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USGA Distance Insights

Analysis of Golf Course and Golfer Playing Lengths

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USGA®

Key Takeaways

- Overall course lengths in the United States are fairly evenly distributed from less than 6000 yards to over 7000 yards while front tee playing lengths are most frequently 4800 – 5200 yards.
- The number of rated tees per course increases from 2 ½ to 6 for male golfers as courses get longer and increases for female golfers from 2 to 4 as front tee lengths get shorter. Male golfers have more rated tees.
- The overall number and average number of postings by male golfers increases as course length increases while the opposite is true for female golfers (postings increase as front tee length decreases).
- The average male plays from 6100-yard tees and the average female plays from 5100-yard tees with playing distance strongly correlated to handicap; on average, better golfers play longer courses.
- The back tee is only the most utilized tee by men for courses shorter than 6000 yards and is used less than 10% of the time on courses more than 6600 yards (only 3% on 7000-yard courses)
- The most forward rated tee for females is utilized the most for courses 4600 yards or longer
- It is not until forward tees are offered shorter than 4200 yards that female golfers appear to have the same flexibility of choice that male golfers enjoy on average (>85% of golfers have a tee shorter and longer than they choose to play)
- **When using the Longleaf system to determine recommended playing lengths for golfers, at least 62% of male golfers and at least 80% of female golfers *play too long a course on a daily basis!***

Outline

- I. About the Data**
- II. Course Length Characterization**
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- IV. Course Utilization by Golfers**
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- VI. Tee Utilization by Golfers**
- VII. Assessment of Golfers Playing Length Decisions**



About the Data

- **Databases Utilized**
 - **USGA Central Computation Score Posting Data**
 - **Course Rating Service Data**
- **Year = January 1 to December 31, 2020**
- **Timing of Data Access = February 2021**
- **Scope of Data**
 - **Full Year – USA Only**
 - **18-hole postings only (manual postings excluded)**
 - **Active & Published Tee Sets**
- **Courses = 13,877 CRS Courses / 100,762 CRS Tee Sets in the United States**
- **Total number of data points ~55 million by ~2 million golfers in the United States**
 - **Male ~ 47 million scores posted (85%)**
 - **Female ~ 8 million scores posted (15%)**

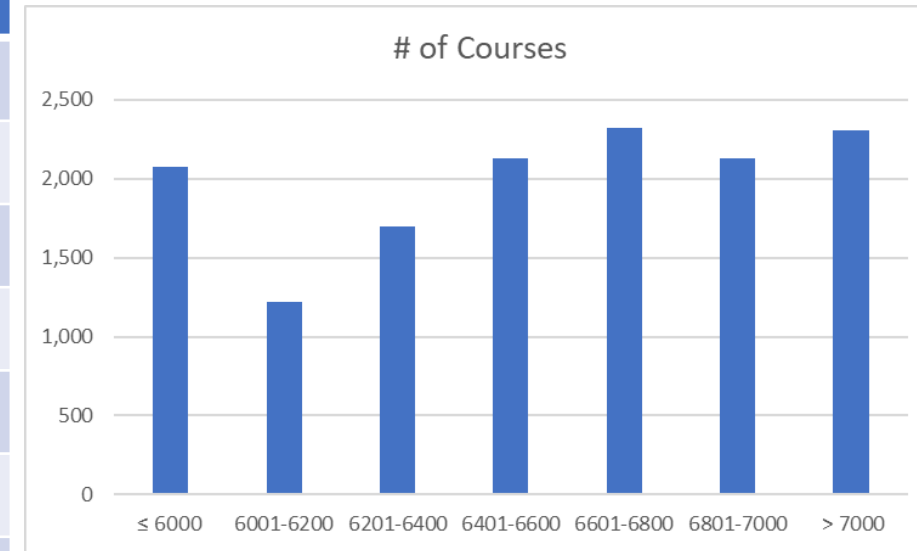


Course Length Characterization

“Supply”

Distribution of Courses by Overall Length

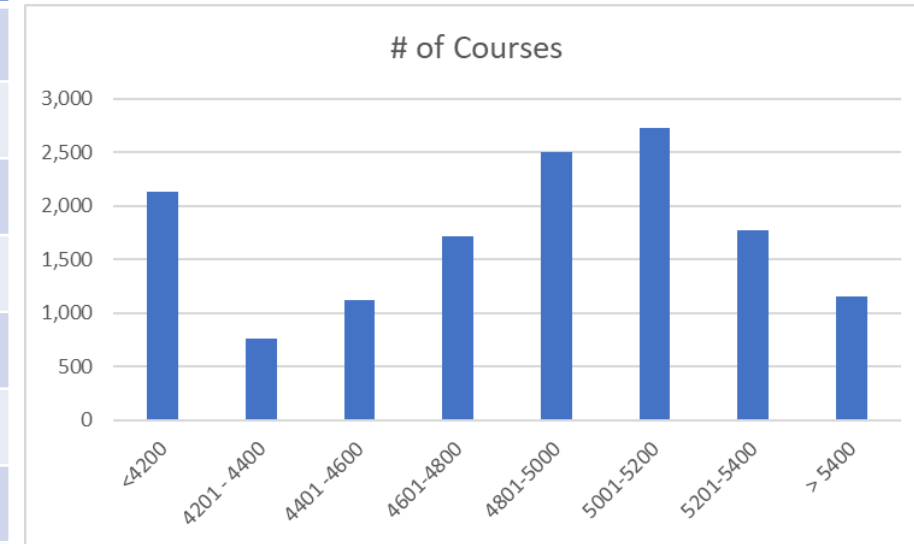
Overall Course Length (yds)	# of Courses	% of Courses
≤ 6000	2,075	15%
6001-6200	1,222	9%
6201-6400	1,697	12%
6401-6600	2,127	15%
6601-6800	2,319	17%
6801-7000	2,130	15%
> 7000	2,307	17%
Total	13,877	100%



When using overall length to characterize golf courses, there is a generally even distribution across 200-yard bins

Distribution of Courses by Front Tee Length

Front Tee Course Length (yds)	# of Courses	% of Courses
≤ 4200	2,126	15%
4201 - 4400	757	5%
4401 -4600	1,126	8%
4601-4800	1,717	12%
4801-5000	2,503	18%
5001-5200	2,727	20%
5201-5400	1,768	13%
> 5400	1,153	8%
Total	13,877	100%

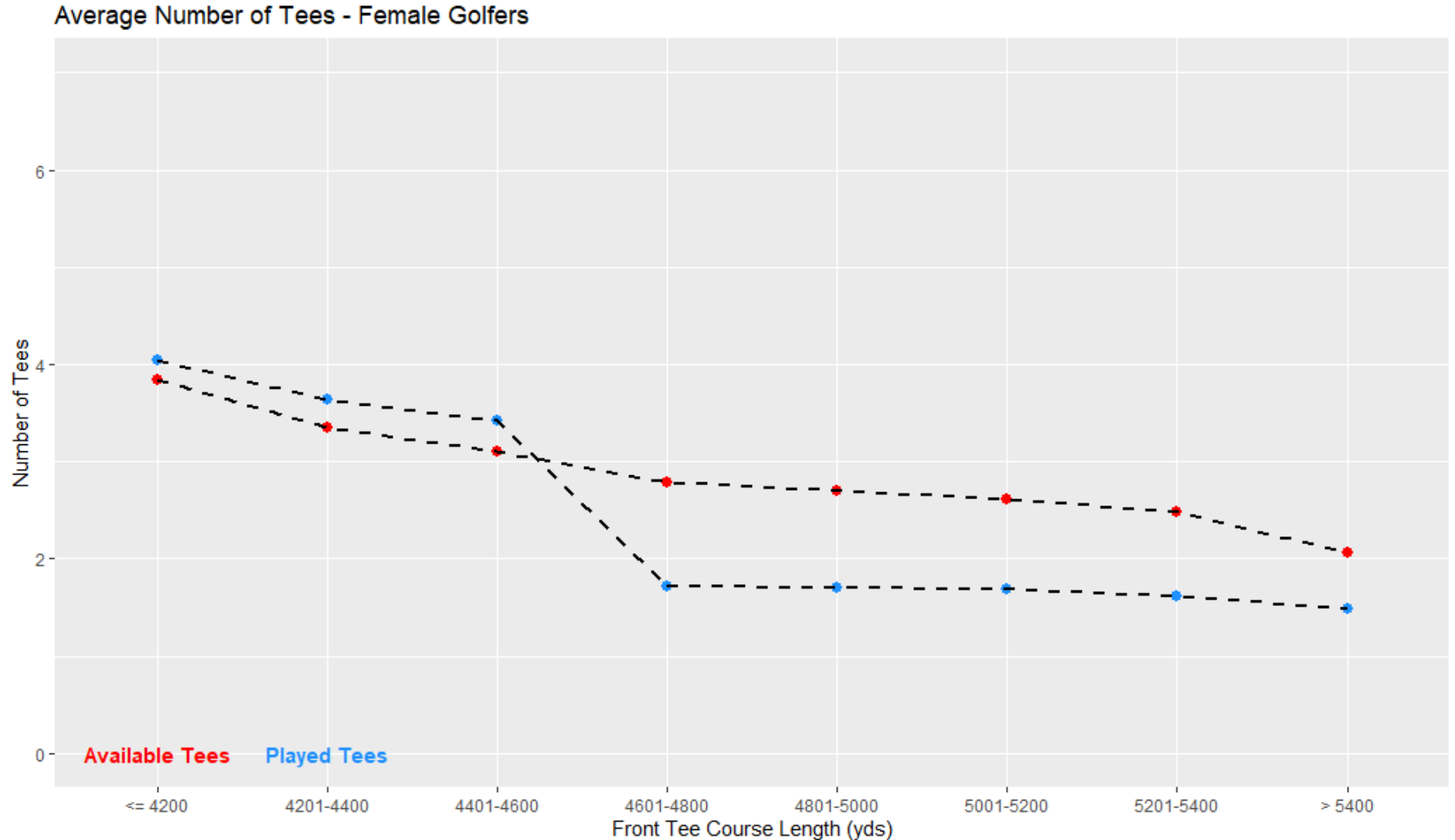


Using the forward tee length, the course inventory distribution peaks about 5000 yards.

