

Suzy Cues

Course Management

Everyone can use a few tricks to get around the course faster and better. Most of you know your yardage, and pull the right club, so why is managing your golf game so hard?

The problem is – most of you fixate on mechanics, a practice effect, best left for the range. Behave like a pro on course, spend your time focusing on *target*.

Target Thoughts:

- ✓ On the tee box,
 1. Think first about finding a flat spot to tee your ball and place your feet.
 2. Next consider where the tee box points you. (Many course designers aim you in the wrong direction; usually it's directly into trouble.)
 3. Examine the slope of the tee box. Are your feet below the ball, or above it? Where you stand makes a difference in your ball flight because it affects how the clubhead comes into the ball.
- ✓ The Leave, called the Landing Zone:
 1. Decide where to leave your ball to hit your next shot.
 2. Consider where to put your ball on the fairway, depending on how you want to enter the green. Many greens are easier to reach and hold from one side than the other.
- ✓ Regulation + One More Shot:
 1. Know your ability. If you can't reach a green in regulation, *plan* to hit your second or third shot to a yardage you own. For example, if you hit a full sand wedge exactly 50 yards, and you love to hit that club, don't lay up thirty yards left, behind a bunker, or off the green in the rough, lay up at 50 yards, giving yourself the best entry possible to the green.
 2. Think. Don't hit every shot as hard as you can, you may find yourself with a touchy distance to the green, one that leaves you with a hard to execute, guessing shot.
- ✓ Around the Green:
 1. Make realistic expectations. Examine your choices carefully.
 2. Observe the lie, and determine the shot you must execute.
 3. Pick the shot that is simple in your mind. Low, running shots are easier to execute than high, lofted shots. If there is no trouble to carry, like a bunker or a sprinkler head, think about hitting the ball low. (As reference see the *Suzy Cue* for Advanced chipping.)
 4. Focus on your landing zone, and match them to your ability. If you are a new golfer, be pleased with landing your ball on the green. If you are an advanced golfer, consider -- the pin position, the surface bumps and valleys in your ball's way, the slope and height of the green, and the surface hardness. These factors could change your club selection three clubs, from wedge to 8 iron.
- ✓ Trouble:
 1. Get Out!
 2. Spectacular effort rarely results in a spectacular shot.
 3. Consult your right brain. Eliminate ego.
- ✓ Concentrate:
 1. Create shots
 2. Visualize ball flight; see your target, see success.