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PLANNING ...

That's the key to a successful company golf tournament

Whether your planned golf event is meant to raise money for charity, reward your clients or be a fun outing for your employees, proper planning will make for a better time for everyone. Let's look at the important planning that must go into a successful golf event.

What is the purpose of your golf outing? Do you plan to raise significant cash for a worthy charity? Or, do you intend to pay back your customers, clients, vendors or employees for their contributions to the success of your business? Regardless of the purpose, here are some decisions you need to make:



- **When?** Golf clubs in Northern Utah start scheduling events as early as April and can go deep into the fall — late September or early October. What's best for you group? Do you want to coincide with a holiday — or be sure to avoid one? Is there a day of the week that works best for your business or your guests?

Be sure to coordinate with the golf pro at the club as soon as you decide to host an event. The popular dates fill up fast.

- **How many players will you have?** Most golf courses have strict minimums and maximums. For

example, the Barn Golf Club near Ogden requires a minimum of 60 players for a nine-hole shotgun start tournament and at least 120 for 18 holes. Most courses will put two foursomes on the tees for par 4 and par 5 holes, sometimes going as high as 144 players for a tournament. Remember, the more players you put on the course, the slower the round will be. Rounds that last over five hours just aren't as much fun.

- **Where will you play?** Many factors go into choosing a golf course for your tournament.

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GOLF COURSES—SOUTHERN UTAH AREA

Ranked by Slope



	Course Name Address	Phone Web	Slope (Back Tees)	Rating (Back Tees)	Par (Back Tees)	Tournaments Hosted 2021	Greens Fees per 18 Holes	Private or Public	Total Yardage from Tips	Dress Code?	Course Record	Amenities	Head Pro
1	Green Spring Golf Course 588 N. Green Spring Drive Washington, UT 84780	435-673-7888 greenspringgolf course.com	138	73.5	72	4	\$35-\$70	Public	6,859	N	62	Located within 40 minutes of Zion National Park, driving range, snack bar	Kevin Soderquist
2	Sand Hollow Championship 5625 W. Clubhouse Drive Hurricane, UT 84737	435-656-4653 sandhollowresorts .com	137	73.7	72	8	\$185	Public	7,315	Y	60	Practice bunker complex, clubhouse, Wee course	Kris Burlingame
3	Coral Canyon Golf Course 1925 N. Canyon Greens Drive Washington, UT 84780	435-688-1700 coralcanyonogolf .com	136	74.2	72	7	\$79- \$109	Public	7,200	Y	61	Driving range, putting green, chipping green, lessons, pro shop, restaurant, full bar	Marco Leoni
4	The Hideout Golf Club 648 S. Hideout Way Monticello, UT 84535	435-355-0756 hideoutgolf.com	134	71.1	72	*	\$46	Public	6,654	N	67	Driving range, lessons, pro shop, snack shop	Tyler Ivins
5	Moab Golf Club 2705 E. Bench Road Moab, UT 84532	435-259-6488 moabgolfcourse. com	133	72.9	72	15	\$62	Public	6,875	N	61	Pro shop, practice facility, lessons, snack bar/grill	Rob Jones
6	Sunbrook Golf Club 2366 W. Sunbrook Drive St. George, UT 84770	435-627-4400 sgcity.org	131	73	72	60	\$76	Public	6,800	Y	64	Practice facilities, pro shop, grill	Reed McArthur
7	Bloomington Country Club 3174 Bloomington Drive East St. George, UT 84790	435-673-2029 bloomington countryclub.com	130	72.7	72	20	\$100	Private	6,985	Y	62	Range, restaurant, lounge, pool, tennis courts	Mark Boggs
8	Southgate Golf Course 1975 S. Tonaquint Drive St. George, UT 84770	435-627-4440 sgcity.org	129	70	71	12	\$53	Public	6,100	Y	*	Driving range, grill	Eron Beming
9	St. George Golf Club 2190 S. 1400 E. St. George, UT 84770	435-627-4404 stgeorgegolfclub. com	126	73.1	73	2	\$26-\$37	Public	7,217	Y	62	Full-service golf shop, practice green, snack bar, cart rental, club rental	James Hood
10	SunRiver Golf Club 4210 Bluegrass Way St. George, UT 84790	435-986-0001 sunrivergolf.com	126	72.6	71	6	\$75	Public	7,020	Y	59	Grass tees, driving range, chipping green, practice sand facility, putting course, restaurant	Larry Ricketts
11	Sky Mountain Golf Course 1030 N. 2600 W. Hurricane, UT 84737	435-635-7888 skymountaingolf .com	125	70.4	72	22	\$65-\$85	Public	6,392	N	63	18 holes, range, practice green, grill	Kent Abegglen
12	Palisade Golf Course 2200 E. Palisade Road Sterling, UT 84665	435-835-4653 stateparks.utah. gov/palisade	123	69.7	72	30	\$26-\$40	Public	6,333	Y	62	Full-service golf shop, driving range, restaurant	Jordan Van Orman
13	Dixie Red Hills Golf Course 645 W. 1250 N. St. George, UT 84770	435-627-4444 sgcity.org	119	65.8	34	5	\$22-\$30 for 9 holes	Public	2,733	Y	26	Driving range	Allen Orchard
14	Entrada at Snow Canyon Country Club 2537 W. Entrada Trail St. George, UT 84770	435-986-2200 golfentrada.com	Newly Renovated		71	0	\$250	Private	7,065	Y	NA	Golf shop, driving range, fitness center, restaurant, locker room, pickleball, tennis, aquatics, hiking	Roman O'Rourke