Tee Availability for Golfers to Use “Supply”

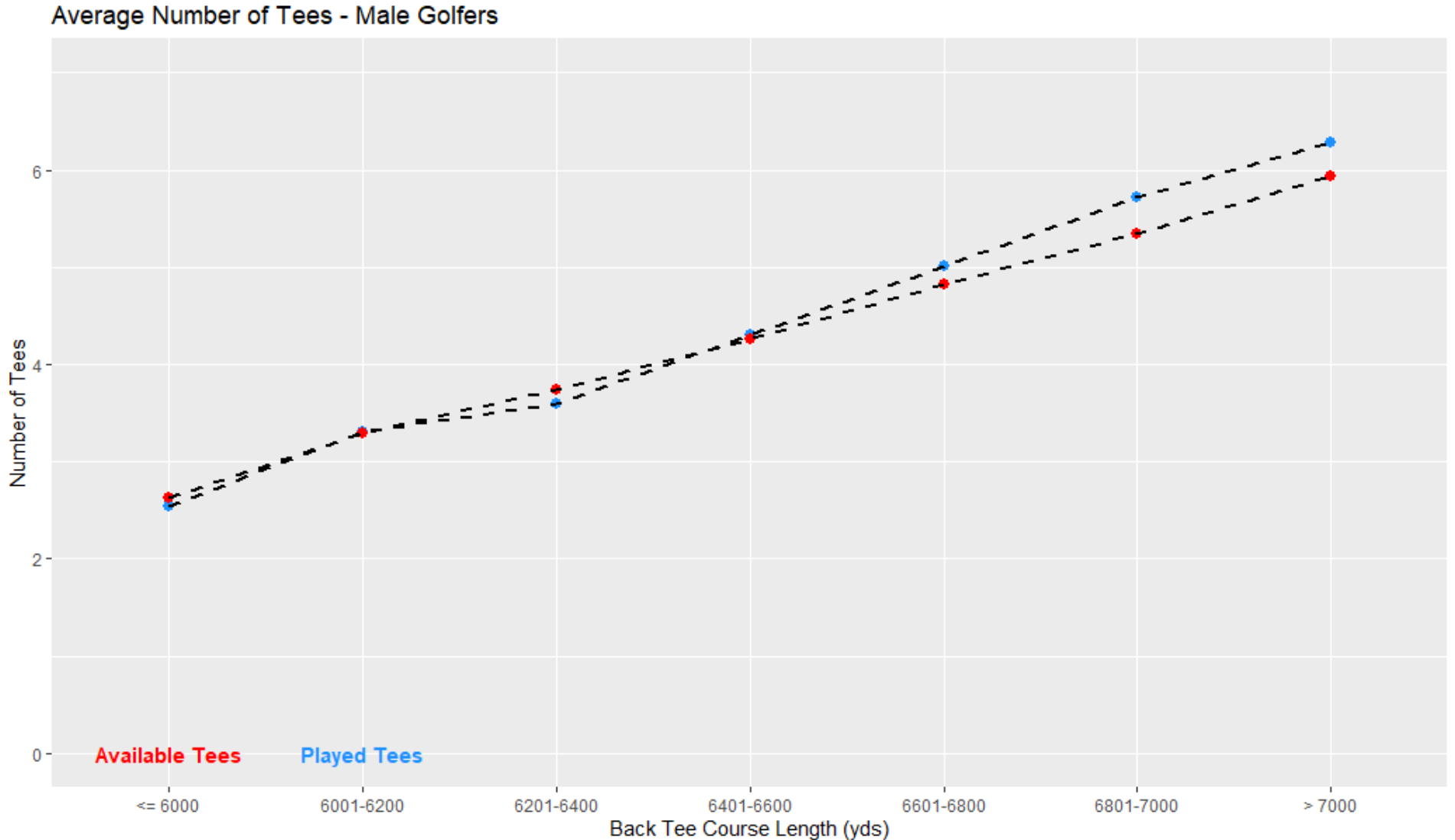
Number of Rated Tees Available - Female

As forward tee length decreases, the average number of rated tees for females nearly doubles. Tee utilization drops above 4600 yards



Number of Rated Tees Available - Male

As overall course length increases, the average number of rated tees for males increases and almost all tees are utilized.

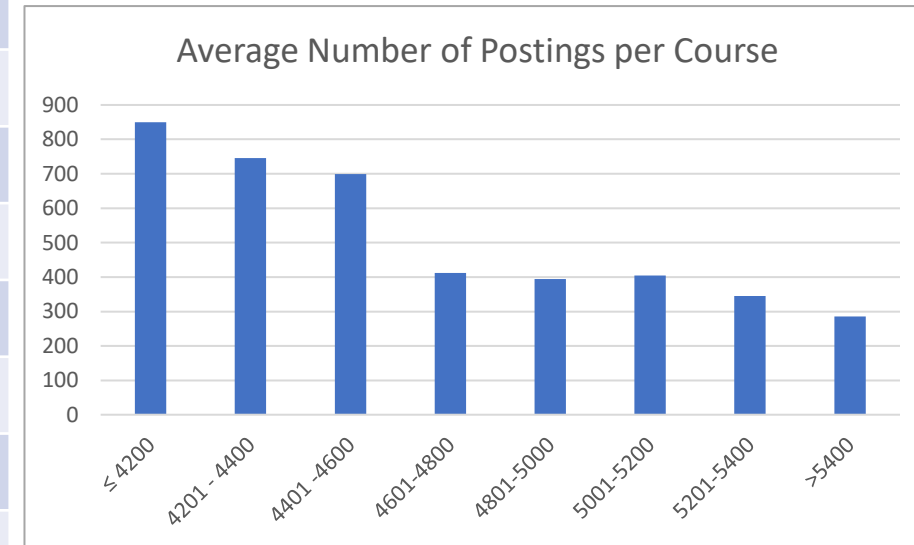


Course Utilization by Golfers Utilizing Handicap Service

“Demand”

Female Scores Posted by Front Tee Length

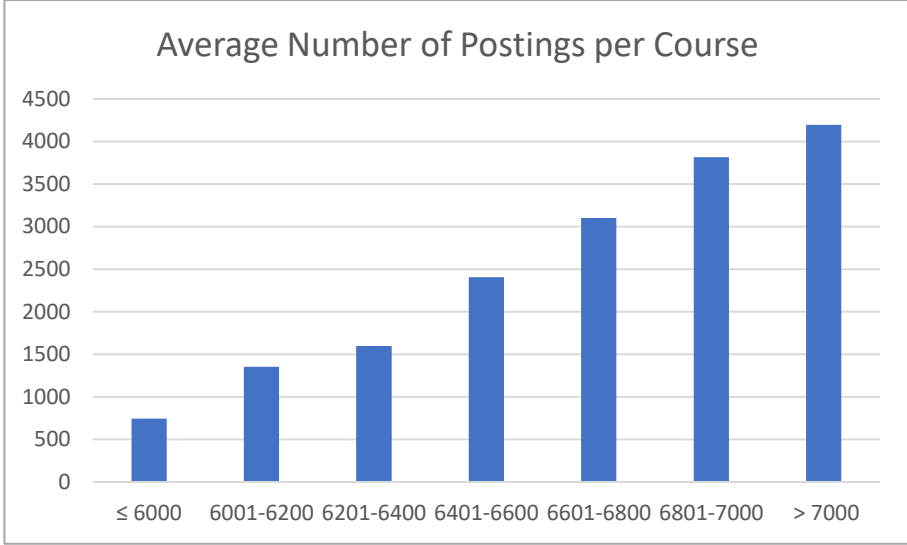
Front Tee Course Length (yds)	Scores Posted	Postings / Course
≤ 4200	1,799,884	850
4201 - 4400	587,395	746
4401 - 4600	791,312	699
4601-4800	676,323	412
4801-5000	987,697	394
5001-5200	1,134,335	405
5201-5400	670,126	345
>5400	419,783	286
Total	7,066,855	Avg = 517



As overall front tee length decreases, the average number of postings by female golfers increases

Male Scores Posted by Overall Course Length

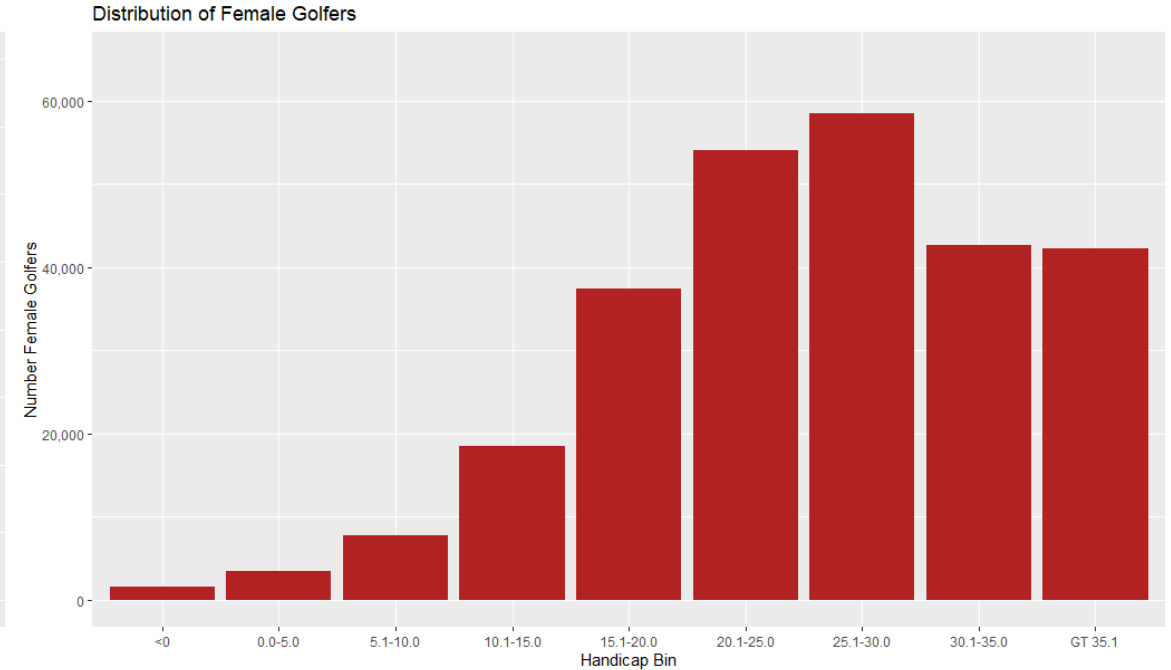
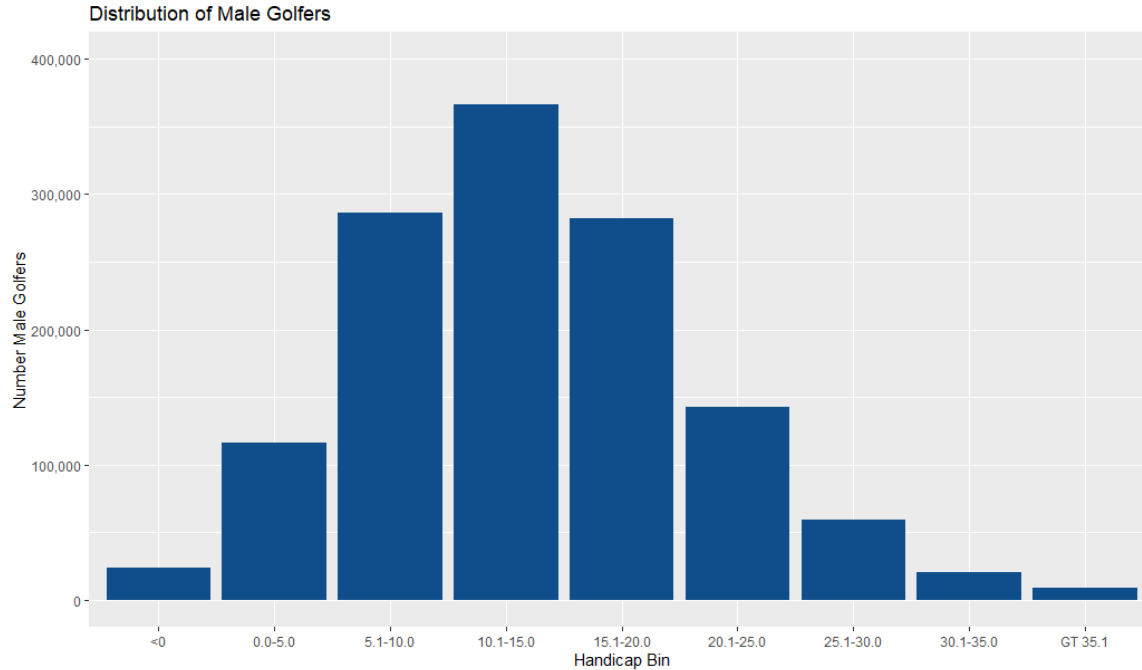
Overall Course Length (yds)	Scores Posted	Postings / Course
≤ 6000	1,779,759	744
6001-6200	1,991,573	1,352
6201-6400	3,325,687	1,597
6401-6600	6,446,011	2,404
6601-6800	8,884,465	3,102
6801-7000	9,850,648	3,817
> 7000	14,320,464	4,195
Total	46,598,617	Avg = 2,459



