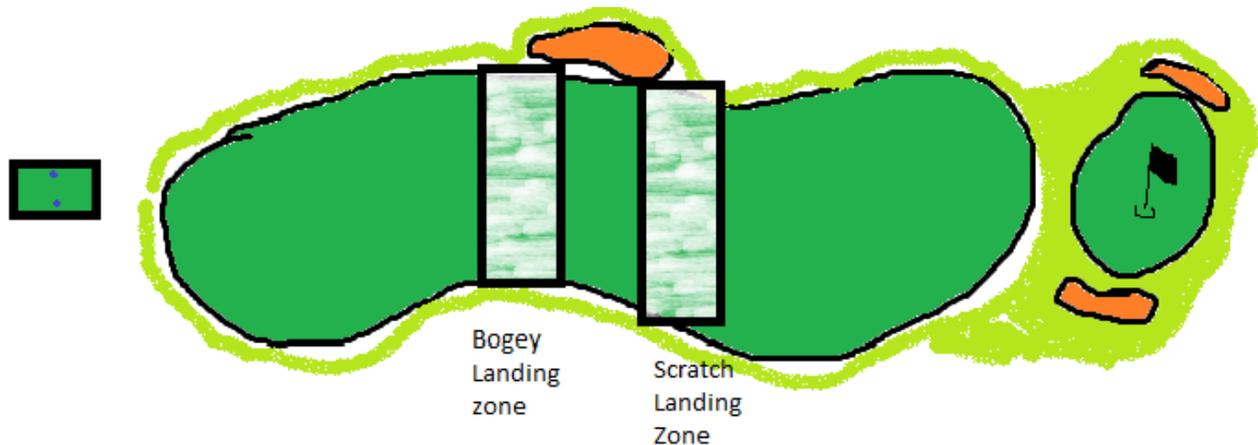


From Tee to Green and all Between: **Topography**

Each month we will go over a separate Obstacle Factor. These are all of the things beyond length of a hole that impact play and difficulty.

The first spot the ball lands is the first thing we evaluate. For each player (Scratch and Bogey, Men and Women) we go to the *Landing Zone*.

Let's start with a definition of *Landing Zone*: a fairway-wide area extending from where a shot hits the ground to where it comes to rest. Average roll out is approximately 20 yards. In situations where more or less roll out due to a shot that is up or down hill, we look at the extended areas as well.



Topography is the evaluation of the Impact of terrain on play. Topography ratings are based on:

- Slopes and mounds *in the fairway* that affect stance and/or lie
- Whether the shot to the Green is Uphill or Downhill

If the Landing Zone (LZ) is flat as a carpet, it is a Minor problem. If the LZ is contoured and makes the player begin to adjust their stance or grip their club, it would bump up the difficulty. If the LZ is severely undulating ground where the player is aiming at a green that has 30 feet of elevation that would definitely impact the player's shot.

Topography in each Landing Zone is assessed separately. For instance, the Bogey LZ may be flat and easy to hit from, the Scratch LZ may be on a sloped fairway. On longer holes, the most difficult LZ is the one that impacts play the most. That would be the assessment that is put into the Course Rating System.

Most of Topography is rated from the fairway landing zones. On Par-3s we have a different designation. Since most teeing areas are flat, only the change in Elevation is considered. On very long par-3s where the Bogey golfer cannot reach the green, the area in front of the green is used to evaluate their Topography designation.

Here is what Topography is not:

- It is not the width of the fairway, that will be covered in *Fairway* (March's topic)
- It is not the pond that has to be carried to reach the fairway, that is *Water*
- It is not mounds in the rough, which is addressed in *Rough & Recoverability*

If you have any questions, please contact Gretchen Yoder, Manager of Handicapping and Course Rating
gretchen@oga.org