

On Board

Q&A with Members of the Board of Directors

Regarding the touted multi species rough, planted specifically for the US Open at Merion, does this penalty make sense to you, for golf and/or at your club?

Scottie Hines, CGCS, President MGCSA
Superintendent at Windsong Farm Golf Club

No. It does not make sense for daily play at ANY course. Merion was hosting the US Open, the toughest test in golf. I see a bit of mixed messaging with the USGA and the "While we are young" campaign. Play faster but have 5 inch rough?



Three inch rough is too much for even the better player. IMHO.

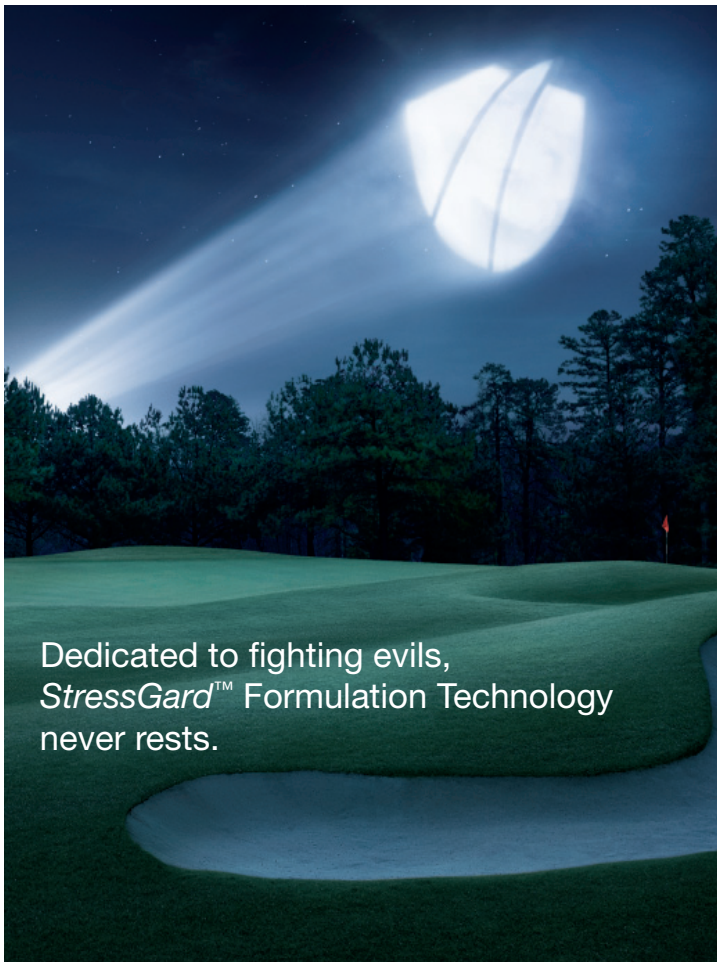


Bill Gullicks, Arrangement's Chairman
Superintendent Bellwood Oaks Golf Club

I was amazed by the rough at the U.S. Open, but also a little disappointed. The USGA Rules of Golf define a hazard as "a bunker or water hazard". Since when have roughs become a hazard. I know they were trying to make the course more difficult for the professionals, but for what reason. So a short golf course didn't give up some ridiculously low scores. Correct me if I'm wrong but fans like to see scoring. Look at other professional sports, rules have been changed so more offense is created. I would love to see a professional shoot four rounds under a 65.

With Bellwood Oaks being a public golf course, roughs much over two inches create issues.

Slow play because of lost balls would be the main one. The ability of our average golfer to hit out of it would be another along with the costs associated with maintaining roughs at higher heights. I know that we won't be penalizing our golfers anytime soon with roughs which should be considered a hazard. Oh, that's right they're not.



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