

**118th U.S. Open Championship**  
**Golf Course Setup Notes – Round 3 (Saturday, June 16, 2018)**  
*Prepared by Jeff Hall, USGA*

**General Golf Course Comments** – The golf course is in excellent condition. We are extremely pleased with the agronomics and presentation. Our goal with today's agronomic preparation is to present a golf course that is more similar to what was presented Monday and Tuesday during practice rounds.

**Green Speeds** – Putting greens have been appropriately prepared from a speed and firmness perspective. We expect putting green speeds to be in the upper 11-foot range (approximately 11 feet, 9 inches) this afternoon as the leaders tee off.

**Firmness** – Putting greens were hand watered to replenish moisture for both turf health and firmness.

**Weather Forecast:**

**GENERAL WEATHER**

Temps got into the mid-50s before dawn but warmed up just after sunrise. Expect a nicer and much warmer day today with highs around 80 degrees early this afternoon. Our sunshine may mix with a cloud or two this morning. However, high clouds are more likely to drift in from the north and northwest at times this afternoon. Dewpoints will be in the 50s today with the occasional breeze this morning becoming more of the usual onshore flow this afternoon (details below). Tonight's forecast is not all that different from last night with mainly clear skies and somewhat diminishing winds. After a comfortably cool start around 60, temps will once again be above average on Sunday with highs close to 80 early in the afternoon. Mostly sunny skies in the morning will mix with similar high clouds sinking south and east from New England Sunday afternoon. The wind forecast on Sunday is much like today. The dewpoint will be closer to 60 on Sunday, then it will be in the 60s all day Monday with more wind ahead of the next (slightly disorganized) storm system likely Monday night into Tuesday.

**WINDS**

West and northwest winds this morning will be light (4-8 mph) overall. However, an occasional 10-12 mph breeze will happen from time to time. This trend will continue late this morning and early this afternoon. However, we think that we'll see a more consistent 10-mph breeze from the west as we get closer to lunch time. The breeze this afternoon will come more from the southwest from 2 p.m. on, averaging 10-15 mph with a high wind gust around 20 mph possible near 5 p.m. The wind will then let up this evening, especially after sunset, with tonight's winds similar to last night. Sunday morning's wind is like this morning, too: out of the west and occasionally northwest below 10 mph most of time, but still with a brief gust around 10 mph. By Sunday afternoon, a lot of the models show the wind being the same or maybe even a notch less than today. For now, we are going to keep the afternoon forecast we have out of the southwest and a little more south mid-late afternoon Sunday at 8-16 mph. Then the southwest wind stays breezy Sunday night and becomes windy for the better portion of Monday with gusts 20-plus mph by afternoon.

### **Setup Information**

The following are the specific hole yardages (tee to hole location) for Round 3:

#### **Hole 1 (par 4) – 409**

Today's Wind: SW (Against and from the left)

Fairway Widths: 28-58 yards depending on how aggressive a player is from the tee

Hole Location: 10-7L

Notes: Look for most players to lay up into the widest portion of the fairway to get into proper position. The front-left hole location is protected by the false front as well as the left greenside bunker. The left-to-right cross-breeze on the second shot will also make it challenging to get it close to the hole. Putts from above this hole location will be quick.

#### **Hole 2 (par 3) – 239**

Today's Wind: SW (Downwind and from the left)

Hole Location: 11-11L

Notes: We are back on the primary tee for Round 3. Today's front-left hole location will likely require a tee shot played into the approach and bounced up onto the putting green. There is ample room between the cross bunker and the front of the green to do so. Putts from the right of the hole location will have some right-to-left break. Putts from beyond the hole will be downhill and moving hard from right to left.

#### **Hole 3 (par 4) – 495**

Today's Wind: SW (A hurting, left-to-right crosswind)

Fairway Widths: 32-35 yards in the drive zone

Hole Location: 13-5R

Notes: With today's prevailing breeze, the tee shot should be a bit easier. The third hole played as the most difficult in Round 2. Today's hole location is front right and putts from left and beyond this location will be downhill and fast. This portion of the green is a result of the putting green restoration work – it was not a putting green in 2004.

#### **Hole 4 (par 4) - 481**

Today's Wind: SW (Slightly hurting right-to-left crosswind)

Fairway Widths: 34-36 yards in drive zone

Hole Location: 23-10L

Notes: The fourth hole will likely play a bit more difficult today with the prevailing breeze. Players will need to take on the right-side drive-zone bunkers to gain the best angle to today's back-left hole location. Putts from the center of the green will be a bit slower as they will be uphill. A miss long or left will result in a very difficult recovery.

#### **Hole 5 (par 5) - 591**

Today's Wind: SW (Downwind)

Fairway Widths: 33-44 yards in drive zone

Hole Location: 21-6R

Notes: The fifth hole played as the easiest through the first two rounds. Look for that to continue as the prevailing breeze has the hole playing straight down-breeze. Today's hole location is middle right, precariously close to the substantial fall-off to the right down into a large closely mown area.

**Hole 6 (par 4) – 486**

Today's Wind: SW (Hurting and from the left)  
Fairway Widths: 37-71 yards in the drive zone  
Hole Location: 15-4L

Notes: Tee markers are on the primary tee today. The carry over the natural sandy area and bunker is approximately 240 yards. Today's hole location is tight to the front-left bunker, making the preferred tee shot down the right side to gain the best angle. Putts from beyond this hole will be quick. Putts from right and beyond this hole will have a significant right-to-left break.

