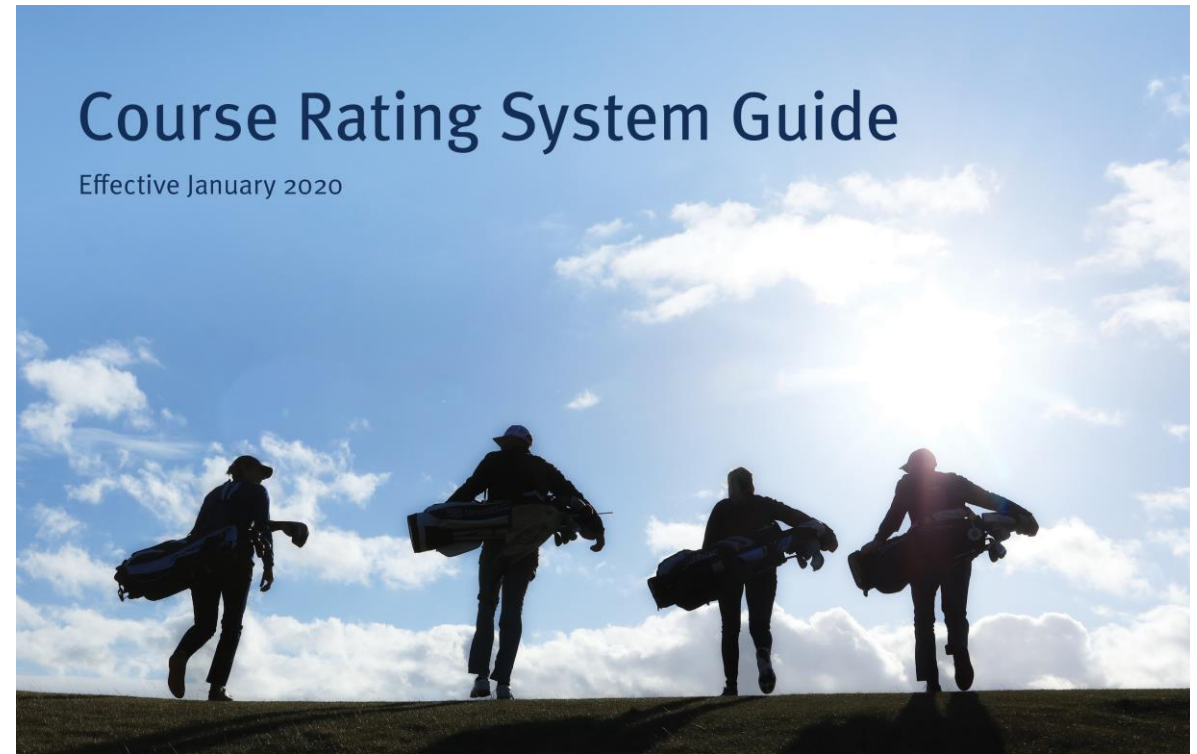


COURSE RATING SYSTEM – 2020 CHANGES

This 2020 update includes revisions considered over the last four-year cycle to assist raters in the application of the System and also to make the Course Rating Guides more ‘user friendly’ when using it out on the golf course.

We have not yet determined the next update to the System but anticipate a 3-4 year cycle.



WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM
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General Changes 2020

- Enlarged font size for text and most tables.
- Changed term ‘Yardage Rating’ to ‘Length Rating’ to be inclusive for both Imperial and Metric ratings.
- Eliminated Desert ratings and moved assessment of desert areas into Crossing or Lateral Obstacle categories.
- Provided new guidance on adjustments, in particular when to apply +1 and +2 options.

