

Course and Slope Rating

2013 Kentucky Golf Association Policies and Procedures

Rating Regions

Eastern, Northern, Central, North Central, South Central, Western

Responsibilities and Duties

Regional Coordinator (RC)

- Communicate - Facilities, Volunteers and GHK
- Recruit volunteers
- Facilitate training
- Scheduling – facilities and volunteers
- Coordinate teams
- Facilitate collection of pre-rating data
- Return rating data to KGA
- Approve expenses
- Maintain regional team equipment

Team Leaders (TL)

- Conduct pre-rating meeting
- Assign tees
- Assist in collection of pre-rating data
- Return rating data to RC

Tee Captains (TC)

- Facilitate rating per tee assignment
- Consolidate Forms into one per tee
- Returns tee data to TL

Volunteer Policies

- Uniform (Hat and Badge)
- Badge
- Mileage Reimbursement

Rating Policies

The KGA Course Rating Committee conducts course ratings in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System. This service is provided at NO additional charge to KGA Member Clubs.

Rating Schedule – Courses are assigned a rating schedule based upon the following USGA criteria:

1. New courses shall be rated before the course officially opens.
2. New courses are re-rated every 5 years for 10 years.
3. Existing courses are re-rated every 10 years.
4. Remodeled courses or holes shall be re-rated after reopening. In addition, extensively remodeled courses are re-rated every 5 years for 10 years.
5. Rating evaluations may be requested for legitimate discrepancies.

Rating Procedures

1. Courses shall be sent a rating schedule letter annually based upon KGA records.
2. Courses scheduled for rating during the current year shall be sent a pre-rating information kit.
3. One month before the course visit, the Course Rating Team Captain contacts the Club Official to plan the logistics of the course visit. Note: Due to weather conditions, this period will be shorter when the original rating date was postponed.
4. Technical data is submitted to the Course Rating Committee for review.
5. Course Rating Committee reviews the technical data and certifies the rating.
6. Ten (10) business days after the course visit, the course shall receive a post rating information kit.

The post rating information package includes:

1. USGA Rating Summary Reports
2. USGA Determining Factors
3. The Effect of Course Management and Maintenance on Course Rating
4. USGA Course and Slope Rating Certificate Poster for all tees
5. USGA Course Handicap Conversion Table for each tee

Rating Agreement

KGA Obligations

The KGA agrees to provide Course Rating services at NO additional charge to member clubs. The rating shall be efficient and in accordance with the USGA Course and Slope Rating System.

Member Club Obligations

1. Complete and return pre-rating kit within KGA timeline.
2. Have all tees setup where course is measured.
3. Provide Course Rating Team with complimentary use of golf carts.
4. Provide complimentary lunch and non-alcoholic beverages to Course Rating Team during course visit.
5. Provide Course Rating Team with complimentary tee times after the course visit.
Note: playing the course after the course visit is a recommendation of the USGA Course Rating System as a way to evaluate the rating.

Course and Slope Rating



Determining Factors

USGA Course and Slope Ratings are based upon a USGA Course Ratings Team's evaluation of 15 major factors. Each hole is individually evaluated utilizing each applicable factor. Five factors determine the effective playing length of the course and ten factors determine the playing difficulty of the course. These 15 factors and a brief definition of each are provided below. Summative data for these factors can be found in your course's copy of the USGA Course Rating Form 2 and 3.

The five factors that must be considered in determining effective playing length are:

- Roll is an evaluation of how far the tee shots for scratch and bogey golfers roll, and the effect that has on the playing length of the hole.
- Elevation is a measure of how changes in elevation from tee to green affect the playing length of the hole.
- Dogleg/Forced Lay-up is a measure of how much longer and shorter a hole plays because it has a bend or because it has obstacles, such as water or bunkers, crossing the fairway in the player's landing zones.
- Prevailing wind is a measure of the effect of constant wind on seaside and plains courses and/or other courses unprotected from the wind.
- Altitude is an evaluation of the fact that courses above 2000 feet altitude play shorter than their measured length because shots fly farther in the thin air.

