



BRIEF EXPLANATION OF USGA COURSE RATING SYSTEM.

The system follows a series of assessments by qualified Course Raters using a thorough process.

Course Rating is the measure of difficulty of courses for a scratch golfer under normal course and weather conditions. (A Male scratch golfer hits his tee shots an average of 225 metres and can reach a 430-metre hole in 2 shots. A female scratch golfer can hit her tee shots an average of 190 metres and can reach a 365-metre hole in two shots.)

Accuracy and consistency are the keys to effective course rating. The measured length must be corrected to the **effective playing length** – an error of only 20 metres in overall length will change the course rating by 0.1 strokes for men and 18 metres will change the course rating by 0.1 strokes for women. The same process is followed through all sets of tees on the course.

The main formula component of the *effective playing length* of the course is derived from the course's measured length and applying the following five factors, which gives a more accurate reflection of the true playing length of the course:

1. Roll
2. [Changes in] Elevation
3. Dogleg/Forced Lay-up
4. Prevailing Wind
5. Altitude

The measured length and the effective playing length adjustments are used to determine the 'Yardage' Rating. (NB. The USGA system differs from our current system in as much as the Australian system uses measured length only to determine a Length Rating.)

A further analysis of each hole is undertaken in order to assess the 10 obstacle factors which affect playing difficulty as follows:

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| 1. Topography | The impact of the terrain on play. |
| 2. Fairway | The difficulty of keeping the ball on the fairway. |
| 3. Green Target | The size and difficulty of hitting the green. |
| 4. Recoverability & Rough | Covers the difficulty of a shot when the fairway or green has been missed. |
| 5. Bunkers | How they come into play and the difficulty of recovery. |
| 6. OOB / Extreme Rough | The proximity of these factors and how they come into play. |
| 7. Water Hazards | The proximity of these factors and how they come into play. |
| 8. Trees | Based on the density, proximity, and difficulty of recovery. |
| 9. Green Surface | Assesses the difficulty of the green, and includes speed and contouring of each green. |
| 10. Psychological | Evaluation of the cumulative effect the other 9 obstacles will have on a player's score. |

The values allocated to the above obstacles are multiplied by various weighting factors giving a final number which may be an addition or reduction to the Scratch Yardage Rating. The result is the Course Rating.

The 'Course Rating' is the mark that indicates the playing difficulty of the course for a Scratch golfer.

ADDITIONALLY

Bogey Rating is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for the bogey golfer under normal course and playing conditions. The Bogey Rating is used to determine a Slope Rating. The bogey golfer is defined as being a male golfer with a handicap of 17.5-22.4 and a female golfer with a handicap of 21.5-26.4

Slope Rating is the service mark that is used to measure a player's potential scoring ability on a course relative to the scoring ability of a scratch golfer on the same course. It is a measure of how much above or below the Course Rating a player with a given Handicap Index will score.