

Chicago Golf Club

Designed for JN6-GBC by Brad Johns

Release Date – June 2024



About the Course

The Chicago Golf Club, nestled in Wheaton, Illinois, stands as one of the United States' most venerable golf institutions, having been founded in 1892 by Charles B. Macdonald. As a private establishment, its legacy is enriched not only by its age and exclusivity but by its pioneering role in American golf, being one of the five founding clubs of the USGA. The course architecture, crafted by the renowned designer Seth Raynor, is a masterful representation of American links-style design. All of the most famed template holes—Redan, Road, Biarritz, Long, Short—were used by Raynor, and his signature geometric bunkering and strategic hole layouts make the 18-hole course both challenging and iconic. Throughout its existence, the Chicago Golf Club has hosted many significant tournaments, amateur and professional alike. Its meticulous blend of history, design sophistication, and commitment to tradition places it amongst America's most esteemed golfing venues.

Designer Notes

- General Notes** – Chicago is my first JN6-GBC design. As such, I learned a lot as I worked through the course, which I hope to apply to future designs and improve as I go. I know this design is far from perfect, but I feel that I accomplished my goal of producing a reasonably accurate version of a historic course that is both challenging and fun to play, particularly for enthusiasts of Macdonald/Raynor architecture. I would also like to thank everyone who assisted in getting me started, especially Mikey for sending me all the textures and tutorials, Steve for the mass planting tip, and Brad and Brad for the early encouragement—thanks, guys!
- Rendition Accuracy** – Chicago Golf Club is a highly exclusive private club with only 120 members. Naturally, it was a challenge finding photos/videos from which to base the virtual course. Fortunately, there were a few very useful online resources, including footage from the 2018 US Senior Women's Open as well as high-quality footage produced by *The Fried Egg*. I tried to utilize as many images/videos/descriptions of the course as I could find and am satisfied overall with the end result. However, while the hole layouts should be accurate, the topography of some holes/greens was more of an approximation based on the limited material available to me during this design.
- Tees/Course Yardages** – For this rendition, I took the liberty of lengthening the course to simulate a potential US Open course length/setup. The **black** and **blue** tees would be considered the "US Open tees" and are mostly equal distances for each hole, though several holes play a bit shorter or longer from either tee, which provides some additional variety. The **white** tees represent the actual current course length for each hole, based on the scorecards I was able to find online. The **red** tees represent the forward tee likely played by many of the members and are closer to the original course length.
- Pin Positions** – Pin positions 1-4 are representative of US Open-style pin placements. Many are tucked somewhat close to the green edges to provide the greatest challenge, though there are still plenty of more accessible hole locations mixed in to allow for some solid birdie opportunities. Pin 5 offers more accessible pins on nearly every hole and would be similar to standard member pin positions or pin positions that may be used in a typical PGA Tour event.
- Course Conditions** – Typical course conditions would likely entail medium winds, with occasional days of mild or strong winds, and soft/normal firmness/speed. For the US Open, firm would be the most appropriate setting. Heavy rough was used as the primary cut of rough, again to simulate US Open conditions.

Hole	Par	Name	Black	Blue	White	Red	Hcp
1	4	Valley	475	475	450	450	5
2	4	Road	504	504	482	441	3
3	3	Biarritz	264	256	256	203	17
4	5	Long	575	536	536	536	1
5	4	Leven	424	394	394	320	13
6	4	Double Plateau	456	456	395	395	9
7	3	Redan	217	217	207	207	15
8	4	Narrows	475	475	444	413	7
9	4	Pond	464	464	438	403	11
10	3	Short	139	139	139	139	16
11	4	Dogleg	440	462	410	410	6
12	4	Punchbowl	492	492	462	416	4
13	3	Eden	180	192	180	149	18
14	4	Cape	309	349	349	349	14
15	4	Ginger Beer	459	459	394	394	10
16	5	Raynor's Prize	545	545	526	526	2
17	4	Maiden	485	485	465	382	12
18	4	Home	460	460	425	425	8
TOTAL	70		7,363	7,360	6,952	6,558	

Course Layout

