

“Spring Clean” that Putting Routine...

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Putting is one of the most important “scoring” factors in golf. If a player hits every green in regulation and two putts every green on a par 70 golf course, he has 36 strokes worth of putts and only 34 non-putting strokes. Do we spend ½ of our practice time putting??? When we do hit the practice green, what are we working on?? The correct answer would be distance control (speed, feel) and direction control (line). More often than not, I witness far more “line” work than “feel” work. Try the following practice and playing “putting routine” to work on that elusive “feel” on the greens. You will make more putts, and equally important, three putt much less!!

1. Get behind your ball and commit to the line you want to start the ball rolling on.
2. Take your putting stance a few inches away from your ball.
3. Take 3 or four practice swings while looking at the cup. Before addressing your ball, commit to the stroke you want to make at the ball.
4. Aim at the line you want to start the ball on, and perform the stroke you just rehearsed.

Once you have practiced putting with this “**rehearse then perform**” routine, you will notice that your distance control, or “feel”, will greatly improve. The key is to commit to both the line and the stroke **PRIOR** to making the stroke!! Your confidence will improve as your distance control (feel) improves!