



Golf Course Tournament Preparation

Iskandar Johor Open

With a month to go before the start of the Iskandar Johor Open, there is no respite for any of the golf course maintenance staffs who have been working tirelessly (up to 14 hours daily) to make sure the Horizon Hills Golf & Country Club golf course is ready to face and challenge even the best golfers in the Asian and European Tours. The biggest challenge confronting us was how to maintain turf conditions at international standards regardless of the climate.

The arrival of the northeast monsoon season has resulted in very unpredictable weather conditions impacting southern Johor; a day may start off with sunny weather and then suddenly turn dark & cloudy, then thunder & lightning usher in a torrential downpour with sheets of water enveloping the entire golf course. Sometimes, we face torrential rain alternating with sweltering heat during the course of a day. More frequently, a week starts with heavy thunderstorms for one/two days followed by drought the rest of the week



As a result, we have to be proactive in planning golf course maintenance work to deal with any contingency as they arise. Based on my extensive knowledge and experience in golf course management, there are six key factors to having fantastic turf on a golf course – sunlight, air, water, fertilizer, effective control of disease & pests and quality of cut. We are now focused on:

Course Facts

1. Green speed : 11' to 12'
2. Hole extended : 2nd , 9th, 16th
3. No of bunker : 96
4. Green : Tifeagle
5. Fairway: Seashore Paspalum
6. Green Keeping staff : 38

1. Improving soil conditions for better turf growth.
2. Based on soil test reports, we have applied more potassium, calcium and nitrates at locations identified to be lacking and treated the soil with foliar and granular products to stimulate growth and colour
3. Improving condition of the putting green to achieve a fast and true green condition. (current green speed is between 11' to 12')
4. Maintaining sand bunkers
5. Modern golf courses integrate stiff bunker faces as part of their design. This means a lot of attention needs to be paid on maintenance such as proper edging and mowing, applying foliar on the turf lip and ensuring the compaction and texture on the base is just right.



To maintain the turf grass in tournament playing condition is not easy so next time when you have a round of golf please appreciate the effort that the staffs have put in & happy golfing.

By S.K Ong Golf Course Superintendent of HHGCC