PUTTING TESTS

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Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of quality putting tests for tour professionals and elite amateurs. It is also a purpose to provide as exact feedback as possible on how scores on different tests compares to other elite players. Scoring scales on tests in this paper is based on a total of approximately 2000 hours of tests conducted by tour professionals, elite amateurs and good junior players.

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1. Scoring tests

1.1 50-Ball test

Purpose:
Scoring test for short putts

Equipment:
Putter, one ball, something to measure distance (learn to use your feet – e.g. shoe size 42 = 30 cm)

Description:
- 50 hole strokeplay
- order 1-2-3-4-5-1-2-3-4-5…..m
- Always change to a different hole on the practice green between each putt
- Use variation in slope and break
- distances are “centre hole” to “centre ball”

Average Score (men/boys)
World class – 73.0
European Tour – 74.3
Challenge Tour – 75.0
+2 hcp – 75.9
Scratch – 76.8
hcp 5 – 79.1
hcp 10 – 81.3

Average Score (women/girls)
World Class – 74.9
LET – 76.7
+2 hcp – 77.8
Scratch – 78.8
hcp 5 – 81.4
hcp 10 – 84.0

Record
63 strokes (Joel Sjöholm, Niclas Karlsson)

Scores are based on linear regression models of 540 tests conducted by tour professionals, elite amateurs and junior players with hcp < 10 (2011.04.11)

PGA-tour tournament average
On 10 putts from the same distances (1-5 m) in tournaments PGA Tour players will score (2010 average):

1 m - 10.8 strokes
2 m - 13.9 strokes
3 m - 16.0 strokes
4 m - 17.2 strokes
5 m - 18.1 strokes

total - 76.0 strokes*

* Average scores will be about 2 strokes lower on the 50-ball test than in tournament play.
1.2  Lag putt test

**Purpose**
Scoring test for lag putts

**Equipment**
Putter, one ball, laser to measure distances of putts, tape on putter shaft indicating 50 cm from the butt end.

**Description**
- 18 putts from 8 – 22 m
- one trial per putt
- all putts should be different and randomly chosen around the practice green
- all distances are “centre hole” to “centre ball”
- One practice rounds take one putt per hole.

**Scoring system**
holed putt = -2 p (eagle)
0 - 0.5 m = -1 p (birdie)
0.5 - 1.0 m = 0 p (par)
1.0 - 2.0 m = 1 p (bogey)
2.0 - 3.0 m = 2 p (double bogey)
+ 3.0 m = 3 p (triple bogey)

**Record**
(-13) (Anders Sjöstrand, 2010.04.02)

**Average Score practice green (men/boys)**
World class: -5.5
European Tour: -2.9
Challenge Tour: -1.5
+2 hcp: +0.2
Scratch: +2.0
hcp 5: +6.3
hcp 10: +10.7

**Average Score practice green (women/girls)**
World Class: +1.0
LET: +3.6
+2 hcp: +5.8
Scratch: +7.6
hcp 5: +11.9
hcp 10: +16.3

Average scores doing the test on the course (1 putt per green) is 4.5 points lower

Scores are based on linear regression models of 256 tests conducted by tour professionals, elite amateurs and junior players with hcp < 10 (2011.04.11)
2. Skill tests

2.1 Green reading test

Purpose
Complex test with focus on green reading and the ability to find the exact line.

Equipment
putter, two balls, Pelz TutorTM, 2 x 15 cm wide gates, two 30 cm wide gates

Description
- 18 holes (3 x 6) in total with a maximum of 6 trials per hole
- All trials on each hole are from the same place
- This test will work very well when done in pairs.
- All putts are set up very difficult!

Hole 1-6: Putts from 1-3 meter with Pelz TutorTM. Approved trial is a holed putt when starting the ball correctly through the tutor.

Hole 7-12: Putts from 3-5 meters with two 15 cm gates placed approx. 1/3 and 2/3 of the distance between ball and hole. Approved trial is a holed putts which goes through both gates.

