



GEO Certified®

GEO Certified® Report Jack's Point Golf

Prepared by independent verifier Rebecca Page

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2024
Recertification due: 2029

“Jack’s Point Golf Course continues to embody the values of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) through its dedicated stewardship of the people, land and ecological systems that make this setting so special. This GEO Verification reflects the club’s ongoing commitment to sustainable practices, highlighting thoughtful improvements and a genuine drive to enhance environmental responsibility. The impact of the greenskeeping leadership is evident in every aspect of course management, ensuring that this unique landscape is not only protected but thrives for future generations. I look forward to witnessing the next steps in their sustainability journey.”

*Rebecca Page
(GEO accredited independent verifier)*



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Jack's Point Golf has successfully achieved GEO Certified® status for its outstanding work to foster nature, conserve resources and support the community.

GEO Certified® is the most respected certification for golf, based on a credibly and transparently developed modern sustainability Standard of best practice.

Jack's Point Golf has:

1. Met the required certification criteria for sustainable golf operations
2. Successfully completed the official third-party verification process
3. Successfully passed the final evaluation by GEO Certification Ltd. (autonomous subsidiary of GEO Foundation)

GEO agreed with the conclusions of the official verification report, that, having achieved all mandatory criteria; and with specific Continual Improvement Points (CIP) set for the future and Critical CIP's (CCIPs) to be reviewed at recertification, Jack's Point Golf should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Jack's Point Golf can therefore claim a position as a leader in advancing sustainability in golf – making important contributions in protecting nature, conserving resources and strengthening communities.

The GEO Certified® Report that follows comments on the actions undertaken against the criteria, as observed by the independent verifier during the assurance process.

Certification is nearly always the result of a dedicated team effort resulting in many practical and valuable social and environmental results around the golf course, maintenance facility and clubhouse. These dedication and leadership qualities are an important part of ensuring the resilience of the golf facility and the golf industry into the future and also as part of society's wider effort to pull together for people and planet.

We congratulate all involved.

Jonathan Smith
Founder and Executive Director, GEO Foundation
GEO Certification Ltd. Board Member

Kelli Jerome
Executive Director, GEO Foundation

Carole Kerrey
Director, Certification and Credibility,
GEO Certification Ltd.



Verification and Certification

Verification

The official third-party audit was carried out by an independent verifier, accredited by GEO to undertake verifications of golf facilities applying for certification.

Verification involves reviewing practices and data, using the International Voluntary Standard for Sustainable Golf Operations as the guide to ensure comprehensive and consistent evaluation of performance. A detailed verification report is submitted for evaluation by GEO Certification Ltd, a subsidiary of GEO Foundation.

Certification

GEO Certification Ltd, an autonomous subsidiary of GEO Foundation [both not-for-profit entities], undertook a full review of all content submitted through the OnCourse® online platform and the report submitted by the verifier, ensuring:

- Comprehensiveness – that activities undertaken touched on all elements of the Standard
- Consistency – that the verification approach was balanced, well weighted and with consistent depth of evaluation across each theme
- Accuracy - matching the verification report with evidence submitted by the golf facility to ensure statements and claims were accurate

GEO Foundation is an international not-for-profit founded to advocate, support and reward sustainability in and through golf. Over more than ten years, the group has worked collaboratively with dozens of golf industry associations and government and non-government organisations around the world, to help golf become a sustainability leader, striving for a net positive social and environmental impact. In addition to managing and assuring GEO Certified®, GEO Foundation also provides a suite of credible, practical programmes for golf facility management, new golf developments and golf tournaments called OnCourse®, often delivered in partnership with national golf bodies. Find out more at www.sustainable.golf

Credibility

GEO Certified® is part of the ISEAL Alliance, a group of the world's foremost credible certification systems including Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Forest Stewardship Council, Marine Stewardship Council and many others. GEO Foundation earned and retains full membership of the ISEAL Alliance global association following a rigorous evaluation against the ISEAL Codes of Credibility in Sustainability Standards and Certification. The ISEAL Codes cover standard-setting, assurance, and monitoring and evaluation. Find out more at www.isealliance.org



Verifier's Report

The Sustainability Agenda for golf covers the following themes and action areas:

THEMES	ACTION AREAS
Nature	• Habitats & Biodiversity • Turfgrass management • Pollution prevention
Resources	• Water • Energy • Materials
Community	• Partnerships & Outreach • Golfing & Employment • Advocacy & Communications

Included below are the observations made by the Independent Verifier against each item in the Standard.

