



THE THONG ADJUSTER



Vol. 4 No. 5



May 2009

The unofficial online magazine of The Iron Thong Golf Gang



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The Putter speaks

A word from the editor

New members

It's been a couple of months since we acknowledged our new members. So here goes:

A big Iron Thong welcome to:

Don "I'll Cross That" **Bridge** "When I Get To It"

Jamie McBride "of Frankenstein"

"The Flying" **Scott Thompson**

Jeff Dehart "less"

Sergio "Where did it go?" **Rosales**

John "The" **Butler** "Did It"

Ron "Long Gone" **Harris**

Sergio "Swingin' Slow" **Contreras**

Donnie "Up and At 'Em" **Bradham**

This brings our membership up to 47 Thongers, only three short of our goal of 50. Once we fill up, the Board and the officers will sit down and make some decisions about the size of our club. We'll let you know what is decided.

Time Out

This is the month when Mike Fisk, Ron Boone and I travel to Myrtle Beach for the 26th annual Retired Military Golf Classic. Wish us luck!

All for now,
Steve





The Thong Adjuster is published online monthly for The Iron Thong Golf Group members.

Go to <http://www.IronThongGolf.com> to view the current issue.

Articles, including for sale items, can be submitted at any time. Send them to the editor at stevevanwert@hughes.net.

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GOLF tips

How to Make Breaking Putts Look Easy

Treat them like uneven lies in the fairway

By J.D. Turner

This story is for you if...

- You know how to correctly read slope, but it's not translating into more made putts.
- You always play the ball in the same spot in your stance when you putt.

Just 'fore' laughs



GOLF *tips*

What break?

Continued from page 2

The Situation

You're on the green facing a tough 10-foot breaker. While you think you can read putts like this correctly, you never seem to play enough break.

The Solution

Think about what you do when you have a sidehill lie in the fairway: You adjust your ball position based on the lie (ball back of center when the ball is above your feet to fight a hook; ball forward when the ball is below your feet to stop slices). The same rule applies when you putt — a breaking putt is just an uneven lie on the green. Here's how to give yourself a great chance to sink it:

If Your Putt Breaks Left-to-Right...

...you're on an uneven lie with the ball below your feet, just like a slice lie in the fairway. Move the ball slightly forward in your stance, almost off your front foot. This will stop you from contacting the ball too soon and missing to the right (on the low side). With the ball a little forward, you'll catch it pure.

If Your Putt Breaks Right-to-Left...

...you're on an uneven lie with the ball above your feet, which is just like a hook lie in the fairway. To compensate, play the ball slightly back, toward the center of your stance. This will allow you to make contact with the ball earlier, so you don't pull it to the left and below the hole.

BONUS TIP!

Another good idea on breaking putts is to find your aim line and place your ball so that you can see the logo along this line. Then just trust the hill to bring your putt home. With this two-pronged attack, you'll start feeling a lot more confidence over breaking putts.

Play the ball slightly forward on left-to-right breakers. Play the ball back for right-to-left breakers.





FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions about Golf

Q How do I stop slow play on the golf course?

A Ways to improve pace of play

By Brent Kelly

Slow play on the golf course is usually a condition that a golfer acquires over time, as he or she acquires bad habits. Or it's the result of the golfer never having been taught proper golf course etiquette. This means a slow golfer can usually be "cured" of his malady. Of course, that golfer has to be aware that he's slow, and that's where buddies come into play.

But as we often take a look at other golfers on the course and notice the things they do to slow down play, so should we take a look at ourselves. When we do take an honest look at ourselves, we often discover we're doing many of the same things to slow down play that we're complaining about others doing.

Before we run down a list of suggestions for speeding up play, it's important to note that many of these tips have nothing to do with *rushing* your play, but rather with simply being *ready* to play, and with using common sense and good etiquette on the course.

The bottom line is, as soon as it's your turn to play, you should be ready to step right up and make the stroke.

