

WAIHI GOLF CLUB



Course Management Policy Document

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1 PREFACE

The document sets out the policy of the Waihi Golf Club Incorporated. (WGC), which has been prepared by the Course Advisory Committee and agreed to by the Board, with regard to all matters impacting on course preparation and long-term maintenance. It also covers the management of all areas of land owned by the Club.

The purpose of this document is to establish a clear and consistent approach to course management and development, to fulfil the potential of the course for the benefit and the enjoyment of the club's membership, their guests and other golf enthusiasts.

2 BACKGROUND & HISTORY

On 26th October 1906, in the Waihi Borough Chambers, the Waihi Golf Club was formed. The foundation subscription was set at one pound for gentlemen, 10 shillings for ladies.

The Hollis bush 9-hole course lasted until 1953 when Waihi Golf Club transferred to the existing 18 hole Woodlands Road, Waimata course.

The course today, despite its relatively short length of 5,697 meters, provides a good test of golfing skills. Its demanding greens, tree lined fairways and strategically placed hazards (though few in number), make an interesting round of golf. As a bonus, the volcanic ash subsoil provides excellent drainage, enabling play in the worst of weather.

3 ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Many of the roles and responsibilities relating to this document are determined by the constitution of the WGC. The following have specific responsibilities to ensure that the objectives contained within this document are met:

3.1 The Board

The Board is responsible for all policies and budgets related to the management of the golf course and all other club land.

3.2 The Course Advisory Committee

The Course Advisory Committee (CAC) will serve as a liaison between members and management on all course-related matters.

The CAC currently consists of:

- Course Convenor (Board-appointed)
- Manager
- Course Superintendent
- Men's, Women's, Vet's, and 9 Hole Section representative.

The Course Advisory Committee should be kept to a small number to facilitate effective decision-making.

The course superintendent is an essential member of this committee and must attend all meetings to provide guidance and feedback to the other committee members.

The Course Advisory Committee is responsible for:

- Implementing the policies outlined in this document and formulating management strategies.
- proposing amendments to the policy document
- assessing progression concerning the objective of this policy document

The Course Advisory Committee is also responsible for overseeing the systems and ensuring that the club upholds its duties as the steward of the land.

3.3 The Manager

The Manager is the club's senior executive and is responsible to the Board for all Club activities. All staff report directly to The Manager either directly or indirectly.

3.4 The Course Superintendent

The Course Superintendent reports directly to The Manager and liaises with the Course Advisory Committee and is responsible for all greens staff, volunteers, and operational matters involving the preparation of the playing surfaces.

3.5 Members, their guests, and visitors

It is the responsibility of all members, their guests and visitors at WGC, to take every possible care of the course so that they and future members enjoy the course to the full.

This will include repairing all damage they make on/to the playing surface e.g. pitch marks repairs, divot replacement and the raking of bunkers.

It is imperative that golfers consider others and help promote and implement the objectives within this policy document.

4 COURSE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

4.1 Greens

- To cater for the desired outcome, it is clearly implicit that the greens should be true, smooth and as firm as practicable.
- Firmness and smoothness should be given priority over speed where such a trade-off is necessary.
- Soft & holding surfaces are to be discouraged.
- Strive to be consistent within and between playing surfaces.

- Provide an acceptable and sustainable speed between the range of 8.0 to 10.0 feet for as much of the year as possible and 10.0 to 11.0 feet at intervals.
- Provide a good standard putting surface for as much of the year as possible, with the potential to be able to produce a very high standard of putting surface for short periods at intervals through the main growing season.
- Be tidy in appearance

Target ranges for agronomic measurement to include:

- Brown top composition upward of 80%
- Soil moisture content 12-22% volumetric water content
- Organic matter content at depths of
 - 0-20mm < 5.5%
 - 20-40mm < 4.0%
 - 40-60mm < 3.0%

Maintenance procedures will be developed to encourage the desired species composition, specifically brown top bentgrass, which has been identified and agreed upon as the most suitable for this environment.

4.2 Green Surrounds and Approaches

The green surrounds shall be maintained to provide a smooth, well-presented transition from fairway to putting green.

The green surrounds and approaches should comprise a similar texture and density of turf as for the greens, providing firm and dry surfaces that will facilitate a wide variety of approach play appropriate to undulating terrain.

Maintenance and procedures will be designed to promote a brown top grass which is deemed to be the most suitable for this environment.

4.3 Fairways

At WGC the fairways are defined as the land lying between the carry from the tee and the green approaches. Many fairways are undulating and contoured and therefore shall be maintained to produce a tight firm lie whenever practicable.

Maintenance procedures will be designed to promote brown top/fescue grasses which are deemed to be the most suitable for this environment.

