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GIA *insights*



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NEW TEAM NEW BEGINNING



Mr Declan McCollam
Chairperson



Mr Arun Iyer
Board Member



Mr George Menomparampil
Board Member



Mr Siva Kumar
Board Member



Mr Indrajit Bhalotia
Board Member



Mr Aashish Vaishnava
Board Member



Mr Krishna Kant Dubey
Board Member

FROM THE DESK OF DIRECTOR GENERAL

Respected Industry Representatives and GIA Members,

As the new Board of the Golf Industry Association takes charge, we extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes to all the newly elected Board members. Their election reflects the confidence and trust placed in them by the members of the Association and brings with it an opportunity to build on the progress achieved so far.

We would also like to sincerely thank all our members for their enthusiastic participation and support throughout the election process. The healthy engagement demonstrated once again that GIA is a strong and vibrant industry body, driven by the collective commitment of its members.

The next two years present an exciting opportunity for the Golf Industry Association. The focus will be on strengthening the golf ecosystem, expanding industry participation, encouraging greater collaboration, and creating meaningful platforms for knowledge, networking and business opportunities. We will also continue to champion sustainability, technology, skill development and the role of golf in tourism and economic development.

As we begin this new term, we believe it is important that we move forward with a spirit of partnership and shared purpose. The Board, members and industry stakeholders must work together to create greater visibility and opportunities for golf in India.

We look forward to an active, progressive and impactful two-year journey. Together, let us build on our achievements, embrace new possibilities and make the Golf Industry Association an even stronger voice for the industry.

Sincerely,

Dr. Himanshu Talwar

Director General



About Golf Industry Association (GIA)

It's a non-profit Industry Association registered under the Societies & Trust Act of India, formed by Golf Industry Groups.

Core Activities

- Promote Golf in India through researched information dissemination to all levels of government and the general public. The GIA will specifically develop a golf related research document each year to present to all levels of government and to promote this information through media outlets.
- Educate and inform its members by the offering of an annual conference, targeted training opportunities and professional Industry interaction.
- Assist to build and promote the Indian Golf industry by supporting the activities and aims of the Indian Golf Union, the Government of India Tourism Authority and other golf related groups through the running of an annual Golf Expo.

Why you should join GIA

1. Membership is open to all Golf related establishments / organizations including golf clubs as well as to individuals involved in an official capacity in the Indian Golf Industry.
2. This gives you a universal platform to co-ordinate and to interact with serious players in the Golf industry.
3. As a member you are entitled to avail of the services rendered by the Association such as expert advices on construction of Golf Courses, redesigning of courses, turf management, course maintenance, irrigation, etc.

GIA Membership Categories & Fees

- International Membership – \$500 (All Inclusive, No Voting Rights)
- Corporate Membership – ₹25,000/- + GST (Full Member Rights)
- GIA Greens Section (Active Golf Superintendents) – ₹1,000/- + GST (No Voting Rights)

Who Can Become a Member?

- Corporate Membership is open to all golf-related companies, establishments, and organizations, including golf clubs.
- International Membership is open to companies or representatives based outside India.
- GIA Greens Section Membership is exclusive to active golf course superintendents.

Note: Membership is restricted to those who agree to abide by the GOLF INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION Constitution and Code of Ethics. A full copy is available on the GIA website.

Join GIA today and become part of a growing network dedicated to the advancement of the golf industry!

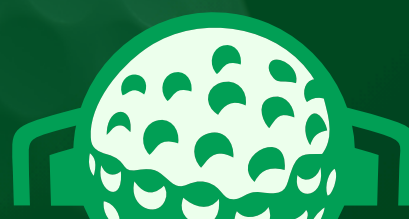


GIA

Golf Industry Association

GIA Board Members

Name	Designation
Mr Declan McCollam	Chairperson
Mr Arun Iyer	Board Member
Mr George Menomparampil	Board Member
Mr Siva Kumar	Board Member
Mr Inderjit Balotia	Board Member
Mr Aashish Vaishnava	Board Member
Mr Krishna Kant Dubey	Board Member



BECOME A MEMBER

JOIN US



dg@golfindustryassociation.in



www.golfindustryassociation.in

GIA Membership Benefits:

- Receive information about industry developments through GIA website and newsletter.
- Make contacts and network with other members – leaders in the industry.
- Receive invitations to zonal and national networking and educational programs featuring international and Indian experts.
- Receive a 15% discount on Exhibition space fees to the India Golf Expo – the industry's most important annual event.
- Gain access to presentations, articles and support information on our "Member's Only" area on the website.
- Receive one complimentary delegate pass to the India Golf Expo (For golf clubs who become corporate members) which includes the main conference, lunches, networking coffee breaks and hosted gala dinners.
- Post questions to members and get answers and insights to problems and queries through vast expertise of our members.
- Receive notices about international conferences and events.
- Vote at the annual India Golf Expo Awards.
- List your company on the GIA website & use the GIA Logo in email signatures & stationary

More Benefits

- Receive one complimentary delegate pass to the India Golf Expo (For golf clubs who become corporate members) which includes the main conference, lunches, networking coffee breaks and hosted gala dinners.
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GIA Account Details

- Account Name: Golf Industry Association
- Bank Name: Axis Bank Limited
- Branch: Bund garden, Pune
- Address of Branch: Ashoka Galaxy, Plot No 1, Galaxy Society, Dhole Patil Road, Bundgarden, Pune – 411001
- Account Type: Saving Account
- Account No: 911010034935000
- IFS Code: UTIB0000073
- Swift code for wire transfer bundgarden branch – AXISINBB073

Dr Himanshu Talwar

Director General

Golf Industry Association (GIA)

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Email: dg@golfindustryassociation.in

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends of the Golf Industry,

It is a privilege to take on the responsibility of serving as Chairperson of the Golf Industry Association for the next two years. I sincerely thank all our members for their confidence, trust and support. I also acknowledge the tremendous work undertaken by Anil Seolekar and Deepali Shah Gandhi in strengthening the Association, and the valuable contributions of Anit Mehrotra, Rakesh Sharma, Dharendra Jha and our beloved late Ravi Garyali, whose commitment and association with GIA have contributed to its journey and growth.

As we begin this new term, our priority must be to demonstrate tangible value to the golf industry. GIA must be recognised as an Association that delivers, not only for its members, but for the industry as a whole. One of our key areas of focus will be creating and delivering more training seminars centred on best practices, enabling clubs and industry professionals to strengthen their teams, improve operations and address the challenges they face.

We also intend to develop a stronger ecosystem for our members, including a recommended list of preferred vendors from within the GIA membership. At the same time, we must develop a clear action plan and strategy that demonstrates to international stakeholders, including The R&A, that the Indian golf industry is ready to move forward with purpose and measurable outcomes.

The coming two years will therefore be about action, consistency and accountability. We aim to establish a structured programme of meetings, develop a national training calendar and work towards four training seminars across India in 2027. Finally, we will work collectively to rebuild our membership base beyond the 70-plus members previously achieved, with an ambitious target of reaching 100+ members by July 2028.

I look forward to working closely with the Board, our members and the wider golf industry to make this term meaningful, productive and impactful.

