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(Top 100 since 2011)



Sting it Straight Down the Middle

Ditch your banana ball for a low, wind-piercing tee shot that splits the fairway

When the wind blows hard, three basic keys will help keep the ball in play. These techniques also work phenomenally well if you struggle with a high cut or a big slice, score-wrecking shot trajectories that are only made worse by the wind. Here's how to find the fairway on every swing, whether you're battling gusts from the golf gods or just your own faulty swing.

Step 1: Tee the ball lower. This helps you make contact with the ball below the club's sweet spot, which tends to reduce spin and launch the ball on a lower-than-normal trajectory that the wind can't affect. You won't get as much carry as usual, but you'll get a lot more roll, so you can expect to rip it your normal distance.

Step 2: Choke down a few inches on the handle. The closer your hands are to the clubhead, the stiffer the shaft becomes, which makes it easier to square the face. When the shaft bends and twists, the face is much more difficult to control.

Step 3: Swing at about 75 percent, and cut your backswing down to about three-quarters of its normal length. Dialing down your swing velocity is another way to limit the amount of slice-spin produced at impact, and consciously making a shorter backswing stops you from going past parallel at the top. Overswingers tend to be slicers.

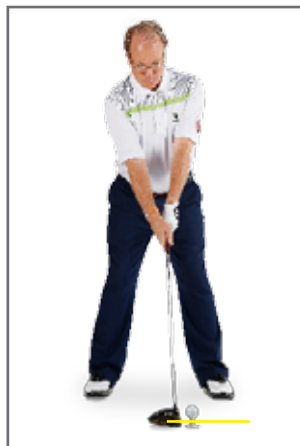
This trio of tips will work—and fast. You don't even have to practice them! A slice-free swing is just seconds away.



Scan this photo
to watch a video of
this lesson. See p. xx



Sting your drives to reduce slice spin and keep your tee shots on the short grass.



Tee the ball lower (the top of the ball even with the crown).



Choke down on the grip, which effectively stiffens the shaft.



Stop three-quarters of the way back and swing normally.

