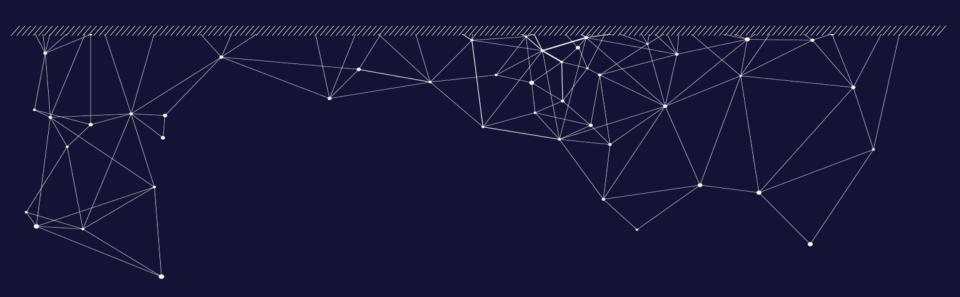
# USGA GOLFER EXPERIENCE RESEARCH AUGUST 2021



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### **CONTACT DETAILS**

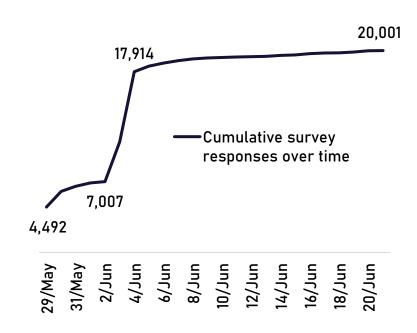
### **Sports Marketing Surveys**

"The stated aim of the Golfer Experience program is to deliver research and output that will – over time – mature into industry-wide recommendations designed to best serve and benefit golf courses and golfers everywhere and contribute toward achieving the goals of Distance Insights."

### **METHODOLOGY & SAMPLE**

- The survey was designed following discussion between the USGA and Sports Marketing Surveys.
  - The survey included questions on a range of topics around the golf experience, opinions and behavior, and tee attitudes and selection.
  - Questions were also included to allow respondents to be allocated to one of the architypes previously identified as part of the qualitative research. Unlike the qualitative research, gender was not used as a structural component of the segment definitions, and two new architypes were identified: "Young Athlete" and "Golfertainment".
  - The survey was limited to residents of the U.S. only.
- The survey was available to complete between May 29 and June 21 and was distributed through five different channels:
  - USGA Member database
  - GolfNow
  - GolfPass
  - Tee Off
  - Topgolf

 In total, 20,001 completed responses were achieved and opinion was gathered from a very broad spectrum of golfers across the U.S.



# KEY FINDINGS (i)

### FLEXIBILITY & ENJOYMENT

- Even for serious, low handicap golfers, enjoyment is a crucial component of the golf experience.
  - Looking at the most 'serious' of golfer architypes

     Traditionalists and All That / Young Stick the
     element of enjoyment is always present
     alongside a love of golf and the challenge it
     represents.
- In terms of membership decisions the convenience of being close to home, an offer of good value for money and having a personal connection with others who play at a venue were the main reasons why a particular club was chosen for membership.
- Conversely a main reason for not being a member of a golf club was not wanting to lose the flexibility of being able to play a range of courses, something that was seen as enjoyable for many non-members and was a strong reason for non-membership amongst younger golfers.

### THE ROLE OF OTHERS

- As for enjoyment, the role of friends / playing companions in the golf experience is significant for all types of golfer, but especially for younger or less experienced golfers.
- Many golfers cited golfing with friends or family members as something that would enable a satisfying golf experience, and this factor was also a key theme in defining what a golfer's ideal golf experience would be.
  - The role of others does however have the potential to impact negatively on the golf experience. If less experienced / skilled golfers play with others who are more experienced / skilled, peer pressure or a lack of understanding could mean that they play tees or courses that are too long for them.
- Choosing inappropriate tees because of others in the golfing group could negatively affect pace of play.
  - Pace of play is one of the most important factors in defining a satisfying on-course experience
  - Because pace is so important in having a satisfying round, it's important for golfers to be educated & understand that they can choose different tees from others in their group, while still playing with them.

## KEY FINDINGS (ii)

### **DISTANCE, ACCURACY & SATISFACTION**

- Maintaining or minimizing loss of distance and accuracy is generally seen as more important than actively increasing these elements.
  - There was an understanding that hitting distance is linked to age, and that maintaining or minimizing loss of distance was more of a realistic goal than constantly striving to hit shots farther.
- Maintaining / minimizing loss of accuracy was seen as marginally more important than the equivalent for distance.
- The main reasons for not wanting to lose distance or accuracy revolved around golfers wanting to play their best possible game, which was in turn linked to enjoyment.
- The length of a hole in relation to a golfer's hitting distance is a far more important contributor to a satisfying round than the actual length of the course. Golfer satisfaction is strongly linked to factors that make playing the course appropriate to a particular golfer's ability.
  - There was little evidence to suggest that hitting a long shot in itself was a contributor to a satisfying round.
  - Shots would also need to be accurate and general performance would need to be conducive to a good score for the round to be fully satisfying.
- On-course performance is strongly linked to satisfaction, with high handicap and high scoring individuals or those with shorter distance or less accuracy less likely to be satisfied with their typical golf experience.

### TEE CONSIDERATION & ATTITUDES

- The research suggests a mismatch between tee attitudes and actual behavior and consideration.
- Many respondents say that people should be able to choose and be able to post scores from the tees that best reflect their hitting distance, and that enjoyment of the game is the most important thing, but there appears still to be a degree of stigma surrounding the forward tees.
  - Many would be influenced by tees rated for gender in their selection, and only half said they would play tees with names that do not identify with.
  - Some mentioned directly that they would never consider 'women's' or 'junior' tees because they were adult men.
  - Two fifths of women who used the forward tees thought the condition of these was normally worse than that of other tees on the course.
- It's very important for all golfer groups to feel they are experiencing the designed strategies of the course from whichever tees they play, which may contribute to a reluctance to play from basic tees on the fairway.
  - Fairway tees could feel like an afterthought or something added to the course outside of what was originally intended, meaning the features of the course could not be fully experienced.
- Very few golfers had heard of tee selection programs. There is some reluctance to accept advice from course staff, so a technological solution such as a specific tee selection program may present an opportunity for golf facilities going forward.

### **KEY CONCLUSIONS**

For golfers the 'whole package' is needed for a golf experience to be satisfying and enjoyable. The technical features of a course such as fairway width and hole length could be ideal, but it's just as important for the other elements to be ideal as well - playing with family or friends, the presence of nature and wildlife and availability of food and drink

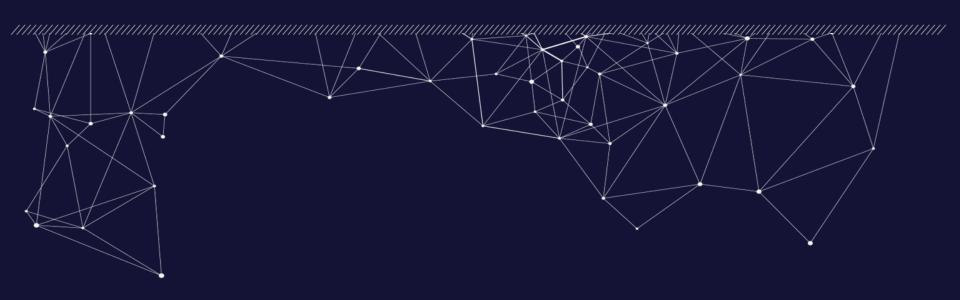
# CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

Enjoyment and satisfaction for golfers is linked to their capacity to tailor their on-course choices appropriately for their level of golf ability and hitting distance. Education that a golfer can still enjoy a round with their group even from different tees, and that stigma around the forward tees can be selfdefeating and result in a less positive experience could help golfers to think again about their choices. The potential for 'neutral' advice through a tee selection program or the potential to re-color tees (e.g. to orange, green and silver) or otherwise generically identify tees to break pre-conceived associations could be considered. Any changes should be communicated to all golfers, because tee color assumptions are consistently held across groups.

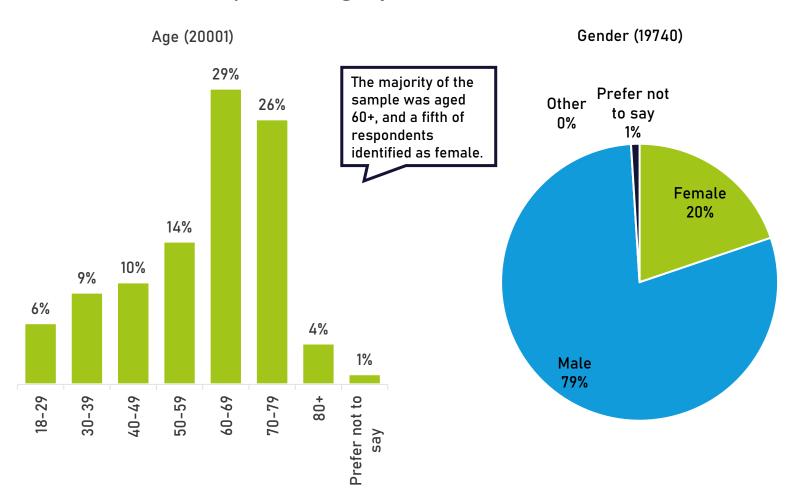
# THE FLEXIBLE EXPERIENCE

The research shows that there is a broad spectrum of types of golfers, and a broad spectrum of preferences and behaviors. Flexibility of the golf experience, such as providing a range of structured teeing options, combo tees and flexible membership will help the experience of golf to be as satisfying and engaging as possible for the widest range of golfers.

# SAMPLE PROFILE

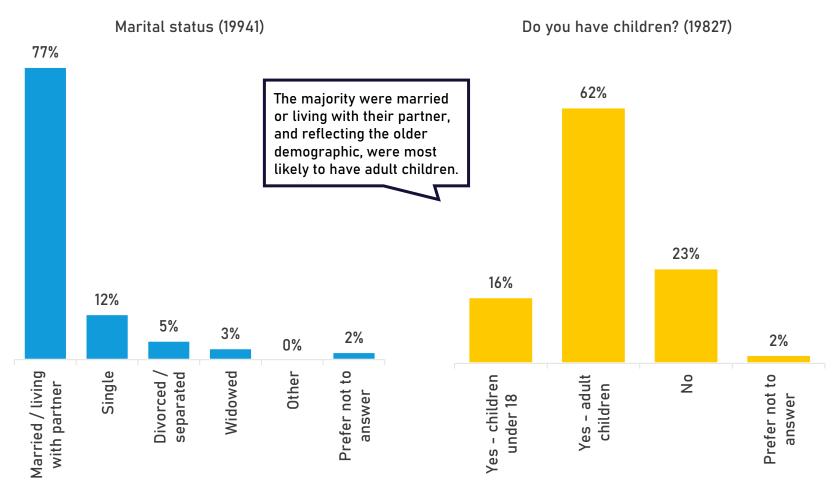


# SAMPLE PROFILE | Demographics



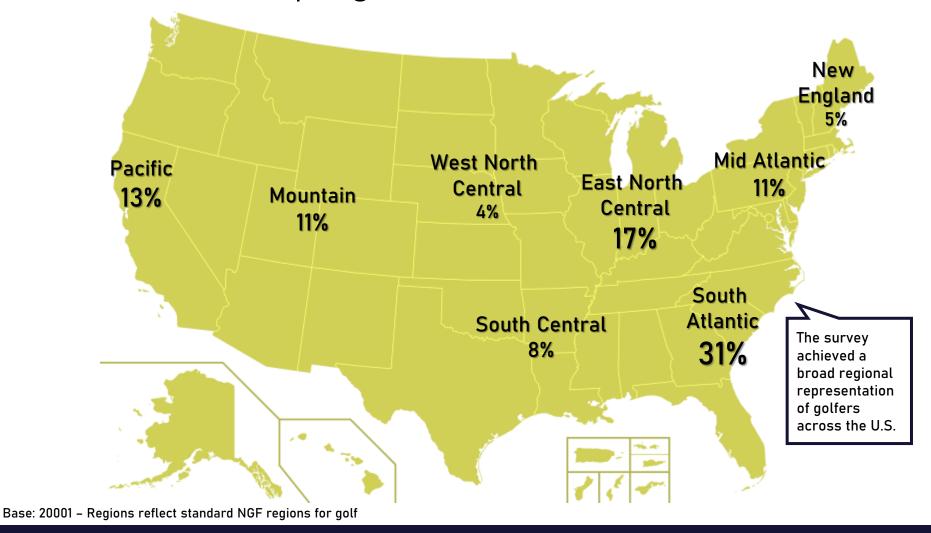
Base numbers shown in brackets

# SAMPLE PROFILE | Family situation

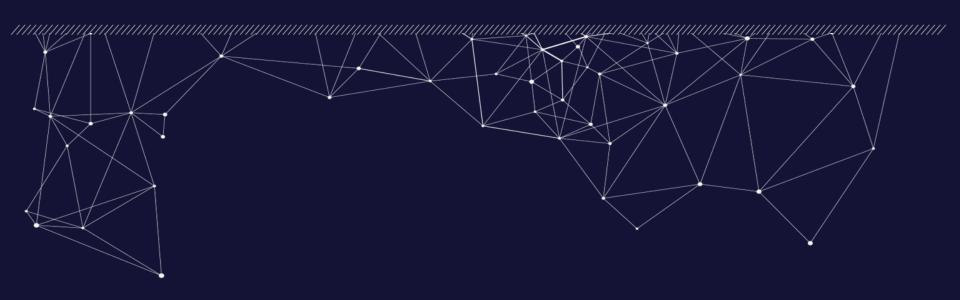


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# SAMPLE PROFILE | Regional distribution



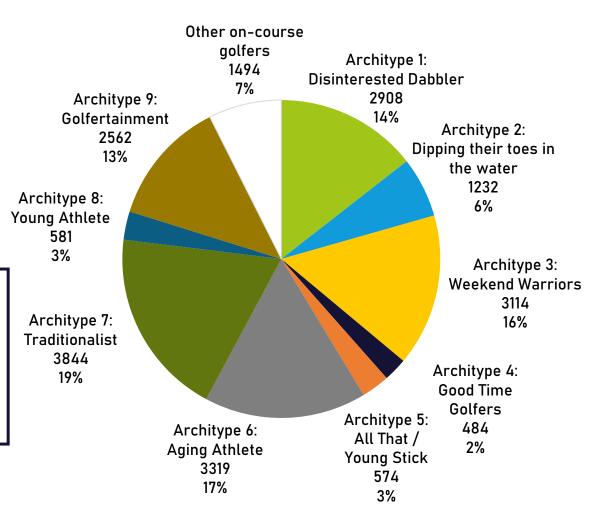
### **GOLFER EXPERIENCE ARCHITYPES**



# ARCHITYPES | Architype prevalence

TOTAL SAMPLE SIZE:

A strong sample was achieved in each of the architype categories. The largest architype was the "Traditionalist", with 3,844 golfers belonging to this group, while the smallest was "Good Time Golfers", with 484 in the group.



# ARCHITYPES | Quantitative vs Qualitative comparison

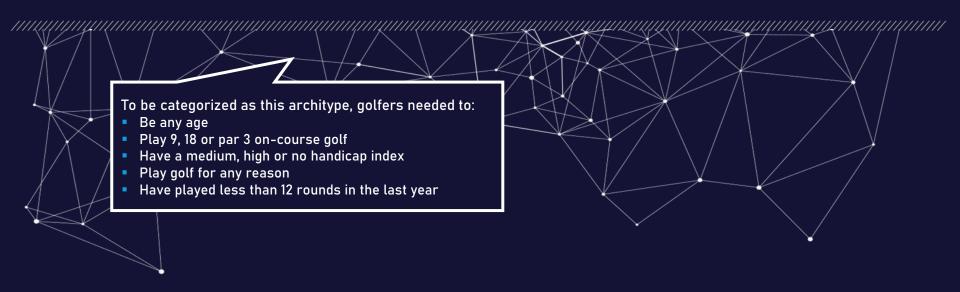
### QUALITATIVE DESCRIPTORS (Stage 1)

	The Disinterested Dabbler	Dipping Their Toes In the Water	Public Weekend Warriors	Good Time Golf 'Bros'	She's All That	The Aging Athlete	Country Club Traditionalist	Young Stick
Gender	Male or female	Male or female	Male	Male	Female	Male	Male	Male
Facility Type	Public <\$50	Public or golf association	Public—Mix of green fees, more apt to be \$50+	Public <\$50	Private—dues \$5k+ or Public	Public or Golf Association/Pri vate <\$5k	Private—Dues \$5k+ or Public	Private—Dues \$5k+ or Public—Green Fee \$50+

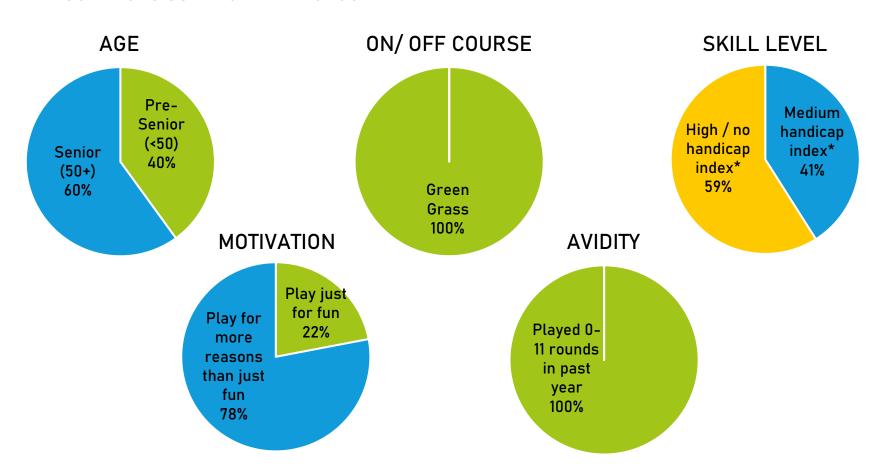
### QUANTITATIVE DESCRIPTORS (Stage 2)

	Sample overall	Architype 1 - Disinterested Dabbler	Architype 2 – Dipping their toes in the water	Architype 3 – Weekend Warriors	Architype 4 – Good Time Golfers	Architype 5 – All That / Young Stick (u50)	Architype 6 – Aging Athlete (50+)	Architype 7 - Traditionalist	Architype 8 – Young Athlete (u50)	Architype 9 - Golfertainment
Base	19740	2908	1232	3114	484	574	3319	3844	<i>581</i>	2535
Male	80%	77%	81%	93%	85%	86%	93%	90%	96%	32%
Female	20%	23%	19%	7%	15%	14%	7%	10%	4%	67%
% played <u>most</u> at a private course	19%	8%	7%	27%	19%	15%	16%	31%	6%	-

# GOLFER EXPERIENCE ARCHITYPES DISINTERESTED DABBLER

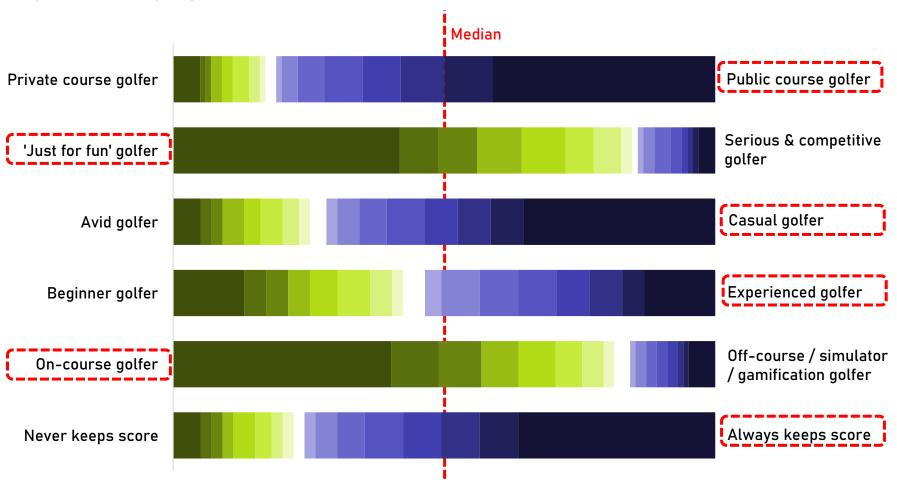


**KEY DESCRIPTORS USED TO DEFINE GROUP** 

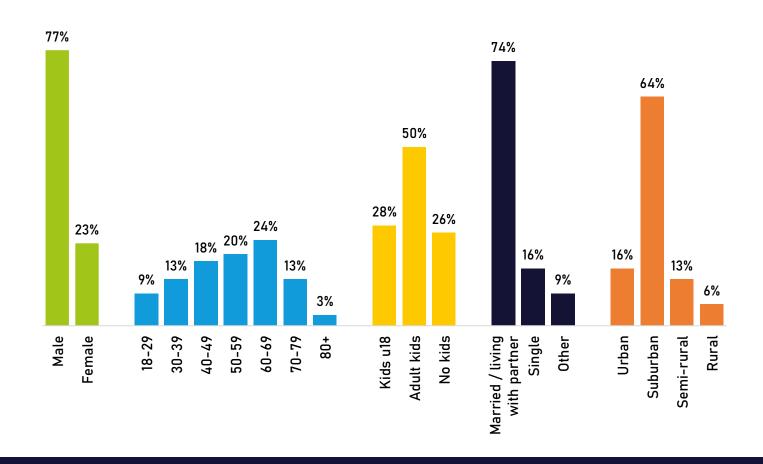


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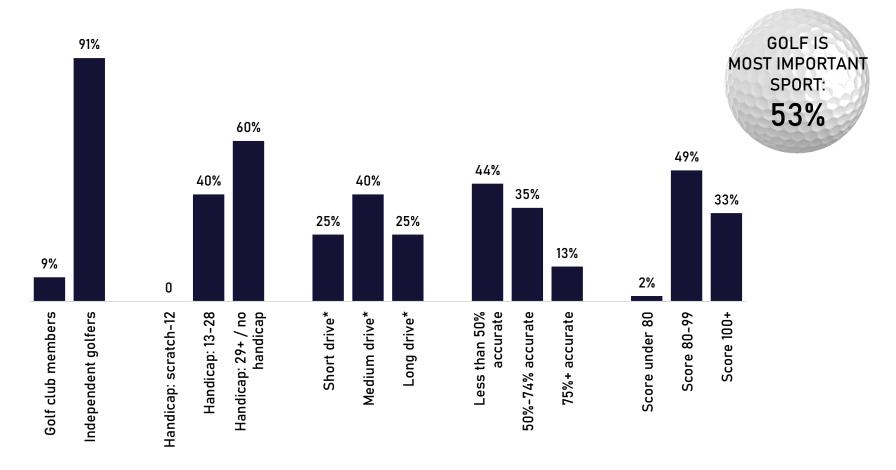
ARCHITYPE ATTITUDES



ARCHITYPE FEATURES: DEMOGRAPHICS

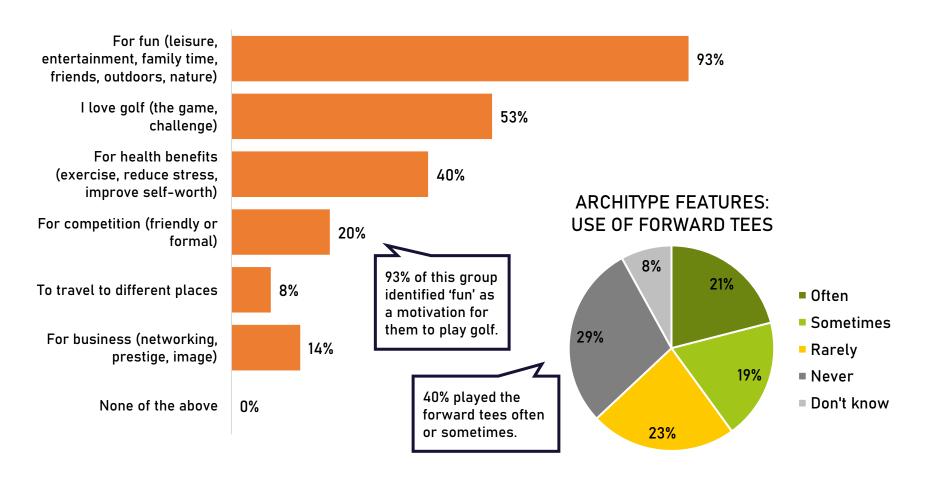


ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF PROFILE



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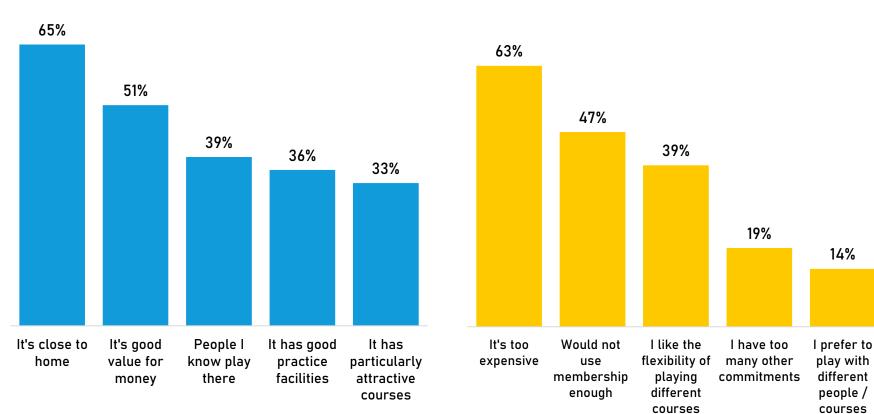
ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF MOTIVATION



ARCHITYPE FEATURES: REASONS FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND NON-MEMBERSHIP

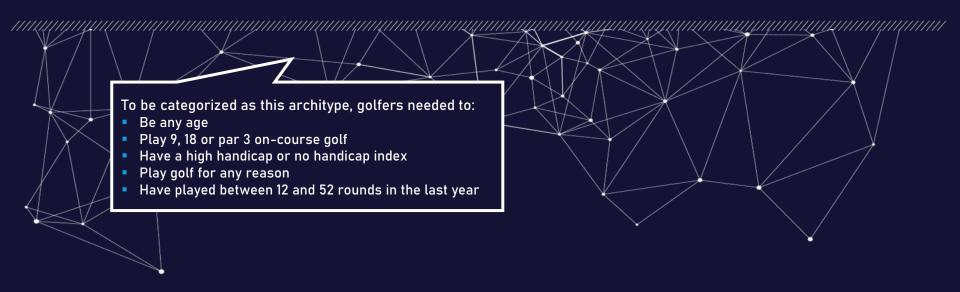
REASONS FOR MEMBERSHIP - TOP 5
 Architype 1 - Disinterested Dabbler (147)

REASONS FOR NON-MEMBERSHIP - TOP 5 Architype 1 - Disinterested Dabbler (1411)

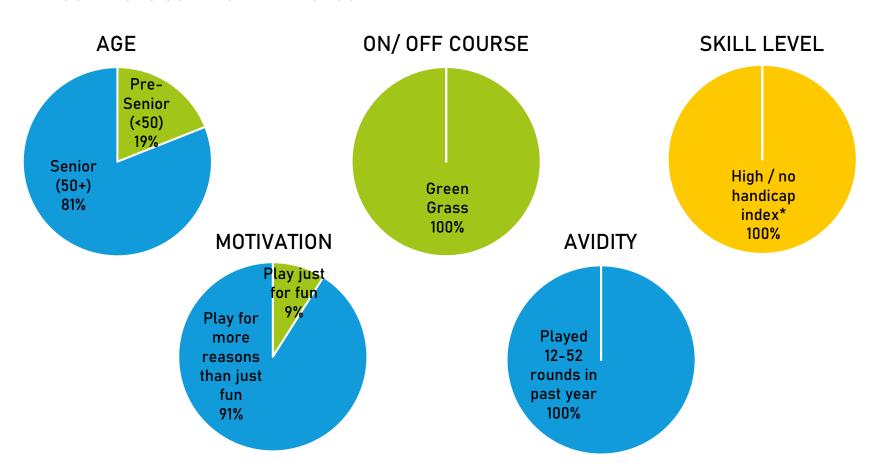


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# GOLFER EXPERIENCE ARCHITYPES DIPPING THEIR TOES IN THE WATER

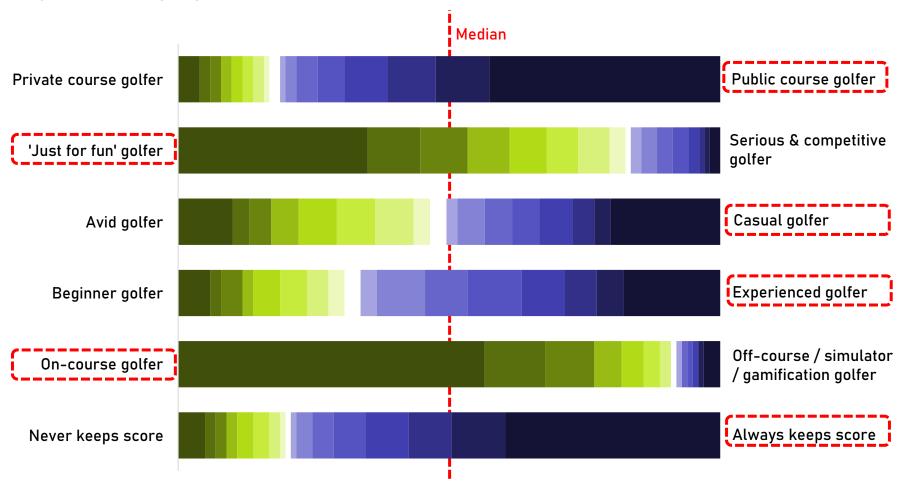


**KEY DESCRIPTORS USED TO DEFINE GROUP** 

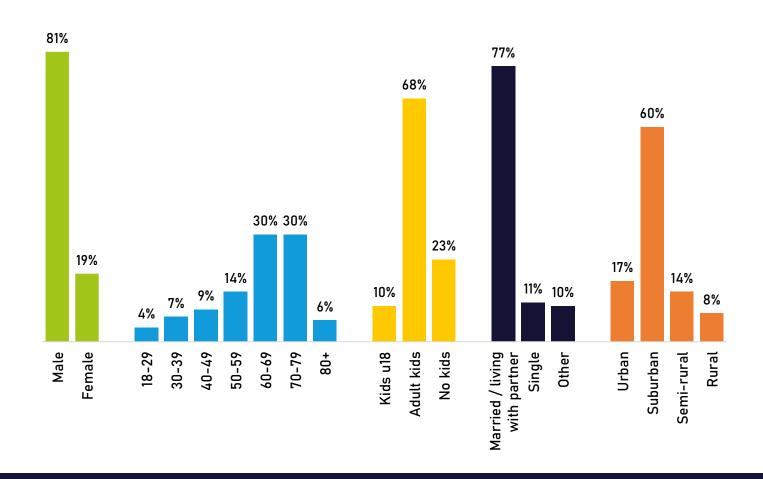


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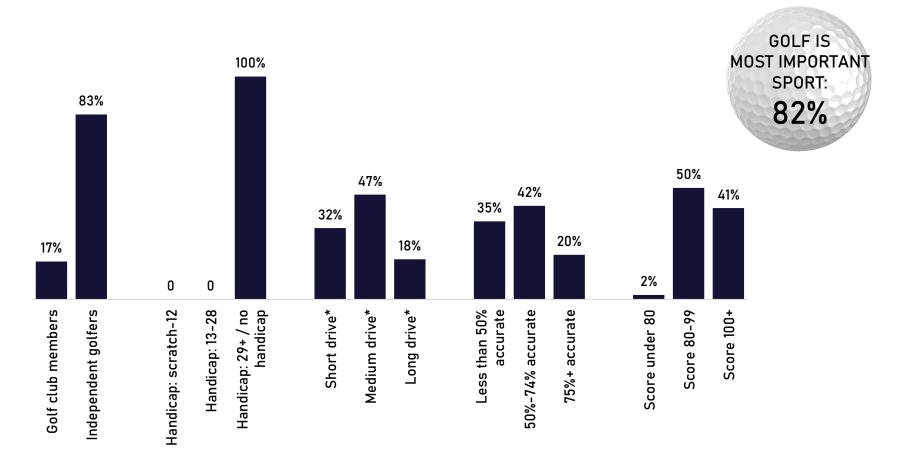
ARCHITYPE ATTITUDES



