



GEO Certified®

GEO Certified® Report

Las Colinas Golf & Country Club

Prepared by independent verifier Alexandra Almeida

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2026
Recertification due: 2029

GEO Certified®

 **GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“Las Colinas Golf & Country Club demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainability, with notable highlights in water stewardship, biodiversity and resource efficiency. The use of 100% reclaimed water for irrigation, precision irrigation technologies, progressive naturalisation of the golf course and investment in renewable energy and electric equipment demonstrate a practical and well-integrated approach to sustainable golf management, with clear opportunities for further improvement through continued formalisation, monitoring and measurement of environmental performance.”

Alexandra Almeida
(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Las Colinas Golf & Country Club 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.

Las Colinas Golf & Country Club 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, Las Colinas Golf & Country Club should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Las Colinas Golf & Country Club 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 – 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	General knowledge of the wildlife and habitats on the site	Las Colinas Golf & Country Club is located within high-quality natural surroundings that include a Special Protection Area for Wild Birds (SPA) associated with the Sierra de Escalona and Campoamor area. The property also incorporates approximately 200,000 m² of nature reserve, with trails running through areas of native vegetation. CIP: Please maintain an up-to-date inventory of the main wildlife species and habitats present on the site. Use this information to inform golf course maintenance, vegetation management and conservation activities, as well as the planning and assessment of any future development or operational changes.
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species	Identify rare, protected or endangered species found on the golf course; Understand legal responsibilities for landscape protection and special area designations, if applicable	It was evidenced that the Club demonstrates a good understanding of the environmental sensitivity and protected status of its surrounding natural environment. The Club has identified relevant protected fauna occurring within the property and surrounding landscape, including protected birds of prey such as Bonelli's eagle and the Eurasian eagle-owl. CIP: Please prepare a concise management document summarising the key environmental and conservation requirements to be considered in day-to-day golf course and vegetation management.
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	N.A
N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the golf course	N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass	Monitor patterns of play to identify underutilised areas of turfgrass	The Club has actively reviewed and reduced the extent of managed turfgrass, prioritising the conversion of selected areas to more naturalised and lower-maintenance landscapes. The current managed turfgrass area is 42.76 ha.

			Over the past 10 years, approximately 5.92 ha have been naturalised or restored, including the conversion of 4.2 ha of previously managed turfgrass. These measures demonstrate an ongoing approach to reducing the area requiring intensive turfgrass management and increasing naturalised vegetation, with associated reductions in irrigation and maintenance requirements.
N1.3 Actively create and manage habitats for wildlife	N1.3.1 Projects to create and manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf	Prioritise native species of varying size and structure when planting Prioritise native trees and shrubs when planting Prioritise native aquatic species of varying size and structure when planting Establish mowing buffer zones next to water bodies and wetlands	The naturalisation process has included the planting and establishment of a range of Mediterranean vegetation, including <i>Pinus halepensis</i>, <i>Chamaerops humilis</i>, <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>, <i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>, <i>Olea europaea</i>, <i>Tamarix</i> sp., <i>Arbutus unedo</i>, <i>Quercus coccifera</i> and <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>. Approximately 550 <i>Pinus halepensis</i> trees have been planted, particularly around holes 7 and 8. CIP: Please develop a long-term ecological restoration strategy for areas currently undergoing regeneration, including clear success indicators, monitoring metrics and realistic timelines. This would support structured monitoring of ecological recovery, adaptive management and transparent evaluation of biodiversity outcomes. CIP: Please also establish appropriate no-mow or reduced-mowing buffer zones around existing lakes, where feasible, to reduce runoff and disturbance while enhancing habitat value and biodiversity.
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species	Follow local best practice to protect or attract endangered, protected or rare species found on site	The Club actively manages vegetation and habitats around the golf course with a focus on Mediterranean species, naturalisation and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas. Plant species within the golf course are being progressively replaced with indigenous and locally adapted vegetation, reducing maintenance requirements and irrigation demand while strengthening the ecological character of the landscape. The Club also recognises the ecological importance of its surrounding natural environment and the presence of protected and priority wildlife and maintains areas of Mediterranean vegetation as part of the wider golf landscape. CIP: Please identify and map sensitive ecological areas across the golf course and establish appropriate management measures and protective buffer zones where required. This should include consideration of no-mow or reduced-mowing buffers around existing lakes and other sensitive habitats to reduce disturbance