Here are some tips for speeding up slow play on the golf course:

- After teeing off, if you're a walker, walk directly to your ball.
- When two players are riding in a cart, drive the cart to the first ball and drop off the first player with his choice of clubs. The second player should proceed in the cart to his ball. After the first player hits his stroke, he should begin walking toward the cart as the second golfer is playing.
- Use the time you spend getting to your ball to think about the next shot - the yardage, the club selection. When you reach your ball you'll need less time to figure out the shot.
- If you are unsure whether your ball has come to rest out of bounds, or may be lost, immediately hit a provisional ball so that you won't have to return to the spot to replay the shot.
- Begin reading the green and lining up putts as soon as you reach the green. Don't wait until it's

More Frequently Asked Questions about Golf



your turn to putt to start the process of reading the green. Do it as soon as you reach the green so that when it's your turn you can step right up and putt.

- Never delay making a stroke because you're having a conversation with a playing partner. Put the conversation on hold, make your stroke, then pick up the conversation again.
- If using a cart on a cart-path-only day, take more than one club with you when you walk from the cart to your ball. Getting to the ball only to find out you don't have the right club is a huge time-waster on the golf course.
- When leaving the green and returning to your cart, don't stand there fussing with your putter or other clubs. Get in the cart, drive to the next tee, and then put away your putter.
- Likewise, mark your scorecard after reaching the next tee, not while lingering on or near the just-completed green.
- When using a cart, never park the cart in front of the green. Park it only to the side or behind the green. And don't mark your scorecard while sitting in the cart next to the green (do it at the next tee). These practices open up the green for the group behind.
- If you are searching for a lost ball and are willing to spend a few minutes looking for it, allow the group behind to play through. If you are playing a friendly game where rules aren't followed closely, just forget the lost ball and drop a new one. If you're not playing by the rules, you should never spend more than a minute looking for a lost ball.
- Don't ask your playing partners to help you search for a lost ball - unless you are absolutely certain there is time for them to do so (e.g., there is no group behind waiting). If the course is crowded, your partners should continue moving forward, not slow things down further by stopping to help your search.
- On the tee, pay attention to your partners' drives. If they lose sight of their ball, you can help direct them to it and avoid any searching.
- When waiting on the tee for the group in front to clear the fairway, don't be so strict about order of play. Let the short hitter - who can't reach the group ahead anyway - go ahead and hit.
- Work on building a concise pre-shot routine. If your pre-shot routine is a lengthy one, it's probably in your best interests to shorten it anyway. Limit practice strokes to one or two at the most.
- Don't bother marking lag putts - go ahead and putt out if it's short enough.
- Leave your cell phone in the car.
- Walk at a good pace between shots. No, you don't have to look like a race-walker. But if your between-shot gait can be described as a "shuffle" or an "amble," you're probably going too slow. Speeding up your gait a little is both good for your health, but also might help your game by keeping you lose.
- Carry extra tees, ball markers and an extra ball in your pockets so you never have to return to your bag to find one when needed.
- When chipping around the green, carry both the club you'll be chipping with plus your putter so you don't have to return to the bag.
- Try playing ready golf, where order of play is based on who's ready, not on who's away.

Rules Quiz

1. After playing their tee shots, fellow-competitors realize they are playing balls with identical markings. Player A knew which ball was his. To avoid possible confusion, A lifts his ball, substitutes a ball with different markings and plays out the hole. What is the ruling?

- A incurs a one-stroke penalty.
- A incurs a total penalty of two strokes.
- A incurs a total penalty of three strokes.

2. With no Local Rules in effect, a player may use each of the following without penalty, EXCEPT:

- a carpenter's level on the putting green to determine the slope.
- a plain golf glove to assist in gripping the club.
- a yardage book with hand written notes about various distances.
- a pull cart to transport his clubs around the course.

3. A player is preparing to drop a ball or place a ball when he removes loose impediments from the area that would affect the lie of the ball. What is the ruling?

- There is no penalty.
- There is a penalty in the case of both placing and dropping.
- There is a penalty in the case of placing but not in the case of dropping.

