



116th U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP – FIRST ROUND COURSE SET-UP NOTES

Hole	Par	Yards	Set-Up Notes from Mike Davis and Jeff Hall
1	4	481	Today's hole location (16-11L) is middle left. Generally, players will have to land their ball on the very front of this green or in the approach in order to be able to keep the ball on the putting green. With the softer conditions resulting from the overnight rains, this front-to-back sloping putting green will be a bit more manageable. Approximately 5 yards left of this hole location is a pronounced falloff that will feed balls into the greenside rough. This feature will certainly be in play today.
2	4	353	Most players will play irons or hybrids from this tee into one of Oakmont's narrowest fairways, which is well protected by bunkers right and one of the famous Oakmont ditches left. Today's back-center hole location (29-4CTR) sits atop a small shelf. The softer conditions will require the players to control the trajectory and spin to keep the ball on this shelf for a good birdie chance. A miss over this green into the greenside bunker will likely result in a bogey.
3	4	429	A short but very precise par 4. The tee shot must be played into another narrow fairway that has a good deal of right-to-left slope and is flanked by a series of bunkers right and the famous "Church Pews" to the left. The second shot is semi-blind (left side of fairway) or completely blind (right side of fairway) to an uphill green featuring a false front and a large closely mown area over the putting green. Most putts to today's hole location (19-5R) will carry some speed as the front and middle portions of this green slope toward the hole location.
4	5	615	The only par 5 on the front nine will play back into today's southwest wind. One of only two dogleg holes at Oakmont, committing to an angle of play off the tee and executing is critical. Deep bunkers right of the drive zone must be avoided, but the Church Pews loom to the left of the drive zone to capture an errant tee shot. The second shot is a blind shot whether laying up or attempting to reach the putting green in two shots. Today's hole location (23-5R) sits in a back-center position and tempts players to get the ball back to it. A well-played stroke will finish on line and below the hole. A putt from the right will have significant break. A miss over this green will require deft touch to recover.
5	4	390	One of five par 4s at Oakmont that measures less than 400 yards. The lay-up tee shot is to a fairly narrow fairway that cannot be seen from the tee. Players likely will utilize the television tower behind the putting green as a reference point in aligning their tee shots. Today's hole location (31-6R) is on the highest portion of the green. The softer conditions should allow players to have some good birdie chances here.

6	3	206	Today's hole location (26-5R) is positioned in the restored back-right portion of this putting green and is well protected by a large, deep front-right bunker. Even with the softer conditions, most players likely will play their tee shot to finish 20-25 feet below and to the left of this hole location.
7	4	488	This hole will play back into today's southwest breeze. Tee shots are from an elevated tee, but the drive zone slopes back toward the tee. Couple this with the overnight rain, and this hole is likely to play a bit longer today. The hole location (29-4R) sits atop a shelf along the back portion of this green.
8	3	258	We are using the forward tee here today with a back-left hole location (25-4L). Putts coming from the front and center portions of the green are very speedy.
9	4	482	A blind tee shot to an elevated fairway where the drive zone is flanked by a series of bunkers to the right and one of the Oakmont dry ditches (lateral water hazards) to the left. The fairway slopes slightly from left to right. The second shot is played to one of the more unique putting green complexes at Oakmont, and today we are using a historic hole location that the club refers to as the " <i>piano bench</i> " (21-5R). A pronounced knob is located left of this hole location and the green falls off to the right. A putt from hole high or deeper presents a unique challenge as the "line" the ball must be started on is oftentimes much higher than the player thinks.
TOTAL	35	3,702	
10	4	442	We are using the penultimate tee today because of the shared back tee being used for hole 12. Today's middle-left hole location (19-9L) is one of the faster sections of this putting green, which significantly slopes from front right to back left. Playing from beyond this hole, even if from off the green, could be an easier play than putting from the front portion of this green and the front fringe, especially as the green returns to speed. Most players will lay up off the tee into a fairway that slopes downhill, from right to left and feeds into a bit of a trough.
11	4	390	Today's back-hole location (31-7L) and players will have to control their trajectory and spin to get the ball close, given the soft conditions. A miss over this green will result in a very difficult recovery.
12	5	684	The back tee is being utilized today with a back-right (35-10R) hole location. A very demanding tee shot because of the bunkering and left-to-right severely sloping nature of the fairway, although the softer conditions should help the players in this regard. The second shot is very strategic as the players must contend with a cross bunker that is located approximately 170 yards from the middle of the putting green. This is one of Oakmont's most challenging putting greens. It is fairly narrow and runs from front left to back right. In 2007, it played to almost a half-stroke over par average.
13	3	181	The shortest par 3 today. The hole plays slightly uphill and today's hole location (17-5L) is fairly accessible. Players can use the right-to-left slope of this green to help get the ball closer to the hole, but missing this green to the right will present a difficult recovery.
14	4	331	Another of Oakmont's shorter par 4s. The players may lay up off the tee, but the fairway has a fair amount of slope from right to left, requiring focus on this shot. The players also might challenge driving the green as tee markers are moved up to the center of the teeing ground. Today's front hole location (7-6R) is in the narrowest portion of the green, which is flanked by a bunker left and right. Two well-played strokes should provide a good birdie chance.
15	4	519	The back-left hole location (44-5L) really stretches this hole out today and it will play as the longest par 4 in Round 1. The blind drive zone slopes from left

