Sustainable Golf Tournament

Voluntary Sustainability Standard

First Edition

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Formal status:	Approved *Standards are revised through GEO Foundation's revision process, every 5 years from the date of approval.*
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Date for next review	1st August 2022

Table of Contents

The scoreboard reads:

HOLE	PAR	PLAYER	SCORE	CUML.
71	-19	STENSON		
71	-17	MICKELSON		
72	-6	HOLMES	278	
72	-5	STRICKER	279	
72	-4	GARCIA	280	
72	-4	HATTON	280	
72	-4	McILROY	280	
72	-3	JOHNSTON	281	

AFTER
71
HOLES

-17
-19

PLAYER

GAME 41
MICKELSON
STENSON

GAME 40
JOHNSTON   73
HAAS   75

THE OPEN

ROLEX   NTT DATA

145TH ROYAL TROON

THE OPEN.COM

Foreword

Golf draws the participation of over 80 million golfers annually across the sport's 34,000 golf courses. 500 million viewers tuned into watch the 2016 Ryder Cup at Hazeltine National in Minnesota. With this global reach comes extraordinary influence. Golf's major events have the opportunity to serve as a positive communication vehicle for golf's sustainability movement. Historically, golf tournaments hosted by the game's major tours are well-acclaimed for the social impact they leave behind in communities, often directing sizable contributions to worthwhile charitable causes and generating significant economic impact for host regions.

Accompanying this influence and positive impact is a responsibility to both host communities and the surrounding environment. Hosting highly attended golf tournaments leads to inevitable environmental impacts that must be addressed. As temporary events, golf tournaments often require substantial resources to stage and host them. Temporary built environments often require that materials be delivered on-site and constructed to provide essential spectator services to spectators. Energy demands require supplemental provision through temporary generators. Depending on the size and prestige of the golf tournament –travel can lead to a considerable carbon footprint.

By aligning the tournament's various stakeholders and delivery partners behind a shared commitment to incorporate sustainable best practices, golf tournaments are presented with an extraordinary opportunity to leverage their positive influence to ensure a net positive impact for the community and the environment. Golf's Tournament Standard is structured to assist each stakeholder – albeit the tournament director, title sponsor, or volunteer working the concession stand – in understanding what their individual role is in addressing the impacts they have control over.

Under this approach of clearly defined expectations and shared responsibility, golf tournaments not only stand the chance of operating sustainably within the boundaries of their host community, but can inspire global audiences around the world to do the same in their own lives. Every golf tournament with an established spectator-base has some level of influence with its audience and host community, and requires some level of resources to stage and host the competition. Whether it's a regional amateur event, or the most hyped-up Ryder Cup to date, golf can leave behind net positive impacts through the competitions it hosts around the world.

Acknowledgements

photo credit: The 144th Open Championship, St. Andrews

Working Group Members

Mervyn Jones, Sustainable Global Resources Ltd.
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Preface

This document forms the international voluntary sustainability standard for activities included in planning, staging, and hosting a golf tournament. It is part of a larger body of sustainable golf documentation that also includes guidance, mentoring and a certification system for the:

1. Operations of a golf facility;
2. Development of a golf facility;
3. Hosting of a golf tournament.

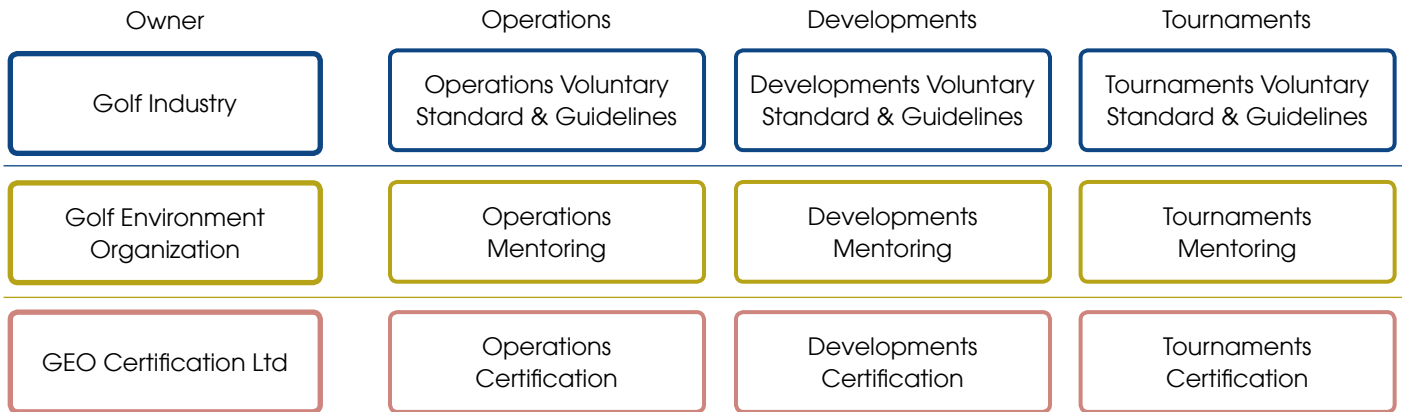The schematic below illustrates this larger set of information and the respective ownership groups:

Owner	Operations	Developments	Tournaments
Golf Industry	Operations Voluntary Standard & Guidelines	Developments Voluntary Standard & Guidelines	Tournaments Voluntary Standard & Guidelines
Golf Environment Organization	Operations Mentoring	Developments Mentoring	Tournaments Mentoring
GEO Certification Ltd	Operations Certification	Developments Certification	Tournaments Certification

Figure 1. Sustainable golf documents

Application

The voluntary sustainability standard for golf tournaments establishes a framework for the effective integration of sustainability into the various activities involved with hosting a golf tournament. The document is intended for use by a number of groups including golf industry professionals and tournament organisers to inform a generally understood baseline but also by governments and permitting authorities to support policy making and raise awareness.

Auditing and Certification

Auditing is an information gathering process that is integral to participation in a certification system. Auditing evaluates how well voluntary standards are met and how well outcomes are delivered through the certification process. Certification is achieved by demonstrating independently verified practical outcomes against a voluntary standard.

