

# **The Golf Swing Genius' Guide To Driving Like A Pro**



**The Golf Swing Genius**

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# Introduction

Hello! Thanks for getting your copy of The Golf Swing Genius' Guide To Driving Like A Pro. I am confident your golf shots with your driver will improve a great deal and you'll be able to hit more fairways while increasing your distance from the knowledge you'll gain in this E-Guide.

Driving can be a struggle for many golfers. In fact, the driver is probably on average the most feared golf club in the bag. Your first shot on the hole will greatly determine how you do on the rest of the hole and what your score is. If you are long and straight down the middle of the fairway, it is much easier to get on the green and get your ball into the hole in the fewest number of shots possible. If you're in the trees, in the water, or even out of bounds....the hole will be a lot more difficult for you.

If your driver has been an issue for you and you've lost your confidence, this E-Guide will help you get on the right track. If you have poor direction control or simply want to have better contact on the clubface when hitting your driver, you will find solutions to these issues as well. Enjoy your journey and know that great drives are possible and the more you understand your golf swing related to hitting your driver, the more you will be in control of your tee shots. This is a great club to master because it will positively affect the rest of your golf game. You'll have easier, shorter approach shots into greens which will give you a better opportunity to shoot lower scores.

The simple goal of this Ebook guide is to get you hitting more fairways, increasing your distance with your tee shots, while also becoming more confident with your driver. No longer will your driver be your enemy, it will now become your friend! With my system, you can learn an easy swing that works consistently and you will be able to hit a lot more fairways if you follow these principles.

This Guide is written in plain English for the average golfer. Beginners will get a lot of helpful tips from it and expert or low handicap golfers will have a great

refresher and be able to shave more strokes off their scores, hit more fairways, and increase distance.

The format of this E-Guide is put in an order for specific reasons. It's helpful to read it in order and some of the material may be a review. It's definitely okay to skip a chapter though if you are certain you do not need help with that particular issue. If you are confident your grip is correct and want to skip that part and work more on drills for your downswing that is perfectly fine.

### *Let The Big Dog Eat!*

My teaching method is geared towards helping golfers of all levels improve their golf swings and their games. This Ebook is written so golfers of all levels can improve their swings and hit the ball farther and straighter off the tee. This E-Guide applies my swing system to the driver swing so you can make your driver a strength. Many golfers struggle with their driver and a few simple adjustments can make a huge difference.

There is so much information available on the golf swing and many golfers can get confused. My teaching method helps golfers of all levels sort out this confusion and play better golf. A big key to playing great golf is understanding your golf swing, not just thinking that you do. If you are hitting bad tee shots again and again, you probably have not gotten to the root cause of why this is happening and could use some enlightenment on your swing.

The golf swing does not have to be complicated and most golfers do not have all day to practice their golf swings. Many golf instructors teach way too complicated so that in order to do what they are telling you, it would be a full time job to keep your golf swing in shape. This is where I hope to help the average golfer out. You may not get out to the golf course as much as you would like, but that does not mean when you go out to play that you have to struggle. Quite the contrary! Great golf is about understanding and utilizing key fundamentals that produce consistent results and get you performing better.

With the knowledge you're going to gain in this Ebook, you'll have an advantage over many golfers who take lessons or listen to other people who try and help them with their driver swing.

The problem many golfers face is simply not knowing why they hit a bad shot. Without knowing why the golf ball didn't go where you wanted it to, it is much more difficult to correct it and hit good golf shots. The best golfers aren't always the most talented. They are simply smarter and have a better understanding of cause and effect in their golf swings. If their swings start to get a bit off, they can quickly and easily make the necessary adjustments to get it back on track.

Driving well is a very important part of playing great golf. If you are missing fairways, you are adding strokes to your scores. Getting lost in the trees or hazards can cause you to lose unnecessary strokes. Hitting more fairways on the other hand, and keeping your misses in play, will help you gain a huge advantage against other golfers who do struggle with their driver and their tee shots.

The driver is usually used when hitting first tee shots. Sometimes a golfer can lay up and hit a 3 wood or iron to try and make it easier to get the ball in the fairway. It's okay to do this but if you can hit your driver solidly, you're going to gain up to 30 plus extra yards which makes your approach shots into the greens a whole lot easier.

Great golf happens when a golfer has control of all types of golf shots they need to hit throughout their golf rounds. It's important to be able to putt and chip well and hitting your irons well is also important. But if you can't hit your driver or are continually having problems with this club, your game is suffering and your scores are showing it.

Lastly, the material presented in this guide is in a specific order and format. I have given you all the keys that are important and essential for hitting great drives consistently. It is almost guaranteed that if you are having a problem with your driver, you will find the solution in this guide and hopefully without spending

too much time figuring it out. I'm trying to give you the shortest most direct path to better tee shots and hitting more fairways.

Let's move ahead and learn what the key ingredients to a solid swing with the driver are and how you can incorporate those into your golf swing and start hitting tee shots far and straight down the fairways.

## **Chapter 1: The Grip – Why Holding the Club Correctly Is an Essential Component of Great Tee Shots**

Holding the golf club correctly is the first step to having a better driver swing. A good grip allows you to generate more club head speed, create leverage in your swing, and control the club better. A proper grip will allow your wrists flexibility and freedom to swing the club with good club head speed and be able to create leverage and wrist set in the swing. A good grip with the driver is really important for being able to keep your clubface square in your swing and especially at impact.

