

Play It Like A Putt

When greens become firm and fast short siding yourself can present real problems. Short sided refers to a shot that misses the green on the same side the pin is on. For example, if the pin is tucked to left you will have missed the green to left. You are now left with a chip that at best will end up 20 or more feet from the hole.

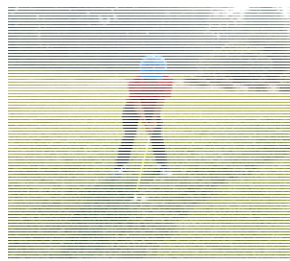
So what are your options to get the shot close? Too often I see a player take out there putter. The problem with this is that a putter has very limited loft so the ball gets driven down into the rough. It is very difficult to judge how hard to hit the ball. My recommendation is to take out a hybrid and “Play It Like A Putt”.

Most hybrids have anywhere between 18 to 26 degrees of loft. That is just enough to help elevate the ball on top of the blades of grass after contact. This approach is essentially a putt with a more lofted club.

In the pictures below, you can see that Taighan has missed the 3rd green at Inglewood Golf Club to the left. The pin is tucked in the back left corner. He is now left with a shot that has limited green to work with and a slope that is running away from him. There is no real way to chip it close. He has opted to go with his 4 hybrid.



In his setup you can see that he has taken the same width of stance that he uses for putting. The ball is placed in the middle of his stance and his hands are ahead of the ball. This ensures that he will hit slightly down on the ball.



When making the stroke you can see that Tiaghan’s lower body has remained still. He has held the finish and kept the club head low to the ground. The butt of the club points towards his belt buckle which indicates he has not flipped his wrists. This looks very similar to how he finishes his putting stroke.



Do note that this shot requires a decent amount of practice since the ball comes off the face of a hybrid much faster than a putter.

For help with learning how to “Play It Like A Putt” or any other area of your game please visit www.brianflugstad.com to book your next lesson!