This voluntary sustainability standard document, mentoring and the certification process should be viewed as individual parts. A golf tournament choosing to use the voluntary sustainability standard can adopt one of two scenarios. The schematic below illustrates two approaches a golf tournament can elect to follow along with the types of accompanying claims it can make:
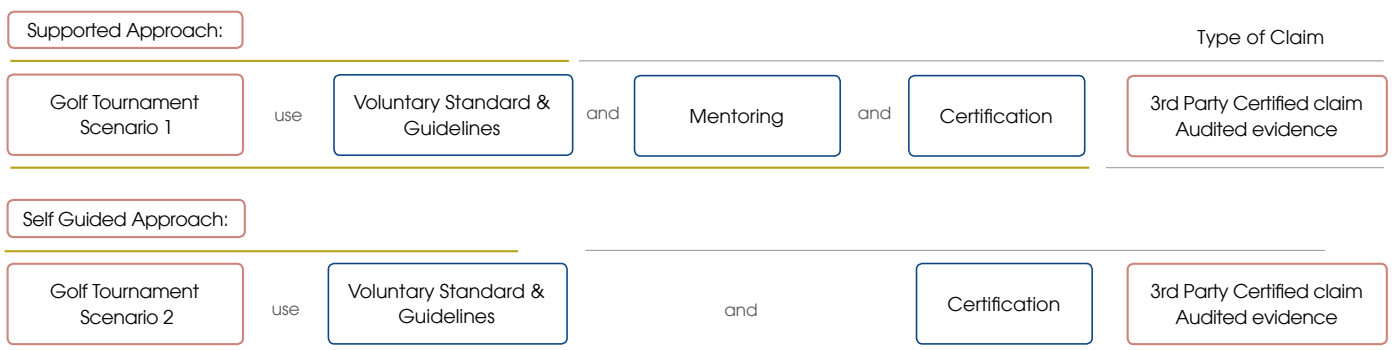
Supported Approach:

						Type of Claim
Golf Tournament Scenario 1	use	Voluntary Standard & Guidelines	and	Mentoring	and	Certification	3rd Party Certified claim Audited evidence

Self Guided Approach:

| Golf Tournament Scenario 2 | use | Voluntary Standard & Guidelines | and | Certification | 3rd Party Certified claim Audited evidence |

Figure 2. Golf tournament scenarios

Scoring

Each criterion has an assigned credit value that can be earned based on the achievement level in that respective area. The scoring method requires a baseline performance to be met across all tournaments, but provides a flexible route to certification by allowing overall performance to be demonstrated across multiple disciplines. Certification requires 44 credits (achieving 80% of the potential credits available).

The credits are labeled under four different designations, which are listed along with the total number of credits available under each:

1. Mandatory criteria - 16 credits
2. Non-mandatory criteria - 30 credits
3. Innovation criteria - 8 credits

Criteria marked as *mandatory* within the scoring methodology includes all criteria that must be fulfilled in order to be eligible to achieve GEO Certified®. Mandatory criteria include plans and policies that should be maintained, tracking and monitoring procedures that should be active, or baseline performance levels that should be present for any tournament to be eligible for GEO Certified® status.

All criteria not marked as *mandatory* falls under the general category of non-mandatory criteria. Whereas these specific criteria are not mandatory, a portion of the criteria is necessary to be fulfilled in order for a tournament to arrive at the total amount of credits needed to achieve GEO Certified®. Non-mandatory criteria is comprised of various sustainability objectives that demonstrate a strong performance level within that respective section.

Finally, an innovation criterion is included within every section, and provides an additional non-mandatory opportunity for a tournament to demonstrate strong performance within that respective section. Innovation criteria also encourages tournaments to continue striving beyond the industry benchmark established by the tournament standard.

Document Structure

This document covers a range of sustainability disciplines that are relevant to the process of hosting a golf tournament under the headings Nature, Resources and Community.

There are three components of each criterion:

1. **Sustainability Objective:** The performance objectives that best define sustainable tournament operations for the discipline that titles that section.
2. **Detailed Performance Requirements:** Specific prerequisites for achieving each sustainability objective, or at a minimum - useful examples of what could be done to demonstrate compliance.
3. **Scoring Methodology:** The outcome, or metric, that performance will be evaluated against along with the number of credits available to be achieved.

"I urge governments, organisations, businesses, and all actors in society to harness the values and power of sport to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. By working - and playing - together, we can create the future we want."

Ban Ki - moon , Secretary General, United Nations
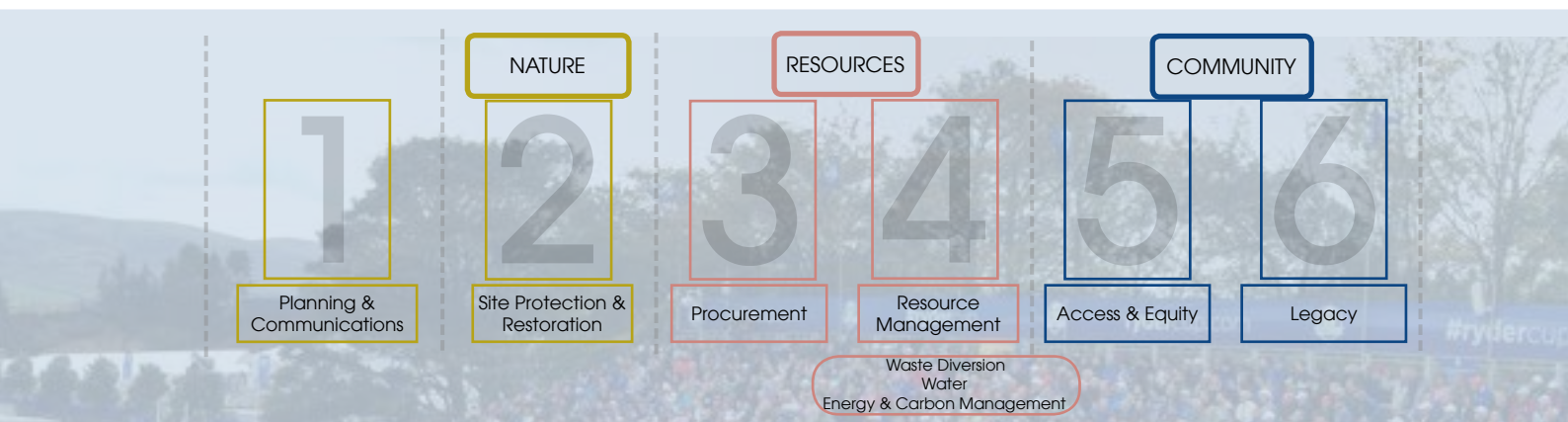International Day of Sport for Development and Peace , April 6th, 2016

photo credit: The 2014 Ryder Cup, Gleneagles

Criteria Introduction

The criteria fall within six sections that cover various stages associated with hosting of a golf tournament. These sections align with golf's three sustainability themes: Nature, Resources, and Community.

The 6 sections include: Planning & Communications, Site Protection, Procurement, Resource Management, Access & Equity, and Legacy. These six sections (excluding Site Protection) are consistent with that of the Council for Responsible Sport's voluntary standard - a standard designed to be applied to a wide range of sporting events. The Resource Management Section is broken down into 3 additional subsections: Waste Diversion, Water, Energy & Carbon.

