Tournament Fact Sheet

Ryder Cup
Whistling Straits (Straits Course) • Kohler, Wisc. • Sept. 24-26, 2021

Director of Golf Course Maintenance
Chris Zugel, CGCS, GCSAA
Email: Christopher.zugel@kohler.com
Twitter: @czugel

Years as GCSAA Member: 24
Years at Whistling Straits: 17
Years as a Superintendent: 15
Previous Courses: Eagle Trace (asst), Blackwolf Run (asst), Whistling Straits (asst), Milwaukee Brewers (grounds manager), Whistling Straits – Straits (super)
Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.
Education: Colorado State University

Professional Tournaments Hosted: Zugel has been involved in two PGA Championships (2010, 2015) and one U.S. Senior Open (2007).

Other Key Golf Personnel
Jeff Wilson, Straits Course Superintendent
Casey Blindauer, Assistant Superintendent
Brandon Schegel, Assistant Superintendent
Tyler Chaloupka, Assistant Superintendent
Clifford Henning, Equipment Manager
Mike O’Reilly, PGA Professional

Number of Employees: 42
Number of Tournament Volunteers: 60

Course Architect

Tournament Set-up
Par: 36-35–71
Yardage: 7,355

Course Statistics
Average Green Size: 7,000 sq. ft.
Acres of Fairway: 23
Acres of Rough: 200-plus
Number of Sand Bunkers: A lot
Number of Water Hazards: 3
Number of Holes Water is in Play: 1
Soil Conditions: Mixed
Water Sources: Well
Drainage Conditions: Good

Turfgrass
Greens: Creeping bentgrass .100”
Tees: Creeping bentgrass .312”
Fairways: Fescue / creeping bentgrass / Poa annua .400”
Rough: Fine fescue 2.5-4”

Additional Notes
• A flock of Scottish Blackface sheep roam the property as might be encountered on a country course in the British Isles.
• The property once served as an airfield.
• The golf course stretches nearly two miles on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Listen to the GCSAA podcast with Chris Zugel, CGCS, as he discusses preparation of the golf course ahead of the Ryder Cup at: https://bit.ly/3jV0Z4P

Tournament Fact Sheets for the PGA, LPGA, Champions and Korn Ferry Tours and USGA and PGA of America championships can be found all year at:
https://www.gcsaa.org/media/tournament-fact-sheets

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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 nearly 19,000 members in more than 75 countries. GCSAA’s mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf.