



# **CHIPPING Vs PITCHING**

## **FREE TRAINING GUIDE**

## 2 Different Short Shots



To demonstrate the key differences between Chipping and Pitching, Glen is a Cleveland Zipcore Sand Wedge, set to 55° of loft, for both shots. The 1st shot is a chip is around 12 yards, with some length of green between the fringe and the flagstick.



His 2nd shot is a challenging pitch of around 60 yards, with water and a bunker to negotiate. The lie is good, so it's the ideal opportunity to be aggressive with the approach. The differences between these 2 short game shots include variations in setup, swing and ball flight.

## Setup - Stance



For a chip, it's important to address the ball with the feet quite close to the golf ball, almost like a putt. This setup ensures that the heel of the club doesn't become snagged in the turf - a common error for golfers who stand too far away. The upright lie angle encourages a lower a ball flight, which we'll get into later.



The setup differs slightly for the pitch shot. Although, Glen is still close to the ball, he has given himself more space than with the chip. This allows him to hit the golf ball that extra distance and higher flight required. A basic rule of thumb to follow is - the shorter the shot, the closer to the ball we should setup.





# Swing Length



It is stating the obvious that, the shorter chip shot requires a shorter swing. Unfortunately, we often see high-handicappers attempt to employ a very long backswing for this shot. Ultimately, the player decelerates and mishits the chip. Ideally, the shaft of the club will not reach horizontal in either the backswing or the followthrough.



Conversely, to produce the longer, higher pitch shot, the golf swing needs to be extended to above the waist.

Again we want a balance between the backswing and throughswing. This aids good rhythm and tempo, for enhanced distance control.

# Wrist Hinge



When it comes to deciding whether or not to hinge your wrists, we delve into personal preferences. Some Tour players love to hinge their wrists for both chipping and pitching, such as Phil Mickelson. One great player who doesn't employ as much wrist action is Tiger Woods.



The same is true for pitching, there are definitely variations in preferences. The majority of golfers on Tour are very passive with their wrists when chipping and are more active when pitching. However, there are exceptions to these 'rules'. Steve Stricker and Jason Day use little to no wrist action when chipping or pitching!





# Trajectory



Now, let's crack on with the truly important difference between the 2 shots - trajectory!

If you want to be effective around the greens, then most of your short shots will be played quite low, even with the lofted wedges.

Many club golfers make the cardinal error of trying to 'help' the ball up in the air, even with mid irons.



While the best way to control the golf ball while chipping is to keep the shot low to the ground, the opposite is true for pitching.

It's a shame 'pitching wedges' aren't just called 'wedges', because they're awful for pitch shots! They don't provide enough loft and are difficult to control from these yardages.

## Roll Out & Spin



Why is the low trajectory best suited for chip shots? Distance control is much easier for shorter shots, when the golf ball is rolling out, resembling a putt. Of course, our choice of club is often determined by where we want to land the ball. More lofted wedges should impart more backspin on the ball, not excessive height.



However, when further away and playing a pitch approach, the aerial route is often the best.

By using plenty of loft, such as sand wedge or lob wedge, you impart more backspin and more stoppage power on the golf ball.

Optimum distance control for the aerial 'Pitch & Stop' is opposite to the 'Chip & Run'.



# THANK YOU



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Great to have you on board!

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**make the most of your golf game.**

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