As an international voluntary standard, these generic criteria are as specific as they can be, setting out a framework to guide individual objectives while also allowing tournament management teams to respond to tournament-specific conditions.
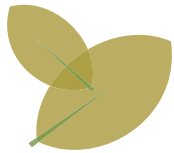
NATURE		RESOURCES		COMMUNITY	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Planning & Communications	Site Protection & Restoration	Procurement	Resource Management	Access & Equity	Legacy

Waste Diversion
Water
Energy & Carbon Management

photo credit: 2014 Ryder Cup, Gleneagles

Section 1: Planning and Communications

Criteria	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Scoring Methodology
1.1	**Develop a Sustainability Plan to reduce environmental impacts and increase social benefits**	The Sustainability Plan should serve as a high level document that is endorsed by senior level leadership and accessed by all tournament delivery partners. - Addresses environmental and social impacts - Includes long term vision, short term action - Lists key policies and procedures - States goals and measurable outcomes - Signed off by senior level leadership	Sustainability plan (1 credit - *mandatory*)
1.2	**Publicise sustainability plans and commitments**	Raise public awareness on sustainability commitments. - Issue a press release - Post on a designated tournament website - On-site signs (Pavilion, waste stations, leaderboards, food stands, buses) - Publish in programmes and spectator guides - Digital media (TV, radio, social media, spectator apps, etc.)	Publicly expressed commitment to sustainability (1 credit - *mandatory*) Formally organised, public-facing sustainability programme (+1 credit)
1.3	**Choose venues that minimise environmental impacts**	Policies and practices are in place that demonstrate sustainability commitments and competence across all areas of golf course and facility management. - Enrolled in OnCourse® for Golf Facilities - GEO Certified® status or target date set for achieving GEO Certified® - Description of sustainability programme is included as a requirement in host venue bidding process	Active environmental management system, policies, and practices (1 credit - *mandatory*) GEO Certified® Facility (+2 credits)
1.4	**Consult with stakeholders on sustainability efforts and potential negative impacts**	Identify materially impacted stakeholders, gauge stakeholder perceptions, and offer an avenue for questions or concerns to be submitted. Address any adverse impacts on local community in a timely manner. Include highly impacted stakeholders in decision making process: - Local planning authorities - Local businesses impacted by tourism - Local populations impacted by traffic congestion - Tournament operations staff, suppliers, contractors - Local neighborhoods - Local Tourism agency - Local emergency services - Groups representing disadvantaged populations	Proof of stakeholder inclusion in tournament planning (1 credit)

Criteria	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Scoring Methodology
1.5	**Promote sustainability across all areas of tournament operations**	All tournament delivery partners receive sustainability-related communication and training materials. - Key plans and resources are shared and made available (sustainability plan, resource management plans, procurement policies, etc.) - Sustainability training provided at tournament operations meeting - Staff and volunteers are assigned to oversee specific objectives	Sustainability training and communication materials (1 credit)
1.6	**Publish post-tournament sustainability results**	Sustainability results are posted to promote positive visibility, facilitate public accountability, and honor transparency. - List sustainability commitments and initiatives on tournament website - Performance highlights and carbon footprint data publicly viewable - Verification Report posted on GEO website - Issue press release detailing sustainability outcomes	Key performance results posted publicly (tournament website, GEO website) (1 credit - *mandatory*) Sustainability *promoted* through visible media channels (social media, website, press release) (+1 credit)
1.7	**Innovation Credit**	This credit is awarded for employing an innovative strategy that raises awareness on sustainable best practices, trains delivery partners, engages stakeholders, or otherwise supports planning and communication objectives. 1. Proposed innovation is summarised and submitted prior to tournament 2. Goals and methodology for measuring success submitted prior to tournament 3. Plan is successfully implemented 4. Results are measured and reported	Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit - *innovation*)
Total Credits			/11

Section 2: Site Protection & Restoration

Nature   Resources   Community

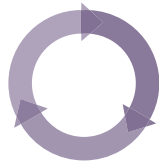| Criteria	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Scoring Methodology
2.1	**Produce a Site Protection & Restoration Plan**	Detail key objectives, policies, and practices in place to protect the surrounding environment, wildlife, habitat areas, and other key ecosystem services throughout set-up, staging, and teardown phases of tournament operations. – Identify wildlife and ecosystem services that may endure negative impact as a result of tournament operations - Identify all protected or endangered species - Adhere to environmental protection legislation. - Includes Incident Response Plan - Produce Environmental Risk Assessment	Site Protection and Restoration Plan (1 credit - *mandatory*)
2.2	**Safeguard habitats and ecologically sensitive areas**	Perform key studies and assessments, as well as enact strategies and best practices that mitigate ecological risks. - Complete a wildlife survey - Perform a habitat condition assessment - Route spectator traffic away from sensitive areas - Preserve highly sensitive areas (wetlands, ponds and water streams, breeding or nesting grounds)	Partner with an Ecologist, or other recognised expert, to perform environmental site assessment (1 credit)
2.3	**Minimise impacts caused by temporary staging infrastructure, and heavy machinery**	Incorporate environmental risks and considerations into staging, hosting, and breakdown activities. - Construct site build in low risk areas - Utilise ground protection mats to protect turfgrass from heavy machinery - Restrict contractor operations and heavy machinery from operating in sensitive areas - Preserve and/or enhance any areas of historic/cultural value	Proof of action(s) minimising environmental impacts (1 credit)
2.4	**Innovation Credit**	This credit is awarded for innovative best practices that protect the surrounding environment, wildlife, habitat areas, and other key ecosystem services. 1. Proposed innovation is summarised and submitted prior to tournament 2. Goals and methodology for measuring success submitted prior to tournament 3. Plan is successfully implemented 4. Results are measured and reported	Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit)
Total Credits			/4

photo credit: The 145th Open Championship, Royal Troon Golf Club
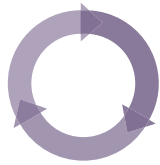
Section 3: Procurement

Nature   Resources   Community

Criteria	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Scoring Methodology
3.1	**Produce a Procurement Policy & Plan**	Promote responsible sourcing throughout the supply chain. Stipulate that suppliers comply with requirements for the sourcing, use, and disposal of materials. - Produce environmentally preferred purchasing policy - Provide list of accepted and prohibited materials - Food packaging guidelines promote recyclable and compostable foodware - Use recyclable materials in-line with Waste Operator's abilities to recycle - Support local businesses and create opportunities for under-represented groups	Procurement Policy & Plan (1 credit - *mandatory*)
3.2	**Track and monitor sustainability performance of suppliers and contractors**	Tournament organiser tracks and monitors the commitments and performance of suppliers and contractors. - Suppliers asked to agree to sustainability programme requirements - Suppliers contribute commitments and targets in line with tournament's sustainability programme - Track supplier compliance against stated commitments, policies and targets	System in place for tracking sustainability performance of suppliers and contractors (1 credit)
3.3	**Re-use materials**	Tournament delivery partners take advantage of opportunities to re-use materials and to reduce waste. - Avoid use of non reusable, non-recyclable materials in constructing site-build - Avoid use of paints and coatings that reduce re-usability of signs, banners, and tents over multiple years - Results are quantified and can be used for continuous improvement goals	Summary of re-use initiatives (1 credit)
3.4	**Avoid unnecessary paper waste by prioritising online communication**	- Employ online registration systems for volunteers and contractors - Avoid unnecessary spectator handouts and give-aways - Pairing sheets, programme guides, and tournament spectator information is printed on 'FSC Certified' or paper with other eco-certification	Summary of policies and practices that reduce paper waste (1 credit)

