

THREE POINT CHECK-UP FOR MASTERING THE “BUMP & RUN” CHIP SHOT

BY SHERYL MAIZE, LPGA PROFESSIONAL

By definition, the chip is a low rolling shot used around the green when you have a lot of green between you and the pin. It usually consists of approximately 1/3 air time and 2/3 rolling time on the green. Club choice is usually a 7 or 8 iron, but may vary if you are going uphill or downhill.



Good Set Up



Good Finish



Poor Set Up



Poor Finish

1.) The Super Set-Up:

Your feet should be close together and slightly open with your weight leaning into your target side. (Check out the pictures to see the difference between putting your weight on your target foot and leaning into your target side---You do not want to look like the Leaning Tower of Pisa.)

Your arms and shaft should form a small letter “y” with your hands positioned off the inside of your target leg. Throughout your shot, the shaft should be

leaning towards the target.

2.) The Perfect Impact Position:

Since the chip shot is such a small swing, your set up position is a pretty good preview of your impact position: about 75% of your weight should be on your target foot, hands are ahead of the club head with the shaft leaning towards the target, hips slightly open and your head is still behind the ball.

If your weight is on your back foot or your club head has passed your hands at impact, you will often top it (scull it along

the ground) or hit behind it (chunking it). When most of your weight is on your target foot and your hands are leading the club into impact, it encourages a descending blow which pops the ball up and gives the grass a “hair cut.”

3.) The Fantastic Finish:

Once you’ve hit your shot, hold your finish. This is your time to get feedback on what you’ve just done. Is your weight mostly on your target foot? Have you allowed your body to turn in harmony with your arms?

Is your “y” still intact or have you “broken the tip off” by getting wristy? (The shaft of your club should be an extension of your left arm)

At one of the golf schools I taught at for years, we worked on improving our student’s swings by helping them get into better impact positions. One of the best ways to do this is to work on your chipping. When you learn to hit crisp chip shots, your full swing will improve also!

RULES *made easy*

Through the green (fairway, rough, etc.)

Abnormal ground conditions (R25)
This includes ground under repair (usually marked in blue or mentioned in the Local Rules), casual water (visible puddles) and excavation tracks caused by burrowing animals (primarily mole hills and mouse and rabbit holes). It also includes grass or other material piled up to be removed as well as holes made by greenkeepers.
If you accidentally move the ball when searching for it in abnormal ground conditions put it back, without penalty.
If your ball is lying within one of the above-mentioned areas, or if you would have to take your stance within one, you are given free relief.

Find the nearest point where your ball is no longer within this area and where you do not have to take your stance within it and drop the ball within 1 club-length.

Take a drop, no penalty

Fairway & rough

Bunker

Water hazard

Out/ prov. ball

Green

SETTING UP TO SUCCEED FROM THE BUNKERS

By Tee Times Academy Staff

OUTSIDE 100 No. 1
SIMPLE STROKE SAVER



One of the more difficult and feared shots for most players is recovering from the fairway bunker. If you understand the proper changes in your set up, you will be able to be more consistent playing from these bunkers. Always remember fairway bunkers are hazards and try to escape by taking enough loft to carry the lip of the bunker, even if that means laying up short of the green.

- Grip down on the club to balance out when you dig your feet into the sand.
- Place ball slightly back in your stance to help make solid contact.
- Select a club with enough loft to ensure clearing the lip of the bunker.
- Swing more with your arms while working to keep your feet stable.