			and runoff, while enhancing habitat quality and ecological connectivity.
N2 Turfgrass			
N2.1 Maintain optimum turfgrass and soil health	N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors	Select appropriate grass species for the climate	Turfgrass selection reflects the warm Mediterranean climatic conditions of the site. The majority of the managed turfgrass areas - including tees, fairways, maintained rough and other turf areas - are composed of 100% <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> × <i>C. transvaalensis</i>, a warm-season turfgrass. The extensive use of <i>Cynodon</i> across the course is consistent with the hot, dry summer conditions experienced in the region and supports turf performance under high temperatures while helping to manage irrigation requirements. In contrast, the greens are predominantly composed of <i>Agrostis stolonifera/palustris</i> (95%), a cool-season turfgrass selected to provide the specific playing characteristics and putting quality required on greens. Overall, the turfgrass strategy therefore prioritises warm-season varieties across the largest managed areas of the course, while the use of cool-season turf is largely restricted to the greens where specific playing-performance requirements apply.
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition	No specific international requirement, however, identify course management and agronomic activities and look for continual improvements	The Club implements a structured programme of soil aeration, topdressing and moisture management to maintain soil structure, rooting conditions and effective water movement through the soil profile. hollow-tine aeration has been carried out annually on fairways, greens, tees and approaches. On fairways, extracted cores are broken down and followed by sand topdressing. These practices are intended to improve soil structure, root development, aeration, water infiltration and retention, while reducing surface runoff. The programme is complemented by the regular use of wetting agents across playing surfaces to improve water movement and distribution within the soil profile. Applications are adjusted according to the surface, season and temperature. On greens, soil conditions are further monitored using TDR FieldScout probes, which measure volumetric water content (VWC) at multiple points. These measurements are used to identify variations within the soil profile and support targeted irrigation decisions, avoiding unnecessary watering of the entire green. Given the use of reclaimed water, the Club also incorporates salinity management into its soil-management practices. On greens, soil and rootzone condition is further supported through salinity management practices. Deep irrigation incorporates a leaching fraction, with specific

			flushing carried out approximately every three to four weeks and accompanied by calcium applications.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Test and monitor soil pH; Follow legal requirements when timing fertiliser applications Ensure staff are fully qualified to use fertilisers Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment Regularly calibrate and test applicators	The Club follows a targeted and controlled fertilisation approach, adapting applications to the requirements of different playing surfaces rather than applying fertilisers uniformly across the golf course. Regular soil testing to identify nutrient imbalances and guide precise, data-driven agronomic interventions. On greens, fertilisation is applied 100% through foliar applications, while fairways and rough receive two scheduled fertiliser applications per year. Additional fertilisation is restricted to specific high-traffic areas or areas requiring recovery, helping to avoid unnecessary blanket applications. This approach is supported by ongoing agronomic monitoring and irrigation management. The Club considers factors including soil moisture, turf condition, season, rainfall, temperature and turf activity when making management decisions, supporting a more responsive approach to turf inputs. Overall, the combination of surface-specific fertilisation, limited scheduled applications, targeted treatments and consideration of nutrients supplied through reclaimed irrigation water demonstrates an approach aimed at maintaining turf performance while avoiding unnecessary fertiliser inputs.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Change hole locations frequently	The Club applies an integrated approach to turfgrass management, combining appropriate turfgrass selection, soil management, targeted nutrition, precision irrigation and pest and disease management practices. Turf health and resilience are supported through cultural and agronomic practices including annual hollow-tine aeration, sand topdressing, wetting agents, targeted fertilisation and biostimulants. These practices improve soil structure, rooting, water movement and overall turf condition, helping to reduce environmental stresses that may increase susceptibility to pests and diseases. Irrigation is also integrated with turf health management, using weather data, evapotranspiration, rainfall, soil moisture measurements and visual assessment of turf condition to adjust water applications according to actual requirements. Weather data, evapotranspiration, rainfall, soil moisture, turf condition and seasonal activity are considered before irrigation is applied, while TDR moisture measurements on greens allow localised dry areas to be

