



KAULIG COMPANIES CHAMPIONSHIP

SUSTAINABILITY

REPORT

2023



Table of Contents

Letter from the Executive Director 3

Executive Summary 4

Global Goals 5

Report Standards 6

Staging 7

Communications 13

Legacy 16

Moving Forward 18

/ Letter from the Executive Director

The Kaulig Companies Championship is proud to continue the seven-decade long tradition of professional golf in Northeast Ohio at Firestone Country Club. In addition to our longstanding commitment to raising money and awareness for area charities, we are proud to have built a formal Sustainability Program to further align with our goal of making a positive impact on the region.

We are pleased to share the results of our Sustainability Program with a focus on waste and resource management, water consumption, and carbon footprint reduction. This year, we invested in water refill stations for fans as well as new recycling bins to help separate recyclable materials and engaged in a composting effort in order to make a greater impact.

Our efforts would not be possible without the support of our sponsors, Firestone Country Club, vendor partners, volunteers, and the overall Northeast Ohio region that shares in our commitment. Thank you to everyone involved for their efforts. We would also like to acknowledge that our efforts will always be a work in progress, and that we will continue to raise the bar. Thank you for following us on this journey, and we look forward to making a difference today that will help future generations.

Don Padgett III
Executive Director
Kaulig Companies Championship



/ Executive Summary

Golf is a sport that values tradition and respect for the natural world. It celebrates the beauty of the outdoors and is deeply intertwined with natural landscapes in pristine areas with diverse ecosystems. As a golf tournament on the PGA TOUR Champions, we know that by championing sustainability, we can act as stewards of the precious environments on which our sport depends.

It is our responsibility as a premier golf tournament on the PGA TOUR Champions to do our part to contribute to the conservation of the natural world on which our game depends. Supporting sustainability environmental conservation is a natural extension of golf's core values. The Kaulig Companies Championship strives to create positive environmental, social, and economic impacts in the communities in which we operate.

We believe that by taking a leadership role in protecting the environment, we are ensuring the longevity of our sport for future generations. Our Sustainability Report for the 2023 Kaulig Companies Championship highlights the ways in which we have contributed to protecting our natural environment and enhancing the quality of life of our community members.



/ Global Goals

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), seventeen initiatives that formed the 2030 Agenda to end poverty and improve environmental quality around the world. The SDGs are a blueprint for businesses, governments, and other organizations to achieve a better, more sustainable future for all. Kaulig Companies Championship's sustainability initiatives support a number of the UN SDGs, and the icons below will be used throughout the report when highlighting the ways in which the Kaulig Companies Championship contributes to the UN SDGs.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



/ Report Standards

Our tournament sustainability standards, focus areas, and goals are in line with the international standards of sustainable golf certification set forth by the Golf Environment Organization (GEO). This report was created in partnership with Kaulig Companies Championship and Rico Solutions.

/ Focus Areas



Staging

The Staging focus area includes our environmental plans and policies associated with waste, water, and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as community outreach.



Communications

The Communications focus area includes all aspects of sustainability Communications, from planning and promotion to training and reporting.



Legacy

Our Legacy focus area includes our charitable giving, economic impacts, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and our ongoing efforts to reduce and mitigate our carbon emissions.

By setting targets and identifying key performance indicators within each focus area, Kaulig Companies Championship is developing the tools and metrics needed to evaluate our sustainability efforts. The following sections illustrate the outcomes for each of the event focus areas.

/ Focus Area 1: Staging

The Staging Focus Area includes all strategies, policies, and plans related to waste, water, energy use, and natural resources, as well as plans to increase access and equity at Kaulig Companies Championship.

Our Staging Initiatives for the 2023 Kaulig Companies Championship included:



Measuring greenhouse gas emissions for Scopes 1, 2, and 3.



Measuring on-course water usage during the tournament.



Ensuring high levels of waste diversion through recycling, reuse, and a compost pilot program.



Creation of youth clinics and programs to connect youth to competitive experiences and opportunities within golf.



Creation of a sustainability report to ensure transparency, accountability, and progress.



/ Staging Strategies



Waste, Water, and Energy Plans

Kaulig Companies Championship is aware of the potentially negative impact that a highly-attended event can have on the environment, so we put in place plans to monitor and report on waste, energy, and water use.



/ Staging Highlights

Event Snapshot: Composting by Rubber City Reuse



During the Kaulig Companies Championship we partnered with a local Akron company, Rubber City Reuse, to conduct a pilot program to capture organic waste in back of house areas.