ARCHITYPE FEATURES: DEMOGRAPHICS

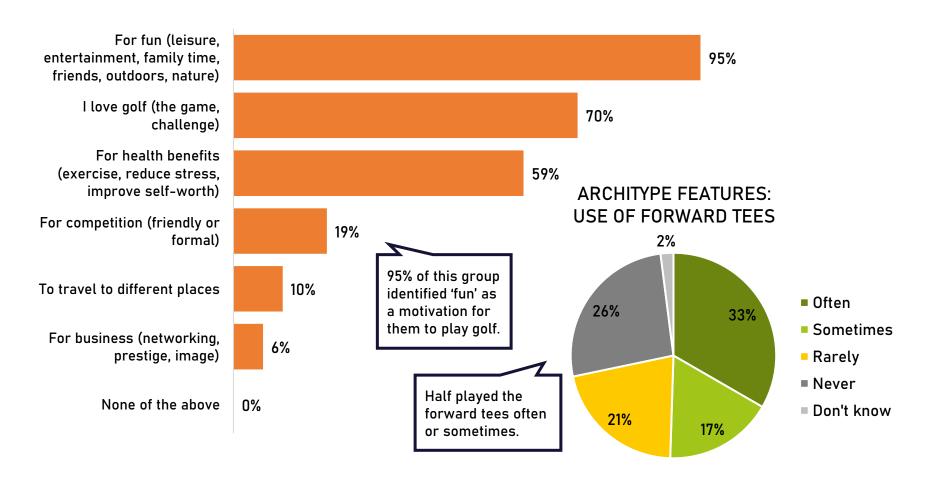


ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF PROFILE

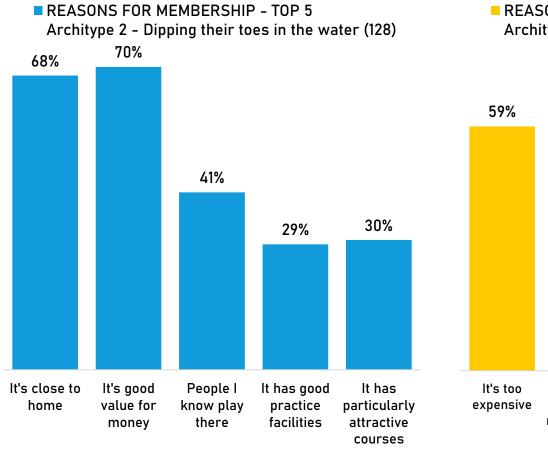


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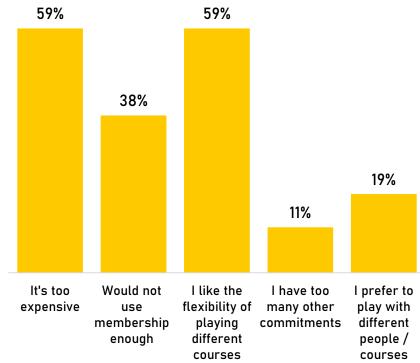
ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF MOTIVATION



ARCHITYPE FEATURES: REASONS FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND NON-MEMBERSHIP

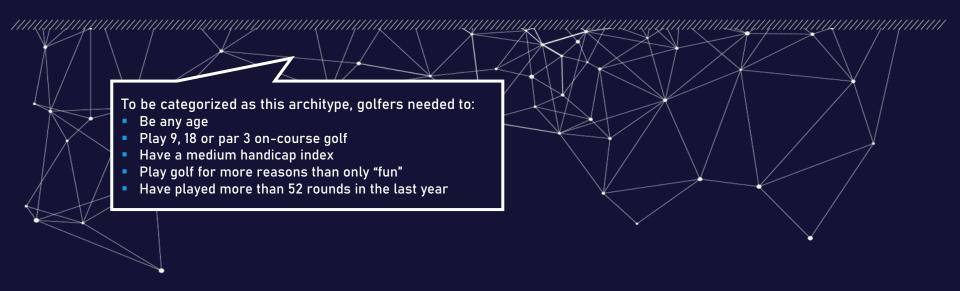


REASONS FOR NON-MEMBERSHIP - TOP 5
 Architype 2 - Dipping their toes in the water (664)

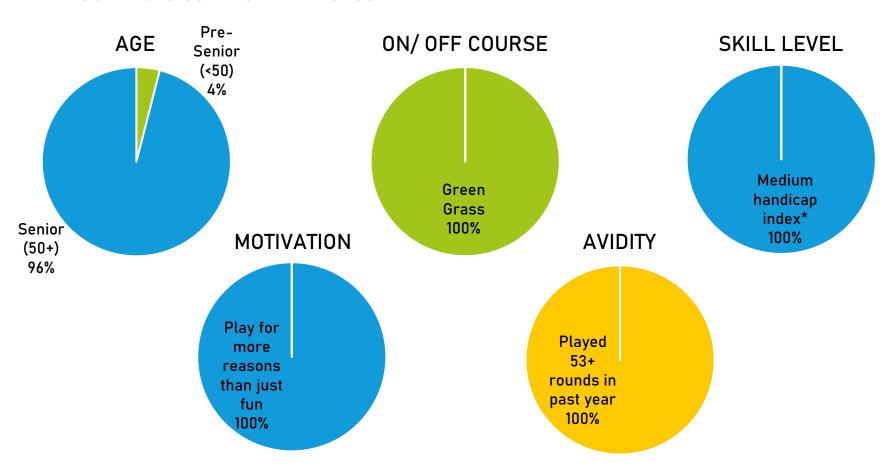


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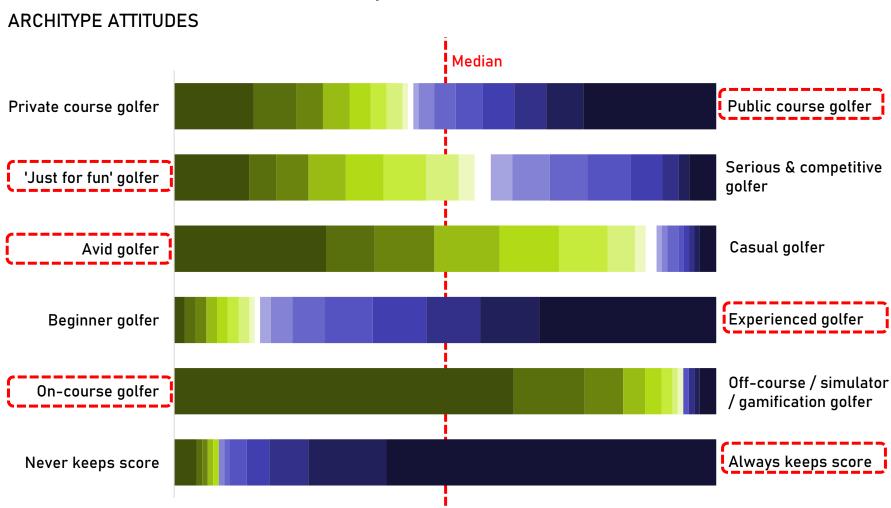
# GOLFER EXPERIENCE ARCHITYPES WEEKEND WARRIORS



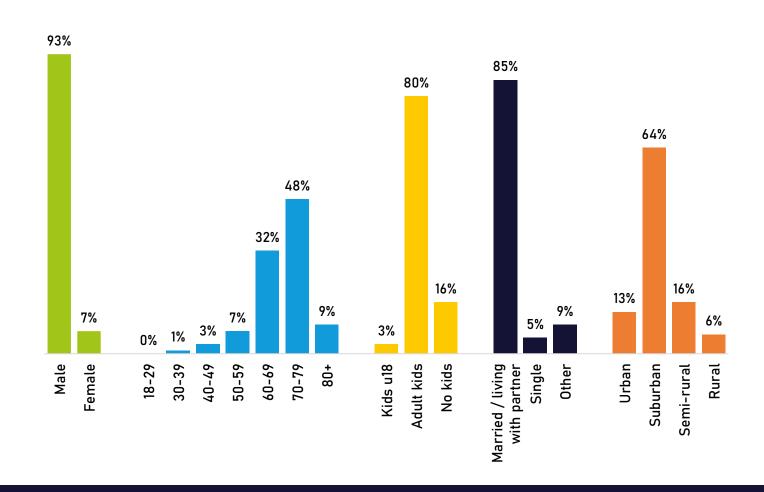
**KEY DESCRIPTORS USED TO DEFINE GROUP** 



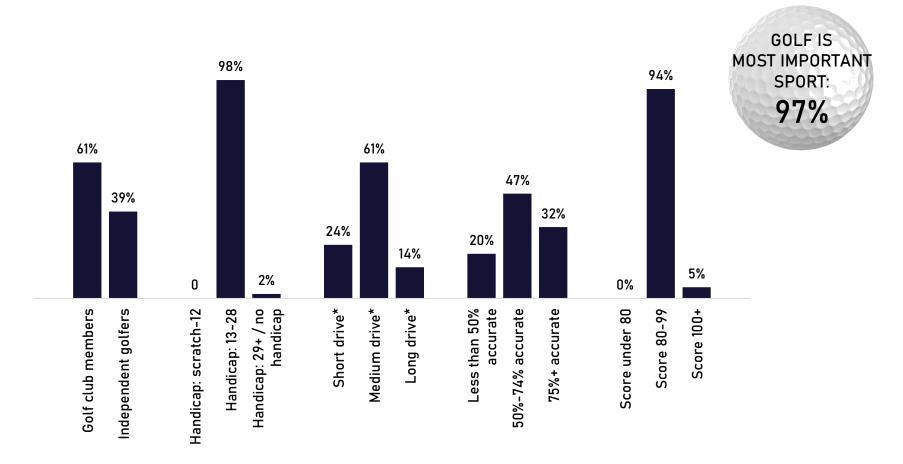
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ARCHITYPE FEATURES: DEMOGRAPHICS

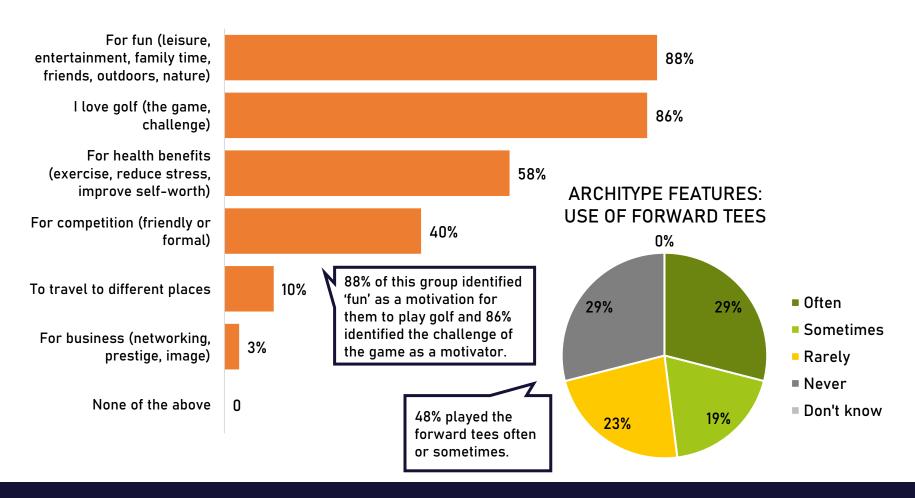


ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF PROFILE

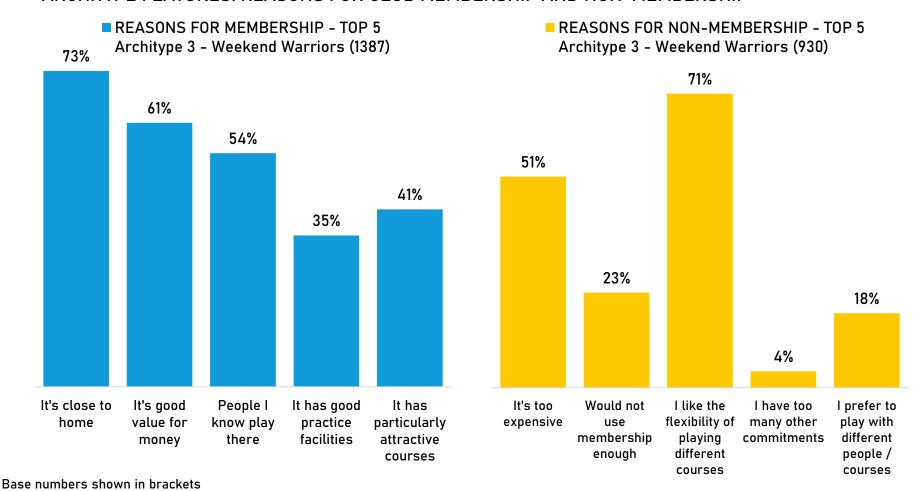


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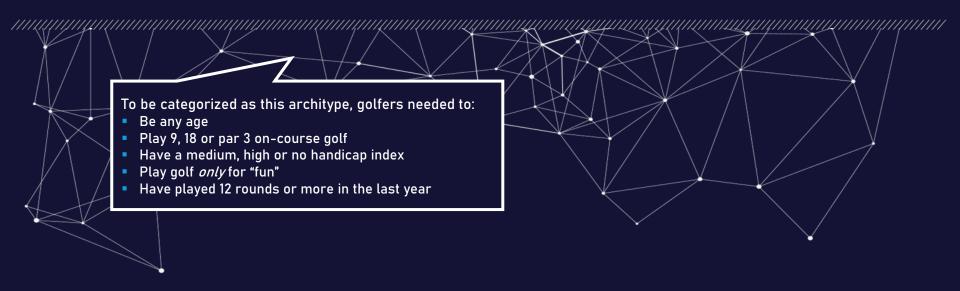
ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF MOTIVATION



ARCHITYPE FEATURES: REASONS FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND NON-MEMBERSHIP



# GOLFER EXPERIENCE ARCHITYPES GOOD TIME GOLFERS

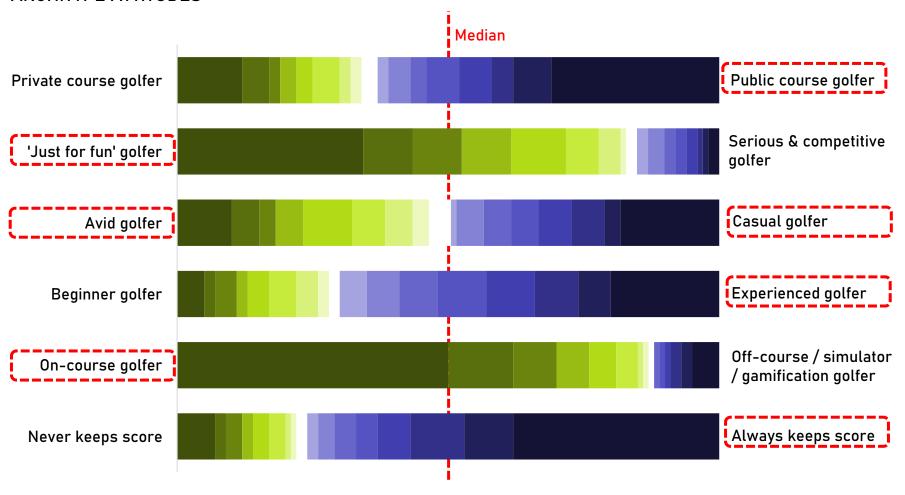


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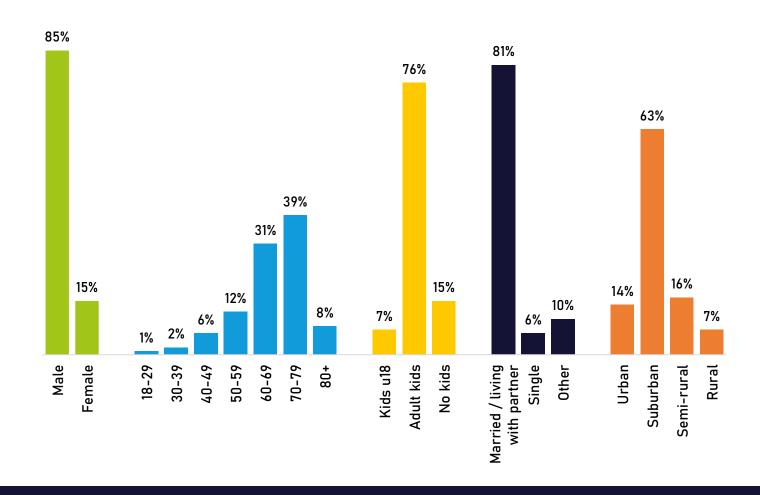


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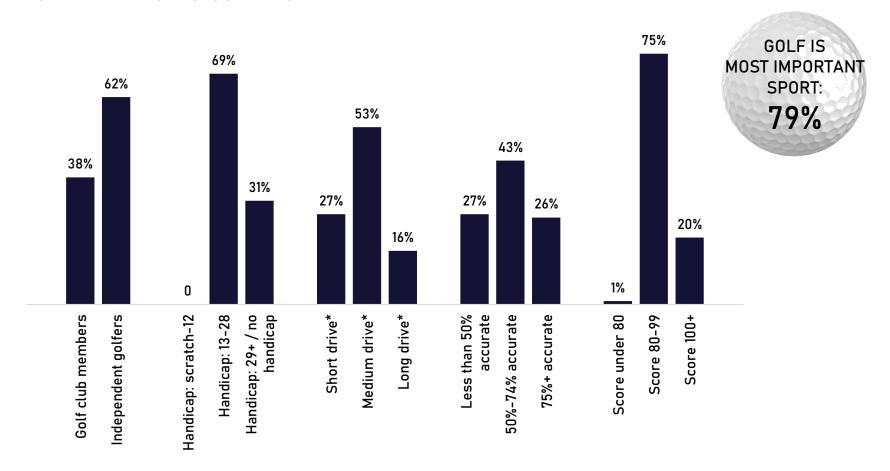
**ARCHITYPE ATTITUDES** 



ARCHITYPE FEATURES: DEMOGRAPHICS

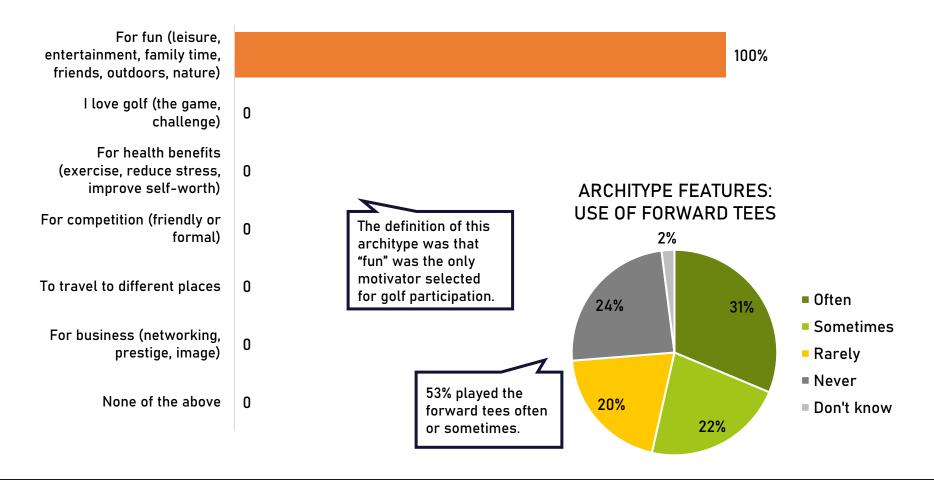


ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF PROFILE



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ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF MOTIVATION



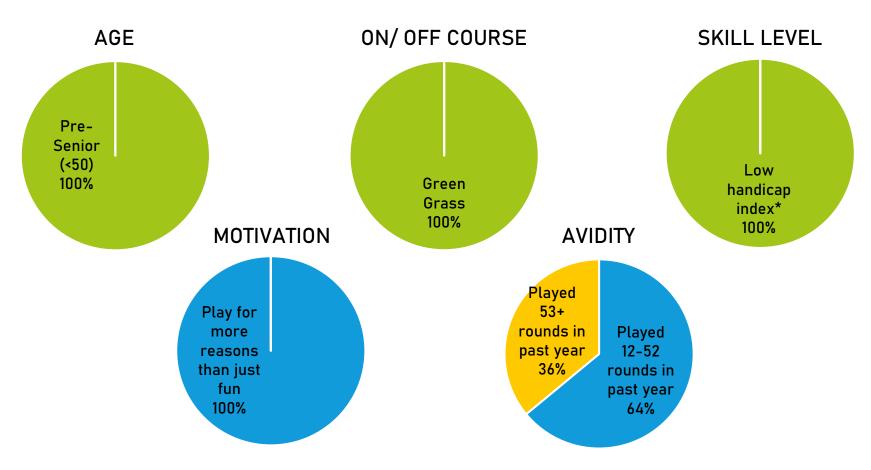
ARCHITYPE FEATURES: REASONS FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND NON-MEMBERSHIP



# GOLFER EXPERIENCE ARCHITYPES ALL THAT / YOUNG STICK



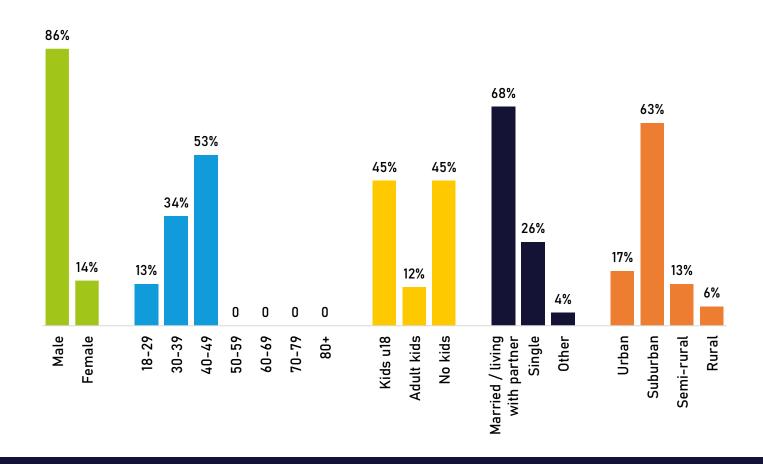
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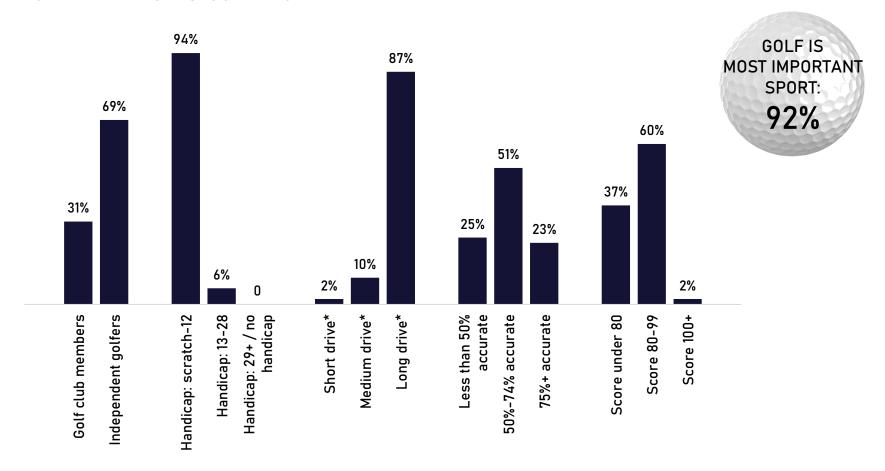
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**ARCHITYPE ATTITUDES** Median Public course golfer Private course golfer Serious & competitive 'Just for fun' golfer golfer Avid golfer Casual golfer Experienced golfer Beginner golfer Off-course / simulator On-course golfer / gamification golfer Always keeps score Never keeps score

ARCHITYPE FEATURES: DEMOGRAPHICS

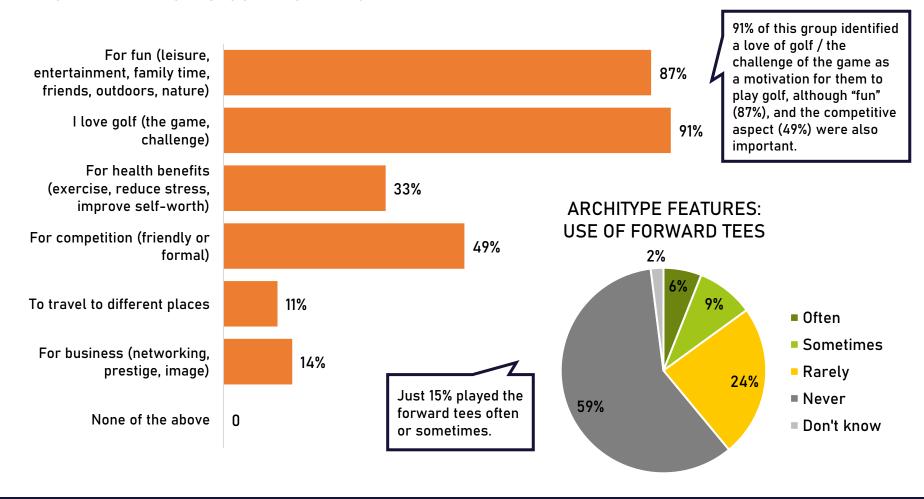


ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF PROFILE

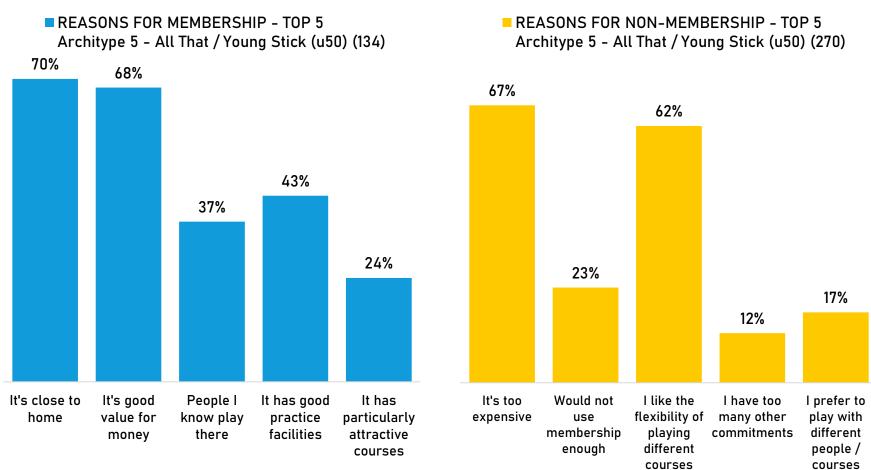


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ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF MOTIVATION

