

PREPARING FOR A TOURNAMENT

FREE TRAINING GUIDE

Strategy - Plotting Your Way



Readying yourself for a golf tournament can include much detail. Preparations can include time spent on your technical, physical and mental skills.

Today, let's focus on the tactical aspects of the game by building a strategy to play a golf course during a practice round.



Par 5s aren't always about putting for eagle. Choose the ideal layup position in the fairway to play your approach from. By playing a practice shot from this spot, you're better prepared to make birdie if you get out of position or can't reach the green in 2 shots.



If you decide to take on a hazard, such as a bunker, with the driver, be sure to pick a specific target in the distance.

Making notes of driving lines helps to clarify the visualisation process and builds confidence and commitment to the tee shot.



Of course, things aren't always going to go as expected. Whenever the opportunity arises, challenge yourself from a tricky lie or an escape from trouble.

It's very rare for a golfer of any level, not to be faced with a shot which doesn't require some imagination and a deft touch.

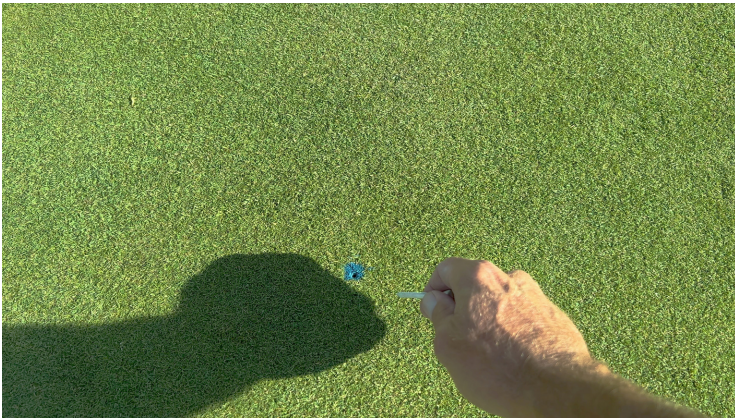
On The Greens



Greens can vary in firmness and tilt, affecting how approach shots behave when you land your ball on the green. Having an idea of how much your approach will roll or spin back is critical for good club selection. You'll still need to take conditions of the day into consideration, such as temperature, wind and precipitation.



Predicting pin placements can be guesswork, but you can prepare for some obvious hole locations. Inevitably, you'll be faced with putts to different levels on the putting surface. Putting some extra time into some tough putts, taking notes of speed and break, is well worth the effort.



Some of the pin placements might be indicated for you. Tournament directors often decide on where the holes are to be cut before the event. Locations are marked with a small dot of spray paint. If you can find these marks, and you have time, putt from various directions to the mark. It's difficult to remember all the breaks, so take notes as you go.



A proportion of your putts during your practice round should be made as if playing in the tournament. Go through your full routine, including reading the putt. Some greens tend to break more than others and some greens require more attention to the grain. Only by giving putts your full attention are you learning the true nature of the greens.

Hazards - Will You Take Them On?



Take notes of where bunkers and other obstructions are located. Using a rangefinder or similar measuring device is an efficient way to do this.

Decide which hazards to play short of, and which you can carry comfortably.

Be adaptable with your strategy. The wind could be from a different direction on tournament day or the tees could be further forward or back.



On occasion, you won't be able to obtain an accurate yardage to reach or clear a hazard from the tee. Using your rangefinder, you can use nearby landmarks and some simple arithmetic, to help with your strategy.

Of course, you need to know how far you hit each club. If you're unsure whether you can carry the trouble, you're invariably better off taking the more conservative route.



Take note of hidden hazards, which encroach upon landing areas. It's not always driver from the tee. Sometimes, it is prudent to layup with a shorter club to a wider, safer landing area.

This means having a longer approach to the green but finding the water costs you a stroke.....and a golf ball!



Course management isn't always about tee shots. Par 3's and approach shots need to be well thought out too.

There are bound to be some 'sucker pins' just tempting you to attack the wrong flag. There's one born every minute!

Extra Shots



Most courses feature bunkers to challenge golfers. One thing you can be almost 100% sure of, is that the sand will be different to the sand in the bunkers at your home course.

You can save yourself a stroke or two quite easily, by testing the depth and texture of the local sand in a few of the traps.



Pitch shots and short approaches are the scoring shots. Take the opportunity to play a few of these during your practice round.

If you're driving the ball well, being sharp from these distances will set you up for plenty of birdie chances. If you're chipping out from the trees, then a good pitch can save you.



It would be nice to be putting for birdie for the majority of your tournament. Did you know, that even the Tour Pros miss about one third of greens in regulation? You'll be testing out that short game at some point in your tournament.

Play extra shots around the greens when you can, and make sure they're not all just 'standard' chip shots.



A Final Thought:

Remember to enjoy yourself! Soak in the atmosphere and picturesque surroundings. Relish the opportunity to play a beautifully designed golf hole.

If you're enjoying your time on the golf course, then you'll benefit from competing with a 'Can Do' mindset, clearer thoughts and more positive energy.

THANK YOU



Welcome to the team at **Aussie Golf Pros.**

Great to have you on board!

Steve and Glen are here to help you
make the most of your golf game.

Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

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or just want to say **G'day,**

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