As overall course length increases, the average number of postings by male golfers increases

Golfer Characterization: Handicap and Score Posting

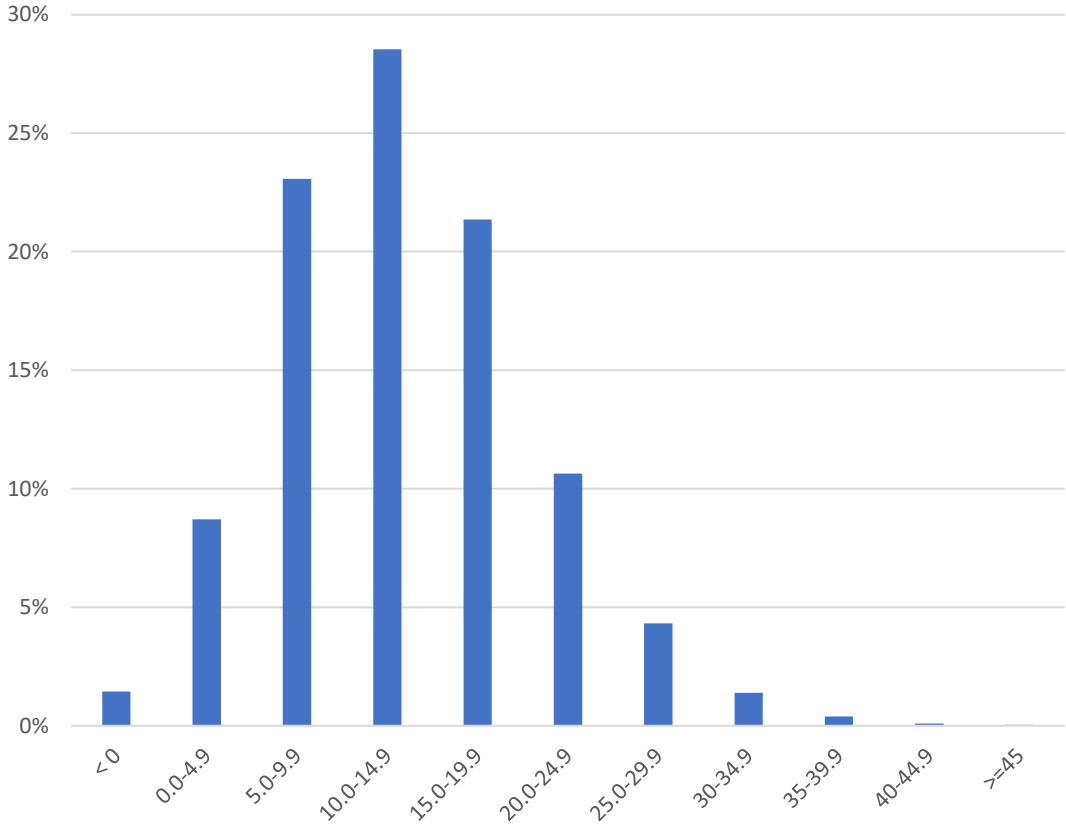
Golfer Distribution by Handicap and Gender



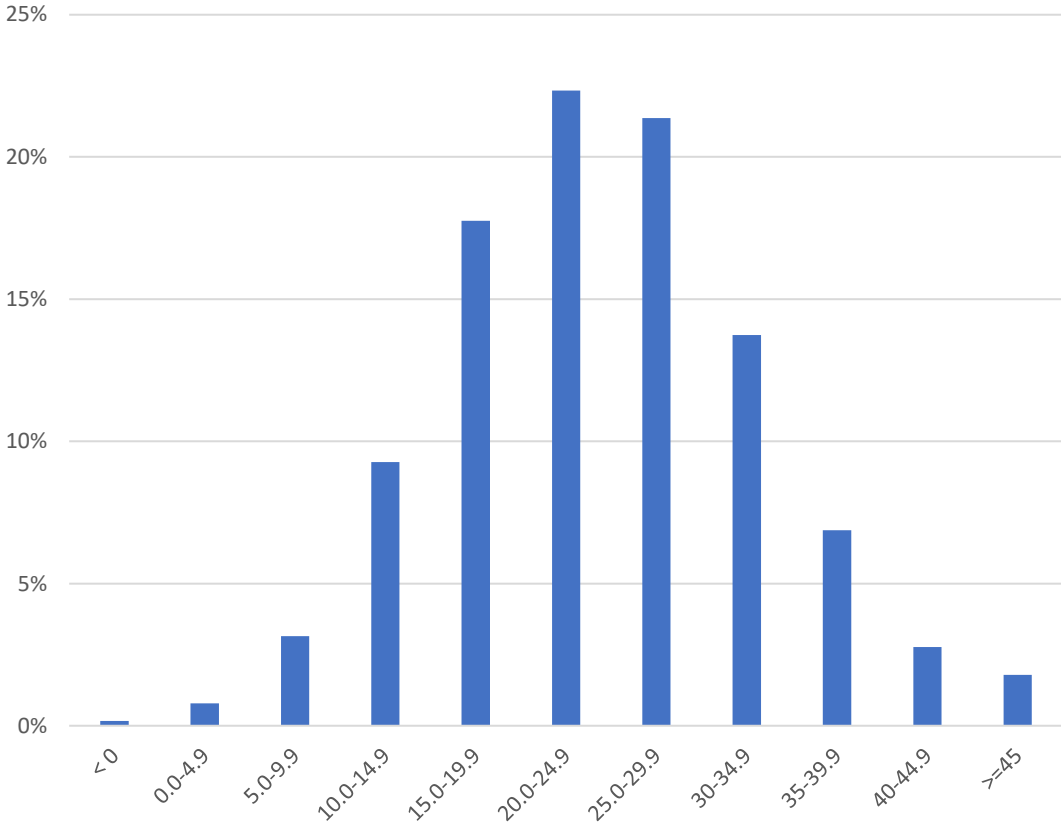
The most common handicap range for female golfers is 25.1 – 30.0 and is 10.1 – 15.0 for male golfers

Score Posted by Handicap Bin and Gender

Percent of Scores in Handicap Range - Men



Percent of Scores in Handicap Range - Women



The most scores are posted by golfers in handicap range of 20.0 – 24.9 for females and 10.0 – 14.9 for males

Posting Frequency by Handicap Bin & Gender

Handicap Bin	# Male Golfers	# Male Scores Posted	# Scores per Male Golfer	# Female Golfers	# Female Scores Posted	# Scores per Female Golfer
< 0	24,097	767,500	31.85	1,515	22,787	15.04
0.0 – 5.0	116,620	4,461,904	38.26	3,507	86,048	24.54
5.1 – 10.0	286,223	11,240,548	39.27	7,795	312,988	40.15
10.1 – 15.0	366,087	12,877,221	35.18	18,488	842,165	45.55
15.1 – 20.0	281,914	8,559,100	30.36	37,454	1,557,252	42.58
20.1 – 25.0	142,975	3,719,132	26.01	54,086	1,854,293	34.28
25.1 – 30.0	59,277	1,289,243	21.75	58,406	1,538,983	26.35
30.1 – 35.0	20,276	365,354	18.02	42,638	842,639	19.76
> 35.1	8,950	117,590	13.14	42,203	521,718	12.36
Totals	1,306,419	43,397,592	33.22	220,956	5,842,170	28.48

Females between 10.1 – 20.0 and male golfers with handicaps between 0.0 – 10.0 post most frequently

Scores Posted by Course Length Bin

Back Tee Course Length	Male Scores Posted	Female Scores Posted	Ratio of Male to Female
≤ 6000	1,920,192	444,191	4.32
6001-6200	2,132,170	370,871	5.75
6201-6400	3,668,857	620,278	5.92
6401-6600	6,757,182	1,185,758	5.70
6601-6800	9,227,870	1,572,064	5.87
6801-7000	10,144,224	1,693,738	5.99
> 7000	12,493,056	1,957,839	6.38

