

## Length of Holes in Relation to Par

Some inquiries have been received from clubs with regard to the correct par for holes of various length. Directions for computing par are given on page 260 of the Year Book of the United States Golf Association for 1924, which for the benefit of our readers we are quoting.

"Par means perfect play without flukes and under ordinary weather conditions, always allowing two strokes on each putting green. For holes up to 250 yards inclusive, par is 3; for holes 251 to 445 yards inclusive, par is 4; for holes 446 to 600 yards inclusive, par is 5; for holes 601 yards and upwards, par is 6. These figures are not arbitrary, because some allowance should be made for the configuration of the ground and any other difficult or unusual conditions. So also should be considered the severity of the hazards, especially on a hole where the par is doubtful. If on any hole the par is more or less than the length of the hole would indicate, state the reason on the score card. Each hole should be measured from the middle of the tee to the center of the green, following an air line as nearly as possible."

As a general thing, when the computations are close to the limits, preference is given to the lower par.

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## The Nature and Use of Penalty in Golf Architecture

By Max H. Behr

In the active ball games that we all played before the days of golf, a ball was either fair or foul, in or out. They were conflicts of skill for the control of a common ball and were played within a definitely defined space demarked by lines. A ball that passed beyond the surface limits of these areas suffered either a restriction upon its further play or a definite penalty. Owing to this history, there has developed the idea that such limits were primarily to draw a distinction between good play and bad play. Thus an arbitrary penalty, independent of the advantage gained by the more skilful play of an opponent, is supposed to be inherent in the nature of such active ball games of which it is a part.

It is the purpose of this paper to discover the origin of this type of penalty. Such knowledge is of the greatest importance to golf, for it is this kind of penalty only, aside from those which the rules inflict, with which the golfer has to do. Therefore should it be possible to determine the bases upon which it rests, it follows that the only proper use to which it may be put will be known.

If we study the histories of ball games, we shall find that in their original form they possessed a certain characteristic of golf—one that now distinguishes golf from them—that is, the field of play of each was unbounded. One form of early football was a conflict between the inhabitants of two villages, the ball being put in play at a point equidistant between them, the object of the game being to drive the ball back within the confines of the village of the opposing side. All means were used to this end, even to carrying the ball on horseback. Baseball was rounders with no foul line, and