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## Longleaf Tee System Moving the game forward for all players



▲ PLAY STARTS AT LONGLEAF WITH A CHALLENGE TO THE GOLFER

"The **Longleaf Tee System** makes every round more fun, every course more playable, and allows the facility to be more successful."

**Bill Bergin**

Longleaf Architect/American Society of Golf Course Architects

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## PROVIDING AN ANSWER TO GOLF'S GREATEST NEED

In its current form, golf is struggling to grow. Most courses are simply too hard and unwelcoming for those who aren't the more highly skilled players. The holes are too long, the pressure to play at a proper pace is too great, and the emphasis on scoring lower can be too formidable. Without creating multiple types of golf courses specifically designed for every kind of player, the game caters to a limited market.

But what if there was a way to recreate that same expectation for every type of player? A way for each golfer to share the same golf experience, play at comparable speeds and feel welcome and appreciated?

Introducing the **Longleaf Tee System**.

## WORKING TOGETHER

The **Longleaf Tee System** is a joint initiative of the **American Society of Golf Course Architects** and the **U.S. Kids Golf Foundation**. Our mission is to offer golf course owners and operators a practical, affordable way to adjust the length of their course in a manner that will enable more players to enjoy playing golf while keeping the design, integrity and challenge of the layout intact.

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"This is no longer theory, it is **proven data**. We know firsthand through our experience as an owner that scaling our course with seven sets of tees on each hole makes golf **more enjoyable** for all players and **more profitable**. The results were immediate and they were profound!"

**Dan Van Horn**

Owner, Longleaf Golf & Family Club

President, U.S. Kids Golf Foundation

## THE CHALLENGE AS IT EXISTS TODAY

The USGA® defines a *female bogey golfer* as a player with a Course Handicap of 24 and can hit drives 150 yards (total yardage), while able to reach a 280-yard hole in two shots. That is the **maximum yardage** for a par 4 under those parameters; holes requiring approach shots with irons should measure significantly less. Furthermore, the implication is that holes longer than 280 yards will require at least one additional shot to reach the green.

So how many par 4s at your course measure longer than 280 yards from the most forward tees? **In essence, we're asking the female bogey golfer to play mostly par 5s.** And then we demand they keep a proper pace-of-play.

Using the correlation of distance between a driver and every other club in the bag, we will show that the female bogey golfer should **play a course measuring approximately 3800 yards.** A quick Google search of scorecards reveal zero courses that do so. In fact, virtually all courses have a most forward tee yardage between 4800-to-5600 yards. Is it any wonder a significant portion of golfers do not feel welcome on the course? We have set these players up for failure.

This same argument could apply to youth, to seniors, to beginners, and many other occasional players. Golf is simply not providing a proper path to welcome them. **Until now.**

## Scaling the course for success

Scaling a course means providing a fair and enjoyable test for every player on every hole. The most common misconception is that tee placements should allow for players to hit from similar distances after a drive. In fact, proper scaling means players will have similar tests on their approach, meaning a hole's design that calls for a driver/7-iron for the most skilled players will also call for a driver/7-iron for the beginners and less-skilled amateurs.



▲ THE #1 TEE AT LONGLEAF SHOWING TEE AND LANDING AREAS.

## The Driver Carry Distance Formula

Years of study, validated by **Trackman®** measurements of all levels of players, show that there is a direct correlation between the distance a player can hit their driver (carry) and the other clubs in their bag. From Tour players to the avid club players, the percentages are remarkably consistent. The chart below illustrates the relationship between the distance of every club to the player's driver distance.

