RESOURCE

Use Conditions Without False Precision

Temperature, altitude, wind, and ground firmness all genuinely change how far a golf ball travels. The mistake is not accounting for conditions at all; the mistake is pretending to know their effect more precisely than you actually can without real-time, on-site measurement. This resource explains how to use stated conditions as an honest widening of your planning range rather than a magic corrected yardage.

Start from a real baseline carry

Every conditions adjustment is only as good as the number it starts from. Before touching a single condition input, you need a trustworthy baseline carry range for the club in question, built the way described in the carry versus total distance resource: from your own measured shots, expressed as a range rather than one number. A conditions adjustment applied to a made-up baseline is not more accurate for having been adjusted; it is just as unreliable, now with extra steps.

Scenario inputs, not measured facts

GolfVectorLab's Conditions Range Planner asks you to state, in yards, how much you believe temperature, altitude, wind, and ground firmness are affecting your distance that day. These are your own estimates, not values pulled from a weather feed or a physics model running behind the scenes. That is a deliberate choice: a confident-looking physics correction based on incomplete local information (the wind at your ball's actual flight height, the exact firmness where it will land) would be less honest than asking you to state your own best judgment plainly.

Range versus point estimate

The planner always outputs an adjusted range, never a single adjusted number. Combining four separate estimates, each with its own uncertainty, compounds that uncertainty rather than

canceling it out. An adjusted range of 145 to 158 yards is a more honest answer than a confident-sounding "152," even though the single number feels more satisfying to act on.

What is genuinely unknowable without being there

Some things a tool like this cannot know no matter how it is built: the exact wind speed and direction at the height your ball actually flies, which often differs meaningfully from ground-level wind; the precise firmness of the specific landing area you are aiming at, which can vary hole to hole on the same course; and any gust or lull that happens during your specific swing. No amount of engineering closes this gap without live, on-site sensors, which is explicitly outside what GolfVectorLab builds. Naming this limitation plainly is more useful than hiding it behind a falsely confident interface.

Practice and casual-round boundary

This tool is built for practice planning, where a wider range helps you choose a reasonable club for a range session or an informal round, and for casual-round preparation done ahead of time. It is a planning aid, not a real-time decision tool.

The tournament and Rules boundary

In-competition club selection should be based on your own read of the conditions in the moment, informed by your caddie or playing partners if applicable, following whatever Committee-established rules govern the competition, including any restrictions on distance measuring devices. This planner is explicitly not built or positioned as an in-round tool, and the Conditions Range Planner itself reminds you of this boundary when you mark a competition context.

A worked range-fan example

Suppose your baseline carry with a 7-iron is 148 to 156 yards. You are playing at moderate altitude, which you estimate adds 5 yards, into a light headwind you estimate costs 8 yards, on a cool morning you estimate costs 3 yards, and on a firm course you do not expect to change carry meaningfully (0 yards, since firmness mostly affects rollout, not carry). The total delta is 5 − 8 − 3 + 0, or −6 yards, moving your planning range to roughly 142 to 150 yards. The range fan visual shows this shift directly against your baseline band, so you can see how much the range actually moved rather than just reading a number.

What to record afterward

After a practice session or round where you used a conditions estimate, note how the actual result compared to your adjusted range. Over time this builds your own intuition for how much weight to give each factor, which is a better long-term outcome than relying on any fixed formula, since your own club-by-club sensitivity to wind and temperature is itself personal data worth collecting.

Where this connects next

Once you have a range you trust for a specific round, save it to your Round Ready card alongside your handicap and bag summary, so your pre-round preparation lives in one place rather than scattered across separate notes. The Carry and Total Distance Planner separates the roll a condition-adjusted range implies from the carry itself, the Tee Selection Planner compares tee options against that same adjusted range, and the Casual Club Selection Planner matches a specific target distance against it for practice planning.