			addressed through targeted hand-watering rather than increasing irrigation across the entire surface. These measures are complemented by consideration of pesticide selection and application timing, the curative use of pesticides, and appropriately qualified staff, supporting an approach aimed at reducing unnecessary reliance on conventional chemical treatments. Pest and disease management also incorporates alternatives to conventional pesticides, including the use of biological control products, demonstrating the practical incorporation of biological controls within the turf management programme. CIP: Please formalise existing practices within a documented Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan, defining pest and disease monitoring procedures, intervention thresholds, preventive and cultural controls, biological alternatives where applicable, criteria for pesticide selection and application, and records for evaluating treatment effectiveness.
N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly	N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues	Identify and track pest and disease hotspots, including sensitive areas Scout the course daily for early signs and symptoms Accurately diagnose to determine the cause of weeds, pests and diseases	The Club follows a preventive and targeted approach to turf health management, prioritising good agronomic practices such as aeration, topdressing, targeted fertilisation, wetting agents, precision irrigation and continuous monitoring of turf condition. These practices are intended to maintain healthy and resilient turf and minimise dependence on chemical treatments. Where intervention is required, the Club also incorporates biological control alternatives, including <i>Beauveria bassiana</i> on fairways and <i>Paecilomyces lilacinus</i> strain 251 on greens. Chemical treatments are used within this integrated approach to address identified turf health requirements; however, further documentation of the issue identified, intervention criteria and treatment outcome would strengthen evidence that chemicals are applied only when necessary. CIP: Please further formalise and document the decision-making process for plant protection treatments, including the turf health issue identified, monitoring observations, intervention criteria, treatment selected and outcome, to clearly demonstrate that chemical applications are undertaken only when necessary. CIP: Please also formalise a pesticide reduction plan, including an inventory and periodic review of products used, identification of those with potential impacts on biodiversity, and measurable targets for their progressive replacement with biological or lower-impact alternatives.

	N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions	Use legally registered and approved products; Prefer products for the specific weed, pest or disease; Follow legal requirements; Ensure staff are fully qualified to use pesticides; Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment; Regularly calibrate and test applicators; Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of amenity turfgrass	Appropriate PPE is provided, correctly used and safely stored, while pesticide applicators are trained and applications are undertaken in accordance with product label requirements and appropriate environmental conditions. Application equipment and sprayers are regularly calibrated and tested to ensure accurate and safe application. The Greenkeeper oversees compliance with product-use requirements, including the triple-rinse procedure for empty pesticide containers. Empty containers and other associated waste are managed in accordance with applicable legal requirements, and relevant Health & Safety documentation is maintained and readily accessible.
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 ; Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer areas next to water bodies and wetlands; Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer zones in and around ecologically sensitive areas	The Club has a formal documented emergency spill response procedure, covering accidental spills of plant protection products, fertilisers and other chemicals used in golf course maintenance. The procedure applies throughout storage, internal transport, mixing/loading, application, equipment cleaning and waste management activities. The procedure establishes clear responsibilities, incident severity levels and emergency contacts, together with a defined response sequence covering protection of people, notification, product identification, use of appropriate PPE, stopping and containing the source, protection of drains and sensitive areas, collection and labelling of contaminated materials, waste management and incident recording. Particular priority is given to preventing spills from reaching drainage systems, soil, the irrigation network, lakes and watercourses. CCIP: Please ensure that a dedicated spill kit is specified, and that all incidents, including minor spills, are formally recorded. Periodic checks of emergency equipment and staff information requirements should also be established. CCIP: Please create a simplified emergency response notice that is available for staff. This should summarise the eight key response steps and clearly identify when emergency services (112) must be contacted.

