

SAND TRAP CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

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A. SAND TRAP VALUE

With a series of slides, the values of sand traps on golf courses were shown. These values are:

1. Serve as a hazard for play.
2. Control traffic and direct play.
3. Add aesthetic value to the golf course
4. Provide depth perception, to better judge distance during play.
5. Speed up play, and possibly keep players from suffering more severe penalties.

B. SAND TRAP CONSTRUCTION

With the use of slides, it was shown how a sand trap can be properly constructed, being sure to include drainage and construction of a small brim at the top edge of the trap to avoid erosion. The use of sod in revetting and unique and different sand traps were included in the presentation.

C. SAND PARTICLE SIZE

The best particle size for sand traps is a very coarse sand (1 mm. in size). From an economic standpoint, it may be quite costly to obtain sand of this uniform size because of the special screening that would undoubtedly be required. Particle size may easily be reached in some localities, however, individual grains must be examined closely. Rounded grains will leave the sand too loose and golf balls will be buried too deeply. It is preferred than angular grains be used rather than rounded ones.

Particle size, too, affects the speed of play. Any sand exploded on a green over 1 mm. may result in players picking up each individual grain. Mowing equipment may easily be dulled or knocked out of adjustment from large particle size.

Depending upon particle size of sand, it will take several months up to a year for sand to settle properly. A uniform, coarse sand of the 1 mm. particle size will take several months, while silica sand, a by-product of the glass industry, will take up to a year or so.

Sand should offer a hazard. The ball should bury up to one-half its depth or less, and not sit up on top to provide a clean shot. The sand bunker should be a fair hazard; sand should contribute to, not minimize the hazard.

The condition of traps around greens should consist of a soft, coarse, uniformly raked sand. The depth of sand in these traps should be from four to six inches.

D. SAND TRAP MAINTENANCE

Power sand trap rakes have improved maintenance for the worker and playing conditions for the golfer. Yes, the golfer; prior to the power sand trap rake, some traps on a golf course were raked more frequently than others. Therefore, when a player's ball landed in a trap that was firm and not raked, the ball would sit up on top, whereas, the next trap having been raked frequently would result in a "fried egg" type lie. Now with the use of a power rake it is possible to rake most of the traps on a golf course in a day. Having all of the traps raked with the same degree of frequency will provide uniform playing conditions for the golfer.

The slides concluded with a series of helpful hints on trap maintenance, such as various edgers and trap maintenance suggestions for the winter months.