

CGSA British Columbia Update

October 2026

"The healthiest golf courses rarely operate at the extremes. Perhaps the same can be said for the people responsible for maintaining them."

That thought has been on my mind recently as I've reflected on our profession and the many competing demands we face throughout the season.

As superintendents, we spend our careers searching for balance.

In turfgrass management, balance is at the core of nearly everything we do. We balance moisture and oxygen. Playability and plant health. Risk and reward. We constantly make adjustments, knowing that pushing too hard in one direction often comes at the expense of something else. While golfers may only see the final product, we understand that healthy, resilient turf is rarely created through extremes. It is created through consistency, observation, and thoughtful decision-making.

The same principle applies to the teams we lead.

Today's superintendent is not simply responsible for maintaining turf. We are responsible for developing people. That requires finding a balance between accountability and support, between setting high standards and creating an environment where employees feel valued and trusted. Most of us can likely identify managers who pushed us to be better early in our careers but also gave us room to learn and grow. The best leaders understand that balance.

Our daily responsibilities demand balance as well.

The role of the superintendent continues to evolve. We are agronomists, project managers, financial planners, communicators, equipment managers, environmental stewards, and often unofficial problem-solvers for just about anything that happens on the property. There is always another email to answer, another project to plan, another issue demanding immediate attention.

The challenge is recognizing that not every task carries the same weight. **Being busy is not always the same as being effective.** Learning where to focus our time and energy may be one of the most important skills we develop throughout our careers.

And then there is perhaps the most difficult balance of all.

The balance between our professional lives and our personal ones.

Golf course management has never been a profession that fits neatly inside a forty-hour work week. We accept early mornings, weather interruptions, tournament preparation, and the seasonal demands that come with producing exceptional playing conditions. Many of us entered this industry because we genuinely love the work.

But passion, while valuable, can sometimes convince us that constantly giving more is the only path to success.

As I've progressed through my career, I've come to appreciate that sustainability applies to people just as much as it applies to golf courses. We understand the importance of protecting the long-term health of our turf. We invest in practices that build resilience and support recovery. Yet many of us struggle to apply that same thinking to ourselves.

Family, friendships, physical health, and personal interests are not distractions from our careers. They are part of the foundation that allows us to perform at our best when we're at work.

Perhaps balance is not something we achieve once and then permanently maintain. Perhaps it is a process of continual adjustment, much like managing a golf course itself. Conditions change. Expectations change. Circumstances change. Success comes from recognizing when those adjustments are needed and having the courage to make them.

As another season moves toward its conclusion, I encourage all of us to remember that balance is not just an agronomic principle. It is a leadership principle, a career principle, and ultimately a life principle.

We spend our days creating environments that allow turf to perform at its best. We understand the importance of resilience, recovery, and sustainability. The challenge is remembering that those same concepts apply to us as well.

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Perhaps the same can be said for the people responsible for maintaining them.

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