



TOMGC Rules and Greens

July 2019

I received a strange call a while back from Bob, hittem' hard, Horton. After all of the panting and heavy breathing stopped at the other end of the line, Bob mentioned that he was going to be playing an Endless Summer Match Play match against Paul, hittem' and hope, Halem. Bob had a question concerning the match. Now Bob calls me all of the time for various life counseling as well as the occasional golf lesson; maybe that would explain why are handicaps are so similar. However, this was a question I was not ready for at all. It seems that Paul had advised Bob that he (Paul) would be playing the match from the Red (forward) tees. Now Bob was not calling to make a complaint or anything like that, but only to ask if he couldn't play from the forward tees as well? I was stumped. (go figure, right?) I knew that there were restrictions as to who was qualified to play from the forward tees, but I did not know what those qualifications might be? After some extensive research by our tournament director, Mike Martens, it turns out that if you are 65 years of age or more, and you carry a course handicap of 20 or more, you qualify to play from the forward tee box. By the way, assuming that you have been playing from the white tee box, your handicap is adjusted when you make this move to the forward tee box. Generally speaking, you are going to lose about 3 strokes on average. Our Golf Genius scoring software makes this adjustment for those of us on the scoring crew, eh?

Some time ago, the USGA instituted a program called Tee if Forward. The idea being that the recreational golfer should move to a more forward tee box, shorten the course, make the game a little more enjoyable, and most importantly, speed the pace of play. This was a great idea, but a lot of folks are reluctant to move to a more forward tee, thinking that it is somehow cheating, unmanly, or makes them less of a human being. Nothing could be further from the truth. You may be surprised at how many men believe that the Blue tees are the men's tees, and that the Red tees are for the ladies. This is not at all the case. For the average recreational golfer, they should not even be considering the Blue tees. How many times have you seen a group of players tee it up on the Blue tees, and with the first swing, you know they don't belong there? (a lot of you are probably thinking of me on the White tees right now, but let's stick to the story, eh?) The fact is, the Blue tees should be reserved for the better golfers. I had always heard 10 handicap or less. Our own score card suggests that the Blue tees are for those players whose course handicap is 0-12. The White tees, a handicap of 13 and greater. So, how do we know from which tees we should be playing to get the most enjoyment out of the game. Well, I read an article some time ago, I'm afraid I don't recall the author, but he proposed a formula which seemed to make sense. The author suggested that if you took the length of your average drive and multiplied it by 28, you will come up with a yardage who's tee box you should consider. For example, I'm going to say that my average drive, when I've had my spinach, is about 220 yards. If I multiply this amount by 28, I arrive at the product of 6,160 yards. Our White tee box course yardage is around 6,146 yards. So, it appears, as much as I might like to deny it, that I am probably playing from the correct tee box for my ability and length, at this time. Give it ago, and see what you come up with. If you are considering the Red tees and you would like to know what your course handicap would be from those tees, just contact me and I will be happy to look it up for you. Good day, and good golf.