



Tournament Fact Sheet

Ford Championship (LPGA)

Whirlwind Golf Club (Cattail) • Chandler, Ariz. • March 26-29, 2026

Director of Agronomy

Matt Bachmann

Years at Whirlwind: 4 / Years as a Superintendent: 12

Previous Courses: Princeville Makai Golf Club (superintendent)

Hometown: Phoenix, Ariz.

Education: University of Arizona

Professional Tournaments Hosted: This is Bachmann's 2nd professional event.

Contact: Mike Strauss: mstrauss@gcsaa.org / 785-865-8444

Other Key Agronomy Personnel

Chase Green, GCSAA, Cattail Superintendent

8-year GCSAA member / 1 year at Whirlwind

Previous Course: The Golf Club at Indigo Run

Hometown: Lewis Center, Ohio / Degrees: Ohio St. & Penn St.

Christopher Rainbolt, Devil's Claw superintendent; Frank

Toledo, asst. superintendent; Eric Maki, equipment mgr.; Keith

McVea, director of golf; Brandon Gordon, PGA professional

Agronomy Employees: 39 for both courses / Tournament

Volunteers: 4

Course Architect

Gary Panks (2002)

Renovation: 2021 (bunker renovation with very slight changes)

Notable

- Since last year tree work was done raising and creating tree canopies, as well as a thinning of deserts.
- Major rain and flooding occurred as poa trivialis was beginning to emerge at overseeding, which led to poor distribution of seed and sand on greens, as well as poa trivialis contamination in collars. An extremely warm winter with very little frost was extremely beneficial for the greens.
- Wildlife on course includes javelinas, coyotes, bobcats, roadrunners, snakes, badgers, quails, hawks, vultures, burrowing owls, pocket gophers and ground squirrels.

Tournament Setup

Par: 36-36--72

Yardage: 6,661 (unofficial)

Turfgrass

Greens: Poa trivialis/TifEagle bermudagrass .110"

Collars: Perennial ryegrass overseed .400"

Approaches: Perennial ryegrass overseed .400"

Tees: Perennial ryegrass overseed .400"

Fairways: Perennial ryegrass overseed .400"

Rough: 419 bermudagrass 1.5"

Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 5,900 sq. ft.

Acres of Fairway: 28

Acres of Rough: 55

Number of Sand Bunkers: 53 (70,469 sq. ft.)

Number of Water Hazards: 3

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 5

Soil Conditions: Unscreened native soil

Water Sources: Reclaimed

Drainage: Fair

Average Fairway Widths: 23 yards

Links

GCSAA Tournament Fact Sheet Home:

<https://www.gcsaa.org/media/tournament-fact-sheets>

GCSAA Website: <https://www.gcsaa.org/>

GCM (GCSAA Magazine): <https://gcmonline.com/>

Course X: @WhirlwindGolf

GCSAA X: @GCSAA

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Since 1926 the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to 21,000 members in more than 78 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and improve communities through enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf.



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2026 GCSAA Course and Superintendent Notes For Courses Played (LPGA TOUR) (U.S. Courses Only)

(This Week's Course in Red)

2026 Season Averages

Courses Played to Date (3 tournaments, includes this week)

Average Yardage – 6,615

Average Green Size – 5,600 sq. ft.

Average Sand Bunkers – 55.5

Average Holes with Water in Play – 5.3

Tournaments by State

1 – Florida

1 – California

1 - Arizona

Yardage (par)

6,661 (72) – Whirlwind (Ford Champ)

6,642 (72) – Lake Nona (Hilton Grand Vacations)

6,542 (72) – Sharon Heights (Fortinet Founders Cup)

Average Green Size

5,900 – Whirlwind (Ford Champ)

5,900 – Lake Nona (Hilton Grand Vacations)

5,000 – Sharon Heights (Fortinet Founders Cup)

Number of Bunkers

58 – Lake Nona (Hilton Grand Vacations)

53 – Whirlwind (Ford Champ)

Unavailable – Sharon Heights (Fortinet Founders Cup)

Green Turf Type

2 – Poa

1 - Bentgrass

Rough Turf Type

2 – Ryegrass

1 – Bermudagrass

Superintendents Tournaments Hosted (includes 2025)

6 – Nick Dolimpio, Lake Nona (Hilton Grand Vacations)

2 – Matt Bachmann, Whirlwind (Ford Champ)

1 – Chad Twaddle, Sharon Heights (Fortinet Founders Cup)

Superintendents GCSAA Membership Years

21 – Chad Twaddle, Sharon Heights (Fortinet Founders Cup)

11 – Nick Dolimpio, Lake Nona (Hilton Grand Vacations)

Superintendents Alma Maters

1 – Delaware Valley, Western Illinois, Penn State

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2025 Season Statistics for LPGA TOUR

(U.S. Courses Only)

22 Courses

Average Yardage – 6,616

Average Green Size – 6,193 sq. ft.

Average Sand Bunkers – 70.0

Average Holes with Water in Play – 7.7

Greens Turf Type

Bentgrass – 12; Bermudagrass 6; Poa – 3; Paspalum - 1

Rough Turf Type

Bermudagrass – 7; Bluegrass – 6; Ryegrass – 4; None – 2;

Fescue – 1; Poa – 1; Paspalum - 1

Par

Par 70 Courses – 2

Par 71 Courses – 4

Par 72 Courses – 16

Whirlwind Rankings in 2025

- 9th longest yardage
- T8th smallest greens
- T6th fewest sand bunkers
- 7th fewest holes with water in play

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