



**GEO Certified**<sup>®</sup>

# GEO Certified<sup>®</sup> Report Centro Nacional de Golf

Prepared by Independent Verifier, Pablo Muñoz Vega

Certified by GEO Foundation: April 2020  
Valid until: April 2023

**GEO Certified**<sup>®</sup>

 **GEO  
Foundation**  
Sustainability in and through golf

*“The Centro Nacional de Golf is a great example of a successful land reclamation project. The site was an abandoned landfill in the suburbs of Madrid, transformed into a golf course that acts as a green belt separating urban areas from the Monte El Pardo SSSI site. This provides the city of Madrid with many side benefits, such as air filtering; heat, erosion and noise control; and aesthetics.*

*An action plan that is part of the 2030 Spain Golf Course program, includes the implementation of initiatives regarding sustainability, such as the installation of solar panels to reduce energy use from the grid. Prior to that, in 2016, a renovation of the irrigation system has led to a 43% reduction in water consumption. I look forward to seeing improvements regarding habitat management and the results leading up to the 2030 Spain Golf Program.”*

*Pablo Muñoz Vega*

*GEO accredited Independent Verifier*



## Introduction

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

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

Centro Nacional de Golf has:

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

GEO agreed with the conclusions of the official verification report, that, having achieved all mandatory criteria; and with specific Continual Improvement Points set for the future, Centro Nacional de Golf should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

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

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

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

We congratulate all involved.

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

Kelli Jerome  
Executive Director, GEO Foundation

Richard Allison  
Manager, GEO Certified Facilities



# Verification and Certification

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## 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](http://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](http://www.isealalliance.org)



# Verifier's Report

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

THEMES	ACTION AREAS
Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitats &amp; Biodiversity</li> <li>• Turfgrass management</li> <li>• Pollution prevention</li> </ul>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Materials</li> </ul>
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships &amp; Outreach</li> <li>• Golfing &amp; Employment</li> <li>• Advocacy &amp; Communications</li> </ul>

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	Prior to the construction of the golf course, there was a landfill on the site. The land was reclaimed and converted into a golf course, providing the city with a green space in an urban area. Since then, the golf course acts as a buffer area or green belt, separating urban areas of Madrid from

			<p><i>Monte el Pardo</i>, a very high ecological value site that limits with the golf course.</p> <p>This fact has brought many side benefits to the city of Madrid. The golf course acts as an air quality filter; heat, erosion &amp; noise controller; and aesthetics value. Even fireman helicopters have used the lakes of the golf course to take water to fight against wildfires and fire in urban areas.</p> <p>There is a fair to good understanding regarding the value of the site in terms of nature and landscaping. The head greenkeeper (HG), is aware of the importance of the habitats present within the club limits due to its proximity with <i>Monte el Pardo</i> SSSI.</p> <p>The majority of the existing habitats and vegetation areas have been identified and outlined in aerial images. These are included in a habitat survey report produced by the Royal Spanish Golf Federation Green Section in February 2020.</p> <p>The report consists in a survey in which woodland, ruderal and grassland species have been identified. However, wetland habitats were not identified in the report. There are four differentiated landscape areas in the golf course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Areas in which the predominant species consists of evergreen ilex (<i>Quercus Ilex</i>). This is the major habitat type present in the golf course, and lies in outrough areas of holes number 2, 3, 13, 14 and 15.</li> <li>ii) Areas in which the predominant species are the stone pine (<i>Pinus pinea</i>) and the leyland cypress (<i>Cupressus leylandii</i>). This habitat is present around the driving range, short game area and holes number 2, 6, 12, 13.</li> <li>iii) Ruderal vegetation, that have been colonized by mediterranean shrubs such as the rockrose (<i>Cistus incanus</i>), bridal broom (<i>Retama sphaerocarpa L.</i>) and a mixture of grasses.</li> <li>iv) Wetland vegetation around the lakes, in which the giant cane (<i>Arundo Donax</i>) and rushes (<i>Juncus L.</i>) predominate.</li> </ul> <p><i>CIP - Complete and upgrade the habitat survey, including the wetland habitats present in the lakes of the golf course. This should include a list of animal and vegetal species that live in it.</i></p>
	<p><b>N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species</b></p>	<p>Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species; Record and monitor protected, endangered, or rare species found on the site</p>	<p>The club is aware of protected habitats that are located in neighbouring areas. There is a protected habitat on the southwest side of the golf course. This habitat, in fact, limits with the course, and consists of <i>Monte El Pardo</i>, a 16,000 ha protected habitat that constitutes one fourth of the total area of the municipality of Madrid. It is an area of very high</p>