The golf grip is important for any golf swing and holding the club correctly will definitely allow you to gain maximum distance with your driver. The key here is to hold the golf club in the fingers as opposed to up in the palms. This allows you to create leverage, the wrists can set properly and you'll be able to have more club head speed so the club can catch up with the body at impact for a greater transfer of power. A grip that is too weak or held in the palms will make it difficult to swing well and other compensations will tend to develop. Below is a picture of a proper grip:



The Vs or lines that form between the thumbs and forefingers point somewhere between the chin and right shoulder. Also, the first two knuckles on

the left hand can be seen when you look down from your setup without turning or moving your head.

Another big key to the grip is having the right amount of grip pressure. Tension in the golf swing can make it more difficult and a golfer can develop problems in their swing from too much tension. If a golfer has too much tension, it is almost always evident in their grip and setup. Try and hold the club securely but not too tightly. It's important to be able to hang on to the club throughout the golf swing and holding the grip handle with a medium amount of pressure is ideal. You will be able to swing the club much more freely and the swing will stay on the correct path more naturally.



## **Chapter 2: The Setup – Get This Right for More Solid Driver Swings**

There are a few simple adjustments in your setup which will allow you to make better driver swings and crush the ball off the tee. The setup with the driver is similar to the full swing with other clubs but there are a couple of helpful adjustments that are very important to make. With the driver stance, your feet should be slightly wider than shoulder width apart. You are making a longer swing and want to have a nice stable base to swing and turn around. A wider stance keeps you more balanced and it allows for more weight shift and a greater transfer of power at impact with the golf ball.

### **Ball Position**

You want to play the golf ball all the way off of your left heel with the driver. The reason for this is with the driver, the goal is to try and hit the ball slightly on the upswing. With the irons you are usually trying to hit down slightly on the golf ball to compress it. With the driver it's more of a sweeping motion and the club should be leveling out at impact and just slightly starting to swing up. This is the optimum spot for the ball to be in when the clubface comes into contact with it. Playing the ball too far back in the stance can make it harder to hit the ball high and even get it up in the air. Playing the ball too far forward, ahead of the left heel, may cause other problems and lead to the body moving laterally and getting out of position.

When you tee the ball up, ideally you want to be able to see half to 3 quarters of the ball sitting above the driver face. If you are hitting into the wind you could tee it just a little lower. Teeing the ball the right height is important for hitting it slightly on the upswing and launching it high and far.

You can notice from the picture below some of these important setup keys. The golfer has his weight on the balls of his feet and is in a nice balanced position to make a powerful golf swing.



### ***Start Out With Proper Angles in Your Setup***

One big key I teach my students is to set up to the golf ball with proper angles. There are three main angles that are important in the setup position. They are the angle from the hip bend, the angle created by the knee bend, and the angle between the forearms and the club shaft. Getting these 3 angles correct in your setup will give you a great chance of swinging the golf club on the correct path and hitting solid golf shots with lots of distance. These angles are a big key to power and distance. Once you've set up with good angles, your next job is to maintain the angles while you swing. This will be discussed further later on in more detail. The key is to understand the big picture and why a good setup will help you make a better driver swing.

Here is an example of a setup with good angles:



You can see in the above picture how the blue lines are showing all three of the key angles we want to have in the driver setup. A good knee bend is important because it keeps you balanced and also allows your weight to get more into the balls or center of the feet. A good hip bend will be formed from sticking your rear end out while keeping the spine and back fairly straight. The arms should hang down relaxed but extended so that there is also an angle between the club shaft and the forearms.

Golfers who don't bend their knees properly often can have their weight back on their heels. The checkpoint here is when you are in your setup looking down, your knees should cover up your shoelaces. Having the weight more towards the center of the feet helps a golfer's balance and their swing path. When the weight is too far back in the heels, the golfer can have a tendency to swing the club too much around their body incorrectly and it'll get stuck behind them.

## **Chapter 3: How to Align Correctly Every Time You Tee It Up With Your Driver**

Correct alignment with your driver is a crucial element of hitting your driver straighter. Misalignment with the driver will cause a greater error in direction with your golf shots because the low loft of the driver makes this club less forgiving. A common error with driver alignment occurs when the shoulders are open or pointed to the left of your target in the setup position.

This mis-alignment tendency happens for a couple of reasons. There is a tendency to want to aim left with the body in an effort to steer the golf shot to try and make it go straight. The player subconsciously thinks they need to get out of the way (with their body) earlier in the downswing. However, the upper body or shoulders need to be square at impact for the club to release correctly and swing down the proper path after impact and into the follow through. When the upper body opens too early in the downswing, the club will be dragged to the left and this can either cause a pull or a slice.

Another reason a golfer will misalign themselves is to try and compensate for the direction their golf shots tend to go. For example, if a golfer is hitting their drives to the right, they may aim their body to the left more to try and fix this. Aiming more to the left if you are hitting to the right will only cause the ball to go more right or it can cause other problems in the swing.

The reason aiming more left can cause the ball to go right is because the swing path becomes out to in just before and after impact. The club head comes from out (more away from the body) to in (more towards left field) as it is approaching the ball and swung through just after impact.

The club can also swing over the top of the swing plane or path on the downswing and then the club head gets pulled too far to the left just after impact in the beginning of the follow through. This out to in path produces a sidespin on the golf ball which will cause a sliced shot.

It's always important to check your alignment once in a while because it is easy for it to get off track without even realizing this is your problem. You may be trying to fix your swing path, but without aligning correctly, it will be difficult to improve your drives.

**\*\*Important Note:** Pulls and Slices come from the same swing path error. Hooks and pushes also come from the same swing path error, that being the opposite problem that causes the pull/slice shot.

When a golfer aligns correctly on their tee shots, the line of their feet should be parallel to their target line or just slightly closed. A slightly closed stance simply means the left foot would be an inch or so ahead of the right foot. Your shoulders, hips, and even forearms should all be parallel to your target line.