Declan McCollam
Chairperson



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GIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Respected Members,

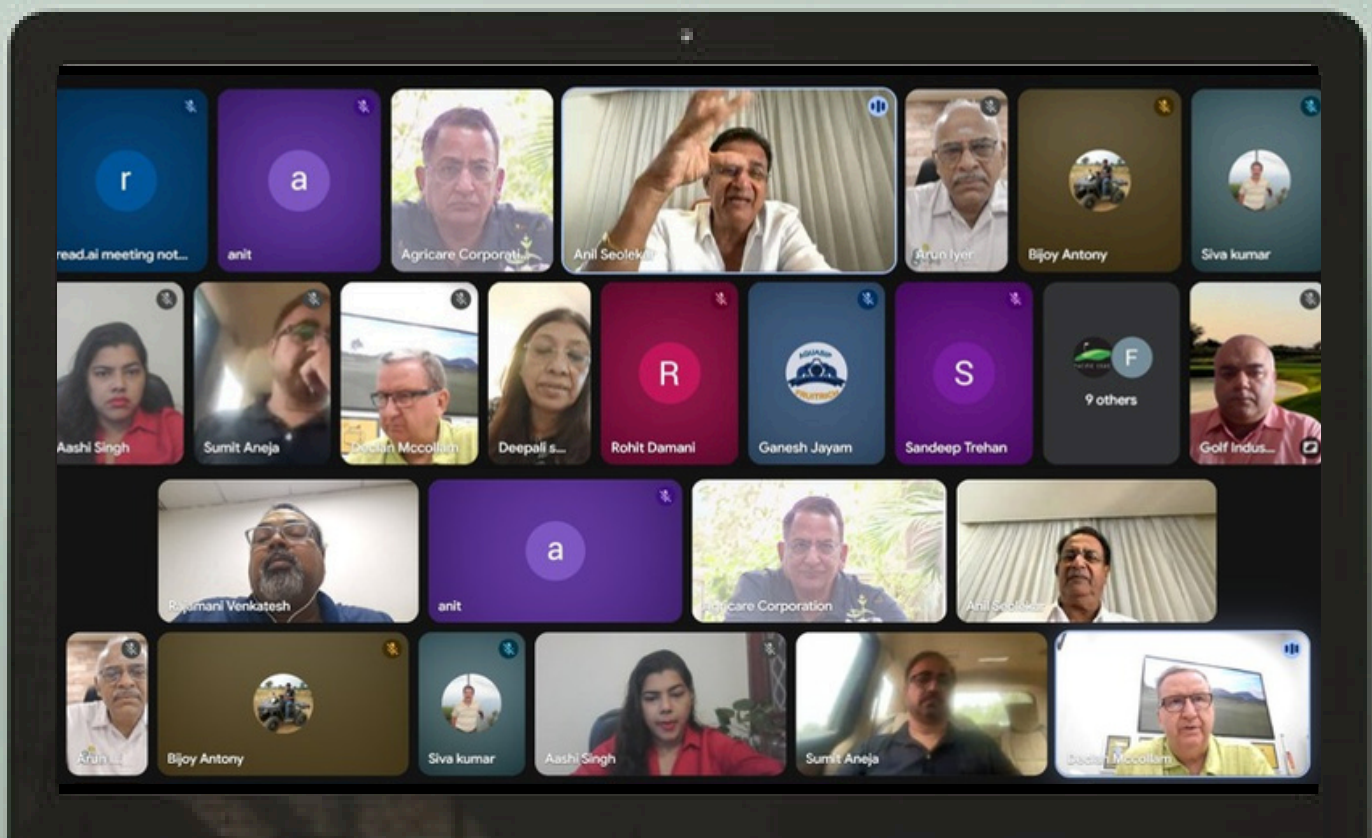
Thank you for your valued presence and participation at the GIA Annual General Meeting.

Your time, thoughtful engagement, and continued support made the gathering truly meaningful and successful.

We sincerely appreciate your trust, ideas, and commitment to our shared vision. Together, we continue to strengthen our association and build a brighter future.

We look forward to your ongoing involvement and meeting you again at the upcoming events.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Himanshu Talwar
Director General



Golf Bunker Renovation: Where Design Discipline Meets Operating Cost

Golf bunker renovation is often treated as routine course upkeep, but for owners, operators, and investors it is better understood as preventive capital expenditure that protects operating margins, presentation quality, and long-term asset value.

Owners rarely notice a bunker problem until sand consistency declines, edges fail after heavy rain, and members begin questioning course standards. By then, the decision is no longer whether to improve the bunkers; it is whether to keep absorbing avoidable repair costs or fund a structured renovation program that lowers maintenance exposure and improves how the course reads to buyers, members, and guests.

Why Bunker Work Moves the Needle

A bunker's condition signals the overall discipline of course management. A failed edge, contaminated sand, or visible washout does more than affect play; it suggests deferred maintenance, raises questions about operating control, and weakens confidence in the wider property. Fix the sequence — drainage, containment, sand specification, and shaping — and the asset gains a longer service window before it needs serious capital again.

The Masterplanning Angle

Not every bunker on a layout deserves to survive a renovation cycle. Some exist because of legacy design choices

rather than current strategic value, and those are the first candidates for removal when capital discipline matters. On golf-led real estate projects, the calculus is more nuanced: a bunker visible from villas, sales routes, or the clubhouse terrace supports the landscape and pricing narrative as much as the golf strategy, so it earns a higher build and finish standard than one seen only by players.

Where the Commercial Case Actually Lives

The strongest argument for bunker renovation is not aesthetic; it is financial control. Proper drainage and containment reduce hand-raking, sand

replacement, and post-storm repair hours, so the benefit appears repeatedly in the maintenance ledger rather than once in project photographs. For an owner preparing to hold, sell, or transfer operations, that matters because it demonstrates that the course will not quietly consume preventable cash every season.



Getting the Design and Materials Right

Slope, liner choice, sand specification, and edge turf determine whether the renovation performs beyond the first season. Bunker faces should stay within the practical limits of the sand's stability, liner systems should be chosen for local rainfall and contamination risk, and edge grasses should be selected for density and durability around high-wear lips. These details matter commercially because they reduce rework, protect presentation quality, and keep the bunker from becoming a recurring maintenance exception.

What Actually Happens on Site

A renovation that skips steps rarely holds up. The practical sequence is clear: diagnose the drainage problem, remove contaminated sand, reshape the bunker, install drainage and liner, then place and calibrate new sand. Sand specification is not optional; high-drainage, angular particles with minimal fines protect consistency and prevent the repair cycle from restarting within a year. Settling time should also be built into the program, because freshly placed sand and new turf need several weeks before they can perform reliably under regular play.