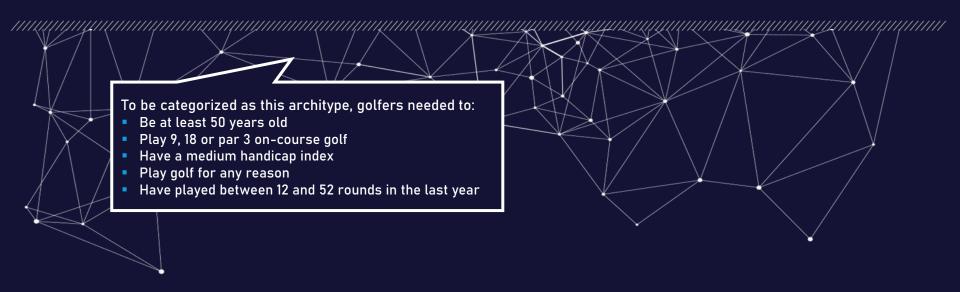


ARCHITYPE FEATURES: REASONS FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND NON-MEMBERSHIP

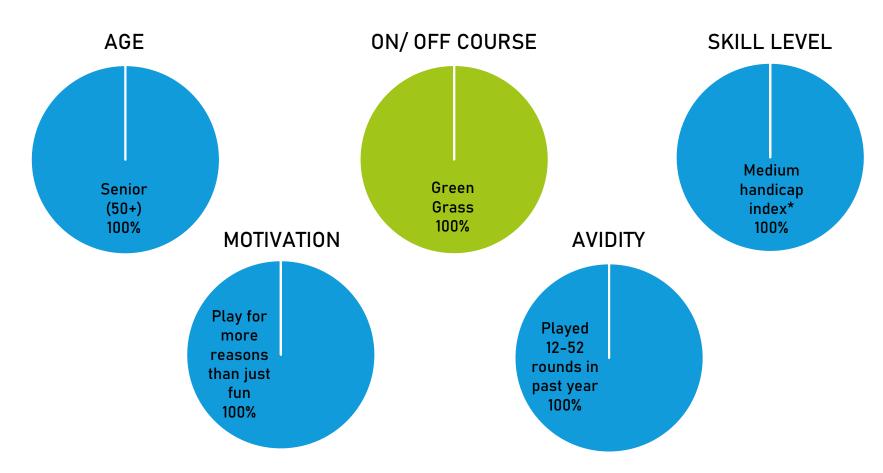


Base numbers shown in brackets

# GOLFER EXPERIENCE ARCHITYPES AGING ATHLETE

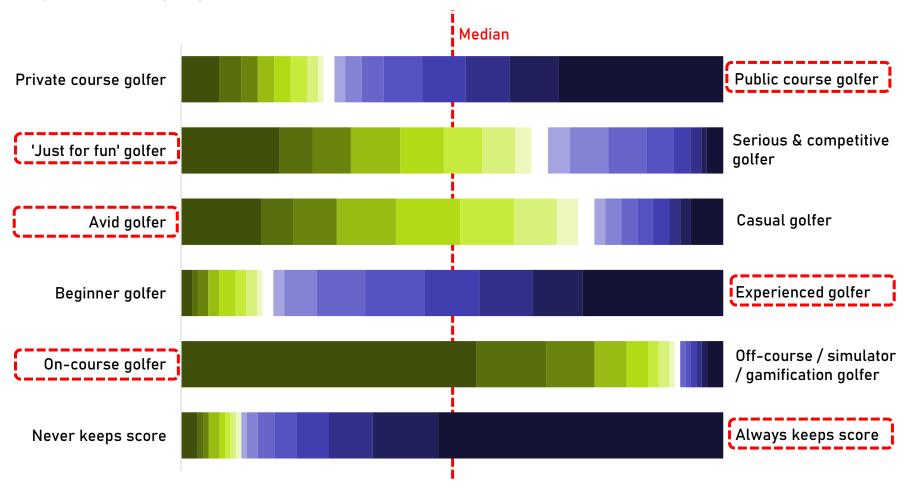


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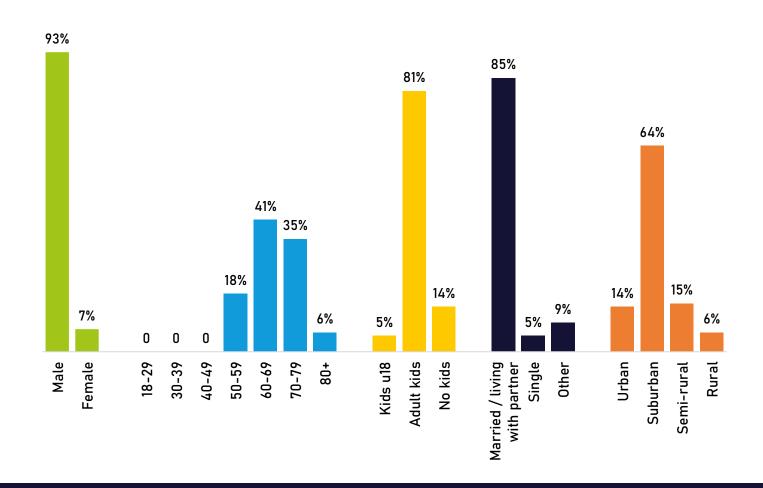


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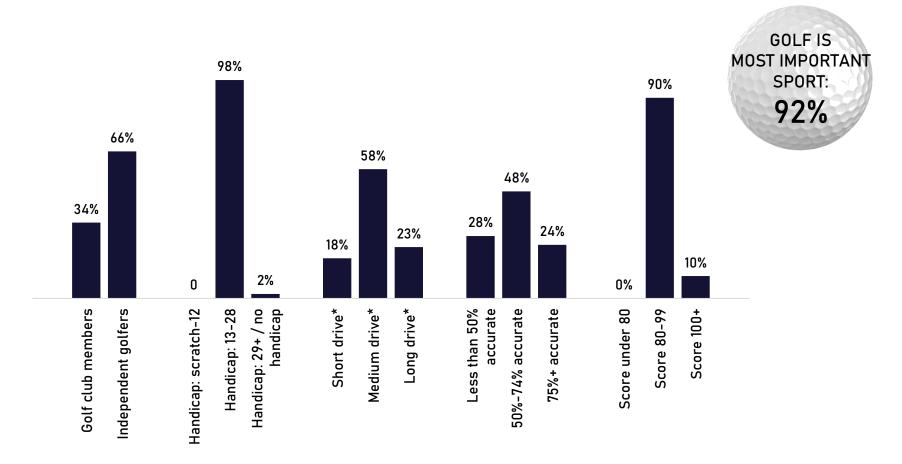
ARCHITYPE ATTITUDES



ARCHITYPE FEATURES: DEMOGRAPHICS

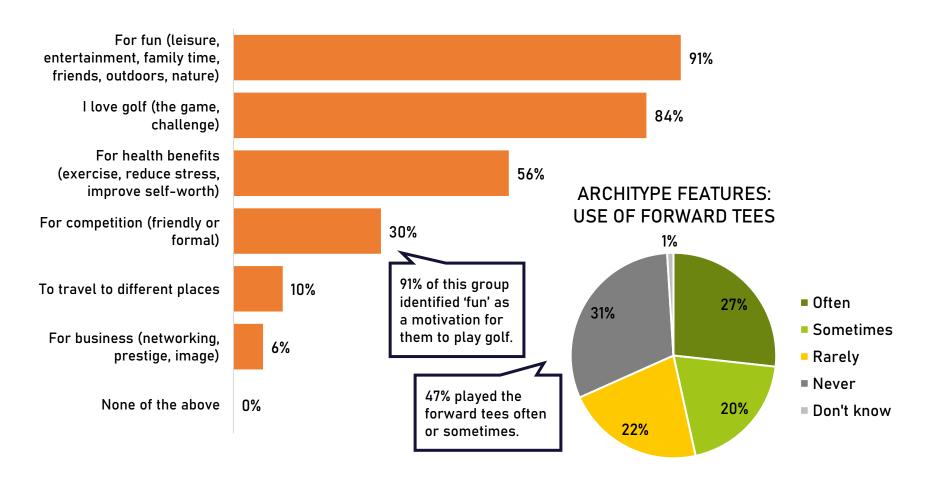


ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF PROFILE

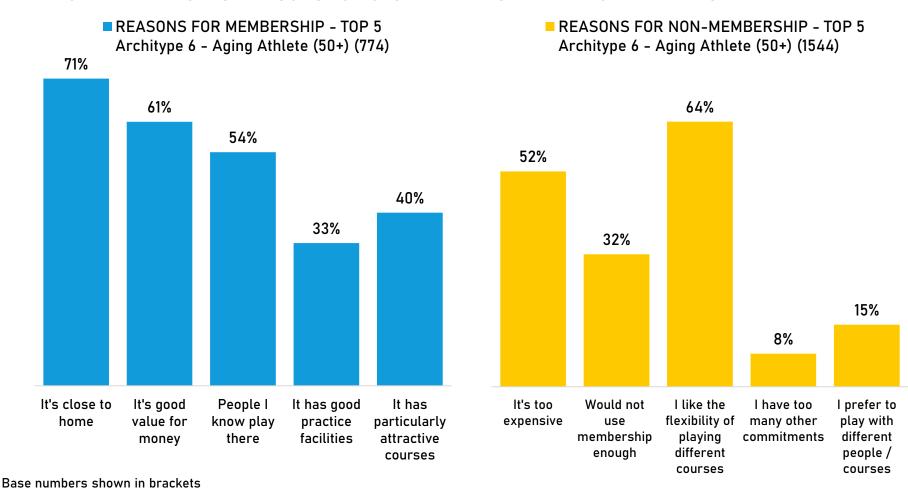


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ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF MOTIVATION



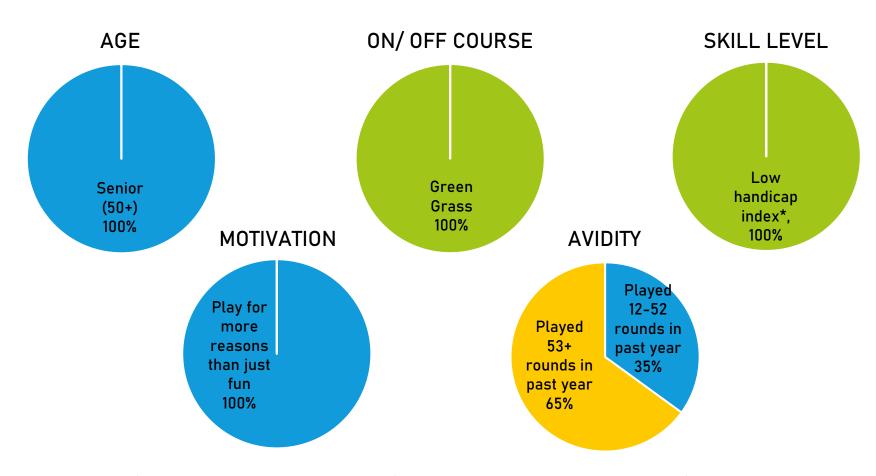
ARCHITYPE FEATURES: REASONS FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND NON-MEMBERSHIP



# GOLFER EXPERIENCE ARCHITYPES TRADITIONALIST

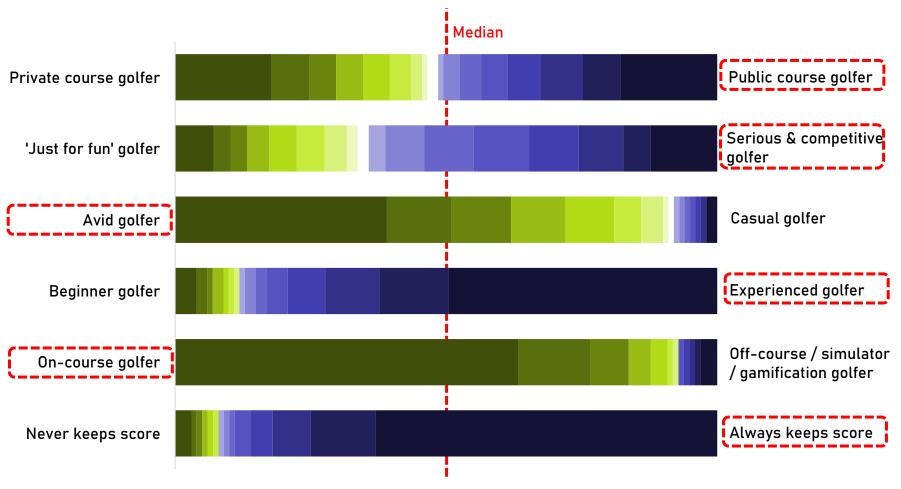


**KEY DESCRIPTORS USED TO DEFINE GROUP** 

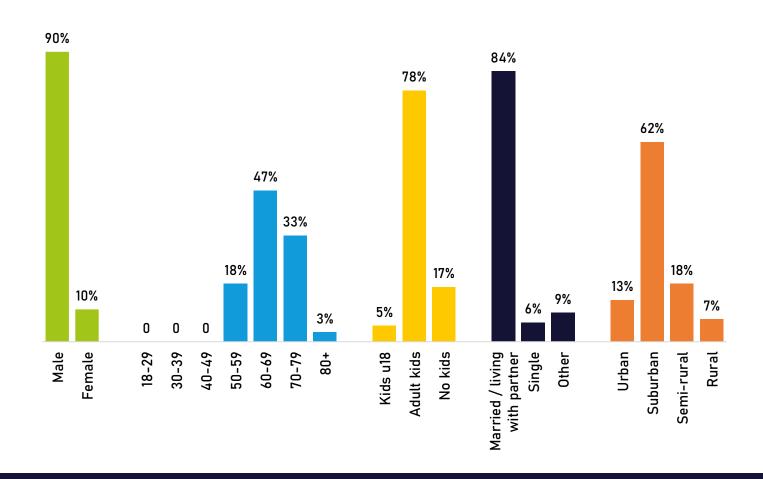


<sup>\*</sup> Low = Female 20 or better / Male 12 or better, Medium = Female 21-36 / Male 13-28, High Female 37-54 or no handicap / Male 29-54 or no handicap

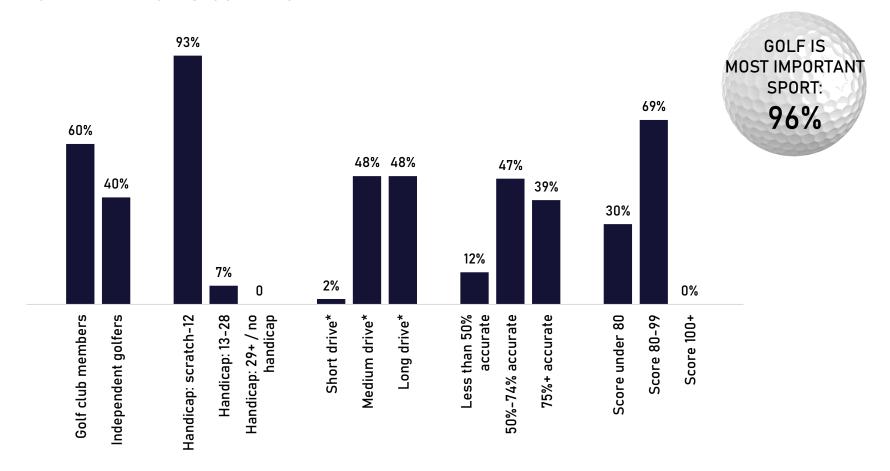
**ARCHITYPE ATTITUDES** 



ARCHITYPE FEATURES: DEMOGRAPHICS

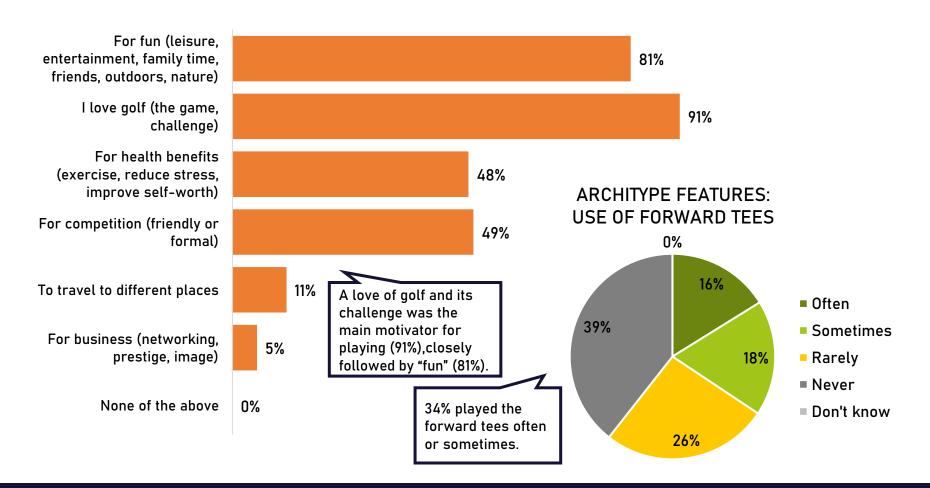


ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF PROFILE

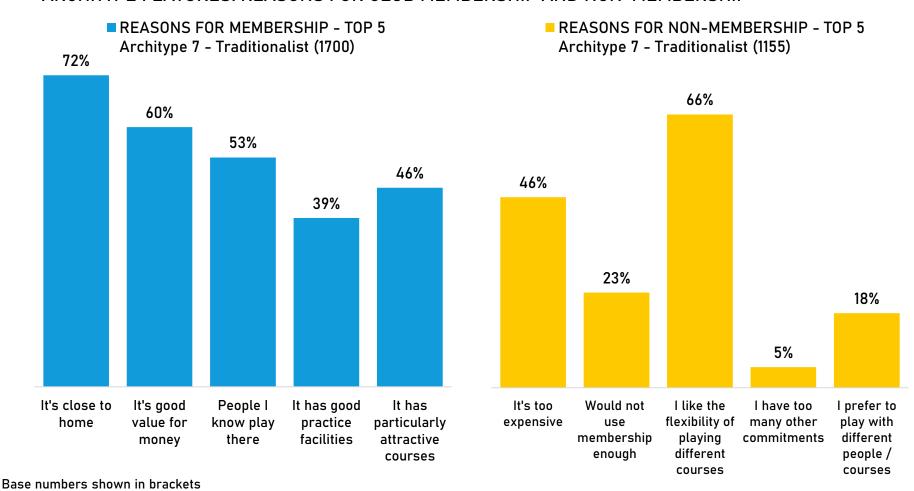


<sup>\*</sup> Short drive = Female <135 yd. / Male <190 yd., Medium drive = Female 135-189 yd. / Male 190-230 yd., Long drive = Female 190+ yd. / Male 231+ yd.

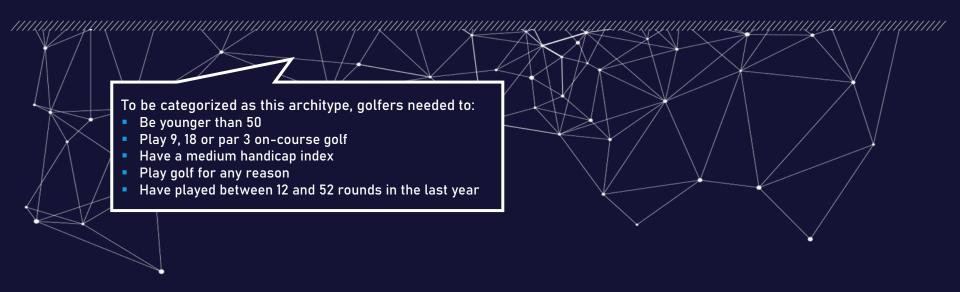
ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF MOTIVATION



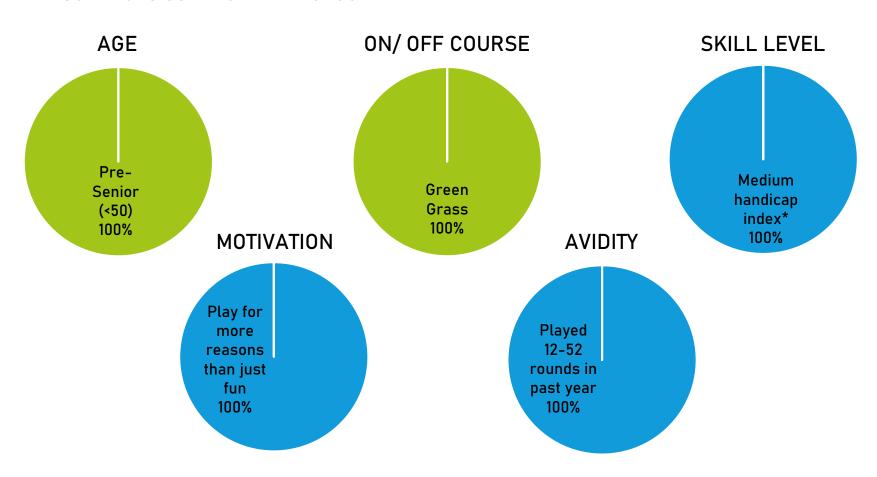
#### ARCHITYPE FEATURES: REASONS FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND NON-MEMBERSHIP



# GOLFER EXPERIENCE ARCHITYPES YOUNG ATHLETE

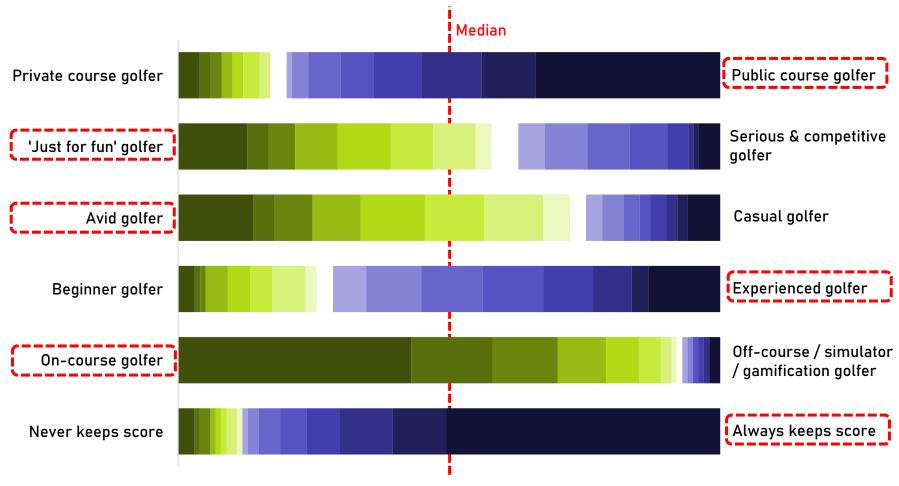


**KEY DESCRIPTORS USED TO DEFINE GROUP** 

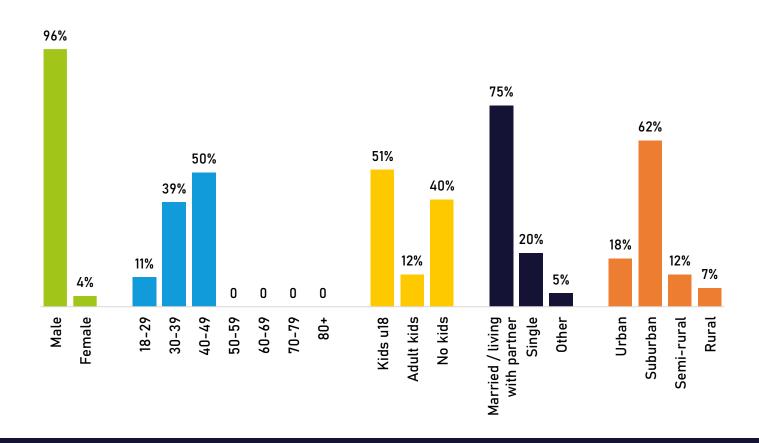


<sup>\*</sup> Low = Female 20 or better / Male 12 or better, Medium = Female 21-36 / Male 13-28, High Female 37-54 or no handicap / Male 29-54 or no handicap

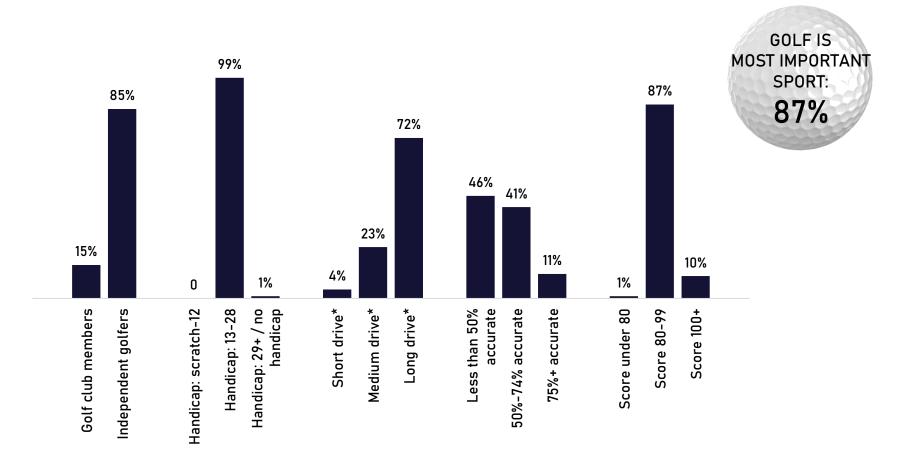
ARCHITYPE ATTITUDES



ARCHITYPE FEATURES: DEMOGRAPHICS

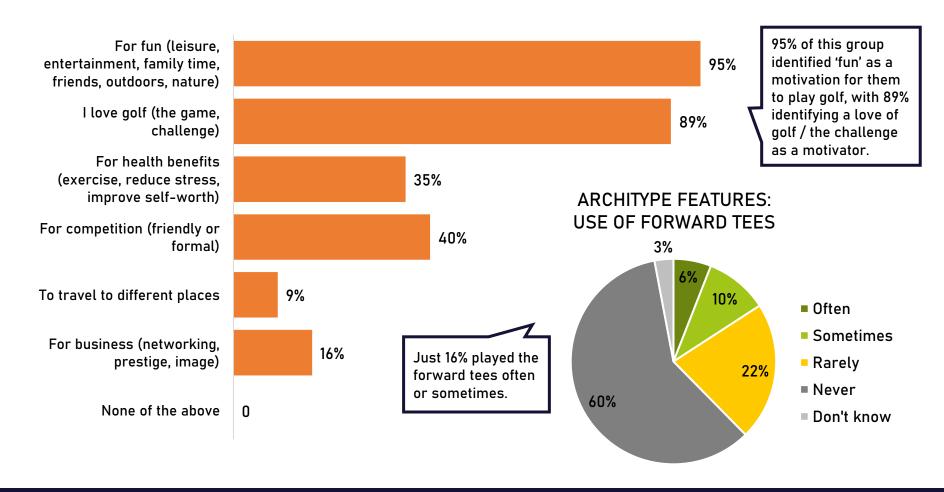


ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF PROFILE

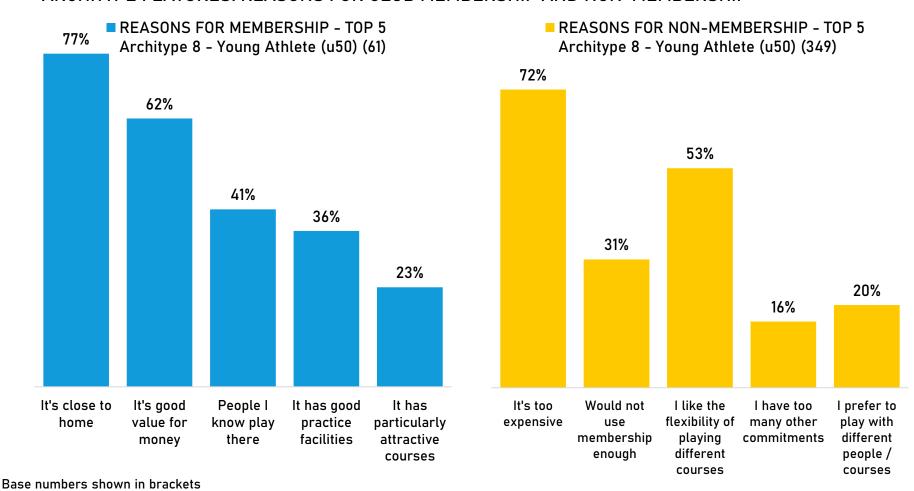


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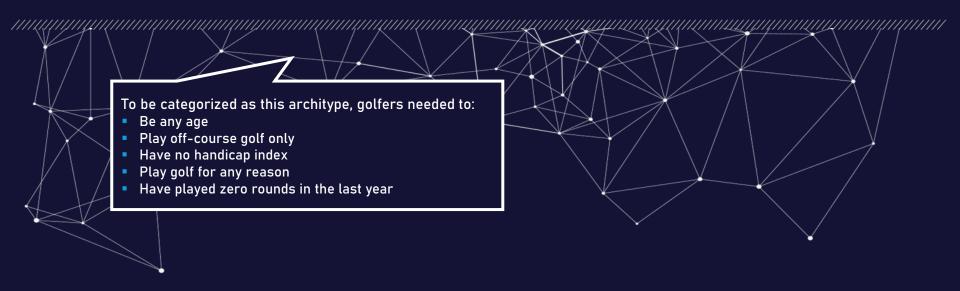
ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF MOTIVATION



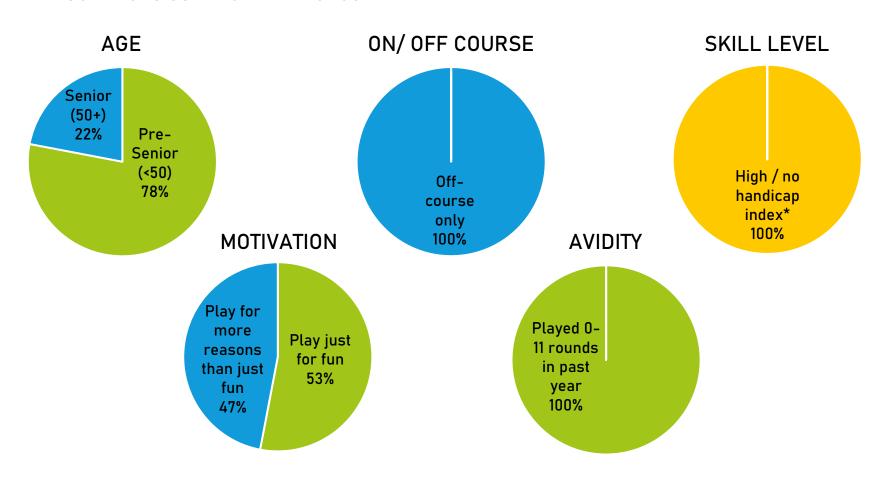
#### ARCHITYPE FEATURES: REASONS FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND NON-MEMBERSHIP



