

THE R&A

HOW YOU CAN HELP CARE FOR YOUR COURSE



WORKING FOR GOLF

R&A



“The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules.”

Rules of Golf, Etiquette



CARING FOR YOUR GOLF COURSE

You will be amazed at what goes on behind the scenes to prepare the golf course on which you play.

A combination of greenkeeping science and artistry provides the quality of playing surfaces in the relaxing, natural setting that you expect, but your help is also needed to keep the golf course in good condition.



BEHIND THE SCENES



GREENKEEPING TEAMS ARE MULTI-SKILLED AND DEDICATED TO PRESENTING THE BEST CONDITIONS FOR GOLF. A GREAT DEAL OF TIME, EFFORT AND RESOURCE IS INVESTED IN CARING FOR THE GOLF COURSE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL GOLFERS.

The Course Manager leads the team, demanding staff and time management skills, as well as the ability to organise and keep detailed records.

The team needs the skills of a mechanic to make sure its equipment is operating efficiently and to prevent down time.

Setting up equipment for optimum performance is critical.

The Course Manager also needs an in-depth knowledge of a variety of subjects, including soil and plant science, agronomy, health and safety, environmental legislation and nature conservation, as well as a good understanding of the game of golf.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GREENKEEPER

An early start is essential to complete the preparation of greens, tees and bunkers ahead of the day's play. Greenkeepers try to avoid disrupting play so that you can enjoy your golf.

- 05:00 Finalise plans appropriate to latest weather conditions, brief staff and final machine checks
- 06:00 Cut holes, rake bunkers, set tee markers and begin mowing operations
- 08:30 Finish mowing the greens and wash down equipment
- 09:30 Check over mowers, sharpen and service if necessary
- 11:00 Review stock of materials and place orders to meet future maintenance requirements
- 12:00 Plan for the following day's work and prepare machinery and materials
- 13:30 Debrief and secure facility

“Players should always alert greenstaff nearby or ahead when they are about to make a stroke that might endanger them.”

Rules of Golf, Etiquette



“ The ‘putting green’ is all ground of the hole being played that is specially prepared for putting...”

Rules of Golf,
Definitions

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A SMOOTH SURFACE



MOWING IS THE MOST COMMON MAINTENANCE PRACTICE ON THE COURSE, REQUIRING ATTENTION TO DETAIL TO PRODUCE QUALITY PLAYING SURFACES.

Mowing patterns and frequencies need to be planned to achieve definition across the course.

Mowing units need to be set accurately and blades kept sharp for a quality finish.

Putting surfaces are polished with a roller to provide the desired green speed without having to stress the turf by cutting too closely.

TAKING CARE OF THE SOIL

Aeration of the soil is undertaken to maintain healthy turf so that surfaces can be fine tuned for play.

Top dressing is carefully selected and applied to maintain firm and dry playing surfaces.

Chemical applications are made only when necessary and in accordance with legislation.

Water is a precious natural resource and is used carefully on the golf course to maintain healthy turf and firm playing surfaces.

Highly sophisticated irrigation systems need constant attention to ensure efficient performance, so that water is conserved.

Not all greens are grassed, but they all deserve the same respect.



“ Players should carefully repair any divot holes made by them and any damage to the putting green made by the impact of a ball. ”
Rules of Golf, Etiquette

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GOLFER

The sun is shining, not a cloud in the sky. The course is presented beautifully and bird song is the only sound to be heard. Nothing can beat the expectation of a round of golf.

- 09:00 Pull into the car park at the golf club
- 09:30 Enjoy a coffee in the clubhouse and meet playing partners
- 10:00 Send the first drive of the day straight down the middle of the fairway
- 11:00 Repair pitch mark on green before sinking the putt for a birdie on the 4th hole!
- 12:00 Get to the turn 3 up on opponents
- 13:30 Raking too many bunkers and losing holes fast
- 14:00 Sink putt on the 18th green to win the match!
- 14:30 Reflect on a great day with golf buddies.

“Players should be ready to play as soon as it is their turn to play.”

Rules of Golf, Etiquette

“Before leaving a bunker, players should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints made by them and any nearby made by others.”

Rules of Golf,
Etiquette

PLAYING PERFORMANCE



GREENSTAFF TAKE PRIDE IN GIVING YOU THE BEST PLAYING SURFACES POSSIBLE. YOU SHOULD REPAIR ANY DAMAGE YOU CAUSE WHEN PLAYING.

Putting surfaces are monitored to ensure they provide optimum performance for the golfer, in terms of their speed, firmness, trueness and reliability.

The varied skills and expertise of the greenkeeping team mean that you can make the shots, be confident in your recovery from bunkers and sink those all important putts.



Hazards are maintained to present a fair challenge to the golfer.

Final preparations are made to provide the golfer with an enjoyable experience. Greenstaff can only prepare bunkers prior to the day's play. Golfers must leave bunkers as they would wish to find them.

YOUR ROLE ON THE COURSE



To fulfil your commitment to care for the course, you must respect it and those who prepare it for you to play.

- Replace divots
- Repair pitch marks
- Rake bunkers
- Dispose of litter responsibly
- Leave the course as you would like to find it

The R&A promotes care of the course.

Further information can be found by reading 'Care of the Course' in the Etiquette section of the Rules of Golf.

Or by watching the Care of the Course video, featuring R&A Working for Golf Ambassador Padraig Harrington, on www.randa.org



Based in St Andrews, The R&A organises The Open Championship, major amateur events and international matches. Together with the United States Golf Association, The R&A governs the game worldwide, jointly administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, Equipment Standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings. The R&A's working jurisdiction is global, excluding the United States and Mexico.

The R&A is committed to working for golf and supports the growth of the game internationally and the development and management of sustainable golf facilities. The R&A operates with the consent of 152 organisations from the amateur and professional game and on behalf of over 30 million golfers in 138 countries.