			<p>ecological value and is considered a SSSI site (<i>Site of Special Scientific Interest</i>). Now, is managed by an institution called <i>Patrimonio Nacional</i>.</p> <p>There is no obligation nor responsibilities regarding management practices because the golf course lies outside the SSSI area. However, there is room for improvement regarding habitat management and the knowledge of protected animal species that can be found within the limits of the golf course that come from <i>Monte El Pardo</i>.</p> <p>The survey included a list of the species that can be found in <i>Monte El Pardo</i>, and potentially in the golf course, but these are not categorized. Amongst them, there are two that are classified as vulnerable (Black vulture-<i>Aegypius monachus</i>; and the black stork-<i>Ciconia nigra</i>), and another as an endangered species (the imperial Iberian eagle-<i>Aquila adalberti</i>). These species and their categories are shown in list of endangered or protected species by the Spanish Minister of Ecology Transition. This Iberian Imperial Eagle is not likely be observed around the golf course to due to its proximity to an urban area.</p>
	<b>N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage</b>	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	<p>There is a historical and cultural feature on the course. It consists of the wall situated in the limit of the course with <i>Monte El Pardo</i>. This wall was originally built in 1.750 to separate <i>Monte El Pardo</i> from urban activities, although it has been rebuilt on several occasions since that time. Now, it is a protected feature by <i>Patrimonio Nacional</i>.</p> <p>The club has a very important ecological role in the city of Madrid. It acts as a green belt separating urban areas from <i>Monte El Pardo</i>.</p> <p>The club has also a great cultural value amongst the golfing community. It is a public course and home for the Spanish federation, the institution that regulates the game of golf in Spain since 1932.</p>
<b>N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the course</b>	<b>N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass</b>	Observe, track and / or monitor golfer play	<p>Maintenance in the middle: out of play areas and roughs are not highly maintained. These are minimally maintained to provide a naturalized appeal.</p> <p>All non-playable areas consist of areas with scattered planted trees, native ruderal vegetation &amp; native grasses. This was product of the strategy set during the renovation of the irrigation system and the reclamation strategy set prior the construction of the golf course.</p> <p>The installation of artificial grass, as well as painting a reduced area of bare soil, allow for minimising maintenance in the whole driving range.</p> <p>The roughs of the course are only overseeded when a big golf event (Spanish Open) is held in the course.</p>

<p><b>N1.3 Actively manage habitats for wildlife</b></p>	<p><b>N1.3.1 Projects to manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf</b></p>	<p>Regularly review and follow a habitat management plan; Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping</p>	<p>A buffer tree line has been created in the eastern margin of hole number 2 to prevent urban visual impact. Native species of trees have been planted (<i>Quercus Ilex</i>), to mimic the existing habitat of <i>Monte El Pardo</i>.</p> <p>Following this same strategy, more <i>Quercus Ilex</i> trees have been planted in the western side of holes 14 and 15.</p> <p>There is room for improvement regarding managing habitats. A strategy of basic clearing works is carried out annually, but various habitat areas could be in a better, healthier condition.</p> <p><i>CIP - Improve the existing strategy of record and monitoring of rare animal species that are observed in the golf course. The observed species are to be checked against the list of animals that live in Monte El Pardo and the list of endangered species of the Spanish ecology transition ministry.</i></p> <p><i>CIP - Improve habitat management to aid wildlife in these areas. Effective clearing works are to be carried out in various areas to improve shrubs and tree health and condition.</i></p>
<p><b>N1.4 Conserve key species</b></p>	<p><b>N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species</b></p>		<p>Lake management works take place at least once every three years to clear out accumulation of silt and mud, as well as clearing of the wetland plant species.</p> <p>No practical measures regarding protection of animal species have been identified.</p>
<p><b>N2 Turfgrass</b></p>			
<p><b>N2.1 Maintain optimum turf and soil health</b></p>	<p><b>N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors</b></p>	<p>Select appropriate grass species for climate</p>	<p>The established turfgrass species are C-3, cool season turfgrasses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bentgrass and poa annua in greens.</li> <li>▪ Ryegrass and poa annua in fairways and tees.</li> </ul> <p>Because Madrid is under a climatic transition zone, there is debate in whether C-4, warm season species could perform well in this region. The club has undertaken a trial in a reduced area with bermudagrass, and the result was not satisfactory due to the heavy traffic (golfers, operators, machinery, buggies) during the dormancy period. Both the cool weather plus the traffic damage made this turfgrass species lose density and acceptable quality for the game of golf.</p>



