

The Art Of Cup Cutting

Superintendents use a range of strategies in locating cups on greens, from formal "clock" or "grid" strategies to unstructured "mix-it-up" viewpoints. Whatever the strategy, superintendents' attention to detail makes the game more enjoyable for golfers and protects turf.

Cup Cutting Considerations

- Strive for a balance of fair, challenging and in-between holes.
- Locate on a constant slope or flat area.
- Avoid edges of the green.
- Locate the pin high and dry, avoiding drainage areas when rain is likely.
- Assess the condition of grass around proposed hole locations and avoid areas with shoe wear, scuffs and depressions.
- Consider heat, humidity, compaction, moisture, amount of play and wind direction.
- Train appropriate staff utilizing one or two crew members for consistency. Critical: Designated staff must understand golf.
- Designate same crew members to set tee markers to insure consistent course yardages.
- Provide quality control check of their work on a regular basis.
- Clean flag often. Replace as needed.
- Clean cup and wipe flag stick.
- Provide special treatment during tournaments, i.e., paint cups.
- Replace old cup cut evenly avoiding "volcanoes."
- Insist staff adhere to facility's cart rules which may mean they can't drive up to the green when performing duties.
- Involve the golf professional when necessary.
- Use cup cutting staff as "eyes and ears" for potential problems since they are often first on the course.

Sources: John Carlone, CGCS, Middle Bay Country Club, Oceanside, N.Y.; Richard Lavine, CGCS, Peacock Gap Golf and Country Club, San Rafael, Calif.; Ronald Ross, CGCS, Hillcrest Country Club, Lincoln, Nebr.; Gary Skolnik, Fountain Grove Resort and Country Club, Santa Rosa, Calif.

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