

118th U.S. Open Championship
Golf Course Setup Notes – Round 4 (Sunday, June 17, 2018)
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General Golf Course Comments – In preparation for today's forecasted dry and windy conditions and to maintain a challenging yet fair U.S. Open test, we applied appropriate levels of water to all putting greens last night and this morning for turf health and firmness. We also adjusted some hole locations in a manner similar to what we did in Round 1, reviewing our initial selections and comparing them against our weather forecast and other agronomic data.

Green Speeds – Similar to the preparation we took for Round 1, green speeds will be, on average, 10-12 inches slower than Rounds 2 and 3.

Firmness – Putting greens were hand-watered to replenish moisture for both turf health and firmness.

Weather forecast:

GENERAL WEATHER

Overall today's forecast is not all that different from yesterday with another good-looking day in store. Mostly sunny skies pretty much all day today will mix with a few high clouds at times this morning as they slide by to our north and east, then we'll see a couple more high clouds drifting in from the north and west later on this afternoon. Highs will be warm once again, already starting off just above 60 we'll top out in the low 80s around lunchtime before the onshore breeze gradually cools us down through the remainder of the afternoon. The humidity will remain on the comfortable side with dewpoints in the 50s to low 60s at times. Tonight, will be partly cloudy to mostly clear with lows in the mid-60s. The wind will be even more gusty on Monday with highs in the upper 70s ahead of a cold front moving down from the north giving the best chance for wet weather late Monday and especially into Tuesday (albeit 40% late Monday and 60% Tuesday).

WINDS

Light winds at sunrise will feature an occasional gust through breakfast up to 8 mph but look for the west and northwest winds to become a bit more consistent mid-morning at 6- 10 mph with a gust or two in the 10-14 mph range. By noon the wind should be shifting to come more from the southwest gradually increasing to 8-16 mph. Eventually we are going to see a south wind mid-afternoon on with speeds not jumping up like yesterday, but rather a period of sustained speeds between 10-15 mph and gusts 15-20 mph. A lot of computer models do not have the wind getting above 10 mph this afternoon (just like yesterday), but also just like yesterday we think the wind will be stronger than everyone else is forecasting. The good news is that if at least the model trend is correct, the forecasted wind speed for the breeze this afternoon is supposed to be 2 mph less than yesterday when we averaged 12 mph with gusts topping out around 20 mph. Otherwise tonight will feature a little more wind than last night and Monday is anticipated to be a windy day with the highest gust approaching 30 mph.

Setup Information

The following are the specific hole yardages (tee to hole location) for Round 4:

Hole 1 (par 4) – 399

Today's Wind: SW (Against and from the left)

Fairway Widths: 28-58 yards depending on how aggressive a player is from the tee

Hole Location: 22-15L

Notes: Look for most players to lay up into the widest portion of the fairway to get into proper position. The back-left hole location is protected by the left greenside bunker. The left-to-right cross breeze on the second shot will also make it challenging to get it close to the hole. The

shoulder that works into the putting green from the left greenside bunker will have an influence on shots and putts to this hole location.

Hole 2 (par 3) – 264

Today's Wind: SW (Downwind and from the left)

Hole Location: 34-15CTR

Notes: The combination of today's back hole location and the tees being on the back portion of the primary tee has the second hole playing its longest for the championship. Tee shots can be played into the approach and bounced up onto the putting green. There is ample room between the cross bunker and the front of the green to do so. Any balls coming to rest over the green will have a challenging recovery because of the knob in the back-center portion of the green.

Hole 3 (par 4) – 495

Today's Wind: SW (A hurting, left-to-right cross wind)

Fairway Widths: 32-35 yards in the drive zone

Hole Location: 15-16R

Notes: With today's prevailing breeze, the tee shot should be a bit easier. The third hole played as one of the most difficult holes for the championship. Today's hole location is in the middle of the green on an internal shelf. The best birdie chances will come from second shots that finish below the hole.

Hole 4 (par 4) - 471

Today's Wind: SW (Slightly hurting right-to-left cross wind)

Fairway Widths: 34-36 yards in drive zone

Hole Location: 12-10R

Notes: The fourth hole will play back into the prevailing breeze. The front-right hole location will be challenging to get to as it is protected by the front-right greenside bunker. The false front will also be in play with this hole location.

Hole 5 (par 5) - 597

Today's Wind: SW (Downwind)

Fairway Widths: 33-44 yards in drive zone

Hole Location: 28-10L

Notes: The fifth hole played as the easiest through the first three rounds. Look for that to continue as the prevailing breeze has the hole playing straight down-breeze. Today's hole location is in the narrow, back-center portion of the putting green, which brings the substantial falloff to the left of the green down into a large closely mown area into play.

Hole 6 (par 4) – 494

Today's Wind: SW (Hurting and from the left)

Fairway Widths: 37-71 yards in the drive zone

Hole Location: 27-11L

Notes: Tee markers are on the primary tee today. The carry over the natural sandy area and bunker is approximately 240 yards. Today's hole location is back left behind the front-left bunker, making the preferred tee shot down the right side to gain the best angle to it. Most putts will be from short or hole high and they will be slow with some significant right-to-left break. A ball that comes to rest over this green will be faced with a challenging recovery.