# GOLFER EXPERIENCE ARCHITYPES GOLFERTAINMENT

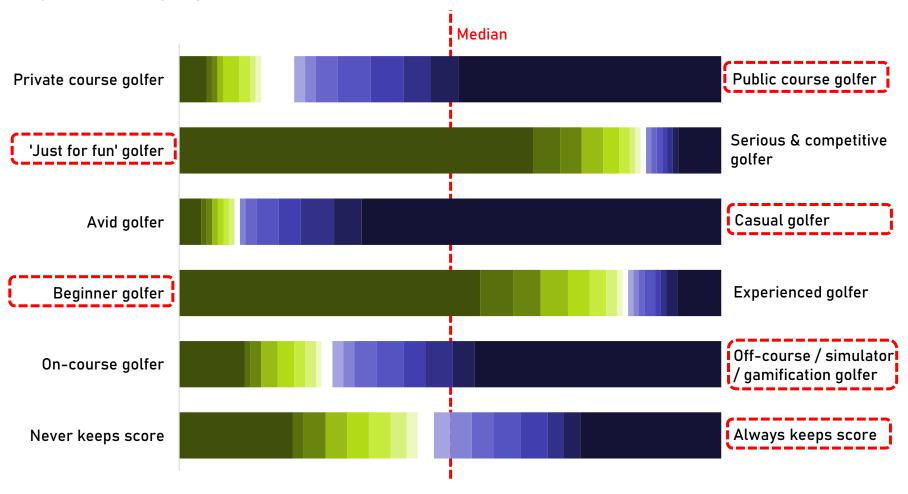


**KEY DESCRIPTORS USED TO DEFINE GROUP** 

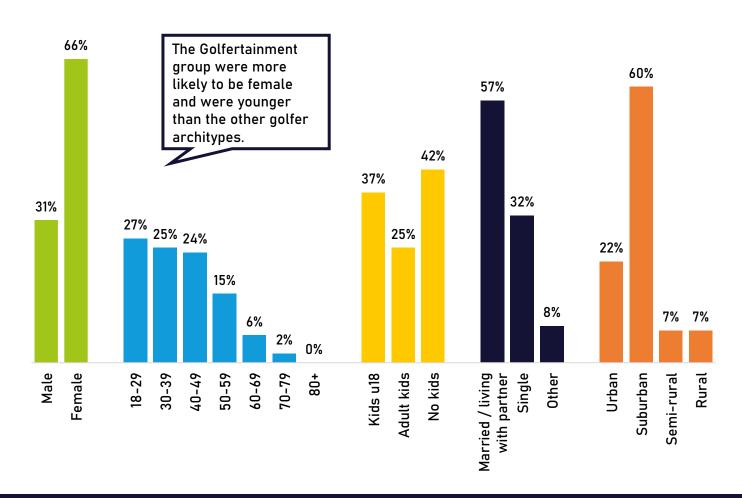


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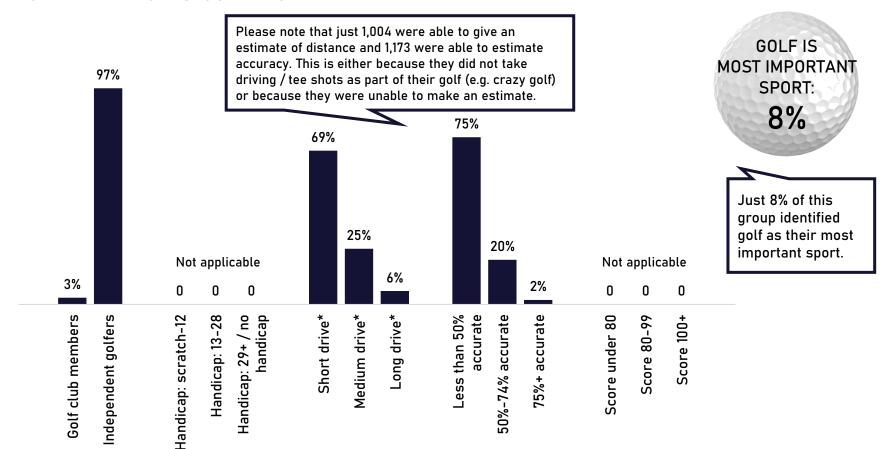
**ARCHITYPE ATTITUDES** 



ARCHITYPE FEATURES: DEMOGRAPHICS

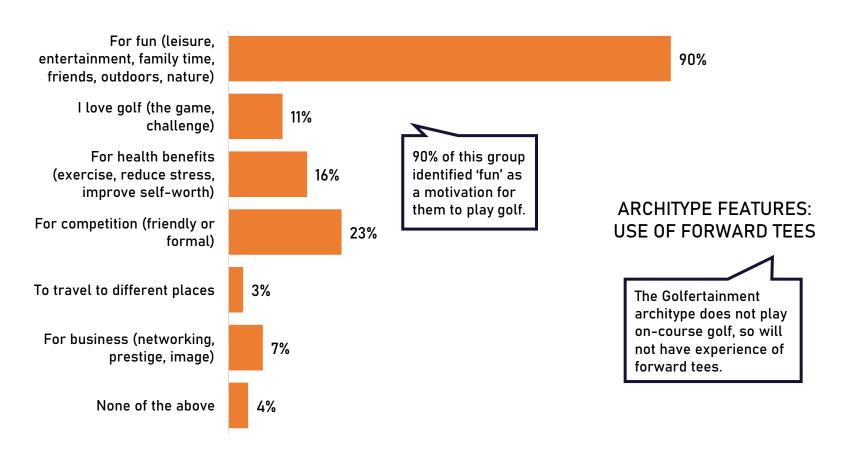


ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF PROFILE



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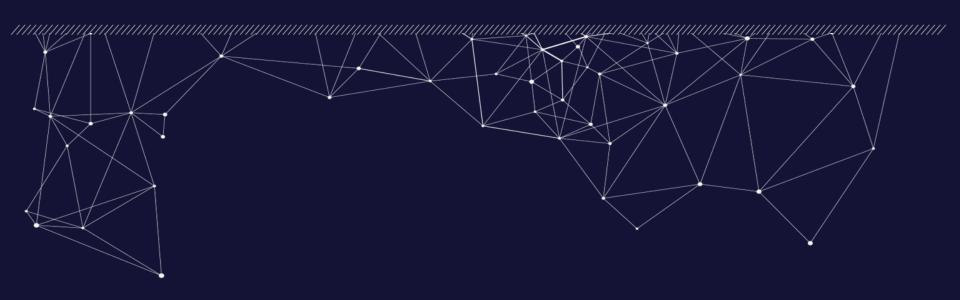
ARCHITYPE FEATURES: GOLF MOTIVATION



#### ARCHITYPE FEATURES: REASONS FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND NON-MEMBERSHIP

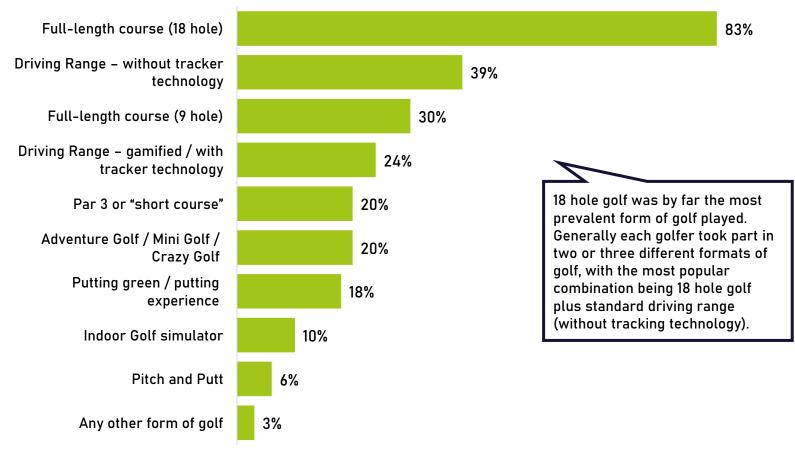


### **GOLF ENGAGEMENT**



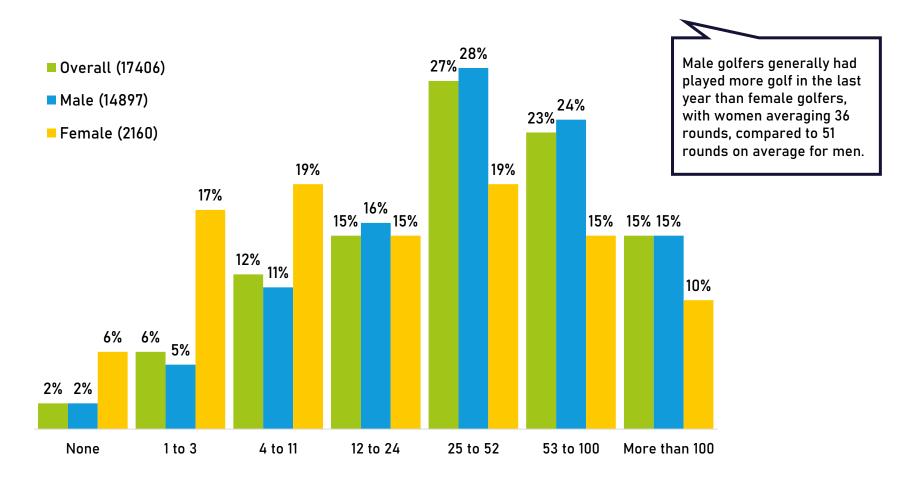
### GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Types of golf

Q. What types of golf do you play?



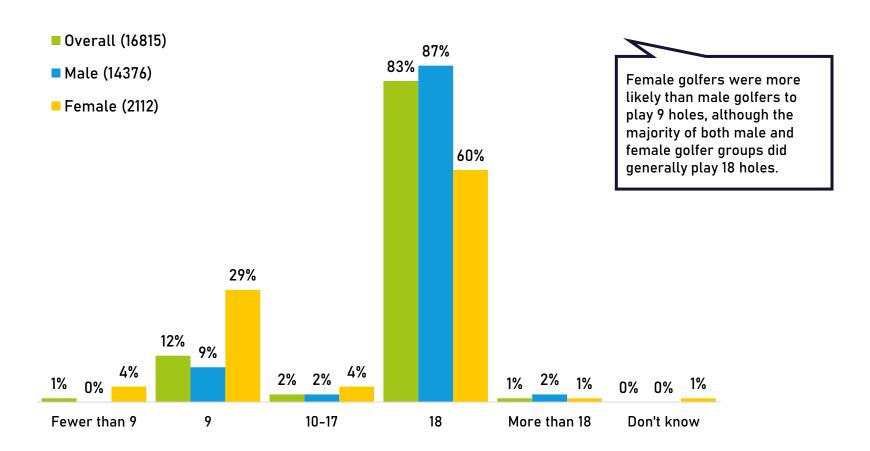
### GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Number of rounds

Q. Approximately how many rounds of golf have you played in the last 12 months?



#### GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Number of holes

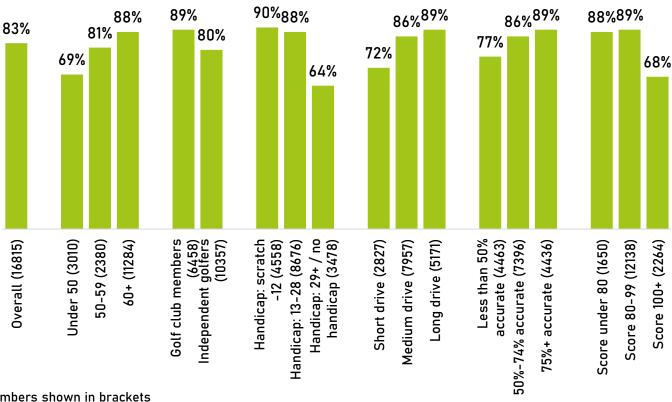
Q. How many holes do you typically play?



### GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Proportion playing 18 holes

Q. How many holes do you typically play?

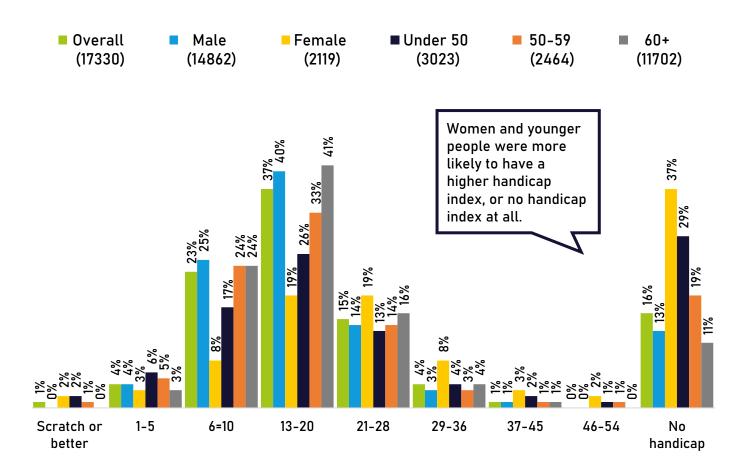
Typically play 18 holes



Although 18 hole golf was played by the majority, older golfers, better golfers, golfers with longer drives and more accurate golfers we more likely to typically play 18 holes.

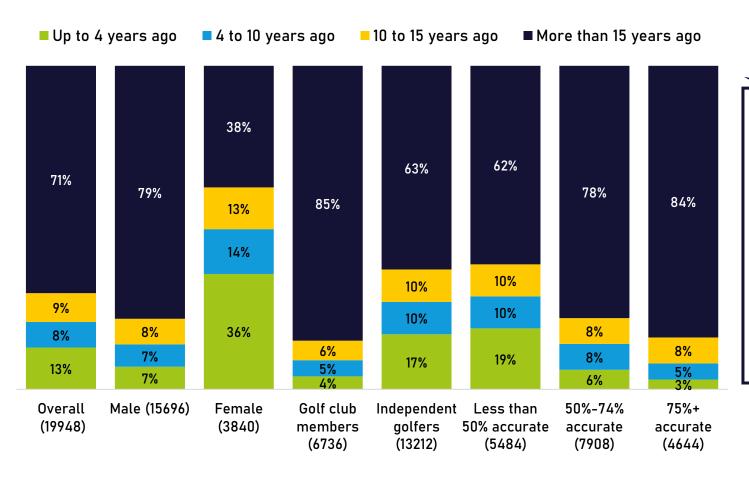
#### GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Handicap index

Q. What is your Handicap Index, if you have one?



#### GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Golf experience level

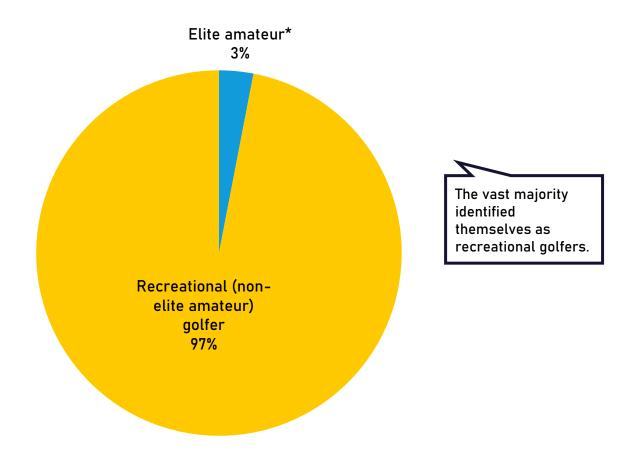
Q. When did you start playing golf?



Golfers were very personally invested in golf, with 71% having started to play more than 15 years ago. There is however a substantial group of female golfers coming through who have played for less than four years - 36% of female golfers in the sample fell into this group.

# GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Level of play

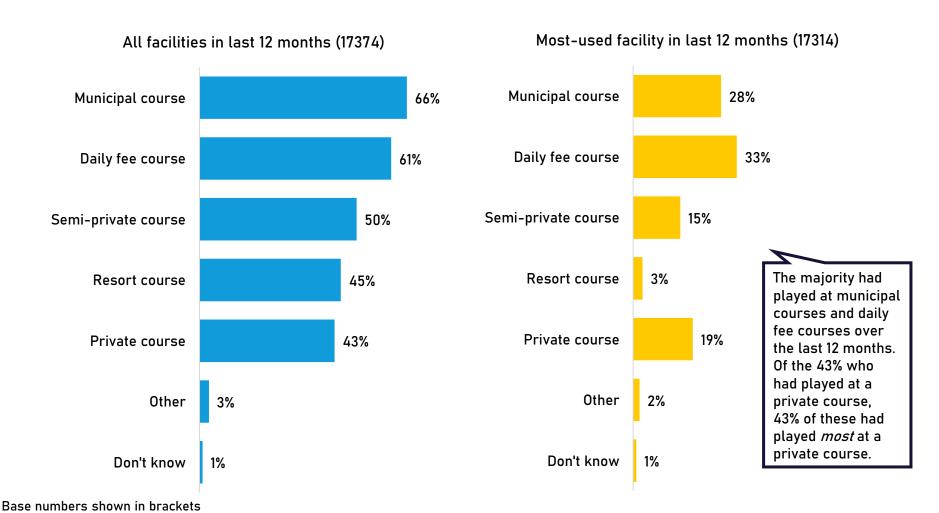
Q. How would you describe your level of golf play?



<sup>\*</sup> A golfer who plays in regional, state or national gross score championships

# GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Golf facilities

- Q. What types of golf facilities have you played at in the last 12 months?
- Q. And what type of golf facility have you played at the most in the last 12 months?



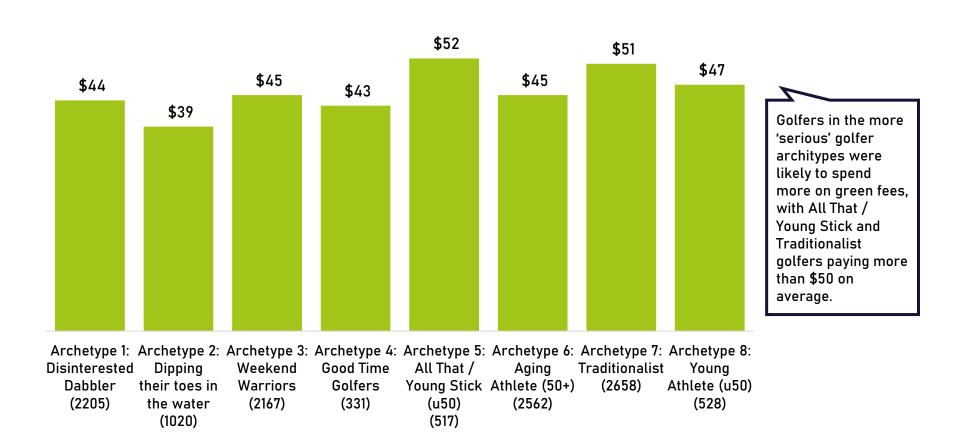
# GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Typical green fee

Q. What would be the typical green fee that you pay for one round of golf?



#### GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Typical green fee

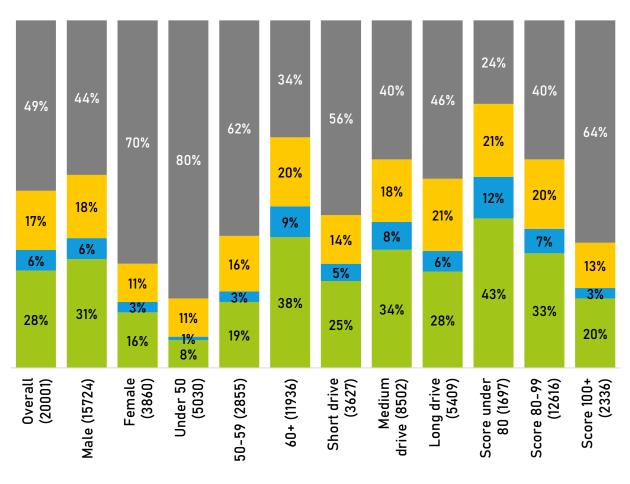
Q. What would be the typical green fee that you pay for one round of golf?



Base numbers shown in brackets Base: 20001 - Regions reflect standard NGF regions for golf

#### GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Club membership

Q. Are you a member of a golf club?



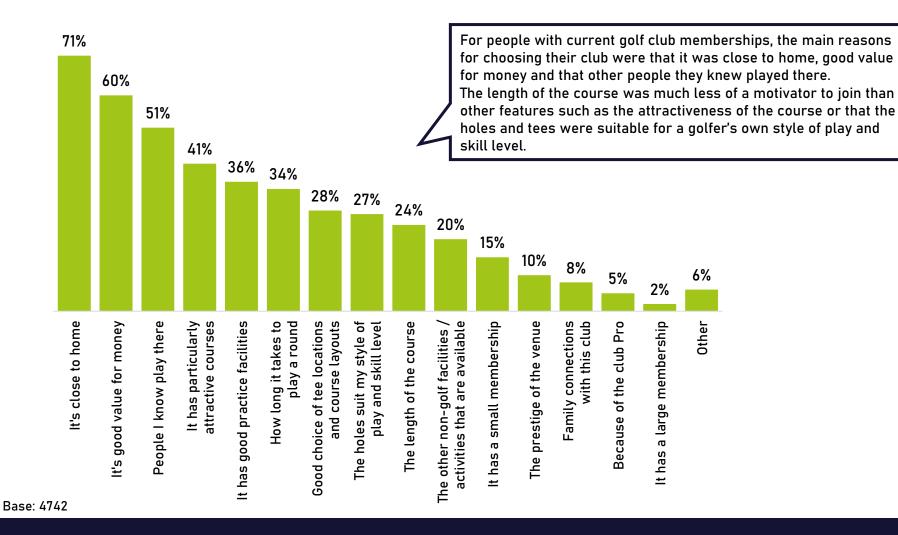
- I have never been a member of a golf club / country club that offers golf
- I used to be a golf club member / member of a country club that offers golf, but I'm not any more
- I am a member of more than one golf club / country club that offers golf
- I am a member of one golf club / country club that offers golf

Older golfers and better golfers were more likely to be current golf club members.

Just 9% of golfers under the age of 50 were currently a member of at least one golf club. Male golfers (37%) were also more likely to be current members than female golfers (19%).

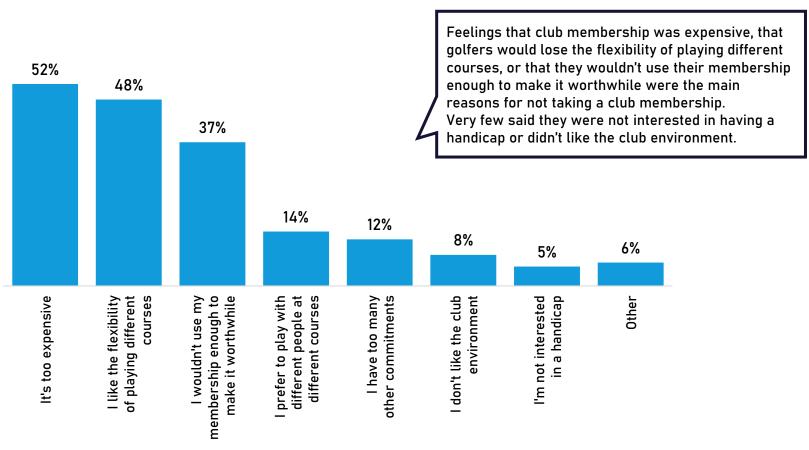
#### GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Reasons for club membership

Q. Thinking about your main golf club, why did you choose to be a member of that particular club?



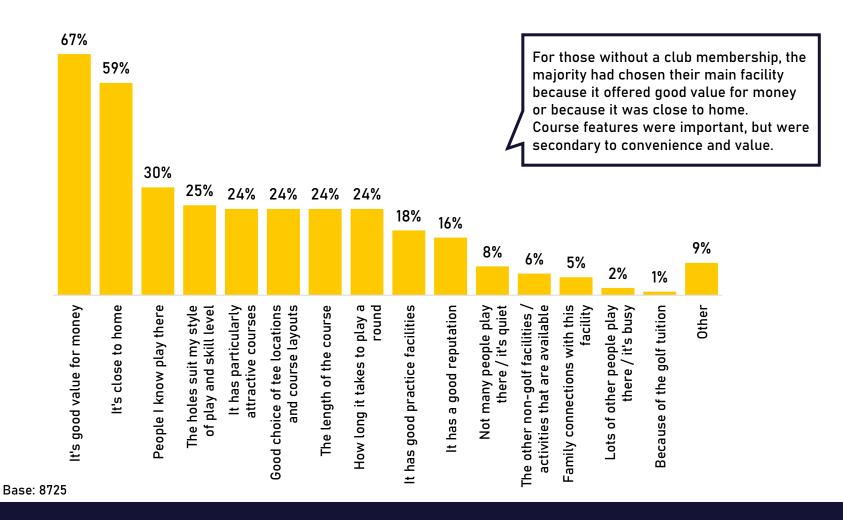
### GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Reasons for club non-membership

Q. Why do you choose not to be a member of a golf club?



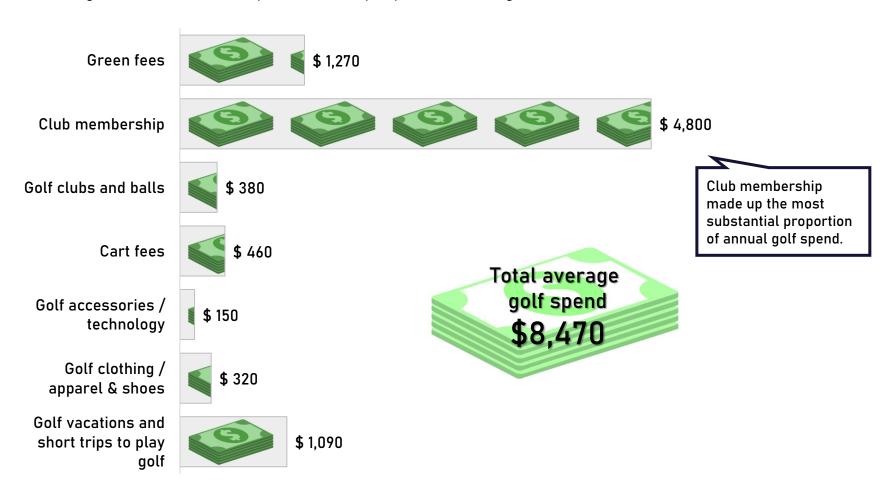
### GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Reasons for main facility choice

Q. Thinking about the golf facility you play at most often, why do you choose to play there? ASKED TO NON-MEMBERS ONLY



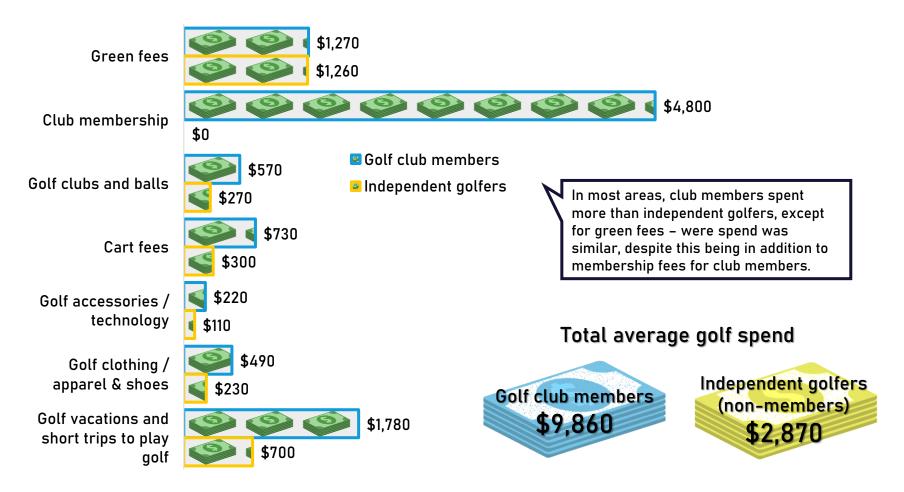
# GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Annual golf spend

Q. On average over the course of a normal year, how much do you spend on the following...



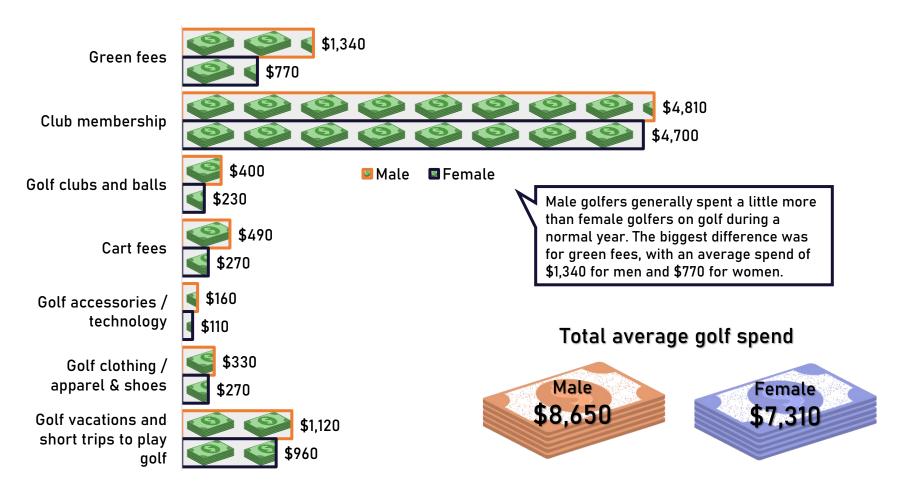
# GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Annual golf spend – by membership

