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What If There Were No Rules?

By E. MICHAEL JOHNSON
Golf World Business

In this era of conforming versus nonconforming, it has been said the United States Golf Association is all that stands in the way of golf equipment designers turning into mad scientists. True? We asked three R&D veterans to throw out the USGA's "Rules of Golf" and see what they could come up with in clubs and balls. Here are some possibilities.

Want to hit more fairways than Calvin Peete in his prime? Adams golf Chairman and CEO Barney Adams would start by locating shafts in the center of clubheads. According to Adams, center-shafted clubs would reduce the droop in the shaft, thus increasing the golfer's chances of hitting a straight shot.

In irons, former Cobra club designer Clay Long contends that placing more mass beyond the allowed 0.625-inch distance behind the shaft would result in larger, counter-balanced iron heads that would reduce the chance of slicing.

What about golf balls? How does 14 extra yards sound? John Calabria, vice president of research and development for Maxfli, says it's not hard.

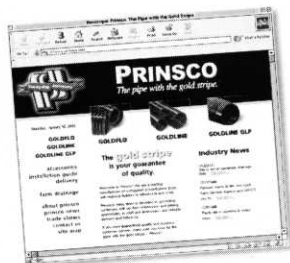
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"Center-shafted clubs would reduce the droop in the shaft, thus increasing the golfer's chances of hitting a straight shot."

According to Calabria, one yard is gained for every .010 inch the ball's diameter is reduced. Decreasing the ball's diameter from 1.68 inches to 1.62 inches, for example, would add six yards. Additionally, Calabria says that one yard is gained for every .5 gram of weight added. Therefore, his prescribed 2-gram increase would net another four yards. Finally, increasing ball velocity (achieved by firming up a ball's core) from 253 feet per second to 256 feet per second would tack on another 3.45

"Decreasing the ball's diameter from 1.68 inches to 1.62 inches, for example, would add six yards."

yards (1.15 yards per added foot per second).

As with most things, there are trade-offs. Calabria, for instance, is quick to point out that this type of ball would only benefit someone with a high swing speed, and the only true reward is the additional distance. Still, it's fun to look at the possibilities - and inside the minds of some mad scientists.

GCSAA's 2001 "Footsteps on the Green" Recipients Announced

The GCSAA Foundation's Footsteps on the Green program recognizes this year's first and second place winners, Brian Schultz, turf management student at South Dakota State University, and Peter J. Rappoccio, crop, soil and environmental sciences student at Virginia Polytechnical Institute and University.

The program offers educational aid to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members who are following in their parents'/grandparents' footsteps in the golf course management profession. To help further education, the first place winner of the competition receives a \$3,500 scholarship and the second place winner receives a \$2,500 scholarship. The awards are funded by The Trans-Mississippi Golf Association and administered by The GCSAA Foundation.

Brian is the son of Douglas Schultz, golf course superintendent at Will Creek Golf Course in LeMars, Iowa.

Peter is the son of Peter R. Rappoccio, certified golf course superintendent at Silver Springs Country Club in Ridgefield, Conn.

To be eligible for the scholarships, one or more of the applicant's parents or grandparents must have been a GCSAA member for five or more consecutive years and remain active. Each applicant must be a full-time student enrolled in a major field related to golf/turf management, must have completed 12 credit hours in a major field of study (sophomore, junior or senior) and pursuing a career in golf course management.

Applicants are evaluated based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community involvement, which may include membership in one of GCSAA's 50 student chapters. The applicants also must complete a short, 100-word essay on why they have chosen a career in golf course management and describe their own observations, insights and expectations about the profession and their career goals.

Founded in 1900, the **Trans-Mississippi Golf Association** is one of the oldest and most prestigious golf organizations in the United States. As one of the first golf organizations to recognize the necessity to educate qualified men and women in golf course management and turf research, the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association has sponsored its Turf Scholarship Program since 1962. This scholarship program encourages agronomy and horticulture students to pursue golf course management and supervision as a career, places a special emphasis on turf management and grass culture, awards scholarships to deserving students, helps graduates find jobs and seeks to uplift

the image of the profession.

The GCSAA Foundation enhances the game of golf through funding applied research and advanced education in golf course management. Since its inception in 1955, The GCSAA Foundation has provided more than \$2 million in support of numerous research studies and more than 1,200 student scholarships.

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Changing Landscape—

(Continued from Page 14)

updated Water Use Classification of Landscape Species (WUCOLS) chart to select low water use plantings that will thrive in your region. Good soil preparation and mulching also contribute to efficient water use. Soil with high organic content will retain moisture rather than repel it. Prepare and maintain soil with compost to raise organic content and condition the soil. Mulching helps retain moisture in the soil and has other benefits including weed control and soil consistency. Mulch liberally in areas of high solar exposure to keep moisture from evaporating away.

