

The case for playing off forward tees on Tuesday

The USGA and R&A strongly promote playing off tees that maximise your enjoyment of golf. As a guide it is suggested golfers should play a course that is approximately 30 times your average drive (see attached). Despite having won the Long Drive award on 8th October I have to accept my average drive is 180 meters. The attached charts from Golf Digest suggests for golfers over age 60 the average drive is 196.4 yards, (179.6 meters), for golfers with handicaps in the range 19-28 the average drive is 195.93 yards (179.2 meters) and for golfers with a swing speed of 80mph (go and get your swing speed checked – you may be surprised or shocked) the average driver carry is 192 yards (176 meters). Over recent months I have been observing the drives of many RSGC members and concluded the above figures are very realistic.


So, if we accept 180 meters as the average driving distance, we should be playing a course of approximately 5,400 meters. From the white tees the Championship Course measures 6,054 meters, from the Yellow Tees 5,689 meters and from the Red tees 5,266 meters. We are probably playing a course 600 meters longer than the course we should be playing.

An analysis of the Tuesday Group's results for 2019 for all golfers who have played 5 or more rounds shows that out of a total of 704 rounds scores of 90 or more were recorded 561 times, scores of 100 or more were recorded 321 times and rounds of 89 or less were recorded 143 times (most of these sub 90 rounds were by the same usual suspects). This suggests that most of us do not reach many (or any) greens in regulation.

The obvious conclusion is we should sometimes play from the yellow tees. I would, however, argue we should go a step further and sometimes play from the following composite course (see appendix for full card images). My reasons being:

1. It will be a refreshing change from hitting 3-woods on almost every second shot
2. It will provide variation to our playing of the same course very time we play at RSGC
3. We will have a realistic chance of hitting some greens in regulation
4. It will give us an idea of how we could develop appropriate combination courses after the completion of the course renovations

RSGC Tuesday Group RSGC Tuesday Group Date: _____



Hole	Meters	Index	Par	P1	P2	4BBB	P3	P4	P1	P2	4BBB	P3	P4	4BBB
1	254	16	4											
2	460	8	5											
3	138	14	3											
4	330	2	4											
5	292	4	4											
6	124	18	3											
7	483	6	5											
8	269	12	4											
9	309	10	4											
	2659		36											

Hole	Meters	Index	Par	P1	P2	4BBB	P3	P4	4BBB
10	348	7	4						
11	321	3	4						
12	335	9	4						
13	440	17	5						
14	143	13	3						
15	348	1	4						
16	430	15	5						
17	156	5	3						
18	308	11	4						
	2829		36						
	5488		72						

Combination Tees
Slope Rating 121
Scratch Rating 71

P1	P2	1-6	6-12	13-18	Total

In conclusion, my recommendation to the Tuesday Group is we adopt a policy of playing different course combinations (White, Yellow and Composite tees)

Tim Rankine – December 2019

What's fair? 23

January 23, 2011 by admin

How fair is a 5,600 yard course for the average woman?

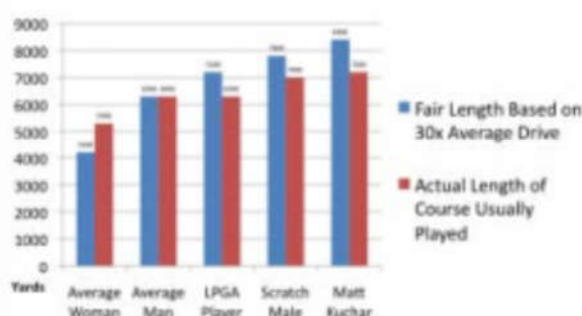
What would you think if we told you that a 5,600-yard course would be equivalent to an 8,400-yard course for the average man? How about an 11,200-yard course for Matt Kuchar? That's how the math works if fair is defined as having to hit the same clubs to reach greens in regulation from their respective tees. This concept is what we define as the "fairness test."

If the average woman should play from 5,600 yards, the average LPGA player should be playing a 9,600-yard course and a good male amateur should play a 10,400-yard course. Sorry, Dustin Johnson, you are at 12,320 yards based on your average drive of 308 yards.

The average woman golfer hits her average tee shot 140 yards.

Based on the data we have collected in our research, the length of the course she should play in order to have the opportunity to reach greens in regulation is 4,200 yards. Note that this is 30 times her average drive, which turns out to be a very good rule of thumb for everyone.