Q. On average over the course of a normal year, how much do you spend on the following...



# GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Annual golf spend – by gender

Q. On average over the course of a normal year, how much do you spend on the following...

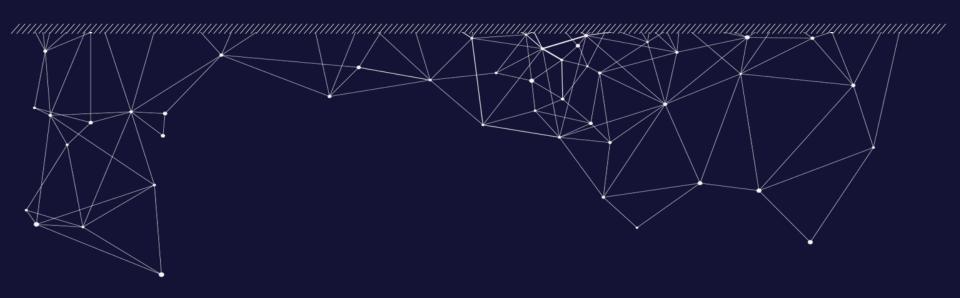


# GOLF ENGAGEMENT | Annual golf spend – by architype

Q. On average over the course of a normal year, how much do you spend on the following...

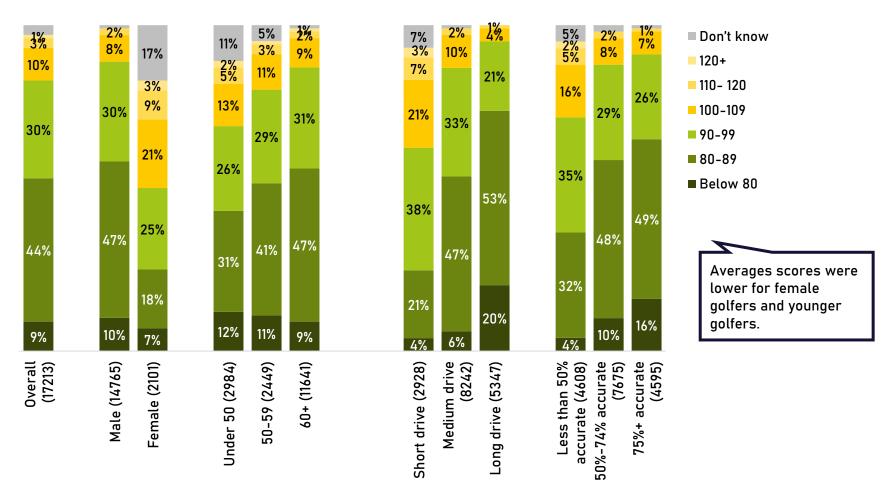


# **DISTANCE & ACCURACY**



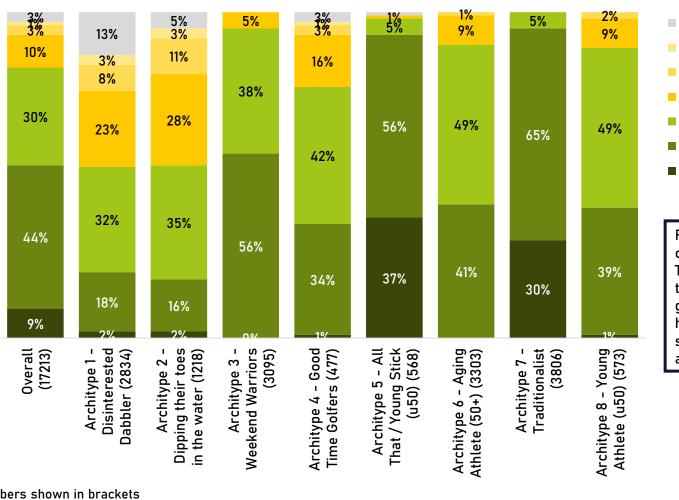
#### DISTANCE & ACCURACY | Typical score

Q. What score do you typically shoot on a par-72 golf course?



# DISTANCE & ACCURACY | Typical score – by architype

Q. What score do you typically shoot on a par-72 golf course?



■ Don't know

120+

110-120

100-109

90-99

**80-89** 

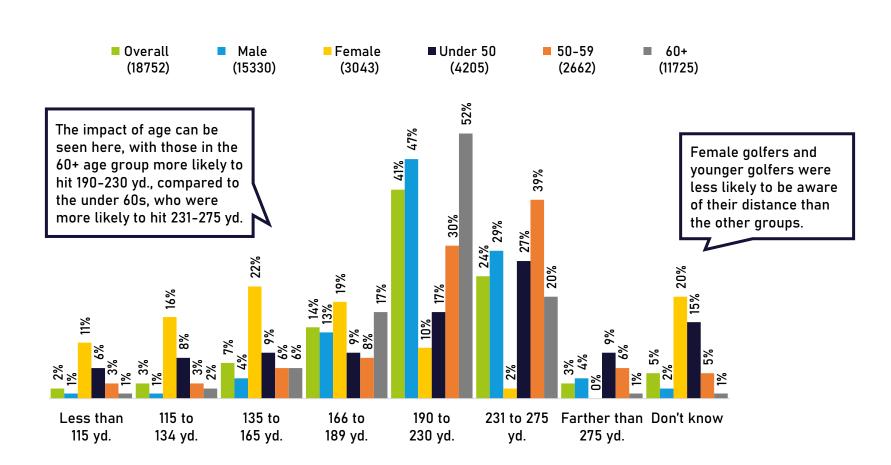
■ Below 80

Reflecting architype characteristics, All That / Young Stick, and the Traditionalist groups were likely to have better typical scores than the other architypes.

#### DISTANCE & ACCURACY |

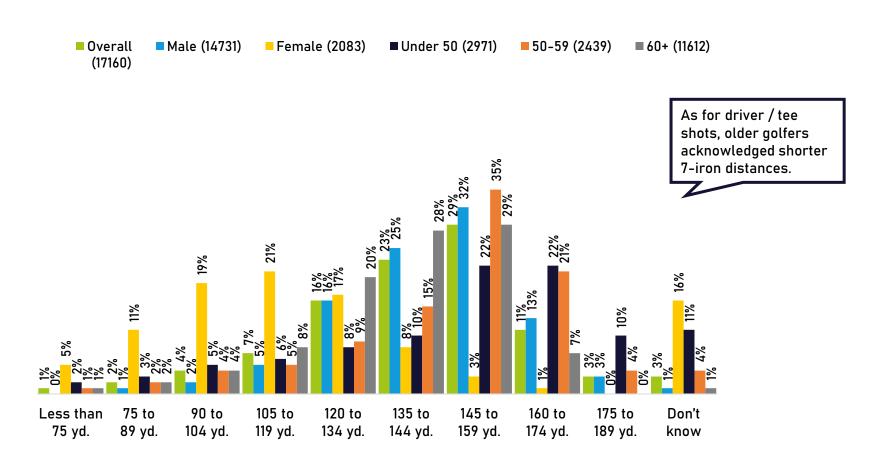
#### Driver / tee shot distance

Q. How far do your driver / tee shots typically travel (carry plus roll)?



#### DISTANCE & ACCURACY | 7-iron distance

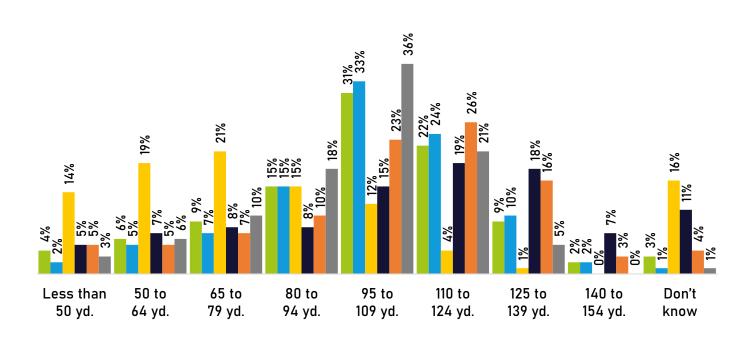
Q. How far on average do your 7-iron shots travel (carry plus roll)?



# DISTANCE & ACCURACY | Pitching wedge distance

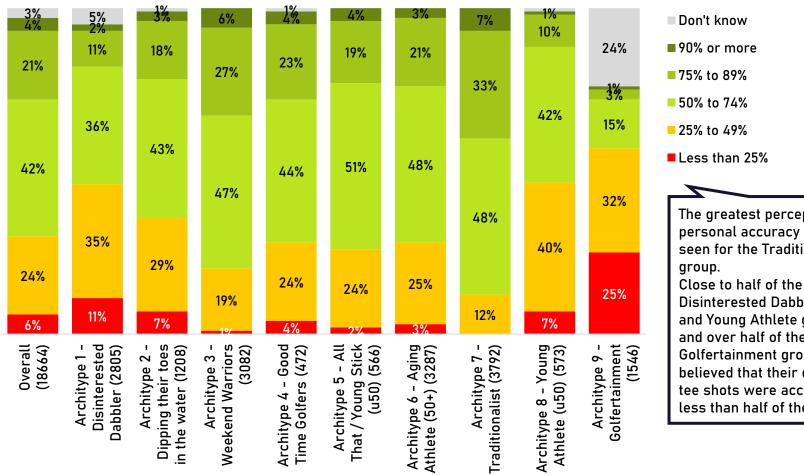
Q. How far on average do your pitching wedge (approx. 48 degree) shots travel (carry plus roll)?





#### DISTANCE & ACCURACY | Tee shot accuracy

Q. How accurate would you say your driver / tee shots are on average i.e. roughly how much of the time do they land in the area you wanted them to?

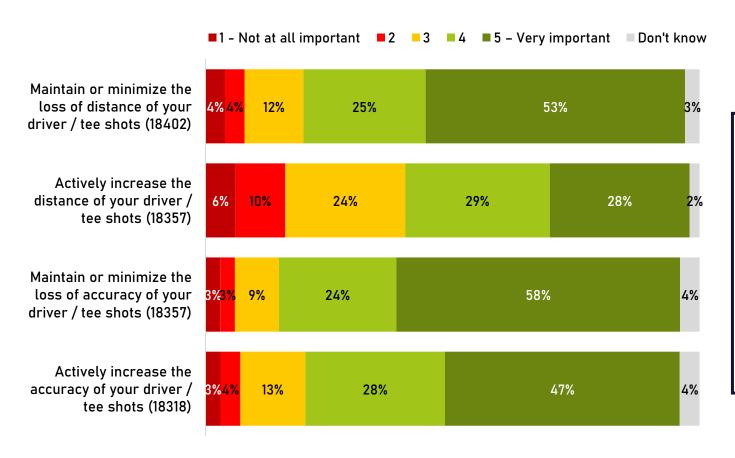


The greatest perception of personal accuracy was seen for the Traditionalist

Disinterested Dabblers and Young Athlete groups and over half of the Golfertainment group believed that their driver / tee shots were accurate less than half of the time.

# DISTANCE & ACCURACY | What's important?

Q. As you continue playing golf over the next year or two, how important is it to you that you...



Generally, maintaining or minimizing loss of distance was much more important than actively increasing distance.
For accuracy the difference was less pronounced, although maintaining or minimizing loss of accuracy was still slightly more important than actively increasing it.

### DISTANCE & ACCURACY | What's important?

Q. As you continue playing golf over the next year or two, how important is it to you that you... MEAN SCORES

TABLE SHOWS MEAN SCORE AVERAGES VARYING BETWEEN 1 = "NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT" AND 5= "VERY IMPORTANT"

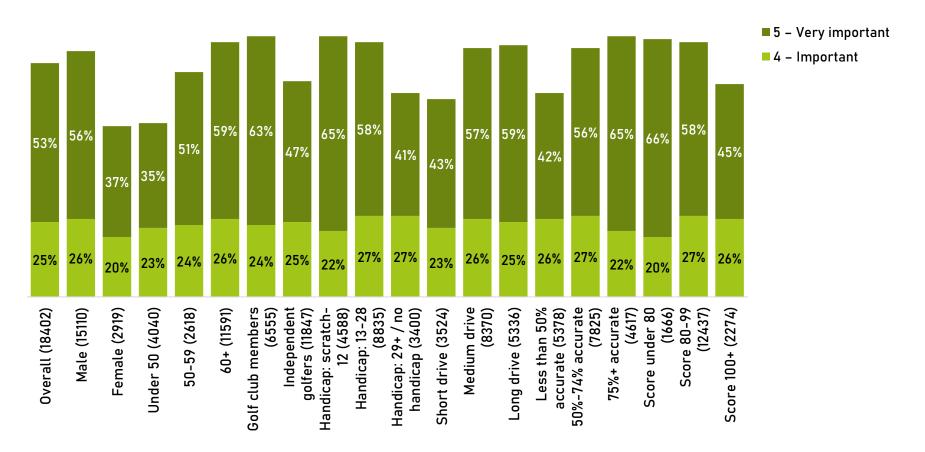
NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT" AND 5= VERY IMPORTANT"	Base	Maintain or minimize the loss of distance of driver / tee	Actively increase the distance of driver / tee shots	Maintain or minimize the loss of accuracy of driver / tee	Actively increase the accuracy of driver / tee shots
Overall	17196	4.2	3.6	4.4	4.2
Architype 1: Disinterested Dabbler	2730	3.8	3.6	4.1	4.1
Architype 2: Dipping their toes in the water	1193	4.2	3.7	4.3	4.2
Architype 3: Weekend Warriors	3065	4.5	3.7	4.6	4.2
Architype 4: Good Time Golfers	456	4.0	3.5	4.2	4.1
Architype 5: All That / Young Stick (u50)	561	4.2	3.7	4.5	4.6
Architype 6: Aging Athlete (50+)	3269	4.4	3.7	4.5	4.3
Architype 7: Traditionalist	3768	4.6	3.7	4.6	4.2
Architype 8: Young Athlete (u50)	671	4.2	3.8	4.6	4.7
Architype 9: Golfertainment	1483	2.9	3.3	3.2	3.4

Maintaining or minimizing loss of distance was most important for the more established golfer groups -Weekend Warriors, Aging Athletes and Traditionalists. Actively increasing accuracy was most important for the younger groups -All That / Young Stick and Young Athletes.

#### DISTANCE & ACCURACY | Maintain / minimize loss of distance

Q. As you continue playing golf over the next year or two, how important is it to you that you... Maintain or minimize the loss of distance of your driver / tee shots?

#### SHOWING TOP-2-BOX ONLY



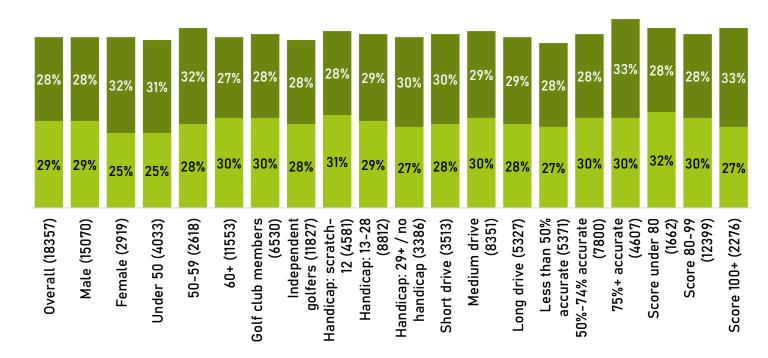
#### DISTANCE & ACCURACY | Actively increase distance

Q. As you continue playing golf over the next year or two, how important is it to you that you... Actively increase the distance of your driver / tee shots?

SHOWING TOP-2-BOX ONLY

■ 5 - Very important

4 - Important



# DISTANCE & ACCURACY | Why is distance important?

Q. Why do you feel that it is very important to maintain, minimize loss or increase the <u>distance</u> of your driver / tee shots? OPEN ENDED RESPONSE – ASKED TO ALL WHO SAID 'VERY IMPORTANT'

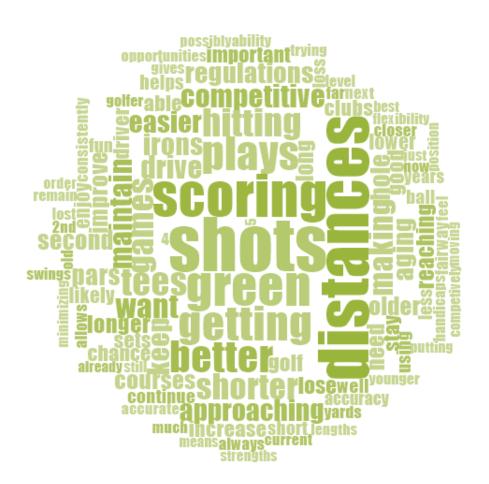
#### **KEY THEMES**

- Getting shots to the green
- Club selection for the next shot
- Maximizing score
- Offsetting the impact of age on distance
- Keeping ball in play

The main reasons for wanting to maintain, minimize loss or increase distance centered around wanting to play the best golf possible, and that by avoiding loss of distance golfers would be able to play better golf.

The aging process was referenced by many, with a strong feeling that effort was needed to combat the natural effects of age.

Strong distance off the tee was also seen as beneficial to allow for more flexibility in club selection for approach sots.



# DISTANCE & ACCURACY | Why is distance important?

Q. Why do you feel that it is very important to maintain, minimize loss or increase the distance of your driver / tee shots? OPEN ENDED RESPONSE - ASKED TO ALL WHO SAID 'VERY IMPORTANT'

> It's certainly easier to hit second shots to the green I prefer not to play shorter tees at least at this point

I'm 65 and don't expect to be able to increase distance much but hope to maintain as I get older.

Allows for reasonable approach shots to the green, hitting GIR is key to scoring well

If you can't get off the tee in position to make a good second shot, it's very hard to make up for it. Then it is difficult to have any chance for par so you are working to get a bogey

Suck at chipping

the next shot to get the best score possible on each hole

Makes my next shot easier

as I'm better with mid irons

and wedges.

As this is the first shot off the tee I feel it is very important to get

the distance and best location for

A mid iron shot is much easier that a long iron or fairway wood shot

Distance is essential to scoring--if it takes you 3-4 shots to get to a par four you are looking at double bogey golf

I am confident with my short irons and it would be great for me to have it on my 2nd shots or approach to the green.

Improves my score to be long in the fairway.

I need to maintain or increase driver distance to give myself a chance at par.

I do not like the idea of losing distance with my driver thus making my second shot more difficult.

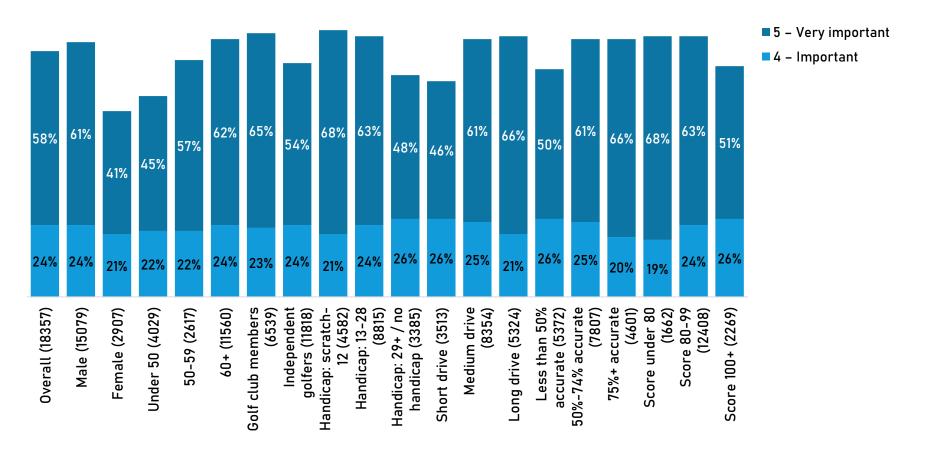
I'm getting older, so I want to make sure I'm not making the game any harder than it is with longer approach shots.



# DISTANCE & ACCURACY | Maintain / minimize loss of accuracy

Q. As you continue playing golf over the next year or two, how important is it to you that you... Maintain or minimize the loss of accuracy of your driver / tee shots?

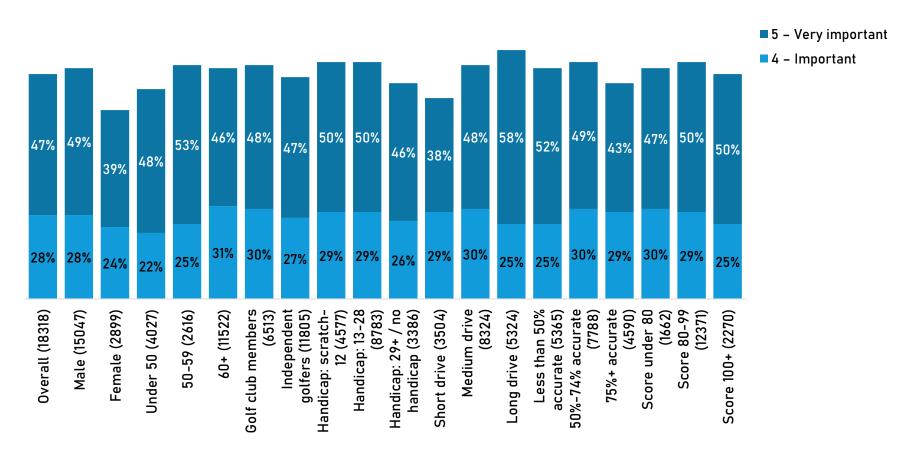
### SHOWING TOP-2-BOX ONLY



# DISTANCE & ACCURACY | Actively increase accuracy

Q. As you continue playing golf over the next year or two, how important is it to you that you... Actively increase the accuracy of your driver / tee shots?

### SHOWING TOP-2-BOX ONLY



# DISTANCE & ACCURACY | Why is accuracy important?

Q. Why do you feel that it is very important to maintain, minimize loss or increase the <u>accuracy</u> of your driver / tee shots? OPEN ENDED RESPONSE – ASKED TO ALL WHO SAID 'VERY IMPORTANT'

#### **KEY THEMES**

- Being able to hit the fairways
- Maximizing scoring opportunities
- To stay out of trouble rough, bunkers, water hazards
- To stay in play or hit GIR
- To have a better second shot

Reasons for wanting to maintain, minimize loss or increase accuracy were similar to those for distance, with golfers wanting to be as accurate as possible to have as successful a game as possible.



# DISTANCE & ACCURACY | Why is accuracy important?

Q. Why do you feel that it is very important to maintain, minimize loss or increase the <u>accuracy</u> of your driver / tee shots? OPEN ENDED RESPONSE – ASKED TO ALL WHO SAID 'VERY IMPORTANT'

Accuracy beats inaccurate length

The tee shot is where it all begins. If it is misdirected or where you want it to land, that dictates how you will have to play the hole.

I don't score well when my tee shot is not on or near the fairway. I want to be the best golfer in my club.

Compete with family

It's important because loss of accuracy increases score on a hole by 1+ depending on how far off my intended target by ball ends.

As I lose distance, accuracy will help me continue to score my best. My philosophy: if you're going to be short, you better be straight. Normally hit 10-12 fairways per round which is decent.

Playing from the short grass is much more fun than not. LOL.

Not fun to play in the trees!

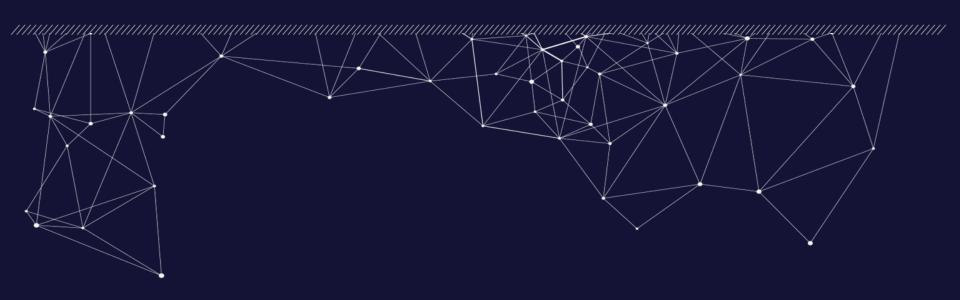
That is the shot that can set up you mentally for the hole. If you don't hit an accurate drive you have to scramble to hit par or better.

I want to continue to enjoy the game and keep my handicap down.

Optimize my score.

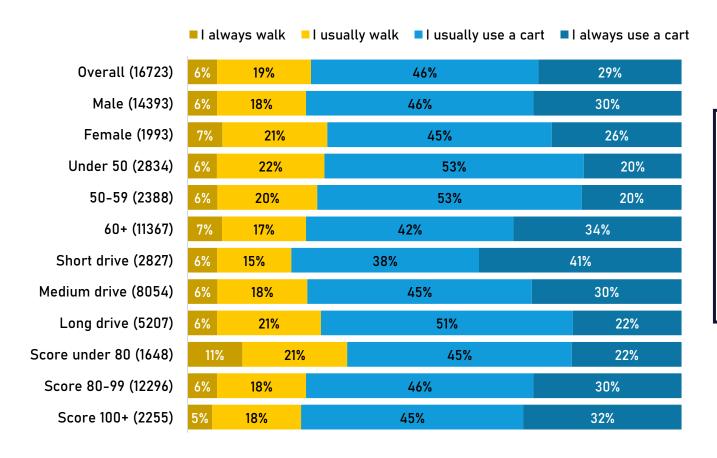
To continue to enjoy the game, it is very important to keep your skill levels. Otherwise, the game becomes frustrating and not fun to play. That is why I have moved forward on the tee boxes as I have aged, and when playing with groups, have used a Captains Choice format for drives only. This keeps the game fun and much more enjoyable.

# **ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE**



# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Navigating the course

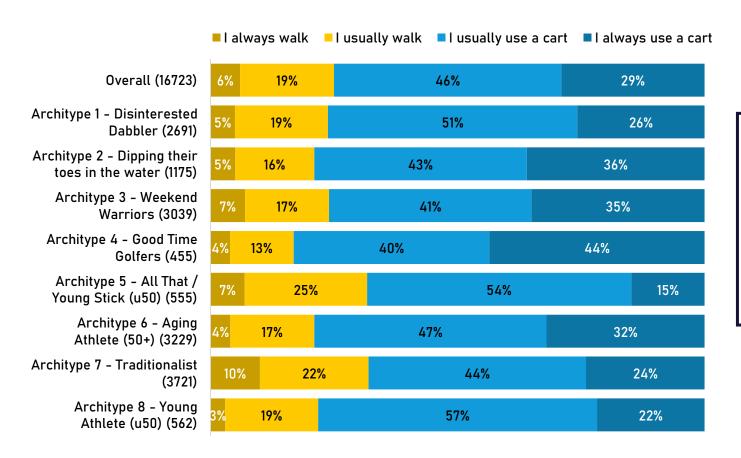
Q. Do you typically navigate the course on foot or with a cart?



In general, golfers preferred to use a cart to navigate the course. Older golfers were more likely to use a cart, as were those with a shorter drive, while low scorers (<80) were more likely to prefer to navigate the course on foot.

### ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Navigating the course – by architype

Q. Do you typically navigate the course on foot or with a cart?

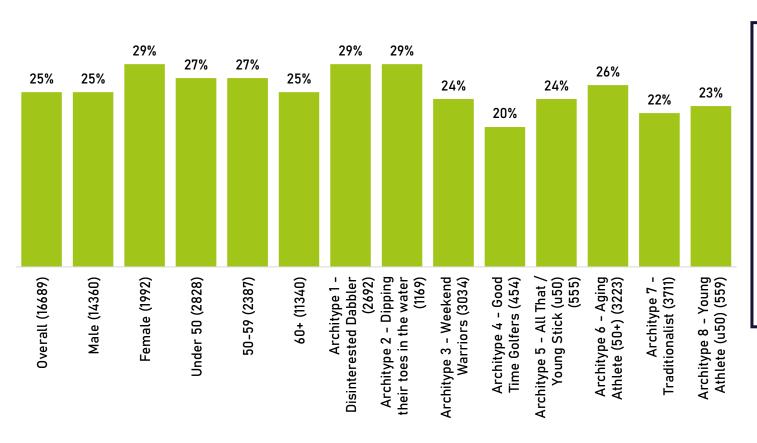


Those in the All That /
Young Stick and
Traditionalist groups
were most likely to say
that they always or
usually navigate the
course on foot.
Just 15% of All That /
Young Stick golfers
said they always use a
cart.

### ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Course selection

Q. Would you specifically choose a shorter or better designed course to make it easier to walk during your round?

#### SHOWING 'YES' RESPONSES ONLY

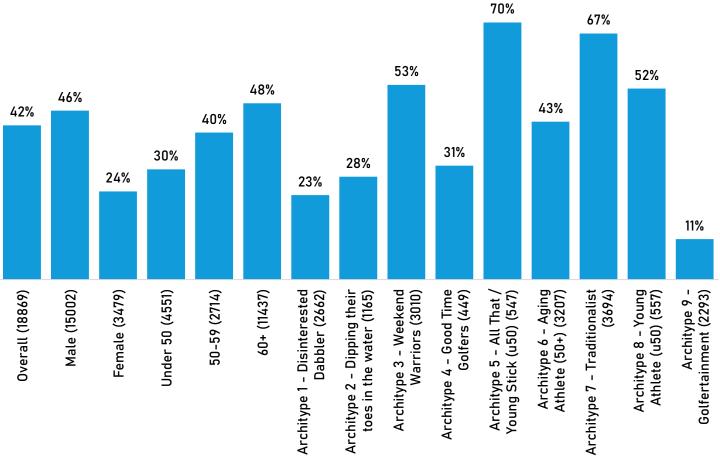


As the group who were also most likely to always use a cart, Good Time Golfers' choice of course would be least affected by that course's potential to be navigated by foot. Female golfers, the Disinterested Dabblers and Dipping their toes in the water groups were most likely to say that they would choose a shorter or better designed course to make it easier to walk.

### ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Performance data

Q. Have you ever collected performance data about your game, like swing speed, or measured carry distance with certain clubs?