The program captured **1,162 pounds** from back of house prep areas, which reduced overall carbon emissions for the tournament by **245kg**.

Rubber City Reuse provided the tournament with positive feedback and a plan to increase organic waste diversion in coming years.

Event Snapshot: Water Stations



The Kaulig Companies Championship partnered with MTD water to provide four water bottle refill stations throughout the course.

Through this partnership, we saved **4,690 of single use water bottles** from being thrown away.



/ Staging Highlights



Event Snapshot: Junior Clinic

The Junior Clinic presented by the J.M. Smucker Company featured a PGA TOUR Champions professional that instructed the First Tee kids and the I Promise School kids from the LeBron James Family Foundation on the fundamentals of the game of golf. Over 100 youth attended.



The goal of the clinic was to integrate kids of diverse backgrounds and allow the game of golf to bring those students together to learn skills both on and off the golf course. In addition, the students came out of the clinic with a memorable experience and there were new friendships formed across the different organizations.

/ Staging Highlights



Event Snapshot: Underrated Tour




Stephen Curry's Underrated Golf Tour offers young overlooked golfers competitive opportunities and special programming experiences, allowing them to understand what it means to make connections and build a successful career. Right before the 2023 Kaulig Companies Championship, Firestone's South Course hosted a tournament for the Underrated Golf Tour and Stephen Curry received the 2023 Ambassador of Golf award for his efforts to grow the game.



The tournament featured 96 junior golfers from across the country, 48 boys and 48 girls, competing over 36 holes at an iconic championship venue. Participants were also a part of a career panel presented by Bridgestone. In addition, Bridgestone gave each family represented at the event a \$500 Firestone Complete Auto Care gift card to help with the transportation journey associated with junior golf.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions At-A-Glance



 US tons CO ₂ eq	SCOPE 1	SCOPE 2	SCOPE 3	Total tnCO ₂ eq
	11.64	38.9	106,857.9	106,908.44

The largest portion of Kaulig Companies Championship’s carbon emissions came from freight deliveries, accounting for over 99.7% of total emissions. After freights, the largest emissions categories were attendee travel at .002% and waste at .0002%.

Future emissions reductions efforts will largely be focused on our supply chain, and we have ample opportunities to engage our vendors on issues affecting supply chain emissions, such as ensuring each delivery load is full and requesting local vendors for as many freight categories as possible.



Waste At-A-Glance



The 2023 Kaulig Companies Championship provided us the opportunity to collect baseline data about waste so that we can create a viable plan for waste reduction moving forward.

Our 2024 waste reduction goals include expanding recycling dumpster availability to the vendor compound, volunteer HQ, and other key operational areas in order to capture more recyclable materials off the course and expanding the organic waste program.

Recycling and composting also provide the tournament with further opportunities to reduce our overall carbon footprint. While our overall greenhouse gas emissions associated with our landfill waste were 28,170 kg of carbon dioxide equivalent, diverting just 11% of our overall waste through composting and recycling reduced our carbon footprint by 1,063 kg of carbon dioxide equivalent.

/ Focus Area 2: Communications

Communications is critical to ensuring the implementation of sustainability plans and procedures. To ensure accountability and efficacy, the sustainability team, which included tournament leadership, met monthly. Additionally, we conducted our first ever materiality assessment to better understand which of our impacts are most critical to our stakeholders.

Our Communications initiatives for the 2023 Kaulig Companies Championship included:



The creation of a sustainability plan with updated policies, procedures, and agreements.



The creation of a shared sustainability projects folder to ensure all plans, policies, and procedures were available to relevant staff for approval and use.



The creation of the first annual sustainability report to ensure accountability and progress.



The first Kaulig Companies Championship materiality assessment, used to engage stakeholders in the sustainability process.



Communications Highlights



Event Snapshot: Materiality Assessment

Materiality assessments are important for any organization working to become more sustainable, as they help organizations identify and prioritize the most significant environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues that impact their business and stakeholders. Materiality assessments involve engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, including employees, customers, vendors, and local communities. This engagement helps organizations understand the concerns and expectations of these stakeholders, fostering transparency and trust.

Through our materiality assessment, we identified and prioritized material topics, so that we can better assess and manage risks and opportunities associated with these issues. This proactive approach can help us mitigate potential negative impacts on the tournament, inform strategic decision-making processes, and better allocate resources. By focusing on the most relevant issues to our key stakeholders, we can ensure that our efforts create a value return.

