



## 2015 U.S. Women's Open Fourth-Round Course Setup Notes by Ben Kimball

- This is the first time all week that the front nine is playing longer than the back nine.
- We decided not to cut any rough on the property last night.

Hole	Par	Yards	Hole-by-Hole Notes
1	4	418	The final round begins with the first hole playing as long as it has all week. The back-left hole location (27-5R) should be relatively easy to get back to with a great approach and putts can easily be made here since there is not much movement in this quadrant of the putting green.
2	4	367	A tucked hole location (13-5L) on the left-hand side of this putting green could present a challenge to the players who have a lie with the ball above their feet. An approach shot slightly tugged to the left will leave them either in the front greenside bunker or in some of the healthiest rough to be found on the property. Putts from the center of the green to the hole will be quick since the putting green is pitched from right to left.
3	4	394	We will use the 399 teeing ground for the first time on the third hole today. Driving accuracy will be at a premium and the longer hitters should have an easier uphill approach than those who leave their ball at the bottom of this steep fairway. The hole location (12-7R) may be on the front half of the green, but look to see if players hit beyond it to use the back-right portion of the green to stop the ball and allow it to trickle back down to the hole.
4	4	343	We remain on the 346 teeing ground for hole 4 today so avoiding the creek and getting the ball in the fairway is always a good thing here. Approach shots into the front-left hole location (13-5L) must be long in order to avoid the front bunkers and nasty rough areas short of this green. Putts from above this hole tend to have a lot of break from right to left and as the greens continue to firm up, par will be a solid score here.
5	4	387	The 392 teeing ground will see action here again and players will have to be concerned with their distance control off the tee in order to leave themselves with a chance to fire at a hole location (9-4R) that is located just 4 paces away from the creek edge that runs parallel to this green.
6	3	174	The tee markers are back near the 172 tee sign and any shots missed right of this hole location (18-4R) will find themselves in the rough covered mounds that border the right side of this hole. There is no such thing as an easy up and down from this area, especially since the flat area around this hole eventually runs out away from the player and toward the creek. A center-of-green tee shot is safe and will leave the player with a slightly uphill putt.
7	5	469	Tee markers are moved across the Conestoga River to the fairway side of this par 5, giving some players a reasonable chance to attack this hole in 2. With that being said, a back-right hole location (29-6R) won't give away eagle or birdie opportunities with ease. Players will be forced to make a serious decision at this point in the championship on whether or not they want to take the USGA's bait to make up a shot or even two on the championship field. Players who choose to lay up and play safe will still face a very demanding third shot over the water hazard to get back to this hole. If a player takes a hard line at this hole they will need to control their distance so as to not have the small false front on this green repel their ball back down toward the water. Putts from the center portion of this green will break from right to left down to the hole.



8	3	200	<p>Tee markers are moved to the back-left teeing ground on this hole, giving players a fairly long but straight shot at a hole location (17-6L) that is in the middle-left portion of this green. Hole 8 played as the most difficult hole in Round 3 and I wouldn't expect much different from 200 yards out in Round 4. A 3 on this hole usually gains a stroke on the field.</p>
9	4	426	<p>A back-center hole location (24-11R) should allow players to use the front half of this putting green to get the ball back to the hole; however, having the tee markers back on the 421 tee for today will really make hitting a big drive on this front nine finishing hole a must.</p>
OUT	35	3,178	
10	4	425	<p>The strong ninth hole is followed by the 10th hole playing at its full length again from the 419 teeing ground that we have used on this hole for all four championship days. If you can get your approach shot into the back half of this green, the putts to this hole location (24-5L) are pretty straight.</p>
11	4	415	<p>No change in the teeing ground location on Hole 11, but I envision that players will either come up short or have a speedy putt from the middle of the green back to this front-left hole location (10-9L) that sits just over the false front on this putting green.</p>
12	3	141	<p>Tee markers are pushed to the right half of the lower teeing ground in the 138-140 range on this great par-3 hole. A small plateau on the back-right portion of this green is where you will find today's hole location. Depending upon the putting green's firmness, balls may bounce toward the back bunkers, which is no easy up-and-down, or they will land short and could spin back toward the creek fronting this green. This should be an exciting hole to watch from such a short yardage, but players will need to be confident in their swing and their yardage to the hole when they are over the ball.</p>
13	5	512	<p>This par 5 remains one of the very few opportunities to make birdie on the back nine. With that being said, today's hole location (18-5L) will be difficult to get at since the front-left greenside bunker really protects this hole location.</p>
14	4	363	<p>The 364 forward teeing ground is again put into play to allow players to get a better angle at the hole location (13-3R), which is located only 3 paces from the edge of the green.</p>
15	4	428	<p>The 15th hole shows all its length today with a back-center hole location. Players must get the ball in the fairway here in order to have a chance to chase their approach shot to the back portion of this green. A ball left just below the hole is ideal, since it is a surprising uphill and straight putt from there.</p>
16	4	235	<p>A drivable par 4 will be introduced here late in the back nine to not only entice players to gamble with their score but to test their mental stability at this stage of the championship. Tee markers are moved up about 110+ yards here and though no real risk is present with this tee shot it should provide some great entertainment down the stretch. The hole location (10-5R) looks very accessible from the tee but balls hit over this green will require a solid up and down since this putting green will be running away from them as they chip back toward the hole. The overall yardage to this hole will force players to really think about what club will provide the best results. I would expect a mixed bag of 3-woods and drivers to be hit off this tee, since no one will want to lay up with a wedge.</p>



17 3 170

The pronounced hump in the center of this green will play a factor in some shape or form in how the player chooses to attack this hole. Depending on the day's green firmness, players may choose to use the hump as a back stop for their tee shot or they will likely have to putt up and around it to get down to the hole location (11-4L) that is protected by the front-left greenside bunker.

18 4 421

The finishing hole of the championship continues to be a bear and the center back-right hole location (23-14R) will give players plenty of depth to get a long approach shot back to the hole. Par is a superb score at any time on this hole and I would expect players to let out a sigh of relief at the end of day knowing that they won't have to face this great par 4 again tomorrow.

IN 35 3,110

TOTAL 70 6,288

**Green Speeds:**

Average green speed to start the day was 11'6", slightly faster than third-round speeds.

**Firmness:**

With two drying days, the greens are the firmest they have been at any time during the championship. Hand watering was performed last night and this morning in isolated areas to address wilt.

**Weather Forecast  
(from ThorGuard):**

Our forecast today is looking good for the final day of the championship. We are seeing some patchy fog around the course (even a little more near bodies of water) but it should lift in the 7 a.m. hour and be pretty much gone before 8 a.m. Otherwise, we do see some mainly high clouds moving in from the west with a storm in Indiana which is expected to track east-southeast into Ohio today. So we brought a few more clouds into the forecast today and lowered the high to 87. The dewpoint will be in the low-to-mid 60s this morning and should drop a bit into the 58-61 range for this afternoon (a couple degrees higher than yesterday). Winds will start to show up after 9 a.m., but will be light almost all day with gusts occasionally in the 5 mph range. A quiet night is expected tonight with some clouds and the temp a couple degrees warmer (mid 60s). Monday will start dry with an increase in humidity and wind. We probably will be dry but still think the next storm could bring a slight chance for a shower or storm during the afternoon with a better chance late or in the evening. A couple of rounds of showers and storms look to occur on Tuesday, with the greatest chance in the afternoon to early evening – some strong to severe weather is possible.