

CREATING A TWO TEE SYSTEM FOR WOMEN

IT'S TIME TO MOVE FORWARD.

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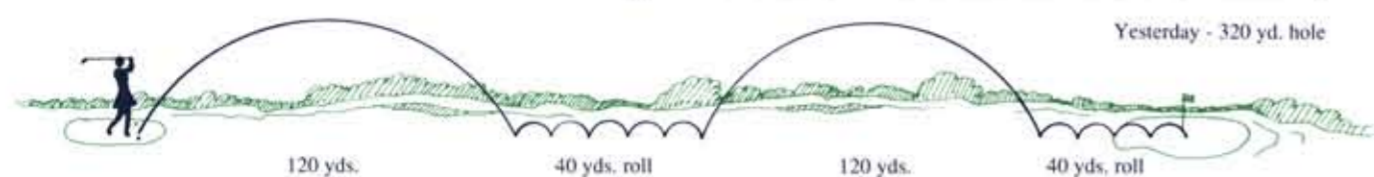
Men have a choice of playing from different teeing grounds to accommodate their various abilities. Women have no choice - it is like asking them all to wear the same dress size. As the number of women golfers increases, the interest in providing two teeing areas for these golfers increases as well. Golf course personnel who recognize the fact that women make up a main source of weekday golf need to assess their yardages to create a manageable course for women golfers.

There are about 1% of women golfers capable of playing a 5800 (the national average) yard golf course. The average woman needs a more manageable 4800 - 5200 yardage. The longer yardage should not be taken away, but rather new forward tees should be in addition to the longer yardage.

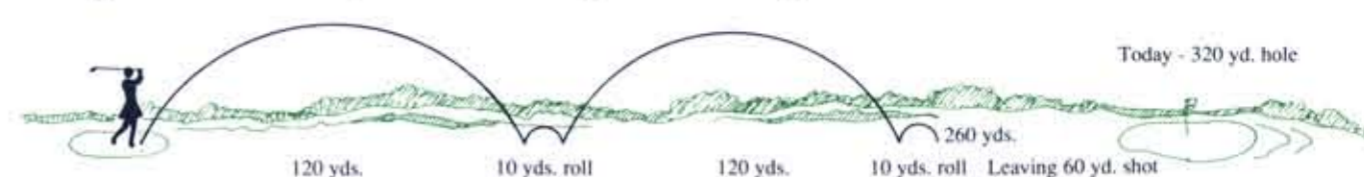
Addition of new forward tees to the existing tees used by women provides a challenging, yet pleasurable golfing experience for both the low handicap female golfer and for those players who are not as long off the tee.

CURRENT RESEARCH

- According to the National Golf Foundation, one in four golfers is a woman and 41% of all new golfers are women. According to the newest research the average woman drives the ball 130 yards.
- USGA information indicates that the average course length for women is 5800 yards and for men 6400 yards. This same research shows that low handicap women hit the ball 85% as far as the men do and the average woman hits the ball 75% as far as men do. Using these statistics, it would indicate that the low handicap



This illustration above shows that a woman player could reach a 320 yd. hole in regulation with the additional roll when fairways were more firm.



This illustration above shows that a woman player will need 3 shots to reach a 320 yd. hole with today's lush fairways.

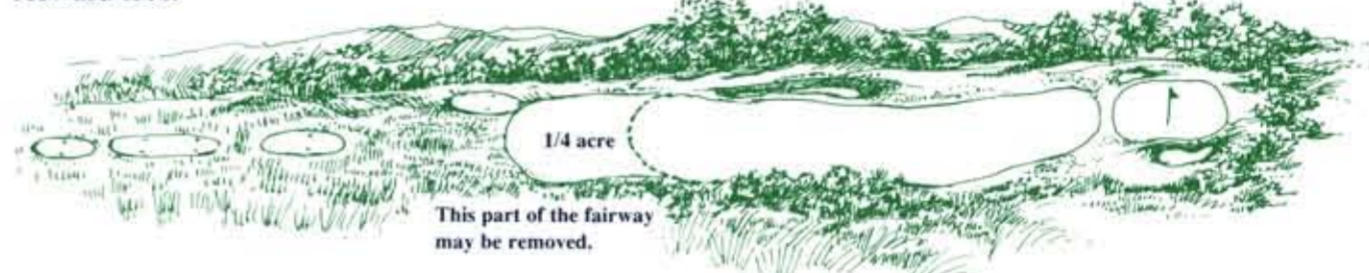
WHY THE TWO TEE SYSTEM IS GAINING MOMENTUM

