

The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 5, Issue 9

October 2022

Golf in October

The course is open following prep for the winter season! We are very excited about the health and density of the turf and expect great playing conditions this winter. 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.

Enjoy the beautiful weather!

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 5:30.

Staff is available until one hour before sunset.

First tee time: 10-1 to 10-15: 7:00am
10-15 to 10-31: 7:15am

Last tee time: 10-1 to 10-31: 4:00pm

Shotguns: 8:00/1:00

Rate Periods:

10-1 to 10-31: Prime 7:00/7:15 - 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 entire facility will open Saturday, October 1st, after prep for the winter. Since we will not be overseeding the fairways, carts may access the fairways when we open. We will continue closing one hole per nine to cart traffic to maintain the quality of the turf. The driving range tee will be on the mat for 1 - 2 weeks while the new rye grass overseed matures. Speaking of the range tee, 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.

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 on Monday, October 24th, at 2:00 pm at the practice chipping green.

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.

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.

Golf Maintenance News

Course Opening

Post-Overseed update - The course looks great!

- Actual overseed on the course - par 3 tees, 11 rust and plum, 13 rust and plum. We will paint fairways, collars, and the remaining tee tops.
- Overseeded practice areas - putting green surround, range tee and chipping green complex. The chipping green area and range tee top will remain closed another 10-14 days to allow for complete establishment. The mat will be open for hitting balls. The putting green is good to go for practice.
- We added 85 tons of sand to the bunkers.
- Fairway and tee mowing heights are now at $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, same as last year.
- Rough mowing heights are now at 2", same as last year.

Start of painting - We'll begin painting in preparation for the colder weather soon. To get this accomplished there will be one hour tee time delays the mornings we are painting fairways and collars. This delay allows us to finish 9 holes each morning and allows the paint more time to dry prior to play arriving. The mornings are the ideal time to paint as the best application occurs when the turf is either covered in dew or frost. This allows the paint to spread out over the leaf surface and provide a more uniform distribution across the turf. Last year our goal was to paint every three to four weeks depending on temperatures, and this interval provided us with great color throughout the winter. Painting obviously turns the turf green; but it also darkens the canopy helping the grass warm up on sunny days, which helps keep the grass naturally green except during our coldest weeks.

The first painting dates are:

- Greens - September 30th
- Tees, fairway and collars October 14th and 17th - delayed tee times.



Golf Maintenance News

Cart traffic - I will continue to touch on this every month until next spring! Again, cart traffic is our biggest enemy in the roughs as we enter dormancy. As the temperatures and daylight hours begin to wane, the Bermuda loses its ability to recover from traffic, so it will begin to thin if YOU are not conscious of where you're driving.

Please

- Follow the 90 degree rule - drive the cart path until you're 90 degrees to your ball's location, then enter the turf.
- Disperse traffic - don't drive over the same exact area as everyone else, look for wear patterns, enter and exit in the healthiest turf areas.
- Be aware of low areas when it rains and the course is wet; it's always best to drive on the higher ground when the course is wet.
- Pay attention the "Cart Directional Arrows" as you near the green's approach. We use the arrows to control traffic patterns as you exit the turf heading to the cart path. This is why they are not a consistent distance from the green for every hole, we vary the distance to even out the wear.
- Take notice of our white - 8" stakes along cart path's edges and other areas. These are to designate thin/weaker areas of turf that need relief from traffic.

Thanks for caring about our course!

Aaron Thomas

SBR Golf Course Superintendent



Tip from the Pro

The Road to a Better Golf Course

Several years ago, the natural life cycle of the turf on our overseeded golf course ground to an end. Today, after almost five years and several hundred thousand dollars of investment, we are almost back to 100% coverage and full density of the turf. The course conditions are beginning to compete with the best courses in Tucson and feature the latest turf on the greens, the best technology in the bunkers, and restored fairways. We are dedicated to continuing the process to achieve the best consistent turf quality and maintain it for years to come. This level of commitment comes at a price in terms of time, but we feel it is the only way to reach our goal. The time commitment means we need more time for heavier maintenance; not just to get to fully healthy turf, but to be able to stay there, year in and year out. We are currently at 40 days closed, but have cut 10 days due to not overseeding fairways and greens and have also been able to eliminate the three weeks of cart path only since there is no overseed. Not bad for closing in on the turf conditions of a major club like Tucson County Club that *closes 70 days a year for maintenance.*

Have fun out there!

Mike Jahaske

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: jackdon8@yahoo.com

Greens Committee: SBRGreens@gmail.com

Contact Us!