

## **PLOP - - One Simple Attempt to Rate the Golf Courses of History Maker Golf**

The USGA uses the SLOPE rating to measure the difficulty of courses. You can Google the term to find out exactly how it calculated, but for now, just understand that SLOPE ratings can range from 55 (easy) to 155 (forget-it).

We can easily look at the courses that Keith created (or any of the courses developed by HMG fans) and rate them against two of the main factors of “difficulty” in the game engine. I have created a rating formula that I call PLOP (PLAAY – OP since PLOPE just doesn’t look right). PLOP factors the hole difficulty (from Daunting to DB Cordial) against the Course Control Rating (1-5) of each hole. Then the number crunching begins...results spit out...they’re thrown into the disgruntification processor where they are compared to the “average” course... and PRESTO - - you have ... .. PLOP!

Using this extremely difficult series of calculations, PLOPs can range between 11 (Buttercup) and 277 (just put your dice away), with 100 being the average score that is “Course Control 3” with all neutral holes.

It must be understood that the difficulty ratings are scored using the 7 – layer hole difficulty rating scale that Keith describes in the HOW-TO-GUIDE.

So, how do the courses measure against each other? First, some teasers:

1. The toughest 9 in the PLAAY warehouse is the back 9 at Firth of Clyde Royal Golf Links.
2. The easiest 9 is the back 9 at Palm and Orchid.
3. Two courses have identical ratings, front and back. They are Blue Lantern and Rubber City (South), although Rubber City (South) is the tougher course.
4. The most inconsistent course is The 1843 Course where the inward nine is nearly twice as tough as the outward nine. If you can’t score on the front, you ain’t gonna score on the back!
5. One course earned the name “Mr. Average”. After all of the calculations, peer review of the finds, and publishing in “The Golf Gamers Quarterly”, I can confidently state that the Golf City Stadium Course earned a 100 rating with the front nine being slightly easier than the back nine.
6. PLOP ratings averaged between 81 (Yawn) and 181 (hope for a game day roll of 24 blue chips!).
7. Of the 38 courses available for purchase, 29 rated over 100, 1 rated exactly 100, and 8 rated below 100.

The actual chart with the ratings is attached.

Why did I do this? Aside from just being curious, I am looking for a way to apply realistic scores to golfers that a) don’t make the cut, and b) make the cut but don’t contend. For some morbid reason, when I play a season, I want to measure the golfer’s average strokes per round (go figure). The PLOP rating system moves me in that direction.

How accurate is this? It is simply one way to measure the courses against each other. It seems pretty accurate when I see the contender scores that have been rolled on each of the courses! You may find a different method that is more accurate and if you do, please share it!

**PLOP Calculations following release of Course Collection 14**

Course	Frnt	Bk	PLOP
Wicker Pin (East)	185	177	181
Fownes	194	156	175
Firth of Clyde Royal Golf Links	113	200	156
Royal Hawtree GC	160	148	154
Founders GC and Links	153	154	154
Champions Course	153	149	151
Pacific Pines (South)	144	157	151
PNG National GC	144	157	151
Long Island Public (Black)	131	159	145
Ocean Knoll Club + Lodge	151	140	145
Palmetto Harbour Golf Links	116	164	140
Hills of Eire Golf Course	147	133	140
Rubber City (South)	140	140	140
Avian Wood CC	133	144	139
Rattlesnake GC	137	140	138
Capitol GC at Avalon Farms	152	120	136
Prairie Hills CC	138	131	135
Tycoon National Golf Resort	149	115	132
The Straffan Club (Palmer)	157	107	132
Lookout Ridge	159	104	132
Pacific Golf Links	129	128	128
Sunset Canyon CC	130	122	126
Spirit of Scotland GC	114	133	123
Southern Breeze	114	126	120
Alamo Oaks	126	114	120
El Saltamontes Golf Club	130	108	119
Bergen Ridge CC	120	116	118
The Country Club at Mile High	120	115	118
Peach Tree GC	117	116	117
Springhouse CC	133	99	116
Usk Valley Resort (2010)	119	110	115

Course	Frnt	Bk	PLOP
Desert Sky	110	117	114
Pacific Pines (North)	107	120	114
Federal (Blue)	88	136	112
Connecticut River	108	114	111
The Bell Tower Course	124	98	111
Texas Provincial	106	112	109
The 1843 Course	77	140	108
Glen Ebbe	111	104	107
Temple of the Shrine CC	121	90	106
Legarto Viejo Mundo	77	133	105
Napa Valley	128	83	105
The PLAAyers Club	107	101	104
Greater Greensboro CC	78	126	102
Coastal CC (Oceanside)	95	109	102
Lone Star	109	95	102
Big Easy	97	104	101
Golf City Stadium Course	94	106	100
Blue Lantern	99	99	99
Pearl River Country Club	100	96	98
KL Golf and Country Club	80	116	98
Greens Bayou GC	97	96	96
Diamond Head	107	86	96
Great Woods	86	105	95
Blackjack	107	78	93
Rock River	99	81	90
Baha Mar CC	57	122	90
Palm and Orchid	104	58	81
Royal Isle of Wright	154	0	154
Ardeer Golf Links	154	0	154
Average Course	100	100	100

Note: The "average" course has all holes rated "neutral" with dice combinations of 3, 4 and 5.