

## Sharpen That Chip: Hone Your Approach With This Simple Drill

After a long, cold New England winter, the first signs of grass fuel the anticipation for the opportunity to pull the clubs out of storage. The key is to make those early trips count.

Everyone rushes to the heated driving range stalls and indoor practice facilities to get ready for the season's maiden voyage. The one area we all end up suffering is the basic chip. Arguably the most important shot in golf often gets overlooked in the height of the season much less the beginning.

Many players tend to blade or chunk their chip shots regardless of time of the year. This happens when the player takes

the club too far to the inside on their backswing and the body stops turning too soon on the downswing. The one guaranteed way to eliminate the move is to practice keeping the blade of the wedge or iron low to the ground through impact with a higher percentage of your weight maintained on your lead foot. You can accomplish this move in a few simple steps:

- 1.** First take a sleeve of balls and place it 12 to 15 inches in front of the ball on your target line. Then grip the club as you normally would for a full swing.
- 2.** Practice your back swing motions, keeping the club head outside your hands on the way back.

**3.** On the downswing, concentrate on keeping the face pointing at the target and feel as if the club head is going to hit the sleeve of balls in front of you. This will allow the natural loft of the club to get the ball up in the air. If you are still blading or fattening after a few tries, shift more weight to the lead or target side of the body and repeat.

This drill can even be done inside as I often make this move using my couch as a backstop.

For additional early season tips contact me directly or your local PGA professional.

