

Backswing - Don't be Too Critical of It

[by Bob Menzies, PGA Professional](#)

Have you ever had your playing partners tell you that your backswing isn't "correct"? Then you wonder, well, what is "correct"?! Don't be overly critical about the look or shape of your backswing. Yes, taking the club back properly (on plane and with extension as the club moves back to a hip-high position), should help promote (but by no means will it guarantee) that your club will be returned into a better position on your downswing. For example, Jim Furyk, a member of the PGA Tour, and one of the greatest golfers in the world, has a very individualistic backswing. He has grooved his backswing by hitting thousands of golf balls for years and years. Additionally, his father was a PGA professional, and kept a watchful eye on his son's swing over those years. Your backswing may or may not look like Furyk's, but the moral of the story is how well any golfer can return his or her club into the ball on the downswing.

In closing, the more technically correct that your backswing positions are, the better chance you will have of delivering the club and clubface squarely to the ball at impact. Therefore, unless you have a tremendous feel for the clubhead, superior hand-eye coordination, and hours of time to devote to practicing, it's better to try to groove a more technically sound backswing -- similar to many top PGA and LPGA TOUR players. However, just don't be too hard on yourself as far as having the "perfect" backswing -- especially since I've never seen a backswing that actually hit the golf ball!