Low Waste Generation

Landscape professionals may be less familiar with waste issues, but they are no less important. "Green" waste, much of it coming from landscape maintenance, continues to be a large part of what our communities throw away. Most everyone understand the "ethic" of recycling and participates in recycling programs in their communities. This same concern for waste reduction should also extend into the yardscape by using low-waste plantings and practices that will reduce waste generation.

First, use low waste plantings in the landscape. Select drought-tolerant slow growth plantings appropriate for the region. Also consider placement and spacing. Don't crowd landscaping where minimal growth will require pruning. Proper spacing between plants allows more natural growth, minimizing the need for excessive pruning.

Make every attempt to prune conservatively. Pruning is a large contributor of waste when performed in an excessive and haphazard fashion. Pruning should be limited to maintain controlled, but natural growth patterns. "Topping" or "shearing" where large quantities of material is removed is wasteful and unhealthy.

Using shredded green waste as a mulch is a great reuse of waste materials. Mulching provide a variety of benefits, including weed prevention, moisture retention, mud abatement and erosion control. As an added benefit, when organic mulch decomposes, it will condition the soil and add important nutrient.

Finally, an important step in reducing waste generation is to reduce turf areas. Grass lawns are a heavy contributor of waste, especially during the warmer months. By reducing turf area, maintenance, waste disposal and irrigation requirements can be significantly reduced. Removal of small, irregular shaped turf areas removes difficult mowing transitions, which results in easier maintenance. Replace grass with slow-growth, drought-tolerant ground covers for attractive landscaping with significantly lower maintenance requirements and costs.

Marketing Resource Efficiency

Becoming a "green" (environmentally conscious) landscape professional carries more weight in the marketplace

these days than in the past. Not only are more residents and businesses aware of the importance of saving water and recycling, but many have adopted "green" practices themselves. Landscape professionals can use this new awareness to position themselves as an environmentally friendly service. Begin to cultivate an "attitude" within your company that resource efficient landscaping is "good for business" environmentally, economically and competitively. Begin to integrate some or all of the practices discussed here into company practices. You will find that new and existing customers will respond positively to practices that help the environment and make economic sense.

* * *

(Editor's Note: For additional information on Resource Efficient landscapes, contact the Landscape Management Outreach Partnership (LMOP) at (925) 906-1801.)

Penn State Agronomy Department Changes Name For Sake of Clarity

The agronomy department at Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences has changed its name. Beginning this month, it will be known as the department of crop and soil sciences.

The name was changed after extensive consultation with faculty, alumni and agricultural industry professionals, according to A.J. Turgeon, professor of turfgrass management and interim department head.

"We made the change for the sake of clarity," Turgeon said. "Agronomy has always been about crop production and soil resources, but it's an older term that a lot of people aren't familiar with. Many other departments have changed their names for the same reason.

"Our research and extension activities in production agriculture, environmental stewardship and land use policy won't change. Our faculty have actively researched and trained graduate students in these areas for years. But acknowledging soil science in the department name should enhance our ability to attract the best students."

The National Golf Foundation has released its latest editions of **Golf Facilities in the U.S. and Golf Participation in the U.S.**

Highlights from Golf Facilities include:

- ~Golf course openings once again surpassed 500, with a total of 524.
- ~Courses under construction at the end of the year showed a 25 percent decrease from 1999.
- ~Daily fee and municipal courses comprised 87 percent of all openings in 2000.
- ~Just under 70 percent of last year's openings were new facilities.

Golf Participation highlights included:

- ~From 1995 through 2000, the number of golfers grew by 1.3 percent a year while golf courses increased by 2.1 percent a year.
- ~In 2000 the average U.S. golfer was 40.8 years old, with a household income of \$63,645 and played 22 rounds.
- ~The number of Core and Junior golfers increased during the year, while those classified as Occasional golfers declined.
- ~Core golfers comprised about 51 percent of the total golfer population, compared to 46 percent in 1999.

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Wayzata Country Club Set To Host MGCSA Championship on Aug. 20