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GOLF COURSES—NORTHERN UTAH

Ranked by Slope



	Course Name Address	Phone Web	Slope (Back Tees)	Rating (Back Tees)	Par (Back Tees)	Tournaments Hosted 2021	Greens Fees per 18 Holes	Private or Public	Total Yardage from Tips	Dress Code?	Course Record	Amenities	Head Pro
1	Red Ledges Golf Course 205 Red Ledges Blvd. Heber City, UT 84032	435-657-4054 redledges.com	151	76.5	72	11	\$125 WM	Private	7,569	Y	65	Full dining, driving range, putting green, chipping green, 2 pools, tennis, pickleball, yoga, shuttles to ski resorts	Derek Butts
2	Thanksgiving Point Golf Club 3300 W. Clubhouse Drive Lehi, UT 84043	801-768-7401 thanksgivingpointgolf.com	145	77.6	72	100	\$89	Public	7,716	Y	62	Driving range, Bistro Grill, meeting space	Tele Wightman
3	Soldier Hollow Golf Course Silver 1370 W. Soldier Hollow Lane Midway, UT 84049	435-654-7442 soldierhollowgolf.com	142	74.2	72	*	\$42-\$52	Public	7,355	N	62	Large practice area, pro shop, lessons, full-service restaurant	Chris Newson
3	Homestead Resort & Golf Club 700 N. Homestead Drive Midway, UT 84049	435-654-5588 playhomesteadgc.com	142	71.8	71	20	\$56	Public	6,669	N	62	Practice facilities, restaurants, lodging rooms, meeting space, Crater Hot Springs, swimming pools	Chris Richards
5	Stonebridge Golf Club 4415 Links Drive West Valley City, UT 84120	801-957-9000 golfstonebridgeutah.com	139	74.2	72	73	\$36	Public	7,134	Y	64	Driving range, banquet room	Clark Garso
6	Park Meadow Country Club 2000 Meadows Drive Park City, UT 84060	435-649-2460 parkmeadowscs.com	138	74.8	72	9	\$110 WM	Private	7,422	Y	62	Golf practice facility, clubhouse, restaurant, locker room, pool, fitness, pickleball	Eric Johnson
7	Willow Creek Country Club 8505 S. Willow Creek Drive Sandy, UT 84093	801-942-1954 willowcreekcc.com	137	73.3	72	2	\$105 WM	Private	7,110	Y	63	Driving range, 3 practice greens & short-range game, banquets, pool complex	Lynsey Myers
8	Riverside Country Club 2701 N. University Ave. Provo, UT 84604	801-373-8262 riversidecountryclub.org	136	73.1	72	23	\$110	Private	7,142	Y	62	Golf, tennis, pool, athletic club, dining	Chris Moody
8	Soldier Hollow Golf Course Gold 1370 W. Soldier Hollow Lane Midway, UT 84049	435-654-7442 soldierhollowgolf.com	136	75.4	72	*	\$18-\$50	Public	7,719	N	62	Large practice area, pro shop, lessons, full-service restaurant	Chris Newson
10	Canyons Golf 4000 Canyons Resort Drive Park City, UT 84098	435-615-4728 canyonsgolfcourse.com	135	68.4	70	50	\$105*	Public	6,035	Y	66	Restaurants, spa, lodging	Justin Johnson
11	Jeremy Ranch 8770 N. Jeremy Road Park City, UT 84098	435-649-2700 thejeremy.com	134	73.7	72	30+	\$85 WM	Private	7,129	Y	61	Full-service clubhouse, dining facilities, fitness facility, locker rooms, Nordic Track	Jake Hanley
