



PUTTING WITH A 'POP'

**JUST LIKE THE FULL SWING,
A SOLID "HIT" IS ESSENTIAL
TO GOOD PUTTING**

When I watch junior golf tournaments, I see most juniors struggling with putting – mainly distance control on slow greens. What I notice is that they are afraid to “hit” it – they concentrate too much on producing the straightest stroke possible.

I have always believed that there should be a measure of “hit” in every putting stroke as if one is trying to compress the ball with the putter face, like hitting a punch, but of course in a lot smaller scale.

This article is aimed at helping you gain the “hit” feel and help you realise that part of your practice may have aided you in developing a good putting stroke after all.





The Problem

When I see young golfers struggling with the putter, they are almost always over-emphasising the “stroke” element and have lost the concept that there has to be some impact or “hit”.

The problem most often is that their motion is long, slow and overly mechanical – almost like they are trying to draw a perfect straight line on the grass with the putter. I call this the long lazy stroke.



The Solution: Putting 'POP' Drill

This is an excellent drill to help you acquire the feel of a solid strike. Gather a dozen balls by the side of a green and quickly and casually "hit" them back to your shag bag or range basket – just like when you're clearing a putting green after practice by hitting all the balls off the green with your putter.

Do not emphasise on a target and do not take time to set up, just pop the balls off the face of the putter. When done correctly, you should be able to feel how efficient the stroke is. There should be a minimal amount of follow-through, the strike should feel crisp, and the sound should be louder than what you are accustomed to.