

# Suzy Cues

## Putting Essentials:

Yes, you can learn to putt. You may even learn to love to putt. But it takes practice. What do you know about your putting? Is it good, bad, or indifferent? What's your average putt count? Is that good? Saving two putts a round, every round, wins you matches and reduces your handicap. You do not have to be strong to be a good putter but it is harder than it looks. Every putting stroke is individual, so work with your putter. Give it and your driver equal time.

Never short the short game; it's essential to saving shots. Hitting the green in regulation and making three putts, is like watching Santa skip your house. You must give putting its importance; putts account for almost 45% of your score.

Resolve to change your putting attitude. Love your putter, and spend a third of your rehearsal time on or around the practice green. Putt before your other practice so you won't skip it. Consistent putters believe in their putting ability, and with practice and patience develop that mind set.

Every time you stroke a putt, picture it falling into the hole. Holing putts builds confidence, so learn to put your ball in the hole.

### Essentials:

- ✓ The putter must be square at impact
- ✓ To rid tension, let your arms hang freely from your shoulders at address.
- ✓ Judge your putt from four viewpoints: slope, speed, distance, and line.
- ✓ Grip your putter more in the palm of your left hand than you would for a regular swing, or in variations that neutralize your right hand. Eliminate the use of your wrists. Consider placing your left hand low; many players, young and old, find it a highly successful putting method.
- ✓ Set up with the clubface square to the line the ball must roll on, the aim line.
- ✓ Position the ball under your eyes, keeping your eyes over or slightly inside the golf ball.
- ✓ Keep your body motionless, letting your arms and shoulders rock the club back and through in a pendulum stroke balanced evenly on both sides.

### Practice Drills:

Distance:

1. Work on your tempo. Count "1 and 2." Or "1, 2, 3-back –hit.
2. Work on balancing the length of your putting stroke, using the ball as the center of your stroke.
3. Practice putting your ball into an imaginary circle with a three-foot circumference from the hole.

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4. Play a game with yourself from putting distances such as, 40, 30, 25, 20 feet away. When you leave a putt more than a putter's length from the hole, walk off the putt's distance before you make your next practice stroke and reevaluate its slope and speed.

### Direction:

1. Place two irons on the ground parallel to each other, leaving room between them for only a putter head. Work on taking away and returning your putter to the ball smoothly and squarely without touching either club.
2. Practice putting into the back of a 2 x 4. Hit the back of the board with a square putter face each time.
3. Make a chalk line on the practice green to a hole where the ball has a straight-line to the cup. Or suspend a corded rope tightly from behind the hole to a distance of 4, 6, 8, 10 feet on a straight-line putt. When you can put the ball in the hole successive times, you will know the putter is returning on your chosen path with its face square at impact.