



## HOW TO PUTT: THE SHAFT IS KING

**At the Institute of Golf** we see hundreds of players a year wishing to improve their putting. These players often book in a lesson with a preconceived idea that the lesson is going to be completely technical or that they are going to be sold a new putter. This can't be further from the truth.

Many players read things and pick up tips here and there and this is where the nightmare begins. To putt well you must have a repeatable stroke with solid concepts of what both you and the putter are trying to achieve. Once you achieve this, then the principles of sound pre-stroke fundamentals can be achieved.

Please remember that the shaft is king and the primary principle

to understanding your stroke. The more vertical the shaft angle in relation to the ground, the more the stroke will work straight back and through and vice versa the more angle created equals a more arcing stroke.

We are going to keep this simple: do you want to putt straight back and through or on an arc? There is no right or wrong technique, but what is a must is that a player sets up congruently to whichever stroke they employ. If the set up does not match the concept then it is like mixing water and oil... they just don't mix and effective putting becomes very difficult.

Once you know which stroke you are working with read on to find out the set up principles for your technique.

### **An arc stroke**

A standard putter has around 71 degrees of lie angle and because of this it naturally wants to arc. Follow the simple setup checklist below to help you set up congruently to your arc concept

### **Arc Set up checklist:**

- Ball position in middle of stance
- Elbow's tucked into torso
- Putter generally fitted longer than a straight through stroke
- Eye line over heel of putter
- Putter head laying square on the ground

### **A straight stroke**

It is important to understand that you are working on keeping the clubface square to the target line. To do this you must try and get the shaft more vertical than an arcing stroke set up.

### **Straight set up checklist:**

- Ball position forward
- Arm hang straight down
- Putter generally fitted shorter than an arcing stroke
- Eye line over the ball
- Putter head slightly heel up

For more detail on putting concepts or to book your next putting lesson or fitting please visit [www.instituteofgolf.co.nz](http://www.instituteofgolf.co.nz).

### » Tip

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