What This Means for Asset Value

Renovation Step	What It Fixes	Why It Pays Off
Drainage rebuild	Stops washouts, protects shaping	Lower post-storm labour, faster reopening, and fewer emergency repairs
Liner installation	Keeps sand anchored on faces	Reduced sand migration, fewer top-ups, and longer intervals between major interventions
Sand replacement	Restores consistent play	More consistent playability, stronger member confidence, and lower early-life failure risk
Bunker rationalization	Cuts low-value hazards	Permanent reduction in low-value maintenance inventory and recurring crew demand
Edge and turf renewal	Sharpens sightlines	Cleaner sightlines, stronger sales presentation, and better support for adjacent real-estate pricing

Practical Takeaways

- Plan the work as one program. Treat bunker renovation as a coordinated capital project rather than a bunker-by-bunker patch job, because piecemeal fixes usually cost more over a decade.
- Start with drainage. Rebuild drainage before shaping, liners, or sand selection, because even the best-looking bunker will fail quickly if it cannot handle heavy rain and monsoon loads.
- Remove low-value bunkers deliberately. Use elimination as a strategic cost-control tool, since each unnecessary bunker removed reduces recurring maintenance rather than creating only a one-time saving.
- Specify materials for local conditions. Match sand and liner choices to rainfall, soil movement, and contamination risk instead of relying on a generic template.
- Set expectations before reopening. Explain settling time early so stakeholders understand that new sand and turf need several weeks before the bunkers perform consistently under regular play.



Bunker renovation may appear to be course housekeeping, but treated properly it is one of the clearest ways to convert design discipline into lower operating cost, stronger presentation quality, and measurable asset protection across the life of a golf-led development.

Aashish Vaishnava & Jon Hunt
(Golf Course Architects)



GOLF PRIDE STRENGTHENS PRESENCE IN INDIA WITH KARMA DISTRIBUTION PARTNERSHIP

PINEHURST, N.C., August 3, 2026 – Golf Pride, the #1 grip in golf, today announced the appointment of KARMA as its new and exclusive distributor in India, effective immediately.

With more than 20 years of golf industry distribution experience, KARMA manages a portfolio of leading golf brands, including Srixon, Cleveland Golf and XXIO. The company's established market presence, customer centric approach, and extensive industry expertise make KARMA an ideal partner as Golf Pride continues to invest in and expand its presence in the Indian market.



"We are honored to partner with Golf Pride and represent the world's leading golf grip brand in India," said Rahul Khanna, Founder of KARMA. "We look forward to expanding accessibility and support for Golf Pride products throughout India."

As the #1 grip in golf, Golf Pride remains committed to delivering exceptional service, reliable product availability, and comprehensive support to its retail partners. Through this partnership, Golf Pride aims to further strengthen its ability to serve golfers and retailers throughout India.

"We are excited to welcome KARMA as our exclusive distribution partner in India," said Mike Miringoff, Head of Sales, Asia-Pacific. "Rahul Khanna and his team have built a strong reputation within the golf industry, and we share a common commitment to providing outstanding products and service to our customers. We look forward to growing the Golf Pride brand together in this important market."

For more information about Golf Pride products or to place an order, please contact:

Rahul Khanna
Founder, KARMA
Email: rahul@karmaglobal.co.in
Phone: 98102 13135

About Golf Pride

Golf Pride is the #1 grip in golf and a leading innovator in golf grip technology. Since its founding in 1949, Golf Pride has become synonymous with the highest quality performance equipment in golf. Today, from its Global Innovation Center (GIC) in Pinehurst, North Carolina, Golf Pride continues to lead grip innovation through its relentless focus on the only connection between a golfer's hands and the club. For professionals, top amateurs and recreational golfers of all skill levels, Golf Pride sets the standard in performance and design. To learn more about Golf Pride, go to www.golfpride.com.

About KARMA

KARMA is a leading golf industry distributor in India with more than 20 years of experience representing and growing premium golf brands. Its portfolio includes renowned brands such as Srixon, Cleveland Golf and XXIO, supported by a strong distribution network and a commitment to exceptional customer service.

Accuracy of Information Disclaimer:

The information contained in this newsletter is provided by the Golf Industry Association (GIA) for general informational purposes only. While we strive to ensure that all details are accurate and up to date, GIA makes no guarantees regarding the completeness, timeliness, or accuracy of the information presented. We recommend verifying any details independently before taking action based on this content.

Toro Greensmaster® TriFlex™ 3400 - Precision Cutting for Championship-Ready Greens

Golf course superintendents looking to raise the bar on green quality have a proven partner in the Toro Greensmaster TriFlex 3400 riding greens mower, available through IPI India.

The TriFlex 3400 is built around Toro's patented Flex suspension, allowing each of its three cutting units to pivot independently around the front roller. This lets the units follow the natural contours and undulations of a green far more closely than a fixed-deck design -



translating directly into a smoother, more consistent cut, better ball roll, and healthier turf. A "lift-in-turn" feature raises the inside cutting units slightly during turns, virtually eliminating the tell-tale triplex ring that can mar a green's appearance and disrupt play.

Serviceability is where the TriFlex really pays off for course operations. Tool-free, quick-change cutting units let a single operator switch the machine from greens height (as low as 0.125") to fairway height ($\frac{3}{4}$ ") in minutes - turning one machine into a multi-purpose asset instead of a single-task investment. The exclusive lift-gate footrest gives easy access to the center cutting unit for daily maintenance, cutting service time and eliminating the need to put the machine on a lift.

Other features built for real-world course conditions include the Turf Guardian leak detection system for peace of mind on sensitive turf, redesigned balloon-style tires that reduce visible tracking for a cleaner-looking green, and an improved clippings-capture system for a tidier, healthier cut. Transport speeds up to 10 mph mean crews can stay ahead of golfers and finish the rotation faster. The unit is backed by a 2-year limited warranty.

For courses that demand tournament-ready greens day after day, the TriFlex 3400 delivers precision, versatility, and low-maintenance reliability in one machine.

K. Siva Kumar
CEO
IPI Pvt Ltd



Karma Lakelands: Golf, Nature and a Circular Future

At Karma Lakelands, golf has always been about more than the game. It is about connecting people with nature, creating community, and demonstrating that a golf destination can also be a living example of responsible and sustainable living. This spirit came alive on 15 August 2026, when Karma Lakelands celebrated India's 80th Independence Day with a morning that brought together patriotism and environmental stewardship.

The National Flag was proudly hoisted by Radhika Anand, Founder of Plantology, who has personally planted more than half a million trees and follows a zero-waste lifestyle, along with Group Captain Dr S. N. Mishra, associated with climate-change education at TERI.



The morning also marked the dedication of Karma Lakelands' 1-tonne-per-day Energy Bin Biogas System—a significant step towards a genuinely circular ecosystem.

Turning Waste into Energy

The Energy Bin is built around a simple principle: what is generated within the campus should, wherever possible, become a resource for the campus itself.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ashwani Khurana, Founder, Karma Lakelands, said the biogas system would not only generate clean energy to fire the kitchens of KLUB Karma, but also produce nutrient-rich bio-compost.

Its feedstock includes cow dung from more than 120 cows, food waste generated by approximately 1,500 people eating every day across the staff canteens, and organic waste from residents, hospitality guests and golfers.

