GEO Certified® Report
Noord-Brabantsche Golfclub Toxandria

Prepared by independent verifier Adrie van der Werf

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2026
Recertification due: 2031

GEO Foundation
Sustainability in and through golf

“The GEO committee of Toxandria and the greenkeeping team demonstrated not only knowledge, but just as importantly, passion with respect to many sustainability issues. Many actions are underway to further naturalize the course, and with respect to energy they will soon switch from fossil fuel driven machinery to electric ones.”

Adrie van der Werf
(GEO accredited independent verifier)

Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Noord-Brabantsche Golfclub Toxandria 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.

Noord-Brabantsche Golfclub Toxandria 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, Noord-Brabantsche Golfclub Toxandria should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Noord-Brabantsche Golfclub Toxandria 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.isealalliance.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	Habitats, and the potential presence of wildlife are well described in several documents. During our field visit, maintenance of these vegetation types was shortly discussed.
	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	Over the years several protected and endangered species have been observed. Based on the habitats present on the course, a list of potential protected species is available. The GEO-cie mentioned that in the coming years more attention will be paid to protected and endangered species. From 2027 onwards, detailed plant and animal surveys will be performed twice a year.
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	It was mentioned by the GEO-cie that historical and archaeological features are not present.
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	Over the years, the course has been further naturalized where possible. This was clearly visible during our field visit. On many holes new heathland patches have been constructed, and give the course a natural look and feel.
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	This has been well described in their ecological work protocol. The GEO-cie mentioned that e.g. woodland vegetation will be expanded there where possible. Also, it is foreseen to introduce more species-rich grassland. All these actions will be recorded in their course management plan.

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	See points above.
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	As indicated by the head greenkeeper, grass species and varieties are suitable for the soils and weather conditions present on the course. This was confirmed during our course visit. The maintenance team is very aware of the environmental impact of golf course maintenance. A formal written IPM program is not available. **CIP: Please create a formal IPM plan, detailing your approach to sustainable turfgrass management**.
	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	These are standard practises, and the greenkeeper demonstrated thorough knowledge on this subject.
	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	As indicated by the head greenkeeper, fertilization rates have been reduced over the years, and staff members are qualified and trained to use fertilizers and pesticides safely.
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	This is common practise at Toxandria. Biostimulants are now being used to increase stress resistance of the grasses and thus a further reduction in pesticide use.
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	Application of pesticides is according to legislation and has been reduced significantly over the years. Depending on the weather conditions, disease hotspots are inspected and action are taken if necessary.

		Accurately diagnose to determine the cause of weeds, pests and diseases	
	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	Use of fertlisers and pesticides is according to legislation as mentioned above, and personnel are fully qualified. Leftover products are collected and processed by certified companies.
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	In case of any pollution on the course, the maintenance crew knows how to handle. E.g. in case of severe oil spill on the course, grass and soil will be removed as soon possible. As mentioned by the head greenkeeper, no-spray buffer zones are in place near ecologically sensitive areas. A document on how to deal with pollution is not available and during our discussion it was mentioned that they will prepare one as soon as possible. **CCIP: Please ensure that your emergency spill response plan clearly sets out the procedures staff must follow in the event of a spill, including immediate safety measures, containment, clean-up and disposal of contaminated materials. It should identify staff responsibilities, the location of spill response equipment, and clear notification and reporting protocols, including internal notification and external reporting where required, with relevant contact details.**
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure	Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable	Waste-water from the clubhouse is managed according to legislation and a wastewater discharge agreement is available.

	pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations		
	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 head greenkeeper showed me their facilities. Impermeable flooring is present and mixing is also according to legislation.
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; 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	List of products is available, as are waste licenses. Storage of specific products is according to legislation and battery chargers are stored in a fireproof safe. Emergency response is available.
	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;	All according to legislation; see also points mentioned above.

		Fire extinguisher in the immediate area	
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	Oil/grease separation is present and waste-water is discharged according to legislation.

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**	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	It was mentioned (and shown) by the GEO-cie and the head greenkeeper that irrigation is targeted towards the playing surface area; at the moment irrigation rates are available for the total surface area. They will now analyse possibilities to estimate irrigation rates of tee/greens/fairways separately.
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	See also point above. The head greenkeeper is responsible for the irrigation rates, and these are based on personal experience, TDR measurements and weather data. Wetting agents are used to reduce irrigation rates. The club now investigates possibilities to install water retention bodies. In that way more rainwater can be stored for irrigation purposes.
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	Monitor and record water consumption (bills, flow meter etc.);	Over the years, water-saving showerheads and taps have been installed inside the clubhouse. Drinking water taps on the course are shut off automatically after use.

		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	Water abstraction permit is available
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	Soon approx. 100 solar panels will be installed, and old fuel driven maintenance equipment will be replaced by electric ones.
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.)	See point above with respect to solar energy. Also, the clubhouse has been renovated the past few years, e.g. roof insulation has been installed.
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	**R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy**	Understand the energy mix of your electricity supplier; Explore possible greener energy providers	**CCIP: Please contact your energy provider to get a new contract based on green energy supply.**
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	The club will discuss this with the catering manager yet to be appointed.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	**R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices**	Favour responsible, lower impact products	As mentioned by the GEO-cie and head greenkeeper this is part of their strategy and is seen as a continuous process.
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;	Waste stream separation is in action in the clubhouse and greenkeep location. In the course this is not case. **CCIP: Please investigate new possibilities to separate waste streams in the most efficient way on the golf course.**

		Monitor and record weight of waste for each stream e.g. invoices, bills etc.	
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	Waste stream licenses available.

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	Health and safety procedures are very well documented and the GEO-cie mentioned that this document will also be hung in the clubhouse and greenkeep location.
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	This was not intensively discussed, but the GEO-cie indicated that there is no discriminatory policy regarding the admission of members.
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	The club is almost entirely run by members/volunteers. This item was not further discussed.

C2 Outreach & Inclusion

	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	Birdwatching and bridge. Furthermore, a wide variety of activities in the club are handled by club members.
	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	The club organizes charity golf tournaments - this year for the Duchenne Parent Project, which focuses entirely on scientific research and improving care for patients with muscular dystrophy.
	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	In the past a nature organization (Natuur en Landschapsvereniging Gilze en Rijen) was involved in description of fauna and flora. Toxandria will contact them again for flora and fauna activities in 2027.
	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	The GEO-cie regularly publishes sustainability articles in their club magazine, not only with respect to nature but also with respect to e.g. pollution prevention and how to deal with plastic waste.
	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	1. Already over more than 20 years ago, the club bought agricultural land next to the course. This area was finally turned into new nature and is open nowadays as for non-members for walking and biking. 2. The club will soon switch from grey to green energy, including the installation of solar panels. Also, the fossil fuel driven maintenance machinery will gradually be replaced by electric ones. As mentioned above, the course has been further naturalized e.g. with many new heathland areas.
	C3.3 Follow a journey of continuous improvement	**C3.3.1 Measures to help track, review and**	Put measures in place to ensure that OnCourse can be updated annually	This was discussed only briefly, but the GEO-cie clearly indicated that annual updates of information with respect to nature and sustainability activities is now part of their strategy.

		improve sustainability and climate action		

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