To get your alignment correct and automatic, there are a couple of things you can do. I recommend working on alignment on the driving range a little just to help your mind gauge how to do it correctly so you can take it to the golf course and it will be more automatic. At the driving range, laying a club down on the ground so it is in between the ball and your feet pointed parallel to your target line is a huge visual aid for how to align properly. The pros do this on a regular basis in their practice sessions to check their alignment.

The shoulders and hips need to be square and over the feet and also parallel with your target line. You can simply take your setup position and put a club flat across your shoulders and then turn your head to look in the direction of your target. You can see where your shoulders are aligned by where the club will be pointing. If you are open or closed with the shoulders you can easily make this adjustment and then go back to the correct setup position.

## **Chapter 4: Get Your Driver Swing Sequence Perfect and Crush the Ball Long and Straight**

Swing sequence is a key concept I teach and try to get golfers to have and maintain correctly. The golf sequence simply put is an order which should be led by swinging the club back in the takeaway first. Once the club has moved a bit on the backswing, then the shoulders should start to turn. When the shoulders have turned halfway and you are about halfway into the backswing, this is when your hips should start to turn.

There is a ratio between shoulder to hip turn and the shoulders turn approximately 90 degrees in the backswing while the hips will turn approximately 45 degrees. Because of this 2 to 1 ratio of shoulder to hip turn, the shoulders start turning first so that the ratio can be in sync correctly. Turning the hips too early in the backswing can lead to the golf swing getting out of sync.

Generally, poor golf swing sequence will cause ball flight problems usually associated with mis-direction. If you want to hit your drives straighter, getting your golf swing in sync in this way will definitely allow you to do it.

Another great concept I teach is referred to as “leading with the club”. A lot of swing instructors will talk about this and they may refer to it as “keeping the club in front of you”. I never used to understand what keeping the club in front of you meant and how to do it. I felt that this can confuse other people too. Instead, I keep it simple by explaining **the club should swing back first on the backswing before the body starts to turn**. As I just explained two paragraphs above, there is a ratio of shoulder to hip turn of 2 to 1. The shoulder turn is preceded by the club starting to swing back first.

Essentially there are **3 steps to proper swing sequence**. The club starts back on the backswing, the shoulders will then start to turn, and lastly the hips turn as everything finishes turning together to the top. Once your backswing is in sync, it is much easier to get your downswing in the right order. The goal is to get everything coming through impact together. We don't want the body getting

ahead of the arms or vice versa, the arms getting ahead of the body. In order for good impact to occur, the downswing has to be in good sequence.

The best key to a proper downswing sequence is to start the transition at the top by swinging your arms down while you keep your lower body stable and keep your back facing the target. This allows the arms to drop down to a powerful spot where then everything will be able to move through impact together and you can generate the most power and be consistent. Golfers who get their body or arms out of position on the downswing have problems at impact and problems with the direction their tee shots go.

\*\*One side note here when you are swinging your arms down on the downswing, try to keep your wrists set or hinged but your arms extended. The wrist set or angle should be maintained as long as possible and the club will naturally release through impact and just after if you are letting it swing through the ball. It is rare that you ever would need to consciously think or worry about your golf swing release. This release really happens automatically when you let the club swing on a proper path.

## **Chapter 5: The Basic Swing Path and Swing Plane for Consistent Driving of the Golf Ball**

The basic swing path for the driver swing is similar to any full swing with another club but with a few differences. The swing path also includes the swing plane and getting these two things on track will help you hit the ball farther and straighter. The driver swing path should consist of a wider swing arc because it is a longer club. Also, we want to be hitting the golf ball slightly on the upswing whereas with the irons you're supposed to strike down on the golf ball. The driver swing is a sweeping motion near impact and a wider swing arc will give you more time to connect the face of the driver solidly with the golf ball as you swing through the impact zone.

There are a couple of helpful checkpoints which will really allow you to keep your club more easily on the right swing plane. The first checkpoint has to do with the takeaway. When you start the club back on the backswing and get to the point where it is parallel with the ground, the club head should be right in line with your hands and also pointing parallel with your target line.

Here is an illustration that shows this:





Starting the club off on a good path and proper swing plane will promote the club staying on path and on plane the rest of the golf swing. Golfers whose swing planes get off in the takeaway will suffer from hitting poor shots or they'll have to make compensations somewhere during the rest of their swing.

After the takeaway checkpoint, the next step is to simply swing the club over the right shoulder at the top of the backswing. If the club gets to parallel with the ground at the top of the backswing, it should also be pointing in the direction of the target. If the club stays a little short of parallel, that is okay just as long as it is still on the proper path so it would be pointing towards the target if it kept going to parallel.

Here is the general area where your club should be at the top of your backswing in regards to it being over the right shoulder:



This club is just short of parallel, however if it kept going on the same path it would be parallel with the ground and pointing in the direction of the target.

### *Swing the Club Head Towards the Target*

This picture below illustrates a proper golf swing path just after impact and into the follow through. The club head is in line with or covering up this golfer's hands at the point where it is parallel with the ground. This part in the follow through swing mirrors the backswing where the club was in line with the hands at the same part in the backswing. The club head is being swung straight in the direction of the target. The golfer will then let his body follow the club as he continues the follow through and swings the club over his left shoulder.



Swinging the club towards the target might seem like a simple or even obvious golf swing tip. However, this is an important concept and will do a lot to help your swing path. Just trying to make this simple move actually will improve your swing path and swing plane without even having to think about it. When I teach golfers, I am always looking for similar and easier ways to explain a concept. Thinking about the swing plane too much or getting overly detail oriented can make it difficult to play good golf on the course. You may be able to hit balls well on the driving range, but when the pressure is on it's hard to think about too many things related to the technique of your swing and still play well. This is why I am telling you by focusing on swinging your club head towards your target, you can fix your swing path by 50 to even 100 percent if there is a swing fault that's related to it. This is one example of turning a seemingly complicated issue into a simple solution that works for the average golfer.