#### SHOWING 'YES' RESPONSES ONLY

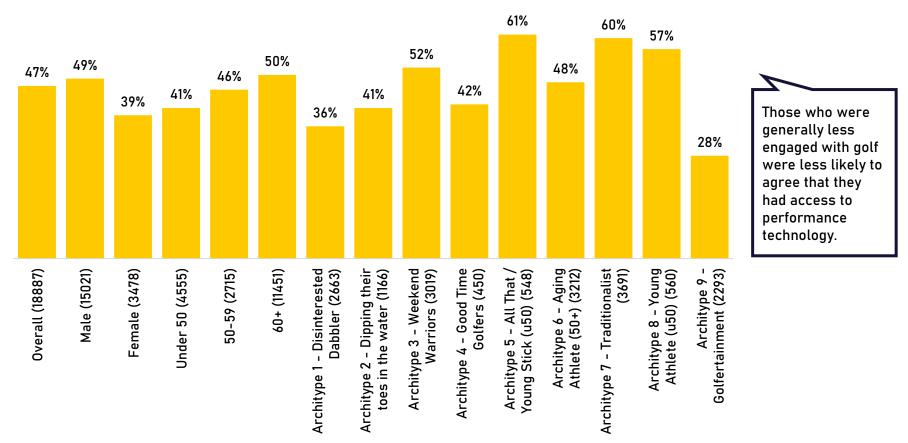


Just under half of golfers overall had previously collected performance data about their game. This was highest amongst golfers from the All that / Young Stick and Traditionalist architype groups

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Access to performance technology

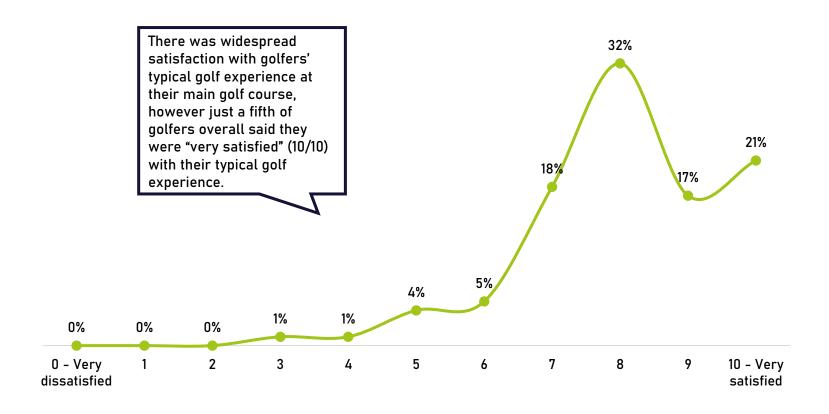
Q. Can you easily access technology that allows you to measure your swing speed and other performance data - either at a golf facility, simulator, or golf store?

#### SHOWING 'YES' RESPONSES ONLY



# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Course satisfaction

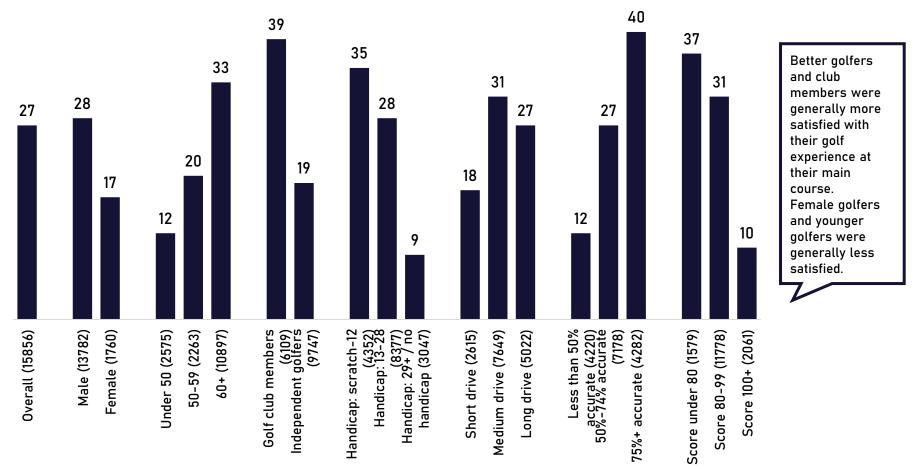
Q. Thinking about the golf course that you play most often, how satisfied are you with your typical golf experience? Please use a scale where 0 = 'very dissatisfied' and 10 = 'very satisfied'



Base: 15856

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Course net satisfaction score\*

Q. Thinking about the golf course that you play most often, how satisfied are you with your typical golf experience? Please use a scale where 0 = 'very dissatisfied' and 10 = 'very satisfied'



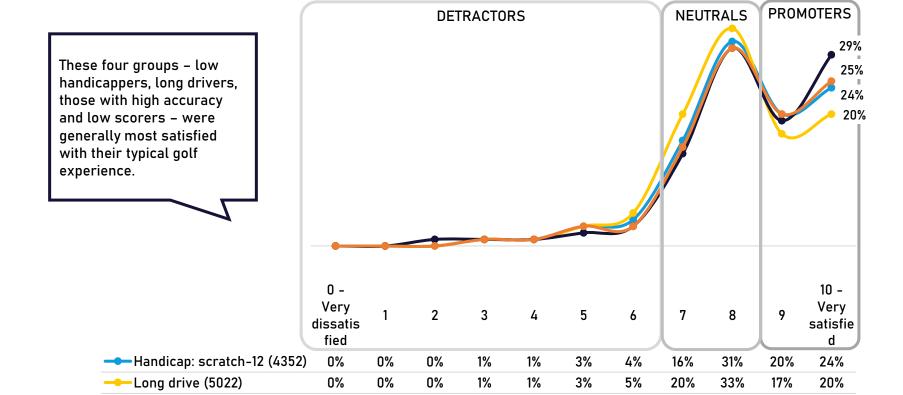
<sup>\*</sup> The net satisfaction score reflects the 'net promoter score' which is commonly used to assess recommendation. The score is calculated by subtracting the sum of 0-6 ratings (dissatisfied) from the sum of 9-10 ratings (satisfied). Scores of 7-8 are considered neutral and are not included.

02/05/2023

Base: 15856

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | The most satisfied groups

Q. Thinking about the golf course that you play most often, how satisfied are you with your typical golf experience? Please use a scale where 0 = 'very dissatisfied' and 10 = 'very satisfied'



Base numbers shown in brackets

**─**75%+ accurate (4282)

-Score under 80 (1579)

1%

1%

1%

1%

3%

0%

0%

0%

0%

1%

0%

29%

25%

14%

15%

3%

3%

30%

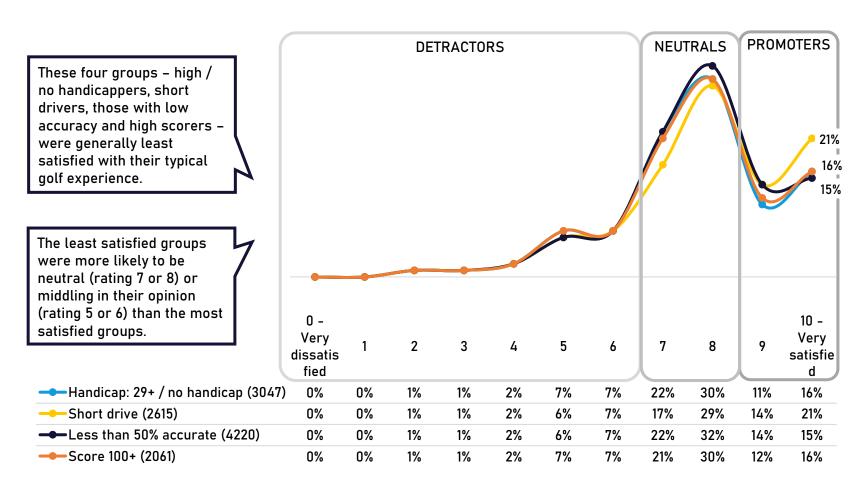
30%

19%

20%

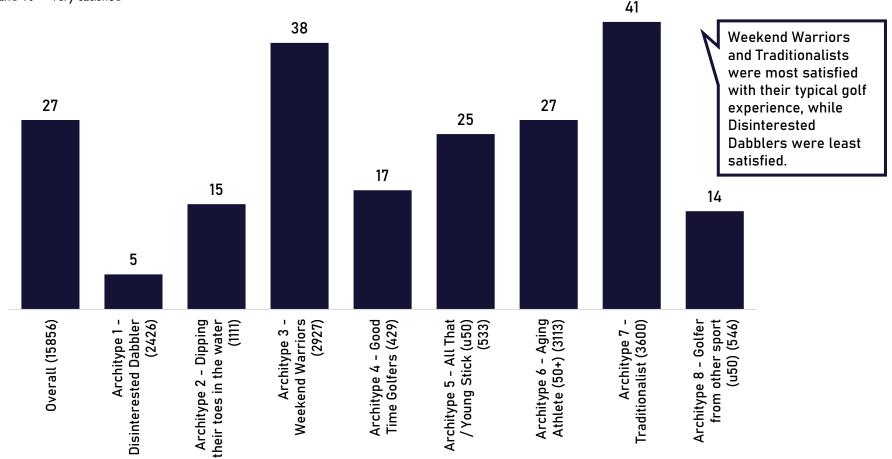
# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | The least satisfied groups

Q. Thinking about the golf course that you play most often, how satisfied are you with your typical golf experience? Please use a scale where 0 = 'very dissatisfied' and 10 = 'very satisfied'



# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Course net satisfaction score\*

Q. Thinking about the golf course that you play most often, how satisfied are you with your typical golf experience? Please use a scale where 0 = 'very dissatisfied' and 10 = 'very satisfied'



<sup>\*</sup> The net satisfaction score reflects the 'net promoter score' which is commonly used to assess recommendation. The score is calculated by subtracting the sum of 0-6 ratings (dissatisfied) from the sum of 9-10 ratings (satisfied). Scores of 7-8 are considered neutral and are not included.

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Key factors – Touchpoint Top 3s

Q. We're about to show you a series of factors, which may or may not have an impact on how enjoyable you and the people you play with find the experience of golf on a golf course. Please imagine that each one of these factors is "ideal" for you for a particular round. How much would each factor being ideal actually impact on your satisfaction with playing that round?

# "NO IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION" TOP 3

- Time to get from the green to the next tee (20%)
- The accessibility of / how easy it is to get to tee boxes on the course (17%)
- Length of the course (8%)

# "A SLIGHT POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

**TOP 3** 

- Time to get from the green to the next tee (30%)
- The accessibility of / how easy it is to get to tee boxes on the course (28%)
- Length of the course (27%)

# "A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION" TOP 3

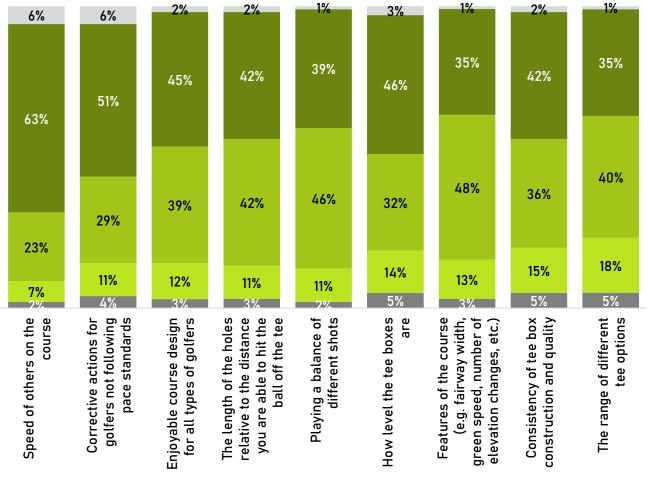
- The width of the fairways (53%)
- The challenge of the course (52%)
- Size of the greens (50%)

# "AN EXTREMELY POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

- Speed of others on the course (63%)
- Corrective actions for golfers not following pace standards (51%)
- How level the tee boxes are (46%)

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Overall impact of touchpoints (i)

Q. We're about to show you a series of factors, which may or may not have an impact on how enjoyable you and the people you play with find the experience of golf on a golf course. Please imagine that each one of these factors is "ideal" for you for a particular round. How much would each factor being ideal actually impact on your satisfaction with playing that round?



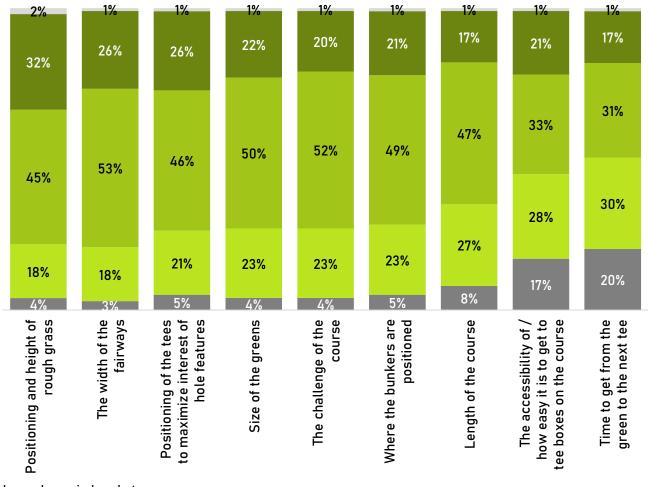
■ Don't know

- An extremely positive impact on my satisfaction
- A significant positive impact
- A slight positive impact
- No impact on my satisfaction

Factors relating to pace of play, enjoyable course design for all and levelness of tee boxes were all very influential on golfers' satisfaction with a particular round of golf. 84% overall said that if hole length relative to their tee shot hitting distance was ideal, this would have an extremely positive or significant impact on their satisfaction.

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Overall impact of touchpoints (ii)

Q. We're about to show you a series of factors, which may or may not have an impact on how enjoyable you and the people you play with find the experience of golf on a golf course. Please imagine that each one of these factors is "ideal" for you for a particular round. How much would each factor being ideal actually impact on your satisfaction with playing that round?



■ Don't know

- An extremely positive impact on my satisfaction
- A significant positive impact
- A slight positive impact
- No impact on my satisfaction

The length of the course overall was an influential factor, but with only 17% saying that an ideal course length would have an extremely positive impact on their satisfaction, other factors were more influential.

# ARCHITYPE 1: DISINTERESTED DABBLER

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Key touchpoints by architype (i)

Q. We're about to show you a series of factors, which may or may not have an impact on how enjoyable you and the people you play with find the experience of golf on a golf course. Please imagine that each one of these factors is "ideal" for you for a particular round. How much would each factor being ideal actually impact on your satisfaction with playing that round?

# "NO IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION" TOP 3

- Time to get from the green to the next tee (20%)
- The accessibility of / how easy it is to get to tee boxes on the course (17%)
- Length of the course (14%)

# "AN EXTREMELY POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

### **TOP 3**

- Speed of others on the course (48%)
- Enjoyable course design for all types of golfers (45%)
- Corrective actions for golfers not following pace standards (35%)

# ARCHITYPE 2: PPING THEIR TOES IN THE WATER

### "NO IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

### **TOP 3**

- Time to get from the green to the next tee (22%)
- The accessibility of / how easy it is to get to tee boxes on the course (17%)
- Length of the course (12%)

# "AN EXTREMELY POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

- Speed of others on the course (55%)
- Enjoyable course design for all types of golfers (44%)
- The length of the holes relative to the distance you are able to hit the ball off the tee (39%)

# ARCHITYPE 3: WEEKEND WARRIORS

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Key touchpoints by architype (ii)

Q. We're about to show you a series of factors, which may or may not have an impact on how enjoyable you and the people you play with find the experience of golf on a golf course. Please imagine that each one of these factors is "ideal" for you for a particular round. How much would each factor being ideal actually impact on your satisfaction with playing that round?

# "NO IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

### **TOP 3**

- Time to get from the green to the next tee (21%)
- The accessibility of / how easy it is to get to tee boxes on the course (17%)
- Length of the course (8%)

# "AN EXTREMELY POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

### **TOP 3**

- Speed of others on the course (69%)
- Corrective actions for golfers not following pace standards (58%)
- How level the tee boxes are (51%)

# ARCHITYPE 4: GOOD TIME GOLFERS

### "NO IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

### **TOP 3**

- Time to get from the green to the next tee (19%)
- The accessibility of / how easy it is to get to tee boxes on the course (14%)
- Length of the course (13%)

# "AN EXTREMELY POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

- Speed of others on the course (53%)
- Corrective actions for golfers not following pace standards (47%)
- How level the tee boxes are (45%)

# ARCHITYPE 5: ALL THAT / YOUNG STICK (u50)

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Key touchpoints by architype (iii)

Q. We're about to show you a series of factors, which may or may not have an impact on how enjoyable you and the people you play with find the experience of golf on a golf course. Please imagine that each one of these factors is "ideal" for you for a particular round. How much would each factor being ideal actually impact on your satisfaction with playing that round?

# "NO IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION" TOP 3

- Time to get from the green to the next tee (27%)
- The accessibility of / how easy it is to get to tee boxes on the course (24%)
- The range of different tee options (9%)

# "AN EXTREMELY POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

### **TOP 3**

- Speed of others on the course (67%)
- How level the tee boxes are (57%)
- Corrective actions for golfers not following pace standards (55%)

# ARCHITYPE 6: AGING ATHLETE (50+)

### "NO IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

### **TOP 3**

- Time to get from the green to the next tee (21%)
- The accessibility of / how easy it is to get to tee boxes on the course (15%)
- Length of the course (7%)

# "AN EXTREMELY POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

- Speed of others on the course (65%)
- Corrective actions for golfers not following pace standards (52%)
- Enjoyable course design for all types of golfers (49%)

# ARCHITYPE 5: TRADITIONALIST

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Key touchpoints by architype (iv)

Q. We're about to show you a series of factors, which may or may not have an impact on how enjoyable you and the people you play with find the experience of golf on a golf course. Please imagine that each one of these factors is "ideal" for you for a particular round. How much would each factor being ideal actually impact on your satisfaction with playing that round?

# "NO IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION" TOP 3 Time to get from the green to the payt too

- Time to get from the green to the next tee (18%)
- The accessibility of / how easy it is to get to tee boxes on the course (17%)
- Length of the course (6%)

# "AN EXTREMELY POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

### **TOP 3**

- Speed of others on the course (71%)
- Corrective actions for golfers not following pace standards (61%)
- How level the tee boxes are (53%)

# ARCHITYPE 6: YOUNG ATHLETE (u50)

### "NO IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

### **TOP 3**

- The accessibility of / how easy it is to get to tee boxes on the course (25%)
- Time to get from the green to the next tee (25%)
- The range of different tee options (8%)

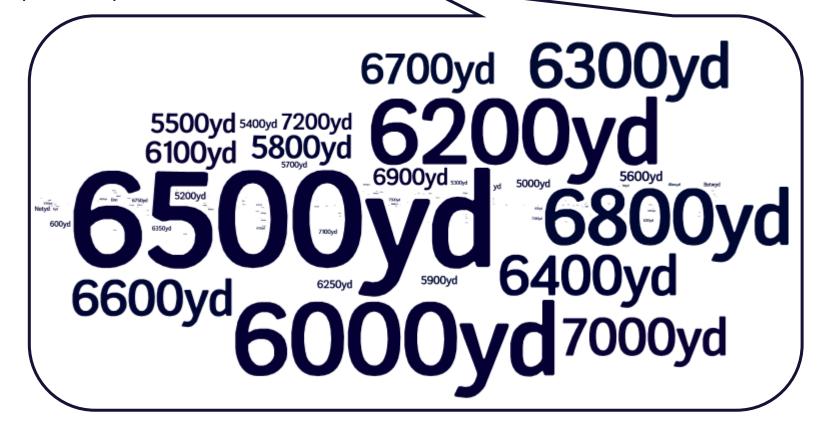
# "AN EXTREMELY POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY SATISFACTION"

- Speed of others on the course (65%)
- Corrective actions for golfers not following pace standards (45%)
- Enjoyable course design for all types of golfers (44%)

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Ideal course length

Q. What would be a ideal course length for you? OPEN ENDED RESPONSE

Asked to those who said that if the length of the course was "ideal", it would have an extremely positive impact on their satisfaction...

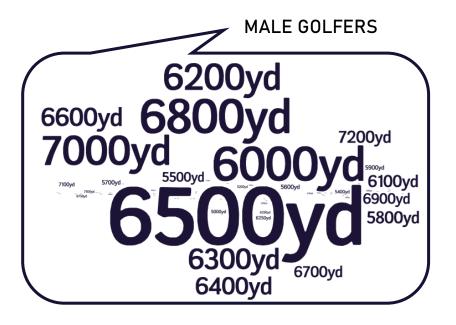


Base: 973

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Ideal course length – by gender

Q. What would be a ideal course length for you? OPEN ENDED RESPONSE

Asked to those who said that if the length of the course was "ideal", it would have an extremely positive impact on their satisfaction...



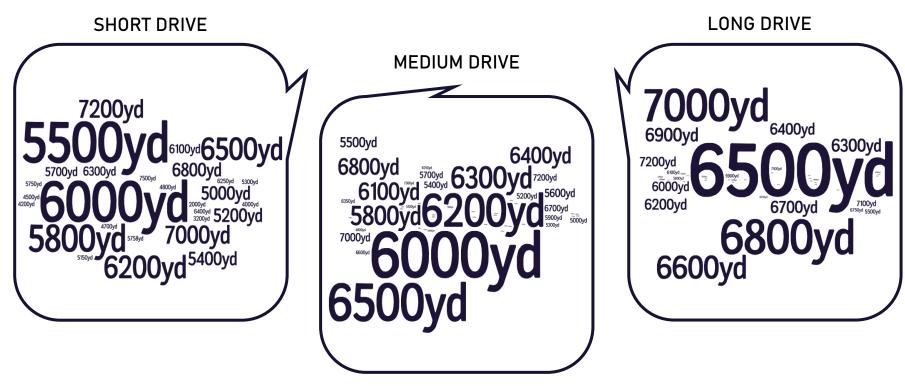


Base: Male - 766, Female - 61

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Ideal course length – by driving distance\*

Q. What would be a ideal course length for you? OPEN ENDED RESPONSE

Asked to those who said that if the length of the course was "ideal", it would have an extremely positive impact on their satisfaction...



Base: Short drive - 74, Medium drive - 351, Long drive - 402

<sup>\*</sup> Short drive = Female <135 yd. / Male <190 yd., Medium drive = Female 135-189 yd. / Male 190-230 yd., Long drive = Female 190+ yd. / Male 231+ yd.

### ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Ideal course features

Q. What would be ideal course features for you? OPEN ENDED RESPONSE

Asked to those who said that if the features of the course were "ideal", it would have an extremely positive impact on their satisfaction



Base: 3748

### ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Ideal course features

Q. What would be ideal course features for you? OPEN ENDED RESPONSE

Country club with fewer than 300 members, easy to obtain prime tee times, excellent maintenance practices, especially smooth and fast greens (9 - 12 stimp). Interesting green complexes. soft, smooth greens that putt true without grassy bounces

Well-maintained landscaping

Reasonable length, no "tricked up" holes, no blind shots, consistent speed of greens, well maintained.

Fair lengths. Wide fairways. Level fairways in superb condition. Large greens in superb condition.. Interesting greens.

Dog legs, some water holes, elevated greens, good rough, good sand in the bunkers, fairways well maintained and an interesting layout.

Lots of challenging and fast, undulating greens. Lots of sand and water, elevation changes.

Pace of play, well kept greens that are fast but not hard as a rock. Well manicured fairways and tee boxes. The presence of a starter and marshals to ensure pace of play is enforced. Golf should not take longer than 4 hours

Level tee boxes with wide fairways and less undulated greens.

Wide fairways. Rough not too long. No areas of deep weeds or dense trees. My drives get to 150-130 yds. from the green.

Nice wide fairways on 1/2 of the holes... designed for all types of golfers...well designed greens... 1/3 water holes...some elevation changes...i.e. from fairway to greens.

If I have learned anything during this time of COVID-19, it's that giving each golfer their own cart considerably speeds up play. I think it's time for golf courses to invest in single seat golf carts, golf bikes, or golf boards. I realize this may be expensive initially but they could be phased in over time. My foursome has actually finished rounds of golf in 3.5 hours with our own carts, where it may take 4.5 before.

Slightly hilly. Good sand. Receptive greens. Great green mowers (humans). Fairly level tees. Greens all equal in roll speed. Occasional ranger on course. No trash and cigarette butts or sunflower seeds. Great condition of surface areas, beautiful environment, lake/water views, friendly and helpful staff.

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Ideal golf experience

Q. Thinking about all types of factors (personal, social and environmental), please describe what your 'ideal' golf experience would be like. OPEN ENDED RESPONSE

#### **KEY THEMES**

- The course itself
- Playing conditions / greens
- Playing with friends
- The weather
- The challenge of the game
- The pace of play
- Playing partners
- Time to play
- Food and drink
- Playing well
- Customer service
- Design and layout of the course

- Friendly members
- Being with family
- Having fun
- Attractive scenery
- Cost
- Banter and laughs
- Tee options
- Practice facilities



# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Ideal golf experience

Q. Thinking about all types of factors (personal, social and environmental), please describe what your 'ideal' golf experience would be like. OPEN ENDED RESPONSE

Well maintained course conditions throughout and distances that allow GIR for a mid teens handicap index. Well stocked pro shop and snack bar area. Hydration and restroom facilities on the course.

Nicely maintained course at a reasonable rice,

that moves along at a good pace. Nice people

Enjoying the weather, playing with friends, on a course we're familiar with.

A well manicured, scenic and cared for course. 2 friends of equal talent and 1 better than me. A round in the 70's. A good 19th Hole.

Friends, 4 hr casual round without rushing or feeling pressed, challenging but fair holes

Mid morning tee time, warm with minimal wind and friends usually play with.

Shooting my age or less.

Welcoming club host; great golf history in the clubhouse; friendly members; excellent showers and good personal care amenities. Bar staff always friendly and gracious. Great day, good pals, good swing day, great putting

Playing to ability with golf friends on a nice day with low humidity.

Playing with friends and relatives.

Four friends, scenic course, interesting layout, greens in good condition

i like courses with lots of natural areas, and to see wildlife while playing Playing a mildly challenging course, with fair roughs and bunkers, with equal playing partners.

Some undulation and character to the course. Add in some hazards. I am most comfortable playing courses with little to no houses on the course.

Well maintained grass and greens. That's it.



# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | What would make it more satisfying?

What would make the golf course experience more satisfying for you? OPEN ENDED RESPONSE

#### **KEY THEMES**

- Course conditions
- Pace of play the majority wanting a faster pace, but some wanting a slower pace
- Better personal performance
- Condition of greens
- Availability of tee times
- Tee options and condition of tees
- Good company

Many people mentioned pace of play as something that could improve satisfaction. Generally this involved speeding up the pace and moving slow golfers through more quickly, although some people would like the pace to be slowed, or to be able to play at less busy times so they didn't hold others up. Good and consistent condition of the course and tees was another main area for increasing satisfaction, as was a desire for good company and pleasant behavior from other golfers.



# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | What would make it more satisfying?

What would make the golf course experience more satisfying for you? OPEN ENDED RESPONSE

Fast paced play

Lower cost, more natural areas courses do not need 100% of the grounds
groomed. Let's look at natural areas to
reduce carbon footprint, sustainability,
natural beauty, faster speed of play, (this
survey was probably too long for most
people to want to complete)

Night golf. I used to teach at Mission Hills in China and half of their 18-hole courses were lit. We'd play from 10pm-1am, zip around the course and it was a lot of fun.

Courses need to put water fountains or jugs back on the course. To have the forward tees not be just an afterthought. I would like to see several options tee options for women. Our club is a very male dominated club and women are not taken seriously on the course. Most courses are all about men's enjoyment what ever their ability. Not so much for women.

It may sound crazy, but I would like to play 12 holes. It would shorten the day. After 12 holes I start to think about things I have to do and I begin to lose concentration.

Mostly when I play well - it's typically not the course's fault if I don't enjoy my round. Pace of play or rude golfers can take the enjoyment out of a round.

Slow Pace of play is the only thing that makes a round unsatisfactory for me.

Respect for female golfers. There are still too many courses that treat us like 2nd class citizens which is short-sighted given where the grow of the game is right now (women and girls).

Do away with slow play!

Course that is well conditioned, has sweeping views, good fellowship.

When I play well, with good mates, at the right pace (3:45 to 4:15 for 18 walking).

Nice day and good company is all I'm really interested in

The ability to play better!!!! Also, the capability to know when the course was not crowded so I could get on and not bother anybody and not be bothered by anybody. I worry a lot that my game is embarrassing to watch and to play with, so I would rather not bother good golfers or to embarrass myself.

The beauty and serenity of the course, and the people I play with not taking the game too seriously.

Having a golf course to myself where I don't have to worry about other people trying to rush me.

# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Ideal hole length – Par 3

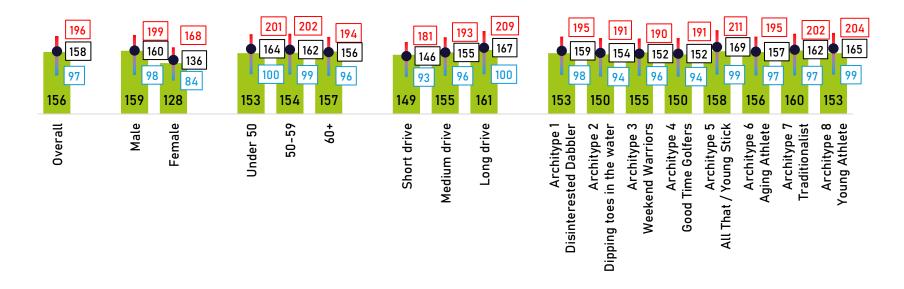
Q. Thinking specifically about par 3 holes...

- Length of most memorable par 3
- ☐ Par 3 too short to be satisfying

- ☐ Par 3 is too long that it's no longer satisfying
- Reasonable length of a par 3

This and the following two charts show the range of lengths seen as acceptable to golfers:

- Figures in red show the average length where a hole is considered too long to be satisfying.
- Figures in blue show the average length where a hole is considered too short to be satisfying.
- The black markers show the average reasonable length.
- The green bars show the length of the most memorable hole.

