

The Old Dog

We used to have a saying for a pitch shot that landed very softly, “that ball sat down like a butterfly with sore feet”. Recently, I heard David Feherty say “that ball sat down like an old dog next to the fire”. Where he comes up with this stuff is beyond me, but he is entertaining to say the least.

The shot you need to hit is all predicated upon the lie. If your ball rests on a firm, tight lie then you should flight the ball low with spin. If the ball is sitting down in the rough, you should flight the ball high since you will not be able to put much spin on it.

With today’s technology (i.e. Trackman), we can actually quantify the short game. It all comes down to friction. With a tight lie you are able to put the club face in direct contact with the ball resulting in spin. In the rough, the longer grass voids the contact with the club face and the ball. The result is less friction or spin.

So how do you play a chip shot from the fairway versus the rough? The answer is in set-up...

Fairway

1. Place the ball back in the center of the stance
2. 70% of your weight should be placed on the front leg
3. The handle should be even with the ball
4. Feet and club face should be relatively square



Rough

1. Place the ball slightly in front of center
2. Weight should be more 50/50
3. The handle should be in front of the ball
4. Feet should be aimed left with the club face open (aimed at the target)



Once you have the set-up down you need to focus on swinging parallel to your toe line. Off the tight lie, the club face will slide under the resulting in it climbing up the face which produces spin. You will want to keep your hands and arms relaxed. In the rough, the hands forward will disengage the bounce and help the leading edge slice through the grass while the open face will help elevate the ball. Here you will need to tighten your grip to make sure you get thru the rough.

For help with learning how to get the ball to sit down like “The Old Dog” next to the fire or any other part of your game please visit www.brianflugstad.com to book your next lesson!