

Equipment Tips for the Serious Golfer

Purchasing golf clubs can be a big investment and buying clubs off the rack fit very few golfers. To play your best, you need clubs that fit and hit in concert with your golf swing. A properly fit club is one that optimizes lie angle, loft, length, shaft flex and material (steel or graphite), grip size and head design.

Set composition is very important as well. When it comes to drivers, think “more loft.” Most average golfers don’t create high swing speeds. You may “feel” like you’re swinging hard but in actuality the club is not moving very fast at all. If you think about it and are honest with yourself, you probably hit your three-wood farther than you hit your driver. That’s because the three-wood is shorter and more lofted than most drivers folks have in their bags and at slower swing speeds, more loft generates longer ball flight. A shorter — yes, shorter, more lofted driver — will give you more consistently solid contact and therefore more fairways with good distance. Most players can forget about the long irons and use hybrids instead. Begin the iron set with a five or even six-iron. Hybrids are so much easier to hit than low lofted irons. It may be the single best thing you do for your game this year.

Sixty percent of your golf shots take place 60 yards from the green and in. That means your wedges and putter better be right. Your wedges are your primary scoring clubs and today’s manufacturers offer wedges in a myriad of compositions: Lofts from 47 degrees to 60degrees, bounce angles, flange depth and lie angle. Selecting the right combination can make a huge difference in getting your golf ball up and in. Unless you play off very firm fairways with tight lies, you’ll want a wedge with more loft and more bounce. Florida courses tend to have soft, fine-grain sand, extra bounce and a deeper flange will displace the right amount of sand to make that shot a whole lot easier.

Putters can be customized to the individual in the same fashion. Factors such as length, lie, loft, swing-weight, heel-shafted, center-shafted, blade design, mallet design, belly putter and the long putter are among many choices that offer a better solution for making more putts. The right putter will help start the ball on your line and put a truer roll on the ball as it travels along that line.



Even golf balls come in lots of different varieties and which one you choose can affect how you play. Golf balls with high spin-rates, lower spin-rates, two-piece and three-piece all have performance characteristics that produce different outcomes for distance, control, feel or some combination of all the above. If you’re a recreational golfer, you’re looking for a golf ball that gives you distance. You want to move the ball down the fairway as far as you can.

Golf professionals use ball launch monitor technology, sophisticated fitting systems and visual ball flight results to establish the best combination of components and club profiles to encourage balance and your best swing motion. A good club fitter can improve a player’s motion or degrade a player’s motion simply by switching club components and mentioning nothing about the player’s technical skills or swing habits. In fact, a properly fit golf club will help a player make a more repetitive golf swing because the player will not have to fight the golf club and make compensations for the shots a misfit club can promote.

Many golfers have the misconception that club fitting is only for good golfers. Not so. Every golfer can benefit from clubs customized to their physical abilities and can actually improve more rapidly with properly fit irons, metal woods, hybrids, wedges and putter. Accomplished players are better at compensating for poorly fit equipment than high handicappers.

So be informed when you go the golf shop. Enlist the help of a professional club fitter to use the technology that’s designed in today’s equipment and the systems intended to put the correct technology in your hands. What’s right for your buddy’s game may not be so good for you. There is good value in the process of club fitting and it’s a lot of fun as well. Happy holidays and good golf always.



By Randy Grills
www.randygrills.com