- 1 There is now a greater diversity among women players. The type of player has changed and more women with less previous experience are playing. Because of this disparity, two tees should be created to accommodate the various types of women players. The longer yardage tee should provide for a course yardage from 5400 to 5800 yards, while the shorter yardage forward tee should provide for a course that measures from 4600 to 5400 yards.
- 2 Women are not the only consideration. The use of the golf cart has prolonged the playing activity of elderly players. They too would be able to use the forward tees to have a challenging, yet playable course that would accommodate their difference in strength. Courses have extended holes for stronger players, but have neglected shortening holes for those with lesser strength.
- 3 Junior golf programs are not limited to the teen players, who have burgeoning strength and need to sharpen their accuracy skills. Instead, junior golfers are learning the game at younger and younger ages. By offering them a shorter distance forward tee placement, these young junior golfers will find golf more enjoyable, and will be more likely to continue to find golf both rewarding and interesting throughout their lives.
- 4 The new forward tee system would return playability of the course to the original intent of the design before watered fairways. The new forward tees should be placed so that they not only cut the yardage of

the course, but so that they provide the best placement to maintain interest and playability for the golfers using these new tee locations.

5 By making the holes more playable for a variety of players, it is entirely possible that the course will play faster. If even six holes decrease by one shot, and it takes one minute a shot, a foursome will reduce playing time by 24 minutes.

6 Forward tees make it possible to reduce the amount of fairway mowing and spraying by reducing the fairway in front of the forward tee. This savings could be utilized to provide for the creation of the new forward tees.



This part of the fairway may be removed.

HOW TO CREATE NEW FORWARD TEES

The most important point to remember is that forward tees are an addition not a replacement for the existing tees. Women must have a choice of playing either a long or shorter yardage as men do. In creating new forward tees, it is not the intent to take the challenge out of the game. Rather, it is to adapt the playing charac-

teristics of the holes to the major segment of players. Average women players are not overly strong and do not generate enough clubhead speed for long carries or shots with backspin.

ADDING FORWARD TEES TO EXISTING COURSES

Par Four Holes

- U.S.G.A. Yardage Guidance 211-400 Yards
- Suggested playing yardage for back tees for women 300-380 yards
- Suggested playing yardage for forward tees for women 240-340 yards

Usually the best place to start adding new tees to an existing golf course is with the par 4 holes. Most courses have reachable par 3s and the par 5s are not much over the regulation 401 yards.

Today's watered golf courses are playing longer than the architect intended. The distance of par 4s originally was designed to include roll on the unwatered fairways and thus allow the player to reach the green in the regulation two shots. Holes of 380 yards originally reached with two shots of 150 yards plus 50 yards of roll are no longer reachable.

Today's average woman golfer hits a drive of approximately 130 yards and a second wood about 120 yards. Any hole that measures more than 250 yards is unreachable in regulation. A hole that measures up to 340 yards will leave the golfer an iron approach and a chance at a one putt par. Holes longer than 340 yards will require 3 woods and little chance of success.

