

FAQ: Golf Course Winterkill

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Why is the grass patchy, discolored, and dead in some spots?

A number of factors contribute to this, but in short, winter in Minnesota is rarely kind. The combination of snow, ice, cold temperatures, and course drainage suffocate certain areas of the golf course. This is evident particularly around the exposed high points of the greens and hills that have certain types of Poa Annua grass. This “winterkill” can hard to determine if it will recover until weeks into the golf season.

Are other courses in the area affected by Winterkill?

Most courses in the Twin-Cities area experience some level of winterkill. The historic nature of Les Bolstad and hills of the course and the abundance of Poa Annua grass make it challenging to address winterkill ahead of the season.

Could anything have been done to prevent this winterkill?

Waterproof turf covers and ice removal can help in some cases. A turf cover was attempted on hole #4 this winter with some success, but still had some winterkill where

the cover couldn't reach on the approach.. These treatments are extremely expensive and aren't 100 successful as a preventative measure.

What is being done to aid recovery of the grass?

Cultural practices are being done throughout the course, particularly around the greens and approaches.. Thinned turf will recover slowly and the staff is working quickly to repair and recover the affected areas in a timely manner.

How long will the recovery take?

Mother nature plays a role in recovery time. It depends on temperatures, precipitation, seed and chemicals in the coming weeks. Our hope is that results of maintenance efforts will show up in the next 10-14 days.

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What are plans to prevent this in the future?

Currently the golf course will be taking the opportunity to move forward with changes for safety and sustainability and attempt to ease the challenges that our 80+ year old facility provides. There may be a variance in the planned proposed changes to relieve the pressure that hole 17 receives.

What can golfers do to help?

Please respect golf course signs, markings, and cart rules. Patience now will help speed up the recovery and maintenance effort to get the course up to better playing standards.