



By Bill Scott, PGA

“The Greenside Bunker 911”

Hitting greenside bunker shots in a lot of ways are much easier than hitting other little shots around the green. This is the only shot in golf that you can aim to miss the ball and have success. Use the following guidelines to become more consistent out of the bunkers.

The Set-up

Grip: Not necessary to adjust your grip

Aim/Alignment: Align your body slightly open to the target line and open the club face to point to the target

Posture: Bend your knees and stick your bottom out and adjust your weight so that it is predominantly on your forward (target side) foot

Ball position: Move the ball approximately 2-3 inches forward of the center of your stance

To control your distance:

Remember that hitting a greenside bunker shot requires that you hit the sand before and under the golf ball. Remember that hitting the sand first provides a pillow between the club face and the ball allowing your shots to land softly and safely on the putting green surface. Hitting the sand first will require that you swing the club a little faster than you do when hitting a greenside pitch shot. Use the following drills to help you get the ball out and onto the surface.

Drill #1

Draw a box in the sand about the size and shape of a \$1 bill. Practice taking all of the sand out of this box (about ½” to 1” deep) consistently. Imagine that the ball is directly in the middle of the box.

Drill #2

Once you have gotten more consistent at taking the sand out of this box start directing the sand that comes out of the box towards the flagstick. Remember, the sand will go in the direction that the club face is pointing when you hit the sand. So if the sand is going left make certain your club face is open more at setup.

Note: When you are doing these drills make sure that the sand you are hitting is getting onto the putting green surface. Getting the sand onto the green makes certain you are swinging hard enough to the ball out of the bunker and onto the putting green.