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April 2, 2020

COVID-19 Update



ESSENTIAL GOLF MAINTENANCE DURING COVID-19

There is no question that COVID-19 is a very challenging and unique situation for all of society. As golf course superintendents we are also in uncharted waters. We have our families to worry about and care for, we have golf course properties that are about to wake up and need some attention, we have staff that have families to care for and who are worried about their financial futures and lastly, we have stakeholders at our golf course who have all the same worries and the financial worries that surround the viability of the golf facility.

So, with all that being said, let's all take a deep breath and then we can look at this from another angle.

LEADERSHIP

All emergency situations create the opportunity for leadership. Leaders display a strong sense of priority and a game plan that they do not waiver from. They are proactive and they communicate their vision and plan with everyone. They show real concern for their people and they listen to their needs.

NOW is the time for leadership

1. Family and Health
2. Staff Health and Security
3. Protecting the Course Assets/Commodity

The AGSA suggests that we all develop a plan that incorporates the priorities listed above, and if you haven't done so already, take it to our stake holders. The Federal Government has announced a very generous wage subsidy plan to help employers retain their staff and allow them to stay at home during this critical time.

That takes care of items one and two on the priorities list.

TAKING CARE OF THE PROPERTY

The AGSA recommends that we all identify the essential golf course maintenance tasks for April. In general, we believe that removing tarps, basic mowing when needed and equipment maintenance for mower readiness are the primary essential tasks. There will also be some road repair and general clean up in key spots to prepare for mowing.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Please exercise social distancing and proper sanitation for the maintenance facility and equipment. Other considerations are to only have the minimum number of people and to work separately.

NOT THE TIME TO BE OPPORTUNISTIC

This is not the time to be opportunistic and schedule cultural practices to take advantage of the lack of golfers. Think about how this looks in a society where everyone else is shut down except for essential services. Our main objective is to support our families and to do our part to help flatten the curve. There will come a time to catch up later with cultural practices.

TRUE VALUE OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

The key with all of this is to display the leadership and be proactive by developing a game plan and presenting it to your stake holders before they ask you to just cut the budget.

Lets all take the lead and show the true value of a qualified golf course superintendent.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Mills". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Mills" clearly distinguishable.

John Mills

AGSA President

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