

GOLF

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TROUBLE SHOTS AND QUICK FIX GUIDE

WITH ALL RELIEF PROCEDURES FOR FREE DROPS



From the Author of
"Golf Rules Quick Reference"
Over 500,000 Copies Sold
International Best Seller

Tee

Fairway,
semi-
rough
& rough

Bunker

Water
hazard

Short
game &
fringe

Green

Basics &
quick
fixes

golfrules
madeeasy.com

How to use this quick reference guide

Step 1

Refer to the index tab which corresponds to the position of your ball or the difficult lie.



Step 2

Use the headings and illustrations to find the right solution for your particular situation.



Step 3

If you repeatedly miss-hit the ball, please consult the quick fix guide* in the final section.

(*To improve your game on a long-term basis, a PGA pro should be consulted.)

☛ Always make a stroke that you know you can play and not one you only think or hope you can play. (If you are in doubt it is often better to declare a ball unplayable or to take a drop as per the water hazard rule.)

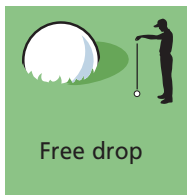
☛ Do not let bad lies irritate you—view them as a challenge and try to make the best of the situation. Bad lies are a part of the game and everyone has to face them every now and then.

☛ Always bear the Local Rules and the Conditions of the Competition in mind. They often grant relief from certain situations on the course, especially difficult lies and if the course is in poor condition.

☛ Practice all special/ trick shots on the driving range or when playing friendly rounds before using them in a competition.

☛ All the tips have been written with right-handed players in mind; if you are left-handed, please adapt the instructions accordingly.

Fairway, semi-rough & rough



Plugged ball

If your ball has become embedded upon landing, check the height of the grass.

Fairway height and shorter (incl. fringe)

- Pick up the ball and clean it.
- Take a free drop next to the pitch-mark (not nearer to the hole).



Semi-rough and rough

Bad luck—declare it unplayable or play it.

- Grip low and firmly on the sand wedge.
- Ball slightly back in stance.
- Weight on the left side.
- Swing steeply and “dig out” the ball (hit down into the ground behind the ball, similar to an explosion shot in the bunker).



Divot/ bare patch

- Take less club (max. 5 iron).
- Judge the depth of the stroke accurately.
- Ball slightly back in stance.
- Weight on the left side.
- When taking your swing, concentrate on the depth of stroke identified.
- Swing steeply and enlarge the divot even more.

The ball will fly lower and will roll more.



Hard/ stony ground

- Take 1-2 clubs less (shorter).
- Narrow stance and more upright posture.
- Ball back in stance.
- Pick the ball cleanly from the surface but swing normally (do not be intimidated by the ground, do not spoon the ball up).

Sidehill lie above the ball

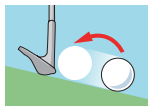


- On a steep downward slope, take 1-2 clubs more (longer).
- Grip at the upper end, use the full length of the club.
- Aim left of target.
- Wider stance, flex knees more than normal.
- Weight more on heels.
- Keep your weight behind the ball through impact.
- Stay down longer before straightening up.
- Swing smoothly and keep your balance.

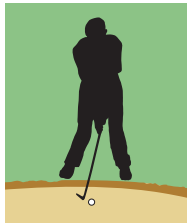
Sidehill lie below the ball



- On a steep downward slope, take 1 club more (longer).
- Grip down 1-2 in. on the club.
- Aim right of target.
- Narrow stance, almost upright posture.
- Weight more on toes.
- Flatter swing, "wipe" the ball off the ground.
- Swing smoothly and keep your balance.



☛ Be careful when addressing the ball. If the ball moves after you have addressed it (after taking your stance and grounding the club), you must put it back under *penalty of 1 stroke*.



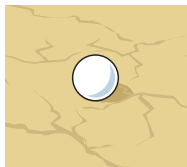
Stance outside of bunker above ball

- Ball slightly back in stance.
- Take as wide a stance as possible and bend knees a lot, turning the knees inwards.
- Swing steeply and hit down hard into the sand behind the ball.
- Keep your balance.



Stance in bunker below ball

- Hold club low down.
- Aim right of target, open the clubface.
- Narrow stance, almost upright posture.
- Weight more on toes and ensure firm stance.
- Flat swing plane.
- Keep your balance and make a complete follow through.



Firm sand/ not much sand under the ball

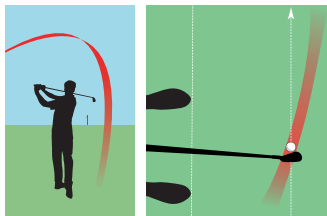
- Stance and clubface square, not open.
- Ball more back in stance.
- "Wipe" the ball off the sand, do not hit into the sand.
- Swing smoothly with a nice rhythm.



Fluffy sand/ lots of sand under the ball

- Clubface wide open.
- Ball more forward in stance.
- Do not swing steeply, take a long shallow divot.

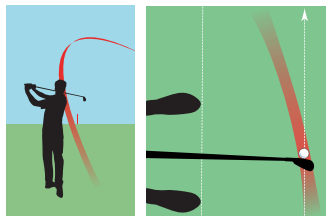
Hook (right-to-left curve)



Problem

Clubface closed, swing path inside-out, grip too "strong", feet aiming right of target.

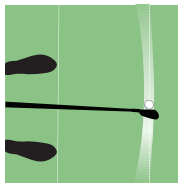
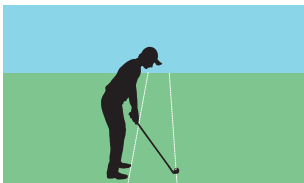
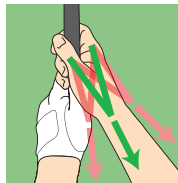
Slice (left-to-right curve)



Problem

Clubface open, swing path outside-in, grip too "weak", feet aiming left of target.

Solution



- Check your grip (page 31) and take a firmer grip with your left hand.
- Align feet parallel to target line.
- Clubface square.
- Swing parallel to target line.
- Ball possibly slightly forward in stance.

- Check your grip (page 31).
- Align feet parallel to target line.
- Clubface square.
- Do not swing to the left because you are worrying about a slice but deliberately swing more to the right, i.e. swing more inside-out.
- Ball possibly slightly back in stance.