

Harbour Plaza Golf Academy

August Academy Corner

If you have a goal to improve your golf game, **your score then** understanding and having a plan to improve your short game is, by far, the best return on your investment in practice time. We are blessed to have one of the finest short game areas in all of China and hope you can utilize it to improve your score.

The following statistics are taken from Dave Pelz and his research on scoring on the PGA Tour. These statistics are from the best players in the world but even more applicable to us everyday golfers.

% of putts holed from 3 feet	Very close to 100%
% of putts holed from 6 feet	50%
% of putts holed from 10 feet	20%
% of putts holed from outside of 10 feet	less than 5%

So the key to great scoring in golf is getting the ball into a zone where you have a reasonable statistical chance to convert that stroke into the hole in one shot.

So if you create a series of circles around on the hole and use those circles as your target based on the difficulty of your chip shot or long putt you will find yourself getting up and down with far greater frequency.

For basic chip shots, I always have a goal of getting the ball within a 3 foot radius or 6 foot diameter of the hole. By doing this, I will attain an almost 100% conversion rate.



For harder chip shots or for longer pitch shots, I will expand that target out to a 6 foot radius or 12 foot diameter from the hole and based on statistics, can reach a conversion rate of 50%.



And now for the hardest shots or from full shots with dialed in yardages by target will increase again out to a 10 foot radius and a 20 foot diameter round the hole. For shots at that distance, my conversion rate will be around 20% based on Pelz's statistics.



Now to become more consistent in getting the ball in the scoring zone, please keep in mind the following rules:

- Wherever possible try to maintain the 1/3-2/3 rule, which is try and chip the ball in the air for 1/3 of the distance to the hole and let it roll 2/3 of the distance.



- Always try and land the ball on the flattest possible spot on the green to better predict what the ball will do.



- Always keep the ball above the hole on breaking or curving shots. This way the ball is always rolling closer to the hole. Once the ball crosses the line and gets below the hole, it will continue to get further away from the hole and outside of your scoring zone.



By becoming aware of these simple %'s and rules and by tailoring your practice to improve those results, you will naturally and consistently improve your score and by doing so, also improve your confidence. Success breeds success.