

GEO Certified® Independent Verification Report



Golf Facility: Dubai Creek Golf & Yacht Club
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NATURE

Objective	Requirement	International Mandatory Practice	Key Evidence	Verifier Notes
<u>N1 Habitats & Biodiversity</u>				
N1.1 Understand the site and surroundings	N1.1.1 Sound understanding of the nature and landscape value of the site	(Course management) Map all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity surveys	Confirm map(s), aerial visual reproductions, drawings etc and / or images; Confirm survey documents; Observe habitats and vegetation types	There is a green team committee at Dubai Golf, which looks after the preservation of the nature & landscape value of the site.
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species	(Course management) Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species; Record and monitor protected, endangered, or	Confirm documentation, if available, and / or images; Observe site(s); Discuss with facility representative(s) what the designation is, who the authority is, restricted or	There are 2 main habitats at the course: i) the groundwater lake; and ii) the native pennisetum areas on holes 11, 12 and 13. Regarding fauna, tilapia fish is established in the groundwater lake. Flamingo, cormorant, herron, king fisher,

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		rare species found on the site	informed management practices, other responsibilities or legal requirements etc	<p>guinea and geese find habitat at DCGYC during the winter time. All this birdlife comes from the close Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary, just 2 miles away from the course.</p> <p>There is a marshland / corridor by the creek that connects the sanctuary and the golf course.</p> <p>No legal designations known or have been identified by the Green Team; except for the Ghaf tree, which is protected.</p> <p>The date palm tree, which is the national fruit tree, is also present and preserved at the course (550 trees approx..).</p> <p>Autochthonous pennisetum is being propagated through the rough & desert areas of the course.</p>
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	(Course management) Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	Observe site(s) and / or feature(s); Confirm documentation, if available, and / or image(s); Discuss as above	<p>The cultural heritage is understood and preserved thanks to the clubhouse, which represents Dubai's sailing dhow (Islamic icon).</p> <p>DCGYC clubhouse is the only one in the world represented on the national currency (20 dirhams).</p>

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				<p>This symbol is also present on the course furniture (tee markers, tee monuments, club logo), bulletins, communications, etc.</p> <p>The Ghaf tree at the driving range was there before the construction of the golf course (+26 years).</p> <p>Cultural heritage is also respected by the maintenance and views of the creek, the origin of Dubai pearl harbor and of the Deira & Bur districts).</p>
N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the course	N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass	(Course / club management) Observe, track and / or monitor golfer play	Discuss how this is undertaken, i.e. GPS player tracking, visual / anecdotal, surveying players etc	Turf has been removed from the perimeters of the course: 3 meters width. Sprinklers have also been removed, and pennisetum has been planted: 6900 square meters approx. GPS golfer tracking is being evaluated as a potential tool in the close future.
N1.3 Actively manage habitats for wildlife	N1.3.1 Projects to manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf	(Course management) Regularly review and follow a habitat management plan; Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping	Confirm document(s) and / or action plan(s); Observe habitat project(s) and / or view images; Discuss management plans if no formal written documentation	Increase of pennisetum areas will increase the potential habitat area. No other projects for managing habitats are being putting in place.

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<p>N1.4 Conserve key species</p>	<p>N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species</p>		<p><i>No specific international requirements, however, discuss management conservation activities, as appropriate</i></p>	<p>Groundwater lake is cleaned from weeds (manually). Ghaf trees are protected and preserved. Pennisetum areas are maintained through a yearly trimming. Palm date trees are maintained through regular cleaning and a yearly trimming.</p>
<p><u>N2 Turfgrass</u></p>				
<p>N2.1 Maintain optimum turf and soil health</p>	<p>N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors</p>	<p>(Course management) Select appropriate grass species for climate</p>	<p>Discuss how cool season or warm season varieties are informed by climate zone; Observe projects to transition grass species i.e. trial plots, practice areas etc; <i>Note: 'Transitional' climates to explain justification and extent of cool season species present</i></p>	<p>Bermudagrass 419 on fairways, tees and roughs, Tif Eagle in greens. Warm season grasses: drought & poor water quality tolerant species.</p>
	<p>N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition</p>		<p><i>No specific international requirements, however, discuss course management</i></p>	<p>In the last year, the air injection machine Air 2G2 has been introduced in the maintenance plan in order to promote a</p>

