



Real Federación Española de Golf
C/ Arroyo del Monte, 5
28035 Madrid
T +34 91 376 91 30 F +34 91 556 32 90

GREEN SECTION RFEG TOURNAMENT REPORT

Subject

**OPEN CHALLENGE 2015
TECINA GOLF**

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Assistans: Mr. David Gómez , Director Green Section Comitee RFEG
Mr. Jacinto Santos, Tecina Golf Head Greenkeeper
Mr. Primos Pusnik, Tecina Golf Manager

TOURNAMENT REPORT. CHALLENGE OPEN DE ESPAÑA 2015

After visiting Tecina Golf, in order to evaluate the golf course conditions for the tournament preparation, Challenge Open de España 2015, the following conclusions were reached:

- 1º. The course is in good conditions for *amateur* playing.
- 2º. During the different visits made to the course on the past years, a progressive increase in weed population was observed and reported to the Property responsables. If this situation persit, it would lead to a gradual decline in the uniformity and, therefore, in the course playability. The following paragraphs describes a set of measures that can help to improve course uniformity, definition and playability for the tournament.



Image 0. Presence of weeds on the golf course

3º. WEED CONTROL

Weed can be defined as *“a wild plant growing where it is not wanted and in competition with cultivated plants (~ turfgrass)”*.

Plant density loss causes blanks in turfgrass cover, which would be invaded by plants better adapted to local environment conditions, and resulting in a non-uniform playing surface.

There are two key points that can provide some competitive advantages to established turf:

a. **Cultural practices** (by performing turf sanity conditions).

Developing a programme that includes:

- Decreasing mowing frequency.
- Developing a heavier turf cultivation programme. Based on coring and verticuting following by topdressing practices.
- Well-balanced nitrogen fertilizing programme.

This programme will provide turf a better condition to compete with weeds.

b. **Chemical control.** (by weakening weeds)

Using pre and post-emergent herbicides in weed control.

4º. After meeting with Property responsables, these are the guidelines established :

a. GREENS. Although they are healthy and relatively strength, it becomes necessary that the greens are faster than they were in previous years. The programme followed to reach the adequate speed and uniformity of the ball roll will be:

- 1º. After a pair of weeks, the greens must be coring and topdressing -with the same quartz sand (silicate sand).
- 2º. Once the greens have been recovered from cultivation practices, the following actions will be done:

- **Foliar fertilization.** Apply at a rate of 0.2 pounds of nitrogen (~ 90 g. N) every 15 days.
- **Thatch control.** Practice double grooming per week
- **Topdressing.** Apply as needed for smoothing after grooming.

Both of these practices will be continued within 2 weeks before the beginning of the tournament.

- **Dry Spots control.** Apply wetting agents as needed for an adequate soil moisture.
- **Insect Control.** Apply the appropriate insecticide control as needed when potentially serious injury symptoms first appear.



Imagen 1. Dry spots in greens

- b. TEES. They must be coring and overseeding, especially the ones involved in the competition. This procedure will help to levelling

the tees. Furthermore, a broad leaf weed control will be conducted as well as a wetting program (wetting agents application).



Image 2. Kikuyugrass present in tees, it can also be seen some plants of Poa annua.

c. FAIRWAYS. In order to reach the desire uniformity in all of its surface, the following practices will be conducted:

- Broad leaves weeds and kikuyugrass control
- Punching (solid tiles)
- Verticutting
- Fertilization
- Increasing mowing frequency.



Image 3. Kikuyugrass and some broad leaves weeds present in fairways; **Image 4.** Fairways also present stands of Bentgrass (*Agrostis* spp.). **Image 5.** Detalle de “rodales” de *Agrostis* spp.; **Image 6.** At the photo it can be seen how Bentgrass leaves intertwine with Bermudagrass.

d. ROUGH. Follow fairways practices programme.

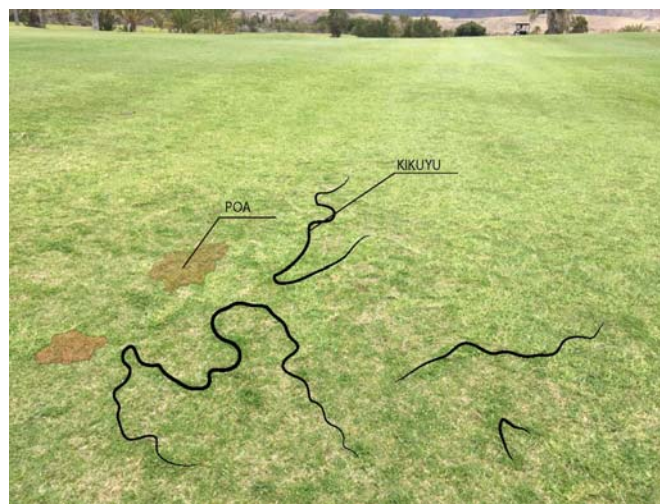


Image 7.

Poa annua and Kikuyugrass population in semirough (between tee and fairway)



Image 8.

Clover present in fairways.

- e. BUNKERS. Apply sand as needed and edge all of them (shaping the bunkers edges)



Imágenes 9 y 10. The photos show the need to edge the bunkers; mostly because of the kikuyu presence

- 5º. In order to achieve the uniformity, definition and playability required for the course by the tournament all practices described above must be done. Furthermore, water supply must be guaranteed.
- 6º. It may also be remembered not to forget about the manicure of the course, including paths, lakes, bridges,...
- 7º. In the framework of existing resources, people and machinery, the course is in condition to fulfilling the aforementioned objectives.



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Finally, we would like to thank for the kindness received during the course visit.

We remain at your disposal for any questions.

Royal Spanish Golf Federation

Green Section Committe