



# **PITCHING FROM TIGHT LIES**

## **FREE TRAINING GUIDE**

# Meet the Ball at the Bottom of the Swing Arc



Tight Lies can be challenging enough! However, when you need to play a pitch from a tight lie and therefore need to hit the shot with less than full power, then good contact with the golf ball is critical. To give you the best chance of doing this, there are some factors which we need to address.



The biggest mistake that we see club golfers make when faced with a pitch from a tight lie, is they change their 'angle of attack'. Some golfers hit down on the golf ball too much, in an attempt to ensure ball first contact and 'squeeze' the shot.



Other golfers don't trust the loft of the club to elevate the golf ball and try to help it up in the air. This creates a scooping motion and upward angle of approach into the ball. Thin shots are often the result or the player might strike the turf well behind the golf ball.



Our goal here should be to meet the ball at the very bottom of the swing arc, for a neutral angle of approach, neither downwards nor upwards. This enables you to brush the grass underneath the golf ball. This affords your highest margin of error and the best chance of good contact with the ball.





# Use the Bounce

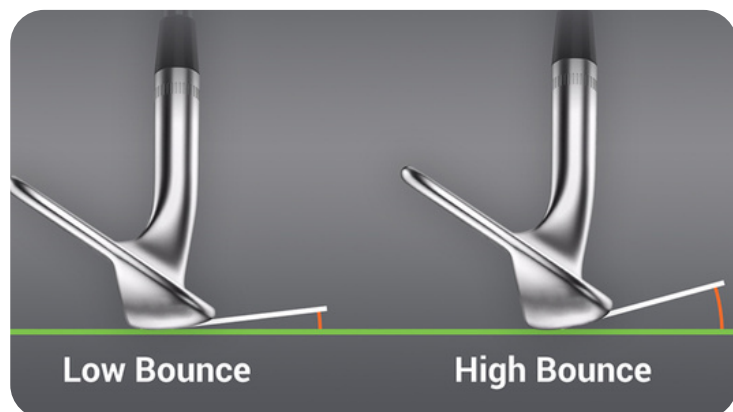


Bounce is your friend. This is the flange on the bottom of your wedge, which helps prevent you from digging into the soil.

However, if you play with the grip and shaft ahead of the golf ball, you are negating this built in assistance.



Play these pitch shots from tight lies with the shaft vertical (as viewed from face on) or only slightly forward. This promotes the true bounce of the club towards the turf. The further back the shaft of your club is, the more effective bounce of the bottom of the club.



There is a common misconception, that low bounce wedges are more suited to pitching and chipping from tight lies. Although some tour players might opt for a low bounce option, we believe that the majority of golfers would benefit from using more bounce. Wedges with 10° - 14° of bounce afford some margin of error and help build confidence.



Playing with some bounce ensures that the club sweeps the turf under the ball, rather than digging into the turf. You should ideally brush the grass or take just a small divot. If the clubhead doesn't touch the turf, then the point of contact will be too low on the face. If your divot is too deep, then there is no margin for error.





# Club Selection



Club selection is important but should be based on how far you want the golf ball to roll. Of course, the more loft you play, the more precise you will need to be with where you clip the grass. With practice, you can still play the lob wedge from a tight lie and in fact, you can achieve great results!



Here, Glen has demonstrated 2 options - the 'pitch and run' with his 50° wedge and the high 'pitch and stop' with his 60° lob wedge.

Your choice of shot is yours and should be determined by the amount of green you have to work with and your skill level.

# Stick Your Finish



This is probably the most important piece of advice we can give you! We often see amateurs play with inconsistent finishes to their golf swings. Sometimes they quit on the shot, sometimes they follow through too much. Another common issue is the recoil, where the player immediately drags the club back down to their feet after the shot.



These are all forms of tension and adversely affect performance. To ensure commitment to the shot and thereby build confidence, you should hold your finish for at least a couple of seconds.

The followthrough should be approximately the same length as your backswing and should match the length of the shot.



# 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.

If you love our content, have a question,  
or just want to say '**G'day**'

please go to our YouTube channel to comment.

