

European Golf - Turfgrass Sustainability Roadmap

Niels Dokkuma
Sustainability / Agronomist

Tuesday 14 November 2023

EGA
European Golf Association



European Golf

Safe, responsible and sustainable management of turfgrass

TURFGRASS SUSTAINABILITY ROADMAP 2023 - 2030

Consultative final draft
August 2023



IN CONSULTATION WITH



SUPPORTED BY



IN COLLABORATION

EGA



IN COLLABORATION WITH
NATIONAL MEMBER FEDERATIONS

&



SUPPORTED BY



THE APPROACH

- Recognizing what has already been achieved while also showing self-reflection
-
1. **Strategy**
 - **Challenging *Ambition* and *Vision***
 - **Clear *Goals***
 2. **Structure**
 - **Phased and SMART *Targets***
 3. **Culture**
 - ***Evidence based:***
reliable data collection - monitoring - reporting

- Managing expectations/changing perception
- Pesticide use becoming the exception rather than the norm after application of IPM
- From product-thinking towards an independent system approach,
taking care of the cause, not the symptoms

CONTENTS

**About this
roadmap**

**Golf and
Sustainability**

**Progress to date:
Sustainable
Turfgrass**

**Looking forward:
Sustainable
Turfgrass
Action Plan**



Position



1.5 Alignment with EU Goals



Public safety and human health protection

Drastic reduction in total European pesticide use

Environmental protection and restoration of biodiversity

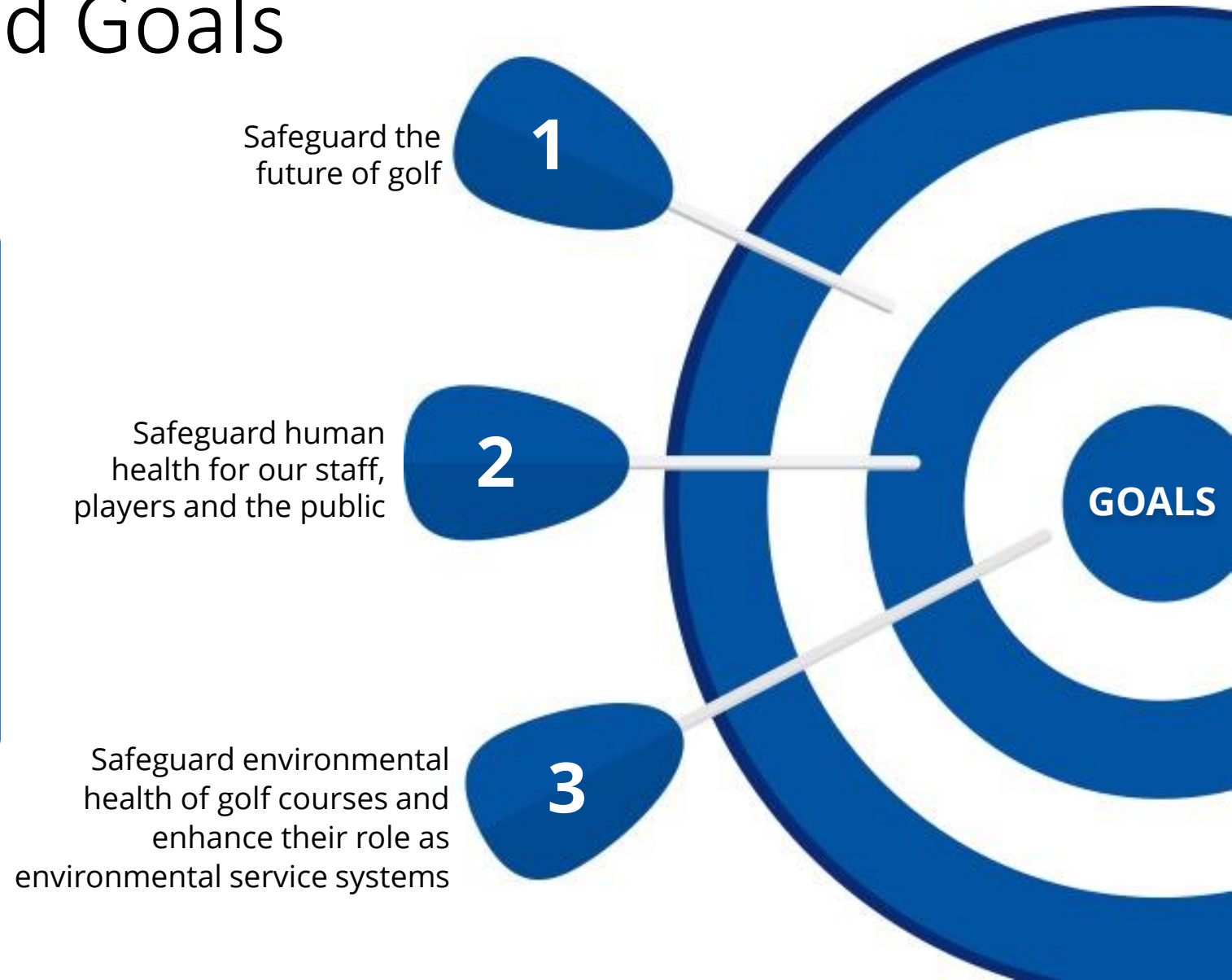
1.4 Sustainable Turfgrass – Ambition, Vision and Goals

