

JULY 2023 ADVISORY BULLETIN

CHANGE OF GREENKEEPER

The changing of the Greenkeeper at a Club can potentially be a difficult time, especially if the new Greenkeeper is less experienced than the previous incumbent.

In order to allow as smooth a transition as possible, information relating to the following topics should be passed from the outgoing Greenkeeper to the new incumbent.



These notes are intended to assist in the smooth transfer of responsibilities, and they are by no means a fully comprehensive list, as each Club will have their own established procedures, reporting structures, fertilizer and chemical stocks, and equipment inventory.

1. SOIL

It is important to know as much as possible about the soil conditions of a green, as poor-quality conditions will always create a problem for the development and maintenance of the green. Topics to consider are:

- Latest soil sample report to check chemical balance of the soil.
- Particle size.
- Clay content.
- Compaction.
- Macro thatch severity.

2. GRASS

- Type of grass (single or multiple varieties).
- Adaptation to climatic conditions present.
- Degree of hardness.
- Recovery period.
- Watering requirements.
- Mowing requirements.
- Resistance to fungi and disease.
- Frost tolerance.
- Run rate.
- Potential to develop nap.
- Shade resistance (especially in winter)

3. LEVELS

It is important to know the levels of a green. Poor levels can contribute to:

- Adverse playing conditions
- Problems with watering
- Uneven fertilization
- Extended timeframe need to level the green

Bowls South Africa will only recognize a levels report if it is less than three years old.

4. WATER

- Is there an adequate supply of water?
- Is a borehole used?
- When were the pumps and tanks last checked?
- What is the condition of the borehole water?

5. TREES & SHRUBS

It is important to check that any trees and shrubs adjacent to a green do not negatively affect the grass. In certain cases these may need to be removed or pruned back.

6. GREENS DIMENSIONS

Ensure they conform as alterations may have to be carried out. This also includes ditch sizes and bank heights.

7. INVENTORY

Compile an inventory and ensure it is signed off by the committee. Ensure all equipment is in good working order. The inventory list should typically include:

- Cutting Machines.
- Verti-cutters.
- Bank Cutters.
- Rollers (medium, dew, drying and roller polisher).
- Knapsack.
- Watering Equipment.
- Turf Doctor.
- Soil Sampler.
- Drag Net.
- Sieving Equipment.
- Toolbox.
- Levelling Equipment.
- Scale and/or measuring jugs.
- Mixing drum or fertiliser spreader.
- Hand tools including spades, forks, core cutters etc.
- Chemicals and fertilisers.