	<b>BLUE 1</b>	<b>GOLD 2</b>	<b>GREEN 3</b>	<b>ORANGE 4</b>	<b>WHITE 5</b>	<b>PURPLE 6</b>	<b>RED 7</b>	<b>PGA TOUR</b>
DRIVER CARRY DISTANCE	100	125	150	175	200	225	250	275

LPGA Tour Driver Carry Distance Avg. - 218 yards

PGA Tour Driver Carry Distance Avg. - 275 yards

Club	% of Driver	Carry Distance	Roll	Carry Distance	Roll	Carry Distance	Roll	Carry Distance	Roll	Carry Distance	Roll	Carry Distance	Roll	Carry Distance	Roll	Carry Distance	Roll
Driver	100%	100	25	125	25	150	23	175	23	200	20	225	20	250	15	275	15
3-metal	90%	90	20	113	20	135	18	158	18	180	15	203	15	225	10	248	10
3-hybrid	84%	84	15	105	15	126	13	147	13	168	10	189	10	210	5	231	5
4-iron	79%	79	10	99	10	119	8	138	8	158	5	178	5	198	3	217	3
5-iron	74%	74	8	93	8	111	6	130	6	148	4	167	4	185	3	204	3
6-iron	69%	69	7	86	7	104	5	121	5	138	3	155	3	173	2	190	2
7-iron	64%	64	6	80	6	96	4	112	4	128	3	144	3	160	1	176	1
8-iron	59%	59	5	74	5	89	3	104	3	119	2	134	2	149	1	163	1
9-iron	54%	54	4	68	4	81	2	95	2	108	2	122	2	135	1	149	1
Pitching Wedge	50%	50	3	63	3	75	2	88	2	100	1	113	1	125	0	138	0
Gap Wedge	46%	46	2	58	2	69	1	81	1	92	0	104	0	115	0	127	0
Sand Wedge	42%	42	2	53	2	63	1	74	1	84	0	95	0	105	0	116	0
Lob Wedge	39%	39	2	49	2	59	1	68	1	78	0	88	0	98	0	107	0

### Example 9-hole yardage with a 2-5-2 course setup

Below is an example of a typical 9-hole layout offering **two par 3s**, **five par 4s**, and **two par 5s**. It shows the corresponding yardages of how each hole would play based on the Longleaf Tee System. This example would test virtually every club in the bag while preserving the integrity of the design. Even more, this layout provides more fun and scoring opportunities for players while allowing for faster play for everyone.

	BLUE 1	GOLD 2	GREEN 3	ORANGE 4	WHITE 5	PURPLE 6	RED 7	PGA TOUR
DRIVER CARRY DISTANCE	100	125	150	175	200	225	250	275

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2	Par 3's	7-Iron	70	86	100	116	131	147	161	177
		4-Iron	89	109	127	146	163	183	201	220
5	Par 4's	Driver + 1/2 LW	146	175	203	233	259	289	314	344
		Driver + SW	173	210	243	280	312	349	380	417
		Driver + 8-iron	189	229	265	305	341	381	415	454
		Driver + 6-iron	201	243	282	324	361	403	440	482
		Driver + 4-iron	214	259	300	344	383	428	466	510
2	Par 5's	Driver + 3-hybrid	224	270	312	358	398	444	480	526
		Driver + 3-metal + 1/2 SW	259	312	361	414	461	514	558	611
		9-HOLE YARDAGE	1565	1893	2193	2520	2809	3138	3415	3741
		18-HOLE YARDAGE	3130	3786	4386	5040	5618	6276	6830	7482
		9 HOLE GAP		328	300	327	289	329	277	
		18 HOLE GAP		656	600	654	578	658	554	

▲ IN ORDER FOR A 9-HOLE LAYOUT TO RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL USGA SLOPE/RATING, THE TOTAL MINIMUM YARDAGE MUST BE 1500 YARDS AND HAVE AT LEAST ONE HOLE MEASURING AT LEAST 250 YARDS.



## GETTING PLAYERS STARTED

Forget word or color associations for tees

The **Longleaf Tee System** is simple and practical, yet very profound. It eliminates outdated norms and vernacular, such as **men's tees**, **ladies' tees**, **senior tees**, or color associations like **white**, **red**, or **blue**; there are now simply multiple tees locations to begin each hole at a yardage based on how far any person hits their drive. As a player develops their game, the further back they play. As the player get older and their distance begins to diminish, the player moves up.

