

Don't take the driving range to the course

By the So-So- Golfer

A round of golf is not the time to be working on that slice or snap hook that seems to find every water hazard, sand trap, out of bounds or unsuspecting innocent bystander lining up his approach shot 2 holes over. That's best left for the driving range.

The thing is, most amateurs tend to forget to play with he swing you arrived with on the day. This is something the pro's do extremely well. The difference is that they know how to adjust their game accordingly, limit the damage and still post a good score.

So how do we do that?

No Mechanics First of all, forget about working on swing mechanics on the course. This has got to be one of the biggest round killers. All it does is create head worms and a lack of confidence, thus leading to stress, tension and generally an unpleasant day on the fairways and greens.

Tee off with what's working If the big stick is going everywhere but the hole you're playing, leave it in the bag. Instead use the longest club you feel confident with and put yourself in a position to be able to play your next shot. Playing a 3 wood to the fairway is far better than a lost ball.



Play shots you know how to play Trying to play a big fade around a tree from the rough 200 yards out from the green, without practiced that type of shot regularly, is just asking for trouble. Sure, it will look awesome if you pull it off, but

what are the chances of that happening? One, maybe two times out of twenty? Take your medicine and play the minimum lofted club you need to get back out to safety, your score card will look all the better for it.

Don't over complicate the task If a simple bump and run will send your ball towards the hole with little risk, go for it. Phil Mickelson flop shots look cool as hell, but a failed attempt caught in the teeth might end you up further from the hole!

Don't give up Keep grinding away; don't let your emotions take over. It's ok to get upset after a bad shot or a stupid decision. What's not ok is to let it affect every shot after that. Tiger Woods gives himself 10 paces to vent and then it's done. You can't go back and change a bad shot but you can make sure you are mentally ready for the next one. Golf is a funny game; your next shot may just be your best one yet!



Have Fun I mean that's why we here isn't it? Don't let your expectations ruin what should have been fun day out on the links. Bad rounds will and do happen. It happens to the best players in the world, but we have the luxury of playing this beautiful game without having to worry about the pay check at the end of the round. For some of you it's a once a month outing or even less, so don't forget to enjoy yourself. There will always be time to work on your technique at the range before the next game. It is after all just a game.

