

Struggling with the Driver?

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First place you may want to check is your set up!

If you generally hit your irons well, but suddenly develop a nasty slice or pull with your driver the key may lie in your address position. You may know to move the ball position forward in

your stance (inside the left foot) and to tee the ball so that half the ball is above the top of the club, but that is where the adjustments end for most amateurs.

The Problem:

Without a concentrated effort, most golfers twist their upper body to look at the ball the same way they do with their irons. With a forward ball position this opens the shoulders and often puts more weight on the front foot. Without a lot of compensations, open shoulders at address often lead to short, steep backswings that are outside the target line. Since your arms, hands and club will generally follow your shoulder path, this sets you up to cut across the ball from the outside on the downswing. Thus the big slice or the big pull (if you release the club).

Here's the fix:

Check out your set up position in a mirror or sliding glass door if you can. Try to make sure your weight is even or I prefer slightly more weight loaded up on your right side. You may feel like you've tilted your spine away from the target and your right shoulder should be lower at address (your right hand is on the club lower, right?). Looking at the back of the ball is also helpful. Another simple check without a mirror is to make sure your right forearm is lower than your left--this is a key indicator for you of what your shoulders are doing.

With the proper set up you are ready to grip it and rip it with your driver!



Tee Times Rule of the Month

"Don't lose when you hole it out"

All of us love the feeling of hitting a great shot, whether it is a chip, pitch, full swing or the elusive hole in one. If you happen to have any of these situations occur the next time you hit the links make sure that you do not retrieve your golf ball until it is holed under the rules of golf. The following definition and rule will make sure you "Don't lose when you hole it out".

Definition: Ball Holed

A ball is "holed" when it is at rest within the circumference of the hole and all of it is below the level of the lip of the hole.

Rule 17-4: Ball Resting Against Flagstick

When a player's ball rests against the flagstick in the hole and the ball is not holed, the player or another person authorized by him may move or remove the flagstick, and if the ball falls into the hole, the player is deemed to have holed out with his last stroke; otherwise, the ball, if moved, must be placed on the lip of the hole, without penalty.