### Which tees should I play from?

Beginning with 100 yards, numbered poles are located on the range—ascending from 1 to 8. Players hit a number of drives, matching their average carry distance to the most closely associated number pole. The player now has the suggested tee location number optimal for their round.





▲ DISTINCT SIGNAGE ON THE LONGLEAF RANGE GUIDE PLAYERS TO DETERMINE WHICH TEES TO PLAY BASED ON A SIMPLE PREMISE: HIT A FEW DRIVES, SEE WHERE YOUR BALL LANDS, AND PLAY THE CORRESPONDING TEE.

## SIMPLIFY YOUR SCORECARD AND PROVIDE BLENDED TEE LOCATIONS

A groundbreaking scorecard layout based on the Longleaf Tee System

- Shows all seven tee options including blended tees, providing six additional tee options. Thirteen total tee locations are available for players to use.
- All tee locations are rated for USGA slope & ratings (for both men and women) which allow our youth to develop a handicap at an early age. NOTE: to be rated the USGA requires a minimum of 1500 yards for each 9 holes with one hole being at least 250 yards or longer.
- Each hole has the same handicap value for both male and female play.
- A unique, and important design feature of the card is to present the shortest distance first and not last.
- One scorecard is used for all play.

1.5 Play our blended tees to create a new experience each visit.  
Use the arrows to select the correct tee during the round. ▼▲

HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOTAL	
<b>BLUE 1</b>	228	156	76	90	300	83	185	265	177	1560	174	83	212	223	280	187	251	76	195	1681	3241	3504
<b>GOLD 2</b>	257	190	102	97	326	95	220	296	203	1786	216	96	242	260	312	223	282	87	215	1933	3719	4067
<b>GREEN 3</b>	283	260	135	118	369	120	240	343	220	2088	247	107	275	298	391	247	325	103	239	2232	4320	4574
<b>ORANGE 4</b>	317	290	153	143	390	132	269	388	244	2326	287	130	300	339	420	291	377	135	270	2549	4875	5135
<b>WHITE 5</b>	342	322	171	153	400	138	301	448	280	2555	304	145	328	377	451	325	421	169	304	2824	5379	5711
<b>PURPLE 6</b>	381	363	187	177	483	166	340	500	310	2907	352	184	360	387	483	353	464	200	342	3125	6032	6315
<b>RED 7</b>	409	404	201	185	534	177	370	532	335	3147	392	208	388	423	525	391	507	233	388	3455	6602	
PAR	4	4	3	3	5	3	4	5	4	35	4	3	4	4	5	4	5	3	4	36	71	HCP/NET
HANDICAP	11	1	7	15	13	9	3	5	17		8	10	14	2	6	16	18	12	4			

▲ 13 COURSE OPTIONS ARE PRESENTED TO PLAYERS THROUGH THE SIMPLICITY OF LONGLEAF'S SCORECARD. ALL OPTIONS ARE USGA RATED FOR MEN'S AND LADIES' DISTANCES.

All distance markers including sprinkler heads are measured to the center of the green. Flag color indicates hole location. FRONT CENTER BACK

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SCORER \_\_\_\_\_ ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_

## THE IMPACT ON YOUR FACILITY

Improved success for golf facilities, player recruitment/retention and golfer satisfaction are within reach.

### What Does It Cost To Add New Tees?

Tee construction can be accomplished for a modest cost relative to the general range of capital improvement options available to the golf facility. Factoring in variables such as tee size, irrigation upgrades, topography and amount of grading required, grass types, use of sod, sprigs or seed, etc., the typical course should be able to install tees, ranging in size from six to eight hundred square feet, for under \$4.00 per square foot.

### What Is Your Return On Investment?

The immediate benefit is there will be more rounds played by your current clientele providing you with more cart rentals and F&B. There will be a better pace of play. New players of all ages and gender will have success and enjoy the game!

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