



Frost Delays and Shotgun Starts- Why we do what we do at Highland Pacific Golf

As many of you regular golfers already know Highland Pacific Golf course is a very unique piece of property. It can be a challenging course to maintain at the best of times and those challenges are amplified in the winter. Cool temperatures and, particularly, frost dictates how we set up the tee sheet for shotgun starts and for normal tee time intervals.

Our most challenging greens are Pacific #2 and #6, Highland #1, #5 and #8. These greens can be frosty and/or frozen until just before we allow play to start at 11 am, and often will not be frost free until the 1st group approaches those greens. The best case scenario on a frosty morning is one in which the sun is out in full force as this will thaw them out quickly. Unfortunately we often see cloudy mornings with little sun light getting through.

The angle of the sun during the winter adversely effects Pacific #2, Highland # 1 and # 8. As the sun gets lower in the horizon the longer these greens stay frosted which can delay the start times for the day. Pacific # 6 and Highland # 5 are the most adversely affected because both of these greens are behind large rock overhangs that shade them heavily during the winter. Sometimes you may actually see signs asking you to advance to the next hole and not play either one of these as the greens are too frozen and, thus, unplayable. If you do see these signs please respect our request as the turf damage can be significant.

As quickly as the frost can thaw out it can also return just as fast in the early afternoon. This is why shotgun starts at 11:00 am work the best. This starting time allows us to fill the course to maximum capacity for everyone's enjoyment and also a time that the course may be completely clear of frosty conditions.

The Golf Shop staff, Starter and the Superintendent work very closely with one another every morning to ensure that the start is as easy as possible for players but also to protect the holes that are the heaviest with frost.

If you have any questions about how we manage the course during the winter season please feel free to email me at geoff@highlandpacificgolf.com. Thank you in advance for your patience during these off peak times and for your care of the course while playing.

Geoff Sheffield

Course Superintendent