

# ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

## Say No to Posting

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**D**O YOU USE a stimpmeter?"  
"A what?"

"A stimpmeter. You know, the thing used to see how fast your greens are."

"You mean a stimpmeter?"

"Yeah, a stimpmeter. I was at Old Moss Country Club the other day and they were posting stimpmeter readings at the first tee. We should do that too! By the way, what do our greens roll?"

"Well, about . . ."

"Theirs rolled 27 feet!"

"Really? That's pretty fast."

"You should post our speeds."

Good grief, not again! Another club official has succumbed to the dangerous temptation to place too much importance on green speed by publicly posting green speed readings on a daily basis.

Several superintendents have contacted me recently concerning the practice of posting green speeds. It seems other clubs in their area are doing this and some of their own members think it is a good idea. This is ridiculous, and here's why:

1. Grass grows and other conditions change during the course of a day. Speeds at 6:00 a.m. could be different at 10:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. There is no doubt that readings can be deceptive.

2. What difference does it make, anyway? Whose putting game is so great that he could stand on the first green and putt differently because the posting sheet says 8' 6" today versus 8' 0" yesterday?

3. Posting green speeds forces golf course superintendents to take unnecessary risks with the health of the turf during weather extremes for the sake of

maintaining someone else's unrealistic green speed standards. There are too many variables involved to expect green speeds to remain constant throughout the season, much less from day to day. Grass is lost and superintendents lose jobs when they are forced to abuse the turf to post a double-digit green speed at the first tee.

4. Posting creates unhealthy comparisons between clubs and can generate strife among superintendents. There are enough unjustified comparisons between clubs now; let's not add another.

Needless to say, I feel it is truly absurd to post stimpmeter readings. I hope that clubs do not gauge the success of their superintendent or the quality of the greens solely by what the stimpmeter says. This useful device is not some infallible benchmark of turf or putting quality. Like a doctor's thermometer, it provides a small piece of information that can be incorporated into the larger management picture.

Let's use it wisely. Note how the turf responds to your efforts to increase green speeds at various times during the season. You may be able to associate certain turf problems with these practices and improve your management techniques.

Follow good agronomic practices and let *that* be your guide to speed. Consistency is the key. Giving the golfer good uniformity on 18 holes is part of good management. The stimpmeter can help you do that. Don't succumb to the pressure to post; let's have a "POST-FREE GOLF COURSE"!

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