In effect:

Food → Waste → Biogas + Bio-compost → Energy + Soil Nutrition → Food

The Energy Bin is also a precursor to the arrival of Sobha Aranya at Karma Lakelands in the coming years. Sobha Aranya is envisioned as a conscious community that will carry this philosophy into everyday residential living. Once occupied, its biodegradable waste can be segregated at source and channelled into the Karma Lakelands biogas system, where it can be transformed into clean, green energy and bio-compost, rather than ending up as conventional waste.

This creates the possibility of a larger circular ecosystem in which the golf resort, hospitality facilities and resident.



Ashwani Khurana

President, Karma Lakelands



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The Rise of Golf Leagues in India: Driving a New Era of Golf Tourism

A New Era for Indian Golf

Indian golf is entering an exciting new phase. From professional franchise leagues to amateur, senior and junior competitions, golf is becoming more visible, competitive and accessible—and this is creating an important opportunity for domestic golf tourism.

Leagues Across Generations

The launch of 72 The League, India's first franchise-based professional golf league, has brought a new dimension to the sport, combining city-based teams, player auctions, entertainment and digital engagement.



At the club level, the Mumbai Golf League at Bombay Presidency Golf Club has become a popular team competition, while Bengaluru's KGA Premier League now features 24 teams and 432 players. Kolkata's Royal Premier Golf League (RPGL), launched in 2016, has grown into one of India's largest amateur leagues, with its 2026 edition featuring 20 teams and a 12-week season. Hyderabad's Telangana Premier Golf League has similarly created a competitive team format for HGA members and their families. (Have not named all the golf leagues that are happening in India)

Importantly, this movement is not restricted by age. The India Junior Golf League is creating a national platform for 11-17-year-olds, alongside Swing, Chip & Putt for younger children and parent-child competitions. Senior and super-senior categories are also increasingly prominent across India's golf calendar.

Golf's Digital Revolution

Instagram and YouTube are creating a completely new golf audience. Platforms and creators such as "Not A Golf Channel", "My Golf Tours", professional golfers, coaches and golf-content creators are making courses, players, equipment, instruction and golf lifestyles accessible to audiences who may never have followed traditional golf media.

This increased visibility is supporting the wider golf economy—equipment, apparel, accessories, coaching, technology, driving ranges and golf experiences—while encouraging more people to take up the sport.



From Golf to Golf Tourism

Every league creates a reason to travel. A golfer travelling from Mumbai to Bengaluru, Delhi to Jaipur or Pune to Hyderabad can add extra rounds, hotel stays, dining and local experiences. Families and corporate supporters can turn tournaments into golf weekends.

This is where domestic golf tourism can grow substantially.

Taking India to the World

My Golf Tours, a division of Maa Air Ticket Centre, is actively promoting India internationally as a golf destination and bringing overseas golfers to experience Indian courses. Through participation in international golf shows and IAGTO events, it showcases India's combination of golf, heritage, culture, wellness and luxury travel. In 2026, My Golf Tours represented Indian Golf Tourism at the Danish Travel Show in association with the Embassy of India.



New Careers in Golf

Another encouraging development is the emergence of golf management and golf-tourism education by George Pro Touch School of Sports. Concep and syllabus by Mr. Indrajit Bhalotia, PROFESSIONAL GOLFER FOR OVER 34 YEARS 5 TIME WINNER OF PGA TITLES INCLUDING CROMPTON-GREAVES AT BPGC ASIAN TOUR PLAYER FOR 12 YEARS creating career opportunities in course management, club operations, tournaments, hospitality, marketing, turf management and golf tourism.

The Bigger Opportunity

The rise of golf leagues can create a powerful cycle:

More visibility → More participation → More golfers → More travel → More business for courses and allied industries.

India should now look at golf not merely as a sport, but as a sport, lifestyle, business and tourism opportunity.

The future may not simply be about playing golf in India—it could be about travelling India through golf.



By Arun Iyer- Mg. Director My Golf Tours,
Hon. Secretary. Travel Agents Federation of India - WI



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Organic Matter: Key Parameter to Determine the Health of Your Golf Green

What Exactly is Organic Matter in Turfgrass Systems?

In simple words, organic matter (OM) consists of accumulated plant residues, thatch, and decomposing roots within the rootzone. When cooler soil temperatures slow microbial decay while turf continues to grow, OM quickly accumulates in the surface layers.

Managing OM accumulation is one of the most challenging tasks for golf courses. The build-up of OM is a natural process, behaving like a giant sponge under the turf surface. If it is not well managed, then it can lead to severe playing issues that degrade course quality and overall turf health.

Historically, greenkeepers managed OM through visual rootzone assessments, but modern golf courses now rely on scientific testing and precise data.



Picture no.1: Unchecked organic matter acts like a sponge

Why it is Such a Critical Parameter?

The physical behaviour and health of a golf green's surface are directly linked to OM. Unchecked organic matter acts like a sponge, holding excessive moisture, reducing surface firmness, and

harming smooth ball roll and putting consistency. Because growth rates, nitrogen applications, and topdressing programs are closely linked, regular monitoring is important to keep inputs balanced and prevent turf failure during high-stress periods or course renovations.



Picture no.2: Soil core sample with incremental depths

Testing Methods for Golf Courses

To manage OM effectively, golf course teams can utilize two primary testing methods depending on their goals:

1. Nutrient Value Testing: This is a standard laboratory method assessing soil chemistry and fertility. Higher OM percentages often correlate with greater nutrient fertility, but this method is insufficient for measuring physical turf properties or surface playability on golf greens.

2. Physical Property Testing (Incremental Depth Testing): This method was introduced by the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute (NZSTI). It measures OM across precise incremental depths. By analysing exactly where accumulation happens, superintendents gain actionable data to track changes, target renovations accurately, and evaluate whether management practices stabilize OM before playing quality is compromised.

What we Get from the Data?

1. Seeing the Full Picture: OM management requires understanding complex inter-relationships on the golf

course. For example, if nitrogen and sand programs get out of sync, OM levels spike unexpectedly, risking turf health.

2. Data-Driven Renovation: Relying purely on guesswork can put a golf facility at risk. Data-driven courses utilize structured Renovation Warrant of Fitness (WOF) programs to evaluate organic matter, moisture, firmness, and inputs against strict performance targets, optimizing resources and safeguarding playability.



Picture no.3: Unchecked turf (high risk)



Picture no.4: Evaluated turf (low risk)



Picture no.5: Organic Matter check by Labosport technician

In conclusion, regular OM testing acts as a comprehensive health check for golf greens, combining depth-based data with precise records of nitrogen rates and topdressing volumes to ensure excellent playing conditions throughout the year.

Don't leave your course's playability to guesswork. At Labosport and the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute (NZSTI), we combine world-class scientific laboratory testing with decades of expert agronomic advisory to help you master rootzone management.

Anuj Sharma
Field Technician & Sales Executive
Labosport India



Pythium Disease Management Guide

Managing Pythium, Curvularia, and Rhizoctonia in turfgrass requires an intensive approach because they thrive under different conditions and require entirely different fungicide classes. Failing to address all three properly can result in catastrophic turf loss. The following guide details how to identify, culturally manage, and chemically treat these pathogens in professional and residential turf.

a. Cultural controls - primary defense to reduce moisture and stress, which are the main triggers for all three pathogens.