NATURE

N1 Habitats and Biodiversity

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
N1.1 Understand the site and surroundings	N1.1.1 Sound understanding of the nature and landscape value of the site	Map all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity surveys	The course and maintenance aspects of Jack's Point are led by the Superintendent, Simon Forshaw, who having spent approximately twenty years with the club, has an excellent knowledge, awareness and understanding of the site and landscape. GEO data and process is managed and supported by the broader team including Operations Manager Jimmy Walker and Assistant Superintendent Marco Pierik. Maps showing course boundaries and existing plantings were provided. No specific biodiversity plan. CCIP: Please update the best practice manual. CCIP: Please start to develop a biodiversity plan, pulling different information sources into one guiding document.
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species	Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species; Record and monitor protected, endangered, or rare species found on the site	Jack's Point Golf Club has no legal responsibilities beyond the Wildlife Act of 1953, and there are no requirements for specifically designated areas. There is awareness of appropriate management in relation to threatened or endangered list endemic species that are present at Jack's Point. Covenants ensures that only 5% of the 1,200-hectare property is designated for built development; the remainder is protected as open space, including wetlands, reserves, and native bush.
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	While there are no specific archaeological, historical or cultural designations within the golf course, the area is named after Jack Tewa, known as "Māori Jack," a local Māori figure celebrated for his heroic acts and his role in the region's early European history. There is a good knowledge regarding historical background which is shared on the Jack's Point website here.

N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the course	N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass	Observe, track and / or monitor golfer play	Jack's Point is seamlessly integrated into active farmland, having itself emerged from reclaimed land. The course continues to optimise and maintain its vast naturalised out-of-play areas with through topping only and alternative ground cover with plantings of native trees and shrubs. Traffic flow management was notable; regular scouting is undertaken for soil health and turf performance
N1.3 Actively manage habitats for wildlife	N1.3.1 Projects to manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf	Regularly review and follow a habitat management plan; Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping	The golf course has undergone significant native plantings, with ongoing maturation, particularly around riparian and buffer zones to enhance ecological stability. Discreetly placed beehives contribute to local biodiversity without disrupting the course's operations. While rabbits and deer—both red and fallow—add to the appeal of the landscape, their populations require careful management. This is handled humanely through professional contractors to maintain balance while preserving the area's natural charm. Native planting efforts align with the owner's vision, focusing solely on indigenous vegetation that are suited to the region. Planting requirements are implemented with this guiding principle in mind to support sustainable land stewardship.
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		The team at Jack's Point is committed to protecting the sensitive species that call the course home, actively engaging in conservation efforts. Their approach includes avoiding nesting areas of oyster catchers and plovers, providing a dedicated nesting platform for the crested grebe, and maintaining awareness and monitoring of native teal ducks and skinks. Additionally, they conduct regular scouting, monitoring, and humane management of pest populations to safeguard the local ecosystem.
N2 Turfgrass			
N2.1 Maintain optimum turf and soil health	N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors	Select appropriate grass species for climate	Jack's Point is a highly naturalised course, carefully crafted to harmonise with the Central Otago landscape. It features a variety of grass types tailored to withstand the challenging Southern New Zealand climate, which is dry in the summer and often experiences freezing temperatures in the winter. There has been a deliberate move to a broader range of cultivars in an effort to be more resilient and support seasonal variances.

	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		Regular monitoring is integrated into general housekeeping (including Organic Matter (OM) testing), assessing weeds, soil temperature, and turf conditions. This helps to inform the regular schedule of work for the greenkeepers.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	Regular scouting and testing are undertaken which enables a targeted approach. • Irrigation water is treated with Bio Amp • Use of Trichoderma • Companion Maxx (greens, tees plantings) • Seaweed on fairways "Teaspoon" foliar approach of NPK – spraying direct to foliage
	N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding A maintenance schedule is kept for mechanical equipment with the workshop housing a designated area for mechanical sharpening of blades. Approaches are hand weeded.
	N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly	N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues	Establish patterns and levels of risk for pests and diseases; Scout the course daily for early signs of pests and disease; Accurate pest and disease identification; Map and track pest and disease hotspots; Establish pest and disease thresholds The Greenkeepers scout-monitor the course daily to check for early signs of disease and pests, mapping any resulting outcomes and responding accordingly. The greenkeepers have a 'scout and monitor' schedule with an approach that has a solid preference for minimising chemical use, dabbing or removal of plant individually where possible.
		N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions	Use only legally registered and approved products; Ensure staff are fully qualified and licenced to use pesticides; Regularly calibrate and test applicators; Use appropriate protective equipment; Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of turf . A valid HSNO location compliance certificate ensures adherence to key safety and regulatory measures, including: • Appropriate signage, labelling, and safety data sheets for hazardous substances. • Emergency response plans to manage spills and accidents effectively. • Staff are trained with necessary training and certified for handling hazardous substances. Specific storage requirements are met based on the type and quantity of hazardous substances.