Swinging the club head towards the target also allows the club to lead the swing after impact and then the body can turn and follow the club. If the body gets ahead of the club it will be difficult to hit good drives. Let the club go first towards your target and then turn and follow the club for best results. This concept of leading with the club is explained more in the Chapter on Swing Sequence as well.

The pros on tour can focus on the intricate details of their swing technique and do well because they have all day to work on their golf swings. It becomes second nature to them so when they are on the course they are usually just thinking about their targets and letting it go. Golfers who tend to “choke” are often too concerned about their swing technique. Golf swing thoughts that are related to feel but also promote good technique will help golfers get better faster. This allows you to play better on the golf course besides just hit the ball well on the driving range.

The picture below shows a good follow through where the player has swung the club over his left shoulder to finish the golf swing and is completely turned facing his target.



A good follow through will also show the golfer having proper balance. Golfers who are off balance in their golf swings tend to have swing path issues and have difficulty keeping the club on plane correctly. For golfers who have balance issues, I will have them do a drill where they hit a ball and then have to count to 2

or 3 before they release their follow through. Doing this helps them develop better balance and trains them to get into a good follow through position. Simply working on getting a good follow through position will actually help the rest of your golf swing. Remember, the backswing and follow through mirror each other in certain aspects, so when you improve your follow through path, your backswing path will automatically tend to improve as well.

## **Chapter 6: Creating Leverage and Coil while Mastering the Weight Shift**

Another key concept for great drives is creating leverage and coil in the swing. Leverage generally refers to setting the club in the backswing by hinging the wrists and using the other parts of the body well to control this move. Then, the leverage is used by unleashing the club with the golf swing release at impact and just after impact.

Golf swing coil refers to the power that is wound up by coiling or turning the upper body over the lower body in the backswing. This is related to the chapter on golf swing sequence where we talk about the upper body or shoulders starting to turn before the lower body moves on the backswing. The pros on tour generate a ton of power and distance with their driver because they maximize the resistance between their shoulder and hip turn.

If you watch golfers who are really flexible, Tiger Woods or Rory McIlroy, you'll notice their hips turn a minimal amount and their shoulders turn the full amount or 90 degrees on the backswing. This is like the rubber band effect. They are winding up on the backswing so they can unleash their power on the downswing and through impact.

### *The Weight Shift with the Driver*

The weight shift in the golf swing is really important for generating power and distance and it is also important for accuracy. If you don't shift your weight enough on the backswing, the weight can move too far forward on the downswing or if you stay centered the club can get jammed up and turned so that the ball does not fly straight after it is hit.

The weight shift should happen in the backswing and then again in the downswing/follow through. It's important to time this move correctly but it is pretty simple to do and easy to repeat once you've gotten the hang of it. On your backswing, the lower body should remain fairly stable the first part of the golf swing. Generally, the rule of thumb is you want your weight to start shifting after

the club has swung back a bit on the backswing. Shifting the weight too early in the backswing is a common problem and will throw everything else off, making it difficult to compensate and hit a good golf shot.

With the driver swing, there is a little more weight shift. The amount of weight shift you want to have is regulated by the width of your stance. Since your stance is a little wider than with your irons, you'll have a little farther room to shift your weight in your swing. As with any club, you want your weight to be shifted to the inside part of your back or right foot at the top of your backswing. Rolling outside on your right foot means you have shifted too much and it has turned into a lateral move or a sway. To eliminate any extra sway or incorrect lateral move, simply focus on keeping the right knee flexed as you get to the top of your backswing. This will help keep your weight on the inside part of your right foot and get your body in perfect position to transition and start your downswing.

### *Staying in Correct Position with the Body*

With any club it is important to maintain your angles and your posture from the setup position as you make your swing. This concept is very important for good drives and tee shots. With the driver, many amateur golfers may get out of position with the body because they have a tendency to over swing and try too hard to get more power. You still want to let the club work for you and good drives will feel effortless when you have started to get comfortable with your swing fundamentals.

You want to stay level in the swing and maintain your angles. In your backswing, you start by swinging the club back, then turning, the shoulders and lastly turning the hips as everything turns together to the top of the swing. Keeping your right knee bent at the top of your backswing will be a big part of staying in your posture and your angles. The only other problem that can occur is trying to lift up with the upper body to get the club up. Instead of making this fault, you should try to swing the club up high while keeping the torso the same height. Any rising up will make it difficult to be consistent. Lifting up in the backswing will make the golfer have to compensate by dropping or dipping down

in the downswing the same amount. This can be difficult to time especially if you don't play every day.

The spine angle should stay the same in the golf swing. When the body or torso moves out of position, the spine angle will change. There is a turn and a shift in the backswing and then again in the downswing and follow through. However, the angles the body is in should stay the same. The golf swing is simply a swing and a turn with a weight shift. Keeping the body stable and the same height will make your golf swing a lot easier to repeat.

### ***Make Sure You Are “Swinging” The Club***

An important concept to keep in mind which will really help your success is to make sure you are swinging the golf club. This is as opposed to steering, lifting, or guiding the club. If you simply pick the club up or lift it, it becomes a matter of timing as to whether or not you will be able to get the club back to where it should be at impact.

When you swing the club, you will generally have a better tempo and the club will want to stay on the correct path and plane more naturally. In order to swing the club correctly in this manner, your grip and forearm pressure must be correct. Too much tension is a killer for any natural swinging motion.

