



# 30-50 YARDS APPROACHES

## PITCHING TRAINING GUIDE

# Play with Loft for More Spin



The Pitching Wedge is the worst named club in your bag and can be deceiving. The loft of a PW used to be about 50°. However, in recent times, manufacturers have strengthened lofts and your PW could be as strong as 42°!



For most pitch shots, you will be better off hitting the golf ball higher, with a sand wedge, imparting more backspin. This gives you more control over the distance of the short approach and enables your ball to stop more quickly on the green.



# The Deceleration Trap



Many golfers struggle with pitch shots, because they need to hit the ball with less than full power. A common mistake is to swing back too far and then decelerate in the downswing. This often leads to mishits and poor distance control.



Deceleration causes an imbalance between the backswing and throughswing. Some golfers err the opposite way - they don't swing back far enough and are then forced to over-accelerate to a high finish. This is also difficult to control.



# Even Back & Through



The length of the golf swing will depend upon the length of the pitch and the power output of the player. For this 50-yard pitch, Glen demonstrates the length of his backswing and throughswing. They're identical in length!



This balance encourages consistent tempo of your swing, giving you the best chance of making crisp contact and aiding distance control. To adjust to different distances, you have the option of adjusting the length or the speed of your swing.



# Sweep The Grass



Some Tour Players play pitch shots with a steep angle of attack and take a divot. With 1000's of hours of practice, this can work. However, contact with the turf must be precise, as this method affords very little margin for error.



For mere mortals, a higher margin of error can be achieved by 'Sweeping' or 'Cutting' the grass, rather the digging into it. By sweeping the turf, good contact with the golf ball is possible, anywhere in a 'window' of up to 4 inches (10cm).



# Shaft Plane Affects Angle of Attack



To achieve a 'Shallow Angle of Attack' through impact, the plane of the shaft must be considered. If the shaft is in a vertical 'steep' position, pointing down towards the feet in the downswing, then it becomes more challenging to sweep the grass.



The shaft plane of the swing should ideally be tilted, so that the butt of the sand wedge points to the golf ball. This technique is effective in shallowing the angle of attack and providing a stable swing plane to deliver the club squarely to the ball.



# Repair Your Pitch Mark



As the term suggests, pitch shots often make a 'Pitch Mark' in the putting surface. It's our role, as golfers, to assist in the general maintenance of the golf course, by leaving the greens in the same condition as we found them.



Use a tee peg or pitch fork repairer to bring the compressed grass back over the dent made by the golf ball. Then tap the mark down flat with your golf club. If you do a good repair job, then any pitch marks created will be invisible.



# The Pitch & Run Shot



Sometimes, you might want to hit a lower pitch, which rolls further upon landing. Choose this option when the flag is located towards the back of the green or if you're pitching into the wind. Now, the Pitching Wedge is the ideal club of choice.



There's no need to change technique here. The different trajectory is automatically produced by the lower loft of the wedge. Expect the ball to run on the green, so adjust your landing point accordingly and shorten your swing.



# 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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