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			<i>and agronomic activities, as appropriate</i>	fracturing effect of the compacted rootzone, with no surface disruption. Slicing on roughs is one of the key practices for maintaining optimum soil infiltration rate. Amendments with gypsum are being introduced right after the hollow coring in order to avoid soil structure problems. Needle tine & hollow coring is also carried out depending on aeration needs.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	(Course management) Soil tests and nutrient analysis	Confirm test / report document(s); Discuss the informed basis and approach to fertilisation	Leaf tissue analysis 3 times per year in order to determine if fertilization program is correct and in order to adjust fertilization applications. 4 soil tests per year in order to evaluate nutrients availability. Foliar applications only. Plant growth regulators are used in order to avoid excessive growth.
N2.2 Prioritise cultural management	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	(Course management) Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	Discuss the informed cultural / mechanical (non-chemical) basis and approach to turf management	Outstanding quality of cut (grinding every 3 weeks) allows clean leaf cuts, which reduces pest incidence thus allowing less pesticide use.

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Rolling is organized 3 times per week as an average, helping to prevent certain diseases.

Dew is removed on non mowing days in order to prevent diseases, in both greens and fairways (with a carpet).

Handweeding removal is always a priority above chemical treatment.

Sand desert zones are raked weekly in order to avoid weeds growth on them – no chemicals are thus needed.

Pennisetum spacing between plants is just 60 cm, which avoids weeds development thanks to soil shading.

N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly

N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues

(Course management)
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;

Confirm management policy / plan document(s);
Confirm map(s) and / or images;
Discuss the informed assessment of chemical applications to turf i.e. preventative / curative / combination approach

Pesticide use is only preventive.
The course is scouted daily in order to treat locally (spot treatments).
Weed expert Mr. Fred Yelverton has been hired for specific weed control identification and strategy.

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		Map and track pest and disease hotspots; Establish pest and disease thresholds		
	N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions	(Course management) 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	Confirm chemical / product log; Confirm applicator licences; Observe spraying and protective equipment; Observe turf areas for disposal of leftovers; Discuss as above	In UAE, currently no licence is needed and no certification is available. Dealers are supposed to fulfill the requirements. Yearly audit is carried out in order to guarantee both legal compliance & expiration date. Calibrations are carried out monthly. Certain greenkeepers hold the European certification for pest applications.
<u>N3 Pollution Prevention</u>				
N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site	N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations	(Course management) Document procedures for emergency spill responses; Maintain mowing buffer zones around water and all	Confirm emergency spill response plan; Confirm map(s) and/or images;	1m buffer perimeter surrounding water bodies is left during treatments. The 3m width pennisetum perimeter left in the course perimeters functions as a buffer zone for the villas & neighbors.

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		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	Observe buffer zones and no-spray areas	There are no plans for spill responses, although procedures undertaken at Jumeirah Golf Estates (managed by same parent company Dubai Golf) result in satisfactory cross-organisation management.
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	(Club management) Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and waste water discharge	Confirm licences and / or contracts for disposal of hazardous waste; Confirm waste water discharge licence	Dubai Golf supports the compliance of all legal regulations.
	N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations	(Course management) Ensure wash areas are on impermeable, leak-free surfaces; Mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilisers	Confirm licences and / or contracts for disposal of hazardous waste; Confirm waste water discharge licence;	Chemicals are stored in a specific tank and retired by Dubai Municipality from the property. Clippings are blown prior to machinery washing.

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		<p>over an impermeable surface; Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators</p>	<p>Observe hazardous materials storage and infrastructure; Observe washing and preparation areas</p>	<p>Sewage water at the washing pad goes towards a waste water tank managed by an external contractor.</p>
<p>N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances</p>	<p>N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances</p>	<p>(Course management) Maintain a register of hazardous materials available to authorised staff; Safe storage in secure and ventilated concrete or metal building; Sufficient storage capacity; Impermeable flooring; Spill containment kits present; Emergency wash area; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area; Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks</p>	<p>Confirm chemical / product log, as above; Confirm local authority inspection report for storage tanks, if applicable; Observe hazardous materials storage and infrastructure (as above); Observe emergency response and safety devices; Observe washing areas (as above); Observe fuel storage tanks and surroundings</p>	<p>Dubai Golf supports the compliance of all legal regulations. However, basic components for safety as impervious flooring or security and eyes shower are not yet installed.</p>

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N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water	N3.3.1 Appropriate waste water usage and discharge licences	(Course management) Waste water discharge licence; Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil / grease / clipping separation)	Confirm waste water discharge licence / sewerage agreement; Observe wash bay with impermeable surface; Discuss on-site treatment of waste water, as applicable	Waste water is recycled & managed by an external contractor.
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RESOURCES

Objective	Requirement	International Mandatory Practice	Key Evidence	Verifier Notes
<u>R1 Water</u>				
R1.1 Minimise water demand	R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water	(Course management) Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only	Discuss irrigation policies, practices and considerations	Overseeding turf has been restricted to tees, roughs & greens approaches (for playability & wear tolerance purposes). Overseeding time frame has been reduced 2 months in order to reduce the use of water and improve germination (less seed needed thanks to improved germination). Before, from October to May. Now, from December to May.