If you ever feel like you are stuck on your mechanics, this is a great way to get out of your head and change things up. Focus on making a swinging motion and not lifting or guiding the club unnaturally. Things will just start to automatically work a little easier and you'll be producing better golf shots.



## **Chapter 7: Creating a Powerful Swing Arc**

Creating a powerful golf swing arc is a big key to successful drives. I always think of Michelle Wie, a very successful LPGA tour player, who absolutely crushes the ball off the tee. Her swing arc is about as good as it gets. The swing arc is related to your swing path and the width of your swing. A wider swing arc is optimal however there are a couple of things necessary to keep your arc and swing path correct.

A good swing arc starts in the takeaway. A good way to start out correctly is to feel like you are dragging the club back low to the ground. Many amateur golfers pick the club up way too fast and lose a lot of their arc right off the bat. Without a good arc in your takeaway, the rest of the swing is pretty much going to be difficult.



The above picture illustrates a good swing arc in the takeaway position. This is important for creating width in the rest of the swing and will lead to an increase in power. Notice how the lower body remains relatively stable. This picture also shows how good sequence starts in the golf swing. The club goes back first and is then followed by the shoulders turning. Once the club has swung

halfway back, the hips will then start to turn as everything turns together to the top of the swing. This really keeps the sequence correct and everything works together and stays connected properly. Trying to stay connected in the golf swing doesn't work by simply just thinking about it. You need to have the parts of the swing in the right order and then it will naturally stay more connected which will also lead to extra power.

The swing arc comes from good extension with the arms. You never want to extend your arms so much so that there is tension in them or that your body moves out of position. In the swing you generally want to stay pretty centered with the body but allow for a nice weight shift starting at the halfway back point in the backswing. Shifting the weight too early can cause lateral motion and get everything out of sync which will make it difficult to hit good golf shots.

The swing arc is a key component of a good driver swing because of the sweeping motion we want to have coming through impact. We are trying to launch the ball high and far and hitting it slightly on the upswing is what allows us to do this. With the irons, you are trying to hit down on the ball and the loft of the club makes it go up in the air. With the driver, you are sweeping through the impact zone and using the loft of the club in a different way. Hitting good drives is rewarding and fun because it makes golf a whole lot easier when you are playing your next shot from the fairway as opposed to the rough or even in the trees.

As long as your body is staying in the correct position and you are maintaining your posture, you want to extend the club as much as you can. The arms will stay extended until you're almost halfway into the backswing. The right arm will naturally start to bend as you continue the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of your backswing. You don't want to extend the club so much so that your body moves laterally and gets out of position. This is important to understand.

There are a few checkpoints that will get your swing arc correct in important parts of the golf swing. The takeaway, ½ way back position, the top of the swing, the downswing, impact, and just after impact into your follow through are the main key points where it's important to have your swing arc correct.

The backswing and downswing mirror each other in certain ways. Ideally, the club will be extended in the first part of your backswing, extend through impact, and then continue to stay extended in the first part of the follow through. This produces a wide swing arc which gives the club head a much better chance of connecting with the ball on the sweet spot of the club face.

Extension on the follow through just after impact is similar to the takeaway in that you want the club head to stay closer to the ground and then swing towards the target. A golfer who loses their swing width, arc, and extension will have difficulty hitting consistently good golf shots. The golfer will have the greatest chance of solid contact and will also increase their distance by doing this properly.

### *More Swing Arc Tips*

The swing arc with the driver is a huge key for more power and better drives. A good swing arc is important especially in the takeaway and through impact as well as just after impact. The right arm will naturally bend in the golf swing as the club is swung up high in the second half of the backswing. Bending the right arm too early in the backswing will reduce the swing arc or width and it will be hard to get power or consistency with your drives. The left arm will naturally fold in the follow through and this happens after the club has gotten halfway through in the follow through. Bending the left arm too early just after impact will cause the swing arc to reduce as well.

A common error related to the swing arc is letting the arms collapse at the top of the swing. The left arm should be extended at the top of the backswing. However, trying to consciously keep the left arm straight is too much of a technical thought and it will be hard to make a good swing while focusing on this. To get the same result of good extension at the top of the backswing, I like to have a golfer feel that their hands are far away from the chest or torso when the club is in the middle to end of the backswing. This actually keeps the left arm straight or extended without having to think about it and the results will be much better.

One more tip related to the swing arc and the left arm. It is helpful to have the left arm extended at the top of the swing but it shouldn't be locked or stiff. If the left arm is too stiff it will restrict the backswing.

The arms will stay extended from the setup and takeaway and then again on the downswing through the impact zone. This creates a good swing arc which will be important for solid contact with your driver. The club head should stay relatively low to the ground swinging near and through impact. This will increase the chances of hitting the ball in the sweet spot. If the arms bend too early in the takeaway or just after impact in the beginning of the follow through, it will be harder to hit good shots consistently. You may get away with a good shot here and there as with any particular swing fault, however you'll have to rely too much on timing which isn't always the same every day. This is why golfers can play good one day and the next day play not so great. We want you to play good every day by helping you improve these swing keys and fundamentals.

## **Chapter 8: Impact with the Driver Swing**

Impact, otherwise known as the moment of truth in the golf swing, is obviously one of the most important points in the swing. There are things you do in the rest of the golf swing which all lead up to having a good impact position and hitting the golf ball well. Ideally with a good impact position, everything will come through the ball together. When the swing gets out of sync, the body can get ahead of the arms or vice versa. Keeping things working together properly will help your impact position. Trying to work on getting into a good impact position can also help other parts of your swing as well.

Another important concept related to impact is that you should let the club head swing through the ball as opposed to trying to hit at the golf ball. Some golfers can make the mistake of trying to hit the ball when they really should just be letting the ball get in the way of their swing. The “hit” tendency will tend to slow down your club head speed and make it difficult to complete your follow through correctly. The club head needs to be speeding up or accelerating through impact for straighter and better shots.

