

## Why don't we have 8:00am Shotgun events??

This question comes up by golfers every year. It's a good question that I will try to explain.

The simple answer is this.... It takes the Golf Maintenance staff 4hrs to prepare ALL 18 holes of the golf course in the morning. This needs to be done to make sure all golfers are playing the course under the same conditions, as best as possible.....

How course preparation breaks down is...

1. 3 guys – 4hrs to mow fairways
2. 1 guy- 4hrs to mow greens
3. 1 guy – 4hrs to roll greens
4. 2 guys- 4hrs to prepare bunkers
5. 2 guys- 4hrs to change hole locations, move tee markers, sand divots, blow debris in fairways, remove trash, move traffic control stakes, paint drop areas, clean cart paths, etc.
6. 1 guy-4hrs to prepare the practice tee and place out water coolers
7. 1 guy-4hrs to mow tee complexes
8. 1 guy-4hrs to mow green aprons-collars
9. Mechanics checking on equipment, Irrigation Techs performing audits, Supervisors coordinating

The golf maintenance staff begins work at 4:30am. There is a quick team meeting to make sure everyone is aware of Club events and other daily operational 'happenings'. At 4:35am everyone is out the door into the darkness with their equipment and lights. As the calendar moves into late December and January, 100% of the work is done in the dark before sun-up.

As you can imagine, doing this preparation work in the dark has its challenges. Working through frosty mornings, doing ones best to avoid shining lights into homeowner bedroom windows, rotating holes in attempt to NOT annoy homeowners that live near greens and tees, operating equipment to catch hydraulic lines that might burst, selecting hole locations in the shadows of the night to avoid questionable pin positions, monitoring the greens fertilizer spray equipment to make sure application is applied uniformly, cleaning cart paths, removing trash and, and, and.... At times, the team has hiccups but for the most part they work very efficiently to meet daily expectations.

Understand, the team takes pride in their course prep work. They want to make the courses as beautiful as they can prior to golfers' arrival. It's discussed in operational team meetings how to prepare the courses better than the prior day. Golf maintenance does not want to be an annoyance to golfers as they are attempting to complete their daily course prep-work. It's like preparing for guests to visit your house for a dinner party....no one wants the guests at the house while you're vacuuming, dusting, cooking, and cleaning.

There are occasions where exceptions can be made, but the course work still requires 4hrs of preparation. After these initial 4hrs, the course is filled with golfers from 8:30am – after 5:30pm. Irrigation cycles begin shortly, and the team is back the next morning.