

## Perfect Putting Practice Produces Champions

The fastest way to improve your scores and win more money is too properly focus on your putting. According to short game guru, Dave Pelz, putting accounts for up to 40% of your overall score and short putts account for the majority of that 40%.

In reviewing the 2015 PGA Tour Statistics, the #1 and #2 Money List Leaders are Jordan Spieth with 5 tournament wins and 8.7 million USD in earnings with Dustin Johnson following at # 2 with 1 win and 4.3 million USD. Is it a coincidence that Jordan Spieth also leads the PGA Tour in putting with an average of 1.686 per hole and Johnson again is #2 in putting with an average of 1.714 putts per hole.....? No, it is not coincidence.

Please ask yourself two questions:

- Since, putting accounts for 40% of your total score, am I putting forth the time and effort in my practice sessions to match or exceed this percentage?
- What exactly should I be practicing?



On a statistical basis, again according to Pelz, you only have a statistical chance to convert that putt from distances ranging from 2 feet to 10 feet. With anything outside of 10 feet the outcome becomes more a factor of luck than skill. Of course, the more your practice, the more “luck” you may have. Keeping this in mind our Pro’s at Harbour Plaza Golf Academy have created the following putting drills specifically designed to maximize your practice time to be efficient in achieving your desired results. We recommend that you do these drills in every practice session. Once you develop this routine you will be devoting 40% of your practice time to the exact areas needed to improve your score.

### **3-Foot Drill**

The conversion rate on this distance putt by the vast majority of golfers is over 95%. It is said that in order to play golf, you must be able to do two things. Firstly, be able to hit the ball off of the teeing ground where you can find it and hit it again. Secondly, be able to consistently make a 3-foot putt.

The 3-foot drill is easy. Simply take 10 balls and a straight slightly uphill putt and make all 10 in a row. If you miss one, you must start over. Once you accomplish your goal of 10 in a row, and then keep going until you miss. My personal best was 86 consecutive. Focus on getting your eyes directly over the ball and aligning the putter blade square to the intended line. Once this drill is completed then you can move on to the 2<sup>nd</sup> drill.

### **3-Foot Circle Drill**

Next take the same 10 balls and place each of them in a circle 3-foot from the hole. Again, you must make all 10 in a row to move on to the next drill. This drill will give you the feel of all combinations of uphill and downhill putts coupled with breaking putts. This drill will be difficult to master at first, but once accomplished you will find it improves all of your shots around the green.



**3 Foot Circle Drill**

### **6-Foot Circle Drill**

While your conversion percentage of 3 foot putts is over 95%, when you double the distance to 6 feet that percentage drops very quickly. The best players in the world, on average convert only 50% of this distance. It is recommended to do both the straight putt and circle drill only this time tracking the percentages of the putts you make. There should be no three putts from this distance and if you make 50% at this distance and two putt the remainder. Your conversion percentage will be 1.50 which is PGA Tour quality and can be easily accomplished with practice. By mastering this distance, you will also improve your chipping as you will have increased your effective conversion range on chip shots to a 12 foot diameter circle around the hole.



**6 Foot Circle Drill**

### **10-Foot Circle Drill**

This is exactly the same as the 6 foot drill in that you want to hit 10 putts from a straight or slightly uphill lie and record each and then complete the same with the 10 foot circle drill. PGA Tour quality is a conversion rate of 1.8. By increasing your comfort level with this putt, you can also



**10 Foot Circle Drill**

now envisage 20 foot diameter around the hole for shots up to 100 yards or difficult chip shots from around the green in which you have a statistical chance to get up and down.

### **30-Foot Ladder Drill**

There are two parts to putting that determine your success....distance and direction. Concerning longer putts, of the two components, distance is by far the most important to your success.

Try this yourself by taking a 15 foot putt and try to hit it 5 feet offline. It is statistically impossible to miss your target by this far from side to side. Next hit some putts comparing distance and you will find that it is actually quite easy to miss putts from 15 feet by more than 5 feet short or long. Distance is easy to get away from you. We have created the 30 foot ladder drill specifically to help you with your distance control.



**30 Foot Ladder Drill**

Take the 10 balls again and find a reasonably flat spot on the green and place a mark at 3 foot intervals from 3 feet all the way to 30 feet. Starting from the hole, try and hit each of the 10 balls as close as possible to each of the 3 foot marks. Then take each of the 10 balls and start from the marks and try to hole the ball. Again your goal is zero three putts and holing at least a portion of the statistically possible putts. You will again find that a conversion rate of 1.8 is really good and of PGA Tour quality. Perform this drill twice from different angles and you will immediately identify the weaknesses in your putting that you can develop an improvement plan.

To summarize, very few of us will ever be able to strike the golf ball to the level of a PGA Tour player. All of us however have the ability to putt like a pro. All it takes is to realize the importance of putting to your short game and your score. By mastering these drills, you will improve your confidence on all shots.

Happy Golfing.....

Harbour Plaza Golf Academy



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