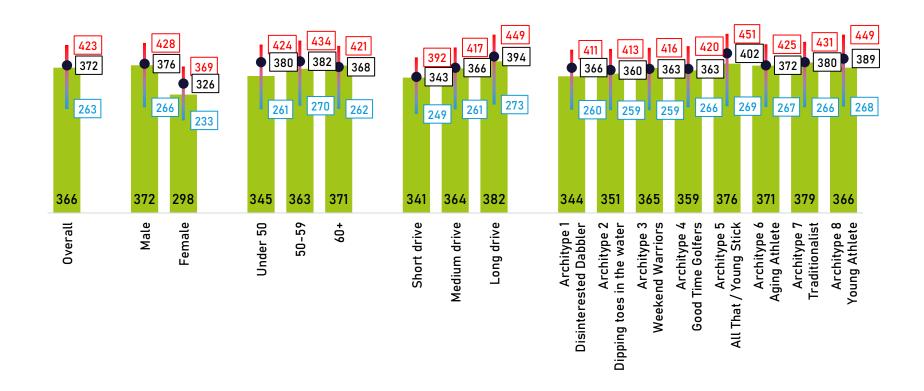


# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Ideal hole length - Par 4

Q. Thinking specifically about par 4 holes...

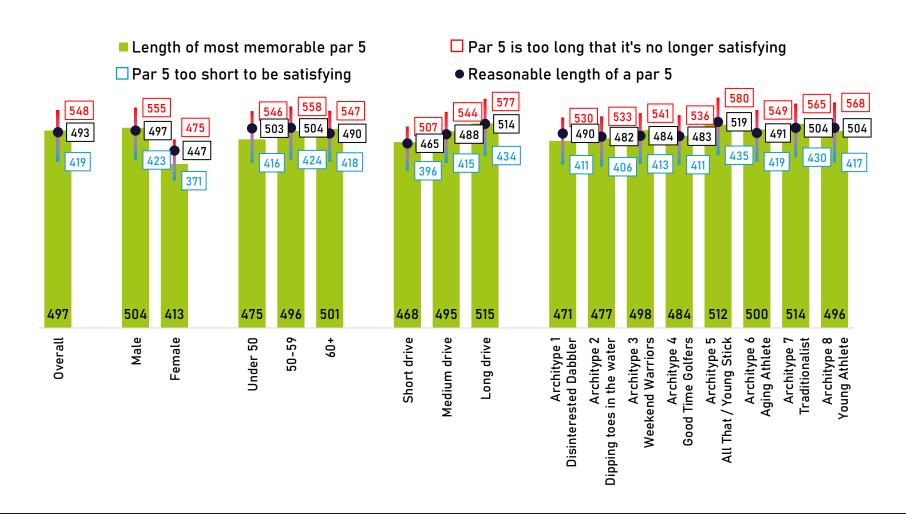
- Length of most memorable par 4
- ☐ Par 4 too short to be satisfying

- ☐ Par 4 is too long that it's no longer satisfying
- Reasonable length of a par 4



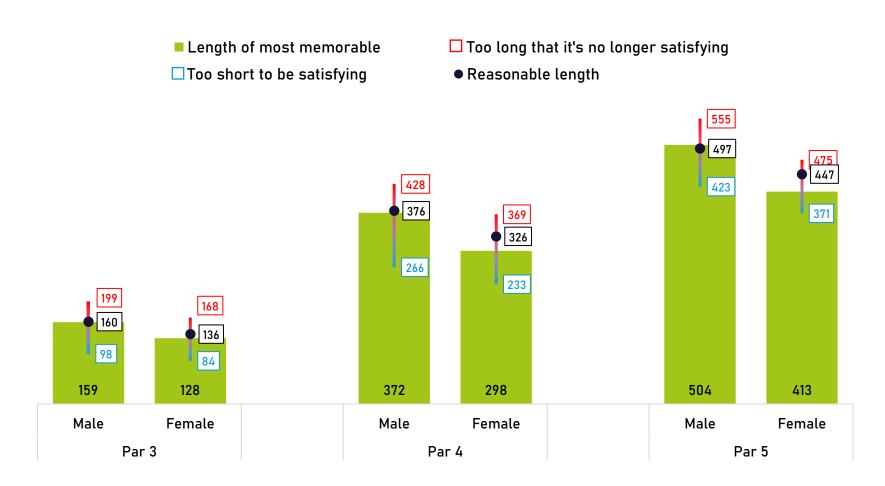
# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Ideal hole length - Par 5

Q. Thinking specifically about par 5 holes...

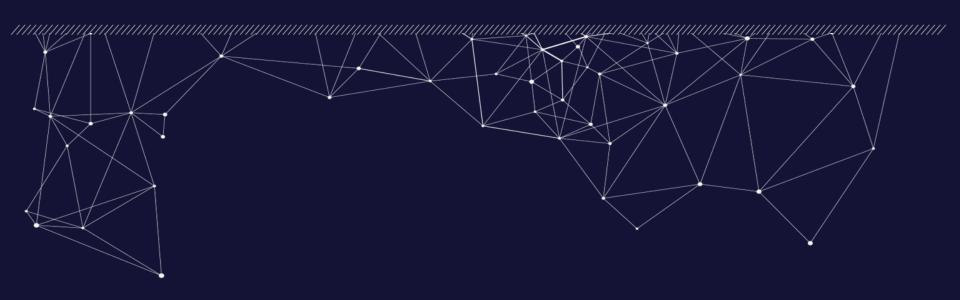


## ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE | Ideal hole length – By gender

Q. Thinking specifically about par 3 / par 4 / par 5 holes...

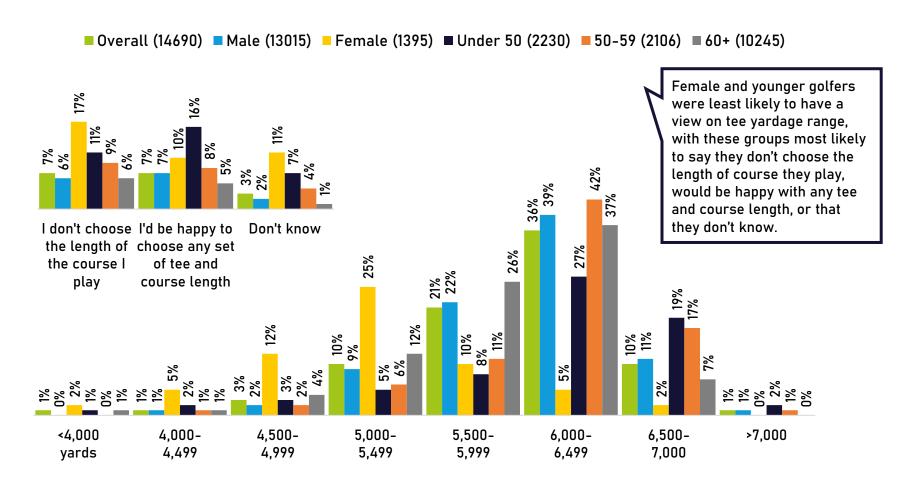


## TEE SELECTION



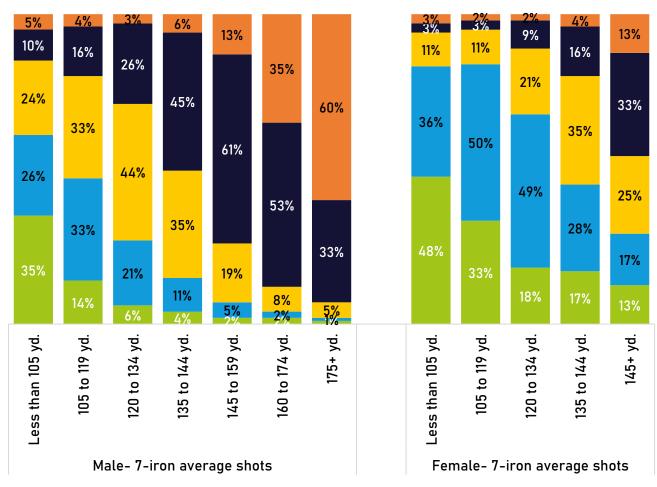
### TEE SELECTION | Tee preference

Q. On a typical 18-hole golf course, what yardage range most closely match the set of tees you choose?



## TEE SELECTION | Tee preference – By 7-iron distance

Q. On a typical 18-hole golf course, what yardage range most closely match the set of tees you choose?



**>**6.500

**■** 6,000-6,499

**5,500-5,999** 

**5,000-5,499** 

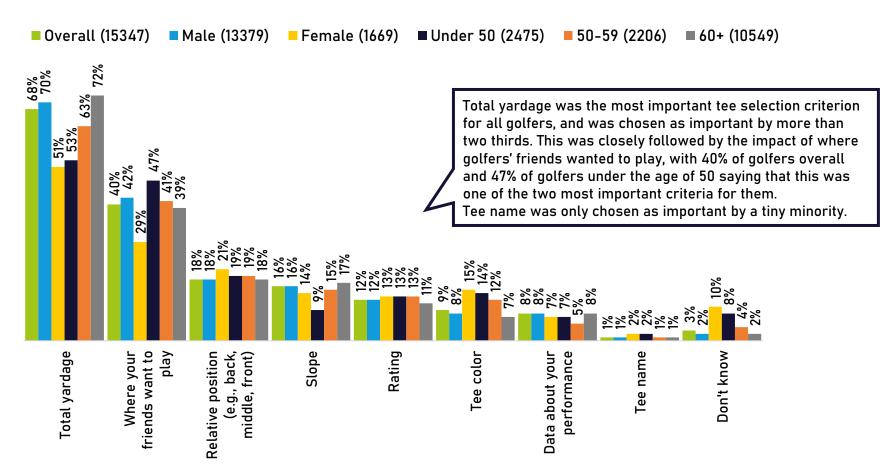
<5,000 yards</p>

Tee yardage range was generally appropriate to golfers' 7-iron distance, with male golfers who hit 7-iron shots of 160 yd. or more the only group substantially likely to select a yardage range of 6,500 yd. or more.

A minority of shorter hitters did however tend to choose the longer tee yardage ranges.

#### TEE SELECTION | Tee selection criteria

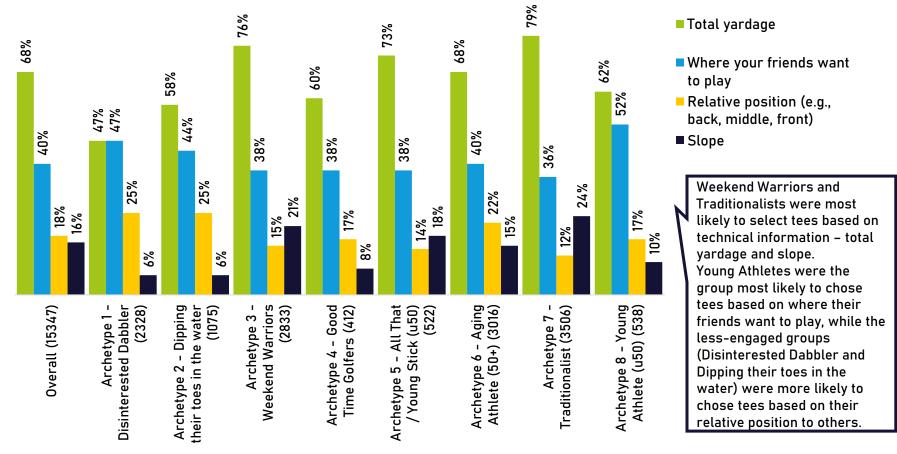
Q. When playing golf, what are the two most important criteria when you choose a set of tees?



### TEE SELECTION | Tee selection criteria – by architype

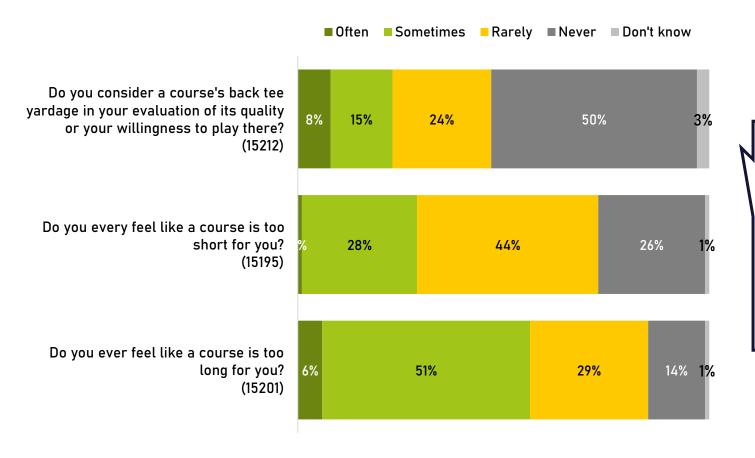
Q. When playing golf, what are the two most important criteria when you choose a set of tees?

#### **OVERALL TOP 4 SHOWN ONLY**



## TEE SELECTION | Impact of course yardage

Q. Below are some questions about yardage on the course. Please let us know how regularly, if at all, these issues affect you:

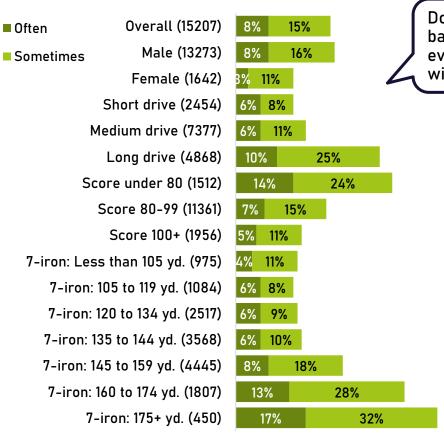


Generally golfers did not consider a course's back tee yardage in their evaluation.

Most golfers did feel the sometimes a course was too long for them, but rarely or never did they feel that a course was too short for them.

## TEE SELECTION | Consideration of back tee yardage

Q. Below are some questions about yardage on the course. Please let us know how regularly, if at all, these issues affect you:

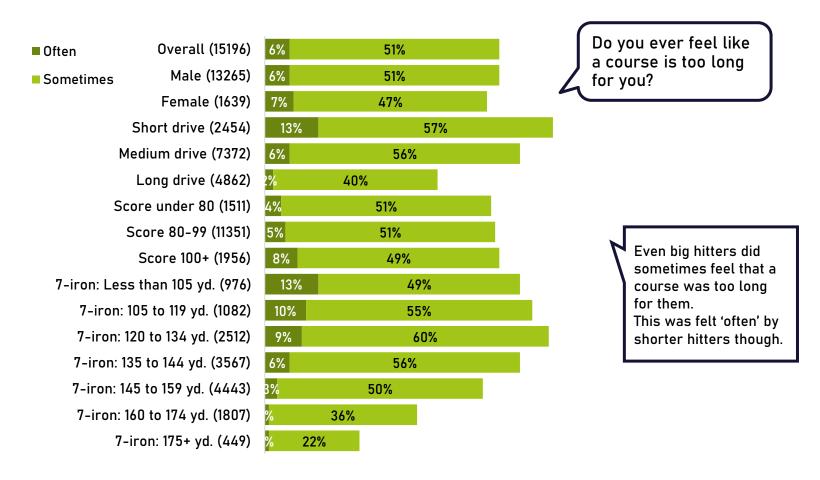


Do you consider a course's back tee yardage in your evaluation of its quality or your willingness to play there?

Understandably, longer hitters and better golfers with a typical score under 80, were more likely to consider back tee yardage as part of their course evaluation process.

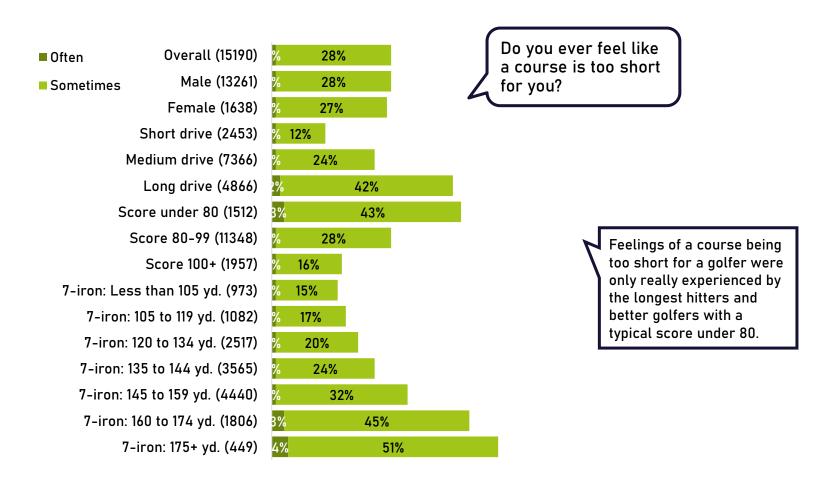
## TEE SELECTION | Course feels too long

Q. Below are some questions about yardage on the course. Please let us know how regularly, if at all, these issues affect you:



### TEE SELECTION | Course feels too short

Q. Below are some questions about yardage on the course. Please let us know how regularly, if at all, these issues affect you:

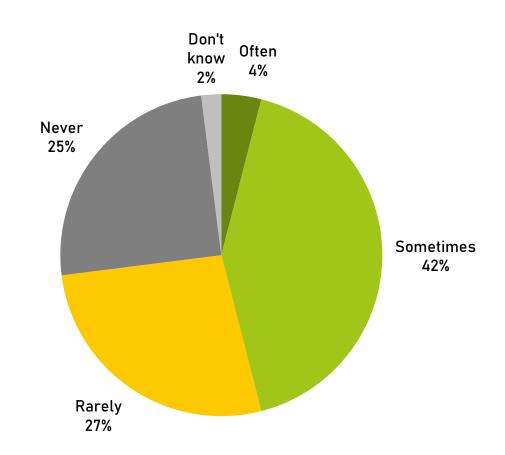


### TEE SELECTION | Group influence on tee selection

Q. Below are some questions about yardage on the course. Please let us know how regularly, if at all, these issues affect you:

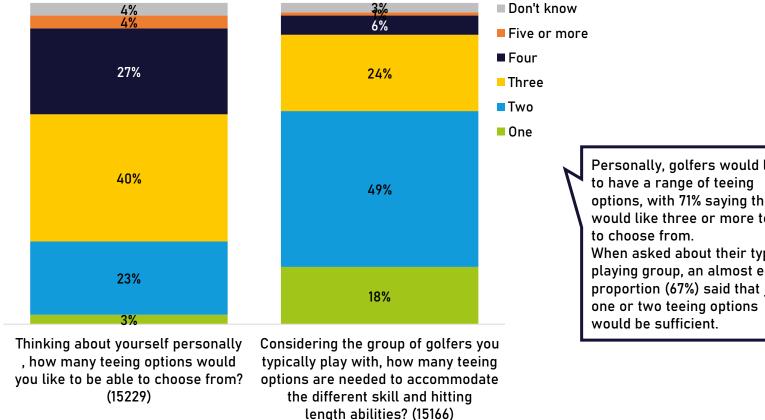
Do you ever play a longer tee because others in your group are playing a different tee than your preference?

Only a quarter overall said they never played a longer tee because of others in their group. The majority said they 'sometimes' play a longer tee than they otherwise would because of the tee selection of others.



## TEE SELECTION | Personal vs group tee options

- Q. Thinking about yourself personally, how many teeing options would you like to be able to choose from?
- Q. Considering the group of golfers you typically play with, how many teeing options are needed to accommodate the different skill and hitting length abilities?



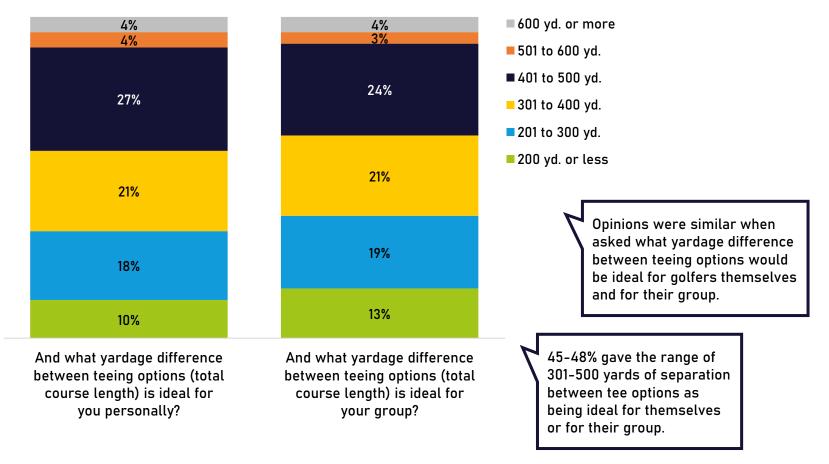
Personally, golfers would like options, with 71% saying they would like three or more tees

When asked about their typical playing group, an almost equal proportion (67%) said that just

Base: 15102-15229

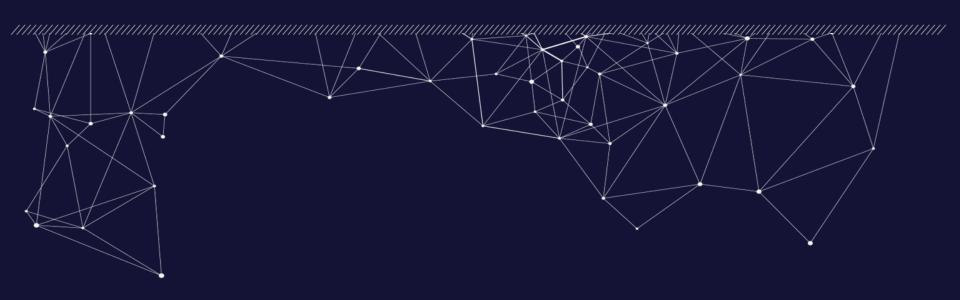
# TEE SELECTION | Personal vs group tee yardage requirements

- Q. And what yardage difference between teeing options (total course length) is ideal for you personally?
- Q. And what yardage difference between teeing options (total course length) is ideal for your group?



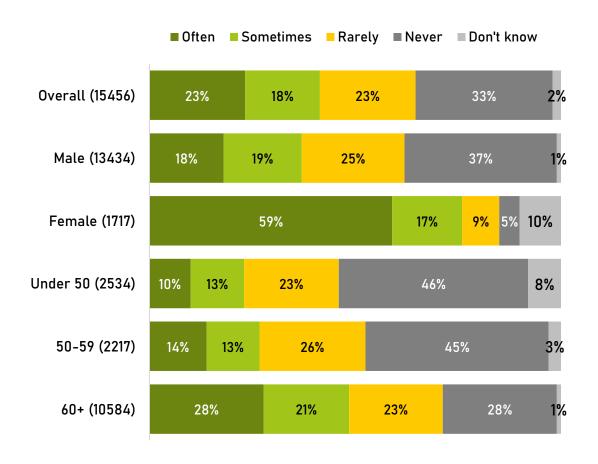
Base: 15102-15229

## TEE ATTITUDES



## TEE ATTITUDES | Playing the forward tees

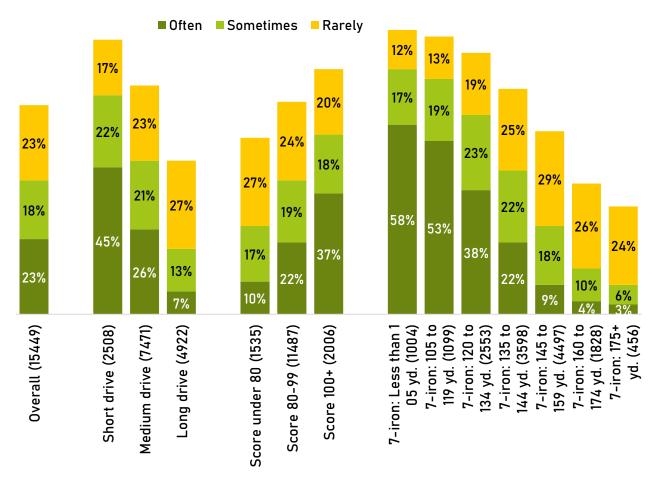
Q. How often do you play the forward tees?



Around a fifth of male golfers said they often play the forward tees, compared to nearly three fifths of female golfers. Older golfers (60+) were also three times more likely to play the forward tees often than younger (u50) golfers.

## TEE ATTITUDES | Playing the forward tees

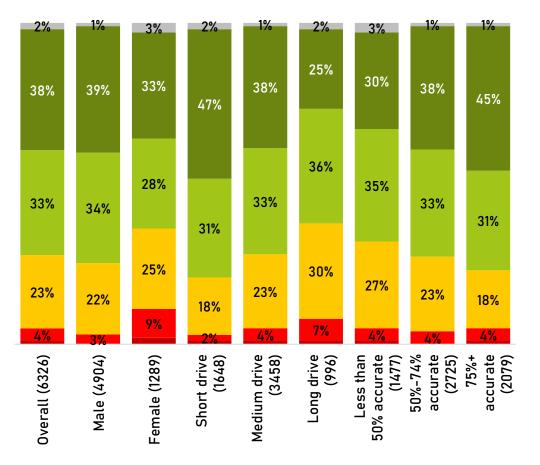
Q. How often do you play the forward tees?



Hitting distance and score were well aligned with forward tee usage, although there was a proportion of short hitters who rarely or never played the forward tees, and a proportion of long hitters who did play the forward tees sometimes or often.

## TEE ATTITUDES | Satisfaction with forward tees

Q. How satisfied are you in general with the condition, presentation and overall experience of playing the forward tees? ASKED ONLY TO THOSE WHO PLAY THE FORWARD TEES OFTEN OR SOMETIMES



■ Don't know

■ 5 - Very satisfied

**4** 

3

**2** 

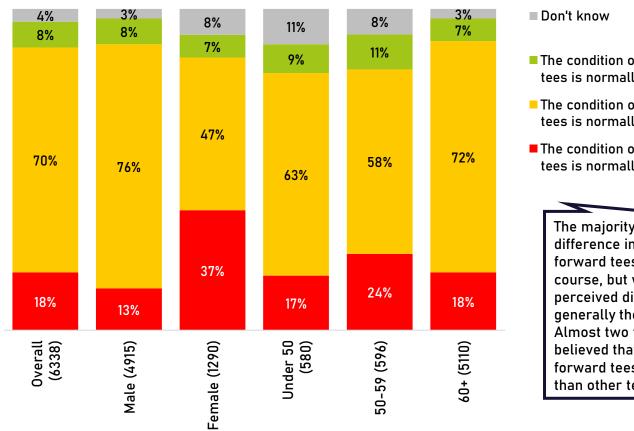
1 - Not at all satisfied

Satisfaction with the forward tees was closely linked to accuracy and driving distance.

Those with a long drive were much less likely to have a satisfying experience of playing the forward tees, as were those who were less accurate with their shots – this may be more to do with satisfaction around their own performance, however.

# TEE ATTITUDES | Comparison of forward tees to others

Q. Do you normally find the condition and quality of the forward tees to be similar to the rest of the tees on the course? ASKED ONLY TO THOSE WHO PLAY THE FORWARD TEES OFTEN OR SOMETIMES

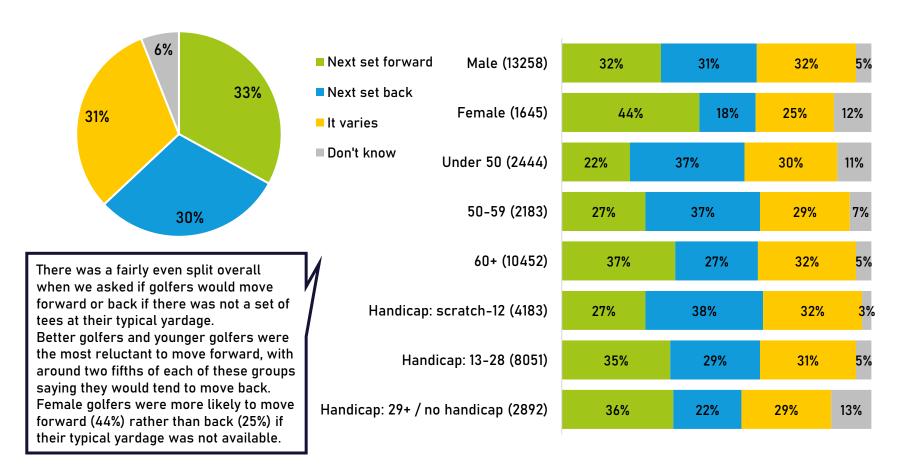


- The condition of the forward tees is normally better
- The condition of the forward tees is normally similar
- The condition of the forward tees is normally worse

The majority perceived no difference in the condition of the forward tees to other tees on the course, but where there was a perceived difference it was generally thought to be negative. Almost two fifths of female golfers believed that the condition of the forward tees is normally worse than other tees.

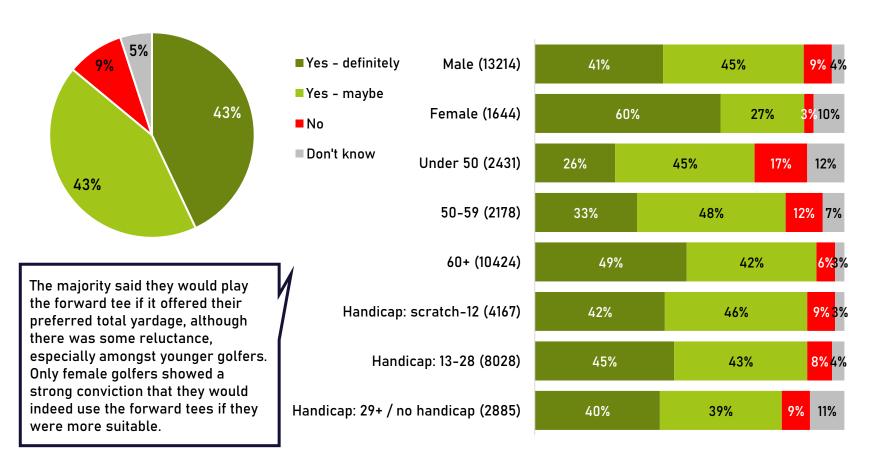
#### TEE ATTITUDES | Move forward or move back?

Q. If you did not find a set of tees that matched your typical yardage, would you typically choose the next set forward or back?



