Forward Tees/Academy Tee Guide.

Have you considered introducing a short course to your existing facility? Forward or academy tees are a great way to encourage new golfers to get out on the golf course and to get a handicap. They can also be used for family golf or fun social golf.

Here are some hints and tips to help you get started.

- Look at the current yardage of your course.
  - The ideal length for an 18-hole course played from forward tees would be 3,800 to 4,800 yards; and from academy tees it would be 3,000 to 3,800 yards.
  - Keeping the course above 3,000 yards will allow it to be rated and allocated a Standard Scratch Score so it can be used for handicap purposes.

- Consider the players you are targeting and how far they hit the ball.
  - See Table A for a list of yardages suitable for each set of tees. The table shows the carry distance of each club and an additional 20 yards should be added to the driver, 3 wood and 5 wood as roll.

- Set your new forward tees and academy tees hole by hole.
  - The forward tee should be approximately 20% shorter than your existing ladies’ tee and the academy tee approximately 40% shorter. (See Table B)
- This reduction in length will give players the opportunity to reach the green in regulation and experience success when making pars and birdies.
- Set up each hole to be as close to the original as possible, without making it too hard. Try and maintain the structure of the hole (dog-legs, hole shape etc.).
- The tee should be in a flat location, to one side of the fairway and clearly marked with a fixed marker or disk.
- Consider where each tee shot will finish and avoid leaving players with shots from the rough or on steep hills. Also avoid long carries or hazards.

- Once your new course is in place, it can be given a Standard Scratch Score.
- To do this you need to complete the short course application form, which is available from England Golf – handicapping@englandgolf.org
- The course must have an official measurement certificate, issued using appendix A of the CONGU UHS. Which need to be returned to England golf with the application form.
- Once received England Golf will ask a County Representative to visit the course to ensure that all conditions have been met, before the provisional SSS is allocated.
- England Golf will issue you with a provisional standard scratch score, which will allow you to start using the course for handicap purposes.
- Any forward tee or academy tee will need an official rating and this will be done by your County Union/ Association within the next 2/3 years.