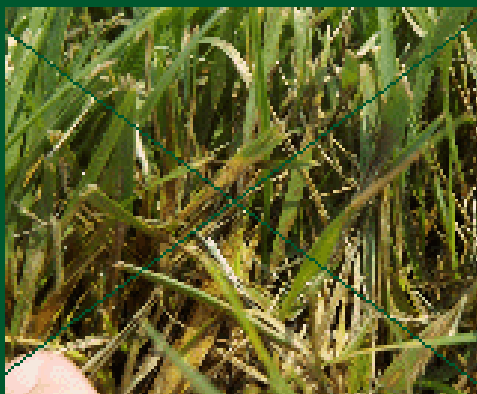
*** Watering Windows:** Irrigate deeply and infrequently early in the morning (between 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM). Never water in the late afternoon or evening, as this leaves the turf canopy wet overnight and fuels Pythium and Rhizoctonia outbreaks. Spray Aquatrol USA make Dispatch 3ml per litre of water to ensure deep water penetration - Dose 2 to 3 litre Dispatch per hectare.

*** Soil Physical Airflow:** Mechanically eliminate excess moisture and regularly dethatch the lawn. Thatch harbors overwintering spores. Ensure your soil profile drains rapidly. Spray PlantFood Co., USA make Green T Impulse 10ml per litre of water to dissolve thatch if running dethatcher machine is not possible in heavy Golf traffic.

*** Dew Disruption:** On golf greens or high-value sports turf, use a morning drag mat, hose, or commercial fans to break up dew and speed up leaf-surface drying. Spray GreenBest UK make Haze 10ml per litre of water to avoid dew formation.

*** Nitrogen Moderation:** Avoid applying fast-release nitrogen fertilizers during hot, humid summer spells. Succulent, over-fertilized grass blades are highly susceptible to Rhizoctonia and Pythium infections. Spray PlantFood Co. USA make Polyphosphite 5ml per litre of water to fight pythium blight & strengthen grass.

*** Sanitation:** Never mow diseased turf when it is wet. Clean mower decks thoroughly after cutting infected areas to prevent transferring pathogens across the rest of the turf. Use Five West Inc USA make FlowPhos as Tank / Deck cleaner.

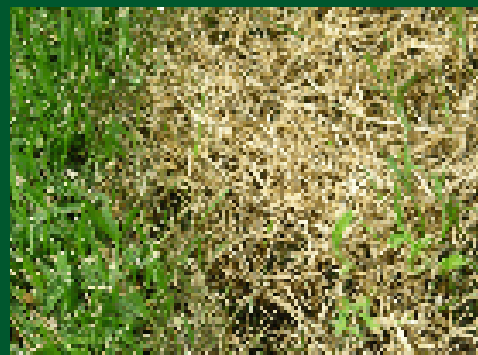


b. Chemical Control - a single general fungicide will not clear all three. You must deploy a multi-action approach or combine products to avoid chemical resistance. Recommended Treatment Rotation Strategy.

*** Preventative Phase:** Apply a broad-spectrum fungicide like Azoxystrobin (Amistar or Amistar Top). This protects against early Rhizoctonia (Brown Patch) and suppresses Pythium.

*** High-Pressure Phase:** If night temperatures consistently exceed 68°F (20°C) alongside heavy rainfall or humidity, tank-mix or rotate away from strobilurins. Use Mefenoxam (Ridomil Gold) or Cyazofamid (Ranman) strictly to lock down Pythium, combined with a DMI fungicide like Propiconazole (Tilt) to knock back Rhizoctonia and Curvularia.

*** Resistance Management:** Always alternate fungicide chemical groups (FRAC codes) every 1 to 2 applications. Repeatedly using the same active ingredient will select for resistant pathogen strains, rendering the chemical useless.



Conclusion

Managing Pythium, Curvularia, and Rhizoctonia requires a combined approach of cultural practices and fungicide use. Reducing moisture, improving airflow, balanced nutrition, and good sanitation help lower disease risk. When needed, rotate fungicides and follow a preventive and curative program. Consistency is key to maintaining healthy, resilient turf throughout the season. A proactive turf management strategy strengthens root systems and improves resistance against future disease outbreaks.

Vinod Goyal
 CEO, Agricare Corporation



Zion Hills eyes global golf spotlight in Kolar

Kolar, Aug 22 (UNI) India's acute shortage of quality golf courses presents a major opportunity for new destinations such as Zion Hills Golf County to emerge on the national and international golfing map, its Co-founder and Managing Director George Menomparampil said.

Despite India's long association with golf, the country has around 250 golf courses, of which nearly 100 are located on military campuses, leaving about 150 civilian courses, George said.

"In 80 years since Independence, I estimate that we have built fewer than 25 new 18-hole golf courses in this country," he said, citing land availability, economic challenges and infrastructure constraints among the reasons for the slow growth.



The United States has around 16,000 golf courses and Japan about 2,500, highlighting the gap in India's golfing infrastructure, he said.

George said Zion Hills was conceived as a championship-level course with the objective of becoming one of India's leading golf destinations.

The course was developed with the guidance of American golf architect Ronald Fream. Its first nine holes opened in 2012, while the full 18-hole layout became operational only last year after a long development process.

The 7,360-yard course combines granite formations, boulders, lakes, rolling greens, strategically positioned bunkers and trees. Water comes into play on about 12 of the 18 holes, while changing seasonal winds can significantly alter shot selection.

"This is a thinking course," George said, stressing the importance of course management and strategic shot selection.

The greens use A4 bent grass, a premium putting-surface variety also used at Augusta, venue of the Masters tournament. The course also houses the Tarun Sardesai Golf Academy, which has produced several professional golfers.

The venue's growing reputation helped Zion Hills attract the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), with the Kolar Open subsequently being staged there.

George said the tournament was deliberately named after Kolar rather than the golf course to help revive the profile of a region once associated with its gold mines.

"We wanted this to be bigger than us. Kolar was once a place of great history and glory. We wanted to do our little bit to restore some of that," he said.

He said the course had the potential to rank among India's best, but acknowledged that its overall golfing experience still needed improvement, particularly in areas such as caddie services, carts, food and clubhouse facilities.

Improved connectivity and the development of residential and commercial infrastructure around Kolar would also be crucial to attracting more golfers, he said.

On the economics of golf-course development, George estimated that construction, excluding land, could cost Rs 3 crore to Rs 5-6 crore per hole, depending on terrain, earth-moving requirements and design.

A golf course could take around 20 to 25 years to reach break-even, he said, as surrounding infrastructure and population take time to develop.

Looking ahead, Zion Hills hopes to attract major international tournaments, including potentially a DP World Tour or PGA Tour event.

"It has the potential. We just need to make sure they come," he said.

George Menomparampil
Co-founder & MD
Zion Hills



Beyond Turf: Managing Staff and Committee Dynamics in Golf Course Leadership

A golf course superintendent is entrusted with much more than maintaining exceptional playing surfaces. The role sits at the intersection of agronomy, operations, finance, and people. While irrigation systems, drainage, and turf health can be measured scientifically, managing workplace politics—both among staff and at committee level—requires emotional intelligence, consistency, and professional leadership.

