

# When Things Get Rough

Now that the weather is getting warmer and days are longer, so is the rough. Winter Rules have come to an end. You are no longer allowed to give ourselves the perfect lie and must now play the ball down. You will now be faced with the question of what do “When Things Get Rough”.

When you hit a ball into the rough you will most likely be faced with two lies. One where the ball has come to rest sitting up on top of the grass and one where it is nestled down. These lies require different approaches.

When the ball is sitting up on top of the grass you shouldn't do much different from you have a good lie in the fairway. You want to maintain a one piece takeaway, keeping the hands quiet and focusing on making a big shoulder turn. This will help produce a shallow takeaway with maximum width. On the downswing you want to take your normal approach. There is no real need to make any changes.

If the ball is sitting down in the rough you need to make some significant adjustments. Last month's PGA Championship was a prime example of this. You don't have to be a beast like Brooks Koepka to execute this his shot. Here are the changes to make “When Things Get Rough”.

1. **Select the right club.**  
-The ball will come out with less height and spin so pick a club that will land shorter than normal and roll out more.
2. **Tighten the grip pressure at address.**  
-This will help to ensure the grass doesn't grab the hosel and close the club face.
3. **Hinge the wrists up early in the backswing (A).**  
-This creates a steeper backswing assisting in an increased attack angle down into the ball.
4. **Extend the arms thru impact (B).**  
-By extending the arms the club face will work down and throw the ball allowing the leading edge of the club face to cut the grass.  
-Most players tend to get alligator arms as soon as the club head comes into contact with the rough. This causes the leading edge of the club face to bounce up and hit the middle of the ball (C).



A

B

C

For help with “When Things Get Rough” or any other area of your game please visit [www.brianflugstad.com](http://www.brianflugstad.com) to book your next lesson!

