inches. Obviously, the height of cut should be related to density and toughness of the grass. Therefore, the above recommendations are for a major state championship and can be altered downward for events of less importance.

### (6) TEE-MARKERS:

It is preferable that only one set of tee-markers be on the teeing grounds during play to assist the competitors to play the proper course. Each hole

should be designated at the teeing area to help assure a hasty pace of play.

Tee-markers should never be changed during a round and normally, they are not changed between rounds of an one-day 36 hole competition.

There are many other requirements in making a golf championship successful which involve many of the club's personnel. The Club Professional for Pro Shop needs, scoring, golf cart requests, and practice facility use. The Club Manager for tee and scoring items, restaurant and bar service, press facilities and locker room necessities. All of these tournament requirements revolve around the host club's Board of Directors and Committee personnel. A cordial relationship with all these people definitely helps to make a golf tournament successful. It takes a lot of concern and hard work by everyone connected with a golf course to set it up and make this year's championship the best.

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## Wisconsin Plant Pathology Report

### *Snow mold: Gray, pink and ???*

By Dr. Gayle Worf

Some interesting observations have come about in recent weeks concerning snow mold that are worth noting at this time. We've considered this complex to be among the most serious of golf course disease problems over the past years, and I don't believe that situation has changed much. But most of the superintendents I've visited with were pretty pleased with the way their greens came through this past winter, especially from the standpoint of snow mold. This is certainly not because we didn't have the conditions for snow mold! Areas that were left untreated, or greens that were treated lightly demonstrated well the importance of timely and adequate fungicide treatments this past fall. If your greens came through well this year, it's probably a good indication that you've done things right!!

Pink snow mold is much more of a threat than it was some years ago when we began our snow mold control studies. Time was that it was virtually impossible to get good readings on pink snow mold. This year, our **primary** data will have to do with that disease. Of course, we picked the Westmoor location because of a recent history with that problem, but we hadn't expected that to be the case with Walt Stepanik at the Wausau course, where we've gone on previous occasions for a good readout on Gray. We still got some of that data, but pink dominated. Why is this? These trials were conducted on fairways that have been receiving some summer treatments, and one might wonder whether this was influencing winter disease development. Perhaps so, but the interesting fact is that the materials used during the summer are generally very poor actors against Gray. So I'm looking for another explanation. In the meantime, this shift augurs well for the idea of using a mixture of two or more good fungicides each fall to provide some diversity of protection. We'll give you a more complete report later, but in summary, the old "tried and true" fungicides—mercury, PCNB and chloroneb—still are the products to beat! Some other combinations offer something to look at, but none of the new products tested were outstanding this year.

By the way, most of you are no doubt aware that the basic manufacturers of both PCNB and chloroneb have changed hands during the past year. In contacts

with the new manufacturers, we've been given assurances that they will continue to produce the products for turf needs.

One of the questions we looked at was the importance of late applications versus, say, an application a bit earlier when its more comfortable and with less concern about sudden permanent snowfall. In preliminary examination of the results, we were pleased to see that we may have considerably more latitude than we once thought. More on that later, too.

Our greatest personal interest this spring has come from the observation of symptoms resembling "winter dollar spot" on some greens. The symptoms appear to affect primarily Poa, and they have a color and size characteristic strongly resembling a dollar spot, except possibly for more mixing of healthy and affected plants. We recall seeing symptoms virtually identical to this in the Milwaukee area in 1974, and have seen an occasional spot here and there since. The tissue looks pretty clean under the microscope—isolations are underway to see if anything will surface. One organism we're keeping in mind is **Pythium**, because of reports elsewhere regarding "cool weather **Pythium**", and also the fact that in this year's situation, summer **Pythium** was a problem on the same greens.

We'd appreciate hearing from anyone who has encountered similar symptoms. If you've had unexpected or unusual problems with snow mold, we'd also like to know about those.

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