

# Changes to the USGA Course Rating System for 2012-2015

## General

- 1) Requirement that all bogey values recorded as absolute values
- 2) Requirement for a new course to be re-rated within five years
- 3) Added a formula for women (similar to men) that adds effective playing length to courses between 3000 and 3600 yards:

$$\text{Length} = .07 \times \text{Measured Length} + 1080$$

- 4) Added new definitions for Carry Safely, Closely Bordering, and Near

## Effective Playing Length Correction Factors

- 1) Modified Roll Table by condensing to three rows, but allowing more flexibility (tweeners) for varying degrees of roll:

| ROLL RATING TABLE |  |                                 |       |        |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Fairway Condition | Average Amount of Roll (in yards) Scratch or Bogey | Nature of Tee Shot Landing Zone |       |        |
|                   |  | Downhill                        | Level | Uphill |
| Firm              | >25  | -4                              | -2    | 0      |
| Average           | 15-25  | -2                              | 0     | 2      |
| Soft              | <15  | 0                               | 2     | 4      |

- 2) Eliminated Inconsistent (I) adjustment under Roll

- 3) Added Two (2) adjustment under Roll:

- +1 If subsequent full shots result in less cumulative roll than the assumed 15-25 yards per shot.
- or -1 If subsequent full shots result in more cumulative roll than the assumed 15-25 yards per shot

#### 4) Modified Language in Dogleg/Forced Lay up to:

When a player is forced to lay up because of obstacles crossing the fairway, assume he/she lays up **10 yards** short of the trouble. When a scratch golfer chooses to lay up, use the above procedure, or lay up the player to a spot that would still allow for a relatively easy shot to the green or next landing zone. This spot is often marked with numerous divots indicating a preferred distance for players to select.

\*NOTE\* There may be situations where the overall lay up is a combination of forced lay up and lay up by choice.

#### Obstacle Rating Factors

##### 1) Eliminated Visibility (V) adjustment under Topography

##### 2) Clarified fairway width measurement when obstacles are involved:

When the fairway width is reduced by an obstacle(s) (bunkers, water hazards, etc.), measure the width **at the narrowest point and use that measurement exclusively as the fairway width** of that landing zone rather than using an average width.

##### 3) Added new row to Green Target Table to indicate 50/50 Transition Value:

| GREEN TARGET RATING TABLE- Men and [Women]<br>(Assumes Green is Generally Flat and of Average Firmness) |  |              |              |              |              |              |            |  |
|---|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--|
| Scratch<br>Golfer Shot<br>Length (Yards)  | Effective Diameter of Green (in Yards) |              |              |              |              |              |            | Bogey<br>Golfer Shot<br>Length (Yards) |
|   | (7)<br>>36                             | (6)<br>32-36 | (5)<br>27-31 | (4)<br>22-26 | (3)<br>18-21 | (2)<br>13-17 | (1)<br><13 |  |
| < 60 [ $< 30$ ]   | 2                                      | 2            | 2            | 2            | 2            | 2            | 2          | < 30 [ $\leq 20$ ]                     |
| 60-79 [30-49]   | 2                                      | 2            | 2            | 3            | 3            | 4            | 4          | 30-44 [21-34]                          |
| 80-99 [50-69]   | 2                                      | 2            | 3            | 3            | 4            | 4            | 4          | 45-59 [35-49]                          |
| 100-119 [70-89]   | 2                                      | 2            | 3            | 4            | 4            | 4            | 5          | 60-74 [50-64]                          |
| 120-139 [90-109]  | 2                                      | 3            | 4            | 4            | 4            | 5            | 6          | 75-89 [65-79]                          |
| 140-159 [110-129]   | 2                                      | 3            | 4            | 4            | 5            | 6            | 7          | 90-109 [80-94]                         |
| 160-179 [130-149]   | 3                                      | 3            | 4            | 5            | 6            | 7            | 7          | 110-129 [95-104]                       |
| 180-199 [150-169]   | 3                                      | 4            | 5            | 5            | 6            | 7            | 8          | 130-149 [105-114]                      |
| 200-219 [170-184]   | 3                                      | 4            | 5            | 6            | 7            | 8            | 9          | 150-164 [115-124]                      |
| 220-240 [185-200]   | 4                                      | 5            | 6            | 7            | 8            | 8            | 9          | 165-180 [125-140]                      |
| > 240 [ $> 200$ ]   | 4                                      | 5            | 6            | 7            | 8            | 9            | 10         | > 180 [ $> 140$ ]                      |
| 50/50 Transition<br>Zone Rating Value   | 3                                      | 3.5          | 4            | 4.5          | 5            | 5 or 5.5     | 5.5 or 6   | 50/50 Transition<br>Zone Rating Value  |

4) Modified Rough Height to be used in table to general rough height of course, and not specific to “at green”.