The driver swing is different than the irons in that it is more of a sweeping motion through impact. With the irons, it's ok to hit down slightly on the golf ball and allow the loft of the club to make the ball go up in the air. With the driver, a sweeping motion will help you launch the ball higher and farther. You'll maximize the loft of the club and create a wider swing arc near the impact zone which will increase your chances of hitting the ball solidly.

**\*\*Keys to a good impact position are having your torso right in line or just behind the ball at impact. For a slightly lower ball flight, it's fine to get your body or your torso right in line with the ball. To hit it a bit higher, it's okay if your torso or center is slightly behind the ball. The key is to be moving forward in your downswing so that after you've hit the ball, you will continue to move forward as well. This is related to having a good weight shift in the swing. (See Chapter on weight shift for more detail).**

**Another important key for straighter drives is to have your shoulders square to your target line at impact.** Opening the shoulders too early in the downswing and at impact is a huge problem for many slicers. There is little chance the ball will travel straight if your shoulders are open or pointed towards left field. This is a weak position and you must learn to keep your shoulders square if you want to hit great drives. You can achieve this same position by feeling that your upper body points at the golf ball at impact. This will keep your shoulders square. If your upper body is pointing left of the golf ball, you are open and it'll be tough to recover from this.

A reason why this concept of having your shoulders square is important is because at impact and just after impact the club will then be able to swing on path correctly towards your target. Then, your body can turn and follow the club and you'll finish your swing in good sequence and with more control. When the body opens too much at impact, the club can't possibly swing on a straight path towards the target.

One more key at impact is to have your hands and the club head come up to the ball around the same time. If you release the club too early or get too active with your wrists, the club head will come up to the ball before your hands. This can cause problems and it is ideal with your driver swing to get the two coming up the ball together. With the irons, we actually want the hands to lead slightly at impact as this helps to hit down on the golf ball. However, with the driver and the sweeping motion we want to achieve, it is helpful if the hands and club head come up to the ball together.

**As a review:** At impact we want the shoulders square to the target line while the hips will be slightly open, pointed left of the golf ball. The hips will naturally turn open and this is not something I generally recommend working on. If you are doing some of these other fundamentals right, this will tend to take care of itself. The weight will have started to shift to the front or left foot at impact but you still want your upper body in line with the golf ball. After impact, you swing the club towards your target while finishing your weight shift and your follow through.

## **Chapter 9: Squaring the Clubface and the Role of the Arms**

Having the clubface square is another very important element of hitting straighter drives. The clubface needs to be square in your setup, at impact, and at other various points in the golf swing. There are a few simple checkpoints which will allow you to easily square your clubface and know exactly if you are on the right track with this.

In the takeaway when the club is parallel with the ground, the toe of the club head should point either straight up to the sky or just slightly inward.



From there, simply swinging and turning to the top of the backswing so that the clubface is parallel with your left arm at the top of the swing is your next key.

In the picture below on the next page, you will see how at the top of the backswing, this golfer's clubface and left forearm match each other. This is showing a square clubface at the top of the swing and it'll then be easy to keep it square in the downswing and through impact.



If the arms rotate too much incorrectly on the backswing, the clubface would become open and it would be harder to correct this on the downswing. Conversely, if the arms don't rotate enough, or rotate the wrong way, the club face would become closed or shut and this would hinder good drives as well.

You can get your arm rotation perfect by making a simple practice backswing and stopping to check where the clubface is pointing. Looking in a mirror can be helpful for checking your clubface at the top of the swing to make sure you are square there as well.



## **Chapter 10: Balance and Tempo – 2 Very Important Keys for Successful Drives**

Balance and tempo in the swing are key elements to being a good driver of the golf ball. Golfers who struggle with their balance or tempo tend to have other issues going on in their golf swing. They usually are swinging off plane or off the correct path and it is much more difficult to hit good golf shots this way.

The cool thing about balance and tempo is when you work on these keys, your swing path will actually get better automatically. A golf swing with good tempo tends to want to stay on the correct golf swing path. This leads to straighter and longer golf shots. There is no need to swing overly hard or fast with your driver. In the majority of cases, swinging too hard will lead to inaccuracy. It becomes difficult to control the club and connect with the golf ball on the sweet spot of the clubface.

Many times I have to tell my students to slow their swings down. A common problem is when the golfers swings too fast in their backswing with the driver. The momentum is not able to develop and transfer maximum power at the point of impact with the golf ball. However, you shouldn't slow the swing down so much that you are guiding or steering it. It should flow smoothly with good tempo. Don't have any quick movements so that the tempo becomes too jerky. Think swing smoothly for best results.

## **Chapter 11: Cause and Effect with the Driver Swing – How to Fix Common Problems**

Some of the information in this chapter is already in part contained in other chapters. This is intended to give you a helpful understanding of cause and effect with your driver so if you are hitting a particular shot pattern that you want to fix, you should find what you need to work on. All the errant shot patterns which can occur usually come from swing path or swing plane problems. If you work on your swing plane, you'll be able to straighten out your shots more easily.

### ***Slicing***

Slicing is probably the most common problem I see golfers have with their drivers. Slicing comes from having an out to in swing path in the downswing and near the impact zone. An over the top move at the top of the swing can produce this out to in path also.

When trying to fix your slice, first make sure your grip is in the fingers and is strong enough. The left hand needs to be turned enough so you can see at least one or two of your left knuckles when you look down at the setup. The right hand should be slightly underneath and so the right thumb covers the left thumb. If the right hand gets too much on top, the grip is too weak and this in itself can cause or contribute to a slice.

