

Leavin' Your Mark

By Jeremiah Hoffmann, PGA Golf Professional, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

An important task that is often shared between the golf professional and the superintendent is marking the golf course. At Rolling Meadows this really depends on the timing of the event. The person that marks the course is usually the one with the more "open" schedule. As we know, "open" is a very relative term. I will be the first to admit that often times David is the one that has the responsibility at our club!

At this point, a few thoughts might be going through your mind: 1) Our regulars don't play by the rules anyway, so why bother? 2) Why is this important? Or, 3) I understand the importance, but where are you headed with this?

In basketball, the boundaries are easily defined. Everyone knows where the out of bounds lines are, where the half court line is, the free throw line, the 3 point line, even where the coach's box is located. You could say the same about base-


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ball, football, or any other sport.

An unmarked golf course is similar to a basketball game being played on a plain wooden floor. No one would know where the out of bounds are, what is a 3 pointer or a 2 pointer. So, what is the point? It's very important that we have our golf courses marked as often as possible. More importantly, I think it's very important that golf professionals and superintendents have many discussions about how their golf course is marked. Some things to consider: Are there safety concerns that would merit an in-course

out of bounds? Can we mark an area a lateral hazard to speed up play?

Would a drop zone clear up rules questions and allow players a similar drop? And there are many more situations that are unique to your golf course. By discussing how the golf course is marked and sharing the responsibility, you are ensuring that your customers are playing on a well defined course.

As always seems to be the case, the more you communicate, the easier things become. Extending that communication to your better players and most active members may also help you mark the golf course in a way that makes the course the most playable for everyone. Take the time to discuss when and how the golf course will be marked and your customers will see that you understand the importance of the rules of golf. Maybe, just maybe, they will even start to play by them! 



Environmentally Protected Areas need special consideration when marked. Lines should be as close to the hazard as possible and stakes should have a green top to them.



Drop zones are used to ensure all players have a drop of equal or consistent conditions.