			to right and is flanked by a bunker left and bunkers and a dry ditch (lateral water hazard) right. The putting green sits on a slight diagonal and gets a bit narrower around today's hole location. There is a pronounced dropoff over and to the right of this green. A miss into the left bunker will offer a challenging recovery.
16	3	234	A very demanding par 3 featuring a middle-right (20-5R) hole location. Players can use the contours of the putting green to get the ball closer to the hole. The front portion of the putting green slopes significantly toward the tee. With the softer conditions, players will have to carry the ball a bit deeper into this green. Putts coming from the center of the green will be very speedy.
17	4	307	One of Oakmont's signature holes. A very strategic, risk/reward par 4. The hole measures 299 yards from today's tee location to the hole location using a laser (adjusted to 316 yards for the uphill slope). The hole location (7-6R) is front right immediately behind "Big Mouth" bunker. A precise wedge shot will be required to get it close here, but the softer conditions should help. Missing this green into any of the five greenside bunkers will result in a very difficult recovery.
18	4	484	One of the most demanding finishing holes of the U.S. Open. The hole will play back into today's southwest breeze. The drive zone slopes from left to right and is flanked by bunkers on both sides and a ditch on the left. The putting green is one of the most interesting at Oakmont. Today's front-left hole location (13-5L) is perched on a plateau. The softer conditions will make getting to this hole a touch easier, but par is always a good score on this hole.
TOTAL	35	3,572	
TOTAL	70	7,274	

Course Set-Up	The 1.1" of rain that fell overnight certainly impacted the firmness of the golf course and the overall maintenance we were able to perform this morning. All grass inside the ropes (tees, fairways, approaches, roughs) was mown last night. This morning, however, we were only able to cut and roll putting greens and prepare bunkers.
Green Speeds	Even with the significant rainfall, we were still able to cut and roll the putting greens this morning and produced speeds in the low 14's/high 13's on the USGA Stimpmeter. The greens have lost approximately a foot to 18 inches from speeds seen over the last week.
Weather Forecast from Jake Swick of Thor Guard	<p>Around .52" of rain fell with the storm last evening between 8-9 p.m., followed by another round of showers and storms between 2-3 a.m. with an additional .62" giving us the total of 1.14" of rain overnight. The good news is that area of showers and storms has exited our area and we should find mostly cloudy to partly sunny skies this morning. A few showers and storms in Ohio may give us a few extra clouds around 9 a.m. as they fall apart heading SE. Therefore we'll put a 40 percent chance of a shower or storm around mid-morning, but honestly it's mainly just a 20% chance for most of this morning. As we approach lunchtime, temps will be climbing into the 80s and with dewpoints around 70, it will feel closer to 90 early this afternoon even though the high may only top out in the mid 80s. Southwest winds will pick up this morning as well at 5-10 mph with some gusts over 10 mph by this afternoon (especially east of the turnpike).</p> <p>The computer models have not changed at all for this afternoon with the center of the approaching storm system heading southeastward from MI to OH.</p>

Showers and storms will be developing by the 12:30 to 2 PM time frame (40%), then look for showers and storms to either pop up overhead or to our northwest along the PA/OH border and move southeast during the 2 to 5 PM window (60-80%). The heaviest rainfall still appears to occur from 5 to 8 PM today when we have a 100% chance of rain and 60% chance of storminess. Showers and random storms will continue on and off from 8 PM Thursday to 2 AM Friday. A leftover shower is possible between 2 and 8 AM Friday, but most, if not all, of the rainfall should be done by 2 AM. Total rainfall amounts for this afternoon range from .50-2.50" with the models average in the 1.00-1.50" area. Also keep in mind that as the storms develop this afternoon, we may see some severe weather this afternoon, so don't be surprised if a Watch is issued by the National Weather Service.

After starting off in the lower 60s Friday morning, temps will top out just past 80 Friday afternoon. Mostly cloudy skies to start Friday morning will become partly sunny by lunchtime and mostly sunny by the end of the day. Northeast winds tomorrow morning will become breezy at times with gusts of 15 mph very possible, then the wind is expected to pull back some in the afternoon as dewpoints drop from the 60s through the 50s. And the final bit of good news is that the forecast for this weekend still looks beautiful!