

Ball Speed



Ball Speed is the speed of the golf ball immediately after impact

Ball speed is created by club speed and impact.

Bad impact such as shots hit on the toe or heel will reduce the potential ball speed.

“Glancing blows” created by hooks, slices, and hitting too much down on the ball can also reduce the potential ball speed.

Although a golfer’s club speed is key to potential distance, the ball speed that is created at impact is the biggest factor in how far the ball actually carries.

Gaining 1 mph of ball speed can increase your driver distance by up to 2 yards.

The highest recorded ball speed is 226 mph by Connor Powers during the Quarterfinals of the 2014 World Long Drive Championship.

Technical Definition:

Ball Speed – The speed of the golf ball’s center of gravity immediately after separation from the club face

Tour Averages

PGA TOUR

Driver – 168 mph

LPGA Tour

Driver – 140 mph

Male Amateur (Driver)

Scratch or Better – 161 mph

5 HCP – 147 mph

10 HCP – 138 mph

Average Golfer (14.5) – 133 mph

Bogey Golfer – 131 mph

The standard assumption for ball speed comes from the TrackMan Optimizer. For the driver, a club speed of 94 mph, attack angle of 0 degrees, and optimized carry results in a ball speed of 137 mph. For a 6-iron, a club speed of 80 mph and mid-trajectory results in a 110 mph. For a PW, a club speed of 72 mph and mid-trajectory results in a ball speed of 86 mph.