

## Are You Tired of Slicing?

by Bob Menzies, PGA Professional

If your faulty shot tends to be that dreaded slice - where your ball is curving from left to right - then perhaps what I have to offer below will help alter your swing shape a bit, and inevitably straighten out that slice!

The reason why a shot will slice is due to the simple fact that the club itself is traveling across your intended target line - in a direction that is termed "outside-in". This "cutting across the ball" action, along with your clubface being open (aiming/pointing to the right) at impact, will cause for your shot to slice. There are many reasons as to why this result happens. Among the many potential contributing reasons, often poorer posture at address will influence the way the club swings/moves back during your backswing. Unfortunately, an off-plane backswing could cause for your downswing to be off-plane as well. During your backswing, you may be swinging your club on a flatter (baseball-ish) plane/path, or, on a steeper (too upright) plane/path. Regardless of the shape of your backswing, in order for the slicing to occur, your downswing is too steep/vertical into impact - consequently where the club is being swung on an "outside-in" path - along with the clubface also being in an open position.

To fix your downswing fault, either make some practice swings, or actually hit some balls, where the ball is above your feet -- about one foot. This drill automatically allows you to swing on a shallower/flatter plane - on your **downswing**! Please be aware that this drill is helping to fix the **downswing** - where your shaft will hopefully now be approaching into the ball on a flatter/shallower swing plane/path. The focal point is this: with the ball being one foot above your feet, be aware that you do not make a flat/rounded **backswing**. With the ball being above your feet, it will encourage an overall flatter swing shape -- on the backswing as well. You may or may not be swinging flatter during the backswing already. Remember, this drill is intended to help fix the **downswing**, and to minimize that dreaded slice! Making this type of adjustment in your swing will now give you a greater chance to make a better shaped golf swing. You will however, still need to "release" (the squaring of the clubface through impact - obtained by rotating your hands, wrists, and forearms over one another through impact) the club properly in order to straighten out your shots so that they go towards your intended target!