

Proposed ADA Guidelines for Golf Courses Ready for Public Comment

The following information was excerpted from the "Recommendations for Accessibility Guidelines: Recreational Facilities and Outdoor Developed Areas" published by the Recreation Access Advisory Committee. These Guidelines are not the final law but have been proposed to supplement the "Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines." Note that the information here deals only with new construction or altered golf courses. Make sure you know the meaning of the "altered" before you think this doesn't apply to you. The information was provided for public comment only. It is very important that comments be made both for and against the guidelines. If no positive comments are received it will be interpreted to mean that revisions can be made, good or bad.

The purpose of this overview is to provide supplemental information to complement the proposed guidelines developed for the game of golf by the golf subcommittee under the recreation access advisory committee.

Accessible Route. A golf course will not be required to have an accessible route for play of the game through the green. However, most amenities and elements of the golf course (such as toilet rooms, snack bars, tees, greens, weather shelters, etc.) shall be accessible from the golf car path, or the golf car parking area if paths or such areas are provided.

- One teeing ground on each hole would have to be accessible, but not all teeing grounds. Accessible tees for each hole should be indicated on the scorecard.

- Where practice tees are provided, a minimum of one

teeing station or 5% of those provided—whichever is greater—shall be accessible.

- Where practice putting or chipping greens are provided, at least one shall be accessible.

- Bunkers and hazards are not accessible, and are not required to be with the exception of practice bunkers. Where practice bunkers are provided at least one of each shall be accessible.

- Where toilet rooms are provided on a golf course, such toilet rooms shall be located on an accessible route from the golf car path, if provided, or golf car parking area, if provided.

- Where weather shelters are provided which serve the golf players, they shall have clear space at least 5' by 8' to allow at least one golf car to be pulled underneath. This space is in addition to normal space provided for sheltering.

- Accessible parking spaces serving a particular golf course shall be located on the shortest accessible route of travel from adjacent parking lot to an accessible entrance of the golf course.

- Passenger loading zones (bag drops) shall provide an access aisle at least 60 in. wide and 20 ft long adjacent to the vehicle pull-up space.

- When provided, teeing ground signage shall conform to ADAAG Sections 4.30.1, 4.30.2, 4.30.3, and 4.30.5 (specifications for these sections was not provided and questions should be addressed to the access board if you need additional information). Sprinkler head yardage marking is exempt from these sections.

Alterations. If a putting green is completely rebuilt, which includes changing the contouring

or elevations of the green, then it must be made accessible. Changing the type of grass by resodding or reseeding, changing the mowing pattern, and changing or replacing the irrigation system does not constitute an alteration.

If an existing teeing ground is altered on one or more holes at a golf course, a teeing ground on that hole shall be made accessible from the golf car path or from golf car parking areas. Alteration means changing the physical dimensions (length, width, or elevation) of the teeing ground. Resodding, reseeding, changing the type of grass, or adding sprinklers, are not considered alterations.

Each existing practice area, if altered as follows, shall be made accessible. Alterations would be changing the physical size or if the number of hitting areas is increased or decreased, or changing from hard surface to grass or vice versa. Resodding, reseeding, topdressing existing grass, adding or eliminating sprinklers or lighting are not considered alterations.

Repairs and maintenance to cart paths and weather shelters are not considered alterations. However, any additions or expansions must be accessible.

Conclusion. We urge you to call for a copy of the guidelines so you can fully review them and respond with your comments. This issue will affect us all. It is imperative that our viewpoints be heard before these proposed guidelines are enacted into law. The access board can be reached for comment at 202-272-5434 (Peggy Greenwell, Sydni Ann Shollenberger). The comment period ends December 20, 1994.