

Academy Corner How to Putt Fast Greens

Every year during the Club Championship our greens will get noticeably faster and 2016 will be no different

The secret that so many good players know is that when scoring conditions are ideal, when the wind is calm, the conditions are soft and the greens are fast and smooth; you don't have to be the best ball striker, you don't have to be the most accurate off the tee or from the fairway, you're going to need to make putts.

When healthy greens get faster it is due to reduced friction between the ball and the putting surface which means the ball is going to "Roll Out"

The tips below will help you to manage the green speeds and reduce the "freak out factor" when facing greens speeds much faster than you are accustomed.

- 1.) Get comfortable with the speed: When you know the putts are going to roll true, you should try to make more putts due to the smoothness and the true roll of the ball. Be confident that you can make putts and you will. Avoiding three putts is still very important, but feel like you have a chance to make every putt.



- 2.) Play a little more break: Spend time trying different putting lines on practice greens and get a sense of how much break you're going to have to play on each putt. The better players may take a number of putts at the same hole but trying a variety of routes to get there. And remember, it's not just making the putt, but making sure you don't leave yourself too tough a second putt if you don't make it.



Practice putt from different points
(Feel green slope)

- 3.) Always keep the ball on the high side of the hole.
Always.....

Once the ball has fallen below the hole it will roll out further from the hole with every revolution of the ball. The ball will break more, so the center of the hole is actually much higher than it is on slower greens.



Practice putt from different points
(Feel green slope)

- 4.) Hit Downhill Putts with the Toe of the Putter

If you're facing a quick downhill putt that you fear may run six feet past the hole, try to deaden the ball at impact by hitting it with the toe of the putter. You'll find that this will help you control the golf ball on those testy downhill putts.

- 5.) Maintain Light Grip Pressure

To help increase your touch and feel with the putter, don't grip the handle so tight that you're "white knuckling" it. A light grip will help increase your feel and pace when you're trying to keep putts on line.



Preparation Posture:
keep your posture, relax your arm
(Maintain Light Grip Pressure)

- 6.) Keep Your Posture During the Putt

The easiest way to block a putt (causing a push to the right) is to come up and out of your posture during the putting stroke. To maintain your posture, make sure to keep the back of your neck still. This sensation will ensure your head stays down throughout the entire putting stroke.



Keep Your Posture During the Putt:
keep the back of your neck
(Do not come up and out of your
posture during putt)

- 7.) Consider Using a Lighter Putter

On fast greens, the smoother and more consistent stroke you can produce will help you become a more consistent putter. Using a lighter putter will help you produce this stroke on a consistent basis.