Every golf club is a community of passionate stakeholders. Greens staff focus on daily execution, committee members represent governance and member expectations, while management balances budgets and long-term sustainability. Challenges arise when informal influence, personal relationships, or communication gaps begin affecting professional decisions. The objective of a successful superintendent is not to eliminate politics, but to ensure that agronomic decisions remain guided by facts rather than personalities.



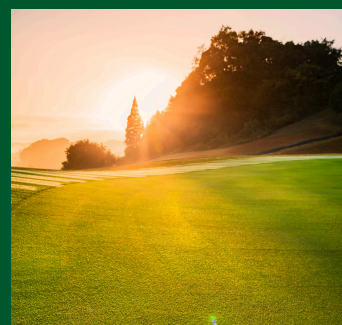
The foundation of positive leadership is credibility. Staff naturally support leaders who are visible on the course, willing to work alongside the team, and consistent in their decisions. Respect is earned through fairness—not favouritism. Clear work allocation, transparent recognition of good performance, and equal accountability create a culture where influence loses its power and professionalism becomes the standard.

At committee level, communication is equally important. Rather than reacting to opinions, successful superintendents present measurable data: green speed, moisture levels, infiltration rates, disease pressure, maintenance schedules, and project progress. Objective reporting transforms discussions from emotional debates into informed decision-making. When committees understand the reasoning behind agronomic practices, trust grows naturally.

Staff influence can sometimes extend beyond operational boundaries, creating misunderstandings or competing narratives.

The most effective response is never confrontation; it is documentation and clarity. Written work plans, progress reports, meeting minutes, and standard operating procedures protect both the organisation and the individuals involved. Professional transparency reduces ambiguity and strengthens institutional governance.

An exceptional golf course is also built through shared ownership. Involving senior staff in planning, encouraging young employees to learn new technologies, and acknowledging every team member's contribution creates collective pride. When people feel valued, they become contributors rather than competitors. Leadership then shifts from controlling people to developing them.



Perhaps the greatest lesson in golf course management is patience. Turf does not respond overnight, and neither do people. Relationships mature through consistency, integrity, and respectful dialogue. Difficult situations should be addressed privately, while achievements should be celebrated publicly. This simple principle preserves dignity and strengthens team morale.

Ultimately, the superintendent's legacy is measured not only by championship-quality greens, but by the culture left behind—a workplace where committees trust professional expertise, staff feel respected, and decisions are made in the best interest of the golf course.

Politics may always exist in organisations, but principled leadership ensures it never overshadows excellence.

True golf course leadership is cultivating people with the same dedication used to cultivate turf—patiently, consistently, and with a vision that benefits every member of the club

Harshada Abhyankar (Bhagavati)
Golf Course Superintendent



Water is the New Fairway: Rethinking Golf Course Management Through Smart Technology

For decades, golf courses have been admired as lush green landscapes that symbolize precision, beauty, and excellence. Yet behind every perfectly manicured fairway lies an increasingly complex challenge—water.

As climate change intensifies, groundwater levels decline, and regulations around water usage become stricter, golf course managers are under growing pressure to do more with less. The conversation is no longer about simply maintaining turf quality; it is about creating sustainable ecosystems where every drop of water is measured, managed, and maximized. This is where technology is quietly transforming the future of golf.



Beyond Irrigation: Towards Intelligent Water Management

Traditional irrigation systems were designed for consistency. Modern golf courses, however, require intelligence.

No two greens lose moisture at the same rate. A shaded fairway behaves differently from an exposed tee box. Soil composition, wind speed, humidity, temperature, and player traffic all influence the water requirements of different areas of a golf course. Applying the same amount of water across the entire course is no longer efficient—it is expensive and environmentally unsustainable.

Today's golf facilities are increasingly adopting data-driven water management systems that continuously monitor field conditions and provide actionable insights rather than assumptions.



The Power of Real-Time Data

Technology has shifted water management from reactive maintenance to proactive decision-making.

Advanced sensor networks installed across the course can monitor:

- .Soil moisture at multiple depths
- .Soil temperature
- .Salinity levels
- .Weather conditions
- .Evapotranspiration rates
- .Water pressure and flow
- .Irrigation system performance

Instead of relying solely on visual inspections or fixed irrigation schedules, course superintendents receive real-time information that enables precise irrigation decisions.

This approach not only conserves water but also improves turf health by avoiding both overwatering and underwatering.

Every Drop Has a Cost

Water is no longer viewed as an unlimited utility—it has become one of the most valuable operational resources for golf facilities.

Excess irrigation often leads to:

- .Increased pumping and electricity costs
- .Fertilizer leaching
- .Disease-prone turf
- .Higher maintenance requirements
- .Soil compaction
- .Poor playing conditions

Conversely, insufficient irrigation stresses turfgrass, weakens root systems, and impacts the playing experience.

Smart water management aims to find the balance where turf receives exactly what it needs—nothing more, nothing less.



Technology as a Decision Support System

One of the biggest misconceptions is that technology replaces experience.

In reality, it enhances it.

Course superintendents possess years of practical knowledge about their landscapes. Smart platforms simply provide accurate, real-time information that helps validate decisions and identify issues before they become visible.

Imagine receiving an alert about a leaking valve before thousands of litres of water are wasted, or identifying a moisture deficit in one section of the course days before turf stress becomes apparent.

Technology acts as an early warning system, enabling preventive maintenance rather than costly corrective action.

Sustainability Is Becoming a Competitive Advantage

Golf is increasingly being judged not only by the quality of its greens but also by the sustainability of its operations.

Members, tournament organisers, regulators, investors, and local communities all expect responsible environmental stewardship.

Efficient water management contributes directly to:

- Lower carbon emissions through reduced pumping
- Responsible groundwater usage
- Improved biodiversity
- Better compliance with environmental regulations
- Stronger sustainability reporting
- Enhanced public perception

For many clubs, sustainability has become a strategic differentiator rather than merely a compliance requirement.

The Role of Integrated Technology Platforms

Modern water management is moving beyond standalone irrigation controllers. Integrated platforms now combine data from weather stations, soil sensors, irrigation systems, satellite imagery, and mobile applications into a single dashboard.

This enables course managers to:

- Monitor water consumption in real time
- Schedule irrigation based on actual field conditions
- Detect leaks instantly
- Analyse historical trends
- Forecast future water demand
- Generate reports for management and regulatory authorities

The result is better operational visibility and more informed decision-making across the entire facility.

Investing in the Future

Technology should not be viewed simply as an operational expense. It is an investment in resilience.

As water becomes scarcer and environmental expectations continue to rise, golf facilities that embrace intelligent water management today will be better prepared for tomorrow's challenges.

The return on investment extends beyond reduced utility bills. Healthier turf, lower maintenance costs, improved course playability, enhanced sustainability credentials, and stronger operational efficiency all contribute to long-term value.

A Shared Responsibility

At its heart, golf has always been about respect—for the game, for the landscape, and for future generations.