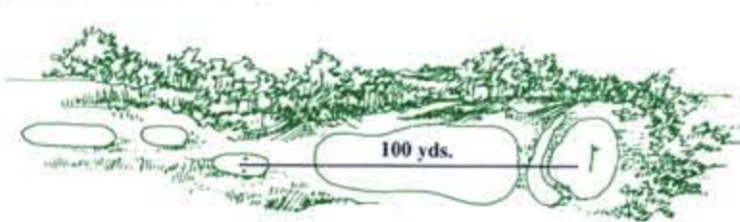
Par Three Holes

- U.S.G.A. Yardage Guidance Up to 210 Yards
- Suggested playing yardage for back tees for women 120 yards to 200 yards
- Suggested playing yardages for forward tees for women 60 yards to 150 yards

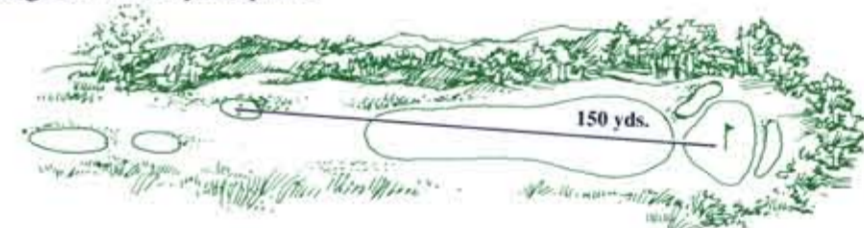
1 A par 3 with a forced carry over water or a ravine should not require more than a 75 yard carry for women. The yardage could be longer, but the carry should not exceed 75 yards.



2 Par 3 holes with a sand bunker completely guarding the green should not require more than 100 yards carry. A wood shot will probably be needed, but failure to make the carry may not be a penalty stroke since women are able to hit out of a sand bunker.



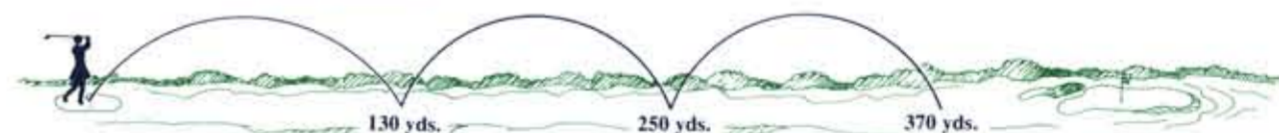
3 Par 3 holes with a fairway and an entrance to the green may run up to 150 yards. They may not be reachable with the tee shot, but would leave only a short pitch from a fairway lie. Your average woman golfer does not like all short par three holes, and will accept the challenge of a 150 yard par 3.



Par Five Holes

- U.S.G.A. Yardage Guidance 401-575
- Suggested playing yardage for back tees for women 420 yards-540 yards
- Suggested playing yardage for forward tees for women 401-420 Yards

Par 5 holes are usually *unreachable* in 3 shots by the average woman golfer. For instance, this golfer would hit a 130 yard drive; a 120 yard second wood shot and a 120 third wood shot, for a total of 370 yards. Par 5s require 401 yards so the forward tee yardage should not be much more than the regulation 401 yards.



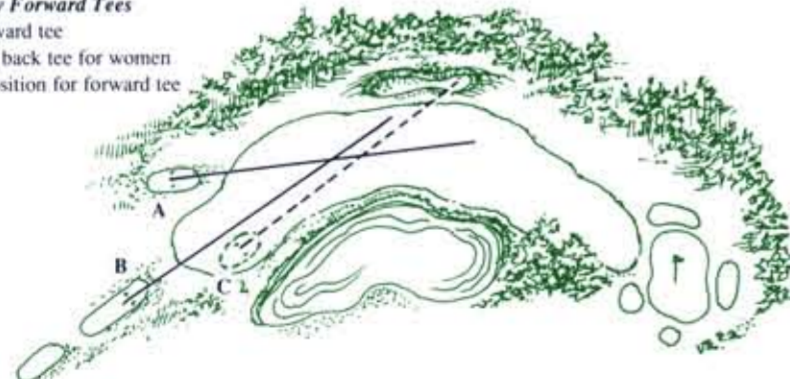
POSITION OF THE NEW FORWARD TEES

Several considerations should be addressed when determining the position of the forward tees:

1 Proper Angle - Shooting Away from Angles. The proper playing angle must be considered. If the hole is a dog leg, the tee should be placed on the side that diminishes the dog leg so that a longer shot does not go through the fairway.