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<p>R1.2 Maximise water efficiency</p>	<p>R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course</p>	<p>(Course management) Conduct regular irrigation performance checks; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Ensure effective application of water to target areas; Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis</p>	<p>Confirm TDR soil moisture sensor; Confirm irrigation software; Discuss irrigation hardware and maintenance</p>	<p>Soil moisture content is measured daily (15 times per green). Sprinklers have been changed to drip irrigation in the villa perimeters, thus allowing between 10-20% of water savings. Hand watering & wetting agents play an important role on the greenkeeping plan, helping to reduce water run-off.</p>
	<p>R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings</p>	<p>(Club management) Audit water use regularly; Review bills frequently and look for irregularities; Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors; Categorise and track water consumption</p>	<p>Confirm water auditing procedures; Confirm internal record keeping, utility bills and invoices, data management</p>	<p>Old inefficient water fixtures replaced by efficient water saving devices: water saving nozzle for water taps + water saving device on toilets flushers. (4-5 liters of water saving per device).</p>
<p>R1.3 Source water responsibly</p>	<p>R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water</p>	<p>(Course / club management)</p>	<p>Confirm water abstraction permit and reports to regulating authority, if applicable</p>	<p>100% irrigation water is local treated sewage effluent water (TSE).</p>

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		Ensure appropriate water abstraction permit and reporting, as required		
<u>R2 Energy</u>				
R2.1 Reduce energy demand	R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in course maintenance	(Course management) Minimise areas of managed turf to reduce mowing, irrigation, and turf inputs	Observe areas removed from intensive maintenance; Discuss areas identified for ongoing naturalisation	Lithium batteries on the buggy fleet is to be installed, thus reducing the charging time and saving energy.
R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings	(Club management) Audit energy use regularly; Regularly review bills; Categorise and track energy consumption	Confirm energy auditing procedures; Confirm internal record keeping, utility bills and invoices, data management	Dubai Golf Retrofit Project has been developed and today is a reality. Carbon emissions to be reduced by 3700 ton per year (EGC+DCGYC). Overall energy consumption to be reduced by 27% (EGC+DCGYC). 574 new efficient split AC installed. 4 new efficient chillers installed. New control for the existing HVAC systems. New LED fixture in 7720 old inefficient light fixtures. New heat pumps instead of water heaters.

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R2.3 Source energy responsibly	R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy	(Club management) Determine potential sources of renewable energy in the area and on-site, through renewable energy providers	Discuss research into renewable energy provision / generation	
<u>R3 Materials</u>				
R3.1 Reduce materials demand	R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled, reused and locally sourced alternatives	(Club management) Undertake a review of materials consumed	Confirm waste auditing procedures; Discuss materials and products that have been identified, reduced or eliminated	Urea and ammonium sulphate are brought from Abu Dhabi producing plant. Red dune native sand brought from the desert for topdressing & construction purposes. Doubled-washed native marine sand for bunkers. Bunker rakes sealed with plastic in order to extend their lifespan. Compost produced (made from recycled food waste) used as landscaping topsoil.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Practical use of an ethical / environmental purchasing policy	(Club management) Adopt a sustainable, or ethical / environmental purchasing policy to	Confirm policy document / statement; Observe specific items used or consumed	Purchasing policy is established for Dubai Golf for the 3 courses (JGS; DCGYC, EGC) following both all ethical & environmental requirements in UAE.