Technology alone cannot solve the global water challenge. But when combined with the expertise of golf course professionals, it becomes a powerful enabler of smarter, more sustainable decisions.

As a technology solutions provider working closely with the golf industry, we see our role not merely as supplying equipment or software, but as partnering with golf courses in their sustainability journey. Our objective is to empower superintendents and facility managers with actionable insights, helping them optimise water use without compromising the quality of play.

The future of golf course management will not be defined by how much water is available, but by how intelligently it is managed. In an era where every drop counts, technology is no longer a luxury—it is becoming an essential partner in preserving both the game and the environment.

Akash Sharma,
Founder, Adhunik Facilities



HALDI GOLF COUNTY – A Premium Yamaha Golf Car Fleet Delivered by IPI

Driving Excellence Across the Golfing Experience

We are delighted to announce the successful delivery of a premium fleet of Yamaha Golf Cars to Haldi Golf County, supplied by IPI.

Designed to combine performance, comfort, efficiency and distinctive styling, the fleet has been customized to meet the specific operational requirements of Haldi Golf County. The striking elegant Colour finish gives the fleet a distinctive identity while ensuring excellent visibility across the property.



To enhance the functionality and convenience of the fleet, the Golf Cars were supplied with a comprehensive range of accessories such as Sand Bottle Kit, Ball Washer, Cooler Kit, Under-Chassis Night Light – Special Option

A specially requested feature supplied as an additional option, providing enhanced visibility and a distinctive appearance during evening operations. The combination of Yamaha reliability with striking elegant Colour customized painting and a comprehensive accessory package makes this fleet a distinctive addition to Haldi Golf County.



Every Golf Car has been configured with attention to the property's requirements, ensuring that the fleet is not only functional but also contributes to the overall premium experience of the destination.

IPI – Your Partner in Golf Car Solutions

At IPI, we believe that every Golf Car fleet should be designed around the customer's specific application. From vehicle selection and customization to accessories and after-sales support.

IPI provides complete solutions for golf courses, resorts, hotels, institutions, townships and other premium facilities.

We are proud to be associated with Haldi Golf County and look forward to supporting their journey with reliable, customized and high-performance Golf Car solutions.

Rajeev Gupta
Regional Manager
IPI Pvt Ltd



HYDROCARD TECHNO SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED DRIVING THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE GOLF MOBILITY **Electric. Efficient. Sustainable. Built for Golf.**

Transforming mobility across golf courses, resorts and allied facilities with dependable electric-vehicle solutions.

THE FUTURE OF GOLF MOBILITY IS ELECTRIC

Golf is evolving. As golf courses and hospitality facilities place greater emphasis on sustainability, operational efficiency and enhanced player experience, mobility has become an important part of the transformation. At Hydrocard Techno Solutions Private Limited, we believe electric mobility can help shape a cleaner, quieter and more efficient future for golf in India.

Hydrocard has established itself as a trusted name in electric mobility, with a strong focus on electric golf carts and utility vehicles. Our mission is to provide economical, reliable, comfortable and eco-friendly mobility solutions designed around real-world customer requirements.



VERSATILE ELECTRIC MOBILITY

Our electric vehicles are available in 2-, 4-, 6- and 8-seater configurations, making them suitable for a wide range of applications:

- Golfers and caddies
- Course and maintenance teams
- Staff transportation
- Guest and hospitality services
- Resorts and hotels
- Institutions and residential communities
- Utility and facility operations

SUPPORTING GREENER GOLF

A golf course is a place where sport, nature and tranquillity come together. Electric vehicles can support this environment by providing quiet, clean and efficient transportation.

By reducing dependence on conventional fuel-powered vehicles, electric mobility can help facilities work towards lower emissions, reduced noise and more efficient transportation operations.

The opportunity goes beyond sustainability. Electric carts can become an integral part of the daily operating infrastructure of a modern golf facility.

MORE THAN A GOLF CART

Today's electric vehicles can serve far more purposes than transporting players between tees.

They can support course operations, maintenance, hospitality, guest transportation and movement of personnel and supplies—creating a versatile mobility ecosystem across the entire property.



At Hydrocart, we combine electric-vehicle technology with durability, ease of operation, comfort and practical performance. Our focus is on solutions that work reliably in the real-world conditions faced by golf and allied facilities.

DRIVING INDIA'S ELECTRIC GOLF FUTURE

India's golf, hospitality and leisure sectors offer significant potential for sustainable electric mobility. As facilities seek smarter and more responsible operating models, electric vehicles can become an important part of their long-term strategy. Hydrocart is committed to supporting this transition through quality, innovation, customer service and sustainable mobility solutions.

OUR VISION

To make electric mobility an essential part of the modern golf and leisure experience.

OUR PROMISE

Reliable Mobility | Sustainable Solutions | Practical Innovation | Customer-Focused Service

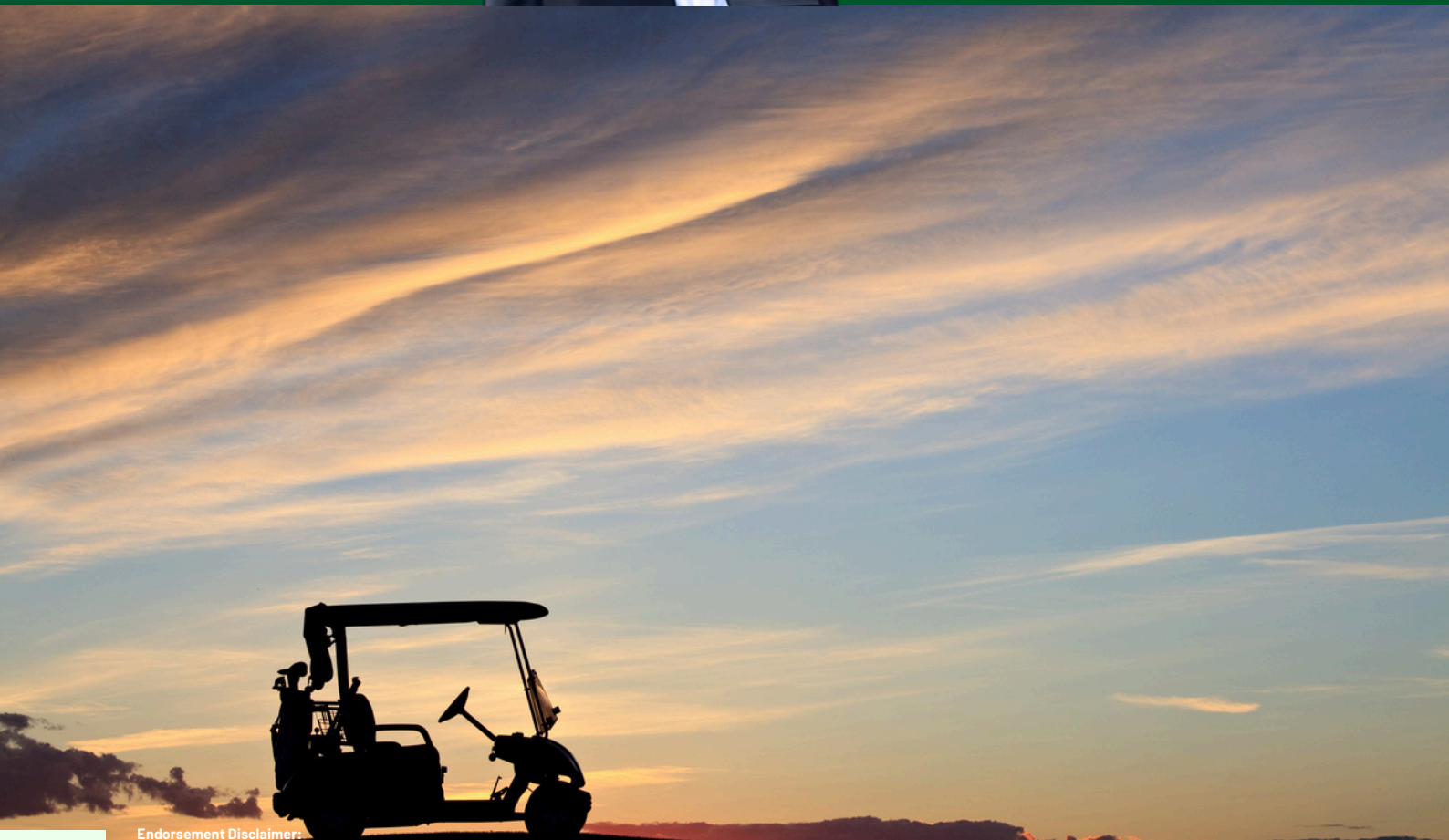
The future of golf mobility is electric.

