

The R&A recommended evidence fields for the assessment of ongoing sustainability

The information needed to complete the evidence fields listed below should be collated by the officers of the golf facility best qualified to do so. This may well require the involvement of a number of individuals, including those responsible for compiling budgets and implementing on-course activities.

1. Outcomes from on-course activities

a) Putting surface Key Performance Indicators (to be collected on a minimum of 3 greens, some to be registered weekly or monthly, all reported on annually):

- Firmness/moisture content (Clegg monthly, Theta Probe weekly)
- Speed (Stimpmeter or Pelzometer weekly or fortnightly)
- Trueness/smoothness (weekly or fortnightly – a simple, objective assessment is under development)
- Organic matter (four depths, at 0-20, 20-40, 40-60 and 60-80 mm, annually)
- Grass species composition (annually).

b) Economic Key Performance Indicators (to be reported on annually):

- Annual course-related income
- Number of rounds
- Days of green closure
- Days of course closure
- Human resources costs
- Water costs
- Fertiliser costs
- Pesticide costs
- Other materials costs
- Machinery costs
- Course-related depreciation costs
- Energy costs
- Waste uplift costs.

c) Environmental Key Performance Indicators (to be reported on annually):

- Habitat management plans and goals
- Biodiversity lists and results
- Other land use.

2. Inputs for on-course activities (some to be registered weekly, all reported on annually):

- Weather data from local weather station (e.g. rainfall, temperature, wind, sunlight hours, humidity)

- Irrigation water (source and volume for the year)
- Pesticides (volume, active ingredient, number of applications for the year)
- Fertiliser (type, frequency and total kg/ha of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium applied for the year)
- Energy used (type and amount for the year)
- Waste disposal (type, volumes and methods for the year)
- Hours worked analysis by course area (greens, green surrounds/aprons, tees, fairways, bunkers, semi-roughs, roughs) for the year.

Operational procedures (weekly reporting):

- Mowing heights and mowing method
- Brushing, grooming, verticutting, scarifying
- Top dressing
- Wetting agents
- Growth regulator
- Overseeding
- Aeration (type and frequency)
- Other operational procedures (type and frequency).

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