Weather Action Plan for the Olympic Golf Course at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro

Wade Stettner — wade.stettner@dt.com

Introduction

Golf returned to the Olympics in 2016 for the first time in 112 years. The PGA Tour, LPGA, and other golf organizations were heavily involved with the International Golf Federation (IGF) in the planning and organization of golf at the 2016 Olympics. The IGF implemented their own weather action plan at the Olympic Golf Course, independent of the other outdoor venues in Rio de Janeiro. While the Instituto Nacional de Meteorologica (INMET) was assigned to provide remote weather support for the outdoor Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, the IGF was the only sports federation to privately contract a meteorologist to work on-site at the Olympic Golf Course with the organizers of the event. The IGF took extraordinary steps to mitigate the risks associated with lighting and inclement weather to their players, spectators, and staff at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. This poster will explain the weather action plan implemented by the IGF and also provide an overview of the lightning and severe weather management system that was put together by the Schneider Electric on-site meteorologist to assess the localized lightning threats and other impactful weather hazards.

Olympic Golf Course Weather Action Plan

Pre-Tournament

- Weather action plan is created by tournament organizers.
- Evacuation vehicles are rented and strategically staged across the golf course.
- Weather message graphics are loaded into the electronic scoreboard database.
- Evaluation committee practices evacuation scenarios to ensure the staff is prepared.
- Course evacuation instructions are provided to all players, officials, and tournament staff.

Tournament Week

- An on-site meteorologist is contracted.
- On-site meteorologist provides daily staff briefings and weather conditions.
- On-site meteorologist creates custom forecasts and organizes the golf course maintenance regarding current and forecast weather conditions.
- An on-site meteorologist will continuously monitor weather conditions at the course and asks the organizers to approach hazardous conditions.

Plan of action during a thunderstorm event

- Weather policy decisions will be made on the scoreboard.
- All committees are notified of approaching storms.
- Evacuation committee will dispatch drivers to wait at staging areas.
- The final round of the men’s competition.
- Spectators, volunteers, and staff are asked to seek safe shelter.

Tools used to monitor the lightning threat at the Olympic Games

- Campbell Scientific CS–110 Electric Field Meter
- WeatherSentry Online – lightning layer map
- WeatherSentry is a subscription weather package from Schneider Electric that includes high-resolution lightning tracking.
- Real-time lightning data from Vaisala and Earth Networks are integrated into a single product for the most comprehensive lightning package on the market with worldwide lightning coverage.
- Wind events occurred during the Olympics
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Official Weather Summary for the 2016 Olympic Games

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