			CCIP: Please conduct at least one emergency spill response drill annually at the maintenance facility. Maintain a record of the exercise, including observations, corrective actions and opportunities for improvement. CCIP: Please establish, clearly define and map no-spray/no-spread buffer zones around existing lakes and other ecologically sensitive areas. These restrictions should be communicated to the maintenance team and incorporated into operational procedures for pesticide and fertiliser applications.
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable	All waste generated is segregated at source and stored in accordance with applicable regulations, using designated containers for each waste stream, ensuring proper containment and pollution prevention. Wastewater is discharged into the local sewerage system connected to a licensed wastewater treatment plant, ensuring full compliance with environmental and public health regulations.
	N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations	Wash machinery over an impermeable, leak-free surface; Mix and load pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable, leak-free surface; Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	The maintenance facility features impermeable flooring, covered work areas and designated zones for equipment maintenance, staff operations and the secure storage of fertilisers, pesticides and hazardous substances. Wash pad and mixing/loading areas are impermeable. Wastewater is discharged into the local sewerage system connected to a licensed wastewater treatment plant.
	N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances	List of hazardous substances, made available to authorised staff; Product and material data safety sheets; Well ventilated concrete or metal building; Impermeable, leak-free flooring; Sufficient storage capacity; Spill containment kits; Secondary containment e.g., bunds or drip trays; Legal compliance is ensured in the storage, handling, application and disposal of all hazardous substances. Pesticides are stored in a dedicated, ventilated, well-bunded warehouse with impermeable flooring, equipped with an emergency eyewash station, chemical spill kits and fire extinguishers. Hazardous substances are stored in their original containers with intact and legible labelling, with appropriate secondary containment, including drip trays, provided where necessary to contain potential leaks or spills. The corresponding Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are available and accessible to relevant staff. CIP: Please periodically review and, where necessary, update the hazardous substances register to ensure that it remains accurate,

		Emergency wash area, as per local requirements (body shower and / or eye wash station); Hazardous substances safely collected by a registered company or body ; Follow any additional legal requirements	reflects all hazardous substances currently stored and used on site, and is readily available to authorised staff.
	N3.2.2 Legal compliance in the storage and handling of fuels and gases	Tank secured to a horizontal, flat, non-combustible surface; Secondary containment of fuel in the event of spills e.g. bunds and drip trays; Inspection of storage tank(s) at least quarterly, if required; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area	The fuel storage tank is located on a flat, paved and non-combustible surface. CCIP: As part of the planned investment programme for the maintenance facility, please prioritise the upgrade of the fuel storage area. This should provide appropriate secondary containment, such as a suitably sized bund or equivalent system, to minimise the risk of fuel spills reaching surrounding surfaces or drainage systems. The planned improvements should also ensure appropriate fire protection and include documented periodic inspections of the tank and associated infrastructure.
N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water	N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage, treatment and discharge	Impermeable, leak-free surface; Treatment as per local requirements (oil, grease and / or clipping separation); Formal discharge agreement, if applicable	Wastewater is discharged into the local sewerage system connected to a licensed wastewater treatment plant, ensuring full compliance with environmental and public health regulations. CCIP: Please review the management of effluent generated from the wash pad and pesticide/fertiliser mixing and loading area to minimise the risk of downstream contamination. Where necessary, implement an appropriate containment, collection and treatment or controlled disposal system to prevent contaminated effluent from entering drainage systems or the wider environment.

