BALL COLLECTION SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001]

The present invention relates to a ball collection system.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0002]

As a method of collecting balls scattered on the ground of a golf practice field, there is a method in which an operator pushes a ball collection machine to move it on the ground to pick up and collect the balls with the ball collection machine (see Patent Literature 1, for example).

[0003]

Related Art Document(s)

Patent Literature(s)

Patent Literature 1: JP2012-034884A

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004]

In the above conventional ball collection method, the operator moves on the ground. Thus, the balls are collected while golf practice is not performed. The conventional ball collection method therefore has a problem of low ball collection efficiency.

[0005]

Embodiments of the present invention provide a ball collection system capable of safely and efficiently collecting balls on a ground.

[0006]

According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a ball collection system including: a ball collection machine which has a driving device and is capable of picking up

and storing a ball on a top surface of a ground while moving on the top surface of the ground; a collection groove which extends in the top surface of the ground; and a collector which causes the ball collection machine to move, and drops the balls discharged from the ball collection machine into the collection groove. The collector includes a controller that controls operation of the ball collection machine. By discharging the balls from the ball collection machine, the balls are dropped into the collection groove directly or by way of the ground.

[0007]

Note that examples of the configuration of the controller include a configuration to control the movement of the ball collection machine based on positional information from a GPS device, a millimeter-wave radar, or the like, and a configuration to control the movement of the ball collection machine based on a signal transmitted from a transmitter for remote operation.

[0008]

In embodiments of the present invention, only the ball collection machine is caused to move on the ground to store balls in the balls collection machine and the balls are dropped from the ball collection machine into the collection groove in the ground. In this way, the balls on the ground can be safely and efficiently collected.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009]

Fig. 1 is a side view showing a ball collection system according to a first embodiment as an example of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan view showing the ball collection system according to the first embodiment as an example of the present