GREEN SURFACE RATING TABLE			
Green Speed	Contour of Green Surface		
	Relatively Flat or Gently Sloped	Moderately Contoured or Moderately Sloped	Highly Contoured or Steeply Sloped
6'11" or Less	3	4	5
7' to 8'5"	4	5	6
8'6" to 9'11"	5	6	7 (8)
10' to 10'11"	6	7 (8)	8 (9)
11' to 11'11"	7	8 (9)	9 (10)
12' or More	8	9 (10)	10
Amount of Roll Downhill for Each Foot of Roll Uphill	< 2'	2' to 3'	> 3'
	i.e. < 2:1	i.e. 2:1 to 3:1	i.e. > 3:1
<p>NOTE 1: Table values in parentheses are bogey ratings.</p> <p>NOTE 2: A tiered green is considered at least moderately contoured.</p> <p>NOTE 3: A green divided into three or more circles due to surface contours or tiers is considered highly contoured.</p>			

ADJUSTMENTS (Scratch and Bogey Ratings)

- (U) +1 If **UNPLEASANT** turf conditions on the putting green cause well struck putts to routinely miss the hole (such conditions must prevail throughout the midseason).
- or +1 If the circle concept has been applied to determine the effective green diameter because a player cannot putt from one part of the green to another.

(Bogey Ratings Only)

- (T) +1 If the green is **TIERED** (see definition in Section 2).

ADDITIONAL / MODIFIED DEFINITIONS

Modified Extreme Rough Definition:

“Extreme rough is cool season rough grass in excess of 6 [5] inches in length {4 [3] inches warm season}, underbrush in trees, or other conditions such as sand dunes (not bunkers), ice plant, palmettos, tree roots, rocks, lava, desert, heather, gorse, etc., which make it likely the ball will be lost or advanced only with great difficulty.

Extreme rough should be rated under Crossing Obstacles or Lateral Obstacles and may additionally be rated under Recoverability and Rough or Bunkers.”

Extreme rough definition expanded to include desert.



ADDITIONAL / MODIFIED DEFINITIONS

New **Crossing Obstacles** Definition:

“Crossing obstacles consist of penalty areas, extreme rough (including desert) and out of bounds when they must be carried to play the hole”.



ADDITIONAL / MODIFIED DEFINITIONS

New **Lateral Obstacles** Definition:

“Lateral obstacles consist of penalty areas, extreme rough (including desert) and out of bounds when they come into play laterally on the hole.”



ADDITIONAL / MODIFIED DEFINITIONS

New **Midseason** Definition:

“Midseason includes all the months of the year when a golf course is regularly maintained, and scores are being posted for handicap purposes.”



ADDITIONAL / MODIFIED DEFINITIONS

New **Penalty Area** Definition:

“A penalty area is any body of water on the course, (whether or not marked by the Committee), including a sea, lake, pond, river, ditch, surface drainage ditch or other open watercourse (even if not containing water) and any other part of the course the Committee defines as a penalty area.”



ADDITIONAL / MODIFIED DEFINITIONS

New **Toggle** Definition:

“To “toggle” is to alternate rating values or the application of an adjustment when there are multiple instances that could be rated one point higher or lower, or an adjustment is marginal.”

GREEN SURFACE RATING TABLE			
Green Speed	Contour of Green Surface		
	Relatively Flat or Gently Sloped	Moderately Contoured or Moderately Sloped	Highly Contoured or Steeply Sloped
6'11" or Less	3	4	5
7' to 8'5"	4	5	6
8'6" to 9'11"	5	6	7 (8)
10' to 10'11"	6	7 (8)	8 (9)
11' to 11'11"	7	8 (9)	9 (10)
12' or More	8	9 (10)	10
Amount of Roll Downhill for Each Foot of Roll Uphill	< 2'	2' to 3'	> 3'
	i.e. < 2:1	i.e. 2:1 to 3:1	i.e. > 3:1
NOTE 1: Table values in parentheses are bogey ratings.			
NOTE 2: A tiered green is considered at least moderately contoured.			
NOTE 3: A green divided into three or more circles due to surface contours or tiers is considered highly contoured.			

ADDITIONAL / MODIFIED DEFINITIONS

New **Waste Area** Definition:

“A waste area is an unmaintained area on the course that is natural to its surroundings. Generally, it has a sand base (or similar) and may have large rocks, stones or native vegetation that may qualify as extreme rough in it. A waste area may have poorly defined boundaries and the ground surface is not always maintained. The waste area may be prepared, similar to a bunker, and maintained by periodic edging and/or raking or levelling of the surface. Any vegetation in a prepared waste area does not generally qualify as extreme rough. Waste areas may be rated as R&R, Bunkers or extreme rough depending on the situation.”