4.4 Tees

Tee maintenance shall provide for a firm, level stance with a uniformed dense grass cover from which a clean contact with the ball, off the grass, can be made.

Maintenance procedures will be designed to promote brown top/rye grasses which are deemed to be the most suitable for this environment.

4.5 Tee surrounds

Where practicable, the native rough will be allowed to naturally encase the tee boxes reducing the necessity for manual maintenance and reducing their impact on their surroundings.

4.6 Bunkers

Bunkers will be maintained to provide hazards with adequate room for a full swing. The sand used (Revital 1000) will provide a year-round free draining surface.

The use of geotextile liners (or other suitable interface) to prevent sand contamination is to be implemented during any bunker upgrade. Sand shall be maintained at a depth of 150-200mm on the bases and 25-75mm on faces to avoid the liner becoming exposed.

4.7 Rough

The semi-rough shall be mown to provide a nominal penalty to the wayward shot, normally at height between 50-60mm. The heavy rough shall be managed to retain and encourage the native vegetation.

4.8 Practise Areas

WGC provides practise facilities which include putting green, chipping green, bunker and driving range. The playing surfaces of these facilities will be managed and prepared to the agreed standards as resources allow.

4.9 Turf Nursery

WGC has an area of 2,400sqm of turf which is suitable for various tasks on the golf course including fairway, surround & greens patching. This area will be maintained to the same standard as the playing surfaces on the course. The objective of the nursery is to provide high quality brown top, brown top/fescue and fescue/rye grass turf for introduction into the respective playing surfaces with minimal disruption.

4.10 Trees

While a variety of species are inevitable, trees have over the years been planted to provide a strategic influence. Ornamental cypresses, willows and the like should be actively discouraged and turf should always be given preference in the event of re-vegetative projects. Trees will be removed or replaced in acceptance with the Glasgow Report (GR) and approved by course committee.

4.11 Aesthetics

4.11.1 Mowing Lines

Long rough should be restricted to the steep banks or designated out-of-play areas and the landing zones of fairways should be kept as wide as possible.

4.11.2 Paths

Should be kept away from the direct line down fairways and be constructed of natural aggregates or concrete.

4.11.3 Fences

Should only be on the outer boundaries of the golf course.

4.11.4 Signs

Should be discreet and tasteful.

4.11.5 Furniture

Should be discreet and tasteful. Any additional seating introduced to the course will abide by the specifications and location authorized by the Course Committee.

4.11.6 Retaining Walls

Should be discouraged where practical.

5 COURSE MANAGEMENT POLICY

5.1 GREENS

Greens will generally be mown 6 days per week throughout the growing season at a height between 3.0 - 4.0mm. This will be raised to a height of 4.0 - 4.5mm over the winter and mown often enough to retain a uniform & neat surface. During times of abnormal conditions e.g. During renovation time, mowing heights may be adjusted outside of these parameters in order to favour the preferred grasses.

Verti-cutting, grooming, top dressing and aeration programmes will be formulated to prevent the development in the initial period of more than 6% organic matter in the top 20mm of the greens profile with the long term objective of maintaining the organic matter at levels less than 5%. These programs will also be aimed to prevent the development of notable compaction to the soil profile.

Fertiliser and irrigation will be provided to an appropriate minimum level. This will help to address wear and retain a dense turf of fine texture.

Pest and disease management will follow integrated Pest and Disease Management (IM) principles. Greens maintenance will be programmed to minimize disruption to play but, where possible, to maximize the benefit from each operation.

5.2 GREEN SURROUNDS AND APPROACHES

The surrounds and approaches will be managed, except for cutting, in a similar manner to greens as is feasible.

The surrounds and approaches will be mown between 10 - 15mm on a minimum of 1 time a week during the growing season and as necessary over the winter months to retain a tidy presentation. The cutting frequency during winter will be dependent on the weather.

5.3 FAIRWAYS

Fairways will be cut at 10 - 15mm at the necessary frequency to maintain neat and consistent surfaces for all-year-round play.

Aeration will be carried out to promote firm and dry playing surfaces as resources permit concentrating on main traffic areas and known wet spots.

5.4 TEES

Tees will be maintained as per green surroundings. In addition, during the growing season or as necessary to repair wear damage, divot repairs will be completed as resources and staffing levels permit.

5.5 BUNKERS

The bunkers are to be raked at least once weekly. The sand should be raked smooth up the bunker face to promote a golf ball to settle at the bottom of the face. Base of the bunkers where practicable are to provide an upward slope from the back to the face of the bunker. Sand is to be topped up as necessary.

The bunker edges and surrounds are to be trimmed as necessary to retain a clear definition to the hazard.

The faces are to be sprayed to prevent grass/weeds growing when necessary. They will also be brushed with sand to ensure a thin lining between the bunker foundation and top of the playing surface to avoid contamination of stones and debris.

