

Ball Position - Putting

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To be able to keep your scores low, you must be able to recognize problems in your entire game, and know how to fix them during the round. I emphasize this with all my students. Moreover, this is especially important on the greens! If your putting stroke is off, you simply will not be able to score well.

For example, are you pulling your putts/ball while making your putting stroke? If so, the common (but incorrect compensation for that) is to alter your stroke so that the clubhead approaches the ball from the inside of your target line. Consequently, this will probably mean that you will be making a stroke that is unfamiliar to you. And, that will probably make it more difficult to make more putts during the round.

Try this: instead of changing your stroke, try adjusting the position of your ball in your stance. Depending upon your pattern of misses, you can perhaps start to find a possible cure to your putting problems. In your stance, by simply moving the ball forward or backward -- even by just one inch - can possibly result in huge confidence gains with your putting. If you are pulling the ball, move it back an inch and make your normal stroke. Since most golfers putt with an inside-square-inside motion, moving the ball back in their stance will provide a better chance of making better contact with the clubface - since it will now be moving along the target line - rather than later in the stroke, when the putter face would be facing/pointing/aiming to the left.

The opposite holds true if you are pushing your putts. If pushes tend to be your faulty mistake, then try moving the ball forward an inch in your stance. If you make your normal stroke, you'll likely make better contact -- since the clubhead will now be returning down the line -- rather than from the inside of your target line.