

# The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 9, Issue 4

April 2026

## Golf in April

April has begun with near perfect weather after an early heat up in late March. The tee sheets have opened up a bit as an early Easter has some snow birds heading home. The course is in amazing condition after a warm winter, and we are hoping for a good monsoon this summer to really complement the great growing conditions. Stay in tune with the Forecaddie to keep up to date with everything Pro Shop and golf course related. In the sections following, you will find all the information relating to this month in golf, as well as contact information for our golf associations and our Greens Committee.

Mike Jahaske, PGA

Director of Golf

SaddleBrooke Ranch Golf Club



## Pro Shop Schedule

Pro Shop Hours – Open thirty minutes before the first tee time and one hour before shotguns. The pro shop closes at 5:30pm. Pro shop staff will carry the pro shop cell phone (520-561-1196) until 5:30.

Staff is available until one hour before sunset.

First tee time: April 1-30: 7:00am

Last tee time: April 1-30: 5:30pm

Shotguns: 8:00/1:00

Rate Periods:

April 1-30: Prime 7:00 – 11:52

Midday 12:00 – 1:52

Twilight 1:52 – 4:00

Super Twilight 4:00 – Sunset



## Golf Maintenance News

### April News

This month I'd like to touch on cart traffic and cart traffic control on the course. Over the past years I've written about this multiple times, but I consistently hear comments regarding why, and what's the purpose of the traffic control policies we have in place.

Cart traffic and compaction have the biggest impact on our course conditions, all of you can either help to reduce cart traffic and improve conditions or you can be the cause of the problem.

It's hard to believe that come May I'll have been here for 5 years! It's amazing how fast time goes by. As a reminder for those of you that were here when I started, or if you're new in the past 5 years, that the first summer I was here we installed **ACRES** of sod along the cart paths, between the cart paths/fairways and our desert edges. Every year since then we have sodded less year over year. This summer I don't know if we'll install more than a couple thousand square feet, all because of the traffic control measures we have in place and the help of those who follow our policies.

As an example of the effects of cart traffic, I want you to think about the height of the grass along the cart path versus the out of play areas in the fronts of the holes or along the desert sides where there is very little traffic. The grass is much thicker/taller/healthier there, where there is limited cart traffic.

Everything we do out here is to disperse and distribute cart traffic as evenly as possible because when cart traffic becomes focused over one area, we lose the battle and lose grass.

### Questions/Comments I Often Hear

1. Why do we mow the grass along the washes on 10, 11 and 13 so short? My ball always rolls through and into the wash. Can't you let those areas grow up?
  - These areas are mowed at the same heights as all the other roughs, why is it so short?
  - Cart Traffic – everyone drives to the end of the fairway on those holes and then drives along the wash edge compacting the soil and reducing the health of the turf.
  - Try to limit your traffic there, if you don't need to go to the end of the fairway, get back on the cart path sooner.
2. The fairways are in great condition, why do we need Cart Path Only holes?
  - To protect the cart path edges and allow grass recovery across the entire hole.
3. Why does the course look the fullest and have the most grass in the past 5 years?
  - Cart path only holes and allowing the golf hole to recover for the week or two.



## Golf Maintenance News

4. Why can't golfers be allowed to use the dirt path between holes 7 and 8 ?

- **Consistency across the entire course.** I don't want everyone creating new paths between holes and creating more traffic areas that we have to manage. It also distracts from the beauty of the course.
- **#1 Reason:** Many residents cut from #9 cart path across the dirt path to the south of #8 green and then drive across the approach/fairway in #8. The last place I want 20 carts driving across is one of our approaches on a hole.

### Please Help Out with Traffic Polices

- Disperse traffic!
- If you see a worn area, don't drive through the same spot.
- It's best to travel across the thickest/healthiest areas of turf, the turf is more resilient and can handle the traffic better than a spot that is stressed out.
- Pay attention to the white stakes – they are marking thin/weak areas of turf, go around them.
- Use the yellow arrows at the end of a hole as a guide when to go back to the cart path, we move those arrows forwards and backwards to control traffic patterns leaving the hole, that's why they're not the same distant from the green on every hole.

### A Couple of Last Topics for the Month

- We have started apply the Mosquito “dunks” in any areas around the course that are holding water.
- We will start selectively mowing down the native areas surrounds the course in the next couple weeks, this usually takes us 2-3 weeks to complete.

Thanks for reading. I greatly appreciate all of you that take ownership of our course and help maintain and protect our property!