Here's A Hole-by-Hole Preview

- No. 1**
Par 4, 400 Yards - The fairway bunker on the left takes about 215 yards to carry. The fairway slopes left to right. Favor the left side, as most balls will bounce to the right. Keep your second shot below the hole.
- No. 2**
Par 5, 483 Yards - The three fairway bunkers on the right side take from 200-245 yards to carry. The second shot requires more placement than length. Play it short or right of the bunker short of the green. This bunker is 40 yards short of the green. If you feel you can fly this bunker, go for it.
- No. 3**
Par 4, 374 Yards - It takes 235 yards to fly the fairway bunker on the left, deep bunker and difficult to hit the green. Any tee shot straying to the right will have tree trouble. It's best to stay below the hole on your approach.
- No. 4**
Par 3, 172 Yards - Severe slopes on a large green. Long putts with a lot of break are common. It is best to knock it about 8 feet below the hole.
- No. 5**
Par 4, 426 Yards - The fairway bunker takes 235 yards to carry. A well-placed drive can shorten this hole. Stay below the cup if the pin is back.
- No. 6**
Par 5, 499 Yards - The pond has a carry distance of 240 yards. The trap on the other side of the fairway can be reached if you go over the pond. Hit two solid shots and you will have a short iron to the green.
- No. 7**
Par 4, 385 Yards - Tight driving hole with willow trees on both sides. The second shot is uphill and requires a little more distance than the yardage markers indicate.
- No. 8**
Par 3, 134 Yards - Large green with many greenside bunkers. Go for the pin. A fairly flat green, but tricky to putt.
- No. 9**
Par 4, 432 Yards - Sharp dogleg to the left. It's 230 to the top of the hill. You can hook your tee shot more than it looks. Second shot is downhill to a large green. Stay short of the pin and don't miss the green to the right or it might bounce out of bounds.
- No. 10**
Par 4, 418 Yards - This is a long, flat hole along Wayzata Boulevard. Stay in the fairway on the tee shot.
- No. 11**
Par 4, 382 Yards - Tight driving hole with out of bounds on the left. It takes 235 yards to carry the fairway bunkers on the right. Elevated green plays faster than it looks.
- No. 12**
Par 5, 500 Yards - Dogleg left over a pond that takes 260 yards to carry. Small pond on the right comes into play on the second shot. There is a severe slope to the green.
- No. 13**
Par 3, 178 Yards - Large green with bunkers on both sides.
- No. 14**
Par 4, 361 Yards - A dogleg right with a tight driving alley. Fairway bunkers are 240 yards straight out. It takes 240 yards and a high tee shot to carry the trees.
- No. 15**
Par 5, 538 Yards - Long hole with a creek running up the right side. Fairway bunkers on the left come into play on the second shot. The bunker on the right is 30 yards short of the green.
- No. 16**
Par 4, 394 Yards - Great driving hole from an elevated tee box. Out of bounds is on the right side and trees on both sides of the fairway. A large green that breaks more than it looks.
- No. 17**
Par 3, 165 Yards - Tee shot is down hill and plays a half a club less. Difficult pitch if you fly the green. Out of bounds on the right.
- No. 18**
Par 4, 420 Yards - One of the best finishing holes in the state. The hole doglegs to the right to an elevated green. The first set of fairway bunkers takes 235 to carry. Trees line both sides and requires a left to right tee shot. Stay left and below the pin otherwise a 3- or 4-putt comes into play.

3304 Yardage out 3356 Yardage in
6660 Total

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL UPDATE

On The Road With The USGA

BY: BOB BRAME

Director, North Central Region

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Despite all our wonderful technology in today's golf turf management, weather is still the number one factor in determining turf quality and playability. Most areas of the region experienced a quick snap to cold last November, which brought on some winter-related injuries. The winter-related weather concerns, in most cases, tied to either drainage limitations or newly planted areas that simply did not have a chance to mature before the cold hit.

Early this spring we experienced warm temperatures and very dry weather coming out of the winter. Since the nighttime temperatures continued to fall back during this time soil temperatures remained low, and consistent growth was simply not occurring. The next twist was the wet weather pattern, which lingered for a few weeks and compromised most maintenance efforts moving into mid-spring. More recently, the weather patterns have become a bit more typical with the heat and humidity we've come to expect in late spring moving into early summer. The combination does pose the question, what's next? If Mother Nature combines hot and wet in the days ahead all of what we've been through over the last few months will be dwarfed in comparison.

Ultimately, the possibility of harsh weather is one of the primary reasons why we do things like aeration, tree removal, sound fertilization that includes spoon-feeding through the summer, and establish mowing heights that balance health and playability. While it's always possible to get away with less than solid efforts in one of these areas, harsh weather becomes the day of reckoning. Hopefully we won't experience tough weather ahead, but it's also hoped that your maintenance program has prepared for the worst.

Dollar spot disease activity continues to be an issue throughout the region. In fact, for a number of courses the intensity seems to have picked up where it left off last year. While minimizing dollar spot disease damage, consider the amount of water used as a carrier with fungicide applica-

"Dollar spot disease activity continues to be an issue throughout the region. In fact, for a number of courses the intensity seems to have picked up where it left off last year."

tions. Equally, reduce the time of leaf wetness in the morning by dragging dew. It's also been reported by a number of superintendents that better control is achieved by spraying fairly dry turf as opposed to over spraying dew. Further, maintain a preventative posture with dollar spot disease control as the problem is much more difficult to handle once inoculum builds up. In this case, preventative is IPM at its best. A curative approach will often require a higher fungicide input and still yield poor control.

The beetles are flying through most areas of the region, and as such, grub control needs to be finalized. Last year a number of courses applied insecticides too early, and as a result experienced damage in late summer/early fall. Carefully consider timing relative to the targeted pests and product being used.

Remember, as we move into the summer months, keep it as dry as applicable variables allow. Hopefully, Mother Nature will aid our efforts.

(Editor's Note: Bob Brame may be reached at 859-356-3272.)

*The game has such a hold on golfers
because they compete not only against an opponent,
but also against the course, against par,
and most surely -- against themselves."*

- Arnold Palmer