As the table below outlines, our materiality assessment revealed the environmental and social issues that our stakeholders care about most. Those topics, in order of stakeholder importance, are:



Charitable Impact



Economic Impact



Employee Health and Wellness



Tournament Accessibility



Supply Chain Responsibility



Waste Reduction



Carbon Emissions

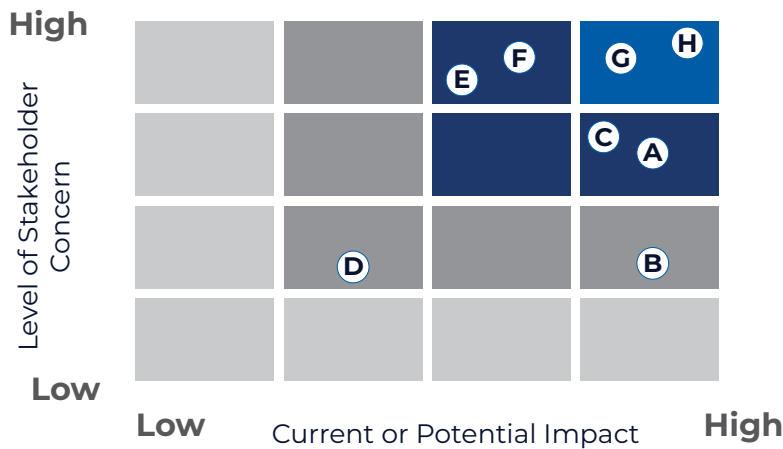


Tournament Transit

We hope that by identifying our material ESG issues, we can drive innovation and continuous improvement, adapt to changing societal expectations, and minimize negative impacts while maximizing positive contributions to our community and the environment.

Materiality Assessment

Kaulig Companies Championship Materiality Matrix



- (A) Waste Reduction
- (B) Carbon Emissions
- (C) Supply Chain Responsibility
- (D) Tournament Transit Accessibility
- (E) Employee Safety, Health, and Wellness
- (F) Economic Impact
- (G) Waste Reduction
- (H) Charitable Impact

Explanation of Material Topics

1. **Charitable Impact.** This topic includes social participation and commitments and involvement with beneficiary charities.
2. **Economic Impact.** This topic encompasses the financial impact that the tournament has on the Northeast Ohio region.
3. **Employee Health and Wellness.** This topic includes workplace safety, employee wellness and health promotion programs, and the prevention and management of occupational accidents.
4. **Tournament Accessibility.** This topic involves ensuring that the tournament is accessible to people with a wide range of physical and/or mental disabilities or other specific needs.
5. **Supply Chain Responsibility.** This topic includes ensuring vendors prioritize good working conditions, diversity, environmental conservation, and local economic development.
6. **Waste Reduction.** This topic includes prioritizing reusable materials, increasing waste diversion through recycling and composting, and managing waste associated with water and energy use.
7. **Carbon Emissions.** This topic encompasses monitoring, reducing, and accounting for carbon emissions produced by tournament operations, supply chain partners, and spectator travel.
8. **Tournament Transit.** This topic includes expanding bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation access to the tournament.

/ Focus Area 3: Legacy

Kaulig Companies Championship is not just a sporting event. We are also a catalyst for social and economic growth. Our tournament attracts visitors, generating revenue for local businesses, hotels, and restaurants, thereby boosting the local economy. Above all, through the funds raised at the tournament, we can provide financial support to our charity partners.

At the Kaulig Companies Championship, we hope to promote a sense of community pride in the Northeast Ohio region and provide long-term tangible benefits to the residents of our region. Our goal is to foster a legacy that extends far beyond the fairways, by creating a world-class event that is an essential element of our region's social fabric.



Legacy Highlights



Event Snapshot: Food Donation

We believe it is our responsibility to share what we have with our neighbors. This year, Kaulig Companies Championship donated 1,968 pounds of food, including meats, breads, dairy, and fresh produce, to the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank, which is the equivalent of 1,640 meals to our community.



Event Snapshot: Volunteers

Volunteers are essential to the success of Kaulig Companies Championship. This year, the tournament hosted 628 volunteers for a total of 10,048 hours.



/ Moving Forward

The first year of our sustainability program was a success. We implemented new programs and partnerships such as water refill stations, local food donations, back of house composting, and base line data collection for waste & carbon emissions.

While we have much to be proud of in 2023 we know that our sustainability journey is just beginning. In 2024 we will continue to focus on improving our efforts across all key areas identified in the materiality assessment, from waste reduction to tournament accessibility.

We are thankful for our partners who make this journey possible, and we look forward to bringing the Northeast Ohio region an even more sustainable tournament in 2024.



CHAMPIONS