Thanks,

Aaron Thomas

Director of Agronomy



## Golf Maintenance Schedule

A maintenance plan is put into place at the beginning of the year. Variance in weather and agronomic conditions may require changes to the schedule.

### April Maintenance Schedule

The turf came out of dormancy early this year due to the extremely mild weather we had. Due to this, we started cultivation practices early, such as slicing and core aeration. Please consult our local rules for relief, if allowed, from some of the turf disruptions. Golfers tend to dislike the cultivation, so please keep in mind that they are necessary for healthy turf and great conditions.



**The 2026 annual golf maintenance schedule is available on your Chelsea home page.**

We will continue closing one hole per nine to cart traffic to help maintain the quality of the turf.

**Back Nine morning nine hole times** will not be available on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on a year-round basis to allow maintenance time to complete weekly tasks.

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## Free Monthly Golf Clinic

Every month Mike and Ken will conduct a free golf clinic. All residents and their guests are welcome to attend, and there is no cost. Please sign up in the Pro Shop. The staff have a book behind the counter with all the scheduled clinics that you can sign up for. You are welcome to attend as often and as many as you like! The clinics will cover basic technique and mechanics of each topic. Our golf clinics are great for learning a new skill or brushing up a skill that needs some work.

**The next clinic will be in April and will cover Bunkers. It will be held on Monday, April 27th at 2:00pm at the chipping green. Please see your Chelsea home page event calendar for the full clinic schedule.**

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## Golfing News

### Golf Course Access

Dear Residents, many of you have taken to walking as a way of exercise and to get out of the house. Please remember that for your safety, we do not allow joy riding, walking, biking, jogging, etc. on the golf course **AT ANY TIME**. Only golfers, golf staff, or emergency or other authorized service vehicles are allowed on the golf course and paths.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

### Driving Range Tee

With the overseed of the driving range tee complete, and the winter season upon us, we began cycling back and forth on a weekly basis between the turf and the mat to maintain the best turf possible. This practice also helped quite a bit with our transition from the overseed turf back to the Bermuda base.

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## Golfing News Cont.

### Access Flag Program

We released an updated Access Flag Program in July of last year with implementation following on August 1, 2024. Since then, many residents have taken advantage of this program and are using access flags to allow them to participate in our golf amenity.

Please remember that the program is structured to allow access to closed fairways while protecting the turf from the most damaging threat to the turf on the course, the golf cart. **We ask that all those who use the Access Flag Program to please follow the guidelines established so we can keep the course at its best.**

### Pace of Play

Please follow these simple tips to improve pace of play without having to rush around the course:

1. **Be prepared to play your shot while waiting for others to hit**, so you can play immediately without delay. This includes shots played while on the putting green.
2. Clean and replace your club in the bag; and record your score, **at the next tee**, not at the green.
3. **Hit a provisional ball** when appropriate, and **limit searches for lost balls to 3 minutes**. Players in the group that can hit safely should do so; while those that can't, should help search.
4. Limit socializing to periods when you are prepared to hit and there is a wait to safely hit.

Have fun on the course, and keep your play efficient so all can experience an enjoyable pace of play!

### Post Your Scores!

Please remember to post all scores as soon as possible to help the handicap system keep competition net scores fair for everyone!

### How to Fill a Divot

- If a divot does not have any soil attached, or if it has shattered into small pieces, it cannot be replaced and expected to heal properly. Filling the divot with divot mix is the best option in these situations. Here at SaddleBrooke Ranch, our divot mix is pure sand.
- The way to properly fill a divot is this: Add mix until it is slightly below the height of the adjacent turf, then smooth the mix and press down with your foot. It is worth taking a few extra seconds to get the level just right. Too little mix will create poor playability and may not allow the divot to heal fully. Too much mix creates playability issues and can damage mowing equipment.
- Making our best effort to repair divots is an easy way to care for the course and help others enjoy their round. Knowing the correct technique is an important first step.
- Once on the course, take pride in your divot repair. Who knows, the divot you repair today could give you a better lie the next time around.



## Golfing News Cont.

### Local Rules Update Effective April 1, 2026

The golf course local rules have just been updated to provide more clarity as well as a thorough addition of locations for applying relief from landscape areas (Rule #8). Completely new to the rules is the added feature of a Lady Niner Only drop area for holes 11 and 13 (Rule #9). The updated rules are linked to your Chelsea home page as well.

