

THE R&A RECOMMENDED EVIDENCE FIELDS FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF GOLF COURSE PERFORMANCE

The R&A promotes the recording of golf course performance data so that the business of managing a course can be monitored and reported. The information The R&A believes is needed to achieve this is laid out as the evidence fields list below. These 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.

Data should be collated in a format that enables detailed analysis so that the outcomes and their implications can be interpreted. Interpretation and conversion into policy needs to be done by experts qualified in appropriate.

Avoid wasting time. Only record information that is of value to you and your business.

I. 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 Impact Hammer monthly, Theta Probe weekly)
- Reliability, the 'Holing Out' Test (Greenstester weekly or fortnightly)
- Speed (Greenstester, Stimpmeter or Pelzometer weekly or fortnightly)
- Trueness/smoothness (STRI Trueness Meter™)
- Organic matter (four depths, at 0-20, 20-40, 40-60 and 60-80 mm, annually)
- Grass species composition (annually).



More information on the 'Holing Out' Test is available [here](#).

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 recorded 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).

The OnCourse® programme from the Golf Environment Organization provides an online platform of guidance and for information recording and reporting on environmental and social stewardship for golf. You can register for the programme on the GEO website, www.golfenvironment.org