Hydrocart is ready to drive it forward.

GANESH JAYAVELU

Director

Hydrocart Techno Solutions Private Limited



Endorsement Disclaimer:

Any references to third-party products, services, or companies in this newsletter are for informational purposes only. The Golf Industry Association (GIA) does not endorse or promote any specific products, services, or companies, and does not assume responsibility for their accuracy, reliability, or suitability.

Why Genuine Toro Parts Are Worth the Investment

Toro equipment is designed to deliver exceptional performance, precision, and reliability throughout its service life. However, maintaining that performance depends not only on regular maintenance practices but also on the quality of the replacement parts used. Whether it is reels, bedknives, blades, tines, filters, or MVP kits, choosing Genuine Toro Parts helps customers get the best performance from their equipment and protect their investment over the long term.

While purchase price is an important factor when selecting replacement parts, it should not be the only consideration. The actual value of a part is determined by how it performs in the field, how long it lasts, and the impact it has on equipment operation and maintenance requirements. A lower-priced alternative may appear attractive initially, but the long-term benefits often come from using parts designed specifically for the machine.



Consistent Cutting Performance

For turf professionals, the quality of cut directly influences turf appearance and playability. Genuine Toro reels, bedknives, and blades are manufactured to original equipment specifications and are designed to work together as a complete cutting system.

From our experience supporting customers, cutting quality is often one of the first areas affected when worn or non-genuine cutting components are used. Genuine Toro cutting components help maintain consistent performance, reduce adjustment requirements, and support longer cutting unit life.

Designed for the Right Fit

Every Genuine Toro Part is engineered specifically for Toro equipment. This helps ensure proper fitment and compatibility with the machine.

Using parts designed to Toro specifications helps maintain operating efficiency and reduces the possibility of issues that can arise from incorrect fitment or variations in component quality.

Reliable Maintenance Components

Routine maintenance is essential to keeping equipment in peak operating condition. Genuine Toro filters, MVP kits, and service components are designed to support the engine, hydraulic, and fuel systems that are critical to machine performance.

Using the correct maintenance components helps technicians carry out scheduled servicing efficiently while supporting the long-term health of the equipment.

Choosing the Right Replacement Parts

When replacing a worn component, selecting the correct replacement part is important. Genuine Toro Parts are designed and tested for Toro equipment, providing confidence in fitment, quality, and performance.



Whether replacing a reel, bedknife, blade, aeration tine, filter, or MVP kit, customers can be confident that the part has been developed to meet the standards expected from Toro equipment.

Protecting Your Equipment Investment

Toro equipment represents a significant investment and maintaining it with genuine parts is one of the best ways to preserve its long-term value. Components manufactured to Toro specifications help maintain machine integrity and contribute to the longevity of key systems.

At IPI, we work closely with customers to support their parts and maintenance requirements. Our goal is to ensure customers have access to the right Genuine Toro Parts and technical support needed to keep their equipment performing at its best.

Toro Genuine Parts – Engineered for Performance, Designed for Reliability.

M. Praveen

Senior Manager – Parts
IPI Pvt Ltd



Integrated Algae Management Strategy for Sports Turf

While copper oxychloride (Blitox) can kill algae, you must use it with extreme caution on golf putting greens. Copper accumulates in the soil and can easily cause phytotoxicity (turf burn) or severely stunt root growth if used repeatedly on closely mowed turfgrass. Instead of relying solely on Copper Oxychloride, golf course superintendents recommend a multi-pronged chemical rotation and strict cultural adjustments:

1. Safer Chemical & Fungicide Alternates

Mancozeb: (Manzate) Excellent and widely trusted contact fungicide that provides safe, highly effective algacidal action on turf. Use 600–800 gm per acre.

Chlorothalonil: (Kavach / Ishaan) Another premier preventative fungicide option that suppresses algae colonization while increasing overall turf density. Spray 600 g per acre to protect against leaf rust and blight.

Phosphite: (PolyPhosphite by PlantFood Co. USA) Consistently applying phosphite at recommended label rates (5.0 ml/L water) actively suppresses cyanobacteria colonization on creeping bent grass and bermudagrass putting greens.

Bioactive Copper Suspension:

(FlowCopp) Regular application at the recommended label rate (1.0 ml/L water) helps suppress algae and cyanobacteria on sports turf by forming a protective bioactive copper barrier. Powered by EnNuVi® Technology, it delivers superior coverage, improved nutrient uptake, and healthier, cleaner turf.

2. Immediate Mechanical Disruption

A chemical application cannot penetrate the slimy, waterproof layer that algae forms. You must physically break it up.

Spiking or Verti cutting: Lightly disrupt the surface crust to break open the algal mat and let the soil breathe.

Light Sand Top-Dressing Use:

Immediately follow spiking with a light

dusting of clean, dry sand to fill the voids, dry out the surface, and encourage grass stolon to grow over the dead algae. Alternatively, Durosil is an advanced silica powder that improves soil porosity, enhances nutrient and water efficiency, reduces compaction, and promotes healthier, greener, and more resilient sports turf with long-lasting performance.

Conclusion

Algae management in sports turf requires an integrated approach, not a single chemical solution. The best results come from combining chemical rotation, mechanical disruption, and proper cultural practices. Long-term success depends on maintaining balanced moisture levels and improving surface drainage to prevent algae from re-establishing.

Moist Surface	Algal Colonization	Biofilm Formation	Surface Mat Development	Heavy Algae Infestation
				
Preventative	Suppressive	Curative	Eradication	Anti-Recurrence

Jason Eberhard, Ph.D.
Plant Food Company, Inc., USA





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