

Kaulig Companies Championship (PGA TOUR Champions)

Firestone Country Club • Akron, Ohio • July 12-14, 2024

Director of Golf Course Operations

Larry Napora, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 42 (*longest of superintendents hosting PGA TOUR Champion tournaments*)

Years at Firestone: 17

Years as a Superintendent: 39

Education: Penn State University

South Course Superintendent

Tim Gruber, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 23

Years at Firestone: 7

Years as a Superintendent: 24

Education: Ohio State University

For superintendent contact info, contact Mike Strauss, GCSAA at mstrauss@gcsaa.org or 785-865-8444

Other Key Golf Personnel

Jonathan Manis, South Course Assistant Superintendent

Jonah Cline, South Course Irrigation Technician

Joe Dillon, Equipment Manager

Number of Employees: 75

Number of Tournament Volunteers: 6

Course Architect

Architect (year): Burt Way (1929)

Renovation Architect (year): Robert Trent Jones (1960)

X

Superintendent - @tgruber26

Course - @FirestoneCC

Tournament - @KauligChamp

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

Tournament Set-up

Par: 35-35--70

Yardage: 7,248

Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 7,600 sq. ft.

Total Property Acres: 600

Acres of Fairway: 20

Acres of Rough: 70

Number of Sand Bunkers: 82

Number of Water Hazards: 3

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 3

Soil Conditions: Good

Water Sources: Lake

Drainage Conditions: Great

Turfgrass

Greens: Penncross bent/Poa annua .100"

Collars: Penncross bent/Poa annua .300"

Approaches: Penncross bent/Poa .300"

Tees: Penncross bent/Poa annua .250"

Fairways: Penncross bent/Poa annua .300"

Rough: Bluegrass/ryegrass/fescue 2.5-4"

Additional Notes

- Napora was a collegiate All-American in swimming and is in the Butler County (Pa.) Sports Hall of Fame.

- The golf courses were originally built for employees of the Firestone Rubber Company (Invited purchased in 1981).

- The Northern Ohio Golf Course Superintendents Association celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2023.

- Colonel John Morley, who founded the GCSAA in 1926, was based at Youngstown (Ohio) Country Club.

(more on next pages)

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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.

GCSAA Notes (PGA TOUR Champions only)

2024 Notable For Courses Played (thru U.S. Senior Open, June 30) (this week's tournament in red)

2024 Longest Courses Played (7,000-plus)

7,249 – Greystone (Regions Tradition)
7,248 – Firestone (Kaulig Companies)
7,179 – TPC Sugarloaf (Mitsubishi)
7,165 – Mission Hills (Galleri Classic)
7,083 – University Ridge (American Family)
7,024 – Newport Country Club (U.S. Sr. Open)
7,002 – Woodlands (Insperity)

2024 Shortest Courses Played

6,703 – Las Colinas (Invited Celebrity)
6,821 – Newport Beach (Hoag Classic)
6,835 – Wakonda Club (Principal Charity)
6,852 – Harbor Shores (KitchenAid Sr. PGA)
6,856 – La Paloma (Cologuard)

2024 Largest Avg. Greens by sq. ft. Played

8,000 – En-Joie (Dick's Sporting Goods)
7,600 – Firestone (Kaulig Companies)
7,000 – University Ridge (American Family)
6,983 – Mission Hills (Galleri Classic)
6,700 – Wakonda Club (Principal Charity)

2024 Smallest Avg. Greens by sq. ft. Played

4,200 – Newport Beach (Hoag Classic)
4,500 – La Paloma (Cologuard)
4,500 – Woodlands (Insperity)
5,000 – Newport CC (U.S. Sr. Open)
5,486 – Harbor Shores (KitchenAid Sr. PGA)

2024 Courses by Greens Turf Type Played

5 – Bermudagrass (Chubb, Invited Celebrity, Mitsubishi, Insperity, Regions Tradition)
3 – Poa (Cologuard, Hoag, Galleri)
3 – Bentgrass (KitchenAid Sr. PGA, Principal Charity, American Family)
3 – Bentgrass/Poa annua mix (Dick's Sporting Goods, U.S. Sr. Open, Kaulig Companies)

