

DOCUMENTATION - THE BASIC STEP

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Water use is more likely to be restricted in many parts of the country during the next decade. Total water use may also be affected by weather conditions and the cost of purchasing water and power to pump. Documentation of prior water use will play an important part in reaction to any water restrictions.

A very basic ingredient in any water use plan is a record of how much was used in the past and under what conditions. This calls for a review of purchases if water is received from a municipality or company or a review of use if water is received from wells, ponds or rivers. You must know how much water was used.

Equally important are records of weather data and maintenance procedures. Weather data will indicate if conditions were normal or if supplemental water had to be applied. Maintenance records will indicate establishment or maintaining conditions. These records should indicate changes in the level of maintenance, such as preparations for a special tournament. Maintenance records also will indicate management programs, including irrigation system check and repair, pond and stream management, conservation methods, agronomic procedures and other information comprising a respectable, documented folder of information that will be the base on which presentations can be made and changes calculated.

You will then be prepared to meet any restriction of water use, whether it comes voluntarily or through a rationing or prohibiting order, if you have prepared and maintained adequate records.

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GCSAA GOLD MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE VALUABLE

Even if you can't take them to the bank, gold GCSAA membership cards carried by Class AA, A, B and retired A and B members can be valuable. Just ask anyone who has had to pay the full admission price to see a major golf tournament.

The USGA, PGA Tour and LPGA have verified that they will allow free tournament admission to GCSAA members who present their gold membership cards with proper identification at the main entrance or the "will call" window at major golfing events. The P.G.A. Championship and the Masters also will honor the gold cards.

GCSAA members wishing to take advantage of this benefit should go to the main entrance at the tournament site. In the past, members have been turned away because individuals manning the gates were not aware of the policy. If this happens, just try another gate or the will-call window. It may not be the right kind of gold, but your gold membership card can save you money. And you can take that to the bank.

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