

Suzy's Cues

Bunker Basics: Greenside

False expectation is your worst enemy in a bunker. If you don't practice bunker shots regularly, you're not allowed to be angry when your bunkered ball doesn't finish 4 feet from the hole or hit the green. If your ball is sitting on top of the sand, in an even lie with an even stance, you should expect, however, to get your ball out of every greenside bunker. Unlike the pros you don't devote 2-3 hours a week to practicing bunker shots, so replace your false hopes with a plan that gets your ball up and out of every bunker and onto the green.

The plan and details:

- ✓ Use a regular swing, regular posture, and regular aim.
- ✓ Make no ball contact. Hit the sand behind the ball
- ✓ Take your normal stance, feet shoulder width apart, and position the ball between your feet, in the **middle**.
- ✓ Dig your toes in after you've lowered your feet into the sand to ensure you will hit sand not ball.
- ✓ Place your weight on the foot closest to the pin. If you play right-handed, your weight moves to the left.
- ✓ Dial the tip of your clubface to fit your lie.
 - With a good lie, ball sitting on top of the sand, even lie and even stance, *open* the face, by dialing the tip of your wedge to one o'clock*.
 - With a fair lie, ball sitting down in the sand, with an uneven lie, or an irregular stance, use a *square* face setting the clubface to noon.
 - With a buried lie, *close* the tip of the clubface to 11 o'clock*; stay on your left foot and swing with determination.
- ✓ After you've dialed in your clubface, set your hands on the grip. Do not grip the club first and mistakenly dial in your hands.
- ✓ Swing to at least 10 o'clock on your backswing because sand is heavy to move. Then make a smooth swing through the sand. Do not use your body to help the ball out. No scooping!
- ✓ Center your attention. *Move sand to the green.*

*If you play left-handed, reverse the clock hour for an *open* or *closed* clubface.