Tournaments by State Played

2 – Texas (Invited Celebrity, Insperity)
2 – California (Hoag, Galleri)
1 – Florida (Chubb)
1 – Arizona (Cologuard)
1 – Georgia (Mitsubishi)
1 – Alabama (Regions Tradition)
1 – Michigan (KitchenAid Sr. PGA)
1 – Iowa (Principal Charity)
1 – Wisconsin (American Family)
1 – New York (Dick's Sporting Goods)
1 – Rhode Island (U.S. Sr. Open)
1 – Ohio (Kaulig Companies)

All 2024 Tournaments by State (multiple events)

5 – California
4 – Florida
4 – Texas
3 – North Carolina
2 – Hawaii
2 – Georgia
2 – South Carolina

(more on next page)

GCSAA Notes (PGA TOUR Champions only)

(this week's tournament in red)

2023 Course Info

2023 Longest Courses (7,200+)

- 7,350 – The Concession (World Champions)
- 7,249 – Greystone (Regions Tradition)
- 7,248 – Firestone (Kaulig Companies Champ)**
- 7,237 – Prestonwood (SAS Championship)
- 7,218 – SentryWorld (US Senior Open)
- 7,217 – The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge (Boeing)

2023 Shortest Courses

- 6,703 – Las Colinas (Invited Celebrity)
- 6,729 – Minnehaha (Sanford)
- 6,821 – Newport Beach (Hoag Classic)
- 6,851 – Wakonda Club (Principal Charity)
- 6,858 – Pebble Beach (PURE Insurance)

2023 Largest Avg. Greens by sq. ft.

- 8,000 – En-Joie (DICK'S Sporting Goods)
- 8,000 – Norwood Hills (Ascension Charity)
- 7,600 – Firestone (Kaulig Companies)**
- 7,300 – PGA Frisco (Sr. PGA Championship)
- 7,253 – Ritz-Carlton (PNC Championship)

2023 Smallest Avg. Greens by sq. ft.

- 3,500 – Pebble Beach (PURE Insurance)
- 4,200 – Newport Beach (Hoag Classic)
- 4,500 – The Woodlands (Insperity)
- 5,000 – Omni Tucson (Cologuard)
- 5,500 – Tiburon (Chubb Classic)
- 5,500 – Warwick Hills (Ally Challenge)
- 5,500 – SentryWorld (US Senior Open)
- 5,500 – The Concession (World Championship)

2023 Course by Greens Turf Types

- 12 – Bermudagrass
- 6 – Bentgrass
- 5 – Poa
- 4 – Poa / Bentgrass**

GCSAA Superintendent Notes (PGA TOUR Champions only)

Longest GCSAA Membership

- 42 – Larry Napora, Firestone (Kaulig)**
 - 40 – Mike Null, Norwood Hills (Ascension)
 - 35 – Michael Petty, Omni Tucson (Cologuard)
 - 33 – Christian Sain, CC of Virginia (Dominion)
 - 28 – Craig Werline, Phoenix CC (Charles Schwab)
 - 28 – Jonas Conlan, Mission Hills (Galleri)
 - 27 – Lee Hancock, Prestonwood (SAS Champ)
 - 27 – Roger Meier, PGA Frisco (Sr. PGA Champ)
- Note: Avg. GCSAA membership years for host superintendents is 20.7.*

Most Professional Events Hosted (if known)

- 24 – Michael Petty, Omni Tucson (Cologuard)
- 16 – Ryan Gordon, The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge (Boeing)
- 15 – Christian Sain, CC of Virginia (Dominion Energy)
- 13 – Chris Hartman, The Woodlands (Insperity)

Superintendents by Alma Mater (if known)

- 3 – Michigan State
- 2 – Clemson
- 2 – Horry-Georgetown
- 2 – Penn State**
- 2 – Tennessee