

The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 6, Issue 2

February 2023

Golf in February

In February, most of the rest of the country is enduring freezing temps and snow while we are warm and enjoying beautiful sunshine. Enjoy the golf course and your time out in the great weather! Stay in tune with the Forecaddie to keep up-to-date with everything Pro Shop and golf course related. In the sections following, you will find all the information relating to this month in golf, as well as contact information for our golf associations and our Greens Committee. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Mike Jahaske, PGA
Director of Golf
SaddleBrooke Ranch Golf Club



Pro Shop Schedule

Pro Shop Hours - Open 30 minutes before the first tee time and 1 hour before shotguns. The pro shop closes at 4:00pm. Pro shop staff will carry the pro shop cell phone (520-561-1196) until 4:30.

Staff is available until one hour before sunset.

First tee time: 2-1 to 2-14: 7:45am
2-15 to 2-28: 7:30am

Last tee time: 2-1 to 2-28: 4:30pm

Shotguns: 9:00/1:00

Rate Periods:

2-1 to 2-31: Prime 7:45/7:30 - 11:52

Midday 12:00 - 1:52

Twilight 2:00 - 3:22

Super Twilight 3:30 - Sunset



Golf Maintenance Schedule

A maintenance plan is put into place at the beginning of the year. Variance in weather and agronomic conditions may require changes to the schedule.

February Maintenance Schedule

We will continue closing one hole per nine to cart traffic to help maintain the quality of the turf. We will continue our program of resting the natural turf one week per month, except in December and January, when it will be rested for two weeks in those months due to the slowing of the growth rate of the rye overseed.

The Bermuda turf is slowing down and will go fully into dormancy following our first frost. Please support our maintenance staff by filling divots with sand and repairing ball marks on the green. Cart traffic is highly damaging to the turf, so please limit time on the turf as much as possible.

We will delay tee times for one hour two days a month to help facilitate painting the course. Painting will be done on regular weekday tee time days (Mon, Wed, or Fri).

Back Nine morning nine hole times will not be available on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on a year-round basis to allow maintenance time to complete weekly tasks.



Free Monthly Golf Clinic

Every month Mike and Ken will conduct a free golf clinic. All residents and their guests are welcome to attend, and there is no cost. Please sign up in the Pro Shop. The staff have a book behind the counter with all the scheduled clinics that you can sign up for. You are welcome to attend as often and as many as you like! The clinics will cover basic technique and mechanics of each topic and are great for learning a new skill or brushing up a skill that needs some work.

The next clinic will cover putting and will be held on Monday, February 27th, at 2:00 pm at the practice chipping green. Please see your Chelsea home page event calendar for the full clinic schedule.

Golfing News

Golf Course Access

Dear Residents, as much of the community activities have been closed for precautionary measures to help reduce exposure to the COVID-19 virus, many of you have taken to walking as a way of exercise and to get out of the house. Please remember that for your safety, we do not allow joy riding, walking, biking, jogging, etc. on the golf course **AT ANY TIME**. Only golfers, golf staff, or emergency or other authorized service vehicles are allowed on the golf course and paths.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

Eliminate Potential for Cup Damage

When using a "ball grabber" attached to the end of a putter to extract a ball from the cup, please remove the flagstick first to eliminate the potential for damage to the edge of the turf surrounding the cup. Thank you.

Golfing News Cont.

Cart Rules

The following rules shall apply to all types of golf carts, both rental and privately-owned:

- DRIVE ON CART PATH until even with ball, then enter turf at 90° when gates are not present.
- SCATTER ACROSS TURF until ball is on green.
- EXIT TURF at 90° to cart path.
- REMAIN ON CART PATH on all Par-3 holes.
- STAY 25 FEET from tees and greens.
- DO NOT DRIVE around sides or back of greens.
- DO NOT DRIVE in the desert.
- DO NOT ENTER private resident property to retrieve golf balls.

Ball Marks

Our greens have been in service for a little over one year now. Aaron and his crew are doing a great job keeping them smooth and fast. To do our part as golfers, we should make every effort to keep ball marks repaired! Ball marks that are repaired immediately heal faster and create less surface disruption resulting in a smooth green. Let's do our part to keep the greens looking good! Please remember to stay in the habit of finding and repairing ball marks on the greens to help keep them rolling smoothly.

Pace of Play

Please follow these simple tips to improve pace of play without having to rush around the course:

1. Be prepared to play your shot while waiting for others to hit, so you can play immediately without delay. This includes shots played while on the putting green.
2. Clean and replace your club in the bag; and record your score, at the next tee, not at the green.
3. Hit a provisional ball when appropriate, and limit searches for lost balls to 3 minutes. Players in the group that can hit safely should do so; while those that can't, should help search.
4. Limit socializing to periods when you are prepared to hit and there is a wait to safely hit.

Have fun on the course, and keep your play efficient, so all can experience an enjoyable pace of play!

Cart Damage to the Course

Without question, cart traffic is the number one cause of damage to the turf on the course. Please do your best to limit the time your cart is on the turf. One easy way to do that is by staying on the cart path until even with your drive. This simple tip can reduce wear and tear exponentially because entering the turf area early is the most common mistake made by golfers in terms of course damage.