Section 3: Procurement

Nature   Resources   Community

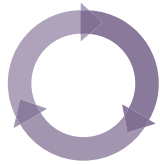| Criteria	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Scoring Methodology
3.5	**Establish a Sustainable Food & Drinks Programme**	Offer a menu that supports local food and catering, promotes health and nutrition, and raises public awareness on the importance of sustainable food systems. - Establish policies, goals and targets for sustainable food and drinks programme - Healthy, affordable food and drink options are available; allergies and intolerances are accommodated - Food and drink is certified by Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, 4C, Marine Stewardship Council, UTZ Certified, or other credible eco-certification - Establish a tournament-specific food charter and require suppliers to meet criteria	Summary of sustainable food and drink programme (1 credit) Produce event-specific food charter (+1 credit)
3.6	**Innovation Credit**	This credit is awarded for innovative best practices that improve responsible procurement. 1. Proposed innovation is summarised and submitted prior to tournament 2. Goals and methodology for measuring success submitted prior to tournament 3. Plan is successfully implemented 4. Results are measured and reported	Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit)
Total Credits			/7

photo credit: The 2015 RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing, Harbour Town

Section 4: Resource Management - Waste
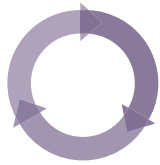
Nature   Resources   Community

Criteria	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Scoring Methodology
4.1	**Produce Waste Management Plan**	Produce a plan detailing key objectives, policies, and practices that will be implemented to reduce waste. - Employ lifecycle approach to waste management 'eliminate, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover' - Establish waste reduction and waste diversion targets - Address waste streams across all phases of tournament operations - Collaborate with tournament delivery partners to establish practices for preventing avoidable waste	Waste Management Plan (1 credit - *mandatory*)
4.2	**Track waste diversion rate**	Waste monitoring and tracking processes should be put in place to ensure accurate performance data can be collected and continual improvement targets set. - Submit detailed waste data - Audit materials in waste streams - Monitor waste management activities (segregation, sorting, and hauling) throughout tournament phases	Track waste results (1 credit - *mandatory*) Waste results broken down by material streams (+1 credit)
4.3	**Strive towards "zero waste"**	Incorporate policies and best practices that support waste reduction targets. - Zero waste ambitions are well supported in supplier contracts (3.1, 3.2) - Sufficient quantity of bins provided, clustered and positioned appropriately in both front-of-house and back-of-house areas - Bins are clearly labeled (color coded, visuals, instructions)	40% of waste diverted from landfill (1 credit) 70% of waste diverted from landfill (+1 credit) Zero waste sent to landfill (+1 credit)
4.4	**Innovation Credit**	This credit is awarded for innovative best practices that reduce total waste generated and the amount sent to landfill. 1. Proposed innovation is summarised and submitted prior to tournament 2. Goals and methodology for measuring success submitted prior to tournament 3. Plan is successfully implemented 4. Results are measured and reported	Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit)
Total Credits			/7

Section 4: Resource Management - Water

Nature   Resources   Community

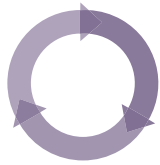| Criteria	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Scoring Methodology
4.5	**Produce a Water Conservation Plan**	Establish conservation policies and best practices that preserve on-site water sources and maximise water efficiency across tournament operations. - Address all primary sources of water consumption - Establish water conservation targets and strategies - Collaborate with tournament delivery partners to establish water conservation policies	Water Conservation Plan (1 credit - *mandatory*)
4.6	**Measure total water consumption**	Support continual improvement for water conservation by tracking total water consumption. - Track mains water consumption through water meters - Track water discharged - Track recycled greywater - Estimate water conserved as a result of initiatives in place	Measure total water consumption (1 credit - *mandatory*)
4.7	**Conserve water / energy impacts associated with water**	Reduce water consumption and energy linked to water consumption by promoting water conservation and promoting access to free drinking water. - Utilise greywater for operational activities where available - Waterless or sensor-activated, water-saving technology used for toilets, catering, and washing areas	Water conservation technologies and practices in place (1 credit)
4.8	**Innovation Credit**	This credit is awarded for innovative best practices that improve water efficiency and conservation. 1. Proposed innovation is summarised and submitted prior to tournament 2. Goals and methodology for measuring success submitted prior to tournament 3. Plan is successfully implemented 4. Results are measured and reported	Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit)
Total Credits			/4

photo credit: The 2016 RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing, Harbour Town Links

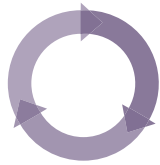# Section 4: Resource Management - Energy & Carbon

Nature   Resources   Community

Criteria	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Scoring Methodology
4.9	**Produce Energy & Carbon Management Plan**	Identify major sources of energy consumption and carbon impacts. Outline strategies to reduce and mitigate the total carbon footprint. - Establish energy and carbon reduction strategies and targets - Address all primary sources of energy consumption - Collaborate with tournament delivery partners to establish energy management policies	Energy & Carbon Management Plan (1 credit - *mandatory*)
4.10	**Calculate carbon footprint**	Calculate GHG emissions generated by various direct and indirect activities associated with hosting a golf tournament. - Collaborate with tournament delivery partners to retrieve data on activities that contribute to the operational carbon footprint - Follow approved methodology for calculating carbon footprint - Provide detailed notes to accompany any carbon data estimates	Track GHG emissions generated from Tournament operations (1 credit - *mandatory*) Track GHG emissions from activities outside Tournament Operations (Player Travel, Spectator Travel, Embedded Supply Chain Impacts) (+1 credit)
4.11	**Supply tournament with renewable or alternative energy sources**	Actively pursuing energy from low carbon and renewable energy sources. - Main grid is supplied by renewable energy, or energy is purchased through energy provider's green power programme - Biodiesel is used to power generators - Alternative sources of energy supplied for all major energy demands	40% of tournament operations powered by renewable energy (1 credit) 70% of tournament operations powered by renewable energy (+1 credit) 100% of tournament operations powered by renewable energy (+1 credit)

