

5 Chipping Tips to Lower Your Scores



Is chipping the most favorite part of your game? Didn't think so. Nothing like smoking a long drive, hitting your irons stiff and making a birdie putt. But when you're chipping, you're scrambling for par, or worse. Not the most fun part of the round. And because of this, most golfers ignore this part of their game.

Want Lower Scores? Become great at chipping

If you miss the green and hit a poor chip, you're looking at bogey. But if you hit a good chip, you have a chance for par. Amateur players will miss at least half of the greens. So it just makes sense, the higher the number of good chips, the better your score. Regardless of how many drives you hit on the range, you aren't going to save as many shots as a better short game. Plus, improvements in your short game can be seen immediately. It's going to take a while to straighten out that slice. Here are five keys tips that could have amazing results.

Tip #1 – Get Your Hands Involved

How many times have you heard that you should use a putting stroke for chipping? Wrong! To chip well, you need to use your hands. By hinging your hands, you get the club above the grass so you can hit down with a descending blow. For right-handers, hinge the club up with your right hand and release down into the ball. It's a small powerful move that will pop the ball up and onto the green.

Tip #2 – Only Use One Club

Get to practice only once or twice a week, or less? Here's the solution. Choose one club, probably your sand wedge, and get really good with it. If you do it correctly, you'll soon be able to hit a wide variety of different shots with just this one club. And you'll gain confidence at the same time.

Tip #3 – Get on the Green at All Costs

Sometimes, you'll be hitting chips from just off the green to a hole cut in the middle of the green. But then other times you'll be hitting from deep rough from a downhill lie with the hole cut right next to the edge of the green. Before you hit this shot, evaluate your situation and make a smart choice for the best shot to hit. Your main goal is to get this ball on the green, at all costs. Your next shot **MUST** be a putt. Don't try to pull off a miracle shot, because it will usually not work and there goes the score. Even if you have a long putt left, that's OK. Just get the ball on the green!

Tip #4 – Where Do You Want to Putt From Next

Don't attempt your putt until you've walked up to the hole and decided where you want to putt from on the next shot. If the hole is on a flat green, it won't make a lot of difference. Just get it as close as possible. However, if the hole is on a slope, you want to be sure you are putting uphill. Putting uphill from five feet is a lot easier than putting downhill from three feet. With a good leave, you'll have the confidence to walk up and knock it right in.

Tip #5 – Play Long Rough like a Splash Bunker Shot

If you wind up in long grass around the green, don't try a normal chip shot with a square clubface. That's too hard to control. Hit it like a sand explosion. Instead, open the clubface and hit down with a big swing and pop the ball into the air. This is not an easy shot, but with a little practice, you'll become the pro in your group.

If you keep at it and practice, practice, practice, you'll start enjoying it more and your scores will be going down where you want them to be. Chipping is a huge part of your game, so it's critically important that you get it right. Work on it. You won't regret it!