

Marking Tees and Measuring Greens

- 2012 Golf Canada Tournament Manual -

Part of preparing the course is determining the maximum length the course will be played. Using the course score card is not always accurate as many new courses measure the length of the course from the back of every tee deck. Bearing in mind that we must, if at all possible, provide enough space for the teeing ground and for the player to have an adequate area for the backswing, the maximum length of course could be shorter than the course score card.

There are several reasons for determining in advance the maximum length of course. First, the competitors should be aware of how long each hole can potentially be played during the competition. This provides them with enough information during their practice round that they can play shots from appropriate distances in preparation for the competition. It also ensures that the officials who are doing the morning setup know how far back the tees can be set.

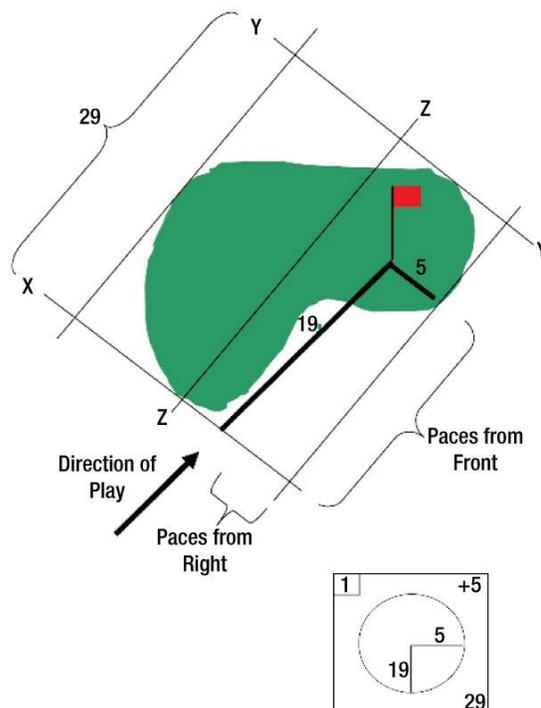
To ensure everyone is aware of the maximum yardages, it is customary to spray a small white dot (loonie size) on the side of the tee deck next to the rough and on the opposite side of where the players will normally walk on. This should be done in advance of the practice round so that all players are aware of the maximum length of each hole.

Measuring green depths by pacing is required prior to the start of the competition. When using an electronic measuring device, measurements must be converted to paces to be consistent with hole location sheets. Small yellow dots should be painted at the front and back of the greens to indicate where the pacing is measured. This information is provided to the players on the hole location sheet each day. This helps the players determine how much room they have around the flagstick when making their approach shots.

Diagram 1 - Measuring Putting Greens

To correctly measure a putting green you must first determine the direction of a typical approach shot. Once determined, as indicated by the direction of play arrow, the green is measured in yards from the leading edge as indicated by line X-X. The depth of the putting green is determined by measuring to the farthest back edge of the putting green as indicated by line Y-Y, in this case 29 yards along line Z-Z.

Measuring can be done either by using a distance measuring device or by pacing the



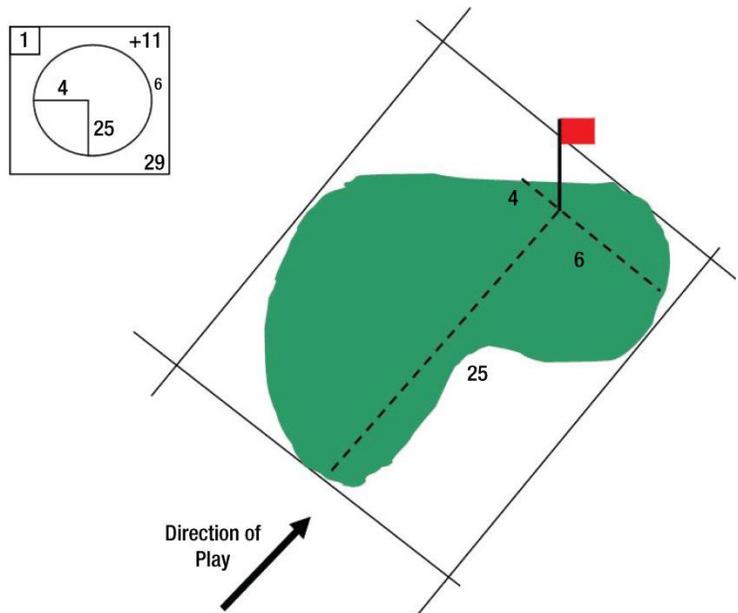
green using paces that approximate one yard. It is often easier to actually pace from back to front, because you can easily spot where the typical approach shot would come from, ensuring that you are accurately measuring in the direction of play.

When determining the location of the hole the most effective method is to stand next to the hole location and pace to the front of the putting green along the line of play. That is, pace back toward where the ideal approach shot would come from. If obstacles such as bunkers or water hazards prevent pacing along this line, you will have to approximate the line by pacing along a parallel line that allows you to measure to the front of the green.

In this diagram, the hole is 19 paces from the front of the putting green and 5 from the right. Note that the 5 is measured from the nearest right edge of the putting green unlike measuring from the front which is done from the absolute front. In this diagram the nearest edge happens to coincide with the absolute right edge.

Diagram 2 - Close Edge

Using the same putting green with a different hole location, we can see that whether the hole is on the left or right side of the putting green is not relevant for the hole location sheet. The player needs to know where the closest edge to the hole is. In this case, although the hole may actually be cut to the right of the centre line of the putting green, it is a left hole location on the hole location sheet. This diagram also illustrates that when there is an edge that is 6 paces or less from the flagstick, we also need to provide this information to the Tournament Director. With proper input, the hole location sheet will provide the additional information by placing a small “6” on the hole location sheet as illustrated in the diagram.



The “+11” in the top right corner indicates that the hole is 11 yards past the centre of the putting green. Again, the software will automatically generate this information.

Diagram 3 - Par 4 versus Par 5

In Diagram 3 we can see how measuring the same hole and putting green can result in different numbers depending on where the typical approach shot is coming from. The hole played as a par 5 will have a short approach shot from Point B and the green would be measured by pacing from line F - F to line G - G making the green depth 20 paces. The same hole played as a par 4 will have a long approach shot from point A and the green would be measured by pacing from line H - H to line J - J with a green depth of 32.