Longer courses have more scores posted by both men and women; however, the ratio of men/women increases as courses get longer (men post at an increasingly higher frequency than women)

Scores Posted by Forward Tee Length Bin

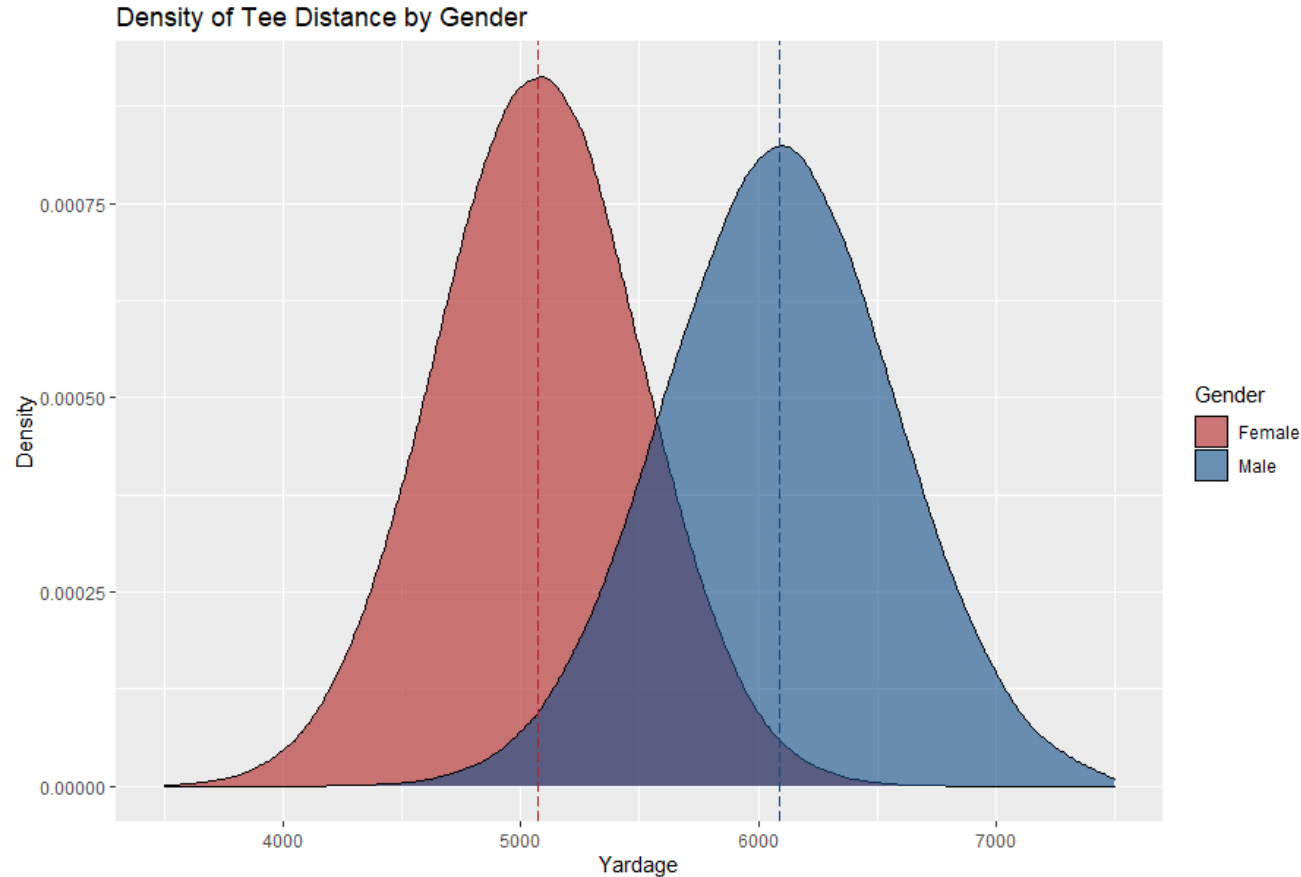
Forward Tee Length	Male Scores Posted	Female Scores Posted	Ratio of Male to Female
<4200	8,337,218	1,858,525	4.49
4201 - 4400	2,814,662	593,730	4.74
4401 -4600	3,668,363	790,953	4.64
4601-4800	4,853,037	860,026	5.64
4801-5000	7,727,261	1,208,332	6.39
5001-5200	9,266,623	1,337,988	6.93
5201-5400	6,188,915	787,726	7.86
>5400	3,487,572	407,459	8.56

The ratio of men/women decreases as playing options for courses get shorter (women post at an increasingly higher frequency compared to men)

Tee Utilization by Golfers

“Demand”

Playing Length by Gender (normalized)



Males play about 1000 yards longer on average than females

Dotted lines indicate the means

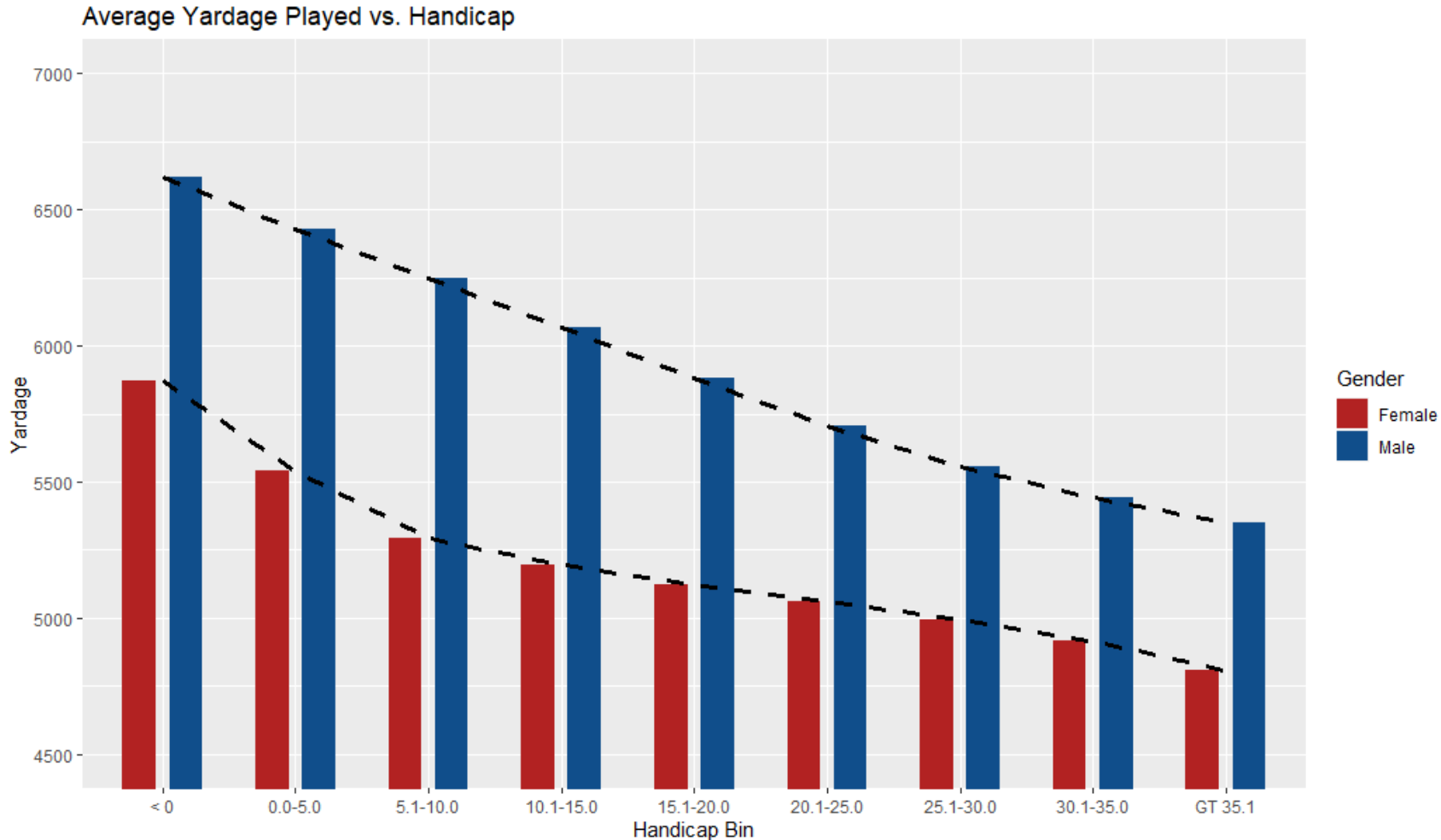
The male distribution is wider, and the peak is shorter

indicating that there is a larger range of playing distances used

Also shown by greater Std. Dev

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Std. Dev.</u>
Female	5071	435
Male	6089	488

Average Playing Length by Handicap Bin



Better golfers play longer tees for both genders

Male slope = -163 yds/handicap bin

Female slope = -115 yds/handicap bin

Two Ways to Look at Golfer Tee Selection

Because there are not equal numbers of rated tees for men and women from course to course, the analysis is not straightforward

Option 1: When there are three or more rated tees, the shortest rated tee is the front tee, the longest rated tee is the back tee and the other(s) are middle tees, regardless if there is only one, or if there are several, middle tees.

Option 2:

For women: Start with the front tee and count back with the third and all longer tees group as “other”

For men: Start with the back tee and count forward

Middle Tees Grouped

Option 1: If there are three or more rated tees, the shortest rated tee is the front tee, the longest rated tee is the back tee and the other(s) are middle tees, whether there is only one or if there are several middle tees.

Overall Tee Utilization - Middle Tees Grouped

Gender	Front Tee Usage	Middle Tee Usage	Back Tee Usage
Male	5%	85%	10%
Female	48%	47%	5%

- **85% of male golfers have tee selection flexibility – there is an available tee in front and behind the tee they elected to use.**
- **47% of female golfers have tee selection flexibility – there is an available tee in front and behind the tee they elected to use.**

Breakdown of Female Tee Utilization

(Middle Tees Grouped)

Front Tee Course Length	Back Tee Usage	All Middle Tees Usage	Front Tee Usage
<4200	3%	86%	12%
4201 - 4400	3%	74%	23%
4401 - 4600	5%	58%	37%
4601-4800	5%	45%	50%
4801-5000	5%	33%	61%
5001-5200	6%	24%	70%
5201-5400	7%	19%	75%
> 5400	8%	8%	84%

- As front tees get shorter, more female golfers have flexibility to play from desired distance.
- 86% of female golfers have flexibility – there is an available tee in front and behind the tee they elected to use when the front tee is less than 4200 yards.
- 8% of female golfers have flexibility – there is an available tee in front and behind the tee they elected to use when the front tee is greater than 5400 yards.

