

Instructions for using the Green Speed Meter

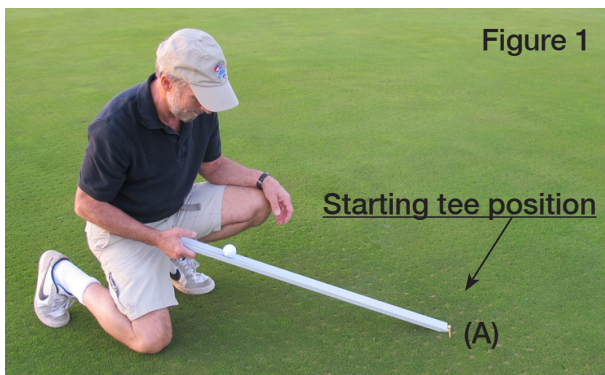
The Green Speed Meter is a simple device that enables superintendents to make accurate, objective, and statistically valid measurements using the standardized ball roll measurement method used by the U.S.G.A. Simply put, it allows the user to place a numerical value on the speed of the putting surfaces. Those numerical values are in feet and inches.

How to use

Step 1 - Find a level area on the putting green which measures at least 10' x 10'. As a matter of practice, this will be an area that you will use on a fairly regular basis to take these readings.

Step 2 - Insert a tee into the ground at the starting point (fig.1) Set the end of the device at this point. Place a golf ball in the ball release notch and slowly raise the green speed meter until the ball begins to roll down the grooved bar and hold steady until the ball is rolling on the green. To obtain the most accurate measurements, you need to practice finding the release point and holding the green speed meter steady at that point.

Repeat releasing two more golf balls at that same point. All three golf balls should come to rest within 8 inches of each other. If not, repeat this step. With some practice you should get very consistent results. This first release of (3) balls we call the 'starting roll'.

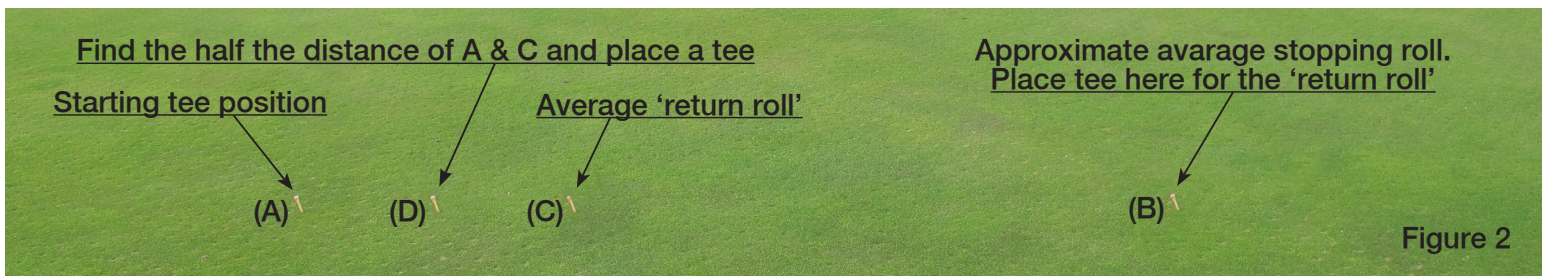


Step 3 - Place another tee at the average stopping point of the three balls. (fig. 2) Now release the three golf balls back to the starting point. Again, they should all stop within 8 inches of each other or you will need to repeat the ball releases. This second release of (3) balls we will call the 'return roll'.

Step 4 - Once again, approximate the average of the three rolls and place another tee there.

IMPORTANT – if the distance between the first ball roll average and the second ball roll average is greater than 18 inches, you will need to find another, more level area on the green. If this is not possible due to severe undulating or sloping green surfaces, you will not be able to take the green speed measurement on that green.

Step 5 - Note fig. 2 – Average the distance between the starting point of the 'starting roll' (A) and the stopping point from the 'return roll' (C) and place a tee there (D). Measure the green speed of the point back to the starting point of the 'return roll'. This number is the green speed of the putting surface measured in feet and inches (9 – 6 means 9 feet and 6 inches, for example).



Using the Short Model

Some putting greens have more undulations which make finding a large enough flat area difficult. The short model can be used on a flat area as short as 6 feet. Using the short model is similar to using the standard model. Use the same 1-5 steps as described above and multiply the roll distance by 2. Each roll should stop within half of the distances recommended above. For instance in step 2, 8 inches would be reduced to 4 inches. If these limits cannot be met it is not likely you will achieve an accurate green speed reading.

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Green Speed Data Sheet

Date: _____ Time: _____

Weather Conditions: _____

Temp: _____

Surface moisture: _____

Type of mowing unit used: _____

Bench Setting: _____

Frequency of mowing: _____

Other maintenance conditions present affecting speed such as verticutting, rolling, topdressing, etc:

Type of grass: _____

Green Speed Data					
SPEED		SPEED		SPEED	
Green#	_____	Green#	_____	Green#	_____
Green#	_____	Green#	_____	Green#	_____
Green#	_____	Green#	_____	Green#	_____
Green#	_____	Green#	_____	Green#	_____
Green#	_____	Green#	_____	Green#	_____
Green#	_____	Green#	_____	Green#	_____

Name of person measuring speed: _____

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Conditions prevalent during the measurement process are important to note. In order to get consistent and relevant data you should strive to test at about the same time of day under the same conditions such as an hour after mowing on a clam sunny day. Accumulated data can then be compared with data compiled under other conditions such as just after vertical mowing, rolling, topdressing, fertilizing, under windy conditions, and so forth. The information gathered will be helpful in planning maintenance practices in preparation for special events such as tournaments.

Green speeds vary from day to day and from course to course and from season to season. Most golf course superintendents confer with other superintendents in their geographical area to get comparative feel of local green speeds. This is done, not for competitive purposes, but rather to get an objective idea of local conditions. Golfers often play other local courses and make such comparisons subjectively and often inaccurately and sometimes place unfair pressure on the superintendent to 'speed up' the greens. It is generally recognized by the golf maintenance industry that green speed targets are best left to a collaborative effort of the greens superintendent, greens committee, golf committee, owner, golf professional and/or other qualified parties.

It is recommended to keep good records of green speed readings in a separate log book. Enclosed is a sample you may wish to copy or refer to in your own log book.