

PREPARING YOUR COURSE FOR A WOMEN'S COMPETITION

Kendra Graham
United States Golf Association
Far Hills, New Jersey

- I. Course set-up (two phases)
 - A. One year in advance
 1. condition of golf course
 2. weather conditions
 - a. no overall yardage - length of each hole determined individually
 - b. identify the player and keep in mind their average length
 - c. play each hole as architect intended it to be played
 - 1) one short par-3, one long par-3, two medium length holes
 - 2) one short par-5
 - 3) player should use every club in her bag
 - d. talk to golf course superintendent about height of grass
 - 1) establish intermediate cut of rough, if possible
 - 2) fast, but not firm greens
 - B. 3 days prior to championship
 1. hole locations
 - a. determine locations for championship days, then practice round locations
 - 1) rate each location
 - 2) mix front, back, left, right, and center
 - b. size of putting green, bunkering, and club being used for approach shot are extremely important
 - c. if a long club is being used, favor back locations - save front locations for short shots
 2. average driving distances
 - a. Women's Open - 230
 - b. U.S. Women's Amateur - 200
 - c. U.S. Girl's Junior - 200
 - d. USGA Women's Senior Amateur - 185
 - e. "Bogey golfer" - 165
 - f. Test group - 142 (avg. handicap - 21)
 - g. 30 handicapper - 130
 3. Marking the course
 - a. out of bounds (Definition)
 - 1) fences, stakes
 - a) no need to use both
 - b. water hazards and lateral water hazards
 - c. ground under repair
 4. Mowing, etc.
 - a. tees, fairways, and greens daily
 - 1) if fairways cannot be mowed in the morning, drag dew
 - b. cut new holes
 - 1) hole liner sunk at least one inch
 - c. placement of tee-markers
 - 1) align with center of drive zone
 - a) fixed objects, cannot be moved by players
 - 2) two club-lengths in depth
 - 3) paint dot
 - d. bunker rakes - outside bunkers
 - e. Local Rules