RESOURCES

R1 Water

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
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R1.1 Minimise water demand	R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water	Select appropriate grass species for the climate e.g., drought and disease tolerance; Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces; Prioritise native, drought tolerant species for landscaping and planting	The Club selects turfgrass species according to the Mediterranean climate and playing requirements. Bermuda TifSport, a warm-season turfgrass well suited to high temperatures and lower water availability, is used extensively across tees, fairways, rough, semi-rough and approaches, while <i>Agrostis palustris</i> is largely restricted to greens where specific playing-performance requirements apply. The overall agronomic strategy is designed to maintain turf quality under Mediterranean conditions while minimising intensive irrigation requirements. Irrigation is sectorised and targeted according to the requirements of individual playing surfaces, with separate programmes for greens, fairways, rough, approaches and other areas. Water applications are adjusted using ET, crop coefficients, rainfall, soil moisture, weather conditions and visual turf assessment rather than applying a uniform irrigation rate across the course. On greens, TDR measurements and targeted hand-watering allow localised dry areas to be treated without increasing irrigation across the entire green.
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course	Schedule irrigation based on informed assessment of soil moisture and weather forecasts; Evaluate new irrigation technologies e.g., central control, precision sprinklers etc.; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Adjust sprinklers to playing surfaces only	The Club applies a data-driven and site-specific irrigation management approach designed to apply only the amount of water required by the turf. Irrigation requirements are determined daily using climatic data from an on-site WatchDog weather station, including evapotranspiration (ET), integrated with the Toro Lynx central irrigation system. Before irrigation is programmed, rainfall, weather forecast, wind, soil moisture, visual turf condition, individual area characteristics and planned maintenance activities are also considered. The irrigation system is sectorised by playing surface, including greens, approaches, surrounds, fairways, rough and other areas, allowing irrigation rates, timing and operating sequences to be adjusted independently according to the specific requirements of each area rather than applying a uniform irrigation rate across the course. On greens, TDR FieldScout soil-moisture probes are used to measure volumetric water content (VWC) at multiple locations. Localised dry areas are treated through targeted hand-watering, avoiding the need to increase irrigation across the entire green simply to address isolated dry spots. Overall, irrigation combines weather monitoring, evapotranspiration, crop coefficients, soil-moisture measurements, sectorised irrigation and agronomic supervision, enabling the Club to minimise unnecessary water applications while maintaining appropriate turf conditions.
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	Monitor and record water consumption (bills, flow meter etc.);	Water-efficiency measures are implemented within the Club's buildings, including water-saving fixtures and operational practices aimed at reducing unnecessary consumption.

		Encourage water conservation practices amongst players and staff	
R1.3 Source water responsibly	R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water	Water abstraction permit, if required; Report water consumption to environment agency, if required	The Club reduces its reliance on freshwater resources by using recycled water for the irrigation of both the golf course and common green areas, supporting more efficient and sustainable water management across the facility.
R2 Energy			
R2.1 Reduce energy demand	R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in golf course maintenance	Naturalise non-playing areas to reduce mowing and other energy intensive inputs	The Club's golf buggy fleet is 100% electric, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and the associated greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions.
R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings	Monitor and record energy consumption (bills, meters etc.)	The Club has implemented measures to improve lighting efficiency and reduce unnecessary electricity consumption, including the transition to LED lighting and the use of presence sensors and automatic lighting control systems. It was evidenced that electricity consumption is systematically monitored through utility records. In addition to monthly invoices and consumption records, detailed information is available on daily electricity consumption, hourly power demand and consumption by tariff period, providing management with a robust basis for identifying consumption patterns, peak demand and opportunities for improved energy efficiency. Energy performance is reviewed taking into account the operational and seasonal factors influencing demand. In particular, higher electricity consumption during warmer months is associated with increased air-conditioning and cooling requirements, while refrigeration, kitchens, ventilation, dishwashing, lighting and other Clubhouse services also contribute significantly to overall demand. The combination of monthly consumption monitoring and more detailed demand data enables the management team to identify abnormal variations, assess seasonal baseloads and peak demand, and identify opportunities for further efficiency improvements. Areas for continued optimisation include building services, equipment efficiency and operational controls, providing a structured approach to reducing energy consumption across the Clubhouse and associated facilities.
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy	Understand the energy mix of your electricity supplier;	During the on-site verification, the Club demonstrated a clear commitment to the use of renewable energy sources. Solar photovoltaic panels installed at the maintenance facility supply electricity to the facility itself

