

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

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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 Schegetz, 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

Architect (year): Pete Dye (1998)

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>

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>

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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.