

Lesson tee

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Great lengths

To hit longer and more accurate drives, follow these tips. BY SEAN LANYI, PGA



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Every player strives to hit longer and straighter drives. To do this consistently, there are a few guidelines that players of all skill levels should follow:

Reduce tension: Begin your pre-shot routine by taking a few deep breaths. As you make practice swings, be sure the club's grip rests in your fingers, not on your palms. This will allow your body to be more supple and relaxed, allowing for maximum speed and a flowing motion. With less tension, your body will rotate more freely, and you'll be able to fire at the ball with greater speed and consistency.

Speed it up: Take a few practice swings and listen for a "whoosh" sound. You should hear it at the bottom of your swing. If you hear it sooner, make focused practice swings until you create speed *through* the ball as opposed to *at* the ball.

Keep it simple: Regardless of your desire to hit a draw, if you're at the range warming up and consistently hitting a fade, don't try to fix that while you play. If you're a right-hander who is going to hit a fade, tee up on the right side of the tee box and aim down the left side of the fairway. To hit a draw, use the left side of the tee box and aim down the right side of the fairway. This will give you a better angle to keep your ball in the fairway.

Follow these tips and your driving statistics should improve with each round as you gain confidence. **SG**

Sean Lanyi, PGA, teaches at Black Gold Golf Club in Yorba Linda. For more information, visit SeanLanyiGolf.com.