Breakdown of Male Tee Utilization

(Middle Tees Grouped)

Overall Course Length (yds)	Back Tee Usage	All Middle Tees Usage	Front Tee Usage
≤ 6000	45%	43%	12%
6001-6200	30%	62%	8%
6201-6400	25%	68%	7%
6401-6600	14%	80%	5%
6601-6800	8%	87%	5%
6801-7000	5%	91%	4%
> 7000	3%	94%	3%

- As courses get longer, more male golfers have flexibility to play from the distance they desire.
- 91% of male golfers have flexibility – there is an available tee in front and behind the tee they elected to use when the overall course length from the back tee is at least 6800 yards.
 - Usage of the back tee drops to 5% or less once the course exceeds 6800 yards.

Count back for Women, forward for Men

Option 2:

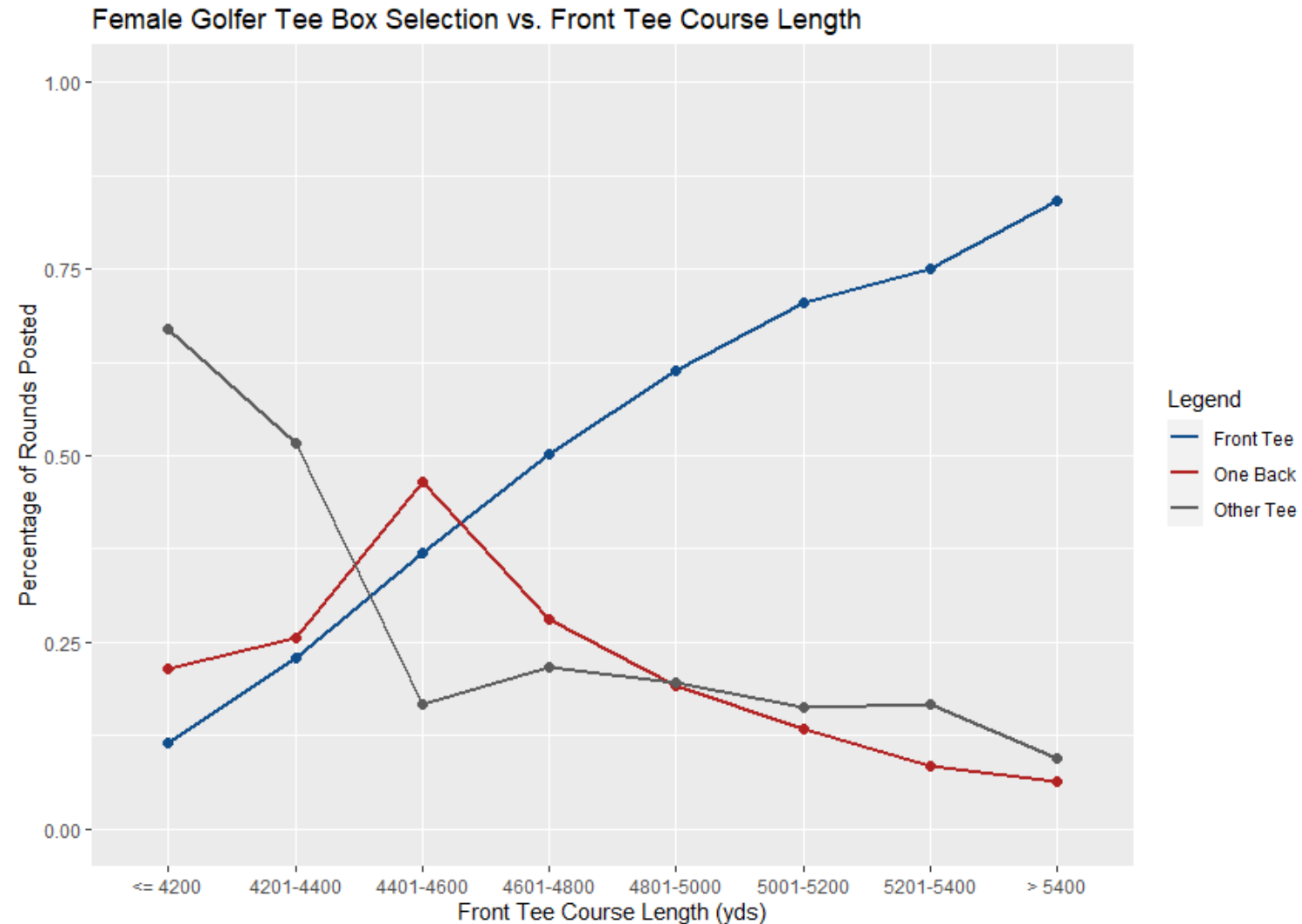
For women: Start with the front tee and count back with the third and all longer tees group as “other”

For men: Start with the back tee and count forward

Breakdown of Female Tee Utilization

(Counting back from forward tee)

- As the most forward tee gets longer, it is used increasingly more by women and utilization of longer tees decreases
 - Once the forward tee is more than 4800 yards, it is predominately used (>62%)

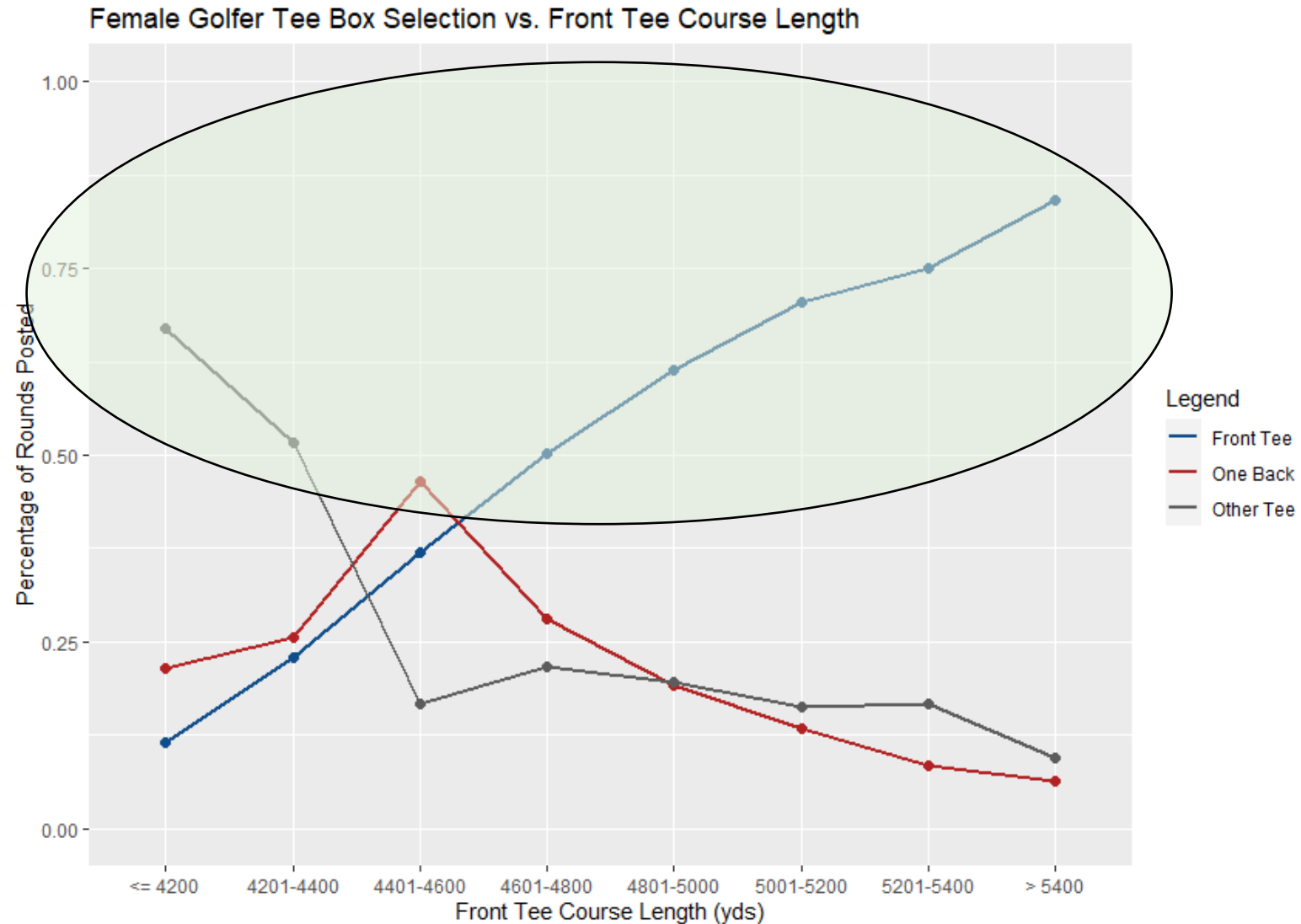


Most Popular Playing Length - Female

(Counting back from forward tee)

This chart also shows that for female golfers who post scores, the most popular tee selected is:

- 3rd (or more) longest for courses with a forward tee shorter than 4400 yds
- 2nd longest option for 4400 – 4600
- Front tee once courses most forward option is longer than 4600 yds.

