

The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 4, Issue 8

August, 2021

Golf in August

August is usually the slowest month of the year for golf courses in Arizona. The combination of summer heat and monsoon humidity send most people looking for cooler spaces to spend their time. For the course though, the heat and humidity are the perfect combination to foster strong Bermuda growth and especially in light of our projects this summer, just what the doctor ordered! The greens are filling in nicely, the fairways are fuller than they have been in years, and there is a pronounced cut line where the rough begins!

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.

See you at the pro shop,
Mike Jahaske, PGA
Director of Golf



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 5:30.

Staff is available until one hour before sunset.

First tee time 8-1 to 8-31: 7:00am

Last tee time 7-1 to 7-31: 5:30pm

Shotguns: 8:00/1:00

Rate Periods:

The rates remain the same all day.

Annual: \$10

Resident: \$15



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.

August Maintenance Schedule

The **driving range tee** is planned to move onto the artificial turf on Monday, August 30th. During the summer we will utilize the artificial tee for one week each month to allow the natural turf to recover as much as possible from the expected heavy traffic.



Slicing of the rough and aerification of the fairways will continue throughout the summer. The extra slicing and aerification is planned due to the heavy compaction caused by COVID single rider cart traffic levels. **SBR Local Rules cover this surface disturbance.**

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. In addition, we will start tee times one hour later on Wednesdays to allow maintenance more time to complete necessary applications and other regular maintenance. With the use of single rider carts due to COVID, pace of play has decreased, and the window maintenance normally uses for regular upkeep has been greatly diminished.

Free Monthly Golf Clinic

Due to the renovation of the practice putting and chipping greens, clinics will be suspended until October. We apologize for the inconvenience and look forward to starting clinics again on our new surfaces!

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.

This is especially important during the next several months with the renovation ongoing and while workers are busy running heavy equipment and not expecting to be in contact with residents other than golfers.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

Golfing News

Golf Course Update

- Our fairways are looking better every week! We ask golfers to support this progress by filling not only divots in the fairway, but also on the tee boxes. Use sand which is available throughout the golf course in brown bins, located at the tee area on holes #1, #6 and #10, and the restroom at #14/#15.
 - Due to the extensive amount of sod being laid, irrigation in some areas of the course is quite heavy to keep the sod alive while it establishes. Please avoid wet areas with your carts so damage does not occur adjacent to new sod.
 - In the rough on the side opposite from the cart path, maintenance is using ground up cores from aerfying to grow turf on thin or bare areas. If your ball comes to lie in these areas, free relief should be taken in the same manner as if the ball is in an area of new sod.
 - The newly sprigged greens continue to fill in. Maintenance has been fertilizing and topdressing to promote further growth and begin the process of smoothing the surface. Cutting height is now just under 1/4"!
 - The golf course and pro shop will be closed each Wednesday beginning June 16th and throughout the summer months, but the driving range will offer limited Wednesday hours and will be open 10am through dusk. Please plan accordingly and purchase tokens ahead of time.
 - Water is available at the pro shop outside and inside (for purchase), Ed's Dog's, and at the restroom between Holes 14 and 15. Water coolers will not be replaced due to health code regulations through Pinal County. Please make sure you have plenty with you, especially during the summer months.
 - Rakes are purposely placed at 90 degrees to the edge of the bunker; this location provides easiest access to the rake handle. Please replace in this fashion, avoiding the upper edges.
 - All the fairways were core aerified and top-dressed the week of July 19th. Fertilizer and a heavy water application followed to stimulate growth in the cultivated turf.
 - The range tee was core aerified, top-dressed, and fertilized along with the range field during the week of July 19th as well.
 - The newly sprigged greens are out of play. If your golf ball ends up on a new green, please lift and drop the ball at the nearest point that is not on the green or collar, with no penalty.
-

Golf Maintenance News

Future Mowing Heights

The monsoon season has been incredible this year and the course continues to make great strides in recovery. The challenging part for us now is keeping up with the growth in the fairways and roughs. We do this in several ways. First we limit our fertilizer applications to only the areas that need extra fertility, the weak areas and newly sodded areas. Secondly, we use Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs) to slow and limit the amount of vertical growth. Lastly is adjusting mowing heights as needed to maintain conditions.

Our current mowing heights are pretty typical for this time of year. Our tees, fairway and collars are at .5" and the roughs were just raised from 1.25" to 1.5". These heights allow us to mow 2-4 days a week and not have excess growth in between cuts this is ideal for the playing surface and to limit the amount of clippings left behind.

As we move closer to fall and the Bermudagrass growth starts to slow we'll begin raising the Height of Cut (HOC). Come October the HOC for fairways will be around 1" and the roughs will be between 2-2.25". At these heights there should be enough dormant grass to still provide a good lie. The challenging part from a player's perspective is that there may be a period of time where the course is going to play short with the higher HOC. The higher HOC may also result in a less than perfect lie do to the increased heights. This should only be a short period of time as we transition from fall to winter.

Hopefully this provides some insight into the conditions to come.

Thanks for the support,

Aaron Thomas, Golf Course Superintendent.



Tip from the Pro

We have rough again!

Many have been celebrating the return of green, thick, rough lining our fairways as the turf improves from months of cultivation. The celebrating hits a brick wall though, when an errant shot ends up lying in the thick stuff! The deeper the grass, the faster it will grab the hosel of the club, slowing the club down and closing the club face. To counteract this effect, try making these three simple modifications when setting up to hit a shot in the rough: Take a club with more loft, open your stance slightly, open the club face slightly. With these modifications and by swinging along your foot line and not the target line, the club will come more steeply into the ball to get down where it is and the club will retain more loft with a square face at impact, creating a better shot. Give it a try or give me a call and we can set up a time to work on it together.



Have fun out there!

Mike Jahaske, PGA

Director of Golf

SaddleBrooke Ranch Golf Club

Contact Information

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

Golf Maintenance: Email: sbrgolfmaintenance@gmail.com

Phone: 520-260-9314

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: ljsentivanac@gmail.com

Greens Committee: sbrgreencommittee@gmail.com

Contact Us!