		Explore possible greener energy providers	and contribute to the electricity required for the golf course water pumping system. CIP: Please formalise and further strengthen the energy management approach, building on the existing monthly monitoring of electricity consumption. This should include specific energy-efficiency targets and actions for both Clubhouse operations and golf course maintenance, with particular attention to high-consumption equipment, cooling and ventilation systems, operational controls and fuel use. Where possible, future reporting should quantify the energy savings achieved through implemented measures and track performance against the established baseline.
R3 Materials			
R3.1 Reduce materials demand	R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled, reused and locally sourced alternatives	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to reduce the demand for materials and look for continual improvements	It was evidenced that resource efficiency and waste prevention are considered as part of the Club's operational management practices. Purchasing and material consumption are linked to operational needs, particularly within the food and beverage, Golf Shop and Clubhouse activities. It was evidenced an awareness of the relationship between purchasing volumes, packaging and waste generation, with particular attention given to packaging arising from restaurant operations and supplier deliveries. The Golf Shop, for example, receives approximately 300 cardboard boxes annually, and this packaging is incorporated into the dedicated paper and cardboard recycling stream. Opportunities to reduce unnecessary material consumption and packaging and to consider reusable, recycled and locally sourced alternatives are assessed where appropriate, supporting the Club's commitment to progressively integrating sustainability considerations into purchasing decisions.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices	Favour responsible, lower impact products	A formal sustainable procurement policy has not yet been established; however, responsible purchasing principles are actively applied in practice. The management team gives preference to local suppliers wherever feasible, supporting the regional economy while reducing transportation distances and associated emissions. This approach is particularly evident in the restaurant operations, where most ingredients are sourced locally, including seafood supplied primarily by local fishermen. These practices contribute to shorter supply chains, improved product traceability and stronger links with local producers and suppliers. CCIP: Please develop a formal sustainable purchasing policy or documented procurement criteria that give preference, where

			feasible, to recycled, reused, responsibly sourced and locally sourced products and materials.
R3.3 Reuse and recycle	R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity	Put in place a recycling separation system, according to local rules and availability; Clear, simple and visible bin signage; Monitor and record weight of waste for each stream e.g. invoices, bills etc.	Waste generated by the golf maintenance facility - including used oils and filters, fertilizer and pesticide containers, paper, cardboard, glass, metal and plastic packaging and batteries - is properly segregated at source. Hazardous waste is treated, stored and handled in accordance with all regulatory requirements. The Club has also established a dedicated waste collection and segregation area serving the Clubhouse, restaurants and associated operational areas. The infrastructure in place enables the main waste streams generated by the operation to be separated at source, supporting recycling and appropriate downstream management. Current infrastructure includes containers for organic/food waste, glass, paper and cardboard, lightweight packaging/plastics, and residual waste. This segregation system provides the operational basis for separating recyclable from non-recyclable materials at source. As direct weighing data are not currently available for all waste streams, the Club has established an initial estimated waste baseline using annual operational activity and published hospitality-sector waste generation benchmarks. The Club has also identified continuous improvement measures, including obtaining measured tonnage information from waste contractors, recording collection frequency and container capacity, and progressively replacing estimated waste quantities with measured data. These measures will support the identification of further opportunities for waste prevention, improved segregation, increased recycling and reduced residual waste. CIP: Please assess the feasibility of implementing on-site composting of grass clippings and aeration cores, enabling the recovery and reuse of organic material as a soil improver within the golf course, thereby reducing waste disposal and supporting circular economy practices.
R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance	R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations	Authorised waste collector for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste, if required	It was evidenced that the Club has established operational controls for the separation, collection and appropriate downstream management of waste, supported by documentation intended to demonstrate traceability and compliance with applicable waste management requirements. Waste is collected by licensed contractors for off-site recycling or disposal, as appropriate. The off-site transport of waste fully complies with