Position of New Forward Tees

- A Correct forward tee
- B Position for back tee for women
- C Incorrect position for forward tee



2 Safety from another hole.

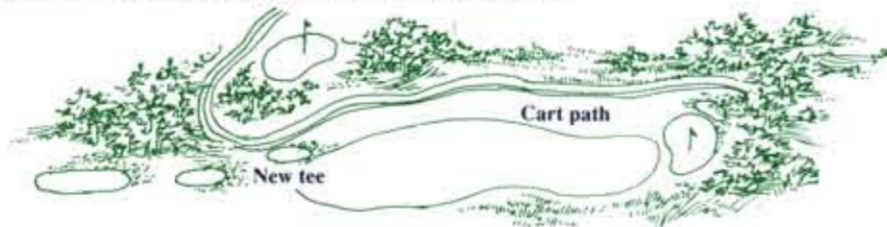


Could be hit from another hole.

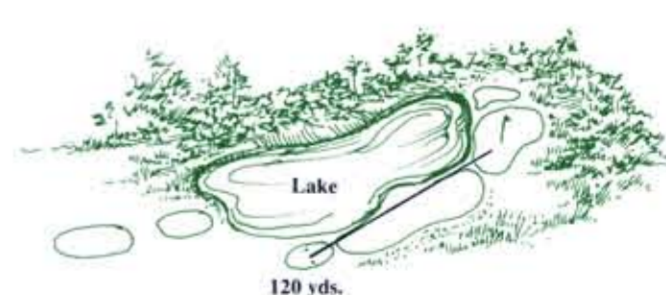
4 Fit in with natural contour of the ground.



3 As close as possible to the preceding green, near the cart path, and out of the line of vision of back tees. Try to position so women do not cross over in front of back tee.



5 Place the tee beside the water instead of behind it.



CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW FORWARD TEES

On new golf courses, the architect should plan two teeing grounds for women. On an existing golf course, if there is a feasible flat spot that would make the hole play well, this area may be mowed short and the women encouraged to try playing the hole from this position before building a permanent tee.

The ideal tee size is approximately 20 feet long so that it can be easily mowed. This size will require 40

yards of sand or good topsoil to allow for 600 square feet of top surface plus the slope of the sides.

Tees on par 3 holes should be larger, and where this tee tends to be used as a drop area for the rear tees, a lower level in fairway grass should be constructed to be used as a drop area.

COST

The following cost breakdown represents the average cost of creating a new 600 square foot forward tee:

40 Yards good sand or topsoil @ \$12.00 per yard	\$480.00	SUBTOTAL	\$1340.00
600 sq. ft. bent grass sod (surface) @ \$0.30/ft. laid	180.00	Labor costs (Approx. 50% of Materials costs)	670.00
600 sq. ft. blue grass sod (sides) @ \$0.30/ft. laid	180.00	TOTAL	\$2,010.00
New irrigation heads, plus installation	500.00		

HOW WILL THIS CHANGE EFFECT HANDICAPS, TOURNAMENTS AND DAILY PLAY?

The USGA rating handbook recommends rating from two different tees for women. A rating and slope for women from each set should be given by the rating committee. The men's rating committee may consider giving a rating and slope for men from all tees.

Intra-club events can be handled by flights which may contain an unequal number of players. For example, the Championship flight might only have 7 players who would play the back tees for women. The other flights might have 13, 20, 31 players according to handicaps, and they would play the forward yardage. Prizes could be awarded in value equated to the number of players in each flight.

If a course is rated and sloped correctly, the handicap index will not go down. When going to another club which is more difficult, more strokes will be given. Conversely, when high handicap players from a high slope course come to play the easier course, some of their strokes will be taken away.

Keep in mind that a high course rating should not be a status symbol. Remember, if a course was rated for the touring professionals, it would be about 64. Why should women golfers play something so much more difficult when there is a solution to the problem?