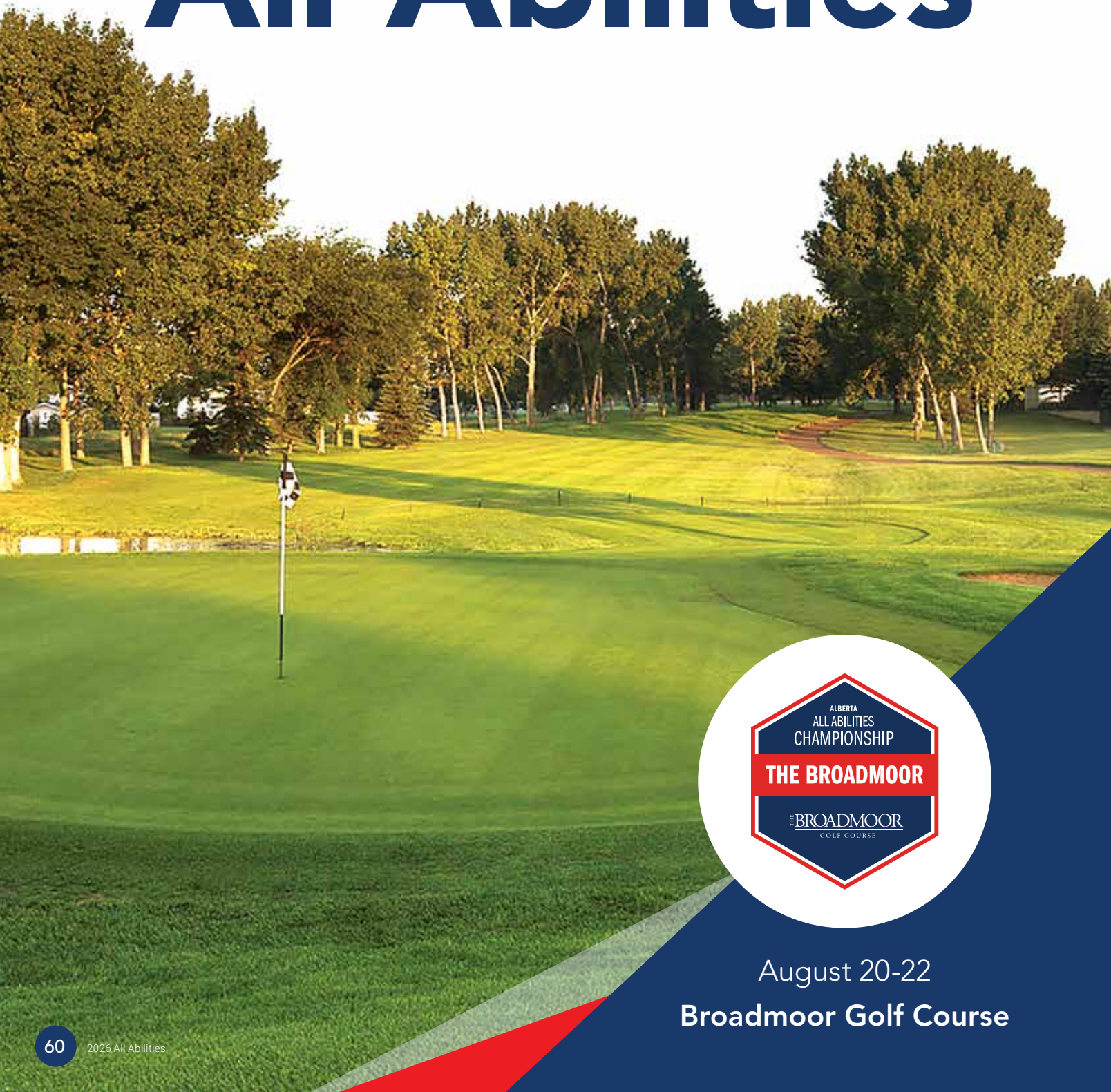


2026 All Abilities



August 20-22
Broadmoor Golf Course

The Broadmoor

sees All Abilities tourney as a way to foster inclusive golf

By Gord Montgomery

The Alberta Golf All Abilities Tournament is about to tee it up for the fourth time, and it doesn't just feature great golf. More importantly, it features great golfers. All the players participating in this year's event which has official WR4GD rankings, have a physical or cognitive disability. That though doesn't hamper their games in any way, shape, or form. So, while a scoring handicap is an important part of any competitive event, additionally these competitors all play with a different type of handicap supposedly making what is a tough game even tougher.

This year's event returns to the Broadmoor Golf Course in Sherwood Park and as former host to the tournament, GM John McGladdery explained they are delighted to have these skilled individuals back. And by again hosting, he feels the general playing public achieves a better understanding of inclusive golf.

"We hosted in 2024 and I think this is a good showcase for adaptive golf and the sport of golf," he began. "We don't have a way to measure, you know, how it changes the perceptions for the public, but I think the nice thing for us is it shows where we can improve on things and make things more universally accessible."

The GM continued by saying his club has made, or is making, such changes because this goes further than a single tournament. "A lot of those types of things, they're universal. While they support adaptive golf, they are things that support our senior golf, our junior golf. It makes the facility more accessible to everyone."

When asked about the level of play by those involved in the All Abilities event the last time it teed up at Broadmoor, McGladdery said "I think in general the quality of the play is something that would beat me for sure!"

To prove that point, all you have to do is look at the two rounds that 2024 champion, Bob McDermott, turned in last time the event was at The Broadmoor. McDermott topped the field two years ago with a 36-hole total of 152, only eight shots over par. So yes, these folks can play. And play well.

Asked how the Broadmoor layout sets up for this tournament, the McGladdery noted there are some tricky spots that can be challenging for anyone. And other than one hole, the set-up here is essentially the same as it is on an everyday basis.

"There was one hole, 11, we had to change the set-up on because with some of the athletes, and the mobility devices they use, they wouldn't have been able to get up to our existing tee boxes. But again, that kind of highlights the physical barrier there that may not be just limited to the athletes using power-assisted units. Our seniors struggle with some of those stairs, too. It's helped us look at the course and go, 'Well now we have to make some changes so anybody can play from any set of tees without having any barriers'.

"For the set-up itself, that was the only thing we really had to change. I think we have a good mix on the course with some of the holes. With the age of our course, and being right in the middle of a residential area, we're not the longest course. But I think we kind

of make up for that with very small greens. There are some holes that aren't very long but if you hit driver, you're risking going into the houses, so it brings in a little more strategy there. There are some forced carries over water, too. It's a good mix. There are some holes to score on and some holes that can be pretty challenging."

Asked if his track had hosted such events prior to the 2024 championship, and if they look beyond this year to host on a semi-annual basis, McGladdery said, "We

hosted the AASRA Amp Open in 2023. That's how we sort of became identified for the Alberta one.

And perhaps go even bigger in the future: "There's also a Canadian one too, so hopefully when we can finish a lot of the work we're doing on the course, hopefully we can host that one." ■

"I think this is an event we are interested in hosting when they (Alberta Golf) reach out to us about it. There's nothing formal. We don't have any agreement for doing this every two years sort of thing, but I think it's a good event to host and it's always something we are interested in when we're asked to host."