			legal requirements, including the use of appropriately licensed vehicles and the completion of all mandatory documentation. The Club is also working to strengthen its waste records through contractor tonnage information, collection data and direct weighing, providing an increasingly robust basis for demonstrating regulatory compliance and continuous improvement.
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COMMUNITY			
C1 Health & Wellbeing			
Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
C1.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C1.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities	Plans in place to respond to incidents and emergencies	It was evidenced that Las Colinas Golf & Country Club has measures in place to support an effective response to incidents and emergencies, including dedicated security arrangements and staff preparedness. The resort operates 24-hour security, including controlled access and a manned security patrol across the property. The Club has also implemented technical alarm systems for incidents such as fire and water leakage in parts of the development. Moreover, the staff have received specific training to identify and respond effectively to a stroke occurring on the premises, strengthening its emergency preparedness and commitment to the health and safety of employees, members and visitors. CCIP: Please consolidate the existing emergency-response measures within documented emergency procedures covering the main environmental, health and safety risks, with clearly defined responsibilities, emergency contacts, periodic training and drills, and records of incidents, corrective actions and follow-up measures.
C1.2 Be open and inclusive	C1.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Membership policies free from discrimination across age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and ethnic background	A strong commitment to inclusion and equal participation was evidenced through the Club's social programmes and partnerships. Las Colinas works with organisations supporting people with intellectual disabilities and functional diversity and uses its sporting, hospitality and natural assets to promote participation and social inclusion.

			This is demonstrated through its long-term partnership with the Real Madrid Foundation Inclusive Football School, activities with Talentismo and ASSIDO, and collaborations with organisations supporting people with disabilities. The Inclusive Football School initially involved 24 children and young people aged 8–20, while volunteering and community days have brought participants and families to Las Colinas for golf, hiking, team activities and shared meals. CIP: Please further strengthen accessibility measures, including increasing the availability of golf buggies for players with reduced mobility and providing ongoing training for Clubhouse staff and golf professionals to ensure appropriate, inclusive and respectful service for people with disabilities.
C1.3 Employ fairly, safely and provide career opportunities	C1.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development	Adopt an equal opportunity recruitment and hiring policy; Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for hiring and employment; Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for worker safety	Las Colinas identifies equal opportunities as one of the pillars of its people strategy and has established an Equality Plan (Plan de Igualdad). The Club promotes equal treatment between women and men and seeks to guarantee the same professional opportunities. The Club also promotes the employment integration of people with different abilities, reinforcing the application of inclusion and equal-opportunity principles beyond gender equality. Employment practices fully comply with legal requirements, with formal contracts, fair remuneration, equal opportunity and clear support for staff development and retention. A formal onboarding policy is in place, supported by on-the-job training delivered under the supervision of team leaders, ensuring effective integration, role clarity and compliance with operational and safety procedures.
<u>C2 Outreach & Inclusion</u>			
C2.1 Diversify access and provide multifunctionality	C2.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility	No specific international requirement, however, identify multifunctional activities and look for continual improvements	Las Colinas operates as a multifunctional recreational and social facility extending significantly beyond golf. Facilities and activities include golf, tennis and padel, a Sports & Health Club, gym, outdoor swimming, restaurants and a scenic trail that can be explored on foot or by bicycle. The Clubhouse and wider resort are also used for social and cultural activities. For example, UNiK has organised themed meals celebrating different nationalities together with dance and live music, while the natural

