



GEO Certified®

GEO Certified® Report Infinitum

Prepared by independent verifier Pablo Munoz

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2024
Recertification due: 2027

GEO Certified®

 **GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“Infinitum Golf keeps demonstrating outstanding responsibility in the use of natural resources, setting a benchmark in sustainable golf course operations. Renewable energy now accounts for a 16% reduction in electricity consumption thanks to the installation of solar panels. The shift to electric maintenance equipment has also led to an 8% reduction in fuel usage. Most notably, water use has significantly decreased over the past five years due to a reduction of irrigated turf and the progressive introduction of warm-season grasses that require less irrigation.

The ongoing renovation of the Lakes and Hills courses is further reinforcing the sustainable vision, as both layouts move toward the adoption of low-water-demand, warm-season turf varieties. Furthermore, Infinitum is also preserving Sequia Major habitats and endangered species. These efforts underscore the club’s strong environmental ethic and its leadership in resilient, forward-thinking golf course management.”

Pedro Munoz
(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Infinitum 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.

Infinitum 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, Infinitum should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Infinitum 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	Main habitats (Sequia major wetland, water bodies and pine forest) were inspected during the onsite visit. Sequia Major (17 ha) is included in the Red Natura network; and is considered Common interest space for the Catalanian authorities, which carries out a monthly visit to the Sequia Major. They take photos during each visit for close monitoring. The “Institut Català d’ornitologia” develops an annual census of all the birds hibernating at the Sequia Major. We reviewed the 2023 census and observed the bird banding population monitoring and migratory studies.
	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	Both Generalitat & Local Government have legal authority in both the water & habitat management of the site. Those public bodies are recording and monitoring the endangered species on site. Furthermore, the Course Manager has a comprehensive understanding of all legal aspects involved.
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	Old Roman Ruins from the ancient establishment of Tarraco (Tarragona) during the II century BC are protected and conserved in the Hills course (quarries in holes 13, 17 and 18) and the Ruins course (old trade pathway, and 3 wheat storage buildings between holes 1 and 9). An old tower, called “Torre del Telégrafo” (S.XIX), which was used to send and watch light signals from and to other towers as advertising signals is also kept and conserved.
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	The Golf Course Architecture firm EGD is assessing the Club for the turf reduction areas to be implemented.

			This expert criterion is ideal, as it reduces impact in the pace of play whilst enhancing the aesthetic and integrated design of the course. Key areas are greens surrounds and tee complexes. Final decision is agreed with the Club. Areas are being converted to landscaping with autochthonous species mainly.
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	Sequia wetland management plan is directly assessed by the Public domain. The Club has no written plan for other habitats on the courses management. However, the Club understands that habitats need to be managed; and it is assessing specific aspects. For instance, there are approx. 100 bird & bat houses, and a buffer zone are well protected for birdlife protection on water bodies. For the endangered “cercedilla” bird, protection structures have been installed on the waterbody’s edges. CCIP: Please develop a habitat management plan and map, if feasible.
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		The “Galápago Europeo “(Emys orbicularis), a protected turtle, is being monitored once per year. The endangered fish “fartet” (Aphanius iberus) population is also being regularly observed. Structures to protect the “Cerceta pardilla” (Marmaronetta angustirostris) on water bodies have been installed. The course manager closely monitors this species population.
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	LAKES COURSE Original established turf included only C-3 grasses (bentgrass greens plus perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue on all other areas). A major renovation has been carried out, with a conversion from cool c3 to warm c4 species: tees and fairways have been established with 419 bermudagrass.

		Tees are overseeded with poa trivialis to withstand golfers' traffic during the winter. Bunker faces have been established with Zeon zoysiagrass to reduce mowing needs; and greens run off areas have been established with Trinity zoysiagrass for improved shade tolerance. HILLS COURSE Original established turf included C-3 grasses (bentgrass greens plus perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue on all other areas). Tees and fairways were transitioned from ryegrass to bentgrass (007+seaside+flagstick varieties), aiming for an improved drought resistance whilst maintaining good recovery from golfers traffic all year round. A major renovation is being carried out on the back nine holes currently. This renovation includes the establishment of riptide barracuda bentgrass on greens (a new variety more tolerant to diseases, poa contamination, and drought stress); zoysiagrass on greens & fairways surrounds; and tall fescue in shaded roughs. RUINS COURSE Original established turf included C-3 grasses (bentgrass greens plus perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue on all other areas). C3 species remain, but trials to evaluate new warm season, C-4 varieties performance in a cool – transition zone weather with traditional cool season grasses are being evaluated, including: Bermudagrass (Tahoma, Latitude 36, 419, Celebration). Zoysiagrass (Zeon, Trinity, Stadium) Paspalum (Pure Dynasty). Trials include the evaluation of different establishment methods (herbicide, sodding, sprigging, no-till).
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition	Organic matter content at different depths is being evaluated and analysed in accredited laboratory (ETL) to survey greens soil condition regularly. Organic fertilizers are the base of the nutrition plan, thus enhancing microbiology in the soil. Application of new products including microbes (Trichoderma's, bacillus) are also being evaluated currently.

