



## Decisions and Definitions



A Rules Clinic  
by the  
*Rules of Golf  
Committee*

OF THE

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## Many Factors Are Considered When Setting Pins For Tourney

The question is asked: What is the USGA policy with respect to hole locations, particularly during tournament play.

Many factors are taken into consideration in locating the holes. The most important over-riding consideration is good judgment in selecting a location which will be fair, not tricky. Here are some specific points:

● 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 probable conditions for the day (wind and other weather conditions, condition of the fairway turf and the holding quality of the green).

● There must be enough putting surface between the hole and the edges of the green to accommodate the required shot. For example, if the hole calls for a long iron shot into the green, the hole should be located deeper in the green and further from the sides than for a short pitch shot.

● The USGA recommends a location 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, this distance may be extended and, especially, if the shot is more than a pitch. Consideration also is given to a fair opportunity for recovery after a reasonably good shot that barely misses the green.

● An area two to three feet in ra-

dus around the hole should be in good condition without any steep slopes or, if possible, without any changes in degree of slope. In other words, the hole should be located in an area surrounded by reasonably level surface or, at least, of uniform and slight grade.

● Holes should be cut as nearly vertical as possible, not plumb with the contour of the green and care should be taken to avoid cutting the hole to close to an old hole plug not yet completely healed.

● There should be a fairly good balance in the selection of locations, avoiding too many locations either on the left or right side which would place a premium on one type of shot.

● Degree of difficulty should be kept in balance for a competition played over a span of days. The old concept of "toughening up" the course as the tournament progresses has been discarded. The idea is to strive for an over-all balance, selecting each day six holes to be played under difficult pin positions, six relatively difficult holes, and six others moderately difficult—and rotating them daily.

● In the early rounds, players' traffic patterns should be anticipated to reduce wear and tear on the greens and spare good hole locations for the later rounds.

The greenkeeper who cuts the holes should take pains to observe the requirements that the liner not exceed 4½ inches in outer diameter and that it be sunk at least one inch below the surface of the putting green.