Rules Question of the Month

We begin our new monthly rules question of the month feature this month. See below for our inaugural question!

Q: If my ball is off the putting green, before I make my stroke, can I repair a ball mark or other damage that is on my line of play to the hole?

A: **NO**, if the ball mark or turf damage is *also off the putting green*, as that would be improving your line of play and would incur a two-stroke penalty. However, **YES**, you can repair the damage if the ball mark or turf damage *is on the putting green*.

Rule 8.1b and Rule 13.1c

Golf Maintenance News

Irrigation Efficiency

It's February! I know it's hard to believe with the temperatures we've had the past month, but it's time to start thinking about the spring green up of the Bermudagrass. This doesn't mean actively growing Bermudagrass, but it does mean that the Bermuda is going to start greening up and sending out shoots in search of the sunlight as the days grow longer.

I'm very pleased that with the current course conditions being supportive, we are staged for an incredible spring season. Next month I'll talk more in depth about what we do to get ready for spring time; but for now, I want to continue with last month's topic of water conservation. I'd like to highlight some of our practices that we use here on a daily basis to improve irrigation efficiency and conserve water.

A majority of the agronomic practices we do throughout the year and most importantly during our summer closures is to aid and improve on water infiltration into the soils and reducing runoff.

- **Aerification** - to remove thatch and create water channels for the water to enter the soil.
- **Thatch reduction** - aerification, sand topdressing greens and fairways, verticutting. The use of organic fertilizers to stimulate soil microbes and break down thatch.
- **Soil wetting agents and penetrants** - products we either spray or inject through the irrigation system to aid in the infiltration of water.
- **Proper mowing heights** - reduce stress to the plants and use less water.



Golf Maintenance News Cont.

- **Staying up to date on irrigation technologies and implementation on the golf course.**
 - ⇒ Last summer we replaced our 17 year old central irrigation computer/software with the latest technology from Toro Irrigation, the Lynx Central Control System. We can adjust individually the run time for every sprinkler on the golf course, and our course has over 1,700 of them.
 - ⇒ We have the various parts of the golf course and driving range broken down into 38 individual programs; for example, fairways 1-9 and fairways 10-18, in these programs we have the ability to turn off individual fairways when desired and adjust the run time for each fairway as well.
 - ⇒ The system will cancel nightly irrigation when we have received a set amount of rain, and we have the ability to access the irrigation remotely from home.
 - ⇒ Our sprinkler run times are determined by the Lynx central computer. This uses our weather station information near #4 tees. The computer generates what is called the Evapotranspiration rate (ET). This determines how long each sprinkler runs based on the weather data for the past 24 hours. For detailed info on ET, here's a link - [ETo - Evapotranspiration \(arizona.edu\)](http://ETo - Evapotranspiration (arizona.edu))
 - ⇒ For greens water management we use moisture meters (Field Scott TDR 350) that give the percentage of moisture in the greens profile. Ideal percentages are between 20%-25%. If the readings fall below 20%, then we know it's time to water the greens.
- **Constant monitoring of the course for irrigation issues ensuring the irrigation system is adjusted and operating properly.**
 - ⇒ Besides myself, Roger and Daniel are constantly looking for irrigation issues. Most importantly, we have two irrigation technicians; Sergio on the front 9 and Myles on the back 9. The irrigation techs are continuously adjusting the rotation of the sprinklers, replacing broken/worn parts and fixing leaks.
- **Use of reclaimed water. On average we receive 90,000 - 110,000 gallons of reclaimed water from our onsite waste water treatment facility on the west side of the property.**
 - ⇒ By using the reclaimed water we are returning it back to the hydrologic cycle. The reclaimed water is used by the turfgrass and then returned back to the atmosphere. Any runoff or excess water is filtered through the turf system and soil and then returns back to the aquifer.

Thanks for reading,

Aaron Thomas

SBR Golf Course Superintendent



Tip from the Pro

New Rules Section for The Forecaddie

Beginning this issue, The Forecaddie will feature space for a "Monthly Rules Question." Commonly asked questions regarding rules-related situations on our golf course will be answered. Submit your question to the greens committee at SBRGreens@gmail.com. Each month, in the issue of The Ranch Forecaddie, one question will be posed, and answered.

We look forward to receiving your questions and getting answers out to our golfing community!

Thank you!

Mike Jahaske PGA

SBR Director of Golf



Contact Information

Pro shop: 520-818-6403 **After Hours Cell:** 520-561-1196

Golf Maintenance: Email: aaron.thomas@robson.com

Phone: 520-600-8797

Chelsea: <https://sbranch.chelseareservations.com>

Your Chelsea home page has access to tee times and events as well as the golf event and maintenance calendars, special event news, rate sheets and annual/play card applications, seasonal daily frost delay info and golf starting times, and Greens Committee minutes.

SBRMGA: www.sbrmga.com

SBRWGA: www.sbrwga.com

SBR Ranchette Putters: susanamorrill@yahoo.com

Greens Committee: SBRGreens@gmail.com

Contact Us!