ROLL – 2020 CHANGES

Expanded Roll table to +4/-4 with an extreme column to eliminate the need for having separate adjustment for extreme roll:

TEE-SHOT ROLL RATING TABLE (A full tee-shot to a level area of average firmness rolls between 15 and 25 yards)								
Downhill				Level	Uphill			
Extreme Slope	Significant Slope	Moderate Slope	Minor Slope		Minor Slope	Moderate Slope	Significant Slope	Extreme Slope
-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

- Changed (E) Extr~~e~~me adjustment to a (F) Firm/~~S~~oFt adjustment of +1/-1, with the +1 also available to use when a landing zone is not cut to fairway height.
- (2) adjustment is now shot specific and can be used multiple times on a long hole.
- No longer evaluate Roll when the player is not hitting a full shot (e.g. forced lay-up, lay-up by choice, dogleg limitation), as this is already factored into the dogleg or lay-up value, with the expected loss of distance.

DOGLEG/FORCED LAY-UP – 2020 CHANGES

- Separated dogleg from forced lay-up values as these are different concepts.
- Now recorded independently.
- The +/- 50 yards maximum adjustment between the two values still applies on each hole.
- New minimum of 10 yards for a dogleg correction (no minimum for Forced Lay-Up).
- Additional guidance about reducing dogleg corrections when a shot can be played past the pivot point but still makes progress towards the hole.



TOPOGRAPHY – 2020 CHANGES

TOPOGRAPHY RATING TABLE							
Change in Elevation (feet) from Approach Shot Landing Zone to Green			Stance or Lie in Landing Zone				
Uphill	Downhill	Par-3 Hole	Minor Problem	Minor to Moderate	Moderately Awkward	Significantly Awkward	Extremely Awkward
Almost Level with Fairway <i>Less than 10'</i>		0	1	2	3	4	5
+10 <i>10 through 14</i>	-10 <i>-10 through -14</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6
+20 <i>15 through 24</i>	-20 <i>-15 through -24</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
+30 <i>25 through 34</i>	-30 <i>-25 through -34</i>	3	4	5	6	7	8
+40 <i>35 or more</i>	-40 <i>-35 or more</i>	4	5	6	7	8	9

There are no adjustments that may be applied to the Topography Rating Table value.

2020 additions:

- New “Minor to Moderate” column in table to eliminate “tweener” option, which is used on a frequent basis.
- Guidance on the scale of changes in elevation.

FAIRWAY – 2020 CHANGES

Combined men's and women's Fairway Rating Table into a single table:

FAIRWAY RATING TABLE							
Men Hole Length (in Yards)	Fairway Width (in Yards)						Women Hole Length (in Yards)
	> 45	35-45	30-34	25-29	20-24	< 20	
< 340	1	1	2	3	4	5	< 270
340-379	1	2	3	3	5	6	270-309
380-425	2	3	4	4	6	7	310-355
> 425	2	3	4	5	7	8	> 355
NOTE: If fairway is less than 20 yards wide, a W+ adjustment cannot be applied.							

- Uses fairway width ranges based on the previous women's table.
- Retains separate hole lengths for men and women.

FAIRWAY – 2020 CHANGES

Added some additional clarification in relation to the (W)* **WIDTH** adjustment:

- Use (W)* +1, when “fairway **WIDTH** is effectively reduced by: contour or tilt so that shots must be played to one side”
- Use (W)* +2, “when a majority of the fairway is tilted and balls are likely to end up in the rough”.
- Use (W)* -1 when one side can be played from the rough as easily as the fairway.
- Use (W)* -2 when both sides can be played from the rough as easily as the fairway.

The (O)* +1 or +2 **O**bstructed Adjustment has been removed, as this can be applied using the (W)* **WIDTH** adjustment.

GREEN TARGET – 2020 CHANGES

Columns 1, 2 and 3, modified ranges to be more consistent with ranges (5 yards) in columns 2-5.

Removed column 7 from table and changed Column 6 to “>31” to limit the impact of further reducing rating values on very large greens that can often increase difficulty with chipping and longer putts.