			Zeolite is being applied on greens to improve soil moisture condition. 400 kg/ha of bio compost from the water treatment plant is being applied to fairways annually.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	Soil analyses are monitored yearly, testing soil pH and other physical & chemical properties. The approach to fertilization includes 100% organic fertilisers for granular fertilization (low doses several times per year) plus foliar spraying for spoon feeding), thus avoiding over fertilization.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	Quality of cut is outstanding, thanks to external first-class services hired for specific mowing sharpening and configuration. Moisture is always removed from greens. On non-mowing days, brush and / or rolling is performed. The use of organic fertilizers promotes the microbial life in the soil, thus reducing the incidence of diseases.
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	A new software, MAYA, provides a predictive model to prevent disease incidence in the course. A new policy including sulphur preventive applications is being carried out, with excellent results. Curative applications have practically disappeared. Only nematicide curative applications have been necessary. Disease hotspots, which are normally poor ventilated areas, are tracked daily. Samples of diseased turf are sent to accredited laboratory (Turf Disease Centre) for identification & diagnosis.
	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 .	Staff are in possession of the required licenses for treatments (5 qualified + 3 basic license). 2 x GPS controlled sprayer (<i>Smithco Spraystar</i>), both regularly calibrated, allow precise product calibration. Protective equipment is used, and leftover product is disposed on a specific area on the Ruins course.

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.	Emergency spill response plans are put in place and there have been simulations on the Club to ensure that the staff is aware of all the process. Buffer zones are established around water bodies. The buffer zone does not include the full perimeter of the water features due to playing requirements. Roughs are never treated, thus representing a buffer collar around each hole which protects sensitive areas. Operators are trained and understand the importance of keep buffer areas, especially around the sequia major area.
	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	A 2 nd maintenance facility in the lakes course is used as specific hazardous materials storage. An external waste management company collects and removes all the separated wastes every 15 days. Wastewater discharge license was reviewed during the visit.
	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	Washing pad surface is impervious. Pesticides are loaded over an impermeable surface. Both pesticide containers & sprayer are triple rinsed and washed. A new area for blowing debris on the mowers has been installed. This allows for removing all the clippings before washing machinery with water.
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;	The hazardous material record was reviewed and checked. Chemicals room with adequate ventilation, security files, spill containers, impervious flooring. Fuels are kept in 2 x 5000 litres double-wall, buried containers, all accordingly to current legislation. Containers are serviced and inspected annually by a specialized company.

		Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	Fire extinguishers are available close to compartments and containers of hazardous materials. Spill containment kits & emergency wash showers are available and easily accessible for the staff operating the hazardous materials.
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)	The Wastewater license and sewerage agreement was available, and it was checked. Washing areas include a previous grass & clippings blowing area + washing pad with hydrocarbons & fats separator. Wastewater treatment onsite includes desalinization of a variable % of the total water volume. Treated value would depend upon the quality of the incoming water.

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	Irrigation is targeted to main playing areas thanks to the use of part circle sprinklers in the grassing lines perimeters. Turf in many out of playing areas has been removed, especially in tees & greens surrounds. C4 new grasses require significantly less water. The new Cirrus Pro software allows improved precision when programming runtimes (seconds instead of minutes). Wetting agents are included in the maintenance plan monthly. Water consumption in 2024 has been the lowest in the last 5 years (-13% lower than the last 5 years average).
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course	Conduct regular irrigation performance checks;	An external audit is carried out yearly by a specialized company (RAINBIRD) to check and service central irrigation computer, irrigation