	<b>N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition</b>		<p>No specific use of soil amendments to improve soil structure and condition was reported.</p> <p>Hollow-coring, sand topdressing, and verti-cutting is carried out to mitigate compaction from trafficking in greens.</p>
	<b>N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation</b>	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	<p>A fertilization program is developed in a yearly basis, considering both turfgrass nutrient needs, site specific climate and growth conditions.</p> <p>Soil analysis are carried out to determine if the fertilization program is adequate and in order to adjust fertilization applications.</p> <p>Clipping volumes are recorded weekly in order to provide with solid information regarding aerial plant growth. This practice enables adjusting the nitrogen fertilization program, suppressing or reducing planned applications if there is satisfactory plant growth.</p> <p>Additional applications of nutritional amendments and biostimulants to improve plant health are carried out.</p>
<b>N2.2 Prioritise cultural management</b>	<b>N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management</b>	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	<p>The club follows an integrated pest management approach. The club carries out preventive battle against fungal diseases, specially anthracnosis. The strategy includes the use of biological methods. These consists of beneficial nematodes and the use of Trichoderma.</p> <p>Regular grinding in mowing reels and adequate blade sharpening is carried out, thus providing clean cuts on the leaf and reducing potential disease infection risks.</p> <p>Dew and guttation removal in greens are carried out daily as these are mowed, rolled, or brushed daily.</p> <p>Height of cut is kept as high as possible in fairways to improve plant's health and resistance to pest and diseases.</p>
<b>N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly</b>	<b>N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues</b>	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	<p>Pesticide use is preventive rather than curative.</p> <p>Spot treatments are targeted instead of wall to wall applications.</p> <p>The course manager has access to great bibliography sources regarding turfgrass pests and diseases to consult if needed.</p> <p>When a disease cannot be identified, samples are sent to a certified laboratory for diagnose instead of carrying out broadspectrum applications.</p>

	<b>N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions</b>	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	Treatments are compliant with EU and Spanish regulations.  There are qualified operators responsible for the applications.  The sprayer is tested and calibrated monthly.
<b>N3 Pollution Prevention</b>			
<b>N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site</b>	<b>N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations</b>	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.	No spraying take place next to wetlands. There are rough buffer areas between water bodies and areas to be sprayed.  Spraying does not take place in ecologically sensitive areas because these are in non-maintained areas.  There is a specific emergency spill response procedure.  A new emergency shower and eye wash station has been purchased.
	<b>N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations</b>	Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and wastewater discharge	Waste kitchen oils are kept in a specific tank, ready for disposal by a specialized external company.  Waste management is undertaken responsibly and in a tidy manner. There are separated rubbish bins for recycling. The local authorities are responsible for its disposal.
	<b>N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations</b>	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	Chemicals are kept in a specific tank, and these are disposed by a specialized external company.  There is a sand bed filter ( <i>biobed</i> ) that can filter contaminated water from the washing pad. This is now being tested for future use and manage chemical waste differently.  Rubble and trash are adequately kept and disposed by a local specialized company.  Used tyres are kept separately from rubble and trash.
<b>N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances</b>	<b>N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous</b>	Maintain a register of hazardous materials available to authorised staff; Safe storage in secure and ventilated concrete or metal building;	Storage, handling and disposal procedures of all hazardous substances and waste are compliant with local regulations.  Disposal of both hazardous substances and waste, is carried out by

	<b>substances</b>	Sufficient storage capacity; Impermeable flooring; Spill containment kits present; Emergency wash area; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area; Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	external specialized companies.
<b>N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water</b>	<b>N3.3.1 Appropriate waste water usage and discharge licences</b>	Wastewater discharge licence; Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil / grease / clipping separation)	Runoff from stormwater in the golf course is currently recycled through the drainage system and conducted to the lakes of the course. The lake in hole 16 is the lowest area of the course and collects all excess water coming from the drainage lines.  Wastewater disposal is compliant with local regulations.

<b>RESOURCES</b>			
<b>R1 Water</b>			
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Mandatory Practices</b>	<b>Verifier Notes</b>
<b>R1.1 Minimise water demand</b>	<b>R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water</b>	Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only	The club carried out a renovation of the irrigation system in 2016 aiming both water conservation and irrigation efficiency.  Water conservation was achieved by: i) A significant reduction of the irrigated area. ii) Installation of artificial grass on the driving range.  Irrigation efficiency was achieved by: iii) Irrigation coverage was reduced from wall to wall, to only playing areas. iv) Relocation of sprinklers to achieve homogeneous spacings and a triangular pattern in fairways, thus increasing the irrigation system distribution uniformity. v) Use of part circle sprinklers in perimetral, end of maintained turf areas.