It's always helpful to check your swing sequence if you are hitting the ball off line in any direction. If a golfer starts their driver swing with their lower body or has their whole body turning together from the start, the swing is going to be out of sync and this can contribute to any number of problems including a slice.

### ***Pulling***

Pulling will come from the same swing fault as slicing. The two often go hand in hand. An out to in swing path pulls the golf club face across the ball at impact and with the clubface square, the ball will go to straight left. Opening up the upper body too early causes the shoulders to be open at impact which makes

the arms pull the club to the left causing the out to in swing path. Pulled drives can be solid hits, however depending on how far off line you are hitting the ball it may not stay in the fairway. It's better to fix what the issue is so you can hit straighter shots and be more consistent.

## ***Hooking***

Hooking the ball is when it moves from right to left. A snap or duck hook is the extreme version of this. Hooking can come from a couple of different reasons. Often the golfer's hands and wrists get too active and they tend to flip them through impact. Don't try to hit the ball with your hands on the downswing. Simply swing the club down with your arms and swing through the ball so your club head travels towards your target and then the club continues to swing over your left shoulder on your follow through. At impact, try to feel like the handle of the club comes up to the golf ball slightly before the club head. This will help keep your clubface square so you can hit straighter shots. Hooking and pushing are sometimes connected and they both can come from hanging back on your right side and not transferring your weight in time for impact.

## ***Pushing***

Pushing or blocking drives to the right can come from hanging back on your right side and not transferring your weight soon enough. With golfers who experience this problem, I will try and get them to follow through to a full and balanced finish as this will automatically help their weight shift so they get through the golf ball. Getting stuck on the downswing will also cause a push. Simply focusing on the swing plane can get things back on track and help you hit straighter drives.

## ***Hitting the ball thin or even topping it***

Thin golf shots come from the club head contacting the top or upper part of the golf ball. The club has not hit the ball at the proper spot in the swing arc. An early release of the hands and wrists can cause this. The most common swing fault that causes thin shots comes from the lower body standing up too early in

the downswing before the club has swung through impact. Beginner golfers are often told to keep their head down in order to combat this problem. However, trying to focus on keeping your head down can cause extra stiffness and rigidity to get into the swing. We obviously do not want this. Instead of trying to keep the head down, the golfer should try and stay in their angles and especially keep their knees slightly flexed until the club head has swung through the ball and started the follow through.

### ***Poor contact***

Generally speaking, poor contact with the clubface on the golf ball comes from swinging the club off path or off plane or moving your body out of position. If you work on your swing path and plane, it'll be a lot easier to control the club head and connect with the golf ball on the sweet spot of the face. You can have mishits on both ends of the club head, either on the heel or the toe. Both errors or mishits come from different swing path or plane errors, but they are both related to the swing path. So if you review you swing path checkpoints, you'll understand what you need to do to hit the ball in the middle of the face on the sweet spot. This will lead to more distance and better accuracy.

### ***Missing shots both right and left***

Some golfers can't find the fairway and miss it in both directions. Usually golfers who mishit their shots by a large margin have moderate to severe swing plane problems. I would suggest reviewing the chapter on the swing plane for the checkpoints to work on. Also, your clubface may be opening or closing inconsistently. You are probably making compensations to try and offset one error and then another one pops up. Start with your basics, your alignment, swing path, etc. and move forward from there. Try to get your swing sequence correct to really hit the ball straighter. Having proper swing sequence is the biggest key to hitting straighter shots.

## ***Popping the ball up, hitting it too high***

First of all if this is your issue, make sure you are teeing the ball the correct height. When you set your club head down behind the ball, you should see half to 3/4ths of it sitting above the face. Teeing the ball any higher than this will make you have a good chance of popping it up or hitting it too high with your driver.

If you tilt your spine angle too much to the right at impact and hang back on your right side you may hit the ball too high. Try to focus on transferring your weight to your left side and getting through the shot while keeping your spine angle in the same position it was in at the setup position.

## ***Hitting the ball too low***

Hitting the ball too low on the other hand comes from having too much weight on your left foot at impact. Your spine angle might also be tilted to the left incorrectly. You should also check how high you are teeing the ball up.

## ***Mis-hits - hitting off the toe, hitting off the heel***

If you aren't hitting the ball in the sweet spot, you are noticing it. Your shots won't feel as nice and the ball won't fly as straight. And of course, your distance will suffer too. If you are hitting shots off the toe, a lot of times this occurs from spinning with the upper body too early before impact. The club face is dragged to the left, thus, resulting in a toe hit. You could also be standing too far away from the golf ball if this is happening. With shots off the heel, you could be standing too close to the ball. If your arms are extended at impact, the clubface would be pushed out away from the ball and would hit the heel on the club face. To fix either of these problems, work on standing the correct distance away from the golf ball. Then in your swing, try to maintain your posture and get into a proper impact position. This should help you eliminate shots off the toe or the heel.

## **Chapter 12: How to Add Even MORE Distance**

Most golfers I know want more distance with their golf swing and especially with their driver. It's obvious that longer drives make the holes easier because approach shots are shorter. However, it's always important to have a controlled golf swing with your driver and not swing so hard that you get extra distance but are missing the fairways.

If you are looking for extra distance there are a few things to check and work on. A full shoulder turn can really help you get a lot of extra power. A lot of golfers don't make a full shoulder turn or they have an issue where they make an incorrect move with the shoulders. Trying to sway or move laterally or even dip the shoulders too much can throw things way off with your swing path. A full shoulder turn and a correct hip turn helps to create the wind up or coil necessary to generate a lot of power when you hit the golf ball.