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		maximise the use of locally sourced goods and goods made from recycled, recyclable and certified materials		Cutting out plastic policy.
R3.3 Reuse and recycle	R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity	(Club management) Demonstrate waste separation, reuse and recycling; Track how much waste goes to landfill, or is reused / recycled	Confirm waste auditing procedures (as above), utility bills and invoices, data management; Observe bins around the facility and main waste area	Use of old local Arabic carpets for i) clipping cleaning, ii) incorporate sand after topdressing, iii) dew removal. Use of flask, metallic bottles for water instead of plastic bottles. Each player / visitor can recycle the flask refilling it with water instead of opening a new plastic bottle. Around 200,000 plastic bottles per year can be saved. Course furniture such as potable water towers are being manufactured by local suppliers. 60% cheaper than standard golf distributor. Separation of: green waste / scrap / oils / cardboards / batteries. Green waste is taken by Dubai Municipality Green Waste Department. No more plastic bags are being used for clippings transport / removal.

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R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance	R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations	(Club management) Use authorised waste and recycling contractor for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste;	Confirm invoices, trade waste licences, if available	Dubai Golf supports the compliance of all legal regulations.
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COMMUNITY

Objective	Requirement	International Mandatory Practice	Key Evidence	Verifier Notes
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C1 Outreach

C1.1 Diversify access and provide multi-functionality	C1.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility		<i>No specific international requirement, however, discuss activities as appropriate and look for continual improvements</i>	The key point at the facility is the continual flow of visitors & members through the club. It allows everybody to have constant and permanent contact. DCGYC is considered the best members club of UAE thanks to its “touch points”, places where people connect with each other. “Not just golf” policy: Minigolf, paddle tennis, swimming & footgolf available (for kids also). Recreational activities such as bounce castle.
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				<p>Half Marathon has been an exceptional success.</p> <p>Families are welcome and invited to come together.</p> <p>7 restaurants offer a diverse choice at the club.</p>
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		<i>No specific international requirement, however, discuss activities as appropriate and look for continual improvements</i>	<p>Pink day for breast cancer awareness.</p> <p>Clean the Creek campaign increased from 1 to 4 days per year.</p> <p>Autism: 10-15 teens from autism school receive 1h free golf classes every month.</p>
C1.3 Establish active community partnerships	C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups	(Club management) Create a 'sustainability working group'	Confirm meeting minutes and agendas, if available; Discuss composition and roles of group, frequency of meetings etc	Open doors policy towards Dubai Community.
<u>C2 Golfers & Employees</u>				
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		<i>No specific international requirement, however, discuss as appropriate</i>	<p>Views of the creek and Deira & Bur districts from the club.</p> <p>Outstanding views from the clubhouse.</p> <p>Prayer room for workers on site.</p>

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<p>C2.2 Be open and inclusive</p>	<p>C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies</p>	<p>(Club management) Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors</p>	<p>Confirm policy statement / document, if available; Discuss if no formal documentation</p>	<p>Reduced fees for under 35. More flexibility with annual fees for engaging more yearly memberships. Free monthly tournament for junior players. UAE Golf Federation Partnership: Professionals can play at the Creek for free and use their installations. “Academy Open Day”: Free entrance and free golf lesson for new players to try and play golf. Monthly activities and special discounts for bringing new visitors to the club.</p>
<p>C2.3 Employ fairly and safely, and provide career opportunities</p>	<p>C2.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development</p>	<p>(Club management) Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health & safety etc</p>	<p>Confirm employee induction procedures, health & safety, risk assessment reports, if available; Discuss if no formal documentation</p>	<p>Every worker knows the company value & missions. Hiring is done based on that value & mission principles. 3-day induction is provided to new employees. All employees belong to “The Dubai Golf Family”, under a colleague treatment. Dubai Golf provides with a fantastic training program for individual professional development. Health & Safety officer assess every worker. Training on first aid, fire management, etc. is provided.</p>

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C3 Communications				
C3.1 Engage golfers and members	C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors	(Club management) Provide information on the facility's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements	Confirm club's website, social media activity, awareness raising materials, internal notices, on course educational signage, mailing campaigns, links with external PR agencies, other awards or certifications, newspaper / magazine articles etc	Very active on social media: Twitter, Instagram, Facebook. Member's zone area in the website. Golf genius software for events. Open day yearly – it's free to come and walk around the course. Sports day celebration for work mates, residences inhabitants, etc.
C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community	(Club management) Provide evidence of external communications and community engagement	Discuss relations and partnership work with stakeholders, other businesses, suppliers / contractors, organisations, charities, educational establishments etc; open access to facilities; event hosting etc, which extend the reach and awareness of the club	Communication and apps are the base for engaging people. The policy is to communicate and bring people to have contact with the course and its habitats, nature, flora & fauna, cultural heritage, etc.

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