

FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION  
Presents a  
CHARETTE (Design Working Group) on Miniature Golf  
Course Design

Florida Building Code Chapter 11 Accessibility Code for Building Construction  
Tuesday, May 10, 2005 from 8 am to 4 pm, event moderator: Richard Browdy  
Member, Florida Building Commission



**What is a Charette design?**

A Charette is an intense effort to solve any architectural problem within a limited time. From a creative standpoint, a Charette can be divided into three portions:

**1. Listen.**

Listen to what advocates, project backers, owners, and designers have to say and work together to determine a need for the project.

**2. Envision.**

Come up with realistic creative proposals, which will be interesting and feasible.

**3. Draw FAST!**

Design sketching quickly, allows for instant communication ... a picture is worth a thousand words!

**INTRODUCTION:**

The term "Charette" initially appeared in the early part of the late 1800's. Architecture students in Paris who needed to rush their drawings to the Ecole Des Beaux-Arts placed them on a cart, which was called a Charette. Today the architectural community at large uses the term to describe any intense, on the spot design effort.

The Charette participants (the design teams) will be comprised of three design professional teams representing both advocacy groups and the miniature golf industry currently involved in recreational design projects.

**DESIGN PROBLEM:**

To provide creative design solutions for a competitive state of the art accessible miniature golf course. The criteria for the design problem will include a specific site of limited size for an 18 or 36 hole course.

## **GOAL OF THE CHARETTE:**

To provide maximum accessibility to as many holes as possible while maintaining functionality for the operator as well as the player's.  
To make recommendations to the Commission for further discussion in designing acceptable criteria and solutions.

## **PURPOSE AND INTENT OF THE CHARETTE:**

The Charette's purpose is to recommend acceptable solutions in the design of miniature golf courses that meet both Federal guidelines and Florida specific requirements for vertical accessibility to all levels.  
The intent of the Charette is to clarify acceptable design for both the design of miniature golf courses in Florida for design professionals, the Technical Advisory Committee on Accessibility (The TAC), the Accessibility Advisory Council (The Council) and the Florida Building Commission (The Commission).

## **CHARETTE RULES:**

The moderator will control the events of the Charette:  
The purpose of the charettte is completing the tasks in a structured time frame of six hours, the audience for the event will be non-interactive and comments will not be heard at the Charette. Following this exercise at a regular Commission meeting the Accessibility TAC, the Council and others will have the opportunity for discussion and comment on the findings of the Charette prior to TAC report submitted to the Commission, comments will be included as an addenda to the Charette report.

## **ISSUES AND DESIGN CRITERIA:**

The Design Working Teams will address proposed elements and issues relating to future accessible miniature golf projects. Design efforts will concentrate on current laws and Codes (Federal and State) as they relate to the outside recreational industry. The Charette participants (the design team) will study and review the Federal Access Board's Guidelines (The Board) for Miniature Golf facilities.

- Federal Access Board's Guidelines as they pertain to Miniature Golf course design and construction, Sections 239 and 1007.3 (see below)

### **239 Miniature Golf Facilities**

**239.1 General.** Miniature golf *facilities* shall comply with 239.

**239.2 Minimum Number.** At least 50 percent of holes on miniature golf courses shall comply with 1007.3.

**Advisory 239.2 Minimum Number.** Where possible, providing access to all holes on a miniature golf course is recommended. If a course is designed with the minimum 50 percent accessible holes, designers or operators are encouraged to select holes, which provide for an equivalent experience to the maximum extent possible.

**239.3 Miniature Golf Course Configuration.** Miniature golf courses shall be configured so that the holes complying with 1007.3 are consecutive. Miniature golf courses shall provide an *accessible* route from the last hole complying with 1007.3 to the course *entrance* or exit without requiring travel through any other holes on the course.

**EXCEPTION:** One break in the sequence of consecutive holes shall be permitted provided that the last hole on the miniature golf course is the last hole in the sequence.

**Advisory 239.3 Miniature Golf Course Configurations.** Where only the minimum 50 percent of the holes are accessible, an accessible route from the last accessible hole to the course exit or entrance must not require travel back through other holes. In some cases, this may require an additional accessible route. Other options include increasing the number of accessible holes in a way that limits the distance needed to connect the last accessible hole with the course exit or entrance.

## **1007 Miniature Golf Facilities**

**1007.1 General.** Miniature golf *facilities* shall comply with 1007.

**1007.2 Accessible Routes.** *Accessible* routes serving holes on miniature golf courses shall comply with Chapter 4. *Accessible* routes located on playing surfaces of miniature golf holes shall be permitted to use the exceptions in 1007.2.

- EXCEPTIONS:**
1. Playing surfaces shall not be required to comply with 302.2.
  2. Where *accessible* routes intersect playing surfaces of holes, a 1-inch (25 mm) maximum curb shall be permitted for a width of 32 inches (815 mm) minimum.
  3. A slope not steeper than 1:4 for a 4-inch (100 mm) maximum rise shall be permitted.
  4. *Ramp* landing slopes specified by 405.7.1 shall be permitted to be 1:20 maximum.
  5. *Ramp* landing length specified by 405.7.3 shall be permitted to be 48 inches (1220 mm) long minimum.
  6. *Ramp* landing size specified by 405.7.4 shall be permitted to be 48 inches (1220 mm) minimum by 60 inches (1525 mm) minimum.
  7. Handrails shall not be required on holes. Where handrails are provided on holes, the handrails shall not be required to comply with 505.

**1007.3 Miniature Golf Holes.** Miniature golf holes shall comply with 1007.3.

**Advisory 1007.3.2 Golf Club Reach Range Area.** The golf club reach range applies to all holes required to be accessible. This includes accessible routes provided adjacent to or, where provided, on the playing surface of the hole.

- State requirements as they pertain to the requirement to provide vertical accessibility to all levels (Florida State Statute 553.509)

**Florida’s law on Vertical accessibility.—**

Nothing in sections [553.501](#)-553.513 or the guidelines shall be construed to relieve the owner of any building, structure, or facility governed by those sections from the duty to provide vertical accessibility to all levels above and below the occupiable grade level, regardless of whether the guidelines require an elevator to be installed in such building, structure, or facility, except for:

Elevator pits, elevator penthouses, mechanical rooms, piping or equipment catwalks, and automobile lubrication and maintenance pits and platforms;

Unoccupiable spaces, such as rooms, enclosed spaces, and storage spaces that are not designed for human occupancy, for public accommodations, or for work areas; and

Occupiable spaces and rooms that are not open to the public and that house no more than five persons, including, but not limited to, equipment control rooms and projection booths.

However, buildings, structures, and facilities must, as a minimum, comply with the requirements in the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

**History.**--s. 1, ch. 93-183; s. 6, ch. 97-76.