

LECOM Suncoast Classic (Korn Ferry Tour)

Lakewood National • Lakewood Ranch, Fla. • April 16-19, 2025

Golf Course Superintendent

Joel Ehrhart, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 13

Years at Lakewood National: 2

Years as Superintendent: 12

Previous Courses: The Oaks Club (super), Coral Creek (super), Plantation (super), Sarasota National (super)

Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pa.

Education: Edison State College

Professional Tournaments Hosted: This is Ehrhart's 3rd Korn Ferry event after previously hosting LPGA Q-School.

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

Other Key Agronomy Personnel

Max Rudder, assistant superintendent; Pedro Velasco, assistant superintendent; Ryan Green, equipment manager; Stewart McComb, PGA professional

Agronomy Employees: 36 for both courses and grounds.

Tournament Volunteers: 15

Golf Course Dog: Phoebe, 1-year-old golden retriever

Course Architect

Brandon Johnson, ASGCA (2017)

Notable

- Since last year there was a forced bunker renovation due to Tropical Storm Debbie. The renovation was completed from October through December 2024.
- The nines are flipped for the tournament.
- Property used to be a sod farm before a developer converted it into a golf course.
- Ehrhart's mento Nick Kearns has volunteered each year to collect data for the event.
- Ehrhart is a past president of the Suncoast Superintendents Association chapter of GCSAA.
- Equipment manager Ryan Green followed Ehrhart to Lakewood. The Jamaican has a degree in electrical engineering.

Tournament Setup

Par: 36-35--71

Yardage: 7,133

Turfgrass

Greens: TifEagle bermudagrass .110"

Collars: TifGrand bermudagrass .210"

Approaches: TifGrand / Celebration bermuda .210"

Tees: Celebration bermudagrass .300"

Fairways: Celebration bermudagrass .350"

Rough: Celebration bermudagrass 2"

Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 8,200 sq. ft.

Acres of Fairway: 45

Acres of Rough: 55

Number of Sand Bunkers: 57 (100,000 sq. ft)

Number of Water Hazards: 21

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 14

Soil Conditions: 3% silt

Water Sources: Effluent

Drainage: Good

High Elevation:

Low Elevation:

Average Fairway Widths: x 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/>

Superintendent X: @EhrhartJoel

GCSAA X: @GCSAA

(more on next page)

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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 20,000 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.

From superintendent Joel Ehrhart:

“Summer of 2024 was one for the record books for Lakewood National. We received 110” of rain. Of the three named storms we had Tropical Storm Debbie was by far the worst. Our weather station recorded 18 inches of rain in a 12-hour period. This resulted in widespread flooding from the Braden River onto the course. Due to the rainfall and flooding the bunkers on the commander were severely damaged, many completely collapsed, eroded, contaminated and completely washed of sand. We had to act very quickly with season right around the corner. With the damages being too significant for my team to repair the club decided to move our bunker renovation which was due to start in May of 2025 to October 2024. Luckily ,we were able to lock in a contractor and get started two weeks after the storm. Knowing the significance of our bunkering we decided to get to Brandon Johnson course architect involved to restore the bunkers to their original design. We were able to open all 18 holes by December 6th. All bunkers were brought back to their original design and lined with bunker solutions. During the renovation we made a few changes to some bunkers that connected to the paths on tournament holes 4 and 5. Previously the bunkers on the holes were often a ruling issue because it was hard to decipher if you were on shell path or bunker. W made the decision to separate the areas with an area of turf to prevent contamination to our new bunkers and help alleviate any potential ruling issues.”

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