Section 4: Resource Management - Energy & Carbon

Nature   Resources   Community

Criteria	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Scoring Methodology
4.12	**Promote public transport and other low carbon travel**	Actively make strides to lower the carbon footprint generated by travel to and from the tournament by tournament delivery partners, players, and spectators. - Provide spectators with attractive public transportation options and alternatives - Effectively communicate public transportation options to tournament attendees - Institute a car-sharing programme - Promote cycling to the tournament by providing secure bicycle parking	Summary of public transport or low carbon travel initiative(s) (1 credit)
4.13	**Mitigate Carbon Footprint**	Committed to ensuring that unavoidable impacts are offset through credible, global carbon offset projects. - Fulfill carbon calculation requirements (4.15) - Purchase credible, certified carbon offsets - Provide description of carbon offset programme	Offset direct carbon impacts produced by tournament operations (1 credit) Offset indirect impacts produced by Player and Spectator Travel *(partial offsets included)* (+1 credit)
4.14	**Innovation Credit**	This credit is awarded for innovative best practices that improve energy efficiency, support carbon management, or raise public awareness on threats of climate change. 1. Proposed innovation is summarised and submitted prior to tournament 2. Goals and methodology for measuring success submitted prior to tournament 3. Plan is successfully implemented 4. Results are measured and reported	Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit)
Total Credits			/10

photo credit: Nuuk Golf Club, Greenland

photo credit: 2015 RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing, Harbour Town Golf Links

Section 5: Access & Equity

Nature   Resources   Community

Criteria	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Scoring Methodology
5.1	**Maintain an active Access and Equity Plan**	Identify strategies for reducing barriers that prevent persons from attending or being involved in the tournament. - Create access opportunities for disadvantaged persons - Equity and fairness prioritised through all hiring and staffing practices - Volunteer recruitment promotes diversity and inclusion	Access & Equity Policy (1 credit - *mandatory*)
5.2	**Event maintains active Safety Management Plan**	- Potential safety hazards are identified and mitigated - Tournament delivery partners are trained and competent in health and safety procedures - Potential safety hazards are identified and mitigated	Safety Management Plan (1 credit - *mandatory*)
5.3	**Site-build accommodates people with access difficulties**	- Site-build meets, or exceeds, regional disability compliance code and regulations (provision of accessible toilets, ramps and associated signage, etc.) - Satisfactory facilities and arrangements are in place to allow spectators with disabilities to view the competition - On-site shuttles are provided to assist spectators with accessing spectator viewing areas - Sufficient complimentary scooters available for hire	Summary of provisions for disabled persons (1 credit - *mandatory*)
5.4	**Outreach to under-represented groups in the community and reduce barriers to attendance**	- No significant barriers to attending the tournament - Affordable ticket options are made available to local community - Identify and address under-represented groups and respective barriers to entry	Summary of efforts in place to reduce barriers (1 credit)
5.5	**Innovation Credit**	This credit is awarded for innovative best practices that promote access, inclusion, equity, or safety. 1. Proposed innovation is summarised and submitted prior to tournament 2. Goals and methodology for measuring success submitted prior to tournament 3. Plan is successfully implemented 4. Results are measured and reported	Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit)
Total Credits			/5

Section 6: Legacy

Nature   Resources   Community

Criteria	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Scoring Methodology
6.1	**Measure economic impact**	Measure the total economic impact generated for the host community or region. - Follow, and provide description of, a recognised and trusted methodology - Conduct economic impact study based on actual data, as much as possible.	Calculate (or estimate) direct economic impact (1 credit - *mandatory*) Partner with recognised expert to calculate total economic impact (+1 credit)
6.2	**Leave lasting legacies for the host community**	Partner with local stakeholders and organizations to leave lasting legacies (environmental, social, or economic) as an outcome of the tournament. - Roles and responsibilities assigned for overseeing successful implementation of legacy projects - Money is donated directly to local community initiatives - Stakeholders are included in legacy projects	Summary of legacy projects and outcomes (1 credit)
6.3	**Support local**	Drive benefits to local business, local causes, and other local priorities and sources of pride. - Support local business (local catering, contractors, volunteers, spectators are given priority) - Direct awareness and support to local environmental and social causes - Highlight local culture, art, distinct features, or other local sources of pride	Submit summary of "Support Local" initiatives, practices, policies (1 credit)
6.4	**Promote golf and health and wellbeing**	Encourage spectators and local community to take up golf and live a healthy, active lifestyle. - Spectators are provided opportunities to experience golf (lessons with the Pro, simulator, youth golf experience) - Support local youth golf initiatives or programmes	Submit summary of golf, health, and wellbeing initiatives (1 credit)
6.5	**Innovation Credit**	This credit is awarded for innovative best practices that leave lasting impact beyond the tournament. 1. Proposed innovation is summarised and submitted prior to tournament 2. Goals and methodology for measuring success submitted prior to tournament 3. Plan is successfully implemented 4. Results are measured and reported	Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit)
Total Points			/6

Scoring Methodology

All sustainability criteria listed throughout the Sustainable Golf Tournaments Standard are provided with a column labeled 'scoring methodology' that states how compliance with performance requirements will be scored and the number of credits available to be earned (information on the scoring methodology is included on page 2). The purpose of this section is to equip the Tournament Organizer with a practical understanding of how performance will be evaluated and verified.

For example, compliance against some criteria may simply require uploading marketing collateral or spectator notices, whereas other criteria may require that a formal plan be produced. Moreover, compliance against some criteria may be achieved solely through the Verifier's on-site observations. In order to achieve GEO Certified®, there are a range of supporting documents that must be provided to demonstrate performance, but there are a diversity of ways in which this can be achieved. This section should be applied as a guide for better understanding the documentation and evidence listed throughout the Sustainable Golf Tournaments Standard, but is not intended to serve as an exhaustive list or limit the Tournament Organiser from using other avenues to demonstrate performance.

Also, it is accepted that not all golf tournaments will be able to produce all of the supporting documents listed. Specific documentation as well as alternative methods for demonstrating performance will be at the discretion of the Verifier assigned to golf tournament. Finally, this list is subject to ongoing review and amendment as revisions to the Sustainable Golf Tournaments Standard occur and as new technologies and methodologies emerge.

Section 1: Planning & Communications

Criteria: 1.1
Evidence: Sustainability plan (1 credit - mandatory)
The sustainability plan serves as a useful document for tournament delivery partners to reference. Elements of a well organised sustainability plan may include: focus areas, commitments, specific policies, values, scope and boundaries of environmental impacts, vision , goals, and measurable objectives. The key partners required to successfully implement the plan should be identified, and the tournament's senior leadership should sign off on the plan. The sustainability plan must be in written form to be verifiable.

Criteria: 1.2
Evidence: Publicly expressed commitment to sustainability (1 credit - mandatory)
A publicly expressed commitment to sustainability is important for raising awareness and encouraging participation. A publicly expressed commitment to sustainability may include: copy of a press release announcing plans or initiatives; links to social media, tournament website, videos, or other online content; or copies of print materials. This credit requires that supporting documentation be provided.

