



Golf tips from your PGA Head Golf Professional-Chad Perkins

Here's Today's Tip... How to handle long approach shots.

For most amateur golfers blasting 300 yard drives down the middle of the fairway on a consistent basis just isn't realistic. This means that on mid to long par 4's you will often be faced with approach shots that are 175 yards or more.



Many golfers I know struggle with these long approach shots causing them to shoot higher scores than they should. If you don't want to add unnecessary strokes to your scorecard keep these tips in mind when you are faced with a long approach shot.

Don't over swing. One of the easiest ways to get into trouble on a long approach shot is to over swing. Keep your swing under control and focus on making solid contact instead of trying to muscle the ball to the hole.

Choose the right club. Most golfers judge the distance their clubs go based upon a perfectly struck shot. But how often do you hit your mid to long irons perfectly? Instead of trying to flush a 6 iron you are probably better clubbing up to a 5 iron, as an example.

Take double bogey out of the equation. If you're faced with a long approach shot the last thing you want to do is get greedy and end up with a double bogey (or worse). When lining up your shot play to the middle of the green and make sure that even if you come up short you aren't going to wind up in a hazard like a bunker or a lake.

Hit a hybrid. Hybrid clubs are much easier to hit than long irons. If you don't have a hybrid in your bag it might be time to stop into the golf shop and take one out for a demo. You'll be surprised by how much easier they can make those long approach shots.

To Your Game,
Chad Perkins, PGA



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Here's Today's Tip... How to improve your putting at home.

Sometimes making it out to the driving range doesn't fit into your day, but that doesn't mean you can't work on improving your game! You can work on your putting from the comfort of your own home using these two simple and effective drills.

Book gate drill: Getting your putter to come through the impact zone on the right path every single time is one of the keys to great putting. You can hone this skill by laying 2 books down on the floor and creating a "gate" for your putter head to swing through. Place a ball between the books and practice stroking it without making contact with either them.

Quarter stack drill: Consistently putting a solid roll on the ball is another key to successful putting. One of the best ways to practice getting a great roll on the ball is with the "quarter stack" drill. Here's how it works - stack up 3 quarters on the ground and then address them with your putter as if they were a ball. Make a stroke through the quarters attempting to only move the top 2 and leave the bottom 1 completely untouched and in place. If you are able to duplicate this stroke with your ball you will generate a great end-over-end roll that will track on your target line.

If you spend just 10-15 minutes a day practicing these two drills at home or at your office you will be surprised at just how rapidly your putting will improve when you're on the course.

For further assistance please feel free to contact me for private instruction.

To The Nice Roll,
Chad Perkins, PGA



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Here's Today's Tip... How To Tee Up Your Driver.

Golf is hard. That's why I'm always on the lookout for simple tips that can help me lower my scores without radical changes to my swing. Today's tip about how to tee up your driver is exactly that.

Believe it or not making a few small changes to how you tee up your drives can have a big impact on how far and straight you hit the ball. Next time you're stepping onto the tee box with your driver in hand follow these two tips to ensure you are setting yourself up for success.

Tee the ball up to it's equator.

I found this by far the best way to consistently tee your ball up at the right height. Just set your driver down on the turf and push your tee in until half of the ball is above the head of your driver and half of it is below. If the ball was the earth, the northern hemisphere would be above the club face and the southern hemisphere would be below it.

Line it up with your front foot.

Unlike most of the other clubs in your bag, your driver is actually designed to be hit on the up-swing. The problem most golfers have is that they tee up the ball in the middle of their stance. This puts the ball at the lowest of your swing arc and makes it extremely difficult to hit on the up-swing. To solve this problem just move your ball up in your stance so it's lined up with the inside of your front foot. This will make it much easier for you to hit your driver on the up-swing without making any changes to your swing at all.

Start hitting the ball farther and straighter off the tee by keeping these two quick tee box tips in mind next time you're out on the course!

To The Long Ball,

Chad Perkins, PGA



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Here's Today's Tip... How to use a tee on a Par 3.

What goes through your mind when you are stepping onto a Par 3 tee box? Are you shooting at the pin hoping to make a deuce, or are you just trying to squeak out of there without blowing up and making a triple bogey? Let's face it - Par 3's can be tricky holes. Because of their short length many golfers underestimate them, but unlike Par 4's or Par 5's you don't get as many shots to recover so hitting a great tee shot is essential.

Next time you step onto a Par 3 tee box remember these simple tips...

Tee it up. Even though you might be using a short iron it's still a good idea to place your ball on a tee. Jack Nicklaus put his ball on a tee whenever the rules allowed, and I think that's a great strategy. Teeing up the ball on Par 3's will help you gain consistency and also prevent you from chunking it by allowing you to make more of a sweeping swing.

Find the right height. To tee your ball up properly on a Par 3 first find a flat spot on the tee box, and then push your tee into the ground to the appropriate height. For long irons (2, 3, 4, or 5) you'll want to leave about 1/4 inch of the tee above the turf, and for shorter irons (6, 7, 8, 9, PW) you'll only want to leave about an 1/8 inch of the tee above the turf.



Don't be a sucker. Once your ball is properly teed up take a moment to survey the green and any hazards around it. Par 3's are designed to punish players who shoot for sucker pins, so it's always smart to look for a safer play. If there's water left and the flag is in the middle of the green aim at a spot halfway between the flag and the right edge of the green. If your shot ends up on line it will still be in great shape, but if you miss left or right you'll still have a chance of saving your par.

A great tee shot on a Par 3 can be one of the most rewarding shots in the game, so don't be afraid to step up and make a confident swing once you've got yourself setup properly. Just don't forget who gave you these great tips when you make your next hole in one...I'll have my drink order ready!

Hopefully this article helps,

Chad Perkins, PGA