Hole 13-18: Putts from 8-16 meters with two 30 cm gates placed approx. 1/3 and 2/3 of the distance between ball and hole. Approved trial is a putts which goes through both gates and stops within 80 cm from the centre of the hole.

Scoring system
1 trial = 3 points
2-3 trials = 2 points
4-6 trials = 1 point
Max score: 54 points.

Average Score (men/boys)
World class – 35.3
European Tour – 33.3
Challenge Tour – 32.3
+2 hcp – 31.0
Scratch – 29.6
hcp 5 – 26.3
hcp 10 – 23.0

Average Score (women/girls)
World Class – 29.8
LET – 27.8
+2 hcp – 26.1
Scratch – 24.8
hcp 5 – 21.5
hcp 10 – 18.1

Record: 42 points (Madelene Sagström, 2011.05.16)

Scores are based on linear regression models of 264 tests conducted by tour professionals, elite amateurs and junior players with hcp < 10 (2011.04.11)
2.2  VISA test (straight)

Purpose
Starting the ball consistently on line with correct speed on short putts

Equipment
Putter, 3 balls, 2 extra long tees, thread (approx. 10 m), VISA-card or similar size card.

Description
- 36 putts in total from the same start spot
- Putting through 54 mm wide gate (VISA-card width) 60 cm away (2 feet with shoe size 42(8))
- 3 targets at 2, 4 and 6 m away from start spot. Target depth is 30 cm (1 feet)
- 12 series of 3 balls. Each serie is in the order 6, 4 and 2 meter.
- As little break as possible in the putting area, especially before the gates
- Check gate width regularly with a VISA-card (tees might move when hit)
- Indicate any misses with R or L (right or left)
- A flat ball marker can be placed in the middle of the gate to act as an intermediate target

Scoring
0 points - ball not through the "tee gate"
1 point - through the "tee gate", but touches one of the tees
2 points - through the "tee gate" without touching tees
4 points - through the gate without touching tees and ball stops within the distance zone

Max score: 144 points

Average Score (men/boys)
World class – 105 points
European Tour – 97 points
Challenge Tour – 88 points
+2 hcp – 80 points
Scratch – 72 points
hcp 5 – 51 points

Average Score (women/girls)
World Class – 95 points
LET – 82 points
+2 hcp – 74 points
Scratch – 66 points
hcp 5 – 45 points

This test have only been tried out by some tour professionals and a few amateurs (52 tests in total). The scoring scale is therefore not reliable yet.

Record
117 points (Peter Hanson, 2011.05.08)
2.3 VISA test (break)

"VISA test break" is the same as "VISA test straight" except that the test is conducted on a side slope. The player alternates between right-left and left-right break on each series.

(The VISA test was developed together with Martin Petterson, Fredrik Wetterstrand (www.golfutveckling.nu), John Hellström (www.johnhellstrom.com) and Calle Gustavsson)

2.4 Ball start test

**Purpose**
Starting the ball in the direction of putter face aim

**Equipment**
Putter, 3 balls, Pelz Tutor (www.pelzgolf.com)

**Description**
- 36 putts in total (12 series of 3 putts – 1,3 & 5 meters)
- You don’t need to putt at a hole
- Address the putter square to the Tutor, and hit it correctly through the tutor
- “closed” means that the eyes should be closed before the backswing starts
- Putting distances are approximate
- Excessive launching of the ball is not allowed

**Scoring system**
- 1 points for each putt that goes correctly through the Tutor.
- Indicate if misses are left (L) or right (R) for analysis purposes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hcp</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Average scores men/boys**
World Class: 31,5 p
European Tour: 30,5 p
Challenge Tour: 30,0 p
+2 hcp: 29,3 p
scratch: 28,6 p
hcp 5: 27,0 p
hcp 10: 25,3 p