4. A player walks on his line of putt. When is there no penalty?

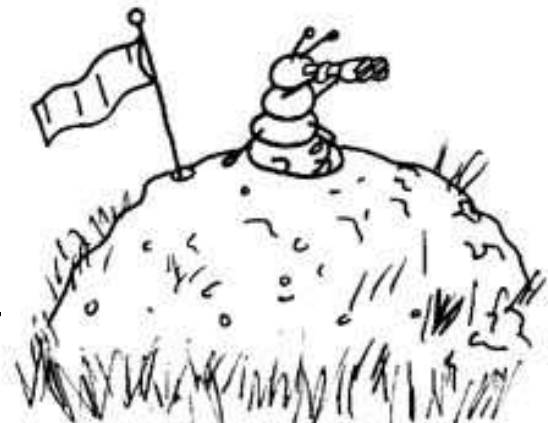
- If he does so accidentally.
- If the line is not improved.
- If he does so accidentally and the line is not improved.

5. Which is correct regarding loose impediments?

- An ant hill is not a loose impediment.
- Loose impediments lying out of bounds may be removed without penalty.
- A dead bird in a bunker near the player's ball in the same bunker may be removed without penalty.

6. Which is correct regarding a player proceeding under the unplayable ball Rule?

- He is not required to identify a ball as his before he can deem it unplayable and drop a ball within two club-lengths of where it lay.
- He may drop a ball in a hazard, if he deems his ball to be unplayable through the green.



c. He may deem his ball unplayable anywhere on the course.

7. In match play, a player holes a putt and, incorrectly thinking he has won the match, picks up the ball of his opponent. What is the ruling?

- a. He incurred no penalty and must replace the opponent's ball.
- b. He incurred a penalty stroke for picking up the opponent's ball.
- c. He has conceded the hole by picking up the opponent's ball.

8. In singles match play, may a player putt out after his stroke is conceded?

- a. No, if the player putts, there will be a penalty.
- b. Yes.
- c. The Committee must decide.

9. A player incurs a one-stroke penalty for moving his ball in play in which one of the following?

- a. The player accidentally moves his ball as a result of removing a movable obstruction.
- b. removing a loose impediment on the putting green.
- c. measuring to determine the extent of two club-lengths when proceeding under the unplayable ball Rule.
- d. searching for his ball in tall grass, through the green.

10. A player's ball lies behind a tree near an area marked as ground under repair. His only reasonable stroke is to play to the side in a direction away from both the tree and the hole but his stance for such a stroke is in ground under repair. What is the ruling?

- a. He is entitled to relief under the ground under repair Rule and after relief may play in any direction.
- b. He is entitled to relief under the ground under repair Rule but after dropping must maintain the same line of play that existed before he took relief.
- c. He is not entitled to relief under the ground under repair Rule but may take relief under the unplayable ball Rule.

CORRECT ANSWERS

- 1. a
- 2. a
- 3. a
- 4. c
- 5. b
- 6. b
- 7. b
- 8. b
- 9. d
- 10. a

What's New?

Brackenridge Park Golf Course

Green fees: \$60-\$85

The most storied course in a city drenched in golf lore is making a comeback. Brackenridge Park Golf Course reopened this past October after a one-year facelift.

Conveniently located on the edge of downtown San Antonio, this 1916 A.W. Tillinghast design was remade by architect John Colligan and design associate Trey Kemp — with spectacular results. In its heyday from the twenties through the fifties, Brackenridge periodically played host to the PGA Tour's Texas Open, and winners here included legends like Walter Hagen, Byron Nelson and Sam Snead. It was also at Brackenridge that Mike Souchak broke the Tour scoring record, firing a 27-under-par 257 in 1955.

Today, the 6,263-yard, par-71 layout won't induce fear in most golfers, but it is still a joy to play. A slightly revised back nine routing skirts the San Antonio River, while ancient Tilly touches were brought back — like a half-dozen squarish greens and classic flat-bottom bunkers. This is one history lesson even the most disaffected student will enjoy.

