

Revaluation 2026

Miscellaneous Properties Committee

Practice Note 7 Valuation of Golf Courses

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Practice Note applies to the valuation of Golf Courses.
- 1.2 Golf Courses fall into three main categories: private members' clubs; commercially operated (pay as you play); and municipal courses. The quality of golf courses ranges from nine hole courses on little more than basically developed agricultural land to manicured championship standard courses, with a wide variety in between.
- 1.3 Typically, in addition to the golf course, the subject may also include a clubhouse, professional's shop, green-keeper's sheds and practice areas.

2.0 Basis of Valuation

- 2.1 Golf courses should be valued on the Comparative Principle of valuation. The value of the course will be arrived at by applying a rate per hectare derived from rental information.
- 2.2 The individual and inherent characteristics of each golf course must be taken into account where they are of such a nature as to affect rental value.

3.0 Classification

- 3.1 Category A+: Elite championship courses capable of holding top PGA tournaments or Open Championships.

Category A: The premier golf courses of Scotland of major championship standard on account of layout, length and features.

Category B: Although of championship length and quality, not used for major championships, generally due to the fact that major championships are traditionally associated with other courses. May be used as qualifying courses for major championships or for national or regional championships.

Category C: Good quality, members' courses but not of championship standard; pay as you play courses and municipal courses, this category will include the vast majority of courses.

Category D: Basic quality, members' courses; pay as you play courses and municipal courses.

Category E: Poorest quality courses.

3.2 Situation 1: The two main cities and their environs.

Situation 2: Other large population centres, other cities, towns and/or recognised golfing/tourist locations.

Situation 3: Fringes of the two preceding locations.

Situation 4: Rural situations with no recognised golfing attraction.

Situation 5: Remote situations.

4.0 Rates To Be Applied

4.1 The rates in the following table assume a manual irrigation system.

Situation	Class					
	A+	A	B	C	D	E
1	At Discretion	£1550 to £1450	£1300 to £1100	£825 to £675	£725 to £500	£500 to £350
2	At Discretion	£1300 to £1150	£1100 to £900	£675 to £525	£500 to £350	£350 to £250
3	At Discretion	£1100 to £1000	£900 to £650	£525 to £375	£350 to £250	£250 to £175
4	At Discretion	£900 to £700	£650 to £450	£375 to £250	£250 to £200	£175 to £125
5	At Discretion	£650 to £500	£450 to £250	£250 to £150	£200 to £100	£125 to £50

4.2 Irrigation

As stated above, the rates to be applied assume a manual irrigation system. If the course has fully automatic irrigation then the additions from the table below should be applied:

Extent of Irrigation	Addition to Basic Rate
Full Irrigation	15%
Tees, Greens and Approaches	10%
Tees and Greens	5%
Greens Only	2.5%

If a course has no water available on site then an allowance of 10% should be granted.

4.3 Average Area

The area of a standard 18 hole golf course normally falls in the region of 35 to 45 hectares (9 hole pro-rata) and will usually allow the course to be played with minimum interruption.

In calculating the area to be used in the valuation it may be appropriate to exclude certain areas within the boundaries of the course, e.g. excessive woodlands, marshy areas or areas of scientific importance.

Where the area is below 35 hectares then the quality of the course is likely to be affected by the restrictive nature, e.g. crossover fairways, shared greens etc. Where the area exceeds 45 hectares consideration should be given to whether this excess area is a feature which contributes to the character of the course. Where excess area does not contribute to the character of the course, consideration should be given to exclusion from the effective area.

Where a course falls outside the recommended norm an end allowance may be considered using the table below:

18 Hole Courses

Area Range	Allowance
25 Ha to 35 Ha	10% to 0%
45 Ha to 55 Ha	0% to 10%
55 Ha to 65 ha	10% to 20%
Over 65 Ha	Up to 30%

9 Hole Courses

Area Range	Allowance
10 Ha to 17.5 Ha	10% to 0%
25 Ha to 30 Ha	0% to 10%
Over 30 Ha	10% to 20%

Where a Championship standard course exceeds 45 hectares, a deduction should not be given automatically. By their very nature such courses require more ground, e.g. for tented villages, practice areas, parking etc. In such circumstances any allowance should only relate to areas of ground considered to be superfluous.

4.4 Allowances

Where a course suffers from features which have a detrimental effect on character and quality, such as severance by a public road, liability to flooding, etc, an appropriate allowance not exceeding 15% in total may be considered. Any allowance in excess of this suggests that the rate per hectare adopted should be reconsidered. If any detrimental features have been taken into account in determining the rate then no allowance should be made.

New courses when they open sometimes restrict play in order to allow the course to “settle in” and therefore minimise the chance of lasting damage at an early stage. In such circumstances it might be considered appropriate to grant a ‘start up ‘ allowance which will gradually be reduced as the course matures.

5.0 Practice Ground

- 5.1 Areas of ground set aside as practice areas including putting greens, driving ranges, etc. should be added at the basic rate applied to the course up to a maximum of £500 per hectare.

6.0 Ancillary Buildings

- 6.1 The course rates adopted are derived from rents exclusive of any ancillary buildings. It is therefore appropriate to add separately for any ancillary buildings such as tractor sheds, green-keeper’s sheds, etc.
- 6.2 The valuation of ancillary buildings should be derived from local evidence, having regard to the location and use of the buildings. It is recommended that any addition for ancillary buildings should not exceed 10% of the total value of the subjects.

7.0 Clubhouse

- 7.1 Where there is a clubhouse or pavilion, this should be valued in accordance with SAA Valuation of Sports Clubhouses and Pavilions Practice Note, although in some instances it may be considered appropriate to value such subjects by comparison with licensed clubs.

8.0 Professional's Shop

- 8.1 Most golf clubs will have a professional's shop of some kind. This may be contained within the clubhouse building or form a separate building. Where the professional's shop is contained within the clubhouse, and is of similar quality, the clubhouse rate should be applied to the shop.
- 8.2 If the professional's shop is contained in a separate building it may be appropriate to value in comparison with local shops where there is suitable evidence available. In the absence of local evidence, the rate applied to the clubhouse should be applied.

9.0 Car Park

- 9.1 The rates in this PN are exclusive of car parking. Where car parking is provided, an addition should be made in accordance with local rental evidence. The addition for car parking should not exceed 10% of the value of the entire subject.