Your weight shift in the golf swing is a big key for power. Make sure your stance is just slightly wider than shoulder width apart. This will allow you to make a slightly bigger weight shift than with all the other clubs. You be able to shift to the inside of your right foot and will have more power to transfer as you swing down and fire through impact. Then continue your weight shift after impact and you'll start launching the ball farther off the tee.

Increasing your golf swing speed will also allow you to get more distance. However, there is a good way to go about trying to increase your swing speed and an incorrect way. Golfers who have good swing speeds aren't necessarily trying to swing as hard as they can. In fact, trying too hard to steer the club can add extra tension in the swing and make it harder to hit good shots. The ideal way to increase swing speed is to get your sequence right and let the club swing down with your arms on the downswing. This the best way to generate more club head speed is to get your downswing in the right sequence by letting the club swing down first with the arms while maintaining your wrist set or hinge. This is going to promote you getting into a powerful impact position where everything comes through impact together and you can generate maximum power.

Also, watch out for common distance killers such as spinning open with the upper body too early from the top of the swing. Getting your clubface open will dramatically cut distance as well. You don't have to swing as hard as you can but just focus on your fundamentals and you'll hit it plenty far.

## **Chapter 13: Course Management Strategy and Pre-shot Routine Tips for Your Tee Shots**

A good pre shot routine is important to have with any club but especially with your driver if you are trying to improve. All the pros go through a specific and ordered routine before they hit the golf ball. This does a couple of things. First, it focuses the mind on the shot you want to hit. This will involve target selection. Obviously, you want to hit the ball in the fairway, but there is sometimes a better side of the fairway to be on depending on if you are playing a hole which has a dogleg or where you have to hit over water on your approach shots. Hitting the ball off the tee into good position on the fairway can give you a better chance of getting the ball closer to the hole on your next shot.

When selecting your target, try and make it fairly narrow. You don't want to just have the whole fairway be your target. It will help your drives if your mind has a more specific target to focus on. Pick an area of the fairway, a tree in the distance, etc. to line up towards.

### ***Course Management Tips for Your Tee Shots***

How you approach playing your golf tee shots will increase your chances of being successful and hitting more fairways. It's important to have a pre shot routine that you follow consistently. This includes picking your target, seeing the shot you want to hit, and teeing the ball up on the correct side of the tee box. Having a swing thought can be helpful and I will go over some good swing thoughts to have.

You want to watch out for not getting too technical with your swing out on the golf course. It's fine to work on your technique on the driving range but better to have swing thoughts that are more related to feel when you are actually out on the golf course.



## *Pre-shot Routine Tips for Better Drives*

Two very important parts of a good pre-shot routine are setting things up to the golf ball in the right order and getting your alignment correct. The first thing is you want to do is pick an intermediate target a couple of feet ahead of the golf ball. This can be a little patch of grass that is on the line of your target. Keep your eye on that spot as you walk in to set up to your ball. Then set the club face down first so that it is pointed straight at your intermediate target. This way you will know your club face is also pointed towards your actual target. It's just easier to line up with a spot a couple feet ahead of the ball to get even more accurate alignment.

It can be helpful to set the club down first, then get comfortable in your stance with your feet and then wiggle your shoulders and hips a little so they are over your feet and everything is pointing parallel towards your target line. If you set your feet first and then the club head down, you may be too close or too far away from the golf ball. It is better if you put the club head down first behind the ball, and then get into your stance. This will help you set up consistently the right distance away from the ball and form good angles and an overall good position with your setup.

Make sure to factor in the conditions you are playing in especially when there is wind because it will affect the direction your golf ball travels. When the holes are tight because of narrow fairways, sometimes the smartest thing to do is layup with your 3 wood or utility club. The best golfers are smartest golfers. The pros on tour do not hit their driver on every tee shot. So be aware if the conditions are calling for something different. Take the smart shot and you'll end up saving more strokes in the long run.

## **Chapter 14: Putting It All Together – Final Thoughts on Driving It Like a Pro**

Hopefully after reading this guide you now have a sense of what is going on with your driver swing and how to hit the ball longer and straighter. Great drives are important for lowering your golf scores. If you are stuck in the trees, the water, or even out of bounds it is definitely costing you extra strokes. Getting the ball in the fairway a good percentage of the time allows you to hit more greens easily.

As a summary, the key fundamentals are always going to help you play better golf no matter which club you are working on. This Guide focused on the fundamentals of the golf swing related to the driver the way that I teach them. These fundamentals include the grip, setup, swing path, and the role of the body in the swing. Separating the golf swing into different parts can be helpful when working on your game at the range. However, make sure you are putting it into one complete motion or golf swing and that you understand how it all works together.

I never understood teaching pros who would focus on a student's backswing for a few lessons without telling them anything about their downswing and follow through. Without being to implement the proper knowledge into the full golf swing and mentally grasp the complete golf swing, it can be difficult to play well. The golfers who struggle the most are the ones who don't really understand their swings and what they are doing.

Golfers who play well and are confident on the other hand, understand what they are doing. If their swings get a bit off they know how to fix it and get right back on track. You don't have to have the most talent to play great golf. You need to be smart about your swing and not think things are magically just going to get better. Hard work can pay off and combined with good technique and understanding, you can really go a long way with your game. Most golfers do not understand these simple concepts that work for great golf. They are always looking for the newest, latest swing thought and think it will change their swing.

This can never really work long term and usually doesn't because there is a lack of the complete understanding of how the entire swing works. Keeping the complete swing concept or model in mind while focusing on key points and fundamentals in the swing is your ingredient to successful drives. Great luck with your game!

For more great golf help, you can also check out [The Golf Swing Genius' Guide To Swinging Like A Pro](#) and [The Putting Genius' Guide To Putting Like A Pro](#).

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