

## The State of Disc Golf Par in 2022

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Now that the PDGA Par Guidelines have been published and all the A-tiers for 2022 are in the books, we can look at how the pars assigned for tournament play compared to the guideline pars. For this comparison, the guideline pars are computed by the Par by Scoring Distribution method.

The holes in the sample are those from year 2022 events for which:

- ☛ The Tier was A or above, and
- ☛ Had at least one FPO player rated 875 or above, or
- ☛ Had at least one MPO player rated 970 or above.

(Ratings of 875 and 970 are the minimum suggested ratings for FPO and MPO, thus selecting "legit" players, not donators.)

There are likely some holes that met the criteria and were not included, and possibly some from Tiers lower than A. However, there are a ton of holes - the vast majority of which meet the criteria. "A ton" means:

- ☛ 129,456 FPO player-rounds on 5,749 holes, and
- ☛ 628,259 MPO player-rounds on 6,572 holes.

For FPO, 89% of tournament pars matched the guidelines. For MPO, 79% matched guidelines.

- ☛ For FPO, this means that about 1.0 hole per 18 had par that was higher than guideline, and about 1.0 hole per 18 had a par that was lower than guideline.
- ☛ For MPO, about 3.5 holes per 18 had par that was higher than guideline, and about once in every six *courses* an MPO player would see a par that was lower than guideline.

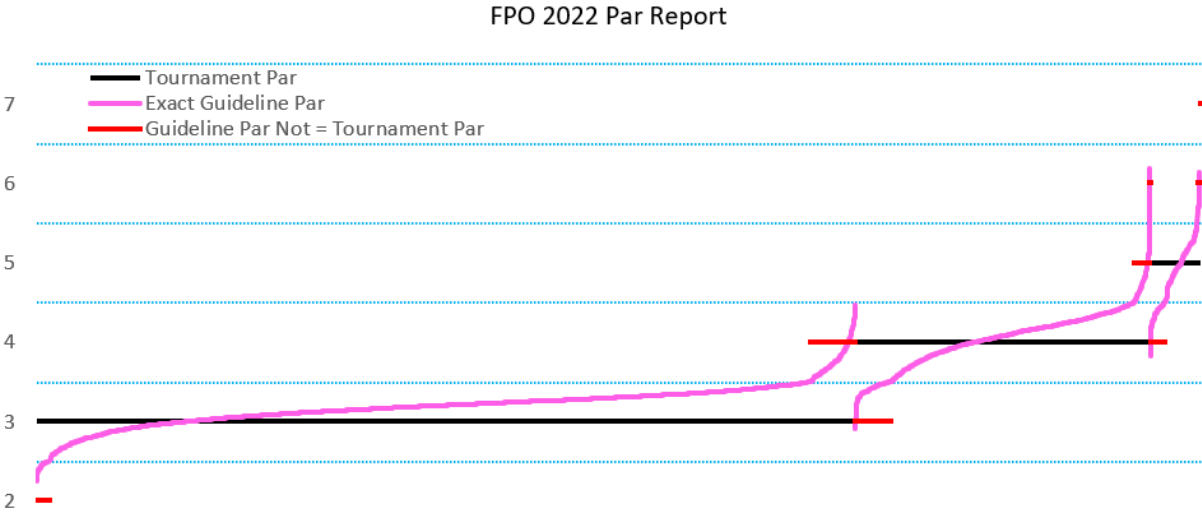
Perhaps the holes which hosted more players were part of better-run events and had pars closer to guidelines. This turns out to be the case for MPO, not so much for FPO.

- ☛ For FPO, 1.3 holes per player-round had par that was higher than guideline, and 0.8 holes per player-round had a par that was lower than guideline.
- ☛ For MPO, 2.9 holes per player-round had par that was higher than guideline, and about once in every seven *courses* an MPO player would see a par that was lower than guideline.

The charts below show where Guideline Par and Tournament Par differed. From left to right, the first group is the holes where tournament par was 3, the second group par 4, and the third group par 5.

For FPO:

- A few of the hardest and easiest holes of each tournament par scored as a lower or higher guideline par, and
- Two par 4s scored as par 6, and
- Two par 5s scored as par 7.



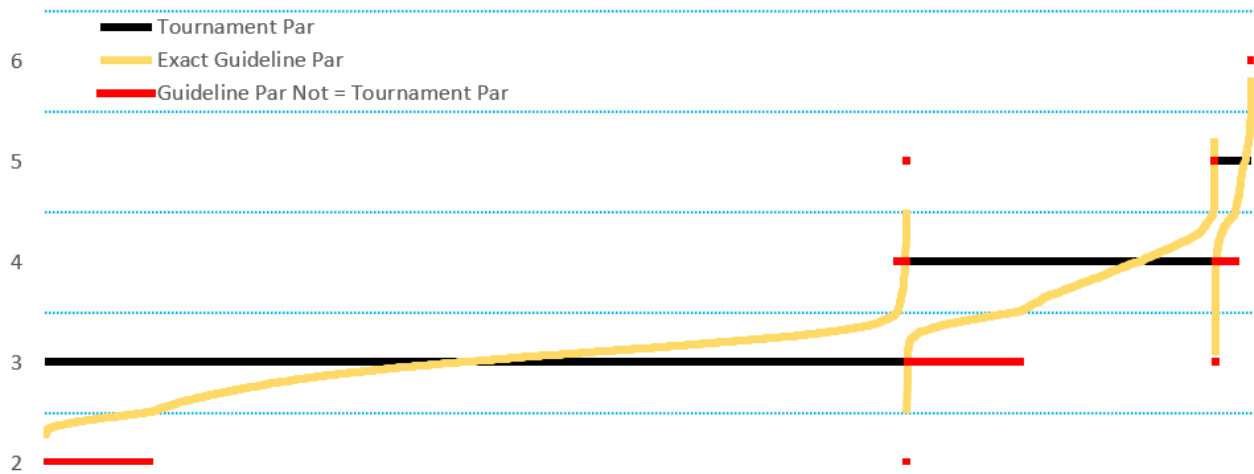
*It might be possible that FPO most of the differences seen here are just statistical fluctuations.*

The one thing we need work on for FPO is recognizing that on many of the longer holes, guideline par for FPO is higher than for MPO.

For MPO:

- ¶ Several of the easiest par 3s would register as par 2 per the guidelines,
- ¶ A very few of the par 3s scored as par 4s,
- ¶ One par 3 scored as a par 5,
- ¶ One par 4 scored as a par 2,
- ¶ Several par 4s scored as par 3,
- ¶ One par 4 scored as a par 5,
- ¶ One par 5 scored as a par 3,
- ¶ Most par 5s scored as par 4s,
- ¶ One par 5 scored as a par 6.

MPO 2022 Par Report



For MPO, we still need to work on:

- ¶ Getting rid of holes that are too easy (the par 2s), and
- ¶ Reining in our tendency to use par 4 as a way to identify which par 3 holes are on the difficult side, and
- ¶ Resisting the temptation to artificially make par 5 holes more "eagle-able".