

Top 10 Father's Day Golf Tips

- #1** - Don't swing too hard. This common problem is easily remedied, but you must repeat it and get into the habit. As Annika says, on a scale of 1 (easy) to 10 (hard), "swing 6."
- #2** - Don't strangle the golf club. Most of us really grip the club, and the more important the shot, the harder we squeeze. This robs the swing of fluidity and makes it impossible to generate any lag. Sam Snead said, "Hold the club as if you had a little bird in your hand." That image may or may not work for you, but simply grip the club as lightly as possible while still holding on. Results can be instantaneous.
- #3** - Remember to release the club. You could stand on the first tee at the local muni all day and watch guys slicing the ball all day long, driving themselves crazy. They will probably scream two things: first, "NO!" and then, "WHY?" Guys will take stronger grips or try and change their swing path...with little success. Amazingly, most slicers don't know that they must release the club, which means rolling the face closed through impact. A simple drill is to take half swings back and through. Halfway back, the toe of the club should point straight up; halfway through it should also point straight up. Practice this motion before teeing off, and it just might change everything.
- #4** - Always tip the cart girl.
- #5** - Don't hit putts - stroke them. We all see a lot of people taking short little backstrokes, then stabbing the ball with their putter. These putts not only tend to go offline, but, worse, they usually come up short or go way, way long.
- #6** - Visualize your shot. How do you expect to drop it four feet from the pin if you don't create that expectation first? Watch every shot in your mind's eye before even taking practice swings, then make your practice strokes with the intention of hitting that exact shot. Amazingly, this works.
- #7** - To escape the sand from a greenside bunker, feel like you're hitting behind the ball with the back of your sand wedge, and make a full follow-through. The "bounce" of the sand wedge will explode a fist of sand, that includes your ball, out of the bunker.
- #8** - Don't just keep your eye on the ball. Focus specifically on the inside, back portion of the ball. This will keep your head down, and also encourage the correct swing path.
- #9** - When chipping, put your weight on your forward leg to avoid blading the ball across the green, into a bunker (if you're lucky) or into a lake (if you're not).
- #10** - Never drink too much...but always drink enough.

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