Criteria: 1.2
Evidence: Formally organised, public-facing sustainability programme (+1 credit)
An additional credit is available for efforts that extend beyond making sustainability commitments publicly available by engaging spectators through a formal programme or initiative. Therefore, supporting evidence may include: a designated webpage that lists commitments and initiatives (tournament, sponsor, commercial partners), copies of press releases issued by media or tournament partners, or copies of tournament programmes or other printed spectator materials. In addition, this credit requires that on-site signage or other forms of spectator engagement be included. This credit requires both on-site observations and supporting documentation.

photo credit: The 145th Open Championship, Royal Troon

Criteria: 1.3
Evidence: **Active environmental management system, policies, and practices (1 credit - mandatory)**
This mandatory credit is awarded if the host venue is committed to environmental management best practices. If the golf facility is not GEO Certified®, then an on-site observation of the maintenance facility will be required to verify that there are no major breaches or non-compliances. In addition, written documentation should be provided that details existing policies, best practices, and compliance with essential regulation. Examples of documentation may include: Integrated Pest Management Plans, chemical treatment logs, incident response policies, copies of awards, certificates or other accolades for environmental stewardship. This credit must be fulfilled through both on-site observations and supporting documentation.

Criteria: 1.3
Evidence: **GEO Certified® Facility (2 credits)**
Two additional credits are awarded if the host venue has achieved GEO Certified®. These credits can be verified by providing a link to the facility's GEO Verification Report and link to GEO profile page that details sustainability performance.(automatically generated upon host venue achieving GEO Certified®).

Criteria: 1.4
Evidence: **Proof of stakeholder consultation (1 credit - mandatory)**
Proof of stakeholder consultation should provide verifiable documentation that the tournament management team has included stakeholders in planning efforts, and that potential concerns have been addressed. Examples of such documentation may include: meeting minutes and agendas (supplier meeting, neighborhood planning meeting, etc.), a list identifying key tournament stakeholders, or a log or record of stakeholder feedback and concerns. This credit requires supporting documents to be fulfilled.

Criteria: 1.5
Evidence: **Sustainability programme training and communication materials (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded to tournaments that provide training and communication materials to suppliers and other tournament delivery partners. Examples may include: sustainability planning documents, procurement policies, lists of prohibited and acceptable materials, staff plans, training sessions, or any other sustainability-related training and communication materials. This credit requires supporting documents to be fulfilled.

Criteria: 1.6
Evidence: **Key performance results posted publicly (tournament website, GEO website) (1 credit - mandatory)**
This credit is awarded for posting highlights or performance results publicly. A GEO Verification Report will be generated automatically accompanying certification. Either a link should be posted on a tournament website that directs public to the report, or a sufficient summary of performance should be presented in a public space (tournament website, sponsor website, press release, social media). This credit requires supporting documents to be fulfilled.

Criteria: 1.6
Evidence: **Sustainability promoted through visible media channels (social media, website, press releases) (+1 credit)**
One additional credit is available for tournaments that go beyond making performance publicly available to promote outcomes and results of various social and environmental initiatives. The two key distinctions for earning this additional credit are 1) The tournament has made a strong attempt to share results with the public, and 2) Reporting integrates sustainability performance with other existing metrics of success. Examples of fulfilling this credit may include: an engaging website page, a results-based infographic, or the production of a sustainability report. This credit requires supporting documents to be fulfilled.

Criteria: 1.7
Evidence: **Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit)**
This innovation credit is awarded for new best practices that improve planning and communications efforts. Examples of innovations may include a new training program that develops new skills and awareness about sustainability throughout the supply chain or a programme that builds spectator education and awareness on sustainability. To be eligible for this credit, the following information must be submitted:

1. Proposed innovation is summarised and submitted prior to tournament
2. Goals and methodology for measuring success submitted prior to tournament
3. Plan is successfully implemented
4. Results are measured and reported

Section 2: Site Protection

Criteria: 2.1
Evidence: **Site Protection and Restoration Plan (1 credit - mandatory)**
This mandatory credit requires tournaments seeking GEO Certified® to ensure that proper site protection and restoration plans are in place. This plan should be distinguished from the environmental management policies of the hosting golf course to ensure that steps are being taken by the tournament management team to protect the site's landscapes, ecosystems, habitats and wildlife. This document may include information on sensitive areas or species, preventive actions and best practices, incident response plans, and specific policies in place to mitigate disruption to identified species and habitats. This credit requires supporting documents to be fulfilled.

Criteria: 2.2
Evidence: **Partner with an Ecologist, or other recognised expert, to perform environmental site assessment (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for tournaments that demonstrate proper diligence by having a professional assessment of environmental risks completed. Examples of documentation that will satisfy this criteria may include but are not limited to: a habitat condition assessment, wildlife survey, environmental incident response plan, or environmental risk assessment. The key objective of this criteria is to ensure that protective measures beyond those that may exist within the scope of daily golf course maintenance routines have been implemented. This credit requires supporting documents to be fulfilled.

Criteria: 2.3
Evidence: **Minimise impacts caused by temporary staging infrastructure and heavy machinery (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for ensuring the protection of the surrounding environment primarily during pre-tournament staging and post-event breakdown activities. Examples of performance against this criteria may include: proper use of protection mats for heavy trucks and machinery, restrictions for where grandstands and pavilions can be constructed, and other general restrictions put in place to safeguard the surrounding environment. This credit requires supporting documents to be fulfilled.

Criteria: 2.4
Evidence: **Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit - innovation)**
This innovation credit is awarded for innovative best practices that ensure the proper protection and restoration of the environment, ecosystems, wildlife and habitats that are on and around the hosting golf course. Examples of qualifying innovations may include initiatives that build spectator education and awareness about the local environment, grants to local environmental improvement or restoration projects, or a legacy project that improves the ongoing site protection efforts of the golf course. (Please view criteria 1.7 for specific information that must be submitted to earn the credit).

Section 3: Procurement

Criteria: 3.1
Evidence: **Procurement Policy & Plan (1 credit - mandatory)**:
This mandatory credit requires that procurement policies be in place for both the Tournament Organiser as well as suppliers. Demonstration of fulfilment against this criteria may include: preferred purchasing agreements, specific requirements for various contractors, eco-certified sourcing requirements, or list of accepted and prohibited materials) This credit requires supporting documents to be fulfilled.

Criteria: 3.2
Evidence: **System in place for tracking sustainability performance of suppliers and contractors (1 credit)** :
This credit is awarded to tournaments that have essential monitoring efforts in place to track performance and foster accountability throughout the supply chain. Examples of systems in place may include: signed policies or tender agreements, signed procurement codes, records that indicate suppliers' internal commitments to sustainability, or a log that tracks supplier performance. This credit requires supporting documents to be fulfilled.

Criteria: : 3.3
Evidence: **Summary of re-use initiative (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for organising re-use initiatives to reduce waste. Re-use initiatives may include: re-using signs from year to year, donation programmes that lead to re-purposing wood, pvc pipes, scrim, carpet, or other materials that otherwise may end up in the landfill. A food donation programmes is an important re-use initiative to demonstrate performance for this credit. This credit can be fulfilled by providing a summary or by providing supporting documents.

