

The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 3, Issue 10

October, 2020

Golf in October

October is a short month for golfers due to the closure for winter overseeding. This year we closed the practice areas one week early to create some access to golf a week earlier than usual. The practice areas are planned to open on October 13th, followed a week later by the golf course on October 20th. More information on the overseed plan is presented later in this publication.

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

SaddleBrooke Ranch Golf Club



Pro Shop Schedule

Pro Shop Hours - Open 30 minutes before the first tee time and 1 hour before shotguns. Soft close at 5:00pm as staff go out to check the course carrying the pro shop cell phone (520-561-1196).

Staff is available until one hour before sunset.

First tee time 10-15 to 10-31: 7:15

Morning Shotgun: 8:00

Afternoon Shotgun: 1:00

Rate Periods:

10-15 to 10-31: Prime 7:15 - 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.

October Maintenance Schedule

The practice areas (driving range, pitching area, and practice putting green) closed one week prior to overseeding on Monday, September 21st. They will open on Tuesday, October 12th. We closed them a week early to shorten the amount of time the golfers do not have access to the golf facilities. When the range opens, we will utilize the artificial tee for about two weeks to allow the tee turf to mature as much as possible before the heavy traffic expected during the winter.



September 28th through October 19th the golf course will be closed for overseeding. The course will open following overseeding on Tuesday, October 20th, barring any unforeseen weather-related delays. Work on the perimeter of the course will resume after the course is open and both the overseeded and dormant areas are in playable condition.

Back Nine morning nine hole times will not be available on 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 clinic for October will cover the full swing and will be held on Monday, October 26th, at 2:00pm, at the driving range tee.**

Golfing News

Courtesy and COVID

We had a report that someone had spit on a few greens leaving phlegm near the cup. This activity shows a blatant lack of courtesy for others, especially during this time of COVID, when so many precautions are being taken to help prevent potential exposure to the virus. Please use courtesy, and keep in mind the efforts everyone is taking to promote safety.

Golf Course Access

Dear residents, as many 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 overseeding with workers busy with prepping the course and not expecting to be in contact with residents.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

Golfing News cont.

2020 Golf Course Fairways, Greens, and Practice Areas Overseeding Plan

Fairways

This past summer great strides were made improving the health and density of the Bermuda grass fairways on the golf course. The goal is to have fairways with a thick enough cover of turf that if left dormant for the winter, the turf will still provide a good playing surface for the wide variety of golfers that frequent the course. Last year we were able to leave five fairways dormant throughout the winter. This year we will have 10 fairways dormant, a one-hundred-percent increase!

The value of leaving fairways dormant during the winter is that they do not have to transition from the rye overseed and are able to quickly reestablish growing once the weather warms up. The balance is that in order to have a fairway dormant and playable it must be as healthy as possible to provide the density required for a good playing surface when dormant in the cold weather.

The process is then to work each summer to grow a good strong dense stand of Bermuda grass turf that will provide that quality surface even though dormant.

The fairways we will overseed this winter are close to, but not quite ready to be left dormant as their density is not full in all areas. We will begin working them as early as possible next spring and feel confident that the turf on all the fairways will be ready to be left dormant through the winter to provide that solid playing surface while dormant.

Greens

Over the years three different grasses have been used to overseed the greens for the winter. Rye seed is the most common, but Bent and Poa Trivialis have been used as well.

Rye— Rye is the stand-by in Arizona because of its ability to sprout quickly and provide a rich green color; but, the leaf of the Rye turf plant is thicker and wider and does not create the ideal putting surface.

Article continued on page 4.

Golfing News cont.

2020 Golf Course Fairways, Greens, and Practice Areas Overseeding Plan Cont.

Bent- In order to provide a smoother putting surface, Bent was tried early in the history of the course. Bent provides an excellent putting surface with a small fine leaf and dark green color. The issue with Bent is that with our elevation and cooler temperatures (for Arizona), the Bent did not want to transition out of the base Bermuda in the summer. In fact, it began to slowly displace the Bermuda, which created concern that it would cause long-term harm to the Bermuda, so the use of Bent was discontinued.

