



## Course Rating and Handicapping Report Golf Newfoundland Labrador AGM November 2016

The **USGA Course Rating System** takes into account the factors that affect the playing difficulty of a golf course.

Accuracy and consistency are the keys to effective course rating. A course must first be accurately measured. The measured yardage must then be corrected for the effective playing length. These effective playing length corrections are roll, elevation, dogleg/forced lay-up, prevailing wind, and altitude. Obstacles that affect playing difficulty must then be evaluated in accordance with established standards. These standards increase objectivity in course rating.

The rating process requires a study of each hole, including detailed data obtained at every landing zones for both the scratch and the bogey golfer. The rating team uses the average shot lengths for both scratch and bogey golfers to determine the landing zones. Length corrections and obstacle values are considered at each landing zone.

**Course Rating™** is an evaluation of the overall difficulty of the golf course for the scratch golfer under normal course and weather conditions. It's a number, close to par for the course, and is expressed with a single decimal digit. Rating values go up with difficulty. For any given golf course, you can expect to see multiple values for the Course Rating. Each value corresponds to a different tee.

For example, on this same course, the Course Rating for golfers who play from the men's blue tees might be 72.8. From the men's white tees, the Course Rating might be 71.0. The ladies' red tees may be rated at 73.3.

**Slope Rating®** is the USGA® mark that indicates the measurement of the relative difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch golfers compared to scratch golfers. It is computed from the difference between the Bogey Rating and the USGA Course Rating times a constant factor and is expressed as a whole number from 55 to 155. A golf course of standard playing difficulty has a Slope Rating of 113.

**Handicaps**, and course rating and course slope go hand-in-hand. Handicap is a number assigned to a golfer, indicating the average number of strokes above par a player is likely to score for any given round.

For example, a golfer with an 18 handicap would typically shoot 18-over par during a round of 18 holes. On a course with a course rating of 72, this golfer would be expected

to shoot 90. Meanwhile, a golfer with a 20 handicap would be expected to shoot 92 on this same course.

**Golf NL Course Rating:** In complying with the USGA Course Rating System™ courses must be re-rated at least every 10 years, or if it is a new golf course, within 5 years. A course must also be re-rated if significant changes (ex. Construction, renovations) have been made to the course.

During the 2016 golfing season three courses were visited, measurements and notes gathered and data evaluated:

- The Willows – 9 hole course
- Gander Golf Club - 18 Hole Course
- Grand Falls Golf Club - 18 Hole Course

The on-course portion of the rating process has been completed for all three course however, the data evaluation and issuance of a the update ratings has only been completed for The Willows. The course rating team will work over the winter to complete the rating for both Gander and Grand Falls golf courses.

The Course Rating Schedule for the next 10 years is as follows:

- 2018
  - Clovelly Golf - Black Duck
  - Clovelly Golf - Osprey
  - Humber Valley Resort \*
- 2019
  - Pitcher's Pond
- 2020
  - Blomidon Golf Club
  - Harmon Seaside Links
  - Pippy Park (Captain's Hill)
  - Pippy Park (Admirals Green)
- 2021
  - Grande Meadows
  - The View Golf Resort
  - The Wilds Golf Resort
- 2022
  - Bally Haly Golf & Curling Club
  - Humber River Golf Club
- 2023
  - Glendenning Golf
- 2024
  - Amaruk Golf Club
  - Tamarack Golf Club
- 2025
  - Brookside Golf Resort & RV Park
  - Terra Nova Resort - Eagles Creek
  - Terra Nova Resort - Twin Rivers

Although there are no course ratings required in 2017, Humber Valley Resort is hosting the Canadian Senior Women's Championship next summer and they are one of the three courses scheduled for a revised rating in 2018. The course rating team may visit

the course early in the season to ensure the most accurate rating is available for the event.

**Course Rating Changes:** Every year, the USGA Course Rating Committee meets to discuss changes to the existing rating procedures. Although the formulas used to compute the final numbers are never altered, the techniques to obtain the numbers may be changed. Usually, these modifications are only minor adjustments that are meant to perfect the existing system that is currently in use. Other times, clarification is needed to better stress a point regarding how a rating is done. In either case, the modification to the rating procedure can be another cause to a course rating increase. In the 2016 one of the changes that affect most courses in the province was the change to how trees are rated. Trees are like other obstacles such as out-of-bounds or water in that shot lengths and the proximity to the obstacle from the center of a landing zone or green is the primary consideration. The key difference between trees and these other obstacles is measuring recovery, and doing so based on the scratch golfer's ability to recover, even when evaluating Trees for the bogey golfer. As a result, approaching trees as a "condition," much like Topography or Green Surface, is a more consistent way to evaluate their overall difficulty on the hole.

Several courses in NL have a lot of the trees located within the extreme rough, not near a landing zone. Prior to 2016, these would be rated as two separate obstacles for each shot; this was considered double dipping in course rating terms. Going forward, trees will be only rated if they are close to the landing zone with no extreme rough nearby. At courses where the trees consist of heavily dense underbrush where a ball can be easily lost, each shot will be rated for extreme rough and not trees. As well, only the actual boundary of the course will be rated as OB.

Since we've become aware of these changes, we have begun to revisit the data from some of the courses rated in recent years to apply this methodology. Some courses have seen a slight change in rating others no change at all. The ones that have had changes will be sent new certification posters (with the original rating date) and can update their score card for the next batch they order.

Respectfully Submitted;

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Golf NL