



GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

1421 Research Park Drive • Lawrence, KS 66049-3859 • 800-472-7878 • [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

## **GCSAA Tournament Fact Sheet**

PGA Tour  
World Golf Championships  
Bridgestone Invitational  
Aug. 5 - 9, 2015

Firestone Country Club (South Course)  
Akron, Ohio

## **Golf Course Management Information**

### **GCSAA Class A Director of Golf Course Operations:**

Larry Napora

### **Availability to media:**

Contact Larry Napora by phone 330-245-2100; fax 330-645-2558

### **Education:**

B.A., Business Administration,  
Westminster College, New Wilmington,  
Pa., 1982; Two-year certificate,  
Turfgrass Management, Pennsylvania  
State University, University Park, Pa.,  
1984

**Years as a GCSAA member:** 33

### **GCSAA affiliated chapter:**

Northern Ohio Golf Course  
Superintendents Association

**Years at this course:** 7.5

**Number of maintenance employees:** 78

### **Previous positions:**

1992-2008 Director of Greens and  
Grounds, Treesdale Golf and Country  
Club, Gibsonsia, Pa.; 1990-1991, Golf  
Course Superintendent, Philadelphia  
Country Club, Gladwyne, Pa.; 1985-  
1990, Golf Course Superintendent,  
Oakmont Country Club, Oakmont, Pa.

### **Previous events hosted by facility:**

1993-2001, 2003-2014 WGC -  
Bridgestone Invitational; 2002 Senior  
PGA Championship; 1984-1998 NEC  
World Series of Golf; 1962-1983 World  
Series of Golf; 1954-1959 Rubber City  
Open; 1961-1965, 1967-1974, 1976  
American Golf Classic; 1960, 1966,

1975 PGA Championship; 1967-1974  
CBS Golf Classic

## **Golf Course Management Information**

### **GCSAA Class A Golf Course Superintendent:**

John A. DiMascio, CGCS

*The title "CGCS," after a superintendent's name, stands for Certified Golf Course Superintendent, which recognizes the achievement of high standards of professionalism through education and experience.*

### **Education:**

B.S., Biology, University of Akron,  
Akron, Ohio, 1988; M.S., Agronomy,  
The Ohio State University, Columbus,  
Ohio, 1992

**Years as a GCSAA member:** 15

**Years GCSAA certified:** 10

### **GCSAA affiliated chapter:**

Northern Ohio Golf Course  
Superintendents Association

**Years at this course:** 16

### **Previous positions:**

1999-2001, Golf Course  
Superintendent, Firestone Country Club  
(West Course), Akron, Ohio; 1998-1999,  
Assistant Superintendent, Pinehurst  
Resort and Country Club (No. 3 and No.  
5), Pinehurst, N.C.

### **Previous tournament preparations:**

2002 63<sup>rd</sup> Senior PGA Championship,  
Firestone Country Club, Akron, Ohio;  
2003-2005 NEC World Golf  
Championship, Firestone Country Club,  
Akron, Ohio; 2006-2014 WGC-  
Bridgestone Invitational, Firestone  
Country Club, Akron, Ohio

## **Course statistics**

**Average tee size:** 2,609 sq. ft.

**Tournament Stimpmeter:** 13+ ft.

**Average green size:** 7,619 sq. ft.

**Rounds per year:** 25,000

**Green construction soil mix:**

USGA (80% sand; 20% peat)

**Acres of fairway:** 20

**Source of water:** Lake

**Acres of rough:** 70

**Drainage conditions:** Excellent

**Sand bunkers:** 82

**Water hazards:** 3

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## Course ratings

	Yardage	Par	Rating	Slope
Red	5200	72	70.4	123
White	6454	70	71.6	124
Blue	7400	70	76.1	132

## Course characteristics

	Primary Grasses	Height of Cut
Tees	Pencross bentgrass; <i>Poa annua</i>	0.25"
Fairways	Pencross bentgrass; <i>Poa annua</i>	0.30"
Greens	Pencross bentgrass; <i>Poa annua</i>	0.10"
Rough	Kentucky bluegrass; perennial ryegrass	2.5-4"

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## Wildlife on the course

Beaver; Blue heron; Canada goose; Coyote; Deer; Fish; Fox; Groundhog; Hawk; Mole; Muskrat; Rabbit; Raccoon; Snakes; Squirrel; Turkey; Turtle

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## Interesting and historical course-related facts

Established in 1929 by Harvey Firestone and later acquired by ClubCorp in 1981, Firestone Country Club remains a one of a kind golf facility. It is the only course in the world to have held three televised golf events in one calendar year, The American Golf Classic, The CBS Golf Classic, and The World Series of Golf. With its three championship level courses, Firestone Country Club is as unique today as it has ever been.