5.6 ROUGH

The semi-rough will be topped as necessary to present a uniform surface at 50-60mm in height (Deeper rough vegetation is to be managed as per the environmental management plan.)

5.7 STAFF

WGC is committed to sustaining the optimum staffing levels as finances allow and also to provide for the necessary training and education to retain a structured staffing profile. At any one time WGC would expect to employ 1 fully trained greenkeeper, with others at various stages in the education process. Additional part-time staff will be employed as deemed necessary.

5.8 VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers may choose to assist staff in the preparation & presentation of the golf course and in these instances shall report directly to the Course Superintendent or in his absence The Manager before commencement of their voluntary assistance. All volunteers must agree to provide this assistance in accordance with the Club's Health & Safety policy.

5.9 MACHINERY

All machines shall be well cared for by the staff, following the maintenance programmes in the appropriate manufacture's handbook, with main items undergoing routine servicing as agreed with the supplier. All machinery will be cleaned and lubricated after use as necessary.

5.10 IRRIGATION

The irrigation system is available to prevent prepared areas from being subject to overstress in times of drought. It is the policy of the Club to use the minimum amount of irrigation.

5.11 MAINTENANCE COMPLEX

An adequate standard of building will be provided for machinery and materials in accordance with WGC Health and Safety policy. The staff will be provided with suitable "all-weather" clothing which they will be responsible for maintaining in good condition. The staff will be responsible for always maintaining the Maintenance complex in a clean and tidy condition.

6 COURSE USAGE

6.1 COURSE CLOSURE

In adverse weather conditions the senior greenkeeper on the day will be responsible for closing / opening the course and for communicating this to the The Manager.

6.2 FROST POLICY

The Club's official 'frost policy' is as follows; In the event of a frost, the course will be temporarily closed as determined by the senior greenkeeper on the day. This will be communicated immediately to The Manager.

N.B THE ONLY PERSON WITH AUTHORITY TO OPEN THE COURSE FOR PLAY IS THE SENIOR GREENKEEPER ON THE DAY.

6.3 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Measures to control traffic movement around the course will be taken throughout the year as deemed necessary to keep trolleys and buggies away from prepared surfaces. The Club has a preference for wide-wheeled trolleys.

6.4 GOLF CARTS

6.4.1 Carts are not to be driven within the greens surrounds

6.4.2 Carts are not permitted on the tees

6.4.3 The use of carts is a privilege not a right

Individuals seen driving or parking their carts within a restricted area or damaging the course will have the privilege to use a cart withdrawn.

All cart users need to take particular care with driving on the slopes as these are the areas most susceptible to damage and injury in the wetter months.

The Club's Manager will be responsible for the allocation of carts, the monitoring of their use and notifying users of the Club's cart policy.

6.5 BOUNDARIES

The policy of the Club is to define our boundaries through the use of fences, tree plantings, white pegs and where appropriate signage to also indicate a potentially hazardous area.

6.6 COURSE PATHWAYS

Natural aggregate or concrete paths are the preferred choices, given the undulating nature of our terrain and the high-traffic areas throughout the course. Any paths should be constructed with careful consideration to blend harmoniously with the surrounding environment.

6.7 LOCAL RULES

Local Rules addressing unusual conditions will be issued by The Manager or the respective section Club Captains, in consultation with the senior greenkeeper. These rules will be published as necessary and displayed on the appropriate notice board.

In the event of severe weather conditions leading to doubt over the playability of the course for the duration of a competition or the safety of the competitors, The Manager will decide on whether or not to close the course.

6.8 GOLF SHOES

Golf shoes with soft spikes may only be used.

7 COURSE DEVELOPMENT

The course development plan should be formulated to take into consideration:

- The Glasgow Report & bi-annual updates
- The need for course upgrades and modifications to meet the objectives outlined in this course policy document.
- Rough management and the reinstatement and encouragement of the natural vegetation.
- Upgrading of tees
- Refurbishment of bunkers to meet objectives
- Improvement of practice facilities
- Installation or upgrading of irrigation

The development plan will comprise a list of proposed projects to be completed on an annual basis but incorporating enough flexibility to allow for movement of individual projects forward or back a year in accordance with limitations of weather and finances.

Changes to the preparation and presentation of the course as previously stated in this document will not be made without consultation with the Course Advisory Committee and The Board.

All changes which significantly alter the strategic intent, character or nature of the hole will be subject to broad consultation, both within the club and with designated advisors.

8 POLICY REVIEW

This document has been produced in consultation with The Board, The Manager, Course Superintendent and the Course Advisory Committee. The policies contained in this document will remain unchanged but reviewed annually by the Course Advisory Committee and any engaged professional advisors before being approved by The Board of the WGC.