#### LOCAL RULES FOR SADDLEBROOKE RANCH GOLF COURSE – Revised 3/27/2026

1. **OUT OF BOUNDS:** Homeowner property lines, walls, fences, streets and parking lots define out-of-bounds when white stakes are not present.
2. **CONDITIONS ELIGIBLE FOR RELIEF:** The purpose of this local rule is to address commonly encountered situations on the course that have the same relief procedure.

For all of the following conditions a player is entitled to or required to take relief without penalty. The ball may be cleaned before it is dropped within one club length of the nearest point of complete relief that is no nearer the hole.

- i. Ball in areas outlined by painted white lines (GUR) or within landscape areas (relief required), or French drains (relief optional). Relief is afforded for stance, swing and lie. **Section 8 indicates all landscape areas.**
  - ii. Ball in seams of newly placed turf, aeration holes or slices, even when not marked by painted white lines. Relief is limited to lie of ball only, not stance or swing.
  - iii. Ball within 2 club lengths of a greenside sprinkler head within the line of play. Relief is limited to lie of ball only. No relief available if player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.
  - iv. Abnormal ground conditions caused by insects, animal dung, animal tracks or other obvious damage done by animals that interferes with line of play, stance or swing. There is no relief allowed by changing the ball position on a green. The green damage may be repaired before continuing play.
3. **PROVISIONAL BALL FOR BALL IN A PENALTY AREA:** The purpose of this local rule is to speed the pace of play by encouraging players to provisionally exercise their penalty shot for balls hit into a red staked penalty area.

Many red staked penalty areas identify arroyos that present not only challenging terrain, but also plants and animals we would do best to avoid. This local rule allows players to provisionally play a shot before searching for their ball in the penalty area. Upon hitting the provisional ball, the player may elect to continue playing the provisional or search for the original ball. If the original ball is found, they may decide to continue play with the original ball, or for a penalty of one stroke abandon the original ball and play the provisional ball.

Once this option is chosen it cannot be changed in favor of any other option given to them in rule 17. Any attempt to play a ball from the penalty area voids the provisionally played stroke.

4. **ALTERNATIVE TO STROKE & DISTANCE FOR LOST OR OUT OF BOUNDS BALL:** The purpose of this local rule is to speed the pace of play by offering an alternative option stroke and distance relief.

Under the Rule 18, if a ball is lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds, and the player has not hit a provisional ball, the player must play a ball under penalty of stroke and distance from the location of the previous stroke.

To speed pace of play, this local rule allows a player to drop a new ball in the relief area in lieu of returning to where the previous stroke was made, with a two-stroke penalty. For example, if the player's tee shot is hit OB, the player may drop a second ball in the relief area as described below. The player is now laying three and hitting their fourth shot.

Once a ball is put in play under this local rule, the original ball is no longer in play. If a provisional ball was played, and neither the original nor provisional ball can be found after a 3-minute search, this local rule may be implemented for the provisional. In this scenario the player is laying five and hitting shot number six.

The relief area for this local rule is determined by:

- A. **The Ball Reference Point**—which is the spot where the ball went out of bounds or was determined to be lost. Note that the reference point is where the ball went out of bounds and not where it came to rest.
- B. **The Fairway Reference Point** - a point at the edge of the fairway which is equidistant to the hole from the point where the ball went out-of-bounds or was lost. An additional two club lengths from the fairway reference point (no closer to the hole) determines the margin of the relief area.

The ball put into play must not be nearer the hole than the reference point. The ball must be dropped anywhere in the relief area that is in the general area. The general area **excludes** 1) the teeing area the player used to start the hole, 2) all penalty areas, 3) all bunkers, and 4) the putting green of the hole being played. The configurations of some holes do not provide any grass cut to fairway height for determining the fairway reference point. In such cases the fairway reference point is in higher grass and still equidistant from the hole as the ball reference point.

## Golfing News Cont.

5. **DRAINAGE ROCK:** There are areas on the course designed for drainage using large rocks, such as those on holes #7, #15, and #17, and along the cart path near the bridge on #13. A ball lying within these areas that is in bounds is entitled to free relief of stance and swing at the nearest point of relief no closer to the hole.

6. **SOGGY AREAS NEAR DRAINS, LOW LYING AREAS, OR SPRINKLER HEADS:** The purpose of this local rule is to offer free relief from specific soggy course conditions.

To qualify for relief, the ball must lie within 10 paces of a drain or a blue stake, or within two club lengths of a sprinkler head, and the soil must displace when taking a stance.

The player is entitled to free relief at the nearest spot wherein relief is afforded for stance, swing and lie. The ball must be dropped within one club length no closer to the hole.