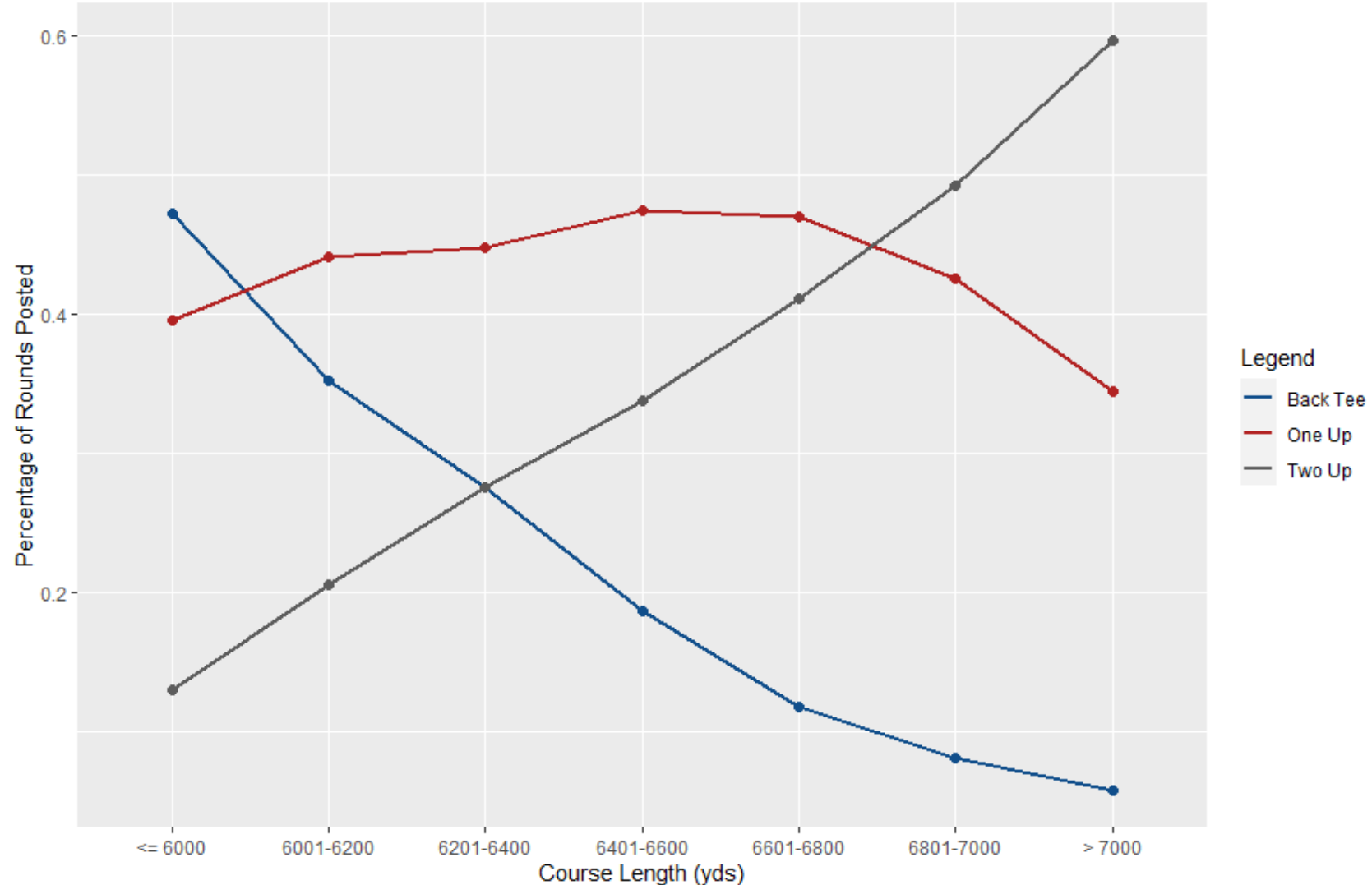


Breakdown of Male Tee Utilization

(Counting back from forward tee)

- Back tee is least used for courses over 6400 yards and drops below 10% when the course is longer than 6800 yards
- One-up tee gets consistent usage, regardless of course length
- Two-up tee usage increases as course length increases

Male Golfer Tee Box Selection vs. Course Length

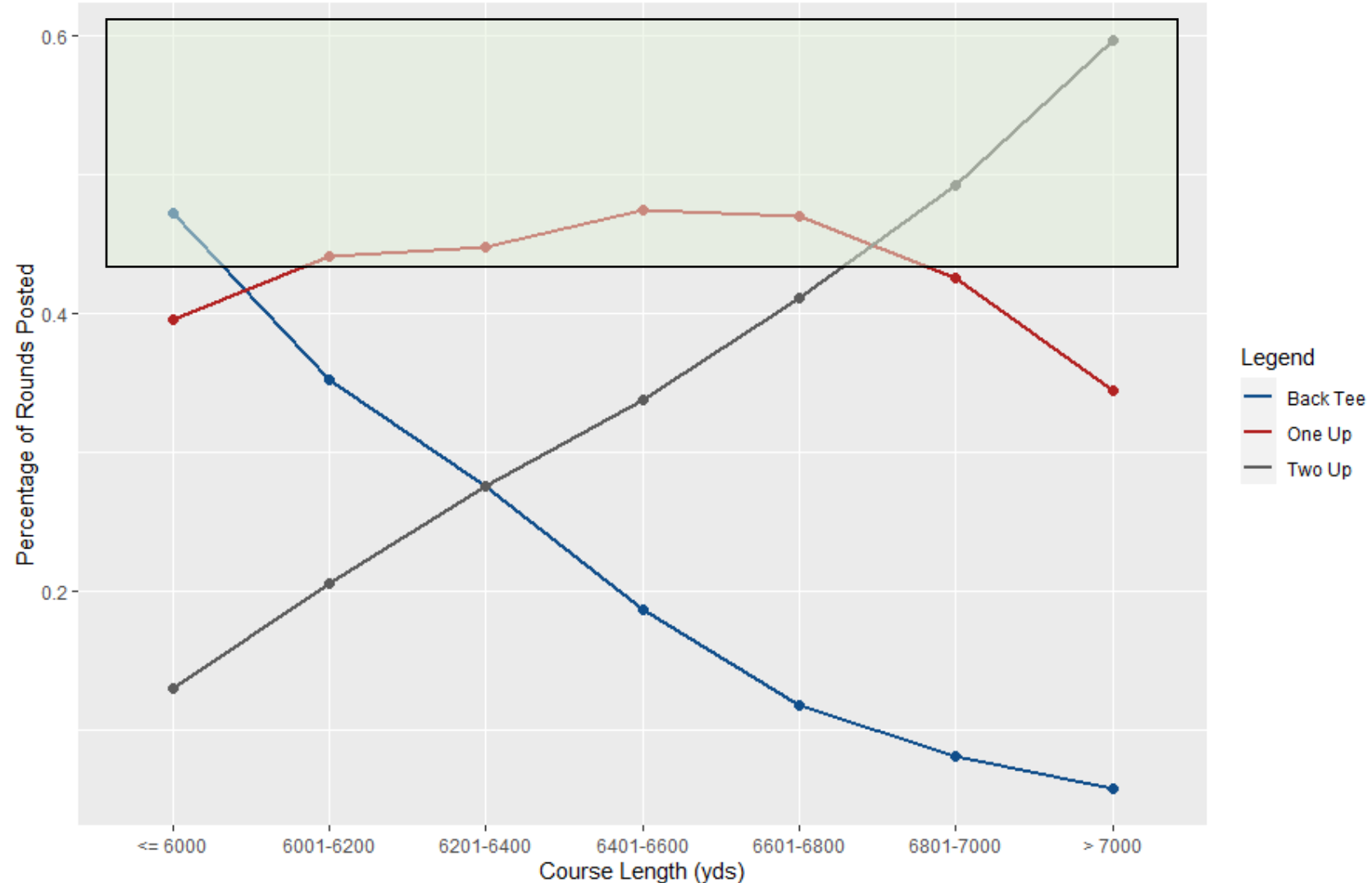


Most Popular Playing Length - Male

(Counting back from forward tee)

- Back tee is the most used tee for courses less than 6000 yards and drops below 10%
- One-up tee is most used for courses 6000 – 6800 yards long
- Two-up tee becomes the most used above 6800 yards in overall course length

Male Golfer Tee Box Selection vs. Course Length



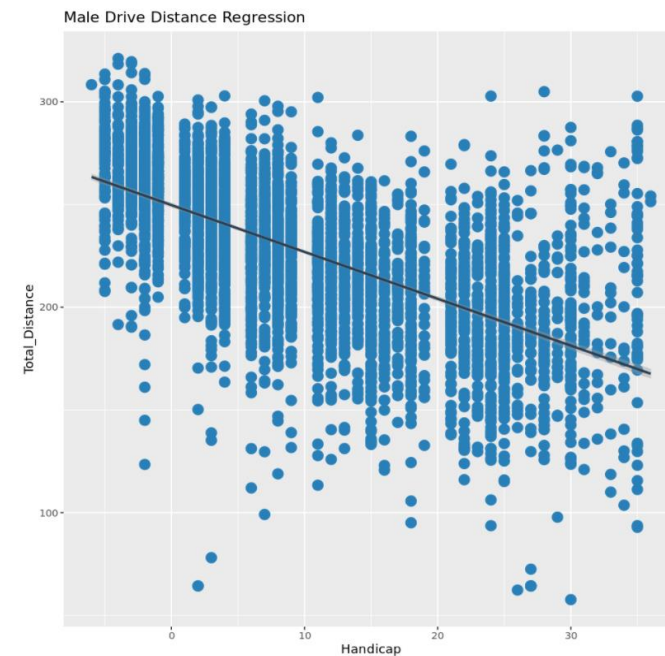
Assessment of Golfers Playing Length Decisions

Methodology to Assess Golfer Behaviors

Option 1: Use the mean driving distance for each handicap bin (less conservative approach)

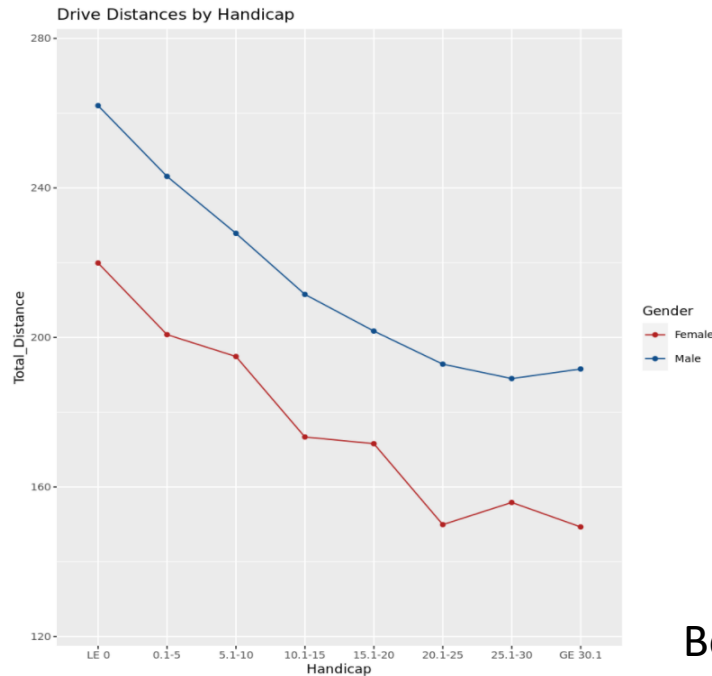
Option 2: Use a driving distance distribution for each handicap bin (more conservative approach)

Both options use the critical assumption (the only option available) that driving distance can be estimated based on handicap and gender. There is a strong correlation, but there is also significant variability around the linear regression. In other words, not all golfers with the same handicap hit their drives the same distance.



