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Golf course boom continues

■ Golf course construction and remodeling should continue to prosper in 1986, according to John Watson, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. The reason? Lower interest rates.

"The pent-up demand that had not been met for five years because of high interest rates was unleashed in 1985, and that momentum will continue through the next few years," Watson says.

Watson says that golf course architects face a new challenge today in designing courses which meet the needs of various players.

The sport is attracting more seniors, women and juniors. This has led to the construction of more executive courses, particularly in the Sun Belt, to accommodate older players who can't hit the long ball.

"With most new and remodeled courses having a wide range of tees, players of different ability can realize equal challenges from each hole," Watson says.

Watson adds that another trend is to remodel old courses. "Today's high-performance golf clubs and balls enable the better golfers to score higher than they should," he says. "Therefore, architects are developing master plans to phase-in new tees and greens, reposition bunkers, and add water retention ponds for both aesthetic and preservation purposes."

For more information on building or remodeling courses, write the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.

Slowpokes ousted from Denver's courses

■ In an effort to eliminate five to six hour 18-hole adventure the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation created a "time to play" rule last summer.

The new rule states that each group of 18-hole golfers must finish the first nine in two hours, 20 minutes or be removed from the course. Nine-hole players must finish hole number four or number 13 in one hour or face ejection.

The system works by using a time clock which stamps a group's scorecard before the first tee. A ranger checks the scorecard at holes number nine and 14. If a group is late, they can't continue on and the late time is added to the following group's time. A revised municipal code enforcing this is part of the time limit rule, in case a group refuses to leave the course for slow play.

At the Wellshire and Kennedy courses in Denver, the average time after two and a half months for nine holes was two hours, eight minutes and for 18 holes was four hours, 18 minutes.

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