WOMEN GREEN TARGET RATING TABLE							
Scratch Shot Length (Yards)	Effective Diameter of Green (in Yards)						Bogey Shot Length (Yards)
	(6) > 31	(5) 27-31	(4) 22-26	(3) 17-21	(2) 12-16	(1) < 12	
< 30	2	2	2	2	2	2	≤ 20
30-49	2	2	3	3	3	3	21-34
50-69	2	3	3	4	4	4	35-49
70-89	2	3	4	4	4	5	50-64
90-109	3	4	4	4	5	6	65-79
110-129	3	4	4	5	6	7	80-94
130-149	3	4	5	6	7	7	95-104
150-169	4	5	5	6	7	8	105-114
170-184	4	5	6	7	8	9	115-124
185-200	5	6	7	8	8	9	125-140
> 200	5	6	7	8	9	10	> 140
50/50 Transition Zone Rating Value	4	4	5	5	6	6	50/50 Transition Zone Rating Value
50-50 Transition Zone Rating Value may be adjusted +/-1 point when the centre of the green is close to the front or back of the Transition Zone							

MEN GREEN TARGET RATING TABLE							
Scratch Shot Length (Yards)	Effective Diameter of Green (in Yards)						Bogey Shot Length (Yards)
	(6) > 31	(5) 27-31	(4) 22-26	(3) 17-21	(2) 12-16	(1) < 12	
< 60	2	2	2	2	2	2	< 30
60-79	2	2	3	3	3	3	30-44
80-99	2	3	3	4	4	4	45-59
100-119	2	3	4	4	4	5	60-74
120-139	3	4	4	4	5	6	75-89
140-159	3	4	4	5	6	7	90-109
160-179	3	4	5	6	7	7	110-129
180-199	4	5	5	6	7	8	130-149
200-219	4	5	6	7	8	9	150-164
220-240	5	6	7	8	8	9	165-180
> 240	5	6	7	8	9	10	> 180
50/50 Transition Zone Rating Value	4	4	5	5	6	6	50/50 Transition Zone Rating Value
50-50 Transition Zone Rating Value may be adjusted +/-1 point when the centre of the green is close to the front or back of the Transition Zone							

TRANSITION ZONE – 2020 CHANGES

When the player is expected to reach the green **at least 50% of the time:**

Use only the long shot for evaluation of obstacles near the green

Use the transition value for Green Target, R&R and Bunkers.

In such situations, no longer need to find a “landing zone” just short of the green to further evaluate obstacles.

If the player is expected to reach the green **less than 50% of the time.**

A landing zone just short of the green (10 yards from the front of the green) should be used to evaluate **an additional landing zone** to determine the impact of any obstacles being used in the transition process.

We no longer average these numbers into any previous landing zones but treat this as an independent landing zone.

This is designed to simplify the procedure and add more consistency.

**Transition Zone example (if player reaches the centre of green 50% or more)
Evaluate landing zone 1 and then the green as if they reach it all the time.
However, Green Target is based on the transition value from the bottom of Green
Target Table (+1 if appropriate)**



Transition Zone example (if player reaches the centre of green less than 50%)
Evaluate landing zone 1, then landing zone 2 and finally the green. However, Green Target is based on the transition value from the bottom of Green Target Table (-1 if appropriate)



Note: The option still exists for the transition zone concept to be waved off if the player will always reach the center of the green or never reach the centre of the

RECOVERABILITY & ROUGH – 2020 CHANGES

(M)* MOUNDS:

Mounds and Rise and Drop adjustments have been merged into the Mounds (M)* adjustment, as these are similar in nature. These can now be combined to qualify for an adjustment, which when under separate adjustments, may not have qualified.

- (M)*
- +1 If grass **MOUNDS** or hollows are present near the fairway landing zone — consider their severity, number and location.
 - +1 If a significant portion of the green is closely bordered by grass **MOUNDS** or hollows and/or rise and drop of greater than 5'. Do not factor in any area that is closely bordered by bunkers.
 - or +2 ... severe grass **MOUNDS** or hollows and/or rise and drop of greater than 10'. Do not factor in any area that is closely bordered by bunkers.

(U) UNPLEASANT:

Moved one part of the (U) Unpleasant Adjustment into (I) Inconsistent when areas around the green are cut to fairway height to make shots more difficult as these are similar in nature. However, the (U) Unpleasant adjustment as a separate adjustment will remain for areas of hardpan.

