

APPLICATION ENCLOSED

Enclosed in this month's HOLE NOTES is an application for membership in the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association. If you know of someone interested in joining our organization, please pass it on.

Our association offers many benefits to the superintendent as well as his staff. As a member, this enables him to attend our monthly meetings at various golf courses throughout Minnesota and parts of western Wisconsin. This is an opportunity to play and view other golf courses, as well as meet and talk with other superintendents and their staff. This monthly newsletter is sent out keeping us abreast of developments in the golf course industry. We also host a three day educational conference the first week of December at the Sheraton Northwest in Brooklyn Park. The first day is devoted to recertification in both turf and aquatic pesticides. The second and third days are devoted to topics ranging from turf management by leading professors in turf, to motivational talks, to talks by local and national superintendents. In March we host a one day mini-seminar that has guest speakers such as golf course architects, golf pros, lawyers, turf professors, etc.

Our association is a progressive organization that serves our members by keeping them informed of developments in the industry with a concern for the future of our golf courses.

USGA Recommendations Regarding Hole Locations

The USGA frequently receives requests for guidelines with respect to selection of hole locations on the putting greens, **particularly during competitions.**

The USGA believes that many factors affect selection of hole locations. The first and most important is good judgment in deciding what will give fair results. Do not be tricky in locating holes.

Following are specific points:

(1) Study the design of the hole as the architect intended it to be played. Know the length of the shot to the green and how it may be affected by the probably conditions for the day — that is, wind and other weather elements, condition of the turf from which the shot will be played, and holding quality of the green.

(2) There must be enough putting green surface between the hole and the front and the sides of the green to accommodate the required shot. For example, if the hole requires a long iron or wood shot to the green, the hole should be located deeper in the green and further from its sides than should be the case if the hole requires a short pitch shot.

In any case, it is recommended that generally the hole be located at least five paces from any edge of the green. If a bunker is close to the edge, or if the ground slopes away from the edge, the distance should be greater, especially if the shot is more than a pitch.

Consideration should be given to fair opportunity for recovery

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after a reasonably good shot that just misses the green.

(3) An area two to three feet in radius around the hole should be as nearly level as possible and of uniform grade. In no case should holes be located in tricky places, or on sharp slopes where a ball can gather speed. A player above the hole should be able to stop the ball at the hole.

(4) Consider the condition of nearby turf, especially taking care to avoid old hole plugs which have not completely healed.

(5) Holes should be cut as nearly on the vertical as possible, not plumb with the contour of the green.

(6) There should be a balanced selection of hole locations for the entire course with respect to left, right, central, front and back positions. For example, avoid too many left positions with resulting premium on drawn or hooked shots.

(7) For a competition played over several days, the course should be kept in balance daily as to degree of difficulty. In a stroke competition, the first hole of the first round is as important as the last hole of the last round, and so the course should not be set up appreciably more difficult for any round — balanced treatment is the aim. An old concept of making the course progressively harder round after round is fallacious. One form of balanced daily treatment is to select six quite difficult hole locations, six which are moderately difficult, and six which are relatively easy.

(8) During practice days before a competition, locate holes in areas not to be used during the competition and which will not result in areas to be used being impaired by foot traffic.

(9) Anticipate the players' traffic patterns. Locate holes for

early rounds so that good hole locations for later rounds will not be spoiled by players leaving the green.

(10) In match play, a hole location may, if necessary, be changed during a round provided the players in each match play with the hole in the same location.

In stroke play, rule 33-2b requires that all competitors in a single round play with each hole cut in the same position, but see Exception to that Rule.

When 36 holes are played in one day, it is not customary for hole locations to be changed between rounds, but there is no Rule to prohibit changing them. If they are changed, all players should be informed.

(11) The greenkeeper who cuts the holes should make sure that the Rules of Golf are observed, especially the requirements that the hole-liner not exceed 4 1/4 inches in outer diameter and that it be sunk at least one inch below the putting green surface.

(Credit: *The Bull Sheet*, July, 1988)

RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER!

If you know someone, a friend, an assistant, a co-worker who is interested in our association . . . be sure to bring them to our next meeting.



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