



GOLF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2019

From the Course

Course conditions

- What a difference a month makes. The extreme and prolonged dry conditions across the region are causing extreme stress to our fairways and rough. Turf decline is quite evident and is severe in areas of inadequate or non-existent irrigation. In addition, some irrigated fairways are showing turf decline due to a lack of broad acre inputs which would not normally be required or provided, and because of the accumulation of salt in the soil due to above average salinity in the irrigation water.

Greens

Greens are presently a high priority. Intensive irrigation scheduling, along with light and frequent applications of soil conditioners and surfactants are encouraging vigorous growth to combat stress. High sodium levels in our greens are requiring regular injections of calcium and acidifiers to leach and offset the accumulation of salts.

The recent minor greens renovation will also help reduce the impact of high sodium levels compacting in the soil structure. Combined with accelerated application of conditioning inputs, members can expect that these maintenance initiatives will inevitably result in a modest reduction in green speed in the near term.

Golf Operations

Clarification About the Out of Bounds Rule Under the New Rules of Golf

- It has become apparent that there is confusion amongst a number of members about the Out of Bounds rule under the new Rules of Golf, which became operational from 1 January 2019.
- The situation is that there is no change from the pre-existing Out of Bounds rule, unless a Club has adopted a Model Local Rule allowing a player to drop a ball under penalty of two shots within 2 club lengths not nearer the hole, along a line extending either from the flag through a *ball reference point* (where the ball is estimated to have been lost or to have gone out of bounds), or from the flag through a *fairway reference point* (the part of the fairway of the hole being played which is nearest the ball reference point, but not nearer the hole).
- The Model Local Rule option as summarised above has been introduced by some Clubs, mainly for casual or social play, as such it makes sense for members to have an understanding of how a Model Local Rule may apply if they are visiting a course where it has been introduced. However, the Ocean Shores Golf Management Committee has not introduced that Local Rule option to the golf course at Ocean Shores, at this stage does not intend to do so.
- So, at our Course, and in line with the Rules of Golf (2019), if a ball is lost or out of bounds, the player must take stroke-and-distance relief by adding one penalty stroke and playing the original ball or another ball from where the previous stroke was made (Rule 18.2b. See also Rule 14.6), or if a ball might be lost outside a penalty area or be out of bounds, to save time the player may play another ball provisionally under penalty of stroke and distance (Rule 18.3a).