**Average scores women/girls**
World class: 27,3 p
LET: 26,2 p
+2 hcp: 25,4 p
scratch: 24,7 p
hcp 5: 23,0 p
hcp 10: 21,4 p

3 putts in each series total! 36 putts
You don’t need to putt at a hole
Address the putter square to the Tutor
"Closed eyes" means that eyes should be closed before the backswing starts

Putting distances are approximate
Register score for each series. E.g. (6-2-1) two puts were successful, and one put missed right.
Scores are based linear regression models of 268 tests conducted by Tour professionals, elite amateurs and junior players with hcp < 10 (2011.04.11)

### 2.5 Aim test

**Purpose**
Test the ability to aim the putter face directly at a target

**Equipment**
Putter, one ball, aim triangle (e.g. [www.esotericgolf.com](http://www.esotericgolf.com)), 4 m thread, “aim hole”. You need a partner for this test.

**Description**
- 20 aims in total (only aim, no hitting of golf balls)
- All aims should be done on putts with no break! (the score card indicate a slightly different procedure)
- change location between each aim

**Procedure**
- aim the putter face at the “aim hole”
- your partner removes the ball
- your partner align the aim triangle square to the putter and remove the putter
- stretch a thread along the aim line of the aim triangle and towards the aim hole
- read out scoring

**Scoring system**
2 points: centre hole
1 point: hole
0 points: outside hole
max score: 40 points

Indicate if misses are right (R) or left (L).

#### Average scores men/boys
World Class: 31.0 p
European Tour: 29.2 p
Challenge Tour: 28.4 p
+2 hcp: 27.2 p
scratch: 26.0 p
hcp 5: 23.1 p
hcp 10: 20.3 p

#### Average scores women/girls
World class: 26.9 p
LET: 24.9 p
+2 hcp: 23.7 p
scratch: 22.6 p
hcp 5: 19.7 p  
hcp 10: 16.8 p

Record  
38 points (Mathias Schjølberg, 2009.11.09) (indoor)  
37 points (Peter Hanson, 02.08.2011) (outdoor)

Scores are based on a linear regression model of 222 tests conducted by Tour professionals, elite amateurs and junior players with hcp < 10. The model is adjusted slightly since there have been small changes in the test procedure (2011.04.11).

### 2.6 40 x 1 meter gate test

**Purpose**  
Test the ability to putt the ball on line on a short putt.

**Equipment**  
Putter, 5 balls and a 54 mm gate(or two tees).

**Description**  
- Putt a total of 40 x 1 meter putts.  
- Place a gate on the edge of the hole (54 mm wide opening = credit card width)  
- Putt 10 balls in a row from 1 meter  
- Do the same from four different lines  
- Avoid uneven surfaces on the lines, even good putts could easily miss.

**Scoring:**  
1 points per holed putt which goes through the gate

**Record:**  
37 points (Elin Emanuelsson, 18.08.2011)
3. **Putting exercises with scoring**

3.1 **Speed zone drill**

**Purpose**
Test distance control on repeated short and medium length putts

**Equipment**
Putter, 3 balls, thread/choke line, meter ruler

**Description**
- place tees/signs from 0.9-9.0 meters away from a “speed zone” as on the picture.
- Hit three balls from step 1 (0.9 m). The purpose is always to stop the balls in the “speed zone”
- knocking other balls out of or into the speed zone is part of the game
- The depth of the speed zone decides the difficulty of the test.

**Scoring**
3/3 balls in speed zone – move 2 steps back
2/3 balls in speed zone – move 1 step back
1/3 balls in speed zone – stay at the same step
0/3 balls in speed zone – move 1 step closer

The exercise is completed when you reach step 10 (2/3 from step 9 or 3/3 from step 8)

**Record**
Reaching step 10 with 13 cm deep speed zone
(Peter Kaensche & Andreas Hagan)

Speed of the green, especially around the speed zone will affect difficulty quite much.