

2026 Men's Mid-Amateur



July 21-23

Wolf Creek Golf Resort

The Men's Mid-Amateur returns to **Wolf Creek** **for it's 40th Birthday**

By Jim Clagget

Some of the best amateur golfers 25 years old and above will be tested at one of the iconic tracks in Alberta this summer.

The 40th Alberta Mid-Amateur will take place at Wolf Creek Golf Resort July 21 to 23, and the players will do their best on the Rod Whitman design to bring the original 18-hole layout to its knees. Or at the very least, escape unharmed physically or mentally.



"The first Mid-Amateur Championship was played 40 years ago, and it was played here at Wolf Creek" said head professional Jim Boomer. So, it's back to the tournament's roots, and the setting couldn't be more appropriate as "The Wolf" has tested many of the best swingers of the club over the years.

The field will be comprised of 120 players for the first two days and then be cut in half for the final round. Boomer says this makeup showcases golfers who are talented players but also have a different complexion about them.

"These are all working people. They're not retired or still going to school with time on their hands," he said. "I think these are people who are dedicated to playing competitive golf in and around family, work, and everything else."

Boomer says since Golf North Properties took ownership of Wolf Creek, things that were needed to enhance the course were put in place, including an increased maintenance budget. However, he says the Old Course seems to play better when conditions are on the drier side and players familiar with the course are used to that style of play.

One of the stable features at Wolf Creek has always been the wind, and players will need to consider that factor on each shot over those three days. You have a better chance of finding a Sasquatch riding a unicorn than getting three calm days of golf in a row at Wolf Creek. The southeast wind direction, which happens often, could play a role in scoring and strategy. Boomer says holes 9 and 18 will play directly into that prevailing wind, and there's no shortage of players who can attest to how much more difficult those play when it blows.

Two other holes which might give golfers nightmares are the Holes #3 and #4, with the latter being a little diabolical. You can get into your head right off the tee as you have trees down both sides, a creek running along the right and then a three-quarter island green with a few bumps to contend with once you reach the putting surface.

The stretch in the middle of your round, holes nine through 12, can also take some of the steam out of a player if they aren't sharp. Getting through that gauntlet at even par or even one over would be a huge confidence boost, says Boomer.

The volunteer base is deep at Wolf Creek with experience, and they know their job, as this venue was the home for the Alberta Open for years. Many of these vets are still around and Boomer says this is a group which won't need much schooling on how to make it work for the golfers.

"The greens are back to where the little extra breaks are back and people who come here for a challenge, well, I can honestly say 'The Wolf' is back."

"Last year when we were talking about ball spotting, these people knew automatically where the key areas were for hunting for balls." The pride in hosting and doing the job right runs through this group. A perfect example is hole #5, where more than one golf ball has met its end off the tee shot. Boomer

says at an event last year the guys spotting on that hole were proud to say they only lost one ball the entire tournament. If you've played Wolf Creek, you know that is an accomplishment to be bragged about.

So, as Wolf Creek gets back into the groove hosting the talent-laden mid-am, is there a chance we could see a return of the Alberta Open at The Wolf? Time will tell, but for now, the Mid-Amateur is at the forefront of the preparations for this season, and as sure as the wind will blow during this event, these players will come away with an experience they will remember. ■