			environment provides opportunities for walking, wildlife observation and outdoor recreation. Importantly, these facilities are also used for community and charitable activities, including charity golf tournaments, inclusive sport, hiking, volunteering days, educational activities and events involving beneficiaries, families, employees and partner organisations.
C2.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C2.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to support volunteering and charity and look for continual improvements	It was evidenced established opportunities for employees and the wider Club community to participate in volunteering and charitable activities. The Club's community programme combines direct employee volunteering with charity events, sponsorship, in-kind contributions and access to Club facilities. Examples include volunteering and community days with the Real Madrid Foundation Inclusive Football School and AFA Torrevieja, involving golf, hiking and other shared activities, as well as support for several charitable organisations through golf tournaments and other initiatives.
C2.3 Establish active community partnerships	C2.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups	No specific international requirement, however, identify partnerships and community activities and look for continual improvements	Community partnerships are an integral component of the ESG strategy. A particularly strong example is the Club's long-term partnership with the Real Madrid Foundation Inclusive Football School in Callosa de Segura. Established in 2024 and renewed in 2025, the programme supports children and young people with intellectual disabilities and functional diversity and promotes inclusion, autonomy and personal development through sport. Las Colinas has also hosted participants, families and coaches for community and volunteering activities involving golf, hiking, team activities and shared social experiences at the resort. Overall, the evidence demonstrates that community partnerships are embedded within the Club's wider social responsibility approach, using golf, sport, hospitality facilities and the natural environment as practical tools for community participation, inclusion and positive social impact.
C3 Communications & Advocacy			
C3.1 Engage staff and golfers	C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors	Involve staff and committees in sustainability efforts; Involve golfers in sustainability efforts; Post sustainability information in the clubhouse and / or on the golf course	Sustainability and social responsibility are actively communicated to members, visitors and the wider community through the Club's digital channels, sustainability materials, partnerships and community activities. Las Colinas publicly communicates its sustainability approach across areas including water efficiency, biodiversity, renewable energy, waste prevention, sustainable materials, low-emission mobility and social inclusion. Awareness is also promoted through practical engagement. Examples include guided visits for University of Alicante students, charity and

			volunteering events, inclusive sporting activities, hiking and nature-based activities, and initiatives encouraging sustainable mobility. CIP: Please implement educational signage at strategic locations, including tee areas, walking paths and the Clubhouse, highlighting native species, habitats and sustainability practices. This would provide on-site learning opportunities and strengthen the connection between golf, nature and environmental stewardship.
C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community	Share at least 3 Highlights on sustainable.golf	During the site visit, the following key sustainability practices / highlights were verified: Water stewardship – use of recycled water for golf course and common-area irrigation, supported by centralised intelligent irrigation management and monitoring. Renewable energy and low-carbon maintenance – Photovoltaic generation supplying the maintenance facility and part of golf-course water pumping, together with the transition to electric landscaping and gardening equipment. Transition to Robotic Rough Mowing - Las Colinas is introducing electric robotic mowing for rough areas, eliminating direct fuel-related CO₂ emissions and significantly reducing noise, while improving mowing efficiency and freeing maintenance resources for other areas of the course. Community inclusion and social impact – the long-term partnership with the Real Madrid Foundation Inclusive Football School and the wider volunteering and community programme documented for 2024–2025.
C3.3 Follow a journey of continuous improvement	C3.3.1 Measures to help track, review and improve sustainability and climate action	Put measures in place to ensure that OnCourse can be updated annually	There is evidence that the Club maintains ongoing monitoring and management practices across the main environmental areas required to support annual OnCourse updates. Water management includes the use of recycled water for irrigation, centralised irrigation controls and automatic water monitoring, while biodiversity management is supported by ongoing environmental expertise, management of natural areas and the progressive use of native vegetation. These systems are complemented by regular energy, waste and community engagement records, providing a structured and repeatable evidence base for annual sustainability reporting and OnCourse updates.

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