5) Moved Tweener values from between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> column to between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> column:

| RECOVERABILITY AND ROUGH RATING TABLE- Men and [Women]<br>(Assumes a 5' or Less Rise and/or Drop Around the Green) |  |              |  |   |   |                                |                                    |
|--|--|--------------|--|---|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Scratch<br>Green<br>Target<br>Rating   | Average Rough Height (in Inches) -- Cool Season Type Grass<br>(Warm Season Type Grass in {Brackets}) |              |  |   |   |                                | Bogey<br>Green<br>Target<br>Rating |
|  | Fairway<br>Height  | <2"<br>{<1"} | 2" to 3"<br>{1" to 2"}<br>[2" to 2½"]<br>[1" to 1½"] | >3" to 4"<br>{>2" to 3"}<br>[>2½" to 3½"]<br>[>1½" to 2"] | >4" to 6"<br>{>3" to 4"}<br>[>3½" to 5"]<br>[>2" to 3"] | >6"<br>{>4"}<br>[>5"]<br>[>3"] |                                    |
| 2 or 3   | 1  | 1            | 3  | 4   | 6   | 7                              | 2                                  |
| 4  | 1  | 2            | 4  | 5   | 7   | 8                              | 3                                  |
| 5 or 6   | 2  | 3            | 5  | 6   | 8   | 9                              | 4 or 5                             |
| 7 or 8   | 3  | 4            | 6  | 7   | 9   | 10                             | 6 or 7                             |
| 9 or 10  | 4  | 5            | 7  | 8   | 10  | 10                             | 8 to 10                            |

#### 6) Modified Inconsistent (I) Adjustment under R&R:

(I)\* +1 If the rough is INCONSISTENT – near a landing zone or closely bordering the green it is much more severe than **the rough height of the course** (e.g., 2" {1"} longer vs. rough height of the course).

or –1 If the rough is INCONSISTENT – near a landing zone or closely bordering the green it is much less severe than **the rough height of the course** (e.g., 2" {1"} shorter, or if the rough around the green has areas cut to fairway height that allow for easier recovery shots).

#### 7) Added second category of Unpleasant (U) Adjustment under R&R:

(U) +1 If more than ½ the green (excluding bunkers) is closely bordered by sloping ground cut to fairway height that results in shots just missing the green ending up in UNPLEASANT recovery situations farther from the green, making recovery more difficult.

## 8) Eliminated Extreme Adjustment under R&R

## 9) Modified Squeeze (Q) adjustment under Bunkers:

If obstacle squeeze exists because bunkers are within 15 yards of the center of a fairway landing zone on both sides (this does not apply at the green **except when greenside bunkers also qualify as fairway bunkers**).

## 10) Clarified language on how to measure bunker depth.

The depth of a greenside bunker (DEPTH (D) adjustment) is measured from points where most recovery shots are made to a height that would get the ball onto any part of the green surface. The depth of a fairway bunker (EXTREME (E) adjustment) is measured from points where most recovery shots are made to a height that would get the ball out of the bunker on a line of play to the next target (landing zone or green).

## 11) Moved bunker depth in fairway bunkers into the Extreme (E) adjustment:

(E) +1 or +2      If pot bunkers, **fairway bunkers at least 6'[5']**, or other unusual bunker features make recovery extremely difficult (e.g., extreme rough interferes with the swing or blocks the recovery shot, railroad ties or stacked sod shore up the bank, or a large bunker or series of bunkers on the line of play generates long bunker shots over sand to the green, etc.).

## 12) Modified Carry (C) adjustment under Bunkers on shots to the green:

(C)\* +1      If the player must CARRY a **greenside** bunker(s) which **protects more than half the green** (Green Target rating must be 5 or greater for the scratch golfer, but it may be any value for the bogey golfer).

**13) Modified Two (2) adjustment under Bunkers:**

(2) In play 2wice +1 If there are fairway bunkers near (within 20 yards of) **two or more** landing zones on a par-5 (three-shot) hole.

**14) Modified Bounce (B) adjustment to exclude use when measurement is in the far right column of OB/ER, Water Hazard and Desert tables.**

**15) Added new bullet point to clarify distance used to apply to Surrounded (S) table under Water Hazards:**

“Consider conditions that can decrease or increase the likelihood of the water hazard coming into play from the edge of the green when determining distance (e.g., a downslope can increase the likelihood; an intervening bunker can decrease the likelihood).”

**16) Expanded Chute table to account for all possible shot lengths**

**17) Modified values in the Stimpmeter Speed column to be more realistic with today's courses and ranges to be more consistent with the relative difficulty of putting:**

| <b>GREEN SURFACE RATING TABLE- Men and Women</b>            |                                  |   |                                    |
|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Stimpmeter Speed  | Contour of Green Surface         |   |                                    |
|   | Relatively Flat or Gently Sloped | Moderately Contoured or Moderately Sloped | Highly Contoured or Steeply Sloped |
| 6'11 or Less  | 3                                | 4   | 5                                  |
| 7' to 8'5"  | 4                                | 5   | 6                                  |
| 8'6" to 9'11"   | 5                                | 6   | 7 (8)                              |
| 10' to 10'11"   | 6                                | 7 (8)                                     | 8 (9)                              |
| 11' to 11'11"   | 7                                | 8 (9)                                     | 9 (10)                             |
| 12' or More   | 8                                | 9 (10)                                    | 10                                 |
| Amount of Roll Downhill For Each Foot of Roll Uphill        | < 2'<br>i.e., < 2:1              | 2' to 3'<br>i.e., 2:1 to 3:1              | > 3'<br>i.e., > 3:1                |
| <b>Note: Table values in parentheses are bogey ratings.</b> |                                  |   |                                    |