

The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 6, Issue 3

March 2023

Golf in March

March arrived with one last snowfall; but the worst should be behind us, and a classic Arizona spring awaits! The dormant turf will awaken and some of the best golf of the year is ahead of us. 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 5:00.

Staff is available until one hour before sunset.

First tee time: 3-1 to 3-14: 7:15am
3-15 to 3-31: 7:00am

Last tee time: 3-1 to 3-31: 5:00pm

Shotguns: 8:00/1:00

Rate Periods:

3-1 to 3-31: Prime 7:15/7:00 - 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.

March 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, and the heavy use of the driving range.

The Bermuda turf is beginning to wake up, and growth will begin to occur. 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.

March 14th and 15th, tee times from 7:00 to 8:00 will be closed to allow for maintenance on the greens. No surface disruption will occur due to the applied process.

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 pitching and will be held on Monday, March 20th, 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 almost 18 months 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

Q: My ball lies on the gravel leading up to a bridge that crosses a wash and is not in the penalty area. Is the gravel an extension of the cart path; and if so, do I get free relief?

A: Yes, the gravel in this case, IS considered an extension of the cart path, AND since the ball is outside of the penalty area, you ARE entitled to free relief under the following stipulations (**Rule 16.1**):

- Reference Point: The *nearest point of complete relief* in the general area.
- Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: One club-length, **but** with these limits:
- Limits on Location of Relief Area: Must be in the General Area, must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and there must be complete relief from all the interference by the *abnormal course condition*.

Golf Maintenance News

March, in Like a Lion and Hopefully out Like a Lamb!

This month I want to cover a couple of different topics.

Ball Marks

With the cold temperatures over the past couple months the greens are in semi-dormancy (not actively growing). My estimation is that 50% of the grass on the greens surface is live green leaf tissue and the other 50% is truly dormant. The green color you see is from the painting we do on a weekly basis. When the grass plants are semi-dormant they are growing very slowly and have minimum recuperative ability to heal in ball marks. That's why properly fixing your ball mark is critical. Here a USGA link to demonstrate the proper technique to use. <https://www.usga.org/videos/2013/03/05/usga-course-care-video--how-to-repair-ball-marks-2204995528001.html>. Thank all of you that make the effort to fix your ball mark and others that you see! Once we start to warm up and the greens start growing, the number of visual ball marks will lessen.

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Golf Maintenance News Cont.

Spring Warm Up = Aerification and Lower Mowing Heights

With the anticipation of the warmer temperatures and green up of the Bermudagrass it's time for us to get out and relieve the past 5 months of compaction.

Greens

On March 14th and 15th we'll have an hour block on tee times each morning so we can perform a deep aerification on the greens. Don't worry, this isn't a traditional aerification. I don't think you'll even know that it happened. We are having a contractor come in. They will be using some new technology with a machine called - Air2G2 - see the link for details.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3p6yQOBZmI>. Even though we "vent" greens monthly, we only go down 3." This machine will help give the greens a breath of fresh air after our cold/wet winter.

Roughs, fairways, tees and collars

Aerification - as soon as we start to notice some green up of the Bermudagrass, we plan to get out and start aerating with slicing blades and solid tines. For the tees and collars we'll use a solid tine that's .5" diameter. A solid tine just pokes a hole, it doesn't bring up a plug. This will be something that most people won't even notice. For the fairways and roughs we'll use a "slicing blade." This will go down 2"-4" into the soil, not removing a core, and will have little to no surface disruption.

Lower mowing heights - the main objective in lowering the mowing heights is to remove all the brown dormant leaves from the Bermudagrass. This will expose the newly emerging leaves and stems to the sunlight and help the overall green up of the course. During the winter season we raise the heights of the fairways and tees to .75" which helps playability as the turf goes dormant. An additional benefit is that it creates more leaf surface area for the grass plant and improves the overall health of the turf during our short winter days. With the increasing day light and temperatures it's time to go back down to .5". The same is true for the roughs. We raise the heights to 2" in the fall to improve playability and improve wear tolerance. Over the next few months we'll lower the heights down for the summer and end up at 1.25"

Thanks for reading!

Aaron Thomas SBR Golf Course Superintendent



Tip from the Pro

Spring Cleaning or Periodic Reminders

This time of year we usually feel the sun on our face and take a deep gulp of the fragrant air of the spring blooms (and hopefully don't sneeze). Below I listed some reminders of things that help keep our facility working and looking well:

- The greens are softening, please repair ball marks.
- The fairways are beginning to stir, fill divots with sand so they will knit together smoothly.
- Each day the range is very busy. Leave range baskets at the range. When residents take them home, we run out.
- Soft spikes and spikeless shoes CAN damage the greens when shoes are dragged or twisted in the turf of the putting surface. Please walk with care when on the greens.

Thank you for your attention to these matters!

Mike Jahaske PGA



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: susanamorrill52@yahoo.com

Greens Committee: SBRGreens@gmail.com

Contact Us!