The words Firestone South can conjure up fond memories for many golf fans. Few will forget Jack Nicklaus's magnificent comeback in the 1975 PGA Championship. Down by 5 strokes to Bruce Crampton, Nicklaus made an unbelievable par on "The Monster" 16th hole. He continued his comeback to win by four strokes, collecting his fourth PGA Championship. At the 2000 World Golf Championships-NEC Invitational, Tiger Woods hit the now famous "shot in the dark" on the 18th hole to secure his victory in the event.

The North Course at Firestone with its beautiful lakes and streams played host to the 1976 American Golf Classic and the 1994 World Series of Golf.

The latest addition to the Firestone was the West Course. Opened in 1989 and redesigned by Tom Fazio in 2002, the West course together with the North and South courses, make the Firestone Country Club family complete.

Noted for its length, the par-70, 7,360 yard South Course includes a series of intimidating, long par 4 holes and one of the longest par 5s anywhere. The 16th hole plays to 667 yards. A pond in front of the green captures its share of errant shots. Usually, the casualties aren't the result of futile attempts to reach the green in two. They are third shots from players who hit errant tee shots and find the woods. A well-placed long tee shot does not guarantee the opportunity to get home in two.

Players, however, have a birdie opportunity on the only other par 5, the 497-yard second hole. The 18th hole, though, is all the par 4 anyone would ever want to play. At 464 yards, it is long, narrow and has a green defended by bunkers. It's not a place to expect to make a birdie to win.

The 16th hole doesn't have the market covered on length. Before you even get there, the par 3, 221 yard, 15th provides enough of a challenge. The flat green makes for a straight putt, but getting the ball close to the hole can be a problem. From the tee, bunkers on the left of the green are hidden and provide for unpleasant surprises.

If a 221-yard par 3 isn't enough, try the 200-yard 5th hole. The small green can be reached with a 5- or 6- iron but you might need as much

as a 3-iron when the wind is blowing. Strange as it may seem, it is not one of the toughest scoring holes.

That honor goes to two of the par 4s. The 6th hole is 469 yards of heartburn. It has ranked as the second- and first-toughest challenge for professionals at Firestone over the years. When Robert Trent Jones redesigned Firestone into “The Monster” in 1959, this hole made par an excellent score.

The 471-yard fourth hole is another test. All the hole asks a player to do is hit a long and straight tee shot followed by an approach shot that must come in high to hold the elevated green. Sometimes easier said than done, but then again, that’s the best way to sum up Firestone Country Club’s South Course.

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**Course architect/date:** Bert Way, 1928

**Most recent redesign/renovation:**  
Robert Trent Jones, 1960

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## **Other key course personnel**

Renee Geyer,  
GCSAA Class C Assistant  
Superintendent (All Courses)  
Scott Traphagen,  
Golf Course Superintendent (North  
Course/Public Course)  
Brian Rafferty,  
GCSAA Class A Golf Course  
Superintendent (West Course)  
Steve Seaburn,  
Golf Course Superintendent (Public  
Course)  
Randall Pope, Equipment Manager  
Don T. Misheff, Club President  
Mark Gore, Club Manager  
Dave Champaign, PGA Professional  
Steve Carter, Director of Golf

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For additional information please visit the GCSAA [association news](#) section or contact the Communications Department at 800-472-7878.

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, 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 18,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Find GCSAA on [Facebook](#), follow GCSAA on [Twitter](#), and visit GCSAA at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org). The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, and has as its mission to foster sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game. Visit [www.eifg.org](http://www.eifg.org).

## **Golf course management facts**