The average male golfer hits his average drive 210 yards and Matt Kuchar's average drive of 280 yards is within a couple of yards of the PGA Tour average. If the woman is at 4,200 yards, the average male golfer should playing tees at 6,300, and the average PGA pro should be at 8,400 yards. These yardages seem much more reasonable, even though 8,400 yards is approximately 900 yards longer than the longest courses played on the PGA Tour. No wonder those guys are good!



The graph above (click on it to make it larger) shows that the average woman plays courses that are generally more than 1,000 yards too long for her to meet the "fairness test" of reaching greens in regulation. The yardage for the average male is just about right. However, better players usually play courses that are close to 1,000 yards shorter than would be indicated by multiplying their average drive by 30.

The problem is that there are very few 4,200 yard golf courses in the United States, never mind the world. As a result, most women golfers do not have the choice of a set of tees that gives them a fair chance to hit greens in regulation and thus give them the opportunity to score well.

This is why we believe the idea courses with sets of tees that fit players with a wide range of driver swing speeds (from 60 to 110+ MPH) is critical. Courses built (or retro-fit) this way will be more fun for all and much faster to play.

To prove that such courses can be built, read our post about the Old Macdonald course at Bandon.

We do not realistically believe courses will be built that are long enough to "fit" players with faster than average swing speed. Nor would we support such an effort....7,500 yards is plenty long enough.

Some helpful hints to keep in mind when choosing your yardage:

- Most players should play a course whose yardage is approximately 30 times their average drive. If a course is longer than this, it will be a lot less fun.
- If you don't really know how long you hit your average drive (most people significantly overestimate), use two times your average nine iron yardage. If you are among the great majority (98 percent) of golfers, this will be accurate.
- If your 30 times calculation results in a number shorter than the most forward set of tees at the course you are going to play, read our Move On Up post to see how to deal with this situation.

-Arthur D. Little

How Far do golfers really hit their drives?

Median Driver Distance	Percentage	Yards
<i>Driver HCP <5</i>	14.63%	250.93
<i>Driver HCP 5-10 (<10)</i>	21.94%	231.04
<i>Driver HCP 10-19 (<19)</i>	39.42%	215.65
<i>Driver HCP 19-28 (<28)</i>	17.28%	195.93
<i>Driver HCP >=28</i>	6.73%	177.49
<i>Age 20-30 (<=30)</i>	12.97%	238.68
<i>Age 30-40 (<=40)</i>	25.76%	231.21
<i>Age 40-50 (<=50)</i>	24.17%	220.52
<i>Age 50-60 (<=60)</i>	21.42%	211.93
<i>Age >60</i>	15.69%	196.40

How Far do golfers hit by swing speed

	PGA TOUR Ave Loft	50	60	70	80	90	LPGA Tour 93	100	Senior Tour 106	110	PGA TOUR 113	120	130	Long Drive 135	140	150	160
Driver (Total)	9.0	129	155	181	206	232	246	258	274	284	289	310	335	348	361	387	413
Driver (Carry)	9.0	120	144	168	192	216	220	240	255	264	269	288	312	324	336	360	384
3-Wood	14.4	108	130	152	174	195	195	217	230	239	243	260	282	293	304	326	347
5-Wood	19.2*	103	123	144	164	185	185	205	218	226	230	246	267	278	288	309	329
Hybrid	19.2*	101	121	141	161	181	-	201	213	221	225	241	261	271	281	301	321
3-Iron	19.2*	95	114	133	151	170	-	189	201	208	212	227	246	256	265	284	303
4-Iron	23.9	91	109	127	145	163	170	181	192	199	203	218	236	245	254	272	290
5-Iron	27.0	87	104	121	139	156	161	173	184	191	194	208	225	234	243	260	278
6-Iron	30.5	82	98	114	131	147	152	163	173	180	183	196	212	221	229	245	262
7-Iron	34.3	77	92	108	123	138	141	154	163	169	172	184	200	207	215	230	246
8-Iron	38.3	72	86	100	114	129	130	143	151	157	160	171	186	193	200	214	229
9-Iron	42.4	66	79	93	106	119	119	132	140	145	148	159	172	178	185	198	211
PW	47.1	61	73	85	97	109	107	121	129	134	136	146	158	164	170	182	194

RSGC Tuesday Group

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1-6 6-12 13-18 Total

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1-6 6-12 13-18 Total 4BBB

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RSGC Combination Course – Normal Layout

RSGC Tuesday Group

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16	430	15	5				
	2519		36				

1-6 6-12 13-18 Total

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1-6 6-12 13-18 Total 4BBB

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RSGC Combination Course – Composite Layout

RSGC Tuesday Group



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RSGC Tuesday Group
Composite Course



Combination Tees
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