Methodology to Assess Golfer Behaviors

Option 1: Use the mean driving distance for each handicap bin



Handicap Bin	Male Driving Distance (yds)	Female Driving Distance (yds)
≤ 0	262	219
0.1 – 5	243	201
5.1 – 10	228	195
10.1 – 15	212	173
15.1 – 20	202	172
20.1 – 25	193	150
25.1 – 30	190	156
≥ 30.1	192	149

Both male and female hitting distances decrease with increasing handicap until they plateau above handicap of approximately 20

Assessment of Female Golfer Behaviors

Option 1a: Use the mean driving distance for each handicap bin

The basis for determining the recommended driving distance for golfers is based on the Longleaf System

Female Table					
Handicap Range	Appropriate Tee		Too Short %	Approp. Tee %	Too Long %
	Lower Bound	Upper Bound			
< 0	5,355	5,855	12.9%	31.4%	55.7%
0.0-5.0	4,880	5,380	5.2%	34.1%	60.7%
5.1-10.0	4,722	5,222	4.0%	40.8%	55.2%
10.1-15.0	4,141	4,641	0.9%	4.2%	95.0%
15.1-20.0	4,114	4,614	1.3%	5.8%	92.9%
20.1-25.0	3,534	4,034	1.0%	1.0%	98.1%
25.1-30.0	3,692	4,192	1.9%	2.4%	95.8%
GT 30	3,507	4,007	3.4%	2.9%	93.7%

- The table shows that scratch or better golfers should play courses from 5355 yards to 5855 yards. This range is defined as a 500-yard window around the midpoint. Of the golfers in this skill level range, about 31% are estimated to play tees in this range. 56% play longer courses and 13% play shorter courses.
- The table also shows that as skill level decreases, the number of golfers playing “too long” a course quickly increases to at least 90% above 10 handicap.

Assessment of Male Golfer Behaviors

Option 1a: Use the mean driving distance for each handicap bin

The basis for determining the recommended driving distance for golfers is based on the Longleaf System

Male Table					
	Appropriate Tee				
Handicap Range	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Too Short %	Approp. Tee %	Too Long %
< 0	6,490	6,990	34.2%	51.1%	14.8%
0.0-5.0	5,989	6,489	8.7%	48.6%	42.7%
5.1-10.0	5,593	6,093	5.1%	24.2%	70.7%
10.1-15.0	5,170	5,670	2.8%	13.0%	84.2%
15.1-20.0	4,906	5,406	2.9%	10.8%	86.3%
20.1-25.0	4,669	5,169	3.2%	8.9%	87.9%
25.1-30.0	4,590	5,090	20.6%	9.4%	70.0%
GT 30	4,642	5,142	3.6%	7.4%	89.0%

- The table shows that scratch or better golfers should play courses from 6490 yards to 6990 yards. This range is defined as a 500-yard window around the midpoint. Of the golfers in this skill level range, more than half are estimated to play tees in this range. 15% play longer courses and 34% play shorter courses.
- The table also shows that as skill level decreases, the number of golfers playing “too long” a course quickly increases to at least 70% above 5 handicap.

Assessment of Female Golfer Behaviors

Option 1b: Use the mean driving distance for each handicap bin

The basis for determining the recommended driving distance for golfers is based on Tee It Forward

Female Table					
Handicap Range	Appropriate Tee		Too Short %	Approp. Tee %	Too Long %
	Lower Bound	Upper Bound			
< 0	5,296	5,796	10.2%	29.5%	60.3%
0.0-5.0	4,802	5,302	2.7%	28.3%	69.0%
5.1-10.0	4,638	5,138	2.6%	31.8%	65.5%
10.1-15.0	4,035	4,535	1.0%	2.3%	97.0%
15.1-20.0	4,008	4,508	1.1%	3.4%	95.5%
20.1-25.0	3,405	3,905	1.0%	1.0%	98.4%
25.1-30.0	3,569	4,069	1.6%	1.7%	96.7%
GT 30	3,378	3,878	2.6%	2.5%	94.9%

- The table shows that scratch or better golfers should play courses from 5296 yards to 5796 yards. This range is defined as a 500-yard window around the midpoint. Of the golfers in this skill level range, about 30% are estimated to play tees in this range. 60% play longer courses and 10% play shorter courses.
- The table also shows that as skill level decreases, the number of golfers playing “too long” a course quickly increases to at least 95% above 10 handicap.

Assessment of Male Golfer Behaviors

Option 1b: Use the mean driving distance for each handicap bin

The basis for determining the recommended driving distance for golfers is based on Tee It Forward

Male Table					
Handicap Range	Appropriate Tee		Too Short %	Approp. Tee %	Too Long %
	Lower Bound	Upper Bound			
< 0	6,474	6,974	30.7%	56.6%	15.7%
0.0-5.0	5,953	6,453	7.2%	45.3%	47.5%
5.1-10.0	5,542	6,042	4.1%	20.6%	75.3%
10.1-15.0	5,104	5,604	2.3%	10.6%	87.1%
15.1-20.0	4,830	5,330	2.4%	8.0%	89.6%
20.1-25.0	4,583	5,083	3.0%	6.3%	90.7%
25.1-30.0	4,501	5,001	1.8%	10.3%	87.8%
GT 30	4,556	5,056	3.2%	5.7%	91.0%

- The table shows that scratch or better golfers should play courses from 6474 yards to 6974 yards. This range is defined as a 500-yard window around the midpoint. Of the golfers in this skill level range, more than half are estimated to play tees in this range. 16% play longer courses and 31% play shorter courses.
- The table also shows that as skill level decreases, the number of golfers playing “too long” a course quickly increases to at least 87% above 10 handicap.

Assessment of Female Golfer Behaviors

Option 1c: Use the mean driving distance for each handicap bin

The basis for determining the recommended driving distance for golfers is based on Setting up for Success

Female Table					
Handicap Range	Appropriate Tee		Too Short %	Approp. Tee %	Too Long %
	Lower Bound	Upper Bound			
< 0	6,168	6,668	79.8%	19.5%	0.8%
0.0-5.0	5,661	6,161	63.6%	30.2%	6.2%
5.1-10.0	5,491	5,991	75.0%	21.4%	3.6%
10.1-15.0	4,871	5,371	15.2%	58.7%	26.2%
15.1-20.0	4,843	5,343	18.4%	58.8%	22.7%
20.1-25.0	4,222	4,722	2.7%	13.2%	84.1%
25.1-30.0	4,392	4,892	7.4%	27.5%	65.1%
GT 30	4,194	4,694	8.9%	19.5%	71.6%

- The table shows that scratch or better golfers should play courses from 6168 yards to 6668 yards. This range is defined as a 500-yard window around the midpoint. Of the golfers in this skill level range, about 20% are estimated to play tees in this range. 1% play longer courses and 80% play shorter courses.
- The table also shows that as skill level decreases, the number of golfers playing too long a course increases to at least 65% above 20 handicap.

Assessment of Male Golfer Behaviors

Option 1c: Use the mean driving distance for each handicap bin

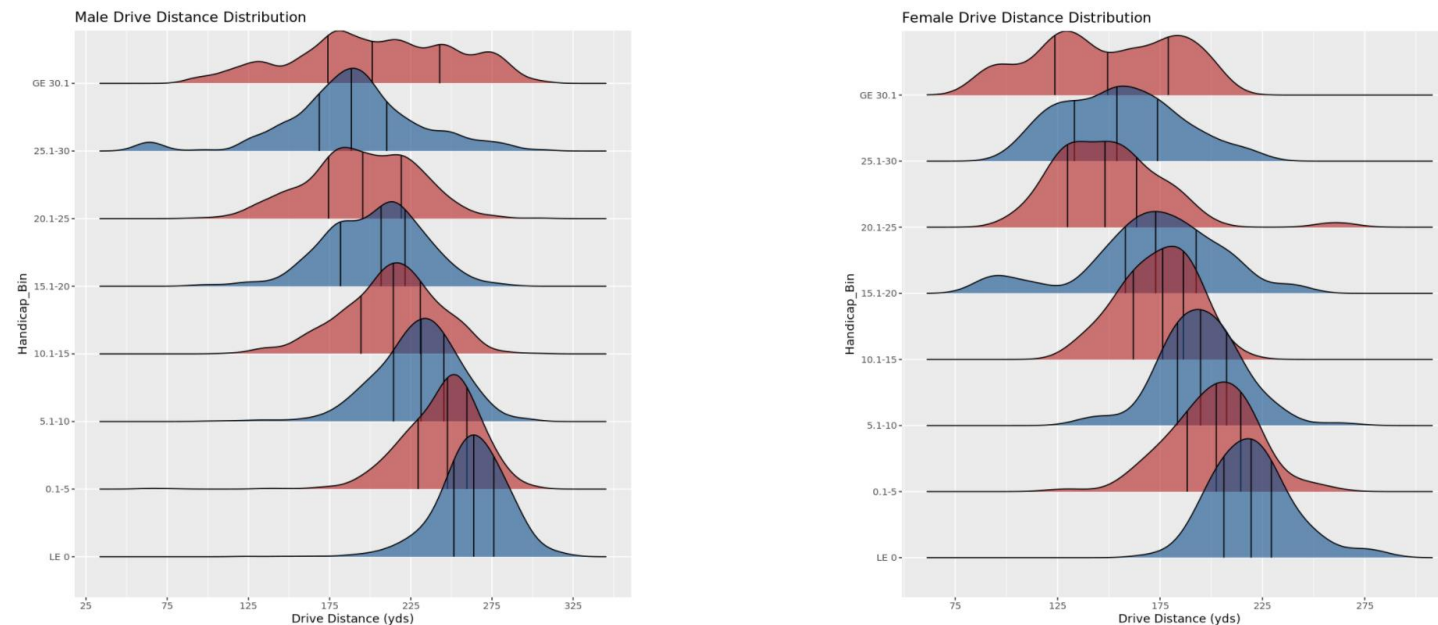
The basis for determining the recommended driving distance for golfers is based on Setting up for Success

Male Table					
	Appropriate Tee				
Handicap Range	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Too Short %	Approp. Tee %	Too Long %
< 0	7,381	7,881	98.9%	1.1%	0.0%
0.0-5.0	6,845	7,345	91.6%	8.1%	0.3%
5.1-10.0	6,422	6,922	68.7%	29.7%	1.6%
10.1-15.0	5,971	6,471	27.0%	58.9%	14.1%
15.1-20.0	5,689	6,189	30.6%	42.5%	26.9%
20.1-25.0	5,435	5,935	25.9%	38.2%	35.9%
25.1-30.0	5,350	5,850	30.3%	38.7%	31.1%
GT 30	5,407	5,907	19.5%	24.8%	55.7%

- The table shows that scratch or better golfers have the skill to play courses from 7381 yards to 7881 yards. This range is defined as a 500-yard window around the midpoint. Of the golfers in this skill level range, nearly 99% play shorter tees than this..
- The table also shows that as skill level decreases, the number of golfers playing too long a course increases and the “too short” drops to under 30% each above 10 handicap.