		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	satellites and communication between them. The visit includes staff training. An external audit is carried out yearly by the specialized company MASGRAU to check the desalinization plant and the pump station. Pump's performance is checked to evaluate available flow & pressure. The visit includes staff training. Soil moisture sensors (TDR 350) are used daily for volumetric water content (VWC%) monitoring. VWC of 10% is targeted, thus providing optimum playing conditions whilst using water efficiently. A SCADA for pump station monitoring (including pressure & flow records, graphs, etc.) is available for both pump stations and desalinization plants. A weather station installed on site reports daily with ET data, which is used for adjusting daily runtimes. % adjustments are done station by station in the irrigation software. The new MAYA software includes 2 soil probes which report soil moisture content at 10 cm depth in 2 representative areas of the course.
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	Audit water use regularly; Review bills frequently and look for irregularities; Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors; Categorise and track water consumption	Rains & water consumption records are available. Documents (bills, spreadsheets, figures, etc.) are available in the Club's shared folder.
	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 The resort is irrigated with 100% wastewater produced in the Vila Seca water treatment plant. Incoming water is, if necessary, additionally desalted in a desalination plant. The <i>Agencia Catalana del Agua</i> documents including the wastewater abstraction permit was checked and evaluated.
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	Areas in which maintained turf have been removed were observed. The Club is committed to an ongoing naturalisation.

			The Club is reducing drastically the number of bunkers: almost 50% of the Lakes course bunkers have been removed; whilst in the new Hills renovation, EGD has also reduced notably the number of these features. 3 x TORO5010H hybrid mowers were purchased in 2023. 4 x TORO e-triflex lithium batteries greens mowers were purchased in 2024. 10 x GTX lithium batteries electric TORO workmans were purchased in 2023. Fuel consumption has decreased 8% in the last 3 years.
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	There is a year energy audit in the 1) the pump stations, 2) the Clubhouse; and 3) The maintenance facility. Internal records, bills and spreadsheets including data & figures were observed.
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	Solar panels are installed over the desalinization plant roof since 2021. The energy demand has decreased by 16%. Golf course toilets are equipped with a solar panel for their own energy requirements.
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	Undertake a review of materials consumed	All materials consumed and produced wastes are recorded on a sheet, separately and including the quantities produced each week. The Club has introduced a policy for the suppression of plastic cups, bags, and water bottles. There are fountains around the course to refill recycled water bottles.
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	Sands used for both construction and topdressing purposes are produced in local quarries. Restoration in the Clubhouse is founded upon local products.

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	Bio compost produced in the water treatment plan (Vila Seca) is used as soil amendment. Thus, the subproduct produced to treat the irrigation water is recycled and reused to growth turf. Grass clippings are recycled and return to the playing surface. Recycling bins stations (3 stations per course) are available.
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	An authorised external contractor manages all the hazardous waste produced on site.

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		Birdwatching and School visits to the Sequia major observatory within the property are promoted (except during reproduction periods).
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		The Club is hosting the “Aprende a Mirar” foundation golf tournament. The Fundación Aprender a Mirar (FAAM) is a non-profit organization under the protection of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, dedicated to protecting children and young people from the risks of the digital and audio-visual environment.
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'	There is no sustainability working group. Periodically, there are casual meetings between the Club Director and the Course Manager to address sustainability matters. CIP: Please establish a sustainability working group to plan, implement and evaluate new projects and initiatives.
C2 Golfers & Employees			

C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		Most of the members play the course walking. The Club users are usually looking for sport and mental health, enjoying a Mediterranean lifestyle. Golf & Nature make a perfect pairing constituting a human benefit.
C2.2 Be open and inclusive	C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	Golf course Academy attracts many players thanks to Top Tracer technology. Fitting centre is available. Infrastructure for those with disabilities is in place.
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	Ethical employment was demonstrated. Women hiring is being promoted from the Club and current balance is 13% within the greenkeeping staff. The Course Deputy is a 22-year-old woman with a bright future in the greenkeeping industry. Career plans are available for employees accordingly to job's description done by the Club. Experience is the main factor for career advancing. Young talent is being promoted, and a training program for future Course Managers Assistants in USA (Ohio State University) is being carried out. Facilities are tidy & clean, with lunchroom, rest rooms, and nice areas for employees. Employees can also play golf for free.
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	Club website promoting sustainability in the homepage. Ornithologist Website available where all the migratory bird's species crossing the Sequia Major can be checked and users can upload images, videos, etc. of the birds they are watching from the Club's observatory. Oncourse signage showing info of the Sequia Major is present all around. Newsletters are sent periodically. The Club is also promoting its activities and services on the radio and in industry events.

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 resort already has been recognized by EMAS, Audubon ("<i>Audubon Gold Signature Sanctuary</i>"), and BREEAM. The Club has been awarded with "Europe's Best Golf Venue" at the World Golf Awards in both 2019 and 2020. The Club has many other awards, available on its website (IAGTO, LAUFEN, Top 100 Golf Courses, etc.). The course has hosted the ISPS and DP World Tour events in 2022.
--	--	--	---

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