Criteria: : 3.4
Evidence: **Summary of policies and practices that avoid paper waste (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for having systems in place that minimise paper waste. Examples may include: requirements to use FSC certified paper or similar eco-certification for print materials or employing online registration and ticketing technologies. This credit can be fulfilled by providing a summary of policies and practices, supporting documents, or solely through on-site observations.

Criteria: : 3.5
Evidence: **Summary of sustainable food and drink programme (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for prioritising sustainability criteria in procurement of food and drink amongst caterers and food and drink vendors. Characteristics of a sustainable food and drink programme may include: sourcing from local food suppliers, sourcing organic food products, sourcing eco-certified products, providing healthy food options and alternative food and drinks to accommodate food allergies. The characteristics that define success in a sustainable food and drink programme may vary significantly depending on the geographic location of the tournament. This credit can be fulfilled by providing a summary of the the policies and programme in place. Whereas scoring for this credit allows flexibility, it is at the discretion of the independent verifier and GEO (certifying body) to evaluate whether genuine and sufficient attempts have been made to satisfy detailed performance requirements for this credit. This credit can be fulfilled by providing a summary of policies and practices or supporting documents, but also must be verified through on-site observations.

Criteria: 3.5
Evidence: **Produce event-specific food charter (1 credit)**
One additional credit is awarded for establishing an event-specific food charter. An event-specific food charter is an effective strategy for implementing a sustainable food and drink programme with guidelines appropriately suited to the specific challenges and opportunities posed by the geographic location as well as the structure of the food and beverage operations at the tournament. Verification of this credit requires both supporting documents and on-site observations.

Criteria: 3.6
Evidence : **Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit)**
This innovation credit is awarded for innovative best practices that improve sustainability throughout the tournament's supply chain. Examples may include a project that connects new incentives to suppliers, a creative strategy that leads to reduction in total waste generated, or a project that builds spectator education and awareness on materials and resource management. (Please view criteria 1.7 for specific information that must be submitted to earn the credit).

Section 4: Resource Management - Waste, Water, Energy & Carbon

Criteria: 4.1
Evidence: **Waste Management Plan (1 credit - mandatory)**
This mandatory credit requires policies and practices to be identified that encourage circular resource management principles. Waste reduction and waste diversion targets should be included and should point back to key partners or contractors that play a pivotal role. Major materials and waste streams should be identified along with strategies for minimising waste sent to landfill. Verification of this credit requires supporting documentation.

Criteria: 4.2
Evidence: **Track waste results (1 credit - mandatory)**
This mandatory credit requires that total waste generated, and total waste sent to landfill be tracked and recorded. Verification of this credit requires supporting documentation.

Criteria: 4.2
Evidence: **Waste results broken down by material streams (1 credit)**
One additional credit is awarded for tracking detailed waste data. Waste data results tracked by specific material streams provides tournament leadership with a good understanding of where strengths and weaknesses exist, and where improvements can be made in the future. Achieving actual data is highly recommended, but performing a sufficient sampling of waste streams to arrive at estimate figures also warrants achievement of this credit. Verification of this credit requires supporting documentation.

Criteria: 4.3
Evidence: **40% Waste Diversion (1 credit), 70% Waste Diversion (+1 credit), 100% Waste Diversion (+1 credit)**
Scoring for this credit is based strictly on the quantitative results of the waste diversion rate.

Criteria: 4.4
Evidence: **Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit - innovation)**
Innovative best practices that improve the waste management programme of the tournament, or use the tournament's waste management program to build spectators' knowledge on materials and resource management Examples may include: a project that connects new incentives to suppliers, a creative strategy that leads to reduction in total waste generated, or a project that builds spectator education and awareness on materials and resource management. (Please view criteria 1.7 for specific requirements for innovation credits)

Criteria: 4.5
Evidence: **Water Conservation Plan (1 credit)**
This mandatory credit requires policies and practices to be identified that support water conservation. Elements of a successful Water Conservation Plan include policies, adherence to key legislation, scope and boundaries of water footprint under the control of tournament operations, and strategies for improving water conservation. Verification of this credit requires supporting documentation.

Criteria: 4.6
Evidence: **Measure total water consumption (1 credit)**
Scoring for this credit requires that total water consumption be measured. Water consumption should be measured for areas indicated as following within the water footprint of tournament operations. Verification of this credit requires supporting documentation.

Criteria: 4.7
Evidence: **Water conservation technologies and practices in place (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for demonstrating active technologies and best practices in place. Low flow, waterless, or other water-saving technologies used for toilets, catering, and washing areas are examples or practices that warrant the awarding of this credit. This credit must be verified through on-site observations.

Criteria: 4.8
Evidence: **Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit)**
Innovative best practices that improve water conservation or efficiency, or build spectators' knowledge on water conservation or water scarcity issues. (Please view criteria 1.7 for specific requirements for innovation credits)

Criteria: 4.9
Evidence: **Energy and Carbon Management Plan (1 credit - mandatory)**
This mandatory credit requires policies and practices to be identified that encourage energy and carbon management. Energy efficiency and carbon management targets should be included and should point back to key partners or contractors that play a pivotal role. In addition to carbon reduction strategies, any strategies in place to mitigate/offset the tournament's carbon footprint should be included as well. Verification of this credit requires supporting documentation.

Criteria: 4.10
Evidence: **Track GHG emissions generated from tournament operations (1 credit), player + spectator travel (+1 credit), associated supply chain impacts (+1 credit).**
The first credit is awarded for tracking the carbon footprint generated by tournament operations. The scope and boundaries of tournament operational activities should be summarised along with a trusted source for the carbon footprint methodology. Additional credits are awarded for going beyond the scope of tournament operations to understand and calculate wider associated carbon impacts. Verification of this credit requires supporting documentation.

Criteria: 4.11
Evidence: **40% of energy used for tournament operations sourced from renewable sources (1 credit), 70% (+1 credit, 100% (+1 credit)**
Scoring for this credit is based strictly on the quantitative results for the total percentage of energy used to power the event provided from renewable energy sources. This credit may be fulfilled by sourcing biodiesel for on-site generators, a common need for golf tournaments. In many cases, there may be limited ability to directly obtain renewable energy sources; in which case, e-certified power, renewable energy credits obtained from local utilities also qualifies the tournament to achieve this credit. Verification of this credit requires supporting documentation.

Criteria: 4.12
Document title: **Summary of public transport or low carbon travel (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for promoting attractive public transportation and other low carbon travel options. Practices may include: a robust cycling programme, car-sharing programme, shuttle system, or spectator incentives for utilising public transit. Verification of this credit may be achievable through on-site observations alone, but supporting documentation is highly recommended.

