

Tricks of the trade:

Pin rotation reduces foot traffic stress

■ "Unbelievably difficult, but fair," was how Ray Floyd described pin placements at this year's Masters Tournament.

In addition to offering a challenge to the golfer, pin placement must also be done in a way that spreads the traffic around during the week.

Moving the cup from day to day routes traffic around the green for minimal turf stress. When done in conjunction with tee placement, pin placement serves as a distance guide for players.

"The whole point of pin placement is that you don't come back to the same spot on the green too soon," says Bob Breen of the USGA Greens Section, who supplied us with the chart shown below.

Unfair pin settings penalize golfers and distort handicaps.

The 18 holes of a golf course should have six difficult—but fair—placements, six placements of medium difficulty and six relatively difficult placements.

No matter which plan you follow, it's likely to be thwarted some time during the season, thanks to wet weather or a dry spell. Modify as needed.

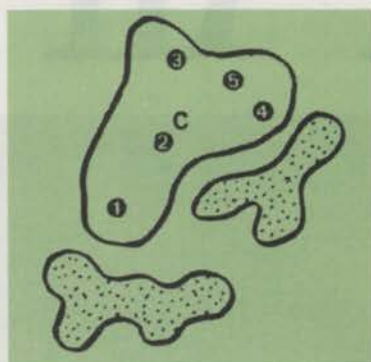
Lee Redman of Sunset Country Club, St. Louis, provided us with these two guides to pin placement.

For the guide at the right, players are instructed as follows:

1. Each day, the flag is placed in one of five zones.

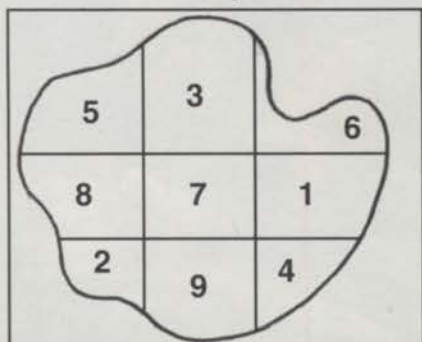
2. Check stimpmeter and flag location sign at the first tee box to know what zone is being used for that day's play.

3. All yardage measured to the center of the green (C).



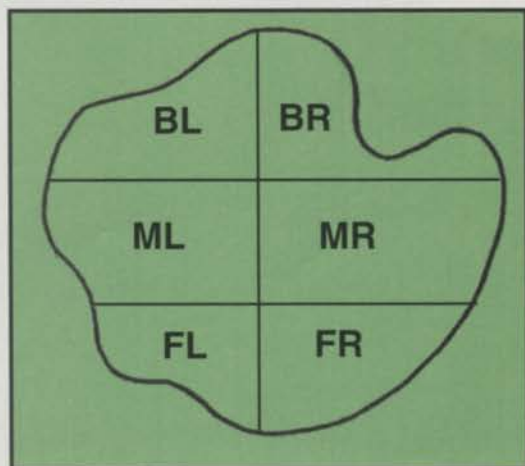
In the system shown below, the green is divided into nine quadrants. Tee markers are positioned in front, rear or center of tees.

Quadrant	Tee marker
1	Center
2	Rear
3	Front
4	Rear
5	Front
6	Front
7	Center
8	Center
9	Rear



USGA suggestion for cup location and rotation schedule*

Hole	Day					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	FL	BR	ML	FR	BL	MR
2	BR	ML	FR	BL	MR	FL
3	ML	FR	BL	MR	FL	BR
4	FR	BL	MR	FL	BR	ML
5	BL	MR	FL	BR	ML	FR
6	MR	FL	BR	ML	FR	BL
7	FL	BR	ML	FR	BL	MR
8	BR	ML	FR	BL	MR	FL
9	ML	FR	BL	MR	FL	BR
10	FR	BL	MR	FL	BR	ML
11	BL	MR	FL	BR	ML	FR
12	MR	FL	BR	ML	FR	BL
13	FL	BR	ML	FR	BL	MR
14	BR	ML	FR	BL	MR	FL
15	ML	FR	BL	MR	FL	BR
16	FR	BL	MR	FL	BR	ML
17	BL	MR	FL	BR	ML	FR
18	MR	FL	BR	ML	FR	BL



FL=Front left
FR=Front right
ML=Middle left
MR=Middle right
BL=Back left
BR=Back right

*For a course that is closed one day a week. If your course is open on the seventh day, start back at #1.

Courtesy USGA Greens Section