BUNKERS – 2020 CHANGES

(Q)* SQUEEZE:

The Bunker Squeeze Adjustment has been modified to reference total distance (30 or 20 yards) between bunkers on each side the fairway instead of distance (15 or 10 yards) from the centre of the fairway to the bunkers on both sides.



BUNKERS – 2020 CHANGES

(C)* CARRY:

Updated Carry (C) adjustment by referencing “significant portion” of the green instead of “more than half” of the green to allow for more flexibility to use the adjustment.



BUNKERS – 2020 CHANGES

(E)* EXTREME:

Updated (E) Extreme adjustment to add guidance on using a +1 vs. +2 adjustment with reference to the +2 requiring shots to be played out sideways or backwards causing a substantial loss of distance.



BUNKERS – 2020 CHANGES



Measuring Bunker Depth:

The depth of a greenside bunker (DDEPTH adjustment) is now measured from points where most recovery shots are made to a height that would get the ball onto **areas of the green where most holes are located.**

CROSSING OBSTACLES – 2020 CHANGES

Added a new (C)* Carry Adjustment when a Crossing Obstacle closely borders the front of the green, as the player is landing the ball close to the front of the green, as opposed to maximizing distance to carry the obstacle.

Modified (P)* Percentage adjustment text from “can be played from most of the time” to “can be played from some of the time” to allow using less than 50% of table value.

Add text to recommend using (P)* Percentage adjustment values of 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% to simplify procedure.



LATERAL OBSTACLES – 2020 CHANGES

Modified (Q)* Squeeze adjustment to reference total distance (40 or 30 yards) between obstacles instead of distance (20 or 15 yards) to both sides.

Modified Percentage adjustment text from “can be played from most of the time” to “can be played from some of the time” to allow using less than 50% of table value.

Added text to (B)* Bounce -1 adjustment to use when the obstacle is located behind the green. The (P)* Percentage adjustment can be used in addition to this, if needed.



Removed (J) Jeopardy adjustment due to lack of consistency in use.

Clarified not to use the (K)* Stroke +1 adjustment when table value is 1 (including when a minus Bounce adjustment is applied)

TREES – 2020 CHANGES

Changed the (Q) SQUEEZE adjustment to a (H) CHUTE adjustment to be more consistent with how raters reference the adjustment.

Also eliminated the second part of this adjustment when trees are on both sides of a landing zone, as this is already factored into table based on recovery problems.

Reduced size of CHUTE table to now start at 8 yards instead of 2 yards, to be more realistic.

Eliminated the (O) OBSTRUCT +2 adjustment but make the (O)* OBSTRUCT +1 shot specific, so it can be applied more than once on a hole.

TEE SHOT CHUTE TABLE				
Width (in yards)	Length to clear the chute (in yards)			
8 or less	40-55	56-71	72-87	>87
9-10	50-69	70-89	90-109	>109
11-12	60-83	84-107	108-131	>131
13-14	70-97	98-125	126-153	>153
15-16	80-111	112-143	144-175	>175
17-18	90-125	126-161	162-197	>197
19-20	100-139	140-179	180-219	>219
21-22	110-153	154-197	>197	
23-24	120-167	>167		
25-26	130-181	>181		
27-28	≥140			
29-30	≥150			
Rating Adjustment	+1	+2	+3	+4

GREEN SURFACE – 2020 CHANGES

Updated the Tiered definition to clarify that a tier is a plateau and to be tiered a green must have a minimum of two distinct plateaus of surface area, each with multiple available hole locations, separated by a two-foot or greater elevation difference.



PSYCHOLOGICAL – 2020 CHANGES

Removed the automatic two points of Psychological on holes 1 & 18 as these are not needed since ratings are only 9-hole or 18-hole totals and holes may be used more than once in combination ratings.

Changed the first use of the **(X) EXTRAORDINARY** adjustment to now be called **(E) EXTREME** adjustment, but with the same criteria.

Modified second use of **(X) EXTRAORDINARY** adjustment to reflect Crossing/Lateral Obstacle values instead of OB/ER and Water Hazard, since those two obstacles no longer exist.