Criteria: 4.13
Document title: **Offset carbon footprint generated by tournament operations (+1 credit), additional sources (+1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for funding sustainable development projects through a credible carbon offset programme. One credit is awarded for offsetting the carbon footprint generated by tournament operations. An additional credit is awarded for offsetting beyond tournament operational impacts and offsetting player travel, spectator travel, or associated supply chain impacts. Credit 4.10 is a prerequisite for achieving this credit. The scope and boundaries of of carbon impacts dhould be summarised along with a trusted source for the carbon footprint methodology. Receipts, proof of purchase, project descriptions, or other pertinent information should be provided as supporting documentation. Verification of this credit requires supporting documentation.

Criteria: 4.14
Document title: **Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit)**
Innovative best practices that promote energy and carbon management may include practices that directly improve energy sourcing, becoming more energy dependent, tracking carbon footprint data, or creative strategies for educating or engaging fans on renewable energy and carbon impacts. (Please view criteria 1.7 for specific requirements for innovation credits)

Section 5: Access & Equity

Criteria: 5.1
Document title: **Access & Equity Policy (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for an existing Access & Equity Policy or plan that specifies how the tournament promotes opportunities for less advantaged members of the population. Tournaments that are accessible and equitable for members of the community address social, economic, cultural, and physical barriers to ensure the tournament is inclusive to the community. Efforts that are in place or target groups that are supported should be listed. Verification of this credit requires supporting documentation.

Criteria: 5.2
Document title: **Safety Management Plan (1 credit)**
Appropriate management systems are established and in place to address health, safety, security risks and priorities. List of health and safety risks relevant to the tournament is provided along with policies of what to do in the case of an incident. Description of how compliance will be monitored and what occurs in the case of non-compliance. List of professionals, CPR trained staff, or other competencies that exist within event management team are provided in case of emergency. Verification of this credit requires supporting documentation.

Criteria: 5.3
Document title: **Summary of accommodations provided for disabilities (1 credit-mandatory)**
This mandatory credit requires that documentation is provided that summarises ways in which disabilities are accommodated. Examples of how this credit may be satisfied include: uploading an ADA compliance certificate, provision of maps of handicap-accessible grandstands, documentation of a complimentary-scooter service, or description of on-site shuttling service. On-site observations and supporting documentation are required to earn this credit.

Criteria: 5.4
Document title: **Proof of outreach attempts to reduce barriers (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for proving that programmes and outreach efforts are in place to reduce barriers and promote opportunities for diverse members of the population to attend the tournament. Examples of fulfilling this credit may include: free veterans attendance, free youth attendance, free practice day attendance, daycare programmes, or donated to local non-profits. Verification of this credit requires supporting documentation.

Criteria: 5.5
Document title: **Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit)**
Innovative best practices that promote accessibility and equity may include creative programmes reduce financial, mobility, or other barriers; free attendance programmes that celebrate members of the population for various public services; or programmes that make special experiences available with professional golfers.

Section 6: Community Legacy

Criteria: 6.1
Document title: **Calculate (or estimate) direct economic impact (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for tournaments that make a sufficient effort to calculate, or estimate, the tournament's direct economic impact. Supporting information should be provided on the source and specifics of methodology applied to arrive at the direct economic impact. Verification of this credit requires supporting documentation.

Criteria: 6.1
Document title: **Partner with recognised expert to calculate total economic impact (+1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for tournaments that employ the resources necessary to calculate a tournament's direct + indirect economic impact. In order to achieve this credit, the tournament is required to partner with a local expert, such as a university, in order to apply a credible and well-test methodology. Supporting information should be provided on the source and specifics of methodology applied to arrive at the total economic impact. Verification of this credit requires supporting documentation.

Document title: **Legacy Project Summary (1 credit)**
Relevant criteria: 6.4
Includes:
Description of legacy project (who the project benefits, which stakeholders were involved in determining the project, project aims, local need the project addresses, etc.)
Other documentation:

Criteria: 6.2
Document title: **Summary of legacy projects and outcomes (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for being able to demonstrate that legacies - positive contributions resulting as an outcome of the tournament were the result of hosting the golf tournament.

Criteria: 6.3
Document title: **Support Local (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for intentional projects and efforts that generate awareness or direct support to local causes, non-profits, charities, or business. This credit may be fulfilled by a broad range of projects or activities that mobilise support and resources for the benefit of the local community. This credit can be fulfilled by on-site observations, or supporting documentation.

Criteria: 6.4
Document title: **Promote golf, health and well-being (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for projects and efforts that promote golf participation or general health and well-being. Examples may include: offering SNAG (Start New at Golf), meet-the-pro clinics, or other engaging initiatives for youth populations; on-site lessons or simulators that allows spectators to try golf; or a legacy project that supports golf programmes. This credit must be verified through on-site observations by the assigned 3rd party Verifier.

Criteria: 6.5
Document title: **Summary of sustainable best practice innovation (1 credit)**
This credit is awarded for innovative best practices that contribute to post-event community legacies. Legacy benefits are qualitative, and could include a wide range of social or environmental benefits. (Please view criteria 1.7 for specific information that must be submitted to earn the credit)

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Auditor	An Independent, 3rd party person assigned to verify criteria fulfillment
Carbon Footprint	Total greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions resulting from tournament-related activities
Evaluation	The decision-making process, conducted by GEO, for awarding credits for performance against various criteria.
ISEAL Alliance	Global membership association for sustainability standards.
Scope 1, 2, 3	Scope 1 emissions includes all ghg emissions generated by direct sources of activity. Scope 2 emissions includes all ghg emissions generated by associated sources of activity. Scope 3 emissions includes all ghg emissions generated by indirect sources of activity. Please refer to GHG Protocol for further information - http://www.ghgprotocol.org/calculation-tools/faq
Site-Build	Temporarily constructed or staged areas for the purposes of the tournament
Spectator	Attending the tournament to view the competition.
Stakeholder	Parties of interest or members of the population that could be impacted by outcomes of the tournament
Sustainability	Relates to social equity, environmental protection and economic development. It is very difficult for something to be absolutely sustainable, so qualifying words such as ''more sustainable'' should be used, meaning that you are describing an active process, not a static one.
Sustainability Leader	A member of the project team acting as the point of coordination for a project's sustainability work.
Tournament Delivery Partner	Anyone that is associated with staging and hosting the tournament (tournament organisers, tournament promoters, staff, volunteers, officials, media, host venue staff, suppliers, contractors).
Tournament Operations	Activities directly involved with site-build, week of competition, and breakdown phases of the tournament.
Tournament Organiser	An individual representing the tournament organising committee, event management team, or other group tasked with the staging and hosting responsibilities of the golf tournament.
Tournament Phases	Site-build , tournament week staging, and post-tournament breakdown.
Verifier	A 3rd party assigned individual tasked with the responsibility of reviewing, and auditing, the tournament's performance, via tournament-submitted materials, key interviews, and on-site observations during the week of the tournament.