

Week 14 Short Game – Wedge Trajectory

For better wedge play we need to know how to control our trajectory. Without this we cannot control our distance. The following is a drill I use with some of my players to help them with this aspect of their play.

Set yourself up roughly 50 yards from your intended target. Now the objective is simply hit the green with the same club, in this case a sand wedge, with three consecutive shots with three different trajectories.

For this we change our set up for each shot and alter the length of our swing according to the trajectory, i.e. a longer swing for the higher shot and a slightly shorter swing for the lower shot.

We'll start with the **lower shot**.

Set Up (Pic. 1)

- Place the ball in the centre of your stance with your feet roughly 8 inches apart.
- Make sure to keep your weight on your left leg and your hands ahead of the ball creating a shaft lean and a de-lofting of the club.



Swing

- Try to maintain an even tempo throughout the swing.
- The length of our backswing (pic. 2) should mirror the length of our follow through (pic. 3)
- Try to keep the impact shallow. We want to brush the grass rather than take deep divots.



Now, for the **mid trajectory shot**.

Set Up (Pic. 4)

- We want to make the stance a couple of inches wider than for the previous shot.
- We move the golf ball slightly ahead of the centre of the stance. This will create less forward lean of the shaft, adding loft to the club.



Swing

- As with the previous shot we try to maintain an even tempo throughout.
- The length of our backswing is slightly longer than the lower shot (pic. 5) and should mirror the length of our follow through (pic. 6)
- Again, try to keep the impact shallow. We want to brush the grass rather than take deep divots.



Finally, **the highest shot.**

Set Up (Pic. 7)

- Our stance is wider, out to shoulder width.
- The ball is slightly more forward in the stance, 2-3 inches ahead of the centre of our stance.
- This means our hands are no longer ahead of the ball, giving even more loft on the club at address.

Swing

- Again as with the previous shots we try to maintain an even tempo throughout.
- The length of our backswing is now at its longest (pic. 7) and again, should mirror the length of our follow through (pic. 8)
- As with the previous shots try to keep the impact shallow. We want to brush the grass rather than take deep divots.



As we improve we should make our target smaller.

I hope these pointers help. Get out there and try it out.

If you have any specific questions regarding this article or any other golf swing issues you can email Eddie on eddietraceyppga@yahoo.com and he will endeavour to address them in future articles.

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