Methodology to Assess Golfer Behaviors

Option 2: Use a driving distance distribution for each handicap bin



The two charts show the shape of the driving distribution for both male and female are normally distributed for lower handicaps and are not normally distributed (bell shaped curve) at higher handicaps.

Assessment of Female Golfer Behaviors

Option 2a: Use the driving distance distribution for each handicap bin

The basis for determining the recommended driving distance for golfers is based on the Longleaf System

Female Table					
	Appropriate Tee				
Handicap Range	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Too Short %	Approp. Tee %	Too Long %
< 0	5,355	5,855	19.2%	31.3%	49.5%
0.0-5.0	4,880	5,380	16.1%	24.4%	59.4%
5.1-10.0	4,722	5,222	18.0%	27.3%	54.7%
10.1-15.0	4,141	4,641	4.0%	13.8%	82.2%
15.1-20.0	4,114	4,614	12.6%	15.0%	72.3%
20.1-25.0	3,534	4,034	2.9%	7.0%	90.1%
25.1-30.0	3,692	4,192	7.0%	11.2%	81.8%
GT 30	3,507	4,007	7.6%	10.2%	82.2%

- The table shows that scratch or better golfers should play courses from 5355 yards to 5855 yards. This range is defined as a 500-yard window around the midpoint. Of the golfers in this skill level range, about 30% are estimated to play tees in this range. 50% play longer courses and 20% play shorter courses.
- The table also shows that as skill level decreases, the number of golfers above 10 handicap playing “too long a course” quickly increases to 70% – 90% and the “within the range” drops to 7 – 15%.

Assessment of Male Golfer Behaviors

Option 2a: Use the driving distance distribution for each handicap bin

The basis for determining the recommended driving distance for golfers is based on the Longleaf System

Male Table					
Handicap Range	Appropriate Tee		Too Short %	Approp. Tee %	Too Long %
	Lower Bound	Upper Bound			
< 0	6,490	6,990	42.4%	29.0%	28.7%
0.0-5.0	5,989	6,489	27.3%	26.1%	46.6%
5.1-10.0	5,593	6,093	20.5%	21.7%	57.8%
10.1-15.0	5,170	5,670	16.5%	16.8%	66.7%
15.1-20.0	4,906	5,406	16.4%	15.3%	68.3%
20.1-25.0	4,669	5,169	17.8%	13.8%	68.4%
25.1-30.0	4,590	5,090	21.5%	13.2%	65.3%
GT 30	4,642	5,142	30.4%	12.0%	57.7%

- The table shows that scratch or better golfers should play courses from 6490 yards to 6990 yards. This range is defined as a 500-yard window around the midpoint. Of the golfers in this skill level range, 29% are estimated to play tees in this range. 29% play longer courses and 42% play shorter courses.
- The table also shows that as skill level decreases (above 10 handicap), the number of golfers playing too long a course increases to at least 57% and the “within the range” drops to under 17%.

Assessment of Female Golfer Behaviors

Option 2b: Use the driving distance distribution for each handicap bin

The basis for determining the recommended driving distance for golfers is based on Tee It Forward

Female Table					
	Appropriate Tee				
Handicap Range	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Too Short %	Approp. Tee %	Too Long %
< 0	5,296	5,796	10.1%	35.2%	54.7%
0.0-5.0	4,802	5,302	6.9%	24.8%	68.3%
5.1-10.0	4,638	5,138	7.0%	29.2%	63.8%
10.1-15.0	4,035	4,535	0.3%	5.5%	94.2%
15.1-20.0	4,008	4,508	4.9%	12.7%	82.4%
20.1-25.0	3,405	3,905	0.3%	2.4%	97.3%
25.1-30.0	3,569	4,069	1.9%	7.0%	91.2%
GT 30	3,378	3,878	2.5%	6.8%	90.7%

- The table shows that scratch or better golfers should play courses from 5296 yards to 5796 yards. This range is defined as a 500-yard window around the midpoint. Of the golfers in this skill level range, about 35% are estimated to play tees in this range. 55% play longer courses and 10% play shorter courses.
- The table also shows that as skill level decreases, the number of golfers above 10 handicap playing “too long a course” quickly increases to 82% – 97% and the “within the range” drops to 2 – 13%.

Assessment of Male Golfer Behaviors

Option 2b: Use the driving distance distribution for each handicap bin

The basis for determining the recommended driving distance for golfers is based on Tee It Forward

Male Table					
Handicap Range	Appropriate Tee		Too Short %	Approp. Tee %	Too Long %
	Lower Bound	Upper Bound			
< 0	6,474	6,974	38.1%	39.2%	22.7%
0.0-5.0	5,953	6,453	18.3%	33.7%	48.0%
5.1-10.0	5,542	6,042	11.6%	24.7%	63.7%
10.1-15.0	5,104	5,604	8.9%	16.9%	74.2%
15.1-20.0	4,830	5,330	9.3%	15.1%	75.6%
20.1-25.0	4,583	5,083	11.2%	13.8%	75.0%
25.1-30.0	4,501	5,001	15.4%	13.7%	70.9%
GT 30	4,556	5,056	25.7%	13.1%	61.2%

- The table shows that scratch or better golfers should play courses from 6474 yards to 6974 yards. This range is defined as a 500-yard window around the midpoint. Of the golfers in this skill level range, 39% are estimated to play tees in this range. 23% play longer courses and 38% play shorter courses.
- The table also shows that as skill level decreases (above 10 handicap), the number of golfers playing too long a course increases to at least 61% and the “within the range” drops to under 17%.

Assessment of Female Golfer Behaviors

Option 2c: Use the driving distance distribution for each handicap bin

The basis for determining the recommended driving distance for golfers is based on Setting up for Success

Female Table					
Handicap Range	Appropriate Tee		Too Short %	Approp. Tee %	Too Long %
	Lower Bound	Upper Bound			
< 0	6,168	6,668	38.3%	34.8%	26.9%
0.0-5.0	5,661	6,161	28.9%	29.4%	41.7%
5.1-10.0	5,491	5,991	31.9%	31.6%	36.5%
10.1-15.0	4,871	5,371	8.4%	21.5%	70.2%
15.1-20.0	4,843	5,343	19.1%	18.2%	62.7%
20.1-25.0	4,222	4,722	4.8%	9.9%	85.2%
25.1-30.0	4,392	4,892	10.9%	14.4%	74.7%
GT 30	4,194	4,694	11.1%	12.6%	76.3%

- The table shows that scratch or better golfers should play courses from 6168 yards to 6668 yards. This range is defined as a 500-yard window around the midpoint. Of the golfers in this skill level range, about 35% are estimated to play tees in this range. 27% play longer courses and 38% play shorter courses.
- The table also shows that as skill level decreases, the number of golfers above 10 handicap playing “too long a course” quickly increases to 63% – 85% and the “within the range” drops to 10 – 22%.

Assessment of Male Golfer Behaviors

Option 2c: Use the driving distance distribution for each handicap bin

The basis for determining the recommended driving distance for golfers is based on Setting up for Success

Male Table					
Handicap Range	Appropriate Tee		Too Short %	Approp. Tee %	Too Long %
	Lower Bound	Upper Bound			
< 0	7,381	7,881	66.6%	21.9%	11.5%
0.0-5.0	6,845	7,345	46.3%	26.5%	27.2%
5.1-10.0	6,422	6,922	34.7%	24.7%	40.6%
10.1-15.0	5,971	6,471	26.4%	20.0%	53.6%
15.1-20.0	5,689	6,189	24.9%	18.0%	57.1%
20.1-25.0	5,435	5,935	25.3%	15.7%	58.9%
25.1-30.0	5,350	5,850	28.7%	14.4%	56.8%
GT 30	5,407	5,907	37.2%	12.2%	50.5%

- The table shows that scratch or better golfers should play courses from 7381 yards to 7881 yards. This range is defined as a 500-yard window around the midpoint. Of the golfers in this skill level range, 11% are estimated to play tees in this range. 22% play longer courses and 67% play shorter courses.
- The table also shows that as skill level decreases (above 10 handicap), the number of golfers playing too long a course increases to at least 50% and the “within the range” drops to 20% or under.

Overall Assessment of Golfer Behaviors Comparing All Three Systems Using Both Methods

Method

Longleaf System

Tee It Forward

Setting up for Success

1

		Population		
		Too Short	Appropriate	Too Long
Male		5.09%	18.86%	76.05%
Female		1.88%	5.11%	93.02%

		Population		
		Too Short	Appropriate	Too Long
Male		3.82%	16.23%	79.95%
Female		1.56%	3.75%	94.82%

		Population		
		Too Short	Appropriate	Too Long
Male		45.35%	38.56%	16.09%
Female		13.38%	32.25%	54.37%

2

		Population		
		Too Short	Appropriate	Too Long
Male		19.91%	18.28%	61.79%
Female		7.53%	11.96%	80.49%

		Population		
		Too Short	Appropriate	Too Long
Male		12.28%	20.02%	67.69%
Female		2.36%	8.06%	89.56%

		Population		
		Too Short	Appropriate	Too Long
Male		31.36%	20.59%	48.04%
Female		12.02%	15.53%	72.44%

- The results show that regardless of the system used, male golfers play too long a course using the analysis Method 2 (more conservative) 48% - 68% of the time and female golfers play too long a course 72% - 90% of the time.
- From the previous slides, we know that:
 - higher handicap golfers are more prone to playing too long a course compared to lower handicap golfers.
 - Low handicap golfers have the skill to play longer courses, but typically don't. They like birdie opportunities!

Questions?

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