

# Principles of Club Fitting

## Discussed at Michigan Meeting

ONE of the highlights of the spring meeting of the PGA, Michigan Section, for assistant pros was a discussion of club fitting. All aspects of the subject were thoroughly gone into with the result that the assistants came away with a greatly enlarged understanding of this phase of their craft. Emil Beck, honorary vp, and Joe Devany, former pres. of the Michigan organization, in a report recently released, summarized conclusions that were reached at the session. Here it is in condensed form:

### Club Fitting for Men

For the average man (5-ft. 7-in. to 6-ft. 1-in.), a 43-inch driver and a 38½-in. 2-iron are correct. **Reason:** A shorter man needs leverage to acquire clubhead speed; a taller man doesn't need leverage due to his height and arm length, but does need control. That is why the latter shouldn't be fitted with a longer club.

A tall man (6-ft. 2-in. or 6-ft. 3-in.) needs a driver and 2-iron ½-inch longer than those shown above for comfort at address. A man 6-ft. 4-in. should use a 44-in. driver and 39½-in. 2-iron for the same reason.

A short man (5-ft. 4-in. to 5-ft. 6-in.) will probably need a 42½-in. driver and 38-in. 2-iron because longer clubs probably would be too unwieldy for him to handle or swing correctly.

### Weight, Grip, Flex

After fitting the player for length one must consider the following pertinent facts:

Weight of club

Swing weight (most important)

Grip size

Shaft flex.

A strong player needs a heavier club (about D4 or D5) with a strong shaft (S or X) and if he has large hands he needs a larger grip.

The average player needs the average swing weight (D1, D2 or D3) and a normal grip with a medium shaft (R)

The below-average or older player needs a swing weight of about C9 or D with the medium (R) shaft or the (A) shaft which has more flex.

Of course, if one knows the player's game well there will be some exceptions to these standards but generally very few.

### Club Fitting for Women

The general pattern for women should follow the lines for fitting men:

(5-ft. to 5-ft. 3-in.) 41½-in. wood — 37-in. 2-iron.

(5-ft. 4-in. to 5-ft. 6-in.) 42-in. wood — 37½-in. 2-iron.

(5-ft. 7-in. to 5-ft. 9-in.) 42½-in. wood — 38-in. 2-iron.

(5-ft. 10-in. and taller) 43-in. wood — 38½-in. 2-iron.

In the 5-ft. 7-in. to 5-ft. 9-in. bracket we recommend a 42½-in. wood and a 38-in. 2-in. iron whereas with men of approximately same height we mentioned a 43-in. wood and a 38½-in. iron. The reason for this one-half inch difference is because we feel that women are not as strong and handle a slightly shorter club much better.

With the women more so than with men, one has to be more careful regarding swing weight, length, shaft flex and grip size.

For the women we recommend starting the iron set at the 3-iron and continuing through the 9-iron, adding a sand iron.

For the woods, we feel the greater majority of players (both men and women) cannot use a 2-wood well. Instead replace the 2-wood with a 5-wood which would make the set 1, 3, 4 and 5.

All drivers should have at least 10 degs. of loft and in many cases 11 to 13 degs. loft.

As has been noted previously, there are always exceptions to the rule. In these specific cases your knowledge of the player's game will be the determining factor.

### Sound Advice from a Supt.

A recent observation made by J. L. Jennings, supt. of River Oaks CC, Houston, Tex., is one that undoubtedly will get wide endorsement among greenkeepers. Speaking at a meeting of the Gulf Coast Region of the Texas Turf Assn., Jennings said: "People don't deliberately mislead me when they suggest rates and methods of weed control materials application. However, they might not understand my practices or the nature of my turf. They may inadvertently quote me wrong rates or I might not hear correctly. To be safe, I always experiment a little on a nursery area so I'll know what's going to happen."