

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

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

This month's topic is **Water**. Our mission is to evaluate how **Water** comes into play.

Water rating is based on:

- Shot length required to reach the landing zone (fairway or green);
- Shot length to carry a crossing water hazard; and
- Distance of the water hazard from the center of the landing zone (whether fairway or green)

Factors that need to be considered:

- Location, size, and conditions in the hazard;
- Number of times water comes into play on one hole;
- Fraction of the green closely surrounded by the hazard;
- Conditions in the area adjacent to the hazard



18 on Heron Lakes' Great Blue brings up the following questions: Is it a Lateral Water Hazard? Does it come into play on multiple shots? Does the player have to potentially cross the hazard at the green or at a fairway landing zone?

If it is a **crossing**, will the player have to completely carry the water? Or is it a narrow creek?



Full Crossing: Player must carry a full shot to the green at #4 on Heron Lakes' Great Blue. This green also has a partial **Surround** since the water is quite close

Crossing is based on the length of the shot the Player must carry the ball. Portland Golf Club's #12 has only a *partial crossing* for the narrow creek.

Here are some of the further Adjustments that we think about when assessing **Water**:

- **Bounce:** Do conditions of the course increase the likelihood that a ball will bounce into the **Water**, such as a cart path or sloped ground.
- **Percentage:** If the **Water** has areas that are dry much of the time, if the hazard is very narrow, or if the crossing is only partial, we take a percentage of the value.
- **Two Time:** If **Water** comes into play on more than 2 times of a longer hole AND both values are high.
- **Two Way:** If **Water** must be carried and also borders the target landing zone.
- **Squeeze:** If **Water** exists within 20 yards on BOTH sides of a landing zone.
- **Surround:** If **Water** closely surrounds a green.



Surround: Is the green completely or just partially surrounded by water? In a situation such as the signature hole at Lost Tracks, the green is completely surrounded by **Water**, which makes recovery quite difficult if you miss the green!

If you have any questions, please contact Gretchen Yoder, Manager of Handicapping and Course Rating
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