7. **ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS CAUSED BY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC:** The purpose of this Local Rule is to offer free relief from ruts caused by vehicular traffic which physically interfere with the area of intended stance or swing.

To qualify for relief the ball must be in the rut and have at least 1/2 the ball's diameter below the surrounding ground.

The player is entitled to free relief at the nearest spot wherein relief is afforded for stance, swing and lie. The ball must be dropped within one club length no closer to the hole.

8. **DEFINITION OF LANDSCAPE AREAS:** Landscape areas are areas of the course that are constructed *and regularly* maintained for course beautification purposes. They include larger plants and maintained gravel. They are typically bordered by a cart path and maintained turf areas. On hole #10 landscape areas left of the cart path are bordered by the cart path, turf, and curb.

Not all areas on the course with gravel are considered "Landscape Areas" and entitled to free relief. For example, if a player hits their tee shot into a cactus in front of the tee box on any hole, those are not "Landscape Areas", even though the cactus may have some gravel around it. In those situations, the player may take an unplayable lie or re-tee (stroke and distance).

The following holes have "Landscape Areas" where the player must take relief:

**Hole 1:** Right side of the fairway/left of the cart path approaching the green  
Right of the cart path across from the landscape area noted above  
Right of the cart path at the right side of the green.

**Hole 3:** Right side of the fairway/left of the cart path approaching the green

**Hole 5:** Behind the plum/gold tee box  
Right of the cart path approaching the green

**Hole 7:** Left of the green/right of the cart path

**Hole 10:** Hole 10 has a number of clear "Landscape Areas" left of the cart path  
One additional landscape area right of the cart path approaching the green and one right of the cart path before the first arroyo

**Hole 11:** Behind and left of the rust tee box. This landscape area is unlikely to come into play

**Hole 12:** Right side of the fairway/left of the cart path approaching the green

**Hole 13:** Right side of the fairway/left of the cart path approaching the green

**Hole 14:** Right side of the cart path and left of the green

**Hole 15:** Left side of the fairway/right of the cart path

**Hole 16:** Right side of the fairway/left of the cart path approaching the green  
Adjacent to the rust tee box

**Hole 17:** Right side of the cart path approaching the green

**Hole 18:** Left side of the fairway/right of the cart path approaching the green

9. **LADY NINER ONLY BALL DROP:** Holes 11 and 13. Indicated by pink stake. Player must first attempt to cross the wash after drive from the tee. Drop ball within 2 club lengths of stake, no closer to the hole. One stroke penalty.

## Tip from the Pro

### Grip It and Rip It?

I think everyone has heard the phrase “grip it and rip it” or “let the big dog eat”. With few exceptions, it is a natural thought that you need to hold the club firmly and swing it fast to create distance, especially with the driver. The truth of the matter is, however, that tension in the hands leads to tension in the body; and tension in golf never leads to distance or control. Think of trying to accelerate your golf cart with one foot also planted firmly on the brake. The hands are the connection to the club and also the tension regulators in the golf swing. Every golf swing improves when tension is reduced regardless of the mechanics. How smoothly could a person walk if they held their leg muscles as tight as possible? The power in the golf swing is created when a balanced combination of rhythm and leverage are created. That balance happens when the grip is kept only tight enough to curl the fingers around the clubs grip. Always remember: if you cannot feel the heaviness of the club head at the end of the shaft you are holding the club too tightly.

If you would like assistance swinging the club while reducing the tension in your golf swing, I am happy to be of assistance!

Mike Jahaske PGA

Director of Golf



## Contact Information

**Pro shop:** 520-818-6403    **After Hours Cell:** 520-561-1196

**Mike Jahaske:** mike.jahaske@robson.com

**Ken Steinke:** ken.steinke@robson.com

**Golf Maintenance:** 520-600-8797

**Aaron Thomas:** aaron.thomas@robson.com

**Chelsea:** <https://sbranch.chelseareservations.com>

Your Chelsea home page has access to tee times and events as well as the golf event and maintenance calendars, special event news, rate sheets and annual/play card applications, seasonal daily frost delay info and golf starting times, and Greens Committee minutes.

**SBRMGA:** [www.sbrmga.com](http://www.sbrmga.com)

**SBRWGA:** [www.sbrwga.com](http://www.sbrwga.com)

**SBR Lady Niners:** sbrladyniners@yahoo.com

**SBR Ranchette Putters:** acothran88@gmail.com

**Greens Committee:** SBRGreens@gmail.com

Contact Us!