N3 Pollution Prevention			
N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site	N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations	Document procedures for emergency spill responses; Maintain mowing buffer zones around water and all ecologically sensitive areas; Maintain spraying and spreading buffer zones around water and all ecologically sensitive areas; Create a map / aerial visual reproduction, drawing etc of the course showing buffer zones and no-spray, no-spread areas.	The emergency spill response plan has been confirmed, ensuring readiness for any hazardous substance incidents. Additionally, mowing buffer zones were observed around designated areas during the visual inspection of the course.
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and wastewater discharge	Hazardous material stored and mixed in a securely locked, bunded area along with spill kits. HSNO Location Compliance Certificate (100143-48102) sighted. Wastewater discharge permit (Consent No: 2009.312.V1) sighted.
	N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations	Ensure wash areas are on impermeable, leak-free surfaces; Mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable surface; Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	Wash area is a hard-standing, impermeable concrete area draining to interceptor tanks and filters. External recovery agent collects used chemical containers once triple rinsed. Waste oil is collected by supplier and removed. Mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilisers is done on bunded hard-standing, impermeable concrete area.
N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances	Maintain a register of hazardous materials available to authorised staff; Safe storage in secure and ventilated concrete or metal building; Sufficient storage capacity; Impermeable flooring; Spill containment kits present; Emergency wash area; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area; Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	Confirmed and satisfactorily meets HSNO Location requirements. Appropriate storage, bunding and washdown zones with contaminated material removed by external contractors. Confirmed management of hazardous waste tank contents (Inv 53361). Regular calibration checks. Fire Warden kit in lunchroom and multiple extinguishers are located around the site.

			Three first aid kits and first aid training is provided through an external provider. CCIP: Please complete refresher training with groundskeeping staff for both Fire Warden and First Aid.
N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water	N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage and discharge licences	Wastewater discharge licence; Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil / grease / clipping separation)	Wastewater discharge permit (Consent No: 2009.312.V1) sighted. Equipment and machinery wash down area located on hard-standing, impermeable concrete area draining to an underground tank with a triple separator process.

RESOURCES

R1 Water

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
R1.1 Minimise water demand	R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water	Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only	Jack's Point employs several strategies to minimise water consumption, including scouting, the use of naturalised species to enhance resilience and reduce water demand, targeted hand watering, a dosing pump system for efficient distribution, and expanded rough areas featuring naturalised grasses to further optimise water use.
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course	Conduct regular irrigation performance checks; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Ensure effective application of water to target areas; Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis	Use of POGO to read moisture reading to avoid overwatering Using technology to target and measure current and anticipated moisture on the course. This involves utilising up to date weather monitoring, humidity sensors and several weather stations Use of wetting agents Evaporation transponder aligns with weather technology to ensure appropriate water application Visual scouting for individual areas.
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	Audit water use regularly; Review bills frequently and look for irregularities;	Water use is reviewed quarterly.

		Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors; Categorise and track water consumption	
R1.3 Source water responsibly	R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water	Ensure appropriate water abstraction permit and reporting, as required	Water abstraction permit was sighted and confirmed, along with the records of monitoring of water use at the pump house. Water testing with nitrogen levels and takes are reported annually to Otago Regional Council.
R2 Energy			
R2.1 Reduce energy demand	R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in course maintenance	Minimise areas of managed turf to reduce mowing, irrigation, and turf inputs	Jack's Point has been thoughtfully designed to integrate with the surrounding landscape, naturally reducing course maintenance requirements. This approach allows for a lower dependence on mowing, irrigation, and turf inputs, supporting sustainability while preserving the course's aesthetic. The team demonstrated expanded native plantings and enhanced riparian areas, further naturalising the course and continuing to reduce managed turf areas in alignment with the vision for ecological stewardship.
R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings	Audit energy use regularly; Regularly review bills; Categorise and track energy consumption	LED lighting has been implemented. There is no existing energy auditing processes. Discussed benefits of tracking energy use. CCIP: Please track energy consumption to support insights and cost benefit analysis of initiatives. CIP: Please explore the feasibility of conducting an energy audit.
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy	Determine potential sources of renewable energy in the area and on-site, through renewable energy providers	Not currently. CCIP: Please try to work with electricity retailers and improve the use of renewable energy across the site. There are providers that supply 100% renewable energy or are able to provide Renewable Energy Certificates (REC's).
R3 Materials			
R3.1 Reduce materials demand	R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on	Undertake a review of materials consumed	Waste report is provided by provider on demand (sighted).

