

Choosing the right golf ball? So many, which ball is the right one for me?

In this series of messages from our club Professional, Anthony Bambridge, will be sharing some helpful hints to help you improve your game and it may not even involve swinging a club.

Getting all of your equipment up to scratch will go a long way to setting you up for consistent, and fun, golf and I'm here to help you with the tools and techniques to help you really enjoy your time out on the course



GOLF BALLS

Playing with a golf ball that suits your game is just as important as getting the right clubs in your hand - ensuring all of your equipment is set up correctly to get your game off to the best possible start.

With so many ball options out there how do you decide which one is best for you? You could easily just ask next time you're in the Pro Shop for a recommendation but we want to arm you with information that helps you understand the tools of the trade, and your game, a little more. Understanding technical aspects and techniques is how we learn to improve our game.

Do you always use the same brand, the same type of ball? Or do you never really think about it and just reach into the bag and grab any ball you find? How much do you know about golf balls and does it really matter?

SOME CONSIDERATIONS

- Look for a ball that gives you the best combination of distance, control and feel on the greens
- Honestly assess the areas of your game that could be improved to bring you lower scores and consider which ball type may help
- If you struggle with a slice off the tee then the expensive, high-spin ball you're using may only exaggerate the problem, these balls will not cure your slice
- Choose a ball type that is more suited to your scoring shots
- Skilled golfers may want to focus on finesse shots around the green, high-spin balls may help
- Firmer balls are more resilient and capable of greater distance on drives and long shots, but can be harder to control around the green
- Better pitches and chips could be the key to consistently breaking 90, can your ball type help?
- If you like to stop on a five cent piece a high-spin multi-piece ball will give the added control
- If you prefer to roll the ball to the pin with a chip and run, spin will be slightly less important.
- If you are a beginner or a high handicapper your primary concern is probably hitting the ball straight
- Low-spin, distance golf balls are designed to reduce the sidespin that exaggerates hooks and slices and can help produce longer, straighter drives
- Test a variety of short game shots with a variety of balls. Higher handicappers should hit some tee shots and single digit players hit shots from 80 metres and closer including chips, pitches, sand shots and putts and see what appeals to you
- If after your field test you cannot tell the difference between the higher and lower priced balls play the cheaper ball
- Decide on your budget, do you lose a lot of balls, is cost a consideration?

- Clean out your bag and save those scratched, scuffed, dented and dirty balls for the practice range – the condition of the ball will affect the outcome of your shot

DID YOU KNOW?

The colour of the number you see on balls used to represent the compression rating – red numbers being 90 compression balls and black being 100. Golfers were lead to believe that they needed to play certain compressions based on the outside temperature. Those days are gone but all balls carry a single digit number that is now used for identification purposes, to separate your ball from your playing partners. The digit colour is not an indication of anything special.

WHAT'S NEXT?

If you think you need to re-assess the type of ball to use then consider all the factors above and create a list of requirements and if you need advice or guidance come and see me in the Pro Shop. Together we can talk about your specific game and work on ball suggestions that suit you best. Getting all of your equipment up to scratch will go a long way to setting you up for consistent, and fun, golf and I'm here to help you with the tools and techniques to help you really enjoy your time out on the course.

From your head to your feet and the clubs in your hand, the Drouin Golf & Country Club Pro Shop has you covered.

Want to know a little more about golf ball design? then read on:

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