Hole 7 (par 3) – 180

Today's Wind: SW (Right to left and hurting)

Hole Location: 10-6L

Notes: We are back on the primary tee today. Today's hole location is front left. A precise tee shot is required to get the ball near this hole location.

Hole 8 (par 4) – 435

Today's Wind: SW (Hurting and from the right)

Fairway Widths: 53-61 in the drive zone

Hole Location: 18-14R

Notes: This hole is apt to play a bit differently today with the prevailing wind. The hole today is centrally located, but the front-right bunker and a pronounced mound within the front right portion of the putting green will have a significant influence on this location. Shots that travel past and left of this hole location have a chance of feeding off the putting green.

Hole 9 (par 4) – 478

Today's Wind: SW (Right to left cross wind)

Fairway Widths: 41-44 yards in drive zone

Hole Location: 14-7L

Notes: The prevailing breeze will have this hole playing more traditionally today. The second shot is uphill to a bowl-like green. Balls beyond or right of this front-left hole location will be quick and result in a significant right-to-left breaking putt.

Hole 10 (par 4) – 411

Today's Wind: SW (Helping and from the right)

Fairway Widths: 47 yards at the top of the hill; 37-44 yards at the bottom of the hill.

Hole Location: 17-10R

Notes: Tee markers are placed on the left tee today. Players have a choice from the tee – lay up to the top of the hill resulting in a “level” second shot and a full view of the putting green or take the tee shot to the bottom of the hill and be faced with a shorter second shot but one that is extremely uphill and semi-blind. Today's middle-right hole location will be challenging to get to. Players who try to do so must be wary of the falloff area right and behind this hole location.

Hole 11 (par 3) – 159

Today's Wind: SW (Helping from the left)

Hole Location: 24-5R

Notes: The shortest hole on the course, but one of Shinnecock's most challenging. The angle at which the putting green sits places a premium on distance control. Today's hole location is on the narrow back portion of this green, some four paces from the back edge. It will be challenging to take on this hole location with the tee shot. Look for many birdie putts to come from short of this hole location.

Hole 12 (par 4) – 472

Today's Wind: SW (Helping and from the left)

Fairway Widths: 29-30

Hole Location: 19-6L

Notes: The prevailing breeze should have this hole playing a bit easier for the final round.

Today's middle-left hole location is protected by a significant mound within the left middle of this green which will influence putts from long and right of the hole location. Putts from short of this location will be on the slow side.

Hole 13 (par 4) – 367

Today's Wind: SW (Against and from the right)

Fairway Widths: 24-48 in drive zone depending on how aggressive the player is off the tee

Hole Location: 17-12L

Notes: This hole features one of the narrower fairways on the course. Today's hole location is located middle left and is protected by the false front. A pronounced slope left of this hole location will feed balls to the right toward the hole location.

Hole 14 (par 4) – 512

Today's Wind: SW (Helping and from the left)

Fairway Widths: 34-42 in drive zone

Hole Location: 5 -11R

Notes: The 14th hole played as one of the most difficult in the first three rounds. The hole is located in the front center and players will have to bounce balls through the approach to get near this hole location.

Hole 15 (par 4) – 408

Today's Wind: SW (Left-to-right cross wind)

Fairway Widths: 33-41 in drive zone

Hole Location: 15-7L

Notes: The elevated tee shot is really impacted by the crosswind on this hole. Despite the 15th hole's short yardage, the green was hit in regulation just a little more than half the time in the first three rounds. Today's hole location is middle left with the left greenside bunker looming.

Hole 16 (par 5) – 621

Today's Wind: SW (Against and from the right)

Fairway Widths: 40-45 in the drive zone

Hole Location: 22-10R

Notes: The 16th hole played as the second-easiest so far this week (4.91 stroke average). However, with the prevailing breeze coming up in Round 3, it played as the seventh-most difficult hole (5.35 stroke average). Today's hole location is back right with the right greenside bunker waiting to catch an errant shot to the right.

Hole 17 (par 3) – 182

Today's Wind: SW (Left to right cross wind)

Hole Location: 30-12L

Notes: Today's back-left hole location, coupled with the angle that this green sits at, makes for a challenging tee shot. The front left greenside bunker protects this hole location, but the left-to-right crosswind also keeps the right greenside bunker in play. Tee shots that finish past this hole location, even if they are in the fringe, will yield a more manageable birdie opportunity.

Hole 18 (par 4) – 486

Prevailing Wind: SW (Right-to-left crosswind with some hurt on the tee shot but some help on the second shot)

Fairway Widths: 41-51 yards

Hole Location: 23-16R

Notes: Challenging tee shot because the hole turns from right to left but the slope of the fairway cants from left to right. Today's hole location is on the right side of the middle plateau and is reasonably accessible.

Total yardage

Front 9 – 3,813 (par 35)

Back 9 – 3,618 (par 35)

Total – 7,431 (par 70)