	necessity, including opportunities for recycled, reused and locally sourced alternatives		Facilities for separation of general waste to landfill and recycling. Separate bins are available around the course. An audit was completed by Waste Management provider in 2022. CCIP: Please explore the feasibility of conducting regular internal waste audits to review waste streams and optimise resource and material use.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Practical use of an ethical / environmental purchasing policy	Adopt a sustainable, or ethical / environmental purchasing policy to maximise the use of locally sourced goods and goods made from recycled, recyclable and certified materials	Jack's Point prioritises local sourcing whenever possible, selecting local suppliers for seed supply and seaweed fertilisers to support regional businesses. Similarly, the restaurant seeks to source ingredients locally, reinforcing a commitment to fresh, high-quality produce while reducing environmental impact
R3.3 Reuse and recycle	R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity	Demonstrate waste separation, reuse and recycling; Track how much waste goes to landfill, or is reused / recycled	General waste and recyclables are separated and then collected by an external contractor, with quantity reports provided and reviewed. Additionally, separate recycling and waste bins are strategically placed around the course to support responsible disposal practices. CCIP: As per R3.1.1 above.
R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance	R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations	Use authorised waste and recycling contractor for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste	Authorised external contractors are managing waste streams where required. Confirmed.

COMMUNITY			
C1 Outreach			
Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
C1.1 Diversify access and provide multi-functionality	C1.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility		Jack's Point Golf Course supports a variety of outdoor activities beyond golf. Trail' with terrain supporting <u>25kms of trails and pathways</u> suitable for walking and mountain biking. Notably the Jack's Point Trail follows the shoreline of Lake Wakatipu, forming part of the 'Queenstown Trail' with a stop at the Jack's Point Clubhouse

C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		Jack's Point supports local high school work experience programs, providing students with opportunities to gain practical skills in golf course operations and environmental management. The facility also extends support to other local clubs, fostering community development through shared resources and collaboration. Additionally, the annual school charity day encourages local engagement, promoting fundraising efforts.
C1.3 Establish active community partnerships	C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups	Create a 'sustainability working group'	Jack's Point GC maintains a connection with its neighbours, the local community, and various groups, fostering positive engagement. This commitment is reflected in the presence of past GEO awards in the pro shop, subtly reinforcing sustainability efforts. The course also plays a role in broader environmental initiatives, including pest control programs, which contribute to conservation efforts and support local biodiversity.
C2 Golfers & Employees			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		The discussion generally covered the mental and physical benefits of golf, with the team highlighting NZ Golf's growing interest and involvement.
C2.2 Be open and inclusive	C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	The club primarily encourages diverse participation through its community support (e.g. Masters Day and JPORA) and reduced rates for youth golfers. The course is open to the general public.
C2.3 Employ fairly and safely, and provide career opportunities	C2.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development	Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health & safety etc	Health & Safety Framework sighted. Workplace Wellbeing Support programme for employees.
C3 Communications			
C3.1 Engage golfers and members	C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors	Provide information on the facility's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements	Information regarding sustainability commitments and activities are shared through various channels, including GEO Awards displayed in the clubhouse, the Jack Points website, NZ and AU Golf magazines, and various gatherings. Website: www.jackspoint.com

	C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community	Provide evidence of external communications and community engagement	The discussion covered the various ways the course connects with the wider community, other local courses, businesses, and schools. Engagement takes multiple forms, such as hosting fundraising events, offering work experience opportunities, and sharing tools and resources.
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Golf and Sustainability

Among all sports, golf has a particularly close relationship with the environment and communities, golf facilities can bring many benefits to people and nature - from the protection of greenspace and conservation of biodiversity; healthy recreation for all ages; local supply chains; and jobs, tourism and other forms of economic value.

Adopting a more sustainable approach is also good for golf. It's about presenting a high-quality golf course and providing a memorable experience in natural surroundings. It's about being as efficient as possible. And it's about supporting the community in a range of ways that bring increased recognition, respect and contact.

At a broader level, it's important that golf credibly demonstrates its commitment, and its social and environmental value – strengthening the sport's image and reputation for the long term.

Golf facilities that participate in OnCourse®, an international sustainability initiative assured by the non-profit GEO Foundation, are taking a comprehensive approach and striving to be leaders in the community.

Find out more at www.sustainable.golf