



Providing an accessible forward tee is a relatively inexpensive way to accommodate disabled golfers while also making the game more enjoyable for shorter hitters.

ACCOMMODATING GOLFERS WITH DISABILITIES

BY JIM SKORULSKI | AGRONOMIST, NORTHEAST REGION

It can be easy to overlook the daily challenges facing people impacted by a disability. The National Center on Accessibility (NCA) estimated in 2010 that more than 56.7 million people in the United States, or 19 percent of the population, are disabled in some way. That is a large group of people who, like those without disabilities, desire to live active and fulfilling lives.

Golf offers an opportunity for people with disabilities to do just that. The NCA believes that there are probably at least 8 million people with disabilities who would consider playing golf or returning to the game if given the opportunity. Think of the positive implications for the game if that estimate is even close to accurate.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in 1992. The law was made to guarantee access for people with disabilities to all facilities that cater to the public. More specific guidelines for golf courses were developed in 1992. The details of the law and its impacts on golf facilities can be reviewed in the article, "[Fear](#)