The ten obstacles that affect the playing difficulty of a course are:

- Topography is a factor if the stance or lie in the landing zone is affected by slopes or mounds, or the shot to the green is uphill or downhill. Making club selection more difficult.
- Fairway--The width of the fairway in the area from which scratch and bogey players will play their second and third shots must be considered. Nearby trees, hazards, and punitive rough increase in the fairway rating.
- The Green Target factor is an evaluation of the difficulty of hitting the green with the approach shot. Primary considerations are target size, length of shot, how well the green holds and the difficulty of normal hole locations.
- Recoverability and Rough (R & R) is the evaluation of the probability of missing the tee shot landing zone and the green, and the difficulty of recovering if either or both is missed.
- Bunkers--Consider the size of the bunkers and their proximity to target areas rather than simply the number of bunkers. Evaluate how bunkers reduce the size of the landing zone both on the tee shot and the approach to the green. Evaluate the difficulty of recovering from the bunkers that are in play.
- Out of Bounds/Extreme Rough--The rating for out of bounds depends on the proximity of the boundary to the center of the landing zone or green.
- Water Hazards--The ratings for a water hazard depends on its distance from the landing zone or green and, in the case of a hazard crossing a hole, the problem involved in playing over the hazard.
- Trees--The rating for trees depends on their size and density, their distance from the center of the landing zone or green, the length of the shot to that target, and the difficulty of recovering.
- The Green Surface factor is an evaluation of the difficulty of a green from a putting standpoint. Speed and surface contouring are the main factors.
- Psychological is an evaluation of the cumulative effects of the other obstacles. The location of many punitive obstacles close to a target area creates uneasiness in the mind of the player and thus affects his or her score.

Course and Slope Rating



HOW THE USGA-GHK COURSE RATING TEAM EVALUATES A GOLF COURSE

- 5 Effective Playing Length Factors rated: Roll, Elevation, Dogleg/Forced Lay-up, Prevailing Wind and Altitude.
- 10 Obstacle Factors rated that effect playing difficulty: Topography, Fairway, Green Target, Recoverability and Rough, Bunkers, OB/Extreme Rough, Water Hazards, Trees, Green Surface and Psychological.

TEAM AT THE TEE

Discuss the difficulty of tee shots for scratch & bogey players
Note the effects of trees near the tee
Check the visibility of scratch and bogey landing zones
Identify tee to green elevation changes

TEAM AT THE LANDING ZONES

Discuss how scratch & bogey players will play the hole
Evaluate obstacles in the landing zones
Measure width of fairways
Measure distance from fairway centers to OB, trees, and other obstacles
Assess firmness and tilt of fairway
View approach shots to the green

TEAM AT THE GREEN

Evaluate obstacles around the green
Determine green's effective diameter
Evaluate green from putting standpoint
Determine green speed using a stimpeter
Assess contours of the green

TEAM MECHANICS

Moving from tee to green the sloping team will discuss:

- Obstacle factors without sharing numerical values
- Measurement data
- Likelihood of obstacles coming into play
- Difficulty of recovery
- "What will happen versus what could happen"

TEAM BEHIND THE GREEN

Look back to the fairway to review hole
Estimate any changes in elevation

TEAM RATING PROCEDURES FOR THE HOLE

Having seen all the hole's features from all positions, individual team members rate each of the applicable 5 Effective Playing Length Factors and 10 Obstacle Factors Effecting Playing Difficulty to include adjustments for both scratch and bogey players. Team members state and discuss their ratings. The team leader guides the team to consensus on each rating variable and his/her decision is final. The team leader's consensus Form 1 is used to determine USGA Course & Slope Ratings.

Effective playing length and obstacle evaluation

11

[illegible]

Effective playing length and obstacle evaluation

11

		Par 4/5										Par 3	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Totals		
Date:													
Reason:													
Rating Team Leader													
Members													
Narrator													
Rater's Notes													
Grass Type:													
Stimpmeter:													
Rough Height:													
Shot Length (Yards):													
Scratch 1 =													
Scratch 2 =													
Bogey 1 =													
Bogey 2 =													
Bogey 3 =													
Altitude (ft):													