AMBITION
Our Ambition for Sustainable Golf

To be a leader in sustainable sport while growing the game of golf in Europe

VISION
Our Vision for Sustainable Turfgrass and Golf

To deliver long-term playability while ensuring a high level of human and environmental protection



4.2 Priority voluntary and co-regulatory activities

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Human safety and environmental protection precautions |
| 2 | Integrated Pest and Turfgrass Management |
| 3 | Monitoring, reporting and target setting |
| 4 | Consumer education (golfers) |
| 5 | Practitioner education |
| 6 | Targeting pesticide use on specific playing surfaces |
| 7 | Applied research |
| 8 | Technology - innovation |
| 9 | Technology - products |
| 10 | Partnerships and collaboration |

3. Monitoring, reporting and target setting on pesticide use

OBJECTIVE

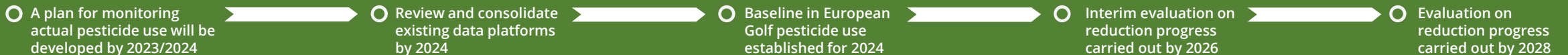
Digitally track, record, monitor and report European Golf's pesticide use through the national golf federation, greenkeepers associations and/or government to establish baseline use, track progress and develop further reduction focus towards minimum levels.

ACTIONS

- Explore how best to connect existing databases, platforms and apps
- Carry out baseline inventory
- Continue to build out IPM and sustainable golf monitoring and reporting with facilities, countries and internationally
- Ensure existing 3rd party assurance / verification for sustainable golf fully integrates any updated IPM / ITM methodologies
- Verification to an accredited standard for quality of data and data handling (ISO9001)
- Follow-up/end evaluations on reduction progress



TARGETS & TIMELINES



4.4 Golf's positioning on pesticides

EUROPEAN GOLF HAS THE AMBITION AND AIM TO ENSURE GOLF SURFACE PLAYABILITY WITH A DRASTIC REDUCTION IN CHEMICAL PESTICIDE USE.

Top100 *golf courses*











KØBENHAVNS GOLF KLUB

ROYAL COPENHAGEN GOLF CLUB

SKANDINAVIENS ÆLDSTE GOLF KLUB. STIFTET I 1898

Top100 *golf courses*






Big Green Egg
OPEN
POWERED BY
GOLF.NL




BERNARDUS
NETHERLANDS

2026

An aerial photograph of a golf course during the golden hour of sunset. The landscape is a mix of vibrant green grass, sandy bunkers, and a small pond. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall atmosphere is serene and peaceful. The quote is centered over the middle of the image.

“Sustainability? I take care of the cause, not the symptom. And what does the grass really need? Remember my key.”

Stefan Nilsson, as course manager of Vallda G&CC



“In sustainability, poorly understood self-interest is the delaying factor.”

Emeritus Prof. dr. ir. Rudy Rabbinge, Wageningen UR



THANK YOU

EGA

