CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A standalone miniature golf structure, comprising:

a putting surface including a front end and a rear end;

one or more sensors configured to detect lateral positions at which balls cross the rear end;

a digital display screen positioned above the one or more sensors and adjacent to the rear end to align vertically with the rear end of the putting surface, wherein the digital display screen is configured to display and change, in real-time, one or more putting targets;

memory to store instructions for a plurality of miniature golf games; and

one or more processors that, for each shot of the plurality of miniature golf games, are configured to:

send command signals to the digital display screen to display the one or more putting targets based on the instructions stored in the memory;

identify, via the one or more sensors, a lateral position at which a golf ball crosses the rear end of the putting surface;

determine whether the lateral position of the golf ball aligns vertically with any of the one or more putting targets; and

generate a score for the shot based on the lateral position of the golf ball relative to the one or more putting targets.

2. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 1, wherein the instructions stored by the memory enable any of the plurality of miniature golf games to be played by a range of number of players and for a plurality of gameplays.

3. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 2, wherein the plurality of gameplays includes an individual gameplay and a team gameplay.

4. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 1, further comprising a check-in station with a user interface configured to receive a user selection of one or more of the miniature golf games, a gameplay, and a number of players.

5. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to change the one or more putting targets for each shot of the plurality of miniature golf games.

6. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to randomly select a lateral position, a width, and a point value of each of the one or more putting targets for each shot of the plurality of miniature golf games.

7. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to present one or more hazards with the one or more putting targets for one or more shots of the plurality of miniature golf games.

8. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 1, further comprising a tee surface adjacent to the front end of the putting surface and a ball-dispensing assembly configured to return the golf ball to the tee surface for a subsequent shot.

9. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 8, further comprising a ball-return surface extending between the one or more sensors and the ball-dispensing assembly to direct the golf ball that has been putted by a player to the ball-dispensing assembly.

10. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 9, wherein the one or more processors are configured to instruct the ball-dispensing assembly to release another golf ball onto the tee surface at a predetermined time after the one or more sensors detect that the golf ball has rolled onto the ball-return surface.

11. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 1, wherein the one or more sensors include a plurality of fork sensors, wherein each of the plurality of fork sensors is configured to monitor the golf ball traversing a corresponding predefined lateral position along the rear end of the putting surface.

12. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 1, wherein the one or more sensors include a lidar sensor configured to detect the lateral position at which the golf ball crosses the rear end of the putting surface.

13. A standalone miniature golf structure, comprising:

a putting surface including a front end and a rear end;

a plurality of ball-detection lanes that are adjacent and extend perpendicular to the rear end of the putting surface;

one or more sensors configured to detect into which of the plurality of ball-detection lanes that golf balls are shot;

a digital display screen positioned adjacent to and above the rear end to align vertically with the plurality of ball-detection lanes, wherein the digital display screen is configured to display and change, in real-time, one or more putting targets;

memory to store instructions for a plurality of miniature golf games; and

one or more processors that, for each shot of the plurality of miniature golf games, are configured to:

send command signals to the digital display screen to display the one or more putting targets based on the instructions stored in the memory;

identify, via the one or more sensors, a putted lane of the plurality of ball-detection lanes into which a golf ball has been shot;

determine whether the putted lane aligns vertically with any of the one or more putting targets; and

generate a score for the shot based on a position of the putted lane relative to the one or more putting targets.

14. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 13, wherein the instructions stored by the memory enable any of the plurality of miniature golf games to be played by a range of number of players and for a plurality of gameplays.

15. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 13, wherein the one or more processors are configured to change the one or more putting targets for each shot of the plurality of miniature golf games.

16. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 13, wherein the one or more processors are configured to randomly select a lateral position, a width, and a point value of each of the one or more putting targets for each shot of the plurality of miniature golf games.

17. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 13, wherein the one or more processors are configured to present one or more hazards with the one or more putting targets for one or more shots of the plurality of miniature golf games.

18. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 13, wherein the digital display screen is configured to display a plurality of digital lanes each of which aligns vertically with a respective one of the plurality of ball-detection lanes to facilitate a player in putting the golf ball in a direction toward the one or more putting targets.

19. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 13, further comprising a tee surface adjacent to the front end of the putting surface and a ball-dispensing assembly configured to return the golf ball to the tee surface for a subsequent shot.

20. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 19, further comprising a ball-return surface extending between the one or more sensors and the ball-dispensing assembly to direct the golf ball that has been putted by a player to the ball-dispensing assembly.

21. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 20, wherein the one or more processors are configured to instruct the ball-dispensing assembly to release another golf ball onto the tee surface at a predefined duration after the one or more sensors detect the golf ball entering one of the plurality of ball-detection lanes.

22. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 13, wherein the one or more sensors include a plurality of fork sensors, wherein each of the plurality of fork sensors is configured to monitor a corresponding one of the plurality of ball-detection lanes for the golf ball.

23. The standalone miniature golf structure of claim 13, wherein the one or more sensors include a lidar sensor configured to monitor each of the plurality of ball-detection lanes.