

Improve your Drive!!!!

Picture this, you are on the first tee, the tee is packed with golfers all trying to get out and play. However it's your turn to play. You stand there debating with yourself, shall I hit the driver or take an iron for safety? "I know I can hit my iron but it is not going to go very far." You hit the iron and wished you could have stood there confident with that dreaded driver.

Well now you can.....

1. Change your perception

Iron shots: to hit crisp iron shots the club needs to be descending down onto the ball and this is why we take a divot.

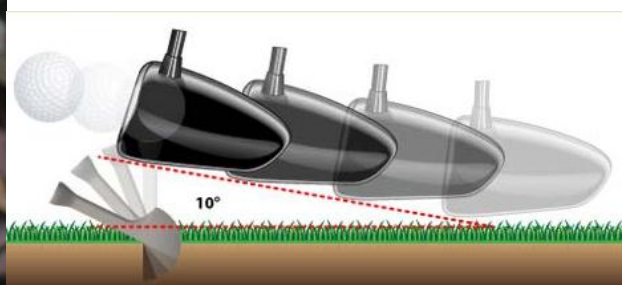


(Iron: downward strike)

Driver shots: if we had the same downward motion with a driver we would hit underneath the ball teed up and create a sky mark in the crown of the driver (see below). To hit a driver you must hit the ball with an ascending/ upward strike thus sweeping the ball from the tee.



(Sky mark)



(Driver upward strike)

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2. Tee height.

I see far too often people teeing the golf ball too low for their driver. These modern drivers with 460cc heads need the ball to be teed up high. As a rule of thumb I would always get someone to tee the ball up so that half or nearer two thirds of the ball is above the crown of the driver. (See below)



(Good tee height)

3. Golf Ball Position.

Again I see too many players with the ball placed too far back in the stance, the further back in the stance the more descending blow you get, the further forward in the stance the more ascending blow you create. To help with the sweeping motion the ball position in relation to your feet will need to be changed. The ball will move nearer your lead foot, if you're right handed the ball position must be inside your left heel and vice versa if you're left handed.



(Right handed)

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4. Body position

To create that desired sweeping action we must correctly position our body more importantly our spine angle at address. If we study Tiger Woods below, we can see that his spine angle is tilted slightly away from the target at address. At first I know this position will feel very strange but once you have hit a few shots you will start to feel the difference. An easy way to get into this position is to look at the back of the golf ball where you are about to make contact.



(Tiger Woods Driver Address)

5. Routine

It is important to think of a routine when addressing the ball.

Right Handed (reverse for left hander)

- ~ Grip the club in your left hand only and place club behind the ball.
- ~ Place feet together with right foot in line with the ball.
- ~ Take a sideways step with your right foot.
- ~ Look at the back of the ball where you are making contact to help tilt your spine.
- ~ Place your right hand on the club.
- ~ Smooth swing.

Get a basket of balls from the clubhouse and head to range for some practice.

Happy Golfing

Craig Lockwood