



extend grass so headline can live on top of it but make it a bit lighter for black type to read

KNOW YOUR ROLL

The speed of the greens you're playing on a given day is a critical piece of information that will help you make more putts. Enter the **Stimpmeter**.

GOLF IS A GAME of amazing technological advancements. Everything from swing speed to ground force to angle of attack is measured, calculated and analyzed using state-of-the-art equipment with scientific precision. So it's kind of cool that the speed of the greens from muni to major is determined by the simplest of devices—a stick. Okay, it's not exactly a stick; it's a Stimpmeter.

1. What is a Stimpmeter?

It's a simple, accurate device made of aluminum used to determine green speed by measuring ball roll distance. According to the USGA, every Stimpmeter should be 36 inches long, with a notched end and a tapered end. The tool should have a V-shaped groove angled on each side at 145 degrees, allowing a consistent roll every time.

2. How is a Stimpmeter used?

After the putting surfaces are mowed for the day, a greenskeeper or course superintendent sets the tapered end of the

More Stuff You Should Know

By most accounts, Edward S. Stimpson, the 1935 Massachusetts Amateur champion and Harvard golf captain, developed his eponymous measurement ramp after

reading about Gene Sarazen putting off the green at Oakmont CC during the 1936 U.S. Open. Soon after, he began lobbying the USGA to adopt what were originally wooden devices. The association officially put the Stimpmeter to use, finally, in 1978.

device flush with the grass on a wide flat area of the green and pegs a tee just beside it. Then a ball is placed on the standard notched end. (There's an alternate notch for unusual conditions.) When the device is raised to 20 degrees, the ball releases down the groove and rolls out a certain distance. This process is repeated with two more balls. All three balls should come to rest within eight inches of each other. A tee is pegged at the average stopping point.

3. The results

The super measures the distance between the two tees. Then the Stimpmeter is set up at the second tee and the process is repeated in the opposite direction. Assuming those three balls rest within eight inches of each other, another measurement is taken of the rollout. Average the two measurements and you have your Stimp or Stimp Rating.

4. What does it all mean?

If the average distance between the two tees is eight to eight and a half feet, the greens are considered slow. Anything 12 feet and longer is considered fast. Know the Stimp and you'll know how firm to hit your putts. —*Top 100 Teacher Erika Larkin*

Stuff Golfers Should Know is a GOLF.com series in which we reveal all kinds of useful golf (and life!) wisdom sure to make you the smartest, savviest and most prepared player in your foursome.

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