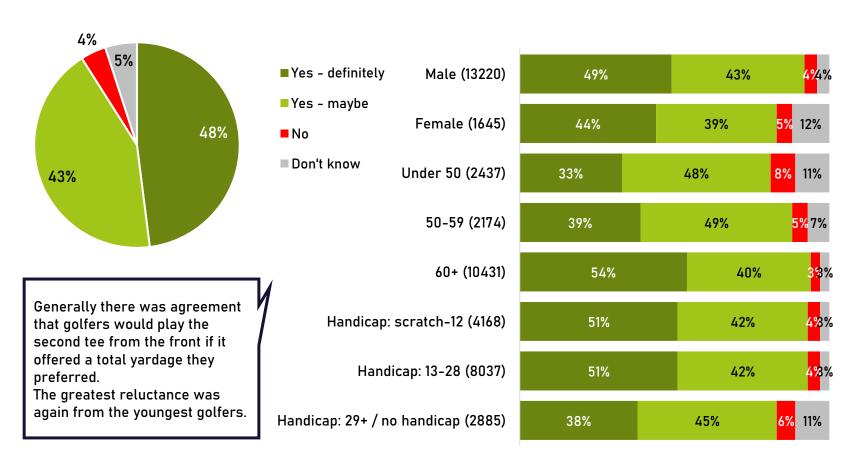
## TEE ATTITUDES | Playing the forward tee

Q. Would you play the forward tee if it offered a total yardage in the range you preferred?



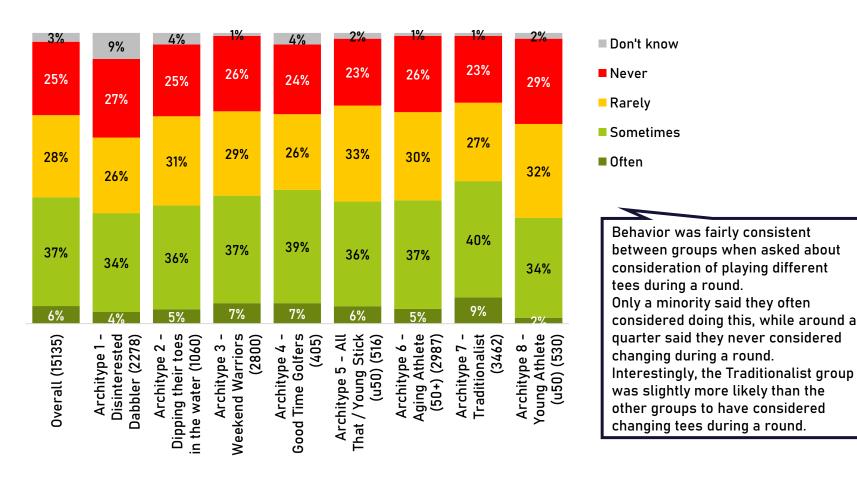
## TEE ATTITUDES | Playing the second tee from the front

Q. Would you play the second tee from the front if it offered a total yardage in the range you preferred?



## TEE ATTITUDES | Playing different tees during a round

Q. Have you ever considered playing tees from different sets of markers during your round (e.g., moving forward or back on a particular hole) based on your preference, playing ability or weather conditions (not including playing a specified combination tee course)?



# TEE ATTITUDES | Why have never considered changing tees?

Q. Why have you never considered playing tees from different sets of markers during your round?

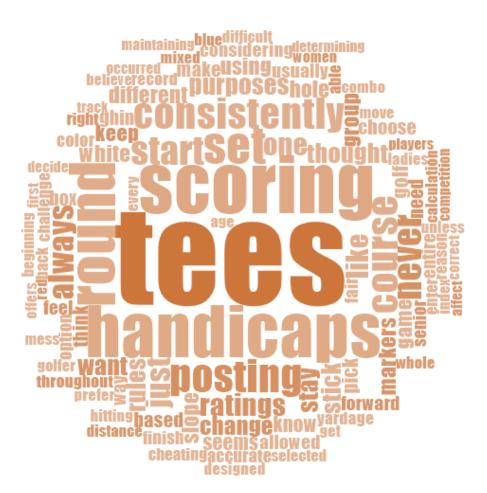
ASKED ONLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER CONSIDERED PLAYING FROM DIFFERENT SETS OF MARKETS DURING THEIR ROUND

#### **KEY THEMES**

- Concerns around handicap and posting scores
- A preference to "stick with what was chosen"
- Maintaining consistency throughout the round
- Considerations around slope and rating
- It had just never been considered
- That's "not how you play"
- It feels unfair or like cheating
- It's not in the Rules
- Not a long hitter or play the forward tees anyway

Concerns around posting scores and a desire for consistency across the entire round were important reasons for never considering changing tees.

Several mentioned that changing tees during a round was an affront to the Rules of Golf!



# TEE ATTITUDES | Why have not considered changing tees?

Q. Why have you never considered playing tees from different sets of markers during your round?

ASKED ONLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER CONSIDERED PLAYING FROM DIFFERENT SETS OF MARKETS DURING THEIR ROUND

That's not how we play.

Because it defies everything about the game of golf. From rules to cheating only yourself...

No, as it changes the course rating/slope and your handicap score is not accurate.

I feel if you start on a particular set of tees, you should use that set for the entire round.

Have always finished a round from the tees I started - never considered another option.

I usually play in tournaments and playing from different tees during the round can cost you penalty strokes. When I play not in tournaments I adjust which club I use, and not the tees.

I would invalidate my score for entering for handicap.

Probably just thinking inside the box. Also for posting the score for handicap purposes. Never crossed my mind

The tee indicators at the majority of courses I've played are labeled as men's, women's, and seniors.

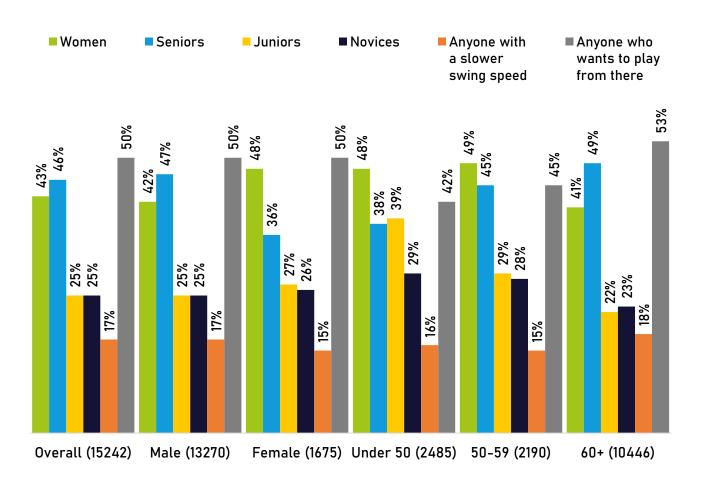
I feel once you choose your color or set you need to stick to it because of the handicap

Once I decide what tees to play from I finish the round playing from those tees. If necessary I would chose a different set of tees on my next round at that course.

I prefer to keep my shot managed per the same tee boxes for each round. I do change per round depending on my hitting ability.

### TEE ATTITUDES | Who are the forward tees meant for?

Q. What kind of golfer do you believe the forward tees are meant for?



The general view was that the forward tees are meant for anyone who wants to play there, for seniors and for women.

Women and senior golfers shared the same view.

### TEE ATTITUDES | Why?

Q. Please explain a bit about the reasons for your opinion:

Too much reliance on traditional "women's" tees as a stigma for male golfers.

I believe people should play the tee that is equal to their playing ability. Too many people try to play from a tee they don't belong which usually slows down play.

Could be novices, women, or seniors. Depends on the course.

The "names" are meaningless. Golfers should play whatever tee they are comfortable with, but never the longest if they are novices, poor drivers, etc.

To classify a set of tees as 'women', 'seniors' is to stigmatize that set of tees. It is a very common occurrence amongst older male golfers who would benefit from playing more forward tees improving their scores who have to be macho and play the tees they always have while their game is leaving them. I don't like the stigmatizing.

I'm a man so I don't consider the women's and juniors tees. Usually the next set back are for seniors and the 3rd set back are also for lower handicap seniors.

Old school guy. Ladies' tees in front.

That is what I was taught as a kid.

Other than the women's tees forward tees are meant for seniors due to limits on distance abilities.

Doesn't matter where you play from. Enjoy the game.

I am a believer in "ready" golf. Players should play from the appropriate tee matched to their skill level. Forget ego-men!!!

Tees are typically named something like champions, standard, seniors, and women, which is unfortunate. I'd prefer golfers to think about tee positions more according to their abilities than an arbitrary category they feel placed into. I would also like to see handicaps accommodate golfers' scoring by playing from different tee lengths on different holes, according to the individual golfer's preference. I think this would enhance enjoyment of the game and speed up play. Varying tee selection also provides a learning opportunity by changing a player's perspective on any given hole. I'd also like to see another set of tees that convert every hole to a par 3 for golfers who prefer a shorter course or faster play.

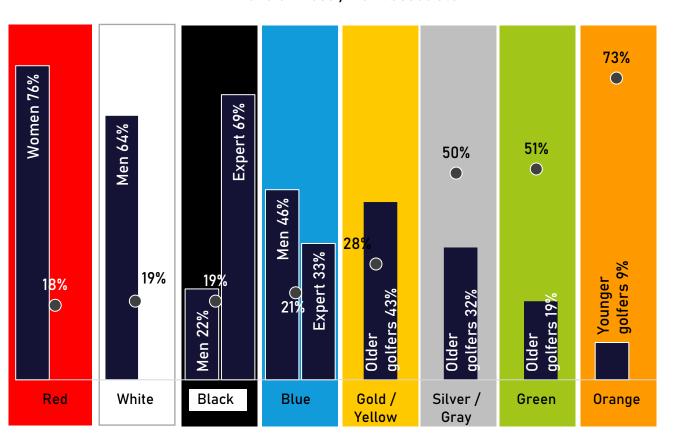
That's where women play from and most men won't tee from them, for whatever reason.

#### TEE ATTITUDES | Tee color association

Q. Do you associate certain tee colors with particular groups of golfers?

MOST PROMINENT ASSOCIATION(S) AND 'DON'T ASSOCIATE' ARE SHOWN

None of these / Don't associate



There were some strong associations between tee color and golfer type – especially that the red tees were for women, the white tees for men and the black tees for expert golfers.

Orange, green and silver / gray tee markers were not associated with any particular groups by over half of golfers.

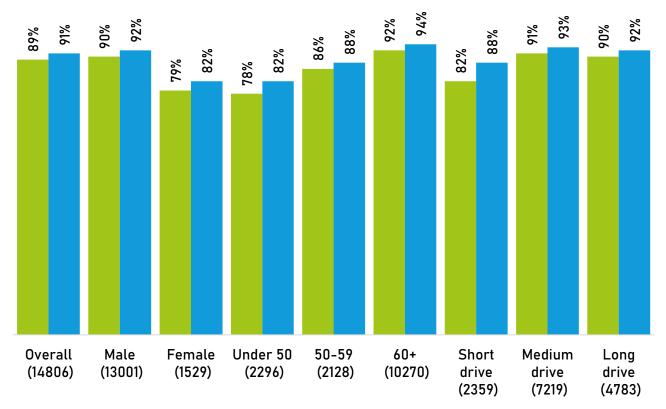
Base: 12763 - 14466

## TEE ATTITUDES | Key metrics – impact on shots

Q. Below follows a series of short questions about tee selection, please choose 'yes' or 'no' for each one.

'YES' RESPONSES ARE SHOWN

- Tee choice typically allows shots to reach the vicinity of the green
- Tee choice allows a variety of clubs on approach shots



For the majority, the opinion was that their selection of tees allowed them to reach the vicinity of the green and allowed a variety of clubs to be used on approach shots.

## TEE ATTITUDES | Key metrics – role of course staff

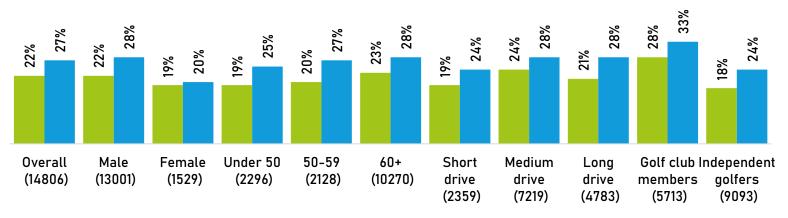
Q. Below follows a series of short questions about tee selection, please choose 'yes' or 'no' for each one.

'YES' RESPONSES ARE SHOWN

- Ask golf course staff for teeing recommendations
- Golf course staff offer teeing recommendations

The majority did not ask for or receive recommendations on tee selection from golf course staff.

Possibly because of a higher level of familiarity and trust of their main facility, golf club members were most likely to receive recommendations, probably although they were still less likely to ask for than to be offered by course staff.

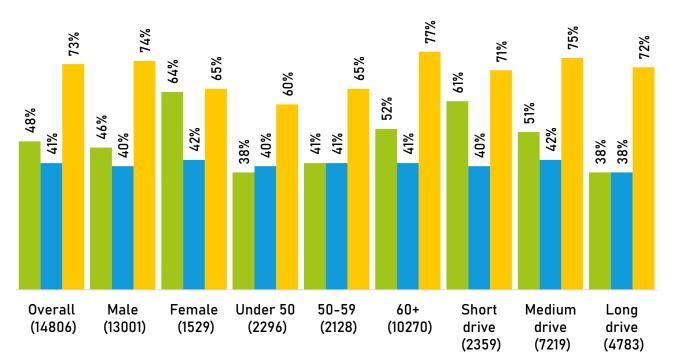


## TEE ATTITUDES | Key metrics – tee naming

Q. Below follows a series of short questions about tee selection, please choose 'yes' or 'no' for each one.

'YES' RESPONSES ARE SHOWN

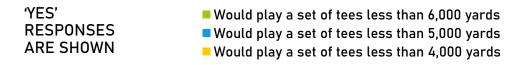
- Would play tees with names they do not identify with
- Tee selection would be influenced by rating for gender
- Golfers should be able to post scores from any tee

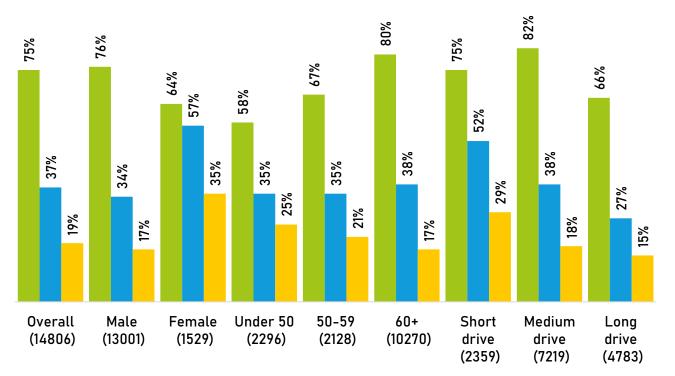


Interestingly, nearly three quarters of golfers said they should be able to post scores from any tee, but just under half said they would actually play tees with names they didn't identify with.

## TEE ATTITUDES | Key metrics – course length preference (i)

Q. Below follows a series of short questions about tee selection, please choose 'yes' or 'no' for each one.

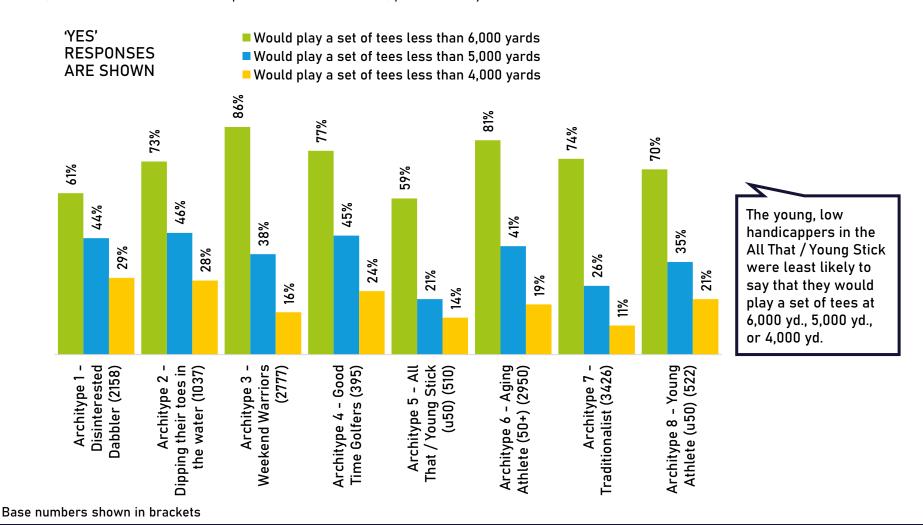




Just 17% of male golfers and 35% of female golfers said they would play a set of tees less than 4,000 yd.

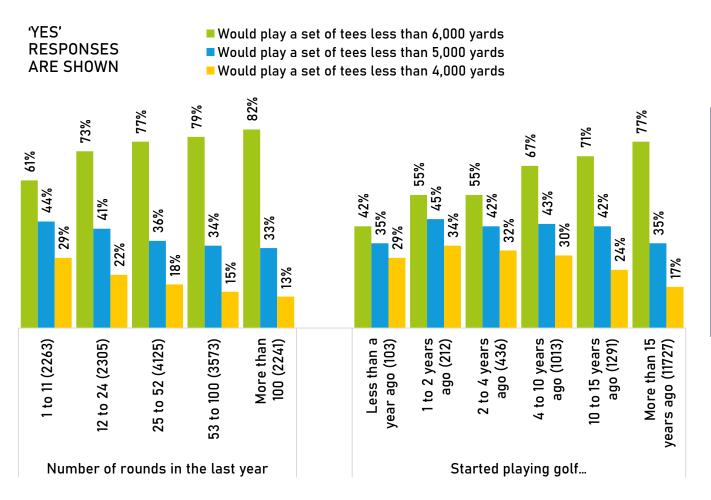
## TEE ATTITUDES | Key metrics – course length preference (ii)

Q. Below follows a series of short questions about tee selection, please choose 'yes' or 'no' for each one.



## TEE ATTITUDES | Key metrics – course length preference (iii)

Q. Below follows a series of short questions about tee selection, please choose 'yes' or 'no' for each one.

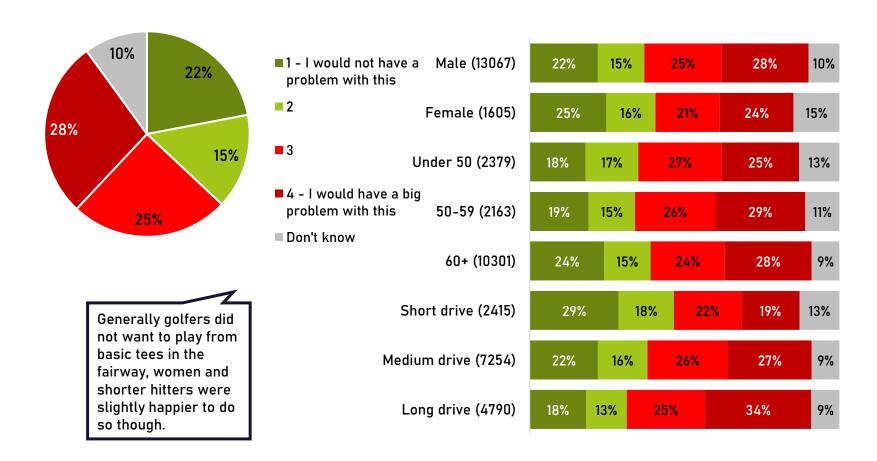


Better-established and more regular golfers were more likely to say that they would play a set of tees less than 6,000 yd.

Newer and less regular golfers were happier to play shorter length tee sets.

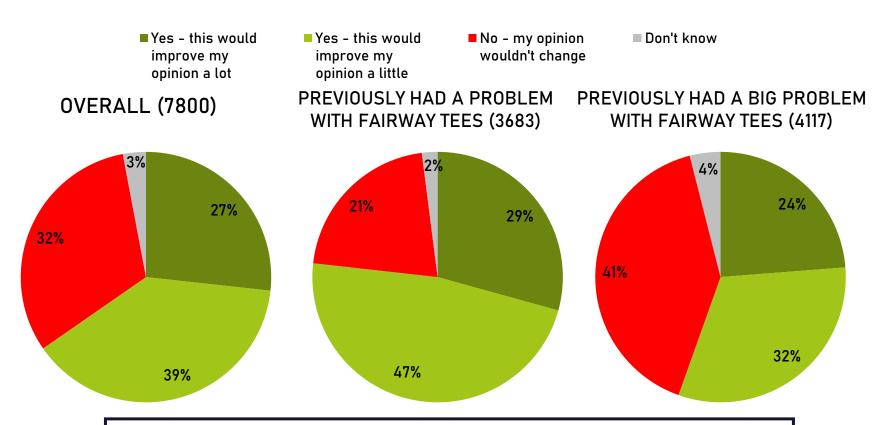
## TEE ATTITUDES | Playing from a tee in the fairway

Q. How would you feel about playing from a tee that was located in the fairway, with tee markers at ground level and no additional definition of the tee area?



## TEE SELECTION | Impact of a more formal teeing ground structure

Q. Would your opinion change if the teeing ground was elevated above the surrounding fairway into a more formal teeing ground structure?

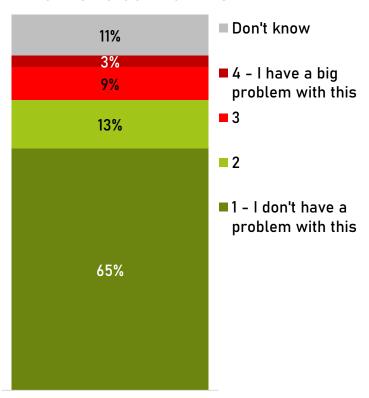


For those who originally were against the idea of basic fairway tees, it would make a difference if the fairway tees were elevated and more formalized. Nearly half of those who originally had a big problem with this idea would remain negative towards it even with a more formal structure however.

## TEE ATTITUDES | Combo tees

- Q. How do you feel about playing a rated set of tees that is a combination of two or more sets i.e., a "combo tee"?
- Q. Does the course you play most often offer "combo tees"?

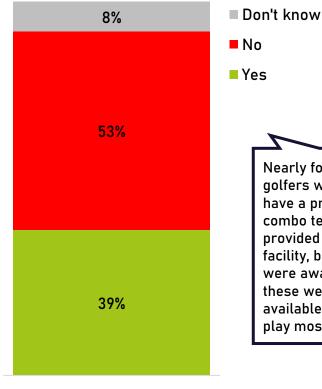
#### ATTITUDES TO COMBO TEES



Feelings towards combo tees (14865)

Base numbers shown in brackets

#### **COMBO TEES AT MAIN FACILITY?**

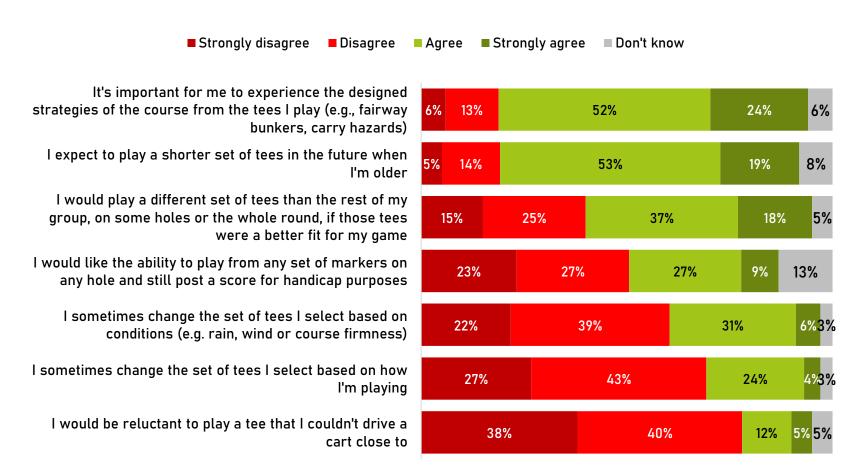


Combo tees at main golf facility? (14891)

Nearly four fifths of golfers would not have a problem with combo tees being provided at their facility, but only 39% were aware that these were already available where they play most often.

### TEE ATTITUDES | Tee selection behavior

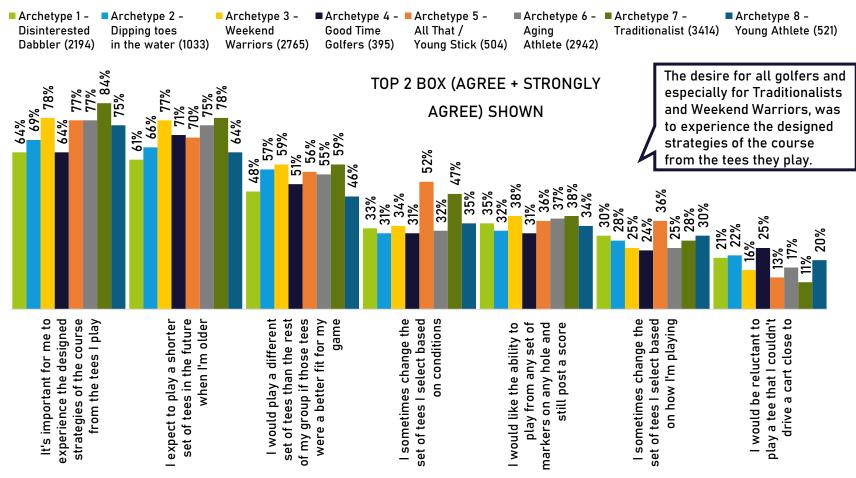
Q. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements about tee selection?



Bases from 14775-14821

## TEE ATTITUDES | Tee selection behavior – by architype

Q. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements about tee selection?



## TEE ATTITUDES | Advice from course staff

Q. Would you be open to receiving recommendations from knowledgeable course staff for which tee to play based on your skill level or performance characteristics like driving distance?



Yes, at a course I'm not familiar with
Yes, at a course I am familiar with
Yes, at any course
I would prefer not to

■ Don't know

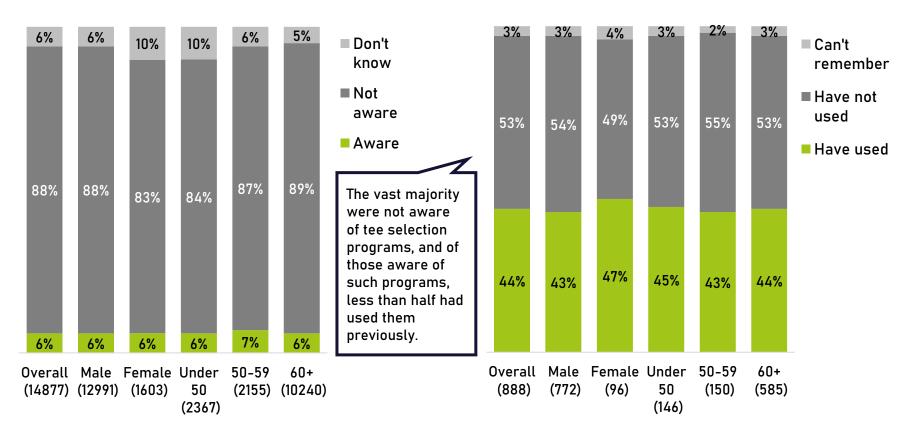
The majority would be open to receiving tee recommendations from course staff, although many would only accept this at courses they were not familiar with.

## TEE ATTITUDES | Tee selection programs

- Q. Are you familiar with any tee selection programs, such as Longleaf Tee System, that connect performance information like driving distance with a recommended yardage range to suggest appropriate tees?
- Q. Have you ever used one of these systems to make your teeing choice?

#### **AWARENESS OF TEE SELECTION PROGRAMS**

# USE OF TEE SELECTION PROGRAMS (ONLY ASKED TO THOSE AWARE OF PROGRAMS)

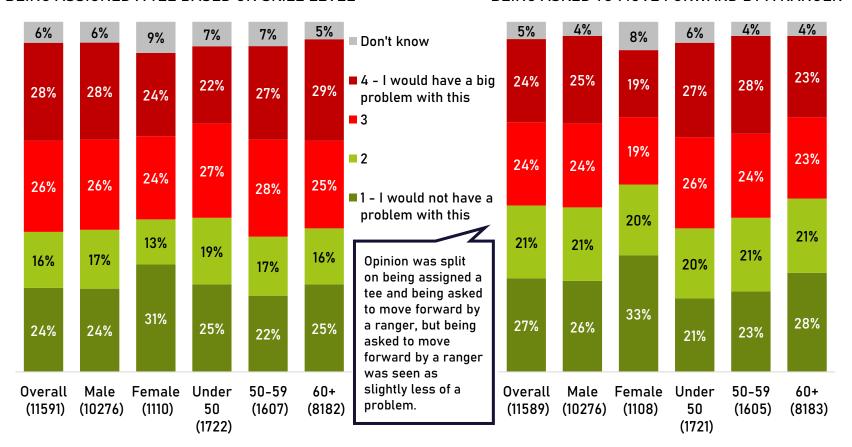


## TEE ATTITUDES | Tee assignment

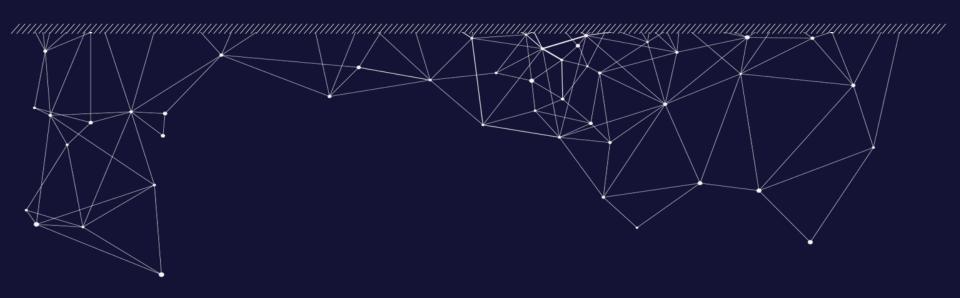
- Q. How would you feel about being assigned a tee based on your skill level regardless of your preference?
- Q. How would you feel about being asked by a course ranger to move forward a set of tees based on your demonstrated play or pace?

#### BEING ASSIGNED A TEE BASED ON SKILL LEVEL

#### BEING ASKED TO MOVE FORWARD BY A RANGER



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