			<p>vi) Block irrigation in tee platforms and bunkers slopes.</p> <p>vii) High precision of control in greens (back to back, double sprinkler).</p> <p>The renovation has led to a reduction of 43% in water consumption. The use of water in 2015 was limited to 286,000 m<sup>3</sup> by the local authorities. Hence the need to renovate the irrigation system. The renovation accomplished this goal.</p>
<b>R1.2 Maximise water efficiency</b>	<b>R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course</b>	<p>Conduct regular irrigation performance checks;</p> <p>Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices;</p> <p>Ensure effective application of water to target areas;</p> <p>Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis</p>	<p>The club uses both a weather station to calculate ET and soil moisture sensors in order to work out irrigation scheduling &amp; programming accordingly.</p> <p>Arc regulated sprinklers are used to avoid irrigating in non-desired areas.</p> <p>The club is in possession of the Cirrus Rainbird irrigation software.</p> <p>Water consumption is recorded daily and analysed monthly.</p>
	<b>R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings</b>	<p>Audit water use regularly;</p> <p>Review bills frequently and look for irregularities;</p> <p>Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors;</p> <p>Categorise and track water consumption</p>	<p>Various water tabs and WC washings start and stop automatically.</p> <p><i>CIP - Improve water efficiency in buildings (water sensors).</i></p>
<b>R1.3 Source water responsibly</b>	<b>R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water</b>	<p>Ensure appropriate water abstraction permit and reporting, as required</p>	<p>The golf course uses reclaimed water for irrigation.</p> <p>The water is supplied by a wastewater treatment plant that includes tertiary treatment. Water quality from this source is adequate for golf course irrigation purposes.</p> <p>The organisation that manages the supply of reclaimed water for the golf course is called <i>Canal de Isabel II</i>, a leading public water company.</p> <p>Storm water runoff on the golf course is recycled.</p>
<b>R2 Energy</b>			
<b>R2.1 Reduce energy demand</b>	<b>R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in course maintenance</b>	<p>Minimise areas of managed turf to reduce mowing, irrigation, and turf inputs</p>	<p>The pump station includes one variable frequency drive allowing for energy efficiency use.</p> <p>The renovation of the irrigation system led to a great reduction of the water window and therefore in a reduction of energy use.</p>

<b>R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency</b>	<b>R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings</b>	Audit energy use regularly; Regularly review bills; Categorise and track energy consumption	An internal audit is carried out monthly to evaluate energy use and identify these areas where there is room for improvement regarding the use of energy.  <i>CIP - Explore more ways to reduce energy in buildings (LED lighting, dark crystals, light timers, etc.).</i>
<b>R2.3 Source energy responsibly</b>	<b>R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy</b>	Determine potential sources of renewable energy in the area and on-site, through renewable energy providers	Solar panels were installed in 2019 on the roof of the driving range in order to provide with an alternative and cleaner source of energy.  This is part of a strategic action plan supported by the R&A called the 2030 Spain Golf Course Program to promote sustainability in golf courses.  This measure aims for a 20% reduction in energy use from the public grid.  It also aims to reduce the golf course carbon footprint by 5768 tons of CO <sub>2</sub> per year.  The buggies that are available for hire are not fuel propelled.  Many of the utility vehicles are not fuel propelled.  The course manager is considering the acquisition of electrical trimmers and landscaping tools.  <i>CIP - Explore ways to reduce fuel propelled vehicles or tools to reduce carbon footprint, such as the use of electrical landscaping tools and trimmers.</i>
<b>R3 Materials</b>			
<b>R3.1 Reduce materials demand</b>	<b>R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled, reused and locally sourced alternatives</b>	Undertake a review of materials consumed	Tee and distance markers are made out of recycled materials.  Sand for topdressing and bunkers is sourced from a regional supplier.
<b>R3.2 Purchase responsibly</b>	<b>R3.2.1 Practical use of an ethical / environmental purchasing policy</b>	Adopt a sustainable, or ethical / environmental purchasing policy to maximise the use of locally sourced	Purchasing policy consists in asking for at least 2 quotes for the decision-making process.

		goods and goods made from recycled, recyclable and certified materials	Whenever possible the club intends to source goods and services from local suppliers.
<b>R3.3 Reuse and recycle</b>	<b>R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity</b>	Demonstrate waste separation, reuse and recycling; Track how much waste goes to landfill, or is reused / recycled	Spares, tyres, rubble and metal waste are separated in house in a very tidy manner and disposed by different local external companies for future recycling. Also, paper and cardboard, organic, and plastic and other packaging are managed identically and disposed by local authorities.  Regarding clubhouse waste, this is managed in the same way as maintenance.
<b>R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance</b>	<b>R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations</b>	Use authorised waste and recycling contractor for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste	The club and the external companies responsible for waste disposal are compliant with all regulations regarding waste management.