12	South Mountain Golf Course 1247 E. Mike Weir Drive Draper, UT 84020	385-468-1480 slco.org/golf/southmountain	133	73.8	72	20	\$36-\$54	Public	6,645	N	65	Restaurant, putting greens, practice facility, range	Brian Schramm
12	The Ranches Golf Course 4128 E. Clubhouse Lane Eagle Mountain, UT 84005	801-789-8100 theranchesgolfclub.com	133	73.1	72	12	\$35-\$59	Public	7,035	N	62	Practice facility, driving range, chipping & putting green, full-service grill & beverage cart	Robert Hammer
12	Victory Ranch Golf Course 7865 Victory Ranch Road Kamas, UT 84036	435-785-5030 victoryranchutah.com	133	74.9	72	*	*	Semi-Private	7,599	Y	*	Restaurant, double-sided driving range, short game area, putting green	Chris Brandenburg
15	River Oaks Golf Course 9300 S. Riverside Drive Sandy, UT 84070	801-568-4653 sandy.utah.gov/golf	132	70.4	70	45	\$53-\$55	Public	6,287	N	62	Cafe, catering/banquets, driving range, conference room with A/V	Matt High
16	Eagle Mountain Golf Course 960 E. 700 S. Brigham City, UT 84302	435-723-3212 eaglemountaingc.com	131	71.7	71	10	\$46	Public	6,770	Y	62	Full driving range, 2 practice greens, full-service snack bar	Chris Marx
17	Riverbend Golf Course 12800 S. 1040 W. Riverton, UT 84065	385-468-1460 slco.org/golf/riverbend	130	71.7	71	0	\$36-\$54	Public	6,876	N	64	Restaurant, driving range, pro shop	Tim Fernau
18	Bountiful Ridge Golf Club 2430 S. Bountiful Blvd Bountiful, UT 84010	801-298-6040 bountifulridgegolf.com	129	70.6	71	5	\$46-\$52	Public	6,595	Y	59	Pro shop, practice facilities, restaurant, lessons	Kent J. McComb
18	Mt. Ogden Golf Course 1787 Constitution Way Ogden, UT 84403	801-629-0699 ogdencity.com	120	70.4	71	12+	\$30-\$32	Public	6,450	N	*	Putting green, pitching/chipping area	Todd Brenkman

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Warm up before your round; You'll play better & feel better

Playing your best golf and getting the most value for your green fee requires being ready to play. The older we get, the harder that it is. A vast majority of golfers arrive for their tee time within 15 minutes of the time. By the time they grab a cart, get their clubs and hit three putts, they are on the tee. The next nine holes are often a dizzying display of poor shots and three putts followed by a better back nine. Then they literally wonder why they don't start better and always play better on the back nine.

The older we get, we have to prepare our bodies for swinging a golf club. Back pain is a real issue in golf. Swinging a golf club 80-100 mph is actually a sport and doing so without getting your body warmed up is an invitation for a strain or a pulled muscle. And being warmed up means you will swing faster from the first tee shot.

PGA Tour players will allow one to two hours to prepare for a round of golf. That's pretty unrealistic for those of us whose job is not to play golf for a living. Yet, that doesn't entirely excuse us from not preparing at all.

