



***By Bill Scott, PGA Director of Instruction
Don Law Golf Academy @Osprey Point GC
“Use a Gate to Practice Putting”***

You have worked really hard to hit the ball into the fairway and onto the green. Now comes the part of the game that seems to be so simple....the art of putting. Easier said than done – right?

There are many important factors that make an individual become a good putter. Today I want to focus on getting the ball rolling on the correct line.

What goes into picking the amount of break or line of putt?

Speed of the green (fast or slow);

Slope of the green (left or right curve, uphill or downhill);

Wet or dry greens (what has the weather been like recently);

The golfer - how aggressive of a putter are you? Remember that if you want to cozy the ball up within 6 inches of the hole you will need to play more break. On the other hand, if you like to roll the ball 3 feet past the hole you will need to play less break. **THIS IS IMPORTANT** in determining your line.

Once you have determined and considered each of the above factors follow these simple guidelines for a greater learning experience on the putting green.

THE PUTTING GATE DRILL

1. On the practice putting green pick a putt of up to 25 feet with some slope
2. Place a coin on the ground to ensure the same starting point for your putts
3. Determine THE GATE: the amount of break/line of putt (distance aiming left or right) you want to aim for this putt
4. Place two coins (THE GATE) approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way towards the hole about six inches apart.
5. Get yourself two or three golf balls to practice this putt over and over again until you determine if you have picked the correct gate.

Things to consider in determining the correctness of your GATE

- 1) Did my putt go short or long of the hole (on putts of 25 feet or less we would like the ball to at least get to the hole, however, not more than three feet past the hole) **GET THIS CORRECT FIRST**
- 2) Did my putt miss left or right of the hole? Adjust THE GATE location left or right as needed.
- 3) Learn from this practice ritual. The more you do this drill the better you will get at reading greens and getting the ball rolling on the correct line or GATE.

PRACTICE HELP

I know how boring and difficult practicing your putting (short game in general) can be. It would help to use ParKit Golf's Short Game Kit to get practice ideas for working on your short game. This Short Game Practice Kit will not only take your game to the next level, but, make it fun in the process. ParKit Golf games help with necessary golf skills through games that you can play while learning the how to pitch a golf ball. These games focus on trajectory, direction, distance control and technique. The ParKit Golf Short Game Kit is available at the Don Law Golf Academy at Osprey Point GC or at www.parkitgolf.com.

Bill Scott is a PGA Member, the Director of Instruction at the Don Law Golf Academy at Osprey Point Golf Course located in South County Regional Park. Read more about the Don Law Golf Academy and their programming at www.donlawgolfacademy.com or call 561-451-1128 or 561-482-2868.