RESOURCE

Review a Golf Round With Your Own Evidence

A golf scorecard tells you a number; it rarely tells you why. Two rounds that both finish at 88 can come from completely different games, one built on steady ball-striking with a few three-putts, another from tight iron play undone by two penalty strokes and a missed up-and-down. The point of recording round evidence is not to produce a more impressive-looking spreadsheet. It is to give yourself, honestly, the raw material to decide what is actually worth working on next, and this resource walks through how to capture that evidence without dressing it up as more precise or more conclusive than it really is.

Complete versus partial data, and why both are fine

Very few golfers track every category on every hole of every round, and this site's evidence tools are built around that reality rather than pretending otherwise. A round where you logged fairways and greens but not putting detail is a partial record for putting purposes and a complete one for fairway and green purposes. Treating a partial record as if it were complete, for example assuming a blank field means zero, is the single most common way golfers fool themselves with their own data. The Round Stats Analyzer is built specifically to keep that distinction visible: any rate without a real denominator is shown as not entered, never guessed.

Hole scores: the foundation everything else sits on

Your gross score per hole, compared against par, is the most reliable piece of evidence you can capture, because it requires no judgment calls about strike quality or cause. The Round Score Breakdown takes this raw hole-by-hole record and groups it into eagle-or-better, birdie, par, bogey, and double-or-worse buckets, so you can see the shape of a round rather than just its final total. Two rounds with the same over-par total can have very different bucket distributions, and that difference is often more informative than the total itself.

Par types: comparing like with like

Par 3s, par 4s, and par 5s ask for different skills, and averaging all 18 holes together can hide a real strength or weakness specific to one type. The Par-Type Analyzer groups your entered holes by par and reports an average relative to par for each group, along with a sample-size warning whenever a group is too small to trust. A single round typically gives you only four par 3s and four par 5s each, both too few to draw a firm conclusion from alone; feeding this tool holes from several rounds builds a more stable picture over time.

Penalties: counted, not inferred

A penalty stroke is one of the few scoring events you can identify with total certainty during a round. The Penalty Impact Analyzer counts only the penalties you explicitly log and compares their total against your strokes over par, showing what share of a rough round they actually account for. If your logged penalties exceed your over-par total, the tool flags that mismatch rather than displaying an impossible percentage, which usually means one of the entered numbers needs a second look.

Recovery attempts: your own bands, your own outcomes

Short-game recovery does not have one universal distance scheme that fits every golfer's experience. The Short-Game Recovery Analyzer lets you define your own starting-distance bands, whether that is a single band for everything inside 30 yards or a dedicated band just for greenside bunker shots, and reports the count and average strokes-to-hole-out for each one, keeping every recorded attempt, including a bad outcome, in the average rather than quietly excluding it.

Putting fields: as much or as little as you tracked

Most golfers can reliably count total putts per hole without any special equipment, so that number is the backbone of the Putting Round Review. First-putt distance and whether that putt went in are optional layers on top; leaving them blank does not stop the total putts figure or the one-putt and three-putt counts from working correctly.

Denominators and sample size: the quiet requirement behind every rate

A count without a denominator is not a rate. Eight fairways hit could be 8 of 10 or 8 of 14 depending on how many par 4s and par 5s you played, and a recovery average built from two attempts is a much shakier number than one built from twenty. Every evidence tool in this cluster insists on a real denominator before it shows a percentage, and flags a small sample rather than letting it masquerade as a stable statistic.

Why a score alone does not prove a cause

A bogey on a par 4 could come from a missed fairway, a three-putt, a penalty stroke, or simply a tough hole played solidly. None of the tools described here try to guess which one happened; they only aggregate what you explicitly entered. Resisting the pull toward a tidy causal story is part of what keeps this evidence honest: a number that says "you three-putted twice and took one penalty stroke" is more useful, and more true, than a story that says "your putting let you down today" based on a score alone.

A field checklist for a typical round

Before or during a round, a simple checklist keeps your evidence consistent: hole-by-hole gross score and par, fairway hit or missed on par 4s and 5s, green in regulation hit or missed, total putts, any penalty strokes and which hole they occurred on, and any recovery attempt with its starting distance band and strokes to hole out. You do not need every field every round; consistency in whatever subset you do track matters more than completeness in any single round.

A worked partial-round example

Suppose you play nine holes and track gross score and putts on every hole, but only note fairway results on the four par 4s you played, and no recovery attempts at all. Entered into the Round Stats Analyzer, this gives you a real fairway rate (based on four eligible holes), a real putts-per-hole figure, and no green-in-regulation or recovery rate at all, both correctly shown as not entered rather than assumed. That is a complete and honest partial record, useful on its own terms, and a fine building block for next time you play.

FIELD	WHAT IT NEEDS	WHAT IT FEEDS
Hole score and par	Every hole, no denominator needed	Round Score Breakdown, Par-Type Analyzer

FIELD	WHAT IT NEEDS	WHAT IT FEEDS
Fairways hit / eligible	Both halves of the fraction	Round Stats Analyzer
Greens hit / eligible	Both halves of the fraction	Round Stats Analyzer
Total putts	Per hole, or a round total	Round Stats Analyzer, Putting Round Review
Penalty strokes	A confirmed count, hole optional	Penalty Impact Analyzer
Recovery attempts	Your own distance bands	Short-Game Recovery Analyzer

Where this evidence leads

Once you have a few rounds of evidence built up this way, it becomes the raw material for comparing rounds, tracking a trend over time, and setting a transparent scoring target, covered in Set a Useful Golf Score Target. None of it replaces an official handicap record or a lesson from a qualified instructor; it is a private, honest supplement to both.