

Course Review: Sandelie West 9 Golf Course

The Sandelie West 9 Golf Course in West Linn is the under-the-radar little sister of Sandelie East, an 18-hole regulation course about a half-mile away. Because it's not attached to Sandelie East and because Sandelie West typically plays as a stand-alone nine, it counts as a separate course under our definition in our Quest to play every golf course in Oregon. You can dispute that definition, but our Quest, our rules. ☺

If only Sandelie West was as good of a course as pro shop attendant Karen is helpful and kind, we'd have a mini-Augusta in Oregon. (More on that below.) Alas, that's far from the case.

Sandelie West is in a quiet, agricultural setting about 4 miles off of I-205. Everything about the place is laid-back and casual. The course grass isn't "golf course grass" per se, it's normal mixed rural turf — meaning there's grass, clover and other green vegetation all mixed in. We played on an early spring afternoon, and the rough was full of little white, daisy-like flowers, making it difficult to find any balls that had strayed from the short grass. The day we visited, the greens were suffering from disease. Each one was very splotchy and you hit some pretty severe bumps as your ball rolled toward the cup.

Sandelie West's layout is probably best described as unimaginative. Every hole is straight, there's not a dogleg or turn in sight. Holes 1 through 4 just keep moving away from the clubhouse. You head back on 5 and 6, turn back around on 7 then come home on 8 and 9 in a very linear fashion. The course is tree-lined, but landing areas are generous and the trees rarely come into play. Otherwise there are few features. The hole sign on the No. 2 tee shows a large pond on the fairway, though the scorecard does not. It's the scorecard that's correct, the pond has been drained and filled, so what could have given at least one hole a little character is instead a muddy bog. There is a pond adjacent to the third tee, but it doesn't come into play until your approach shot coming back on the par 5 fifth. There's an occasional bunker here and there, but really, this is a blasé, featureless layout.

There's probably not five feet of elevation change



course-wide, so you can easily walk Sandelie West. In fact, we're pretty sure you have to, as there was no listed rate for renting a golf car — although Don ended up with one at the end. He'd been feeling under the weather and got hit with a severe bout of "intestinal distress" on the fifth tee, which just happens to be the farthest point away from the pro shop and the porta-potty restroom. Don ended up making a course-long dash from the sixth tee box while Pete let groups pass by. Sympathetic Karen gave Don one of the course's utility golf carts to finish the round, which was needed once more for a run back to the facility. Health "emergencies" aside, a second porta-potty out on No. 5 would be a great addition for those just needing it for ordinary purposes — but a huge shout-out to Karen, as Don couldn't have finished the round otherwise.

Sandelie West is a good course for beginning golfers, not-very-good golfers — from what we saw, we were the best two players out there, a scary thought — and bargain hunters. Great people, average course, but it fills a niche.