



2011 Fossil Trace Instructional Program

Play Better Golf & Have More Fun!

Thinking Over Your Short Game Options

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Many greens at Fossil Trace Golf Club have fringe-height grass around the perimeter of the green surface, where balls can run away from the green. Golf balls can hit the green and run off down these slopes, giving the player a very difficult shot to get up and down. The difficulty is increased because the length of the grass in the fringe areas can make it hard to hit lob or flop shots, especially if you have a downhill or side hill lie. So, let's examine three options you can use to help you get the ball up and down.

The first choice is using your putter. This is a safe option and has a high probability of success.

The second choice is a chip shot that will roll the majority of the distance to the hole. Use anything from a sand wedge to a 7 iron. Place the ball back in the stance with your hands forward and use a swing motion that is similar to a putt.

The third option is using a fairway wood or hybrid. These clubs work because the loft of the fairway wood or hybrid gets the ball slightly airborne and upon landing creates a smooth roll with over spin and minimal less resistance from the turf. The setup for using the 3 wood/hybrid is the same as you use to putt. Choke up on the grip, use the same stance and ball position, and same putting stroke motion. Choosing the line and the speed of the 3 wood/hybrid putt off the green and up the hill are the same as putting on the green. Practice this shot and you will develop great touch and feel shots around the green to help you lower your golf score.

Proper setup using a fairway wood or hybrid to chip. Backswing to through-swing, notice "V" position of arms remains.



To schedule a lesson with Steve Patterson or any of the Fossil Trace Golf Professionals, call (303) 277-8750 or visit fossiltrace.com. You can also e-mail Steve directly at spatterson@cityofgolden.net.