<b>COMMUNITY</b>			
<b>C1 Outreach</b>			
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Mandatory Practices</b>	<b>Verifier Notes</b>
<b>C1.1 Diversify access and provide multi-functionality</b>	<b>C1.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility</b>		<p>The club promotes very actively to take on the game of golf through a very wide range of entry level coaching sessions and programmes for the general public.</p> <p>There is a leading golf academy in the club with more than 130 stations in the driving range and 15 golf coaches.</p> <p>The academy also includes a golf game simulator in every station.</p> <p>The club also offers “English and golf” lessons for kids.</p> <p>The club holds numerous amateur tournaments through the year. Entry</p>

			<p>is open for every golfer with a Spanish golf “license”.</p> <p>The club hosted the European Tour Spanish Open in April 2018 and 2008. The event in 2018 was open for the general public to visit and promote the game of golf. The club received more than 50,000 visits during the tournament week.</p> <p>The club has also a leading “high sport performance” golf centre. It is claimed to be the best of its kind in Spain and is TPI certified. The centre offers the latest technology utilising high speed cameras and trackman, as well as a fitness centre.</p> <p>The club holds PGA meetings regularly and host professional golf technical courses.</p> <p>It is home for the Royal Spanish Federation (RFEG) and its Green Section. It is also home for the youngster’s national teams.</p>
<b>C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity</b>	<b>C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes</b>		<p>The club collaborates with 3 different NGO’s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) “Aprocor”, that supports the inclusion of people with disabilities in the society.</li> <li>ii) “Asociación ADELA”, that supports people that suffer from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.</li> <li>iii) “Fundación Juanfe”, that provide support for young mothers.</li> </ul> <p>The club also collaborate with disabled golf associations.</p> <p>A person with an intellectual disability is part of the club’s staff.</p>
<b>C1.3 Establish active community partnerships</b>	<b>C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups</b>	Create a 'sustainability working group'	<p>The club holds meetings of external companies and neighbour associations.</p> <p>The club hosts weddings in the facility.</p>
<b>C2 Golfers &amp; Employees</b>			
<b>C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing</b>	<b>C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities</b>		<p>There is a fitness box in the high sport performance golf centre.</p> <p>There is also a gym and physiotherapy centre facility in the club available for all golfers.</p>
<b>C2.2 Be open and inclusive</b>	<b>C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies</b>	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	The club has a no membership policy. Every golfer in possession of a “golf license” is welcome to use the facility and join the activities held in the club.

			<p>The club also welcomes the general public to take on the game.</p> <p>There is a wide range of promotions and offers to play 9-hole and 18-hole rounds of golf, as well as golf lessons programs.</p>
<b>C2.3 Employ fairly and safely, and provide career opportunities</b>	<b>C2.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development</b>	Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health & safety etc	<p>Every worker knows the club value &amp; missions.</p> <p>Hiring is done based on particular needs of the club.</p> <p>Worker roles and working conditions are compliant with Spanish regulations.</p> <p>The club provides with internal training for specific roles and needs.</p> <p>The club holds courses orientated to PGA professional aspirants.</p> <p>The golf course is home for the Green Section, a RFEG department that provides with career development to future industry agronomists.</p> <p>The Green Section training program provides the students with fieldwork training on mowing, course set up, turfgrass management, etc, in the golf course.</p>
<b>C3 Communications</b>			
<b>C3.1 Engage golfers and members</b>	<b>C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors</b>	Provide information on the facility's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements	<p>Internal communication policy is modern and effective.</p> <p>Regarding external communications, the club's policy is excellent. The website provides with updated information of all services available to visitors in a very clear manner. It also includes numerous videos and interactive content.</p> <p>There are also numerous information panels in the club house and the academy, that show important information to golfers, such as golf rules and the club's commitment regarding sustainability. These are all addressed in a positive and educational manner.</p> <p>The club is also active on social media and uses Twitter, Facebook and Instagram effectively.</p>
<b>C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability</b>	<b>C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community</b>	Provide evidence of external communications and community engagement	<p>The club hosted the European Tour Spanish open in 2018. This event was called "<i>the open for everyone</i>". Following the club's mission to promote golf for the general public, the entrance was free of charge and welcomed more than 50,000 visitors.</p>



			<p>The general public is welcome to take on the game. There is a very wide offer at reasonable prices to take on golf lessons.</p>
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## Golf and Sustainability

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

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

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

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

Find out more at [www.sustainable.golf](http://www.sustainable.golf)