I would recommend allowing yourself a full 30 minutes (after checking in and getting your cart) to prep for a round. What I want you to do is get a small bucket of balls (no more than 30) and get over to the driving range. Once you get to your hitting station, pull out your phone

and get on YouTube and search for a five-minute total body workout. Bowflex has some good ones. You are looking for the most bang for your buck with your stretches, so the more a stretch works all sorts of muscle groups versus isolating just one group, the better (the picture with this article is a great stretch). This will get your body warmed up in a short time and allow you to hit your first shots with less chance of injury. After a five-minute

stretch, start with your sand wedge and hit 10 shots gradually increasing speed and effort from first to 10th shot so that by the 10th shot you are swinging fully. From there hit a couple of pitching wedges, a

couple of 9 irons, a couple 8 irons and then three or four drivers and you're done at the range. Total time at the range should not exceed 20 minutes. Hurry over to the putting green and roll as many 30-foot putts as you can before your tee time to get the pace of the green — and you're ready to play.

If you are serious about playing your best golf, put some work into your body at home. Improving mobility is a win/win for you and your golf. You will feel and move better in your daily life and the ability to make a bigger turn and have more mobility in your hips and a stronger core will help your golf swing function more optimally.

I've played golf for 40 years and in

all that time I thought just warming up with a bucket of balls was enough. Then one day I had trouble standing up from the couch. There was no doubt that all of those swings over all of those years was aggravating my back big-time. I had to take stretching very seriously if I wanted to get out of pain and stay out of pain. There is a wealth of information online and classes you can take and follow along with for free if you are serious about feeling better.

Be patient with yourself and the results you seek. It takes time but it will come.

Paul Phillips is the tournament director at Stonebridge Golf Club in West Valley City.



PAUL PHILLIPS



TOURNAMENT

from page 17

Geography and budget are the major determining factors.

Consider where your guests are coming from before picking a course. Maybe you want the event to be near your business location so your employees won't have to travel too far. If the bulk of your players live in the northern part of the Wasatch Front, you probably don't want to pick a Utah County location.

On the other hand, maybe an exotic location far from home is exactly what you want as a reward for your guests.

• **How much money will you raise? How much are you willing to spend?** The budget for your golf event will have a lot to do with where you play. Be sure to spend some time with the managers of the courses on your list to see just what it will cost to play, have breakfast and lunch as well as beverages and snacks on the course, and provide prizes for your

golfers.

When planning a budget — especially when you expect to raise money for a charity — don't be afraid to ask your players to pitch in. Set a reasonable cost — per player or per foursome — and make sure to collect it up front. That way, you'll have fewer no-shows. Then analyze your participants. If you have invited folks that can afford it, ask for a significant entry fee. If your charity is well-known and worthy, you can raise a bunch of money.

Don't be shy about asking the golf course to contribute to your money-raising effort. This can be done in the form of reduced rates for the golf, meals or beverages. You can also ask your vendors or clients to contribute in other ways beside entry fees. Hole sponsorships or food and beverage sponsorships are a couple of possibilities. Think about signage, too.

Ask for additional donations in the form of raffle prizes that can be given away at the event luncheon following the round of golf. Lots of your players and their companies will be willing to pitch in. Many

contributors will have small items they can contribute to fill a swag bag for players.

Make "cheats" available to your players. Maybe you could charge an extra \$20 for each of a limited number of "mulligans." How about \$1 an inch for string to save a tap-in putt?

And remember, this isn't the PGA. Prizes for winners don't have to be huge — the difference goes to the charity. A brand-name driver for the low score or a couple of hundred bucks for the winning team is plenty adequate. Ask the course pro shop to donate or reduce the price of prizes for winners.

• **What extras can you add to the golf outing?** Here's where the gold course management can help you. Remember, they've run hundreds of these events. You can have longest-drive contests as well as straightest-drive or closest to the pin on a par 3. Check out what it would cost to buy insurance for a new car for a hole-in-one on a long par 3. You'll be surprised how little it might cost to offer this great opportunity.

• **Are you willing to work**

to make your event successful? Well-planned and well-run golf events are always the most successful and the most fun. Appoint someone from your company to be in charge of making things come off right. Work closely with the course managers to make sure you're doing your part. Get the names of the teams and players turned in in plenty of time for the course to properly organize your tournament. Remind your players several days before the event and replace those who back out.

Talk to the course about volunteers and do your best to supply all the help they need. Make sure there are no slip ups that will detract from the purpose of your event.

Your greatest resource for a successful golf event is the staff at the course where you hold your event. They have seen it all and will have dozens of ideas that will help you pull off a great tournament — this year and for years to come.

Good luck — and have fun!

Kory Woodland is the PGA professional at the Barn Golf Club in Ogden.