

Backspin

I am very often asked “how do I get backspin on the ball when I am chipping onto the green?” My answer is always the same, hit the ball properly!! Every single shot you hit that gets airborne has got backspin on it, even with a driver, but getting the ball to stop quickly on the green when you are playing a short chip, which is what most people mean is very difficult, if not impossible.

One of the ways to get a great amount of backspin on a golf ball, at least enough to get the ball to come to a quick halt on a green is to hit the ball harder as basically the harder the ball is hit, the more spin will be created. So obviously if you are only going 10 yards you are not going to hit the ball hard enough to generate a whole lot of spin, so you have to be realistic and accept that the ball will not stop dead and will in fact roll on a little when it lands, so allow for that in where you aim to land the golf ball.

The main things required to get backspin on a golf ball are as follows.

- Create a descending blow on the golf ball, ensuring that you hit the back of the ball first before you hit the turf. This is best done by playing the ball slightly further back in your stance and leaning your weight slightly onto your front leg and picking the club up steeply on your backswing.
- Use the correct golf ball. Many golf balls like Pinnacles, Top Flite etc are hard core golf balls designed not to spin much so they travel a long way, but are not designed to back up on the green, so use a wound construction soft core golf ball.
- The green that the ball is landing on has an effect. If the greens are slow, with long uneven grass, the ball will not roll forward or backward as much so the spin that may be on the ball will not show as much as if you are playing on fast, close mown surfaces.
- Loft of the club, the more lofted, the greater the elevation the ball will be coming into the green and thus the quicker it will stop.
- The quality and cleanliness of the grooves of the club. The grooves are there to help impart the backspin on a well struck golf shot, but if they are filled with grass or mud, their effect will be drastically reduced.
- Speed of swing, as I mentioned earlier in this piece, the faster the club is travelling at impact, the more spin will be applied to the golf ball and thus more effect on landing on the green, which is why the tournament professionals get the most action on the ball with a full wedge shot to the green.

To help get better at controlling the spin on your golf shots, have a golf lesson with one of our PGA professionals