Poa Trivialis- Several years later, Poa Trivialis was tried as an aid to a smoother putting surface. Poa does not have the dark green color of Bent, but it shares the small fine leaf. Unfortunately, Poa Triv will transition poorly out of the Bermuda as it will survive well into the summer, and then die abruptly during periods of high heat, causing a loss of putting surface.

Greens Resurfacing -Flash forward to 2020, and the original tif dwarf Bermuda is getting toward the end of its natural life span. We are discussing options for re-grassing the greens as many of you have heard. There are several ways to go about this. The most common today is to use Mini Verde ultra dwarf Bermuda. A less common, but viable approach, is to use Bent. Due to our higher elevation, Bent is possible to use because of our more temperate conditions. We have also seen that the Bent which was used for overseeding in the past has continued to not only survive, but thrive in many of the greens on the course. To that end, this year we will overseed with Bent and use it as a test for winter conditioning and to see how it fairs during the summer. This process will allow us to gather data regarding what surface to use to replace the existing Tif Dwarf Bermuda in the future.

Practice Areas—The putting green will be overseeded with Rye and Bent just like the greens on the course. The pitching green will be overseeded with Bent only to give us a look at what a Bent only green will be like possibly in the future.

Overseed at a Glance

Greens—seeded with Rye and Bent

Fairways—10 dormant and painted, 8 overseeded with Rye

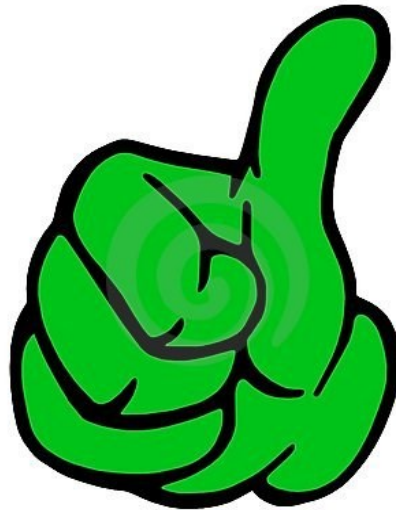
Golfing News cont.

Pro Shop Hours During Overseeding

Overseeding this year is from Monday, September 28th through Monday, October 19th. The range, pitching green, and putting green closed one week earlier on Monday, September 21st, so we could open it one week before the course on Tuesday, October 13th. The pro shop check-in window will be open beginning Tuesday, October 13th, to sell tokens for the range that will open that day along with the practice pitching are and the practice putting green. The window will be open each day through Monday, October 19th, from 7:00am to 11:00am. The pro shop building itself will be closed until the 20th and will open with the golf course.

Golf Maintenance News

Chris and crew are busy prepping the course and getting ready to grow in the winter overseed. Chris will return with an article in the next issue for November.



Tip from the Pro

Overseeding Lay-off

No golf for 2-3 weeks is a bummer for many died-in-the-wool golfers. Not only is there time away from the game, but the golf swing timing and the body conditioning can suffer. I have compiled a list of some tips to help keep the game from getting too rusty during the down time, especially if you can't find an open course to play.

1. Keep a club in the house and pick it up daily to stay familiar with it's feel. If possible, swing it the same amount of strokes on the days you normally play (including practice swings).
2. Stretch the hamstrings and low back to keep them long and supple while spending more time sitting.
3. Triple Play restaurant and entertainment center (tripleplayaz.com) in Sahuarita has an artificial turf 18 hole putting course that is challenging and not a goofy putt-putt course. Loads of fun with dinner on the line!
4. Top Golf Center in Marana is a fun way to get in some practice actually hitting golf balls with food service right at your elbow!

I hope these ideas help the time to pass quickly while keeping the rust off your game. See you all soon!

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: 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.org

SBRWGA: www.sbrwga.com

SBR Ranchette Putters: ljsentivanac@gmail.com

Greens Committee: sbrgreencommittee@gmail.com

A yellow rectangular button with a black border, tilted slightly. It contains the text "Contact Us!" in red, bold, sans-serif font.

Contact Us!