**Hole 7 (par 3) – 166**

Today's Wind: SW (Right to left and hurting)  
Hole Location: 9-8R

Notes: We are using the reestablished C.B. Macdonald tee, which is to the players' left and forward of the primary tee. Today's hole location is positioned on a small plateau in the front right of the putting green. A precise tee shot is required to get the ball near this hole location.

**Hole 8 (par 4) – 448**

Today's Wind: SW (Hurting and from the right)  
Fairway Widths: 53-61 in the drive zone  
Hole Location: 24-12L

Notes: This hole is apt to play a bit differently today with the prevailing wind. Today's back-left hole location is on a plateau and is best accessed from the right side of the fairway. Balls that get past or left of the hole will feed off the green due to the pronounced slope left and behind the hole.

**Hole 9 (par 4) – 486**

Today's Wind: SW (Right-to-left crosswind)  
Fairway Widths: 41-44 yards in drive zone  
Hole Location: 21-7L

Notes: The prevailing breeze will have this hole playing much differently than the first two rounds, especially the tee shot. The second shot is uphill to a bowl-like green. Balls beyond or right of this hole location will result in a significant right-to-left breaking putt.

**Hole 10 (par 4) – 416**

Today's Wind: SW (Helping and from the right)  
Fairway Widths: 47 yards at the top of the hill; 37-44 yards at the bottom of the hill.  
Hole Location: 17-6L

Notes: Tee markers are placed on the right tee today. Players have a choice from the tee – lay up to the top of the hill resulting in a “level” second shot and a full view of the putting green, or take the tee shot to the bottom of the hill and be faced with a shorter second shot but one that is extremely uphill and semi-blind. Most players in Round 1 opted for the bottom-of-the-hill approach, but not so in Round 2. Today's middle-left hole location will be challenging to reach due to the false front and pronounced left-to-right slope of the green.

**Hole 11 (par 3) – 159**

Today's Wind: SW (Helping from the left)  
Hole Location: 15-7R

Notes: The shortest hole on the course, but one of Shinnecock's most challenging. The angle at which the putting green sits places a premium on distance control. A miss long

and left will result in a very difficult recovery but today's right-hand hole location makes it a touch easier. A tee shot that comes to rest short and left of the hole location will provide a good birdie chance.

**Hole 12 (par 4) – 465**

Today's Wind: SW (Helping and from the left)

Fairway Widths: 29-30

Hole Location: 9-13R

Notes: The prevailing breeze should have this hole playing a bit easier than it did in the first two rounds. Today's front-right hole location is protected by the false front. A significant mound within the right middle of this green will influence putts from long and left of the hole location.

**Hole 13 (par 4) – 366**

Today's Wind: SW (Against and from the right)

Fairway Widths: 24-48 in drive zone depending on how aggressive the player is off the tee

Hole Location: 13-6R

Notes: A few players tried to drive the green yesterday, but that is pretty unlikely today given the prevailing breeze. Today's hole location is located behind the front-right greenside bunker. Players can use the pronounced slope in the green left of the hole to feed balls to this location.

**Hole 14 (par 4) – 529**

Today's Wind: SW (Helping and from the left)

Fairway Widths: 34-42 in drive zone

Hole Location: 24-6R

Notes: The 14th hole played as the second-most difficult in the first two rounds. The prevailing wind should take some of the sting out of this hole but today's back-right hole location is up on a shelf that was not part of the green during previous U.S. Open Championships here at Shinnecock Hills. Players can bounce the ball into this green through the approach.

**Hole 15 (par 4) – 416**

Today's Wind: SW (Left-to-right crosswind)

Fairway Widths: 33-41 in drive zone

Hole Location: 19-6R

Notes: The elevated tee shot is really impacted by the crosswind on this hole. Despite the 15th hole's short yardage, the green was hit in regulation only 54 percent of the time in the first two rounds. Today's hole location is middle right. Errant second shots could find the front right bunker and balls that travel past this hole location can run off the back of this green into the closely mown area.

**Hole 16 (par 5) – 627**

Today's Wind: SW (Against and from the right)

Fairway Widths: 40-45 in the drive zone

Hole Location: 30-13L

Notes: The 16th hole played as the second easiest in the first two rounds (4.91 stroke average). With the prevailing breeze, that might change in Round 3. Today's hole location is back left and will require excellent distance control to get the ball close. Putts from short of the hole location will be on the slower side.

**Hole 17 (par 3) – 150**

Today's Wind: SW (Left-to-right crosswind)

Hole Location: 8-9L

Notes: Today's front-left hole location is on a small plateau that is well protected by the front-left bunker. The tees have been moved up some 14 paces to the forward portion of the primary tee making the hole play the shortest it will for the week. This hole location is well protected by the front-left greenside bunker complex and the left-to-right crosswind could bring the large, right greenside bunker into play. Putts from beyond this hole location will require a deft touch.

**Hole 18 (par 4) – 492**

Prevailing Wind: SW (Right-to-left crosswind with some hurt on the tee shot but some help on the second shot)

Fairway Widths: 41-51 yards

Hole Location: 28-12L

Notes: Challenging tee shot because the hole turns from right to left but the slope of the fairway cants from left to right. Today's hole location is on the far left side of the middle plateau and is well protected by the front-left greenside bunker.

**Total yardage**

**Front 9 – 3,801 (par 35)**

**Back 9 – 3,620 (par 35)**

**Total – 7,421 (par 70)**