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Lower Your Golf Score – Simplify Your Putting

By Jeff O'Brien

Putting is such an important part of your golf score. It is the part of your golf game that itself is a game. In order to become a good golfer... you have to be able to putt well.

Think of your putter as just another club in your bag for a moment. In a normal round of 18 golf holes, let's say you use this club we call the putter just twice per hole. That's 36 times you and your putter will have the opportunity to affect your golf score! Are you going to hit your driver 36 times? Or your 7 iron 36 times? Not hardly.

Yet with such overwhelming statistics, most mid to higher handicap golfers really don't spend enough time working on their putting. In reality, it is the putter that can most rapidly improve your game. Just imagine, by improving your putting you could easily save yourself 10 strokes per round by consistently making those 4 to 6 foot putts and rarely three putting. That's going from a golf score of 100 to 90 or 90 to 80! That's very significant.

So with renewed focus and enthusiasm for improving our putting, let's take a look at a few tips we can use to do so.

Position the ball slightly forward (toward your front foot) in your stance. You want your eyes just slightly behind the ball. >From this position you will be able to get a good sight line between your ball the intermediate target in your putting line.

The grip is the 'feel' you have for the putt and these days there are numerous variations of putting grips. The important concept here is that you realize that your grip (hands) should not be used to take away or manipulate the putter through the stroke. The putting stroke originates and is implanted through a pendulum type motion provided by the shoulders. Not the hands. Find a grip that is comfortable for you and one that you can keep inactive during the putt.

Once you commit to your putting line, pick out a target on that line that is just ahead of your ball. Now visualize an imaginary line that runs from your target line just ahead of your ball back through the ball and right through the center of your putter. You want your putter face to be absolutely square to your

Lower Your Golf Score – Simplify Your Putting

line. Once you've done this don't adjust your grip, body position or anything, else you risk losing your perspective.

The putting stroke like all your golf swings is one of rhythm. It is accomplished through a pendulum motion of the shoulders. The key is to minimize all other body movement and don't follow the putter through the stroke with your head. Any body or head movement will greatly increase the possibility that your putter face will move off of square to your line.

And finally, always work to achieve the same stroke distance and tempo through the golf ball as you had going away from the golf ball. Your putting stroke should be of equal length both back and through.

Consistently allocating a portion of your practice time to your putting stroke is without doubt the easiest and quickest way to start shaving strokes off your golf score. If you only eliminate but one putt for every

other hole, you'll immediately take 9 strokes off your score... not a bad return from your putter at all.

Jeff O'Brien offers instruction and insight on golf that will get your golf swing and golf game on track or off to a good start by establishing a good foundation which you will build your golf swing and game. Please visit (

<http://www.golf-ology.com>

) for more of Jeff's golf tips, articles and lessons.

Lower Your Score With Proper Golf Swing

By Edward Charkow

If you want to lower your score, learning the proper golf swing for you is the best route to go. Every person is unique, we are all different sizes, heights, weights, we have different tolerances to the sun, wind, temperature, and we even have arms and legs that are different lengths. Why on earth would we think that one golf swing would suit us all?

The fact of the matter is that there is no one size fits all golf swing. The best golf swing for you is something that will be an evolutionary process. The best golf swing for your game today may also not be your best swing a year or two from now. Even players on the PGA tour struggle with this as we have seen quite often from one game to the next. That being said, hiring a PGA pro to help your game is a great idea.

First of all, they are trained to know what to look for and help you find the best swing for you. Second, they are probably much better than the guy in the golf cart behind you whose score is really about the same as yours. Trust me, golfers love to offer advice, even if that advice is really bad. Smile, nod, they are trying to be friendly, and continue on. Then consult your pro, occasionally other golfers will offer good valid advice, most of the time this is not the case however.

Lower Your Golf Score – Simplify Your Putting

So how does the proper swing lower your golf score? Well think about it, everything in golf comes down to your swing. Every stroke you make or don't have to make is a direct result of your swing. When I was first learning to play golf, the first time I made par on a hole you would have thought I had just won the open. I was much younger, less reserved, and truly excited at the time. While I am no pro by any means at the moment, I have learned a great deal about golf (and the wrong way to go about it) in the meantime.

Knowing that your swing affects every aspect of your golf game, people spend surprisingly little time trying to improve their control of their golf swings, rather spending an exorbitant amount of time trying to improve the power. Power is good if you have control, without control all you are gaining by increasing your power is the amount of ground you must cover when searching for your ball. Power without control will not lower your score; it will raise it.

If you truly want to lower your score with your golf swing, practice the things your pro tells you religiously, spend time learning your swing, how it feels when it is right, how it feels when it is wrong, and most importantly stop going for distance and concentrate on control, it is definitely the better of the two problems to have a handle on. This alone should help you lower your